

2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

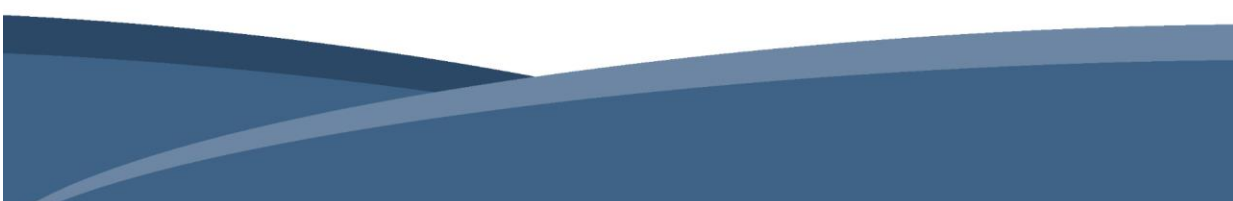


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Our Values

- Ethics and Integrity
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Cooperation and Teamwork
- Open and Honest Communications
- Excellence and Quality in the Delivery of Service
- Treating People with Respect and Fairness
- Adaptability and Continuous Learning

Our Mission

To work together to responsibly grow our community and to provide quality, cost-effective, and efficient government services.

Our Vision

Ramsey will be a secure, citizen-driven, collaborative community that respects the balance and connectivity between its unique urban, rural, and natural environment for current and future generations.

Objectives

1. Financial Stability
2. A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth Balance
3. An Active and Connected Community
4. Smart, Citizen Focused Government
5. An Effective Organization

Core Values for Land Use

These core values carry equal importance. They are not shown in a prioritized list.

- Encourage new pedestrian friendly neighborhoods and balanced transportation.
- Maintain landowner rights.
- Employ careful foresight that involves all citizens in decisions that affect their lives, property, and neighborhoods through collaborative public engagement.
- Nurture neighborhood and community interactions with flexibility to meet future needs without compromising the needs and interests of current residents.
- Develop and maintain a well-connected park and public space system for all ages.
- Attract and retain businesses that support the whole community.

Components of the Comprehensive Plan

The Land Use Plan serves as the foundation in a series of plans that guides the future of Ramsey. Policy decisions on how the community will change over the next twenty (20) years will have



impacts on a variety of systems. This chapter sets the stage and tone for subsequent chapters. The Comprehensive Plan is a compilation of several chapters that are well integrated to form a vision for the community for the next twenty (20) years.

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Wastewater
- Surface Water
- Water Supply
- Parks and Trails
- Housing
- Resilience (Natural Resources)
- Economic Competitiveness
- Implementation (tying it all together in a plan of action)

Key Achievements of the Previous Plan

- Improved Public Engagement in Key Policy Decisions
- Secured the Ramsey Station on the Northstar Commuter Rail.
- Completed the Armstrong Interchange.
- Progressed on Completing The COR according to its Vision.





Chapter 01: Community Profile

Prepared with assistance from WSB



Community Profile

The Community

Located in the northwest Twin Cities Metro, the City of Ramsey boasts incredible outdoor recreation opportunities, a growing downtown in Ramsey COR, an impressive manufacturing sector, and a strong local government.

The City of Ramsey has experienced steady growth and development over the past 20 years. This trend is expected to continue as the City has over 1,000 acres of developable land in the COR located near U.S. Highway 10.

Our Neighborhoods

Ramsey's neighborhoods make up the fabric of our community and define the balance of Rural Character and Urban Development. Each neighborhood is uniquely connected to a variety of services.

Ramsey is a great place to live!

Ramsey boasts a robust recreation system, high-quality affordable housing, great jobs, and living wages.

Ramsey is a great place to locate a business!

Ramsey strives to provide high-quality, cost-effective government services while balancing a low tax rate.

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Forecasted Growth

Table 1: Forecasted Growth

	2016	2020	2030	2040
Households	8,973	9,650	11,500	13,500
Population	26,251	27,550	33,350	39,150
Employment	6,334	6,900	7,800	8,400

Ramsey acknowledges that these forecasts deviate from the approved 2040 forecasts for Ramsey. After careful consultation and analysis of recent growth trends, Ramsey requests these modifications to our 2040 Forecasts. For assistance in reviewing requested changes, the series of tables below are offered.

Table 2: Requested Household Forecast Amendment

	2020	2030	2040
Published Forecast	9,400	11,300	13,000
Requested Amendment	9,600	11,500	13,500
Difference	+200	+200	+500

Table 3: Requested Population Forecast Amendment

	2020	2030	2040
Published Forecast	26,400	30,700	34,700
Requested Amendment	27,550	33,350	39,150
Difference	+1,150	+2,650	+4,450

Table 4: Requested Employment Forecast Amendment

	2020	2030	2040
Published Forecast	6,200	7,000	7,600
Requested Amendment	6,900	7,800	8,400
Difference	+700	+800	+800



The People

Population

As of the 2010 US Census, the population of Ramsey was 18,510, and the most recent estimates from the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) put the population at 25,362. The population has steadily increased since 1990. Although the number of households in the city has increased, the number of persons per household has decreased from 3.43 in 1990 to 2.95 in 2010. According to forecasts by the Metropolitan Council, the 2040 population is projected to nearly 40,000.

Table 5: Historical and Future Population

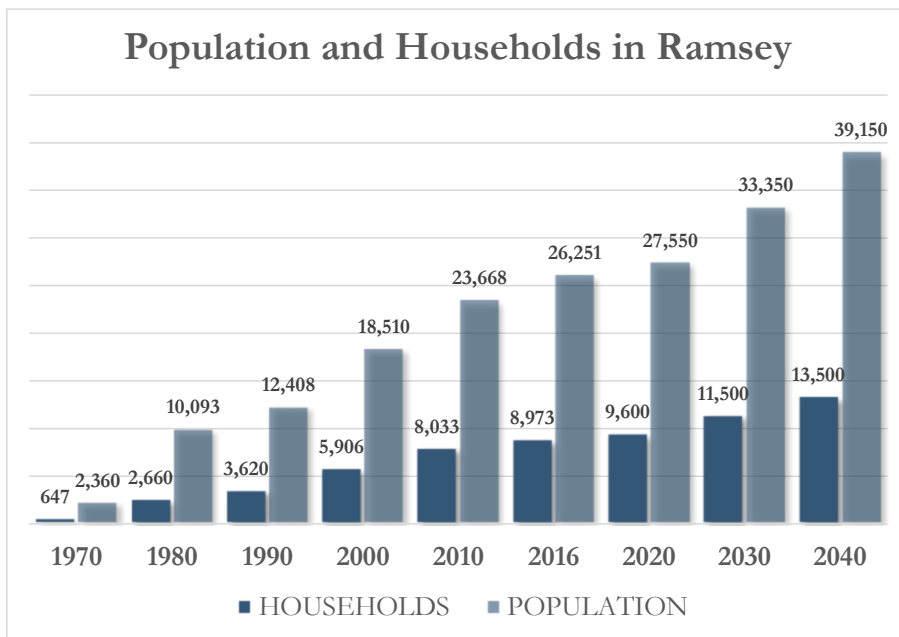
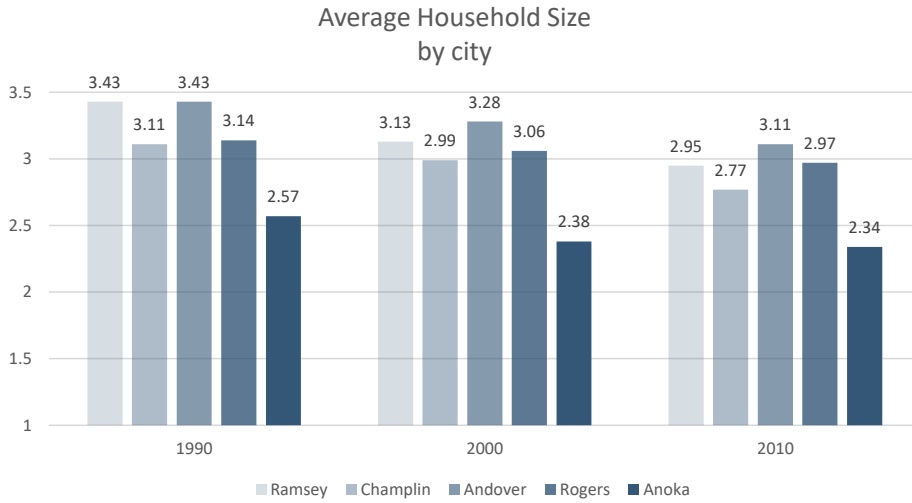


Table 6: Average Household Size



With the number of residents per household likely to continue to decline as the overall population of Ramsey ages, residential housing types will need to be accommodated through development of a variety of housing types including apartments and townhomes.

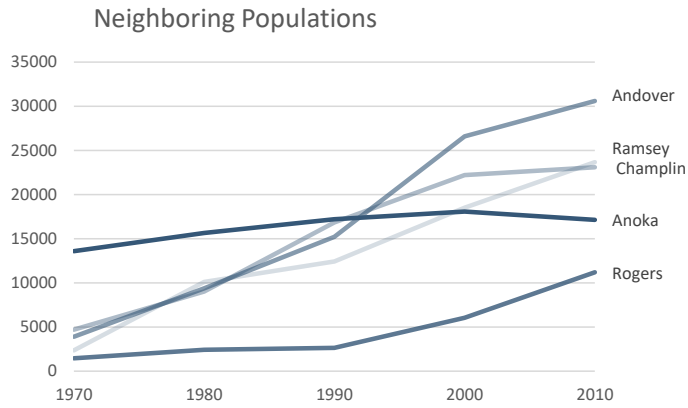
Ramsey’s population experienced steady growth between 1990 and 2010, slowed from 2010 to 2015, and is projected by the Metropolitan Council to steadily increase yet again from 2020 to 2040.

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As shown in Table 7, Ramsey has been outpaced by only Andover in population growth since 1990 and has risen to the second most populated City in the area.

Table 7: Population Comparison



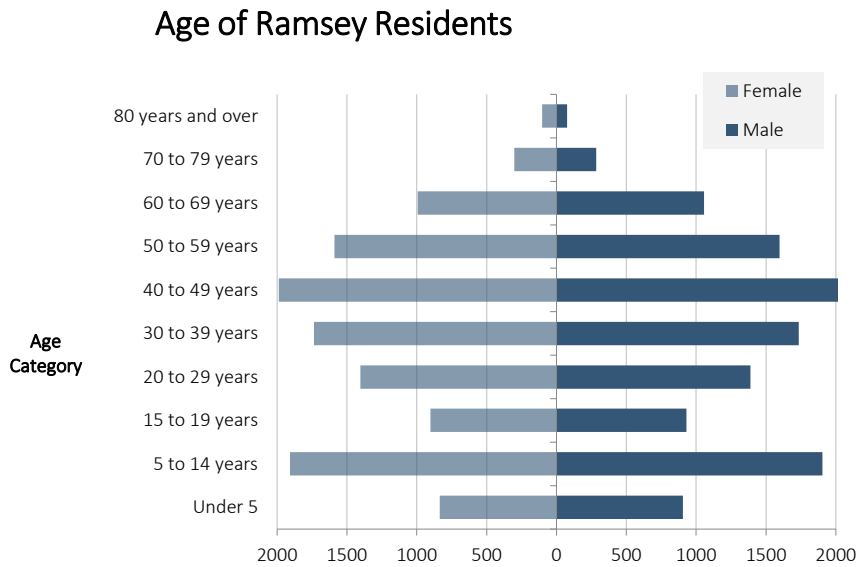
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Age demographics

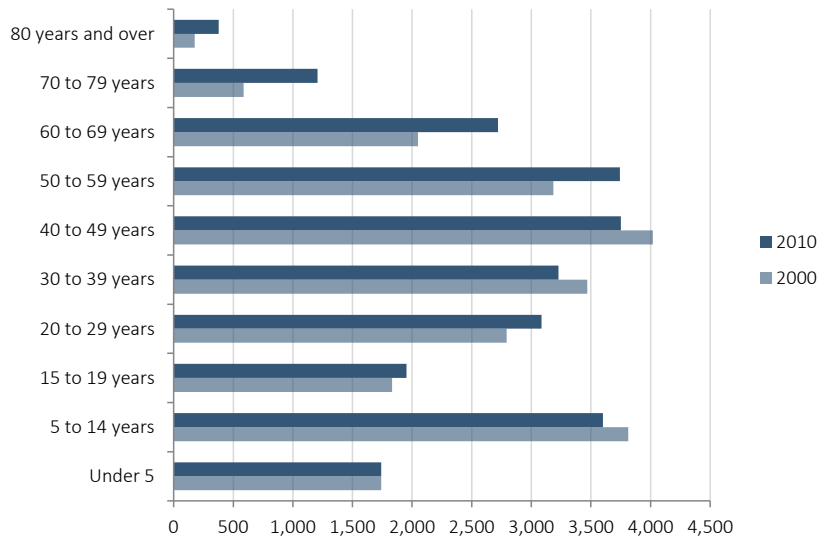
Consistent with most other communities across the region, Ramsey’s population is aging. Table 8, shows that the largest segment of the population is in the 40-49 age range which is quite young compared to many other communities in the metropolitan region. It will be important for Ramsey to plan for alternative housing options for these residents as they age so that they can remain in the community. In addition, it will also remain important that Ramsey seek ways to be competitive in retaining younger residents as the data shows the second largest section of residents in the 5-14 age range.

Table 8: Age Distribution



Looking at the changes in age demographics from 2000 to 2010, the greatest gains were in the categories of “empty nester” adults, while there were losses in population amongst 30- to 50-year-olds. This age demographic profile helps explain Ramsey’s key themes pertaining to schools, parks, and recreation.

Table 9: Age Cohort



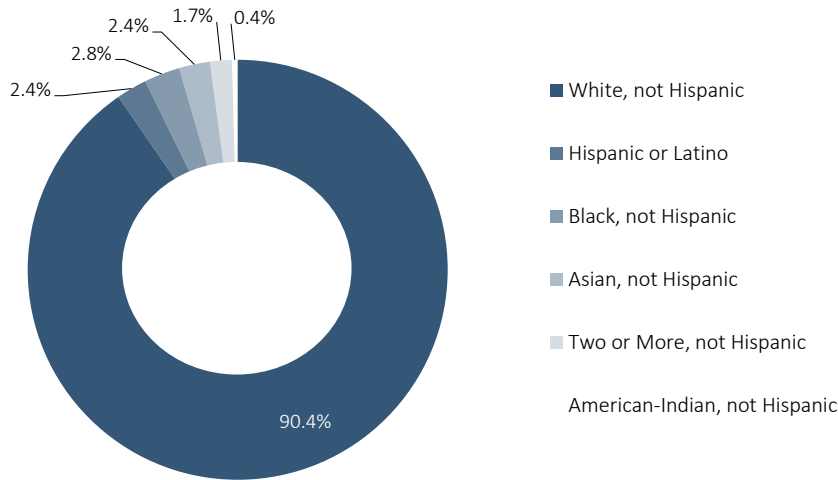
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Race

At 90.4 percent, Ramsey residents are primarily white non-Hispanic individuals with the remaining 9.6% of residents being people of color. By comparison, the Twin Cities region is 24.6% residents of color, and Anoka County is 15.6% residents of color. As such, Ramsey is not diversifying at the same rate as Anoka County or the Twin Cities region. Regional trends indicate that in the Twin Cities metro area, residents of color will continue to comprise a greater share of our region's population, increasing from 24% in 2010 to 41% in 2040.

Table 10: Racial Demographics



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The Neighborhoods

Housing Types

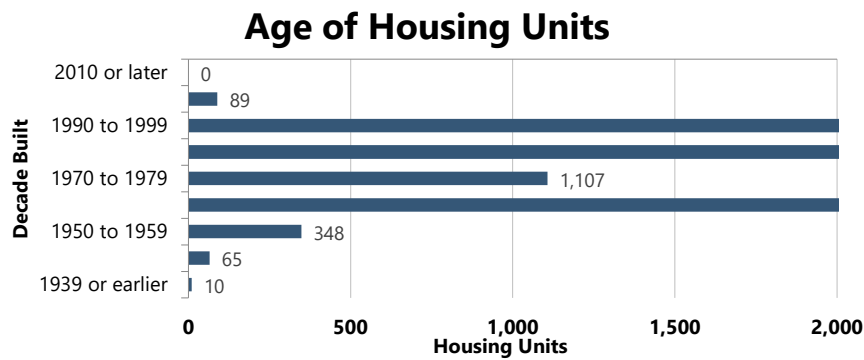
Housing is the predominant land use in Ramsey. Estimates from the Metropolitan Council indicate that there were 8,812 housing units in Ramsey in 2015. Around 75 percent of the housing units in Ramsey are single-family detached homes with townhomes counting for an additional 15 percent of the total housing units.

Table 11: Housing Type

Unit Type	Units	
Single Family Detached	6,692	75.9%
Multifamily (5 units or more)	680	7.7%
Townhomes	1,403	15.9%
Duplex, triplex, quad	37	0.5%
Total:	8,812	100%

Source: Metropolitan Council Housing Stock Estimates (2015)

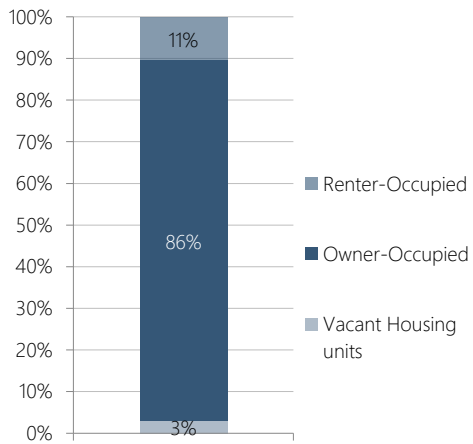
Table 12: Age of Housing Stock



Housing Tenure

The City of Ramsey has a historically consistent foundation of owner-occupied housing which remains true today. Approximately 85 percent of Ramsey housing units are owner-occupied, and that percentage has remained largely the same since 1990. That percentage is higher than most of the cities surrounding Ramsey with the lowest percentage of owner-occupied housing of local communities being the City of Anoka at 52 percent.

Table 13: Housing Tenure



The Economy

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development estimate approximately 6,150 jobs in the City of Ramsey in 2015. Average annual wages for 2015 are estimated at \$46,637. A large reason for this average is likely due to the fact that manufacturing represents the largest employment industry in Ramsey at 34 percent, and these are typically living wage jobs. Anoka County as a whole has 16 percent devoted to Manufacturing.

Table 14: Jobs Located in Ramsey

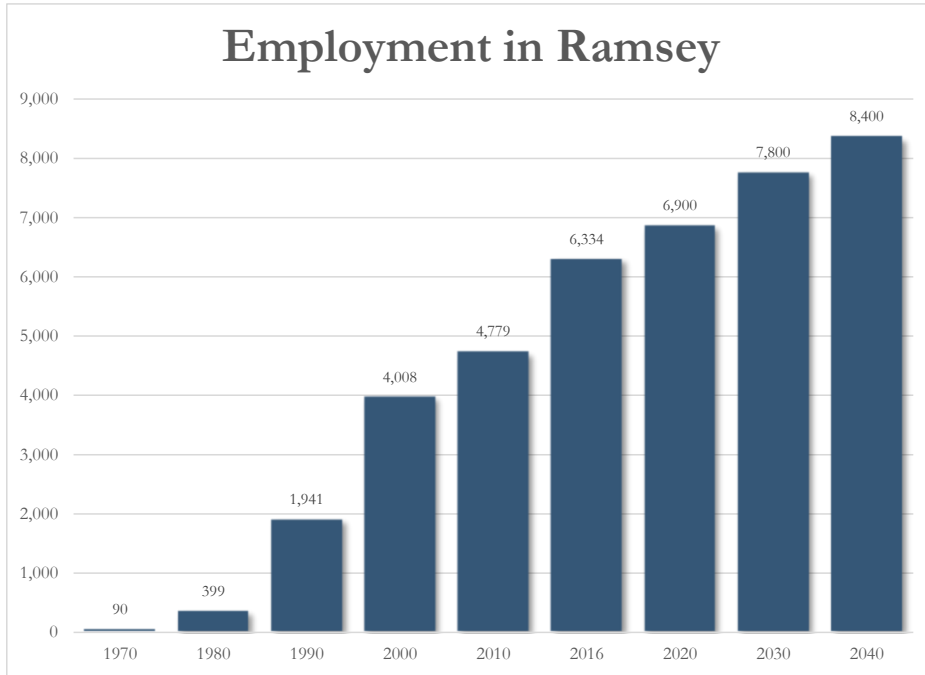
Industry	Employment Total	Percentage
Retail Trade	554	9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	246	4%
Accommodation and Food Services	369	6%
Public Administration	185	3%
Manufacturing	2,091	34%
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	308	5%
Educational Services	369	6%
Administrative and Waste Services	369	6%
Finance and Insurance	123	2%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	123	2%
Information	62	1%
Wholesale Trade	308	5%
All Other Industries	1,046	17%
Total:	6,150	100%

The U.S. Highway 10 corridor is the commercial hub of Ramsey, running the length of the City. Ramsey faces the challenge of encouraging updates and redevelopment of its older and more outmoded buildings and businesses along U.S. Highway 10, while also developing greenfield properties within The COR and new business park east of Armstrong Boulevard.



Employment Forecasts

Table 15: Employment Forecasts

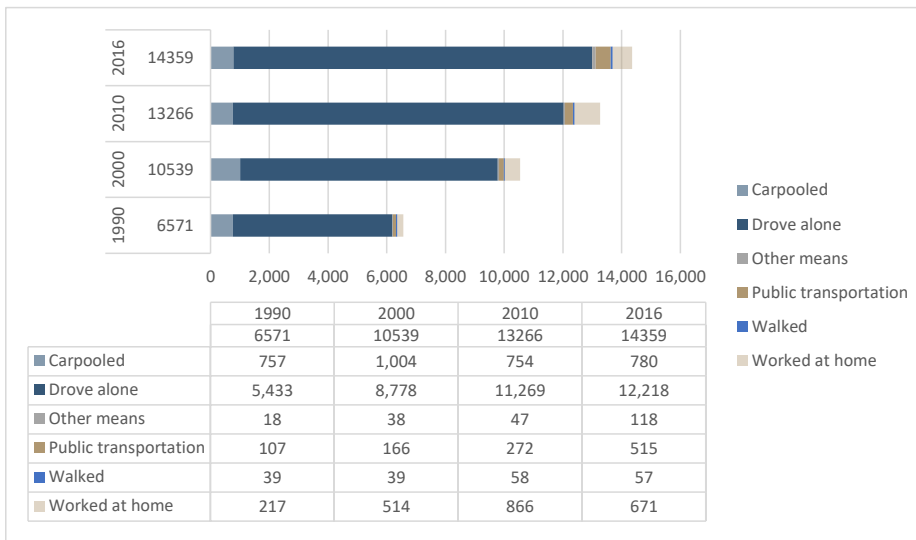


Source: U.S. Census Decennial Survey, U.S. Census American Communities Survey, Metropolitan Council Forecasts



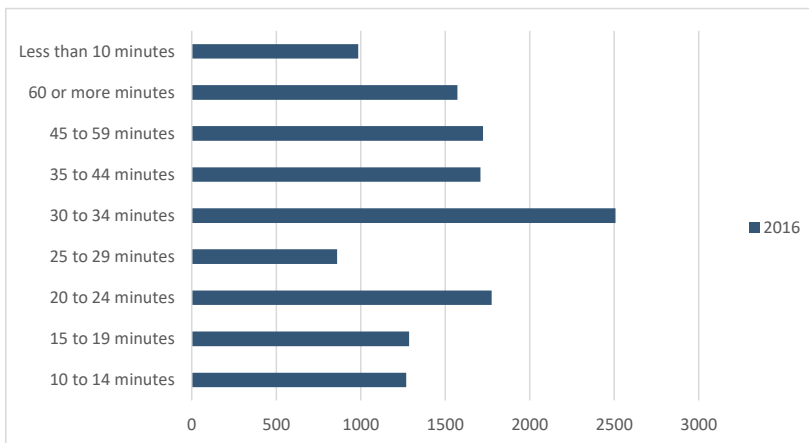
The Commute

Table 16: Means of Commuting



Source: U.S. Census American Communities Survey

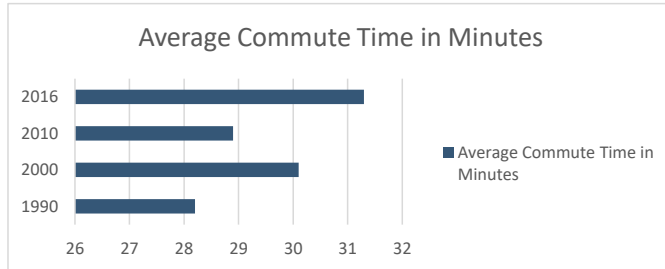
Table 17: Travel Time to Work



Source: U.S. Census American Communities Survey



Table 18: Average Time to Work



Source: U.S. Census Decennial Census, U.S. Census American Communities Survey

Table 19: Top Workplaces of Ramsey Residents

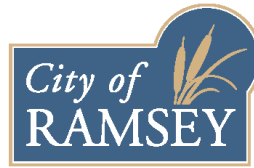
Workplace	Workers
Other	4,282
Minneapolis	1,722
Coon Rapids	1,062
Anoka	1,061
Ramsey	952
St. Paul	554
Plymouth	444
Brooklyn Park	433
Blaine	429
Fridley	425
Maple Grove	400

Table 20: Top Residences of Ramsey Workers

Residence	Workers
Other	1,322
Ramsey	952
Coon Rapids	429
Andover	333
Anoka	280
Blaine	206
Nowthen	160
Brooklyn Park	145
Minneapolis	133
Oak Grove	121
Champlin	116

Proximity to jobs and commuting profiles are important to Ramsey’s Transportation Goals and Economic Development Goals.





Chapter 02: Land Use Plan

Prepared with assistance from WSB



Land Use Strategies

The following represents goals and strategies for the future land use plan which are consistent with the five key goals of the Comprehensive Plan, as set by the City Council. Subsequent chapters will include their strategies, policies and actions related to these goals. Specific policies and actions for the land use plan goals and actions appear at the end of this chapter.

- Plan for a balance of desired community amenities with the goal of maintaining a low tax rate.
- Maintain and expand the rural character of Ramsey
- Balance vision with market forces.
- Improve the safety and mobility of major corridors
- Create a diverse and robust offering of recreation opportunities
- Create a healthy community
- Plan for future educational needs for youth in Ramsey
- Ensure an adequate workforce for business community and economic development goals
- Achieve and maintain success in efficient and equitable development



2030 Land Use Plan Accomplishments

The last plan was adopted in 2010. While a number of factors changed since the last plan, the City can celebrate a number of successes as it relates to our land use vision. Subsequent chapters of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan will celebrate their own successes.

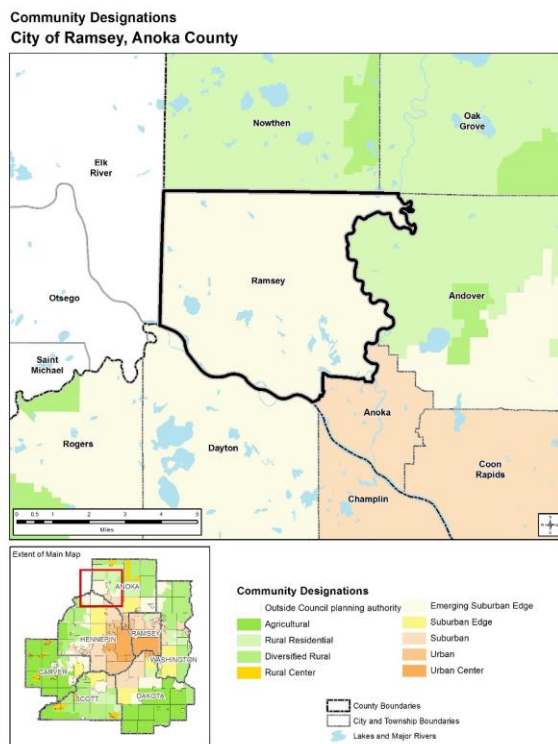
- Created a collaborative development review process for land use plans and project review.
- Implemented meaningful density transition into projects that are located adjacent to existing residential neighborhoods.
- Protected Ramsey's rural character in many areas of the community, representing the largest land area category in the community.
- Responded to changing market conditions to provide a variety of housing types and prices.
- Concentrated more dense developments in or near The COR to protect the City's rural character, create walkability, and create a unique identity for the community.
- Re-assessed the effectiveness of rural reserve and rural preserve practices and policies.
- Implemented design standards for walkable streets into review practices.
- Mitigated City's financial risks associated by new developments by encouraging new development to focus near existing infrastructure.
- Developed incentives for The COR to enhance its marketability.
- Maintained high quality design standards in The COR.
- Planned for adequate retail and commercial services.
- Expanded employment and industrial opportunities by facilitating a new, private business park.
- Ensured new development protected natural resources, made trail connections, and blended in with surrounding development.
- Employed conservation subdivision practices aimed to protect existing neighborhoods and natural resources.
- Struck a balance between land use planning, policy development, natural resource protection, and private property rights.



Community Designation: Balancing Rural Character and Urban Growth

A primary theme from Ramsey public engagement and outreach efforts was the need to better plan for and communicate our vision for a balanced approach of rural preservation and urban growth. Ramsey supports continued urban growth in areas planned for growth, all while preserving some of the Rural Character that makes Ramsey unique. After extensive review, Ramsey believes this balance can be best achieved through our existing designation as Emerging Suburban Edge. Later in the plan, Ramsey will highlight a generalized land use map that better illustrates the balance of rural character and urban growth while providing the flexibility to develop consistent with historical growth patterns.

Figure 1: Ramsey Community Designation



The Metropolitan Council uses community designations to group communities with similar characteristics in order to more effectively target its policies, similar to Ramsey’s Future Land Use Categories and Zoning Districts. The Metropolitan Council uses these community designations to:



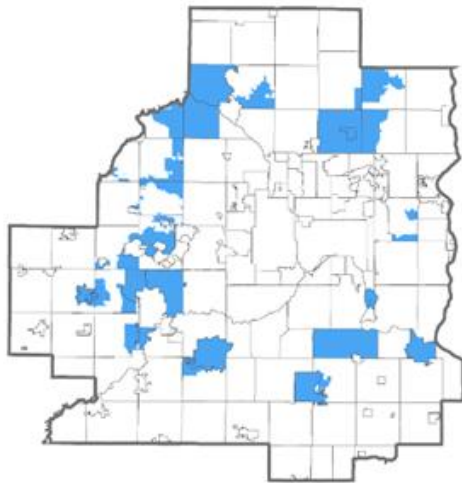
- Guide regional growth and development to areas that have urban infrastructure in place and the capacity to accommodate development and redevelopment.
- Establish land use expectations, including overall densities and development patterns, for different community designations.
- Outline the respective roles of the Metropolitan Council and Ramsey along with strategies for planning for forecasted growth.

Emerging Suburban Edge

An Emerging Suburban Edge Community is characterized as transitioning from rural to developed. It should be noted that although a portion of Ramsey certainly is transition in this manner, a significant portion of the community remains guided for larger-lot, single-family development on private well and septic along with goals to protect a significant amount of exceptional quality ecological resources.

The Emerging Suburban Edge includes cities, townships, and portions of both that are in the early stages of transitioning into urbanized levels of development. Strategically located between Suburban Edge and Rural communities, the Emerging Suburban Edge communities offer both connections to urban amenities and the proximity to open spaces that characterizes a rural lifestyle. Often, the cities and townships in the Emerging Suburban Edge are in more than one Community Designation. In the majority of Emerging Suburban Edge communities, less than 40% of the land has been developed. Communities designated as Emerging Suburban Edge communities are expected to plan for forecasted population and household growth at average densities of at least 3-5 units per acre for new development and redevelopment. In addition, Emerging Suburban Edge communities are expected to target opportunities for more intensive development near regional transit investments at densities and in a manner articulated in the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan.

Figure 2: Emerging Suburban Edge Communities



Communities in the Emerging Suburban Edge have a mix of residential, rural, and agricultural areas, often including lower-density single-family neighborhoods and small downtown service centers. The growth patterns in these communities demonstrate the challenges of changing from rural to suburban. New developments are typically built in a traditional suburban pattern, characterized by large curving streets, limited through-roadways, and auto-oriented street design. Emerging Suburban Edge communities have access to regional wastewater services (either municipally owned or regional services), access to the metropolitan highway system, and include existing or planned Regional Parks System facilities.

The Emerging Suburban Edge communities provide a variety of commercial activities along the main transportation corridors, and most encompass historic small downtowns with small town characteristics. These communities benefit from their proximity to more developed areas while retaining their local rural character and protecting natural resources. Commercial areas in the Emerging Suburban Edge tend to be individual large employers and smaller-scale commercial centers serving the local population.

Although these communities have some redevelopment potential in older areas such as historic downtown districts, the focus in the Emerging Suburban Edge is on greenfield development. Greenfields present opportunities to integrate natural resource preservation into site planning prior to development. Some of these communities have land available within their jurisdiction staged for future development, while others are expanding through orderly annexation agreements with neighboring townships. This mix of uses, availability of undeveloped land, and rich access to natural resources is a characteristic unique to Emerging Suburban Edge communities.

As of May 2014, the Metropolitan Council forecasts that the Emerging Suburban Edge area will add 201,000 residents, 93,000 households, and 58,000 jobs between 2010 and 2040. This represents growth of 66% in population, 87% in households, and 66% in employment over the three decades. Because most Emerging Suburban Edge communities also have areas designated as rural, these numbers are approximations. These numbers may change during the current comprehensive planning process, which will more precisely delineate how much community growth belongs inside the Metropolitan Urban Service Area.



Forecasted Growth

Table 21: Existing and Original Forecasted Growth

	2016 (existing)	2020	2030	2040
Households	8,973	9,500	11,500	13,500
Population	26,251	27,550	33,350	39,150
Employment	6,334	6,900	7,800	8,400

Ramsey acknowledges that these forecasts deviate from the approved 2040 forecasts for Ramsey. After careful consultation and analysis of recent growth trends, Ramsey requests these modifications to our 2040 Forecasts. For assistance in reviewing requested changes, the series of tables below are offered.

Table 22: Requested Household Forecast Amendment

	2020	2030	2040
Published Forecast	9,400	11,300	13,000
Requested Amendment	9,600	11,500	13,500
Difference	+200	+200	+500

Table 23: Requested Population Forecast Amendment

	2020	2030	2040
Published Forecast	26,400	30,700	34,700
Requested Amendment	27,550	33,350	39,150
Difference	+1,150	+2,650	+4,450

Table 24: Requested Employment Forecast Amendment

	2020	2030	2040
Published Forecast	6,200	7,000	7,600
Requested Amendment	6,900	7,800	8,400
Difference	+700	+800	+800



Table 25: Forecasted Household and Population Growth

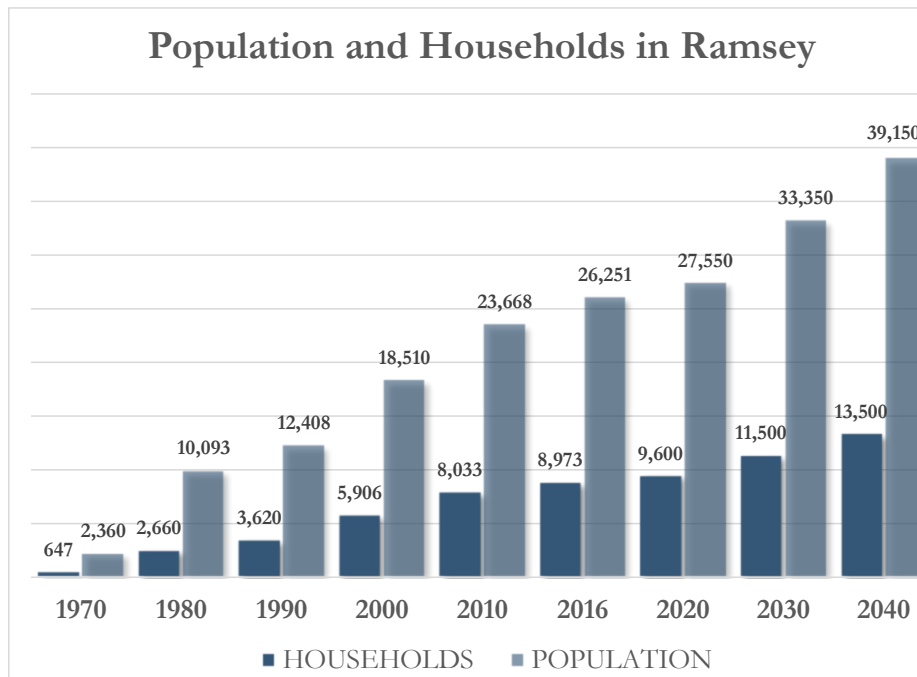
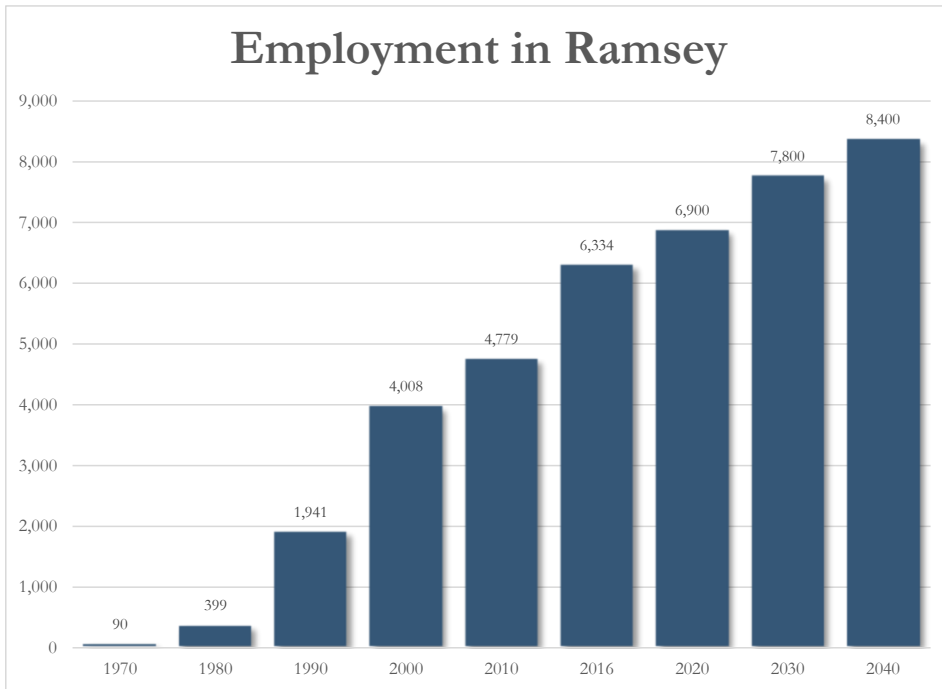


Table 26: Forecasted Employment Growth



Existing Land Uses

Figure 3: Existing Land Use Map

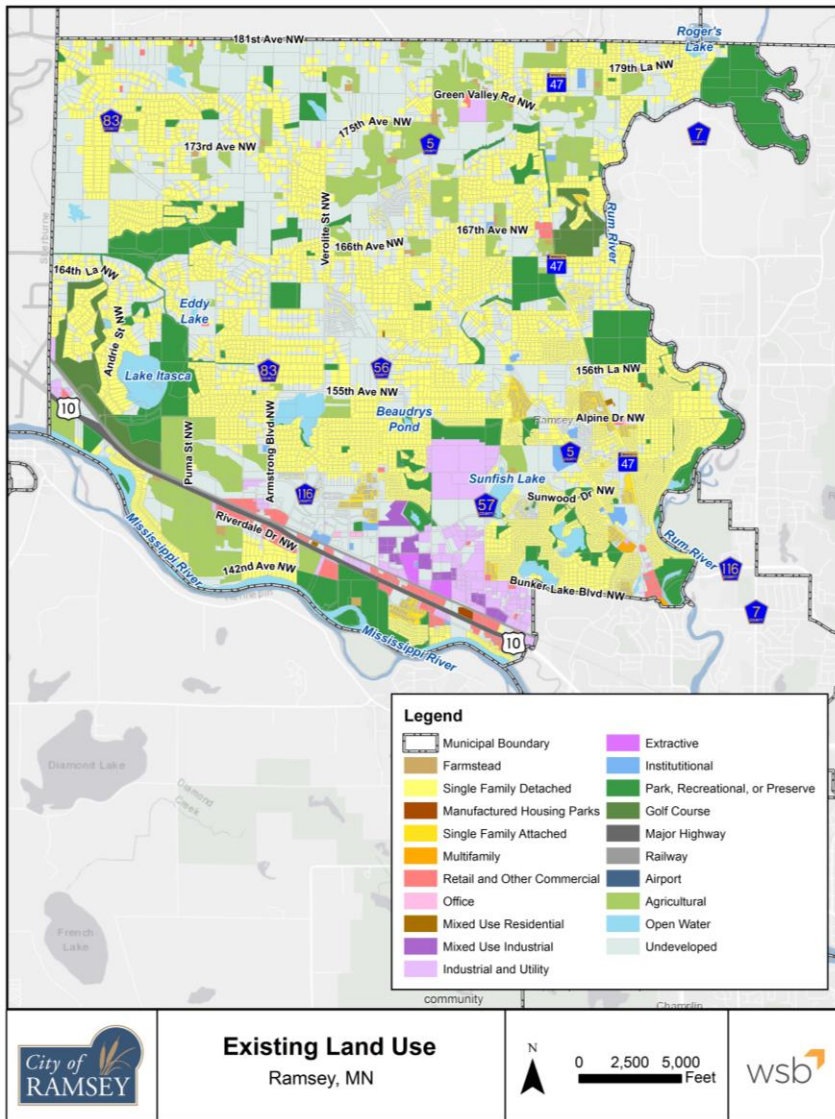


Table 27: 2016 Existing Land Use Categories

Land Use	Acres	Percentage of Total
Agriculture	1,399	7 %
Airport	0	0%
Extractive	16	<1%
Farmstead	55	<1%
Golf Course	335	2%
Industrial and Utility	534	3%
Institutional	95	<1%
Major Highway	149	<1%
Manufactured Housing Park	7	<1%
Mixed Use Industrial	122	<1%
Mixed Use Residential	16	<1%
Multifamily	22	<1%
Office	25	<1%
Open Water	756	4%
Park, Recreational or Preserve	1,988	10%
Railway	84	<1%
Retail and Other Commercial	248	1%
Single Family Attached	250	1%
Single Family Detached	7,395	39%
Undeveloped Land	5,600	29%
Total	19,096	100%

Note: over 8,000 acres of Ramsey is already developed.



Future Land Uses

Figure 4: Future Land Use Map

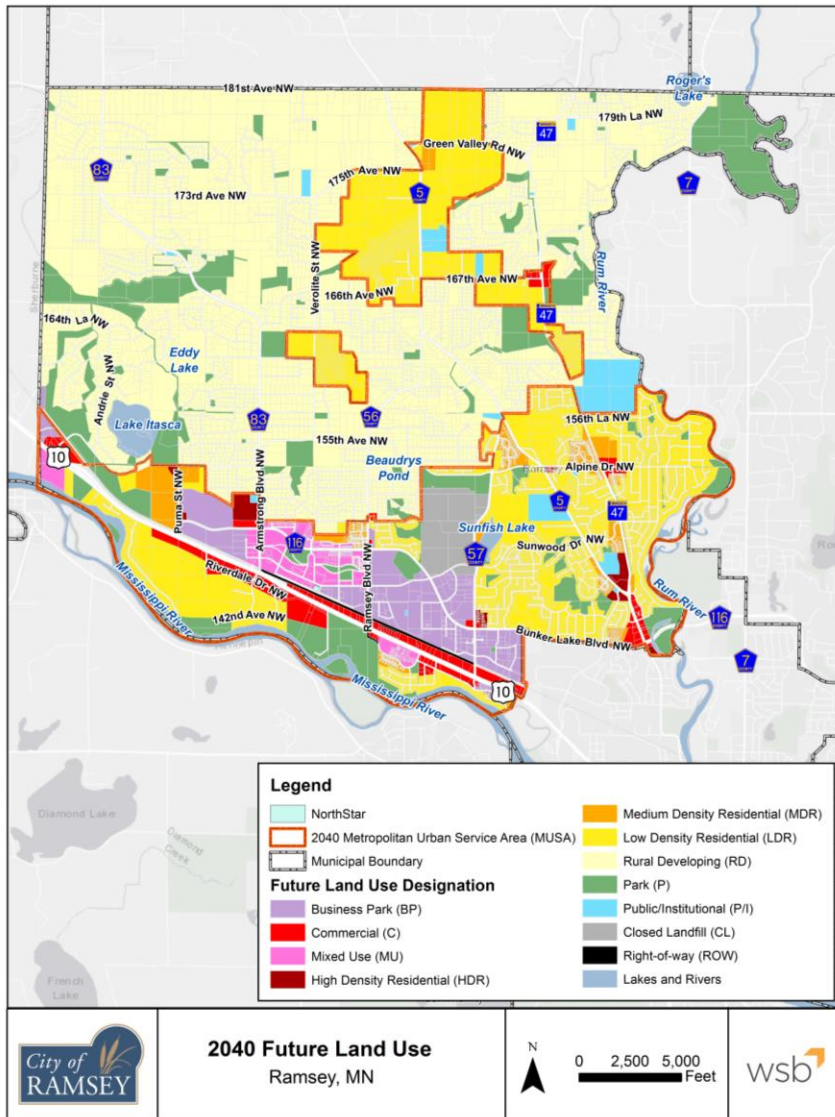


Table 28: Future Land Use Categories by Planning Period

Land Use	2018 – 2020		2021 – 2030		2031 - 2040	
	Acres	Percentage of Total	Acres	Percentage of Total	Acres	Percentage of Total
Business Park (BP)	<u>719</u>	<u>3.8</u>	696.78	<u>3.8</u>	696.78	<u>3.8</u>
Commercial (C)	<u>372</u>	<u>1.9</u>	410.68	<u>1.9</u>	410.68	<u>1.9</u>
Mixed Use (MU)	<u>301</u>	<u>1.6</u>	326.67	<u>1.6</u>	326.67	<u>1.6</u>
High Density Residential (HDR)	<u>84</u>	<u>0.4</u>	83.56	<u>0.4</u>	83.56	<u>0.4</u>
Medium Density Residential (MDR)	<u>364</u>	<u>2.0</u>	324.15	<u>2.0</u>	324.15	<u>2.0</u>
Low Density Residential (LDR)	<u>3,721</u>	<u>19.4</u>	3,812.89	<u>19.4</u>	3,812.89	<u>19.4</u>
Rural Developing (RD)	<u>8,523</u>	<u>44.6</u>	8,570.18	<u>44.6</u>	8,570.18	<u>44.6</u>
Park (P)	<u>1,999</u>	<u>10.4</u>	2,053.29	<u>10.4</u>	2,053.29	<u>10.4</u>
Public/Institutional (P/I)	<u>373</u>	<u>2.0</u>	375.50	<u>2.0</u>	375.50	<u>2.0</u>
Closed Landfill (CL)	<u>262</u>	<u>1.4</u>	261.84	<u>1.4</u>	261.84	<u>1.4</u>
Right-of-way (ROW)	<u>1,622</u>	<u>8.5%</u>	<u>1,622</u>	<u>8.5%</u>	<u>1,622</u>	<u>8.5%</u>
<u>Lakes and Rivers</u>	<u>756</u>	<u>4.0%</u>	<u>756</u>	<u>4.0%</u>	<u>756</u>	<u>4.0%</u>
Total	<u>19,096</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>19,096</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>19,096</u>	<u>100%</u>



Future Land Use Descriptions

Rural Developing (RD)

Areas guided Rural Developing are those areas that may be developed utilizing private utilities. These areas are expected to develop at a minimum of 1 unit per 10 acres and a maximum of 1 unit per 2.5 acres.

Low Density Residential (LDR)

Areas guided Low Density Residential must have urban services before development can take place. These areas are expected to develop at a minimum of 3 units per acre and a maximum of 4 units per acre for an average of 3.5 units per acre and contain single family, detached dwellings.

Where Low Density Residential is directly adjacent to areas guided Rural Developing that contain 2.5 acre lots, strategies for density transitioning will be employed. This means that while an area of Low Density Residential may average three (3) units per acre, those lots directly adjacent to 2.5 acre lots will be required to provide an effective transition that maintains the existing character of the neighborhood. Screening methods, such as landscaping must also be employed to transition between very low-density areas and urban lots.

Medium Density Residential (MDR)

These areas are within the MUSA and intended to receive medium density housing including lower density multi-family housing and higher density single-family housing. These areas are expected to develop at a minimum of four (4) units per acre and a maximum of eight (8) units per acre. Average density will be six (6) units per acre. Medium density detached single-family is becoming an increasingly popular development pattern for Ramsey.

High Density Residential (HDR)

These areas are within the MUSA and intended to accommodate multi-family housing such as townhomes and apartment buildings. These areas are expected to develop at a minimum of ten (10) units per acre and a maximum of fifteen (15) units per acre. The average density will be 12.5 units per acre.

Mixed Use (MU)

Mixed Use areas may include a combination of residential, commercial, light industrial, open space, and a transit hub and are broken into the following three categories:

Mixed Use (Low). Areas guided as Mixed Use (Low) are expected to develop at a minimum of five (5) units per acre and a maximum of fifteen (15) units per acre. It is expected that 50% of the land area will be developed as residential.

Mixed Use (Medium). Areas guided as Mixed Use (Medium) are expected to develop at a minimum of eight (8) units per acre and a maximum of twenty-five (25) units per acre. It is expected that 50% of the land area will be developed as residential.

Mixed Use (High). Areas guided as Mixed Use (High) are expected to develop at a minimum of fifteen (15) units per acre and a maximum of seventy-five (75) units per acre. It is expected that 50% of the land area will be developed as residential.



Commercial (C)

Areas guided Commercial may include a range of neighborhood and community commercial/retail development.

Business Park (BP)

Areas guided Business Park are reserved for office and industrial development.

Public/Institutional (P/I)

This category generally includes city offices, public works facilities, churches, schools, other non-profit or government facilities, and bridges/major rights-of-way.

Park (P)

Parks, trails and open space include the City Park and trail system, golf courses, regional parks, wetlands, and the greenway. Lands in this category are intended to preserve the natural resource base and provide an adequate supply of active and passive recreational lands in Ramsey.

Closed Landfill (CL)

The risk to public health and safety associated with the closed landfill in Ramsey is mitigated by implementing land-use controls that minimize public exposure to landfill hazards and protect the state’s response action equipment. In other words, future use of land at and around closed landfills needs to be planned carefully and responsibly. The purpose, then, for preparing a Closed Landfill Use Plan (CLUP) for each landfill is to protect the integrity of the landfill’s remediation and monitoring systems, protect human health and public safety at each landfill, and accommodate local government needs and desires for land use at the qualified facility with consideration for health and safety requirements.

Right of Way (ROW)

Right of way identifies area designated for public roadways.

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Metropolitan Council Approved Master Plans

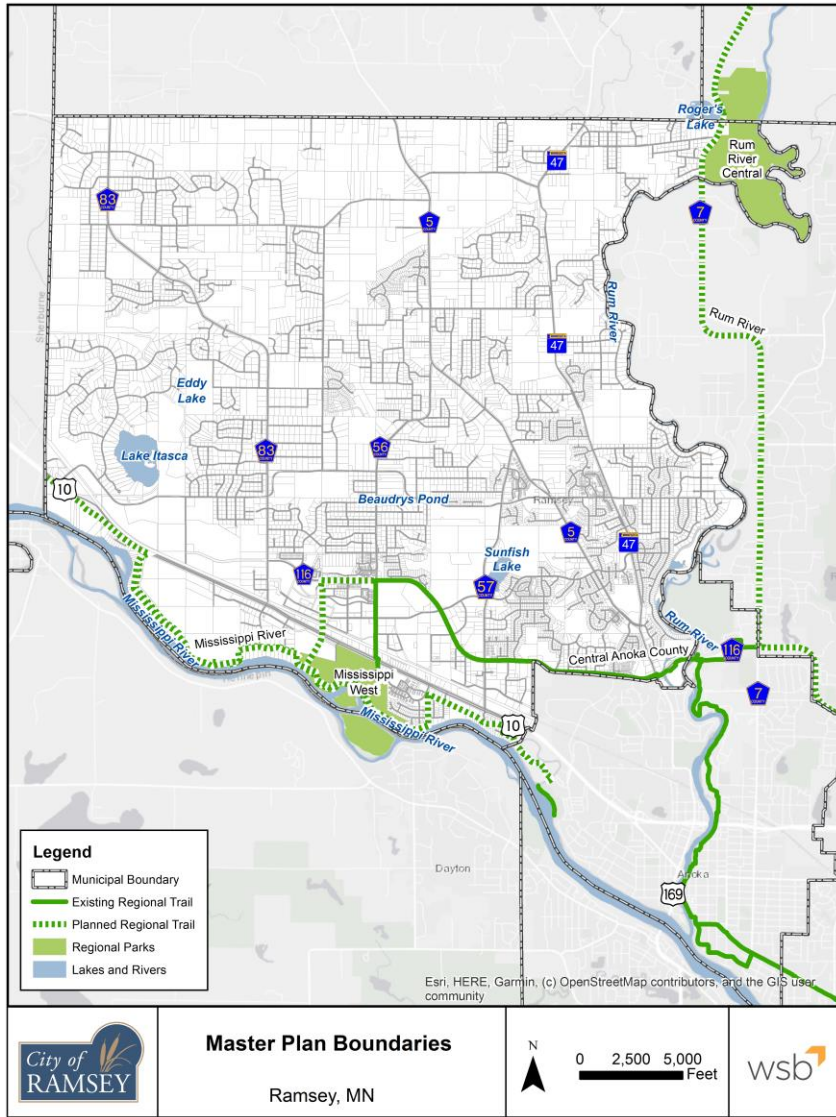
The Metropolitan Council has approved Master Plans for Rum River Central Regional Park and Mississippi West Regional Park (future). These Master Plan Boundaries are reflected in the Future Land Use Map and within the Parks and Recreation Plan. Additional information on local park and recreation planning is included in the Parks and Recreation Plan.

Continued on Next Page.

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Figure 5: Master Plan Boundaries



Employment

According to the Metropolitan Council, the City had 6,334 jobs in 2016. Additional employment opportunities are anticipated to include manufacturing, service, and office positions.

Forecasting employment involves numerous criteria. The level of retail development may follow the extent of residential activity. The amount of retail development in adjacent communities will also impact the potential in Ramsey. Industrial uses vary dramatically in terms of jobs per acre or floor area.

The City has submitted a proposed amendment to the Metropolitan Council local forecast for employment to 8,400 jobs by the year 2040 which is an increase of 800 jobs from the original Metropolitan Council forecast of 7,600 jobs by the year 2040. Currently the City has approximately 70 acres of land guided for commercial/retail and 67 acres of land guided for industrial that are available for development. The permitted uses in the Employment (E-1, E-2, and E-3) districts are primarily related to manufacturing which averages one employee per 1,000 square feet of building space according to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (MnDEED). Based on the table below the City has guided enough land to support in excess of the additional 2,066 jobs needed to support the City proposed forecast amendment for 8,400 jobs by the year 2040.

Table 29: Employment Bearing Land Use Intensity

<u>Land Use Type</u>	<u>Employees Per 1,000 Sq Ft of Building Space</u>	<u>Typical Floor Area Ratio (FAR) by Land Use</u>	<u>Developable Land</u>	<u>Anticipated Jobs</u>
<u>Industrial</u>	<u>0.67*</u>	<u>0.33</u>	<u>67 acres (2,918,520 sq ft)</u>	<u>1,955</u>
<u>Commercial/retail</u>	<u>1.00*</u>	<u>0.33</u>	<u>70 acres (3,049,200 sq ft)</u>	<u>3,049</u>
			<u>Total:</u>	<u>5,004</u>

*Source: MNDEED 2015 & 2016, Institute of Transportation Engineers 2008



Affordable Housing Allocation

The City participates in the Livable Communities Program of the Metropolitan Council, which provides access to a number of funding opportunities. As part of said participation, the City plans for an allocation of affordable housing. The City has confirmed that the Future Land Use Map/Plan is acceptable for anticipated affordable housing need. Additional information and narrative regarding affordable housing within the City is included in the Housing chapter.

Table 30: Affordable Housing Allocation

Affordable Housing Need	
At or Below 30% AMI	292
31% to 50% AMI	167
51% to 80% AMI	40
Total Units	499
AMI = Area Median Income	

Staged Development Plan

Planned Density

Table 31: Density Table

Land Use Category	Minimum Density	Midpoint Density	Maximum Density
Rural Developing	0.1 units/acre	0.25 units/acre	0.4 units/acre
Low Density Residential	3 units/acre	3.5 units/acre	4 units/acre
Medium Density Residential	4 units/acre	6 units/acre	8 units/acre
High Density Residential	8 10 units/acre	11 12.5 units/acre	15 units/acre
The COR – Low Density*	5 units/acre	10 units/acre	15 units/acre
The COR – Medium Density*	8 units/acre	16.5 units/acre	25 units/acre
The COR – High Density*	15 units/acre	45 units/acre	75 units/acre

**The City of Ramsey along with the Metropolitan Council has previously approved of a master plan for the area known as The COR. The master plan outlines specific subdistricts for low, medium, and high density areas.*

Table 32: Mixed Use Densities

Land Use Category	% Residential	% Commercial	% Office	Residential Density Range
The COR – Low Density	50%	25%	25%	5 - 15 units/acre
The COR – Medium Density	50%	25%	25%	8 - 25 units/acre
The COR – High Density	50%	25%	25%	15 - 75 units/acre



Table 33: Densities within ¼ Mile of Northstar Commuter Rail Station

Land Use Category	Midpoint Density
Low Density Residential	3.5 units/acre
Medium Density Residential	6 units/acre
The COR – Low Density	10 units/acre
The COR – Medium Density	16.5 units/acre
The COR – High Density	45 units/acre
Average Net Density	16.2 units/acre

Table 34: Forecasted Growth Allocations

	Guided Land Use Type	Dev. Acres	Density Range			Yield %	Minimum Units (overall density and average)	Midpoint Units (meet forecast)
			Min	Mid	Max			
Guided in 2040 Plan	Low Density Residential (LDR)	1,096.95	3	3.5	4	100%	3,291	3,839
	Medium Density Residential (MDR)	49.62	4	6	8	100%	198	298
	High Density Residential (HDR)	29.50	8 10	12.5	15	100%	236 295	339 369
	Mixed Use (Low Density)	4.30	5	10	15	50%	11	22
	Mixed Use (Medium Density)	45.30	8	16.5	25	50%	181	374
	Mixed Use (High Density)	6.90	15	45	75	50%	52	155
	Guided Total	1,204.32					3,968 4,028	5,027 5,056
	Community Designation Density							
Overall Average		3.30	(min. 3 for emerging suburban edge community)					



Staged Development and Redevelopment

Development and Redevelopment is likely to focus on the following areas. Public utilities (water and sewer) were recently extended to the Armstrong West/COR West and Mississippi West areas. Utilities will need to be extended to north of the Trott Brook and to the Rum River Retail Node to assist with future development and redevelopment. The City will work with developers to extend additional utilities as projects require.

- Armstrong West/COR West
 - Bunker Lake Industrial Park
 - Future Business Park
 - Riverstone
- Mississippi West
 - Pearson Agricultural Area
 - Riverside Farms
- Rum River Retail Node
 - Rum River Hills
 - Retail Node Revitalization
- The COR
- Trott Brook



Figure 6: Development Staging by Planning Period

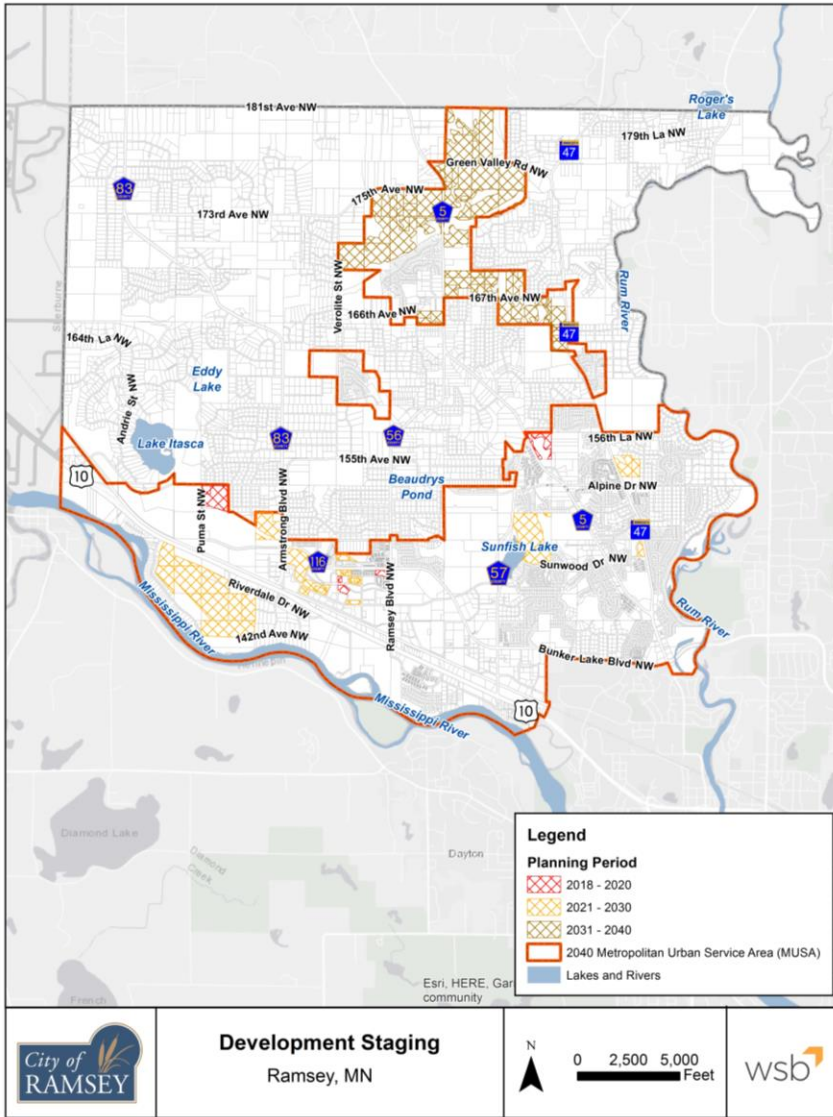
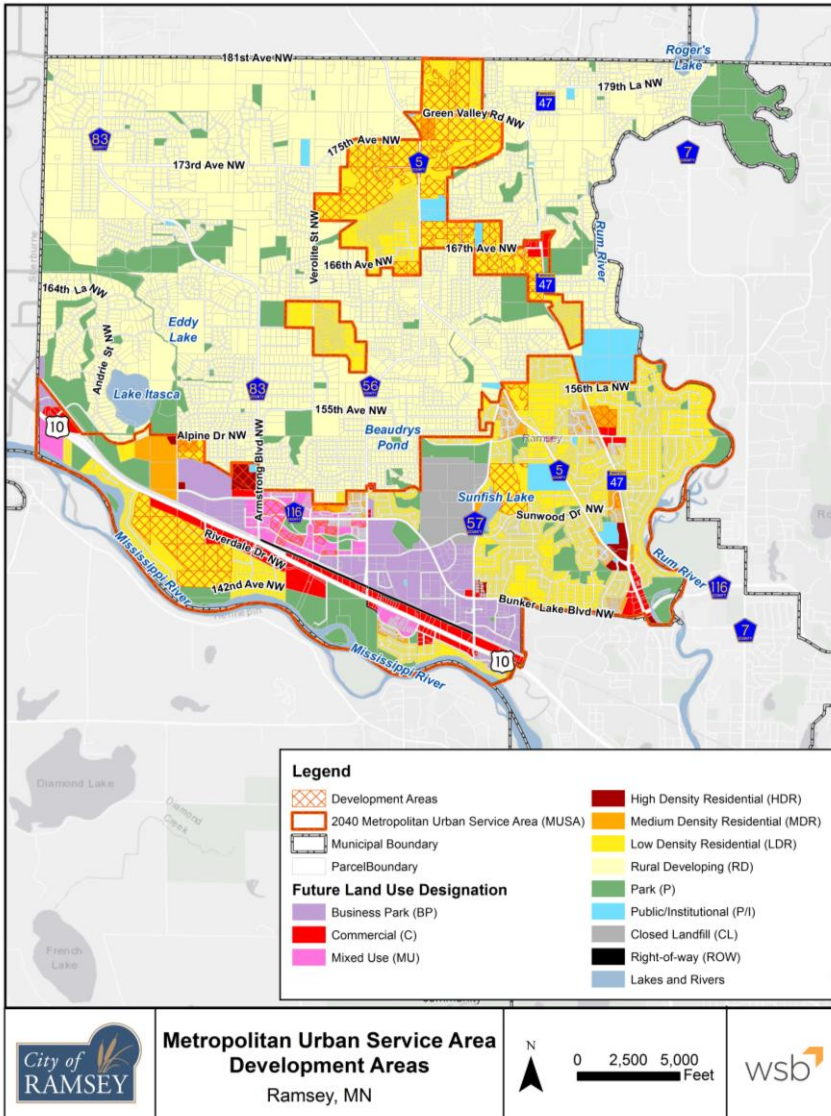


Table 35: Development Staging by Planning Period

Land Use	Dev. Acres	2018 - 2020	2021 - 2030	2031 - 2040	Density Range			Planning Period Units					
					Min	Mid	Yield %	2020		2030		2040	
								Min	Mid	Min	Mid	Min	Mid
LDR	1096.95	47.78	311.11	738.06	3	3.5	100%	143	167	933	1089	2214	1279
MDR	49.62	0	31.52	18.1	4	6	100%	0	0	126	189	72	100
HDR	29.50	0	29.50	0	10	12.5	100%	0	0	295	369	0	0
MU-Low	4.29	4.30	0	0	5	10	50%	11	22	0	0	0	0
MU-Med	45.27	0	45.3	0	8	16.5	50%	0	0	181	374	0	0
MU-High	16.39	5.26	11.13	0	15	45	50%	39	118	83	250	0	0



Figure 7: Development Potential to meet Metropolitan Council Forecast



Small Area Plans

Over the next five (5) years, Ramsey will be taking a deeper dive into several smaller areas to do more detailed planning analysis.

Armstrong West Small Area Plan

Armstrong West is a planning area generally north of Highway 10 and west of Armstrong Boulevard. This area is approximately 350 acres and is current a mix of agricultural land, vacant land, and industrial land. Planned future land uses include a retail redevelopment area of the current industrial park, Business Park, low density residential, medium density residential, high density residential, and rural developing. Development is expected to commence in 2018. Full build out is expected in the next ten (10) to fifteen (15) years.

Figure 8: Armstrong West Project Area

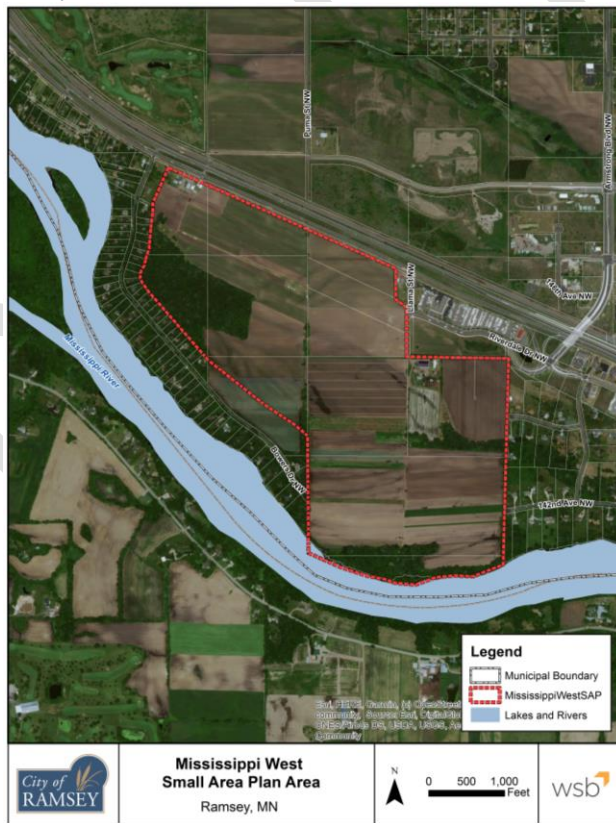


Mississippi West Small Area Plan

Mississippi West is a planning area generally south of Highway 10 between Armstrong Boulevard and Bowers Drive. This area is predominantly agricultural and is the location of a potential future river crossing in the form of an extension of Armstrong Boulevard to the City of Dayton. This improvement is not currently in official regional planning documents and is likely at least twenty (20) years away, if not longer. The cities of Dayton and Ramsey choose to plan for this long-term improvement to protect the necessary corridor.

Planned land use within this area is predominantly low density residential with a stretch of commercial land use along Highway 10 and an area of natural resource protection along the Mississippi River. Development of this area is likely ten (10) to fifteen (years) in the future due to availability of infrastructure (2015 to 2025 timeframe). Connexus Energy constructed a nineteen (19) acre solar farm within this planning district in 2018.

Figure 9: Mississippi West Project Area



Elmcrest District Small Area Plan

The Elmcrest District is a planning area anchored by a 1970s area rural commercial node. This node has shown evidence of blight and vacancy, with some recent renovations of existing structures. The City has excess land for sale, remnant from the construction of Water Tower #3. Rum River Hills Golf Course desires to redevelop a portion of their property (two holes only) and reconfigure the two (2) holes displaced by redevelopment.

The retail node located at 167th Avenue and Trunk Highway 47 has been a topic of discussion with City Councils and EDA boards for several years. The Elmcrest District has struggled to become economically viable for some time, is experiencing high vacancy rates, an increase of blighted building conditions, and escalating crime.

Ramsey’s goal is to improve and/or remove blight from properties-of-concern and encourage sustainable market-driven redevelopment of the Elmcrest District that will benefit the entire City of Ramsey. Our vision is a mixture of residential and retail uses. Residential users may include single family residential, townhomes, or senior living units as directed by the market. Retail will include a market driven neighborhood commercial node. Redevelopment of the Elmcrest District should include a connection to Elmcrest Park and/or nearby trails where feasible.

Figure 10: Elmcrest District Project Area



The COR

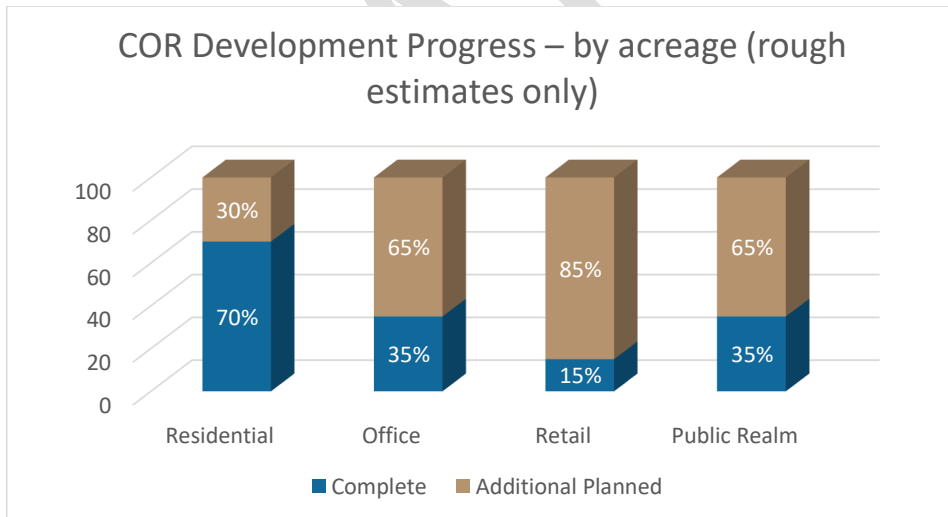
The COR is a 320-acre master-planned community located adjacent to the Northstar Commuter Rail – Ramsey Station (The COR plus surrounding developable area is over 400 acres). Together with adjacent developed and developable area, there are approximately 400 acres of development of a mix of uses. Goals for this development include an identity for the community, a destination for retail to support the local community, walkability, and supportive of commuter-rail transit.

As an implementation strategy of this Comprehensive Plan Update, Ramsey will be updating the land use plans for The COR. To frame said update, the vision of the COR is as follows.

The COR will serve as a City Center primarily to bring people of Ramsey together that embraces natural market opportunities. The COR will also attract energy from the surrounding region. It will be a unique destination, technology-accessible, and serve as a gathering place. It will feature unique architecture stressing historical feel and function.

Approximately 50% of the available land in The COR has been developed. Based on existing market trends the City anticipates The COR to experience substantial additional development over the next ten (10) years. Ramsey is updating the COR Development Plan as a separate planning document known as The COR Development Plan Update.

Table 36: Development Progress in The COR

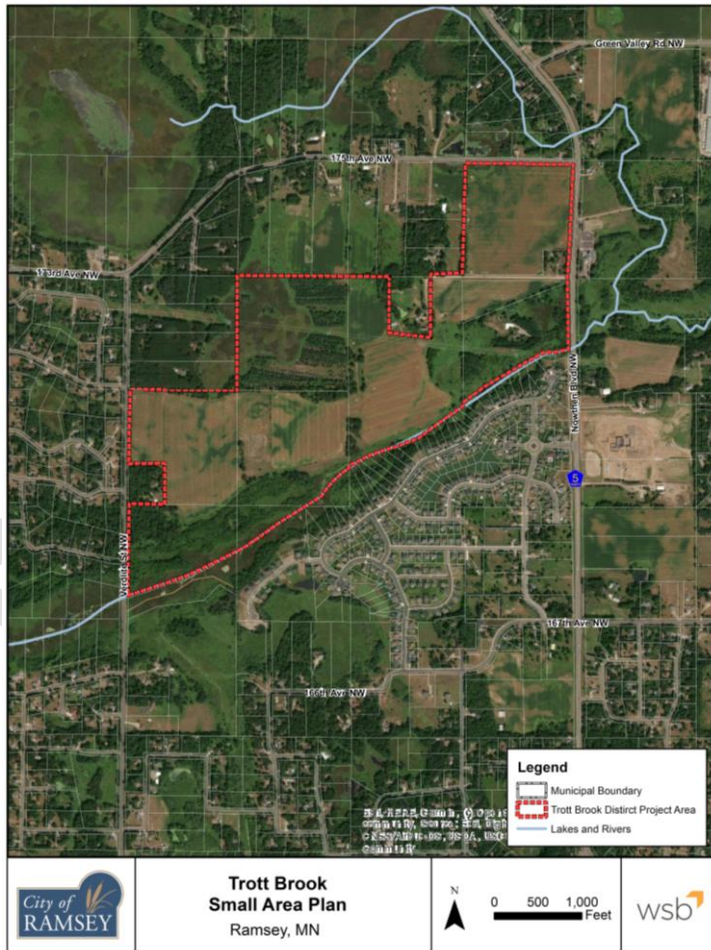


Trott Brook Small Area Plan

A significant area for future development of primarily Low Density Residential uses is planned for north of Trott Brook. Trott Brook is a significant ecological resource for the City to protect, and also serves as an important recreational corridor. This development area will represent the first area in the community north of Trott Brook to receive municipal services (water and sanitary sewer).

Immediately adjacent to this area is the site of a second elementary school that is currently under construction and once open will be operated by Anoka Hennepin School District #11.

Figure 11: Trott Brook Project Area



Natural Resources

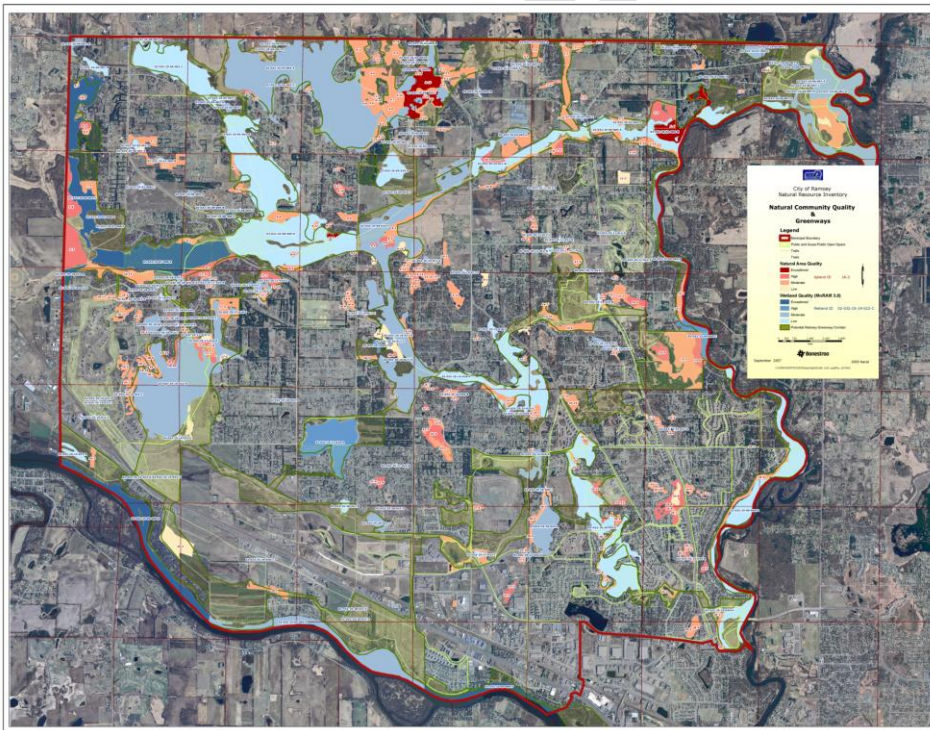
Ramsey has established a number of land use goals focused on natural resources.

- Enhanced Protection of Natural Resources
- Enhanced Recreation Opportunities in Natural Resource Areas
- Clean Water and Clean Air
- Reduced Waste Stream in Landfills

These goals are defined within the Natural Resources Plan

There are no known aggregate resources within the community.

Figure 12: Natural Resources



Special Resources Plan

Ramsey has two (2) special resources within the community.

1. Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area
2. Old Town Hall

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has adopted new rules for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area. Ramsey is awaiting guidance from the DNR before updating our Comprehensive Plan for this section. The City will prepare this plan as a separate chapter.

Old Town Hall

The former Ramsey Township Town Hall is the only structure within Ramsey on the National Historic Database. Ramsey is working with the Anoka County Historical Society to develop a long-term plan for this facility.

Other Opportunities

The City has partnered with the University of Minnesota through its Resilient Communities Project (RCP). One of these projects is evaluating other cultural and historical resources that may exist within the community.

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area

Portions of Ramsey are located within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA). Ramsey acknowledges the requirement to update MRCCA Plans based on new State of Minnesota Rules. The Cities MRCCA Plan is provided as an individual chapter within this Comprehensive Plan .



Land Use Goals, Strategies, and Actions

Strategy: Plan for a balance of desired community amenities with goal of maintaining a low tax rate.

1. Prioritize desired amenities and basic infrastructure needs through the annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process.

Strategy: Maintain and Enrich the Rural Character of Ramsey

Policies and Actions:

1. Establish a Policy for Urban Service Boundary Extensions
2. Update the Density Transitioning Ordinance

Strategy: Balance Land Use Vision with Market Realities

Policies and Actions:

1. Complete the Development Plan Update for The COR
2. Create a Neighborhood Plan for Green Valley Greenhouse Area
3. Create a Neighborhood Plan for Mississippi West Neighborhood
4. Create a Neighborhood Plan for the Elmcrest District

Strategy: Ensure a Sense of Place

Policies and Actions:

1. Complete the Community Identity and Streetscape Plan

Strategy: Create a Diverse and Robust Offering of Recreation Opportunities

Policies and Actions:

1. Complete the Master Park and Recreation Plan

Strategy: Ensure a Healthy Community

Policies and Actions:

1. Ensure all Comprehensive Plan Chapters are reviewed through the lens of Healthy Communities

Strategy: Improve the Safety and Mobility of Major Corridors

Policies and Actions:

1. Create a Corridor Plan for Highway 10
2. Create a Corridor Plan for Highway 47
3. Create a Corridor Plan for Highway 5
4. Create a Corridor Plan for Green Valley Road
5. Create a Corridor Plan for Mississippi River Crossing

Strategy: Plan for Future Educational Needs

Policies and Actions:

1. Advocate for a new Middle School and third Elementary School
2. Create a Workforce Development Plan
3. Encourage updates to district boundaries to reflect neighborhood boundaries
4. Ensure an Adequate Workforce for Business Community and Economic Development Goals



Strategy: Achieve and maintain success in efficient and equitable development

Policies and Actions:

1. Update the city's zoning ordinances to improve clarity in the development process

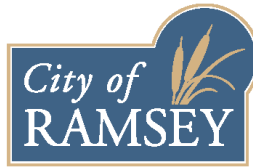
Land Use Implementation

Ramsey will achieve our land use goals and strategies through the following specific action items.

Table 37: Land Use Implementation Table

Action	Priority	Timeframe
Amend Official Zoning Map	Required	June 1, 2019
Amend Zoning Code	Required	December 31, 2019
Update The COR Development Plan	Immediate	December 31, 2018
Complete the Mississippi West Small Area Plan	Opportunity Driven	Prior to 2023
Complete the Elmcrest District Small Area Plan	Opportunity Driven	Prior to 2023
Complete the Green Valley District Small Area Plan	Opportunity Driven	Prior to 2023
Complete Corridor Plans	See Transportation Plan	





Chapter 03: Transportation Plan

Prepared with assistance from WSB



Transportation Background

The City of engaged the services of WSB to complete a Transportation Plan on behalf of the City. The Transportation Plan is included in the Comprehensive Plan Update by reference.

This transportation plan includes the following information:

1. Summary of Regional Strategies
2. Existing Roadway System
3. 2040 Traffic Forecasts and Roadway Network Planning
4. Existing and Planned Non-Motorized Transportation Network
5. Freight Network
6. Transit
7. Aviation
8. Goals and Multimodal Strategies
9. Proposed Short and Long Range Roadway Projects
10. Public Comments
11. Conclusion and Next Steps

Transportation Priorities

Ramsey has several transportation priorities highlighted in the Transportation Plan. Detailed planning efforts are planned for each of these main corridors.

- Highway 10
- Highway 47
- Mississippi River Crossing
- Nowthen Boulevard
- Armstrong Boulevard
- Green Valley Road
- 181st Avenue

Ramsey hopes to have Corridor Plans completed for each of these corridors by 2023.

Introduction

The transportation system in Ramsey generally operates well today. The city's multimodal transportation system includes facilities for vehicles, freight, walking, bicycling and transit. Facilities are operated by a number of agencies, including the City of Ramsey, Anoka County, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Metro Transit, and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway.

This transportation chapter has been prepared in compliance with State of Minnesota Statutes and applicable Metropolitan Council guidelines. As part of this Plan, the city has reviewed existing and



future conditions for each mode and identified safety, operations, and network improvements that will be important to address over the 2040 planning horizon. The city has also developed goals and strategies to preserve and improve the transportation system.

This transportation plan includes the following information:

1. Summary of Regional Strategies
2. Existing Roadway System
3. 2040 Traffic Forecasts and Roadway Network Planning
4. Existing and Planned Non-Motorized Transportation Network
5. Freight Network
6. Transit
7. Aviation
8. Goals and Multimodal Strategies
9. Proposed Short and Long Range Roadway Projects
10. Public Comments
11. Conclusion and Next Steps

Transportation Glossary

CIP: Capital Improvement Plan – five year plan for capital investments in the transportation system and in other capital assets owned by the city (equipment, buildings, etc.).

CR: County Road – county-owned roadway that does not receive State funding.

Critical Crash Rate: Statistical indicator of a safety problem at a location. If crash rates at a location are above the critical crash rate, it indicates that the location has a crash rate that is statistically significant compared to similar roadways.

CSAH: County State Aid Highway – county-owned roadway that receives State Aid funding.

MnDOT: Minnesota Department of Transportation.

RBTN: Regional Bicycle Transportation Network – existing and planned regional bicycle network established by the Metropolitan Council.

TH: Trunk Highway – State highway owned and operated by MnDOT.

TPP: Transportation Policy Plan – Regional transportation plan for the Twin Cities metropolitan region, developed by the Metropolitan Council.



Summary of Regional Strategies

This Plan has been prepared to be consistent with the regional transportation strategies outlined in the Metropolitan Council 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP). Similar to this Plan, the TPP evaluates the existing transportation system, identifies transportation challenges to the region, and sets regional goals, objectives, and priorities to meet the transportation needs of current residents while accommodating the region's anticipated growth. The TPP also guides local agencies in coordinating land use and transportation and establishes regional performance measures and targets.

The TPP is guided by the following goals:

- **Transportation system stewardship:** Sustainable investments in the transportation system are protected by strategically preserving, maintaining, and operating system assets.
- **Safety and Security:** The regional transportation system is safe and secure for all users.
- **Access to Destinations:** People and businesses prosper by using a reliable, affordable, and efficient multimodal transportation system that connects them to destinations throughout the region and beyond.
- **Competitive Economy:** The regional transportation system supports the economic competitiveness, vitality, and prosperity of the region and State.
- **Healthy Environment:** The regional transportation system advances equity and contributes to communities' livability and sustainability while protecting the natural, cultural, and developed environments.
- **Leveraging Transportation Investment to Guide Land Use:** The region leverages transportation investments to guide land use and development patterns that advance the regional vision of stewardship, prosperity, livability, equity, and sustainability.



Funding is a key constraint that is acknowledged in the TPP. Current transportation revenue will not meet the region's transportation needs through 2040. As a result, the TPP includes two long-term investment scenarios: a fiscally-constrained scenario that identifies projects anticipated to be funded based on current revenue projections, and an increased revenue scenario that identifies project priorities should additional transportation funding become available.

Under the current revenue scenario, the TPP is focused on operations and maintenance of the existing transportation system. Investments in highway mobility and access are limited to those projects that address multiple TPP goals and objectives. The increased revenue scenario would allow additional investments in operations and maintenance, as well as regional mobility, access, safety, and bicycle/pedestrian improvements. However, congestion cannot be greatly reduced under even the increased revenue scenario. Under both scenarios, proposed investments are focused on areas of the metro with the greatest existing and future challenges and anticipated growth.

The Metropolitan Council classifies Ramsey under the Emerging Suburban Edge Community Designation. Based on *Thrive MSP 2040*, Emerging Suburban Edge areas are expected to plan for forecasted population and household growth at average densities of at least three to five units per acre for new development and redevelopment. These communities are also expected to target opportunities for more intensive development near regional transit investments.



Existing Roadway System

The sections below provide information about the existing roadway system in Ramsey, including existing number of lanes, existing roadway jurisdiction, existing functional classification, existing traffic, existing safety, and access management. This chapter also includes summary recommendations from recent plans and corridor studies.

Functional Classification

The functional classification system groups roadways into classes based on roadway function and purpose. Functional classification is based on both transportation and land use characteristics, including roadway speeds, access to adjacent land, connection to important land uses, and the length of trips taken on the roadway.

The **functional classification system** organizes a roadway and street network that distributes traffic from local neighborhood streets to collector roadways, then to minor arterials and ultimately the principal arterial system. Roads are placed into categories based on the degree to which they provide access to adjacent land and mobility for through traffic. Functional classification gives an indication of the relative hierarchy of roadways in the transportation network.

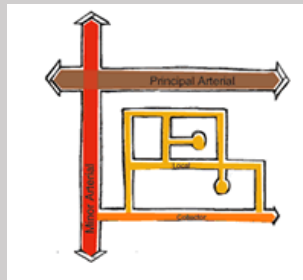


Image: MNDOT

Four classes of roadways are included in the seven-county metropolitan area functional classification system: principal arterials, minor arterials, collector streets, and local streets. Figure 31 shows the existing functional classification of each road in the City of Ramsey and Figure 32 shows the existing roadway jurisdiction. The following sections describe each functional class in greater detail and indicate which roadways fall into each classification.



Figure 13: Existing Functional Classification

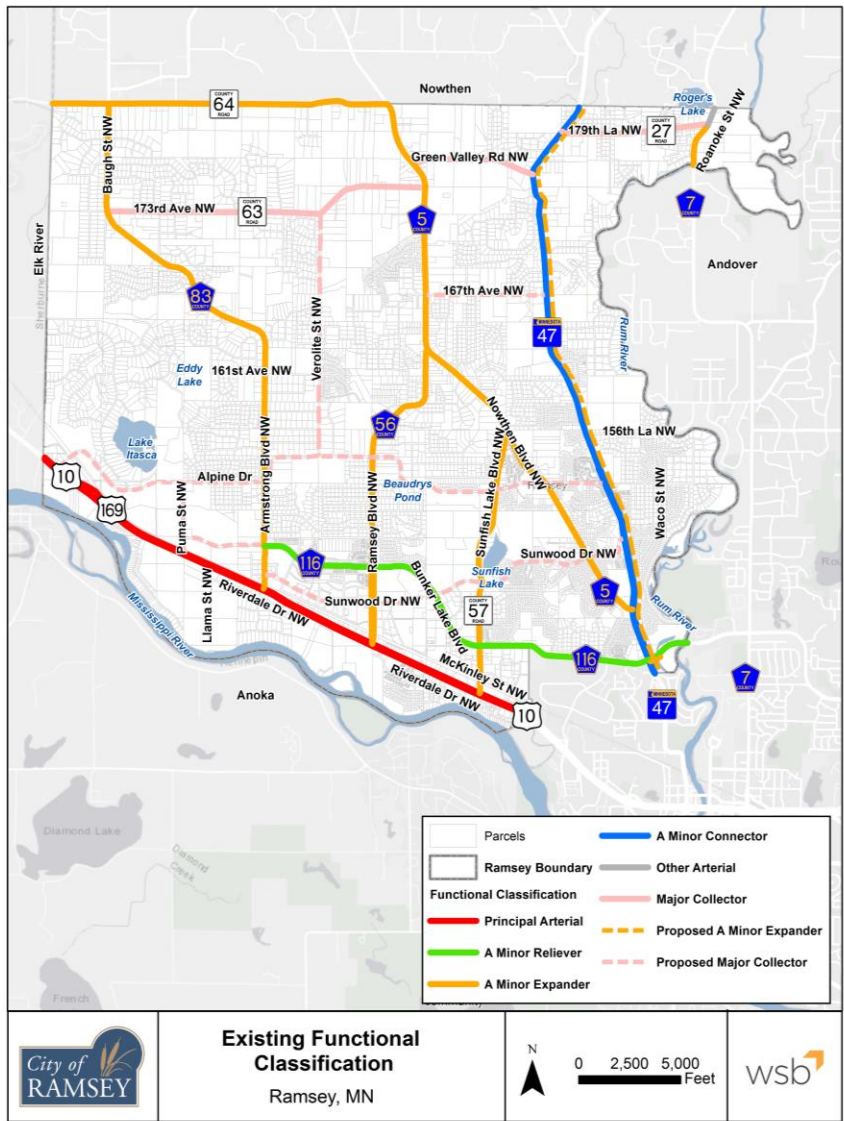
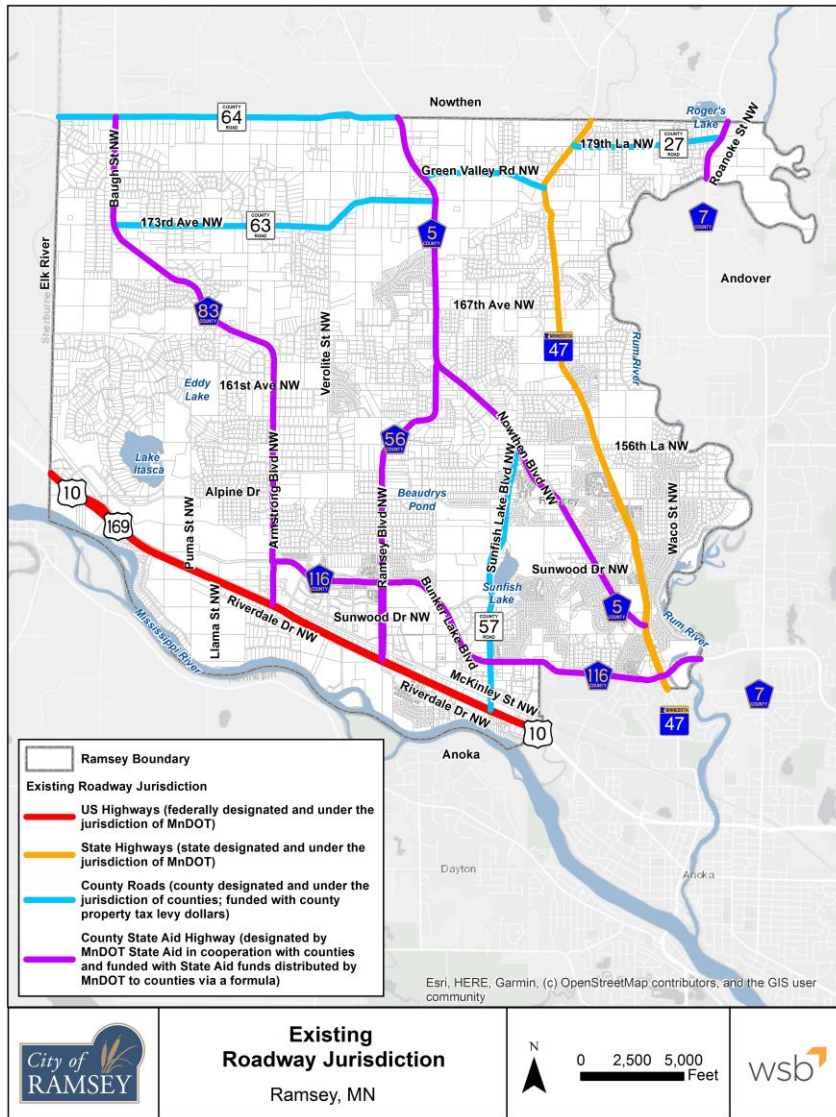


Figure 14: Existing Roadway Jurisdiction



Principal Arterials

Principal arterials are roadways that provide the greatest level of mobility and access control. Within the metropolitan area, the great majority of principal arterials are under MnDOT jurisdiction. Principal arterials are typically Interstate highways or other state or US freeways or expressways. These facilities are intended to serve trips greater than eight miles and express transit trips. Spacing of principal arterials varies within developing areas of the metropolitan area. Typically these facilities are spaced between two and six miles apart. These facilities connect regional business and commercial concentrations, transportation terminals, and large institutions within the metropolitan area. Principal arterials also connect to other cities, regions, and states outside of the metropolitan area.

Principal arterials are intended to maintain average speeds of 40 mph during peak traffic periods. To maintain mobility and speeds on principal arterials, land access and transportation system connections are limited. There is little to no direct land access from principal arterials. Intersections are limited to interstate freeways, other principal arterials, and “A” Minor arterials. Access points are typically grade-separated or controlled with a signal and are spaced one to two miles apart.

One existing principal arterial is located within Ramsey. US Highway (US) 169/US Highway 10 crosses the southern portion of the city in a northwest-southeast direction parallel to the Mississippi River. US 169 and US 10 join in the City of Elk River to the west of Ramsey and diverge again in the City of Anoka, just east of Ramsey. US 169 connects northern Minnesota with the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Mankato, and areas further south. US 10 provides a connection between the western portion of the state and the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Wisconsin. These roadways are also trunk highways (THs) on the MnDOT system, and these combined highways in Ramsey are hereafter referred to as “US 10” in this Plan. The 2040 Transportation Policy Plan does not propose any additional principal arterials within the city.

Minor Arterials

Minor arterials maintain a focus on mobility, but provide more land access than principal arterials. Within Ramsey, all minor arterials are under the jurisdiction of MnDOT or Anoka County. Minor arterials are intended to serve trips of four to eight miles in length. Within developing areas of the metro, these facilities are spaced between one and two miles apart. Minor arterials connect cities and towns within the region and link to regional business and commercial concentrations. Access points along minor arterials are generally at-grade and typically controlled with signals or stop signs.

During peak traffic, minor arterials in developing areas are intended to maintain 30 mph average speeds. As a result, transportation system connections are limited to interstate freeways, other principal arterials, other minor arterials, collectors, and some local streets. Land access is limited to concentrations of commercial and industrial land uses. The Metropolitan Council has established a system of “A” Minor and “B” Minor arterials. “A” Minor arterials are eligible for federal funding administered by the Metropolitan Council.

The Metropolitan Council has further split “A” Minor arterials into four types, described below:

- Relievers: Arterials located parallel to congested principal arterials. The purpose of “A” Minor Relievers is to provide additional capacity in congested corridors.



- **Augmenters:** Arterials that supplement the principal arterials system within urban centers and urban communities.
- **Expanders:** Arterials that supplement principal arterials in less-densely developed areas of the metro area.
- **Connectors:** Arterials that provide connections between rural towns and connect rural areas with the principal arterial system.

There are seven “A” Minor Expanders, one “A” Minor Reliever, and one “A” Minor Connector within the city:

“A” Minor Expanders:

- Anoka County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 (Nowthen Boulevard)
- CSAH 7 (Rum River Boulevard) south of 179th Lane
- CSAH 22 (181st Avenue)
- CSAH 56 (Ramsey Boulevard)
- CSAH/County Road 57 (Sunfish Lake Boulevard)
- County Road 64 (181st Avenue)
- CSAH 83 (Armstrong Boulevard/Baugh Street)

“A” Minor Reliever:

- CSAH 116 (Bunker Lake Boulevard)

“A” Minor Connector:

- Trunk Highway (TH) 47 (St. Francis Boulevard)

“B” Minor arterials have a similar focus on mobility above land access. These roadways connect major traffic generators in the region. “B” Minor arterials are not eligible for federal funding. “B” Minor arterials within the city include the following:

- CSAH 7 (Rum River Boulevard) north of 179th Lane

An additional B minor arterial connecting CSAH 5 with TH 47 in the northern section of the city is identified as a planned arterial in the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan.

Major and Minor Collectors

Major and minor collector roadways provide linkages to larger developments and community amenities. They generally do not link communities to one another. Collector roadways generally favor access to the system over mobility, but try to balance the two competing needs. Collector roadways are generally lower speed than the principal or minor arterial routes. Collector roadways are often owned and operated by cities, although counties operate some of these facilities. Within Ramsey, two collector roadways are owned and operated by the city, and Anoka County operates two. Collectors are intended to serve trips of one to four miles in length. Collectors link minor arterials, other collectors, and local streets.



Major collectors typically serve higher density residential areas and concentrations of commercial and industrial land uses. These facilities tend to serve longer trips than minor collectors. Major collectors within the city include the following:

- 173rd Avenue Northwest
- 175th Avenue Northwest
- County Road 63 (Green Valley Road)
- County Road 27 (179th Lane Northwest)

There are no minor collectors within the city, and the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan does not propose any additional collector roadways within the city.

Local Roadways

The primary function of local roadways is land access. Local roadways connect individual land parcels with other local roadways and collectors. Trips on local roadways are typically under two miles. Speeds on local roadways are typically low. Longer trips are facilitated by local roadway connections to the collector and arterial systems. Local roadways are under the jurisdiction of the City of Ramsey. Local roadways are all roadways that are not arterials or collectors.

Planned Functional Classification

Aside from new proposed roadways, no functional classification changes are currently recommended in the city.

A note on transportation plan strategies:

Throughout this Plan, locations associated with numbered mode-specific strategies are identified on corresponding maps. These strategies are listed and described in further detail in **Table 43**.



Existing Roadway Capacity and Safety

Roadway capacity and roadway safety are two key indicators of how well the roadway system is meeting the city's transportation needs. The sections below provide information to better understand capacity and safety issues within Ramsey.

Existing Roadway Capacity

A roadway's capacity indicates how many vehicles may use a roadway before it experiences congestion. Capacity is largely dependent upon the number of lanes. **Table 38** below lists planning-level thresholds that indicate a roadway's capacity for different facility types based on the Anoka County travel demand model. Additional variation (more or less capacity) on an individual segment is influenced by a number of factors including: amount of access, type of access, peak hour percent of traffic, directional split of traffic, truck percent, opportunities to pass, and amount of turning traffic, the availability of dedicated turn lanes, parking availability, intersection spacing, signal timing and a variety of other factors.

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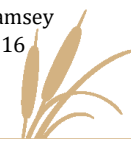
Table 38: Planning-level Roadway Capacities

Facility Type	Number of Lanes	Daily Capacity
Metered Freeway	8	147,000
	6	110,000
	4	73,000
Un-Metered Freeway	6	99,000
	4	66,000
Expressway	6	62,000
	4	41,000
Divided Arterial (Rural)	6	56,000
	4	36,000
	2	19,000
Divided Arterial (Developing)	6	54,000
	4	34,000
	2	18,000
Divided Arterial (Developed)	6	48,000
	4	30,000
	2	16,000
Un-Divided Arterial (Rural)	6	45,000
	4	28,000
	2	15,000
Un-Divided Arterial (Developing)	6	42,000
	4	26,000
	2	14,000
Undivided Arterial (Developed)	6	36,000
	4	22,000
	2	12,000
Collector (Rural)	4	23,000
	2	11,000
Collector (Developing)	4	21,000
	2	10,000
Collector (Developed)	4	19,000
	2	9,000

Existing Capacity Problems on Arterial Roads

At the planning level, capacity problems are identified by comparing the existing number of lanes with current traffic volumes. **Table 39** and **Figure 33** illustrate the existing number of lanes on collector and arterial roadways within the city. **Figure 18** illustrates existing traffic volumes on Principal Arterial, A-Minor Arterials and other significant roadways within the city.

As shown in the table, US 10 has four lanes throughout the city, as do portions of CSAH 56 (Ramsey Boulevard), CSAH 57 (Sunfish Lake Boulevard), CSAH 83 (Armstrong Boulevard), and CSAH 116



(Bunker Lake Boulevard). All other arterial roadways have two lanes. Most of the arterials in Ramsey currently exhibit traffic volumes below or within the range of the planning level capacity thresholds shown in **Table 38**; however, existing volumes on TH 47 (St. Francis Boulevard) exceed these thresholds in the southeastern area of the city. This indicates that this roadway may be experiencing some levels of congestion during peak travel periods.

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Figure 15: Existing Roadway Lanes

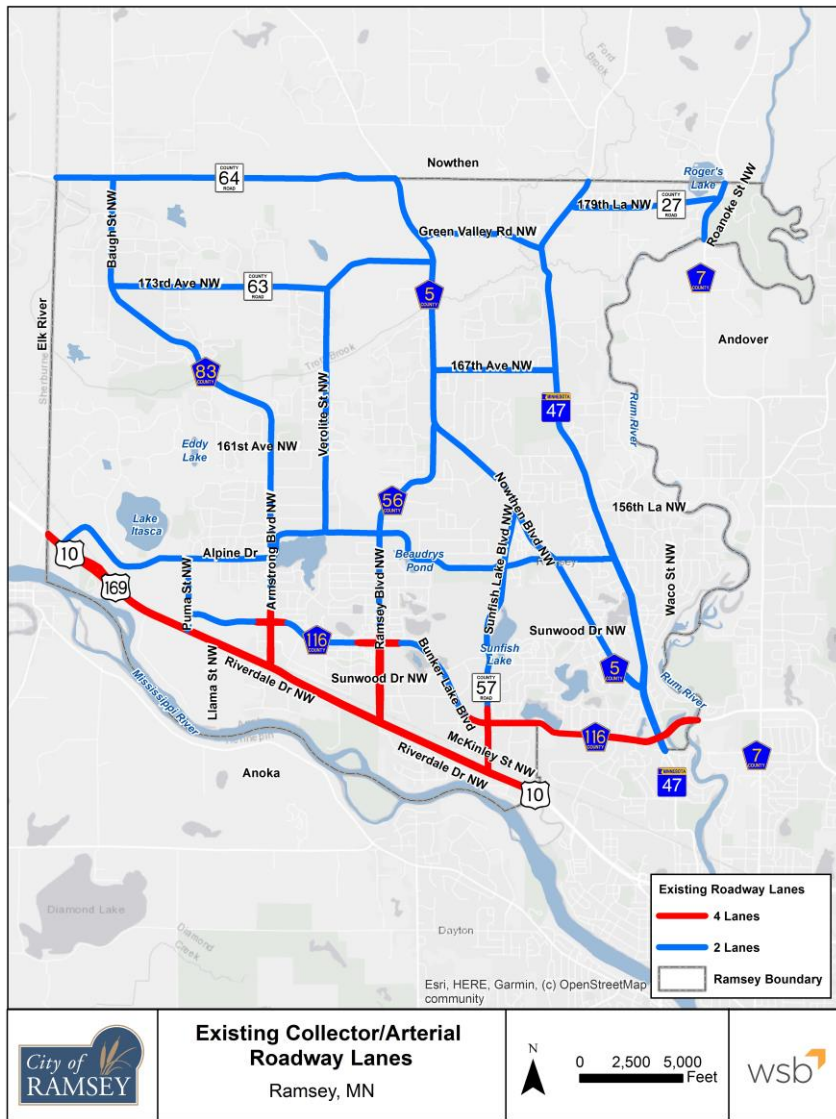


Figure 16: Existing Traffic Volumes

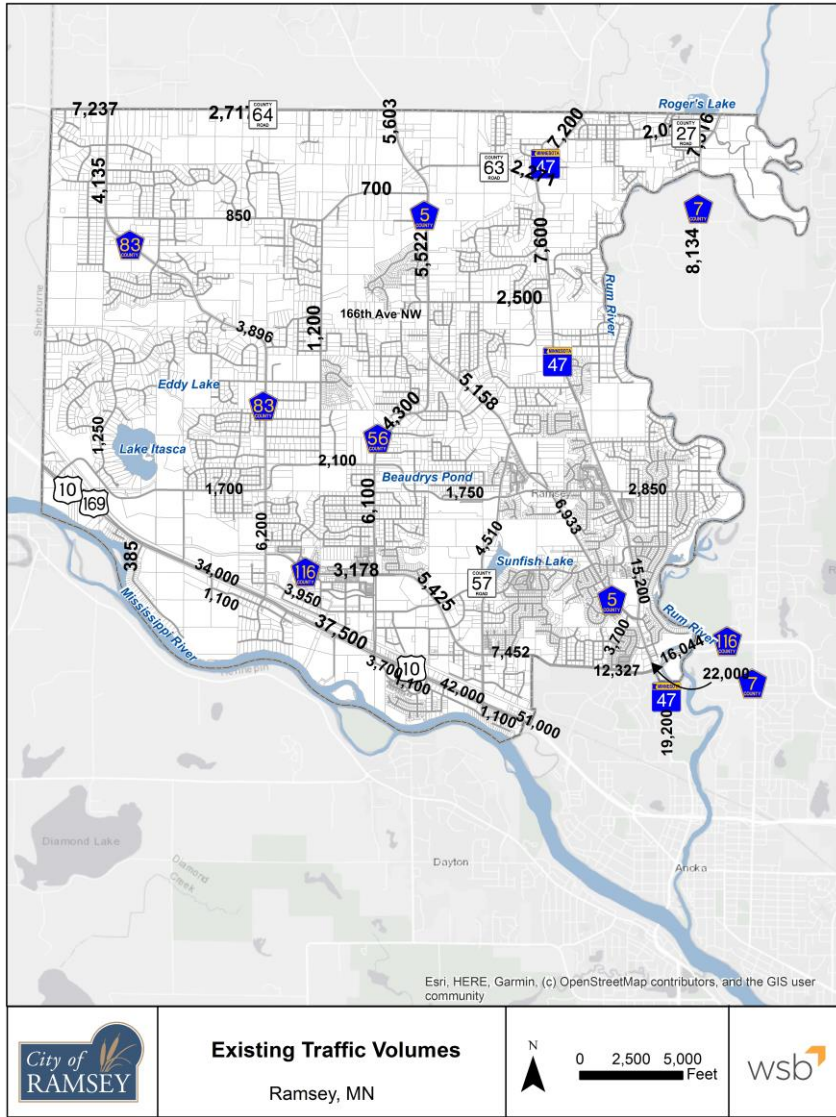


Table 39: Existing number of lanes on arterial roads

Functional Classification	Roadway Name	Location	Number of Lanes
Principal Arterial	US 10	Ramsey-Elk River border to Ramsey-Anoka border	4
"A" Minor Expander	CSAH 5 (Nowthen Boulevard)	TH 47 to Ramsey-Nowthen border	2
	CSAH 7 (Rum River Boulevard)	Ramsey-Andover border to 179th Lane	2
	CSAH 22 (181st Avenue)	Ramsey-Elk River border to CSAH 83	2
	CSAH 56 (Ramsey Boulevard)	US 10 to CSAH 5	2-4
	CSAH/County Road 57 (Sunfish Lake Boulevard)	US 10 to CSAH 5	2-4
	County Road 64 (181st Avenue)	CSAH 83 to CSAH 5	2
	CSAH 83 (Armstrong Boulevard/Baugh Street)	US 10 to Ramsey-Nowthen border	2-4
"A" Minor Reliever	CSAH 116 (Bunker Lake Boulevard)	CSAH 83 to Ramsey-Anoka border	2-4
"A" Minor Connector	TH 47 (St. Francis Boulevard)	Ramsey-Anoka border to Ramsey-Nowthen border	2
"B" Minor	CSAH 7	179th Lane to Ramsey-Oak Grove border	2

Existing Safety and Operational Issues

There are a number of intersection locations within Ramsey where safety, geometric, or operational issues have been identified for motorists and pedestrians. These locations include:

- TH 47 and Bunker Lake Boulevard (CSAH 116)
- TH 47 and Nowthen Boulevard (CSAH 5)
- Armstrong Boulevard (CSAH 83) and Alpine Drive
- Armstrong Boulevard (CSAH 83) and 161st Avenue
- Ramsey Boulevard (CSAH 56) and Alpine Drive
- Ramsey Boulevard (CSAH 56) and Nowthen Boulevard (CSAH 5)
- Nowthen Boulevard (CSAH 5) and Sunfish Lake Boulevard (CSAH 57)
- Nowthen Boulevard (CSAH 5) and 167th Avenue
- Nowthen Boulevard (CSAH 5) and 175th Avenue
- Nowthen Boulevard (CSAH 5) and Green Valley Road



Access Management

The purpose of access management is to provide adequate access to adjacent land development while maintaining acceptable and safe traffic flow on higher level roadways. Access management consists of carefully controlling the spacing and design of public street intersections and private access points to the public roadway system. Because they are designed for higher speed, longer distance trips, arterials generally have restricted access, while local streets can accommodate much greater access. Collector roadways fall in between arterials and local roadways regarding the amount of access that is permitted.

The agency with jurisdiction over a roadway sets access management guidelines. Access to US 10 must meet MnDOT access management guidelines. See **Tables 40** and **41** for MnDOT Access Management Guidelines.

Anoka County has established access management guidelines for county roadways, as displayed in **Table 42**.

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MnDOT Access Management Manual

Table 40 – Summary of Recommended Street Spacing for IRCs

Category	Area or Facility Type	Typical Functional Class	Public Street Spacing		Signal Spacing
			Primary Full-Movement Intersection	Secondary Intersection	
1 High Priority Interregional Corridors & Interstate System (IRCs)					
1F	Interstate Freeway	Principal Arterials	Interchange Access Only		See Section 3.2.5 for Signalization on Interregional Corridors
1AF	Non-Interstate Freeway		Interchange Access Only (see Section 3.2.7 for interim spacing)		
1A	Rural		1 mile	1/2 mile	
1B	Urban/Urbanizing		1/2 mile	1/4 mile	
1C	Urban Core		300-660 feet dependent upon block length		
2 Medium Priority Interregional Corridors					
2AF	Non-Interstate Freeway	Principal Arterials	Interchange Access Only (See Section 3.2.7 for interim spacing)		See Section 3.2.5 for Signalization on Interregional Corridors
2A	Rural		1 mile	1/2 mile	
2B	Urban/Urbanizing		1/2 mile	1/4 mile	
2C	Urban Core		300-660 feet, dependent upon block length		
3 Regional Corridors					
3AF	Non-Interstate Freeway	Principal and Minor Arterials	Interchange Access Only (see Section 3.2.7 for interim spacing)		Interim
3A	Rural		1 mile	1/2 mile	See Section 3.2.5
3B	Urban/Urbanizing		1/2 mile	1/4 mile	1/2 mile
3C	Urban Core		300-660 feet, dependent upon block length		1/4 mile



MnDOT Access Management Manual

Table 41 – Summary of Recommended Street Spacing for Non-IRCs

Category	Area or Facility Type	Typical Functional Class	Public Street Spacing		Signal Spacing
			Primary Full-Movement Intersection	Secondary Intersection	
4 Principal Arterials in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and Primary Regional Trade Centers (Non-IRCs)					
4AF	Non-Interstate Freeway	Principal Arterials	Interchange Access Only (see Section 3.2.7 for interim spacing)		Interim
4A	Rural		1 mile	1/2 mile	See Section 3.2.5
4B	Urban/Urbanizing		1/2 mile	1/4 mile	1/2 mile
4C	Urban Core		300-660 feet dependent upon block length		1/4 mile
5 Minor Arterials					
5A	Rural	Minor Arterials	1/2 mile	1/4 mile	See Section 3.2.5
5B	Urban/Urbanizing		1/4 mile	1/8 mile	1/4 mile
5C	Urban Core		300-660 feet, dependent upon block length		1/4 mile
6 Collectors					
6A	Rural	Collectors	1/2 mile	1/4 mile	See Section 3.2.5
6B	Urban/Urbanizing		1/8 mile	Not Applicable	1/4 mile
6C	Urban Core		300-660 feet, dependent upon block length		1/8 mile
7 Specific Area Access Management Plans					
7	All	All	By adopted plan		



Table 42: Anoka County Access Spacing Guidelines

	Roadway Type	Principal Arterial			Arterial Express way	Minor Arterial			Collector and Local			Specific Access Plan
		50 – 55	40 – 45	< 40	50 – 55	40 – 45	< 40	50 – 55	40 – 45	< 40		
Intersection Spacing	Full Movement Intersection	1 mi.	1/2 mi.	1/8 mi.	1 mi.	1/2 mi.	1/4 mi.	1/8 mi.	1/2 mi.	1/8 mi.	1/8 mi.	By adopted plan/agreement/covenant on land
	Conditional Secondary Intersection	1/2 mi.	1/4 mi.	300 – 660 ft.	1/2 mi.	1/4 mi.	1/8 mi.	300 – 660 ft.	1/4 mi.	NA	300 – 660 ft.	
Signal Spacing		1 mi.	1/2 mi.	1/4 mi.	1 mi.	1/2 mi.	1/4 mi.	1/4 mi.	1/2 mi.	1/4 mi.	1/8 mi.	
Private Access		Subject to conditions for all roadway types and speeds										



Recommendations from Recent Plans and Studies

A number of recent planning efforts have been completed that identify potential improvements to the City of Ramsey's transportation system. This section describes these studies and summarizes their recommendations.

Highway 10 Access Planning Study

In 2014, MnDOT completed the Highway 10 Access Planning Study to identify safety and mobility along the US 10 corridor between the Anoka/Sherburne County line and the Rum River. Specifically, the purpose of the study was to identify high-benefit improvements that are fiscally responsible so that improvements can be funded, programmed, and implemented incrementally. The study area was divided into subareas and concepts were developed and evaluated, and recommendations for individual projects were broken into immediate priority, short-term priority projects, mid-term priority projects, and opportunity/development/safety-driven projects. The recommended projects specific to the City of Ramsey include the following:

- Immediate Priority projects
 - Construct North Frontage Road from Sunfish Lake Boulevard to Anoka Technical College
 - Construct North Frontage Road from Ramsey Boulevard to Sunfish Lake Boulevard
 - Construct South Frontage Road from Traprock Street to Ramsey Boulevard
- Short-Term Priority projects
 - Extend Riverdale Drive east of Tungsten Street (two alignment options)
- Mid-Term Priority projects
 - Grade separation at Sunfish Lake Boulevard – Highway 10 flyover with access or overpass with right-turn access
 - Grade separation at Ramsey Boulevard – Highway 10 flyover with access or overpass with right-turn access
- Opportunity/Development/Safety Driven Priority projects
 - Purchase ROW north of US 10 and west of Ramsey Boulevard
 - Extend Civic Center Drive to Ramsey Boulevard
 - Railroad grade separation at Sunfish Lake Boulevard
 - Railroad grade separation at Ramsey Blvd
 - Extend 156th Street from Jarvis Street to Alpine Drive
 - Construct a Reduced Conflict U-Turn (RCUT) intersection at US 10 and Alpine Drive
 - Construct a Reduced Conflict U-Turn (RCUT) intersection at US 10 and Bowers Drive
 - Extend Riverdale Drive from Bowers Drive to Llama Street

Mississippi Skyway Preliminary Engineering Report

In 2014, the City of Ramsey completed the Mississippi Skyway Preliminary Engineering Report to identify potential alignments for a new pedestrian bridge crossing of US 10 near Riverdale Drive. This study also produced a preliminary analysis of alternative profiles and aesthetic design options, along with impacts associated with various alternatives. This study recommended an open air bridge with a helix approach ramp located just south of Riverdale Drive. A preferred bridge concept was also identified, with a prefabricated steel truss including dual modified bowstring arches.

Future Roadway System

This section addresses future roadway improvement needs and roadway design guidelines.



Roadway Capacity – Traffic Forecasting

To determine future roadway capacity needs, year 2040 traffic forecasts were prepared using the Metropolitan Council travel demand model. The 2040 projections were compared against the assumed 2040 roadway network to see where roadway segment capacity deficiencies may result. The 2040 roadway network assumed for this analysis is the same as the current roadway network, as the City and County Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) do not include any projects that add significant capacity to the roadway network.

While the travel demand model is a valuable tool for identifying future traffic based on the proposed land use impacts, it is not meant for use in detailed traffic operations studies. For a more accurate representation of the transportation impacts from specific developments, detailed traffic studies should be conducted to determine the operational impacts on adjacent roadways and intersections.

A central concept of travel demand forecasting is the use of Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs). Each forecast study area, in this case, the City of Ramsey, is divided into a series of TAZs. Each TAZ has population, employment, and household data that is used by the model to assign trips to the various network roadways. **Figure 19** displays Metropolitan Council TAZs within Ramsey.

The results of the Ramsey modeling process are summarized in **Figure 20**, which displays Metropolitan Council 2040 projected average daily traffic volumes compared to the existing (2012–2015) traffic volumes.

Tables 43 provides a summary of existing and forecasted demographic growth by TAZ for Ramsey through the year 2040. The Ramsey population is forecasted to reach 39,150 by the year 2040, with households and employment increasing by approximately 5,500 and 3,600 respectively. Allocated demographic growth and associated land use was located throughout the community. Higher density residential was generally allocated to the southern portion of the city, with commercial and multi-optional development areas also generally identified within the southern portion of the city, consistent with the Center of Ramsey (COR) land use plan. For more information about the demographic allocation and associated land use forecast, please refer to the Ramsey Land Use Plan in Chapter 2 of the Ramsey Comprehensive Plan.



Figure 17: Transportation Analysis Zones

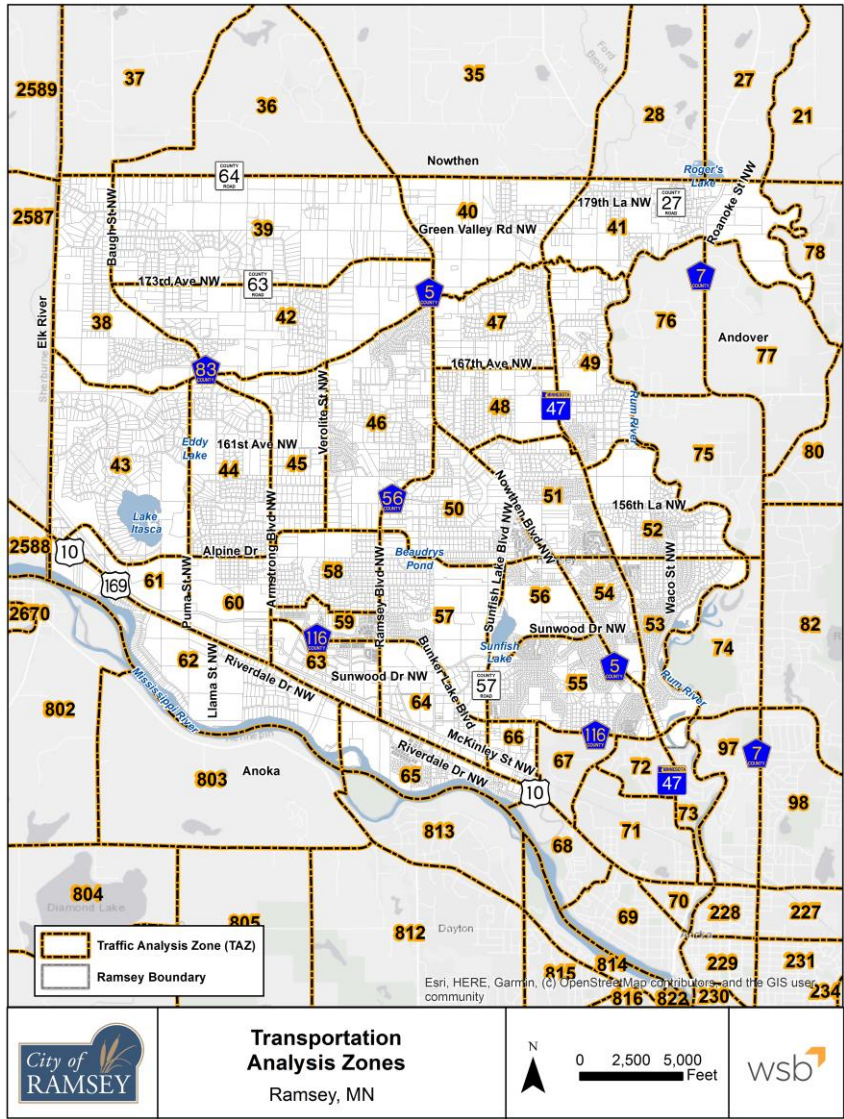


Figure 18: Existing Traffic Volume & Adjusted Met Council Forecast

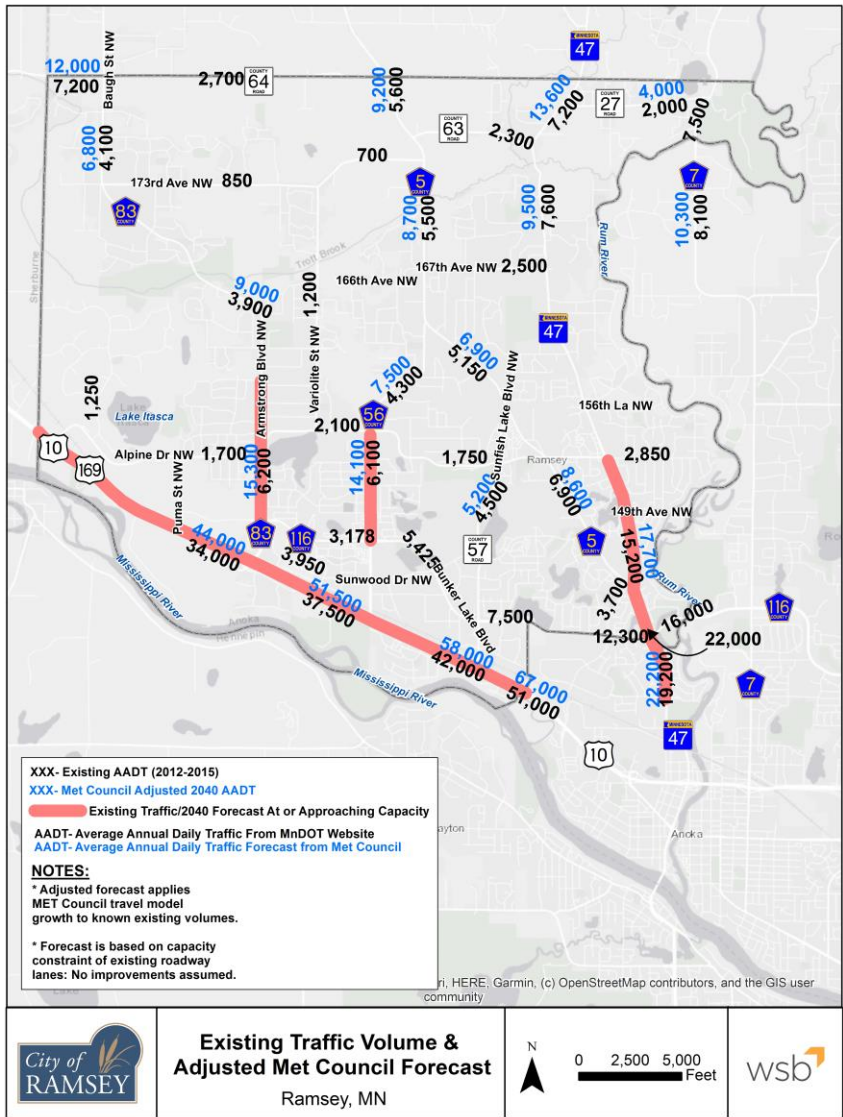


Table 43: Ramsey 2040 Land Use Plan TAZ Growth Allocation

TAZ	Change from 2030-2040			Change from 2020-2030			Change from 2010-2020			EMP2020	HH2020	POP2020	EMP2010	HH2010	POP2010																					
	EMP	HH	POP	EMP	HH	POP	EMP	HH	POP																											
0	67	159	11	434	1145	0	86	198	11	367	986	5	47	88	11	281	788	6	234	700	38															
3	89	212	16	515	1355	3	105	243	13	426	1143	-10	55	150	10	321	900	20	266	750	39															
3	112	293	192	309	831	9	76	198	189	197	538	54	19	18	180	121	340	126	102	322	40															
4	2	-1	12	211	600	5	2	-6	8	209	601	-12	0	76	3	207	607	15	207	531	41															
1	398	1,243	53	734	3161	2	96	1,232	52	336	1918	34	45	89	50	240	686	16	195	597	42															
4	37	70	224	574	1558	41	116	281	220	537	1488	19	96	155	179	421	1207	160	325	1,052	43															
2	66	153	64	532	1443	9	117	291	62	466	1290	30	84	257	53	349	999	23	265	742	44															
0	28	59	9	323	847	0	50	113	9	295	788	4	85	219	9	245	675	5	160	456	45															
1	48	95	33	696	1824	1	104	226	32	648	1729	10	186	469	31	544	1503	21	358	1,034	46															
1	60	150	36	342	919	2	54	132	35	282	769	-8	21	-10	33	228	637	41	207	647	47															
2	32	78	198	285	766	7	38	87	196	253	688	176	17	24	189	215	601	13	198	577	48															
5	9	17	81	237	672	10	9	13	76	228	655	9	4	-23	66	219	642	57	215	665	49															
0	50	109	20	662	1770	1	77	165	20	612	1661	0	39	145	19	535	1496	19	496	1,351	50															
1	30	46	90	749	1988	5	75	145	89	719	1942	-5	44	-67	84	644	1797	89	600	1,864	51															
8	3	-10	20	321	898	5	3	-15	12	318	908	4	0	115	7	315	923	3	315	1,038	52															
15	9	-23	233	588	1588	23	9	-37	218	579	1611	-4	-7	-144	195	570	1648	199	577	1,792	53															
61	5	-2	310	401	1078	75	7	-16	249	396	1080	65	31	21	174	389	1096	109	358	1,075	54															
2	18	-12	156	1304	3438	6	22	-62	154	1286	3450	22	-5	-273	148	1264	3512	126	1,269	3,785	55															
15	5	3	129	165	430	18	3	-9	114	160	427	-25	-1	-53	96	157	436	121	158	489	56															
26	2	12	805	240	694	26	4	-1	779	238	682	255	-7	-32	753	234	683	498	241	715	57															
0	-11	-48	3	389	1018	0	32	50	3	400	1066	2	115	291	3	368	1016	1	253	725	58															
5	67	154	106	466	1215	8	85	195	101	399	1061	-41	114	344	93	314	866	134	200	522	59															
-4	218	582	639	473	1290	176	149	54	643	255	708	416	46	475	467	106	654	51	60	179	60															
12	50	128	56	86	227	13	-36	-317	44	36	99	19	72	416	31	72	416	12	0	0	61															
165	233	1,602	776	809	3546	433	391	1,444	611	576	1944	96	62	187	178	4285	500	82	123	313	62															
114	350	676	982	967	3015	33	233	975	868	617	2339	409	209	917	835	384	1364	426	175	447	63															
142	2	1	1756	82	227	-131	1	-2	1614	80	236	166	-2	-18	1745	79	228	1,579	81	246	64															
2	21	54	428	606	1606	102	112	273	426	585	1552	174	98	257	324	473	1279	150	375	1,022	65															
10	0	0	962	0	1	35	0	0	952	0	1	252	0	1	917	0	1	665	0	0	66															
2	0	1	20	21	49	1	1	-2	18	21	48	4	0	18	17	20	50	13	20	32	73															
600	2,000	5,800	8,400	13,500	39,150	900	2,000	5,800	7,800	11,500	33,350	2,120	1,467	3,882	6,900	9,540	27,550	4,780	8,033	23,668	2040															
															Totals																					



2040 Future Roadway Capacity Improvement Needs

To identify the need for potential future capacity improvements, Metropolitan Council 2040 forecasts were compared to planning-level roadway capacities for Principal and A-Minor Arterial Roadways. Planning-level roadway capacities used for this analysis are illustrated in **Table 37** of this chapter. Based on this comparison, most roadways in the city have adequate capacity to accommodate forecasted Metropolitan Council 2040 travel volumes with little to minimal congestion. These roadways are expected to function well through the 2040 planning horizon.

Based on these planning level roadway capacities, portions of TH 47, US 10, Armstrong Boulevard (CSAH 83), and Ramsey Boulevard (CSAH 56) are expected to exceed capacity in 2040. TH 47 is currently a rural two-lane roadway with a planning-level capacity of 10,000–12,000 and a forecasted 2040 volume of 9,560–22,200. US 10 is a four-lane divided roadway with a planning-level capacity of 28,000–32,000 and a forecasted 2040 volume of 44,000–67,000. Armstrong Boulevard (CSAH 83) and Ramsey Boulevard (CSAH 56) each vary between two and four lanes within Ramsey, but each roadway includes a segment where the forecasted 2040 volume would surpass the associated planning-level capacity for a two-lane undivided roadway of 10,000–12,000 (15,300 for Armstrong Boulevard and 14,100 for Ramsey Boulevard). US Highway 10 also has forecasted 2040 volumes that exceed its capacity through Ramsey. Accordingly, motorists will likely experience some congestion along these roadways during the 2040 planning horizon.

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Existing and Planned Non-Motorized Transportation Network

This section addresses network needs for walking and bicycling within Ramsey. This section also addresses the needs of people using wheelchairs and assistive mobility devices such as mobility scooters, as they are considered pedestrians.

Enhancing the non-motorized elements of the Ramsey transportation system is a key goal in terms of improving transportation sustainability in the city and in the region. This approach gives residents an alternative to driving, supports transportation options for people who do not have consistent access to a personal vehicle, and encourages healthy activities and lifestyles.

This section includes information on the existing non-motorized transportation network within Ramsey, connections to land use planning, the planned local non-motorized transportation network, and the planned regional non-motorized transportation network. This section also includes recommendations for intersection improvements and design best practices.

Existing Non-Motorized Transportation Network

The non-motorized transportation network in Ramsey is comprised of sidewalks, on-street bicycle lanes/shoulders, local multi-use trail, and regional trail. As shown in **Figure 19**, there is existing sidewalk on many of the streets in the COR and on some residential streets in other areas of the city. There are also approximately 38 miles of city trails, which are largely paved with asphalt and primarily adjacent to roadways, connecting parks, schools, and other destinations within the city.

Additionally, there are two regional multi-use trails located in the City of Ramsey. The Central Anoka Regional Trail is an existing Anoka County regional trail that, when complete, will be 26 miles long, beginning at the Mississippi West Regional Park in Ramsey and ending at the Anoka-Washington County line. The completed portions of the trail within Ramsey are located along Bunker Lake Boulevard and Ramsey Boulevard. A route for the Mississippi River Regional Trail (which is also part of a national bikeway) crosses the southern portion of the city using a combination of on-street and off-street facilities.

Connections to Land Use Planning

Ramsey has development patterns largely consistent with its designation as an Emerging Suburban Edge community. In many areas of the city, existing residential development is lower in density compared with many urban and suburban areas, reflecting a community that has developed relatively recently. As a result, most commercial land uses are separated from largely single-family residential land uses. This means that people walking and bicycling must cover greater distances to reach commercial areas from their homes. In these areas of the city, development patterns are likely better suited to bicycling than walking for transportation for most trips due to the distance between residential and commercial areas of the city. However, the COR area demonstrates existing and planned land use patterns that are more similar to urban or suburban areas, including transit facilities and a mix of land uses at higher densities, along with a more regular street grid. In this area, development patterns are better-suited to bicycling and walking.

The city's land use planning and coordination with developers can help improve opportunities for walking and bicycling for transportation. The city can continue to encourage mixed-use development that situates residents within a short walk of commercial destinations. The city can also work with developers to construct sidewalks and trails within developments. Additionally, the

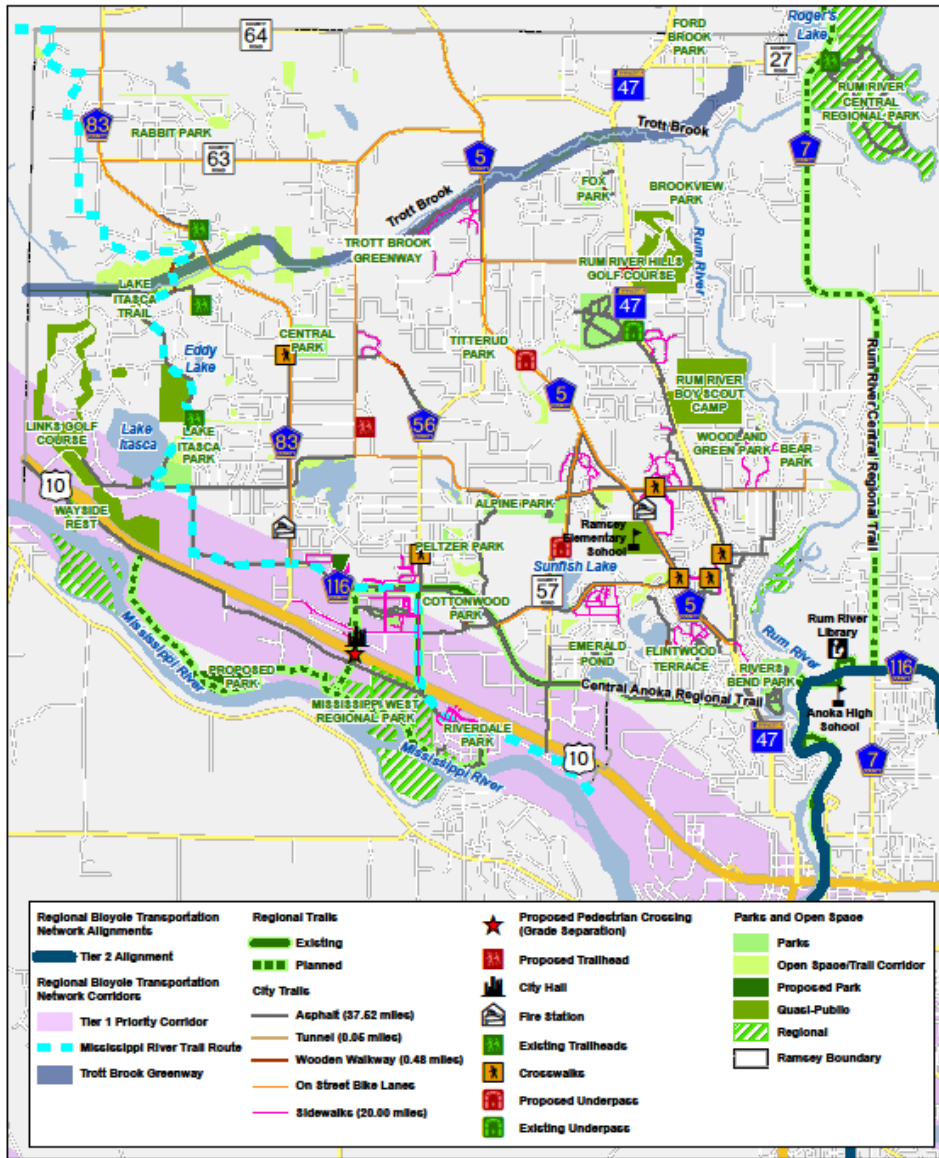


city can require pedestrian and bicycle connections in areas where the roadway network does not connect, such as cul-de-sac connector trails that provide shortcuts for people walking and bicycling.

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Figure 19: Non-Motorized Transportation Network



Planned Local Non-Motorized Transportation Network

The city's planned local non-motorized transportation network includes sidewalk, paved multi-use trails, and on-street bicycle lanes or shoulders. The existing and proposed network is shown in **Figure 19**. When the network is complete, it will provide safe, convenient linkages between residential areas and commercial, institutional, and recreational areas within the city. This includes filling existing network gaps and adding facilities adjacent to developing areas. The planned network also includes completion of the Trott Brook Trail Corridor, which would generally follow Trott Brook from the city's border with Elk River to Rum River Regional Park. The network will improve options for people to walk and bicycle for transportation within the city, and facilitate regional connections (described in greater detail in the following section).

The planned non-motorized transportation network also includes construction of the planned Mississippi Skyway, a bicycle and pedestrian bridge that would cross US 10, providing a dedicated crossing between the COR and Mississippi West Regional Park for non-motorized users. While the project is being led by the City of Ramsey and is important in providing a local connection between the COR and the Mississippi River area, the Mississippi Skyway would be a key regional connection, likely becoming part of the Central Anoka Regional Trail and providing a key connection to the Mississippi River Regional Trail (MRRT).

Planned Regional Non-Motorized Transportation Network

The Metropolitan Council 2040 TPP encourages the use of bicycles as a mode of transportation and establishes a Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) to establish an integrated network of on-street bikeways and off-road trails that complement each other to improve conditions for bicycle transportation at the regional level. The RBTN identifies Tier 1 and Tier 2 alignments where existing regional or other trails exist or where a specific alignment has been identified. The RBTN also identifies Tier 1 and Tier 2 corridors where specific alignments have not yet been defined.

Within Ramsey, the RBTN identifies one Tier 1 RBTN corridor. The corridor follows the alignment of US 10 west-east along the Mississippi River and the southern border of the city. This corridor substantially contains completed or planned off-street segments of the MRRT. In 2017, a segment of the MRRT was constructed within the US 10 right of way between Mississippi West Regional Park and the city's border with Elk River. The county's planned ultimate alignment for MRRT will include a segment closer to the river. The timing for construction of this portion of the MRRT is dependent on the pace of development in the area and available funding. The city proposes the ultimate MRRT alignment as the RBTN alignment.

The Rum River Regional Trail is a planned Anoka County trail that, when completed, would be 20 miles long stretching north to south through the county along the east side of the Rum River. A short segment of this trail is planned to pass through the City of Ramsey along CSAH 7 and connecting to Rum River Central Regional Park in the northeastern portion of the city. Anoka County also plans to complete the Central Anoka Regional Trail through the city, completing existing gaps in the trail. The city and county plan to realign Central Anoka Regional Trail to pass through the COR and over the Mississippi Skyway. This would provide an off-road connection to Mississippi West Regional Park.

The existing and proposed regional network is shown in **Figure 19**.



Roadway Crossing Improvements for Bicycling and Walking

Through public outreach, a number of intersections and other locations throughout the city have been identified for potential improvements based on safety issues for crossing pedestrians and bicyclists. In these locations, potential improvements could be made by adding or improving pavement markings or signals, constructing traffic calming elements, shortening crossing distances, and/or providing pedestrian refuges. In most cases, addition of these features would be evaluated and conducted as opportunities arise. For example, crossing improvements would be considered in concert with adjacent roadway improvements or as development/redevelopment occurs in an area.

Non-Motorized Transportation Design Considerations

Design dimensions for sidewalks are recommended to be five-feet or wider, with a minimum of a four-foot-wide boulevard between the sidewalk and the curb. Increased separation improves pedestrian comfort and provides space for street signs and snow storage.

Design considerations for bicycle facilities are somewhat more complicated due to the hierarchy of facility types. In order of their ability to provide a comfortable bicycling environment from largest improvement to smallest, facilities include: off-street facilities, protected bikeways, buffered bicycle lanes, conventional bicycle lanes, bicycle boulevards, and wide paved shoulders. **Figure 8** shows examples of these facility types.

Multi-use trails are recommended to be a minimum of eight-feet wide. Regional trails are recommended to be a minimum of ten-feet wide due to higher use and the design requirements to comply with federal funding. Trails must have a two-foot wide clear zone on either side to reduce hazards for bicyclists and provide a recovery zone if a bicyclist leaves the edge of the trail. The clear zone can be paved or turf surface. No signs, furnishings, trees, or other obstructions can be in the clear zone.

Paved shoulders should be a minimum of four-feet wide if intended for bicycle and pedestrian use. Four-foot wide shoulders are adequate on streets with traffic volumes below 1,000 vehicles per day. Six- to eight-foot shoulders are recommended when traffic volumes exceed 1,000 vehicles per day. A wider shoulder improves pedestrian and bicyclist safety and comfort when vehicle traffic speeds and volumes are higher.

As non-motorized facilities are planned and designed, the city should consult additional planning and design resources, including:

- Minnesota's Best Practices for Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety, MnDOT
- Bikeway Facility Design Manual, MnDOT
- Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, MnDOT
- NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide, Second Edition, National Association of City Transportation Officials
- Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- Complete Streets Implementation Resource Guide for Minnesota Local Agencies, MnDOT
- Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG), US Access Board



A Complete Streets approach to planning and implementing non-motorized facilities, as described in the MnDOT Complete Streets Implementation Resource Guide, can provide a helpful framework for creating a community-supported, safe, comfortable, and convenient transportation network that serves all modes. A Complete Streets policy or process is intended to provide design guidance and implementation clarity, allowing the community and project designers to advance individual projects in a collaborative and cost-efficient manner.

Accessibility is a very important consideration for non-motorized design. All new pedestrian and bicycle facilities must meet the ADA accessibility guidelines established in PROWAG. The guidelines in PROWAG address the design needs of people with physical and/or visual impairments. Accessibility will become increasingly important over the next 20 years due to demographic changes. Baby boomers are aging and the population over age 65 is increasing. People over 65 are more likely to have physical and/or visual impairments that affect their ability to get around.



Off-street Facility
Source: www.pedbikemages.org / Laura Sandt



Conventional Bicycle Lane
Source: www.pedbikemages.org / Jennifer Compos



Protected Bikeway
Source: *NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide*



Bicycle Boulevard
Source: *NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide*



Buffered Bicycle Lane
Source: www.pedbikemages.org / Lyubov Zuyeva



Wide Paved Shoulder
Source: www.pedbikemages.org / Laura Sandt



Freight

Freight transportation in Ramsey is primarily served by one rail line and arterial roadways. **Figure 20** shows the city's freight system and potential freight generators. A Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail line passes through the southern portion of the city, adjacent to TH 10.

There are no large freight traffic generators or intermodal facilities within the city. Most truck and rail traffic are passing through Ramsey on trips to, from, and through the Twin Cities. Freight traffic generators within Ramsey are located along the BNSF rail line and TH 10. Freight generators include concentrations of industrial and commercial land uses along the TH 10 corridor.

Figure 20 also shows Heavy Commercial Average Annual Daily Traffic (HCAADT) within the City of Ramsey. TH 10 carries the greatest number of heavy commercial vehicles (1,600 vehicles per day). TH 47 also carries a substantial amount of heavy commercial traffic within the city. The 2017 Regional Truck Highway Corridor study identifies TH 10 as a Tier 2 Corridor on the regional freight network.

The BNSF rail line carries 40–80 trains per day through Ramsey, depending on market conditions, which includes 12 Northstar Commuter Rail trains and 2 Amtrak trains. The Metropolitan Council 2040 TPP notes that freight rail traffic has increased substantially since 2010. Throughout the region, freight rail traffic is expected to increase, especially as the regional population continues to grow.

With the recent construction of a grade separation at Armstrong Boulevard, there are three remaining locations in the city where the BNSF rail line crosses public roadways at grade: Alpine Drive, Ramsey Boulevard, and Sunfish Lake Boulevard. Each of these crossings is controlled by flashing lights and gates. The Ramsey Boulevard crossing includes sidewalk and the Sunfish Lake Boulevard crossing includes multi-use trail.

The Metropolitan Council 2040 TPP acknowledges several freight challenges that impact the city and the region. As mentioned above, freight traffic is expected to increase and place pressure on the region's highway and rail systems. East-west traffic on the BNSF lines has increased in recent years in part due to growth in the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota and Montana. Safety is also an increasing concern, particularly rail safety as related to Bakken crude oil being transported through the region on the BNSF lines. The volume of rail traffic has therefore raised concerns about compatibility between freight traffic and adjacent land uses. While land use adjacent to the city's primary freight routes is generally compatible with these uses (industrial, commercial, etc.), there are several areas of existing and planned multi-family residential housing or mixed use that lie adjacent to the rail lines, particularly in the COR area.



Transit

Ramsey is located within the Transit Capital Levy District as shown in the Metropolitan Council 2040 TPP. The TPP further classifies the metropolitan area into transit markets based on demographic and urban design factors. Ramsey is located in Market Area IV and Market Area V. Market Area IV generally supports public dial-a-ride services and can support peak-period express bus services if a sufficient concentration of commuters likely to use transit service is located along a corridor. However, with the presence of the Northstar transitway, Ramsey has a unique level of transit service for a city in Market Area IV. In addition, the City has a transit advantage along Highway 10 in the form of existing shoulder lands from Armstrong Boulevard to the City of Anoka.

Market Area V is generally all forms of Rural and Agricultural but does include the unique freestanding town centers of Stillwater, Waconia, Forest Lake, and Hastings; Market Area V is generally characterized by low-density development or undeveloped land not well suited for regular-route transit service.

The Northstar transitway is a commuter rail line that runs six daily round trips between Big Lake and downtown Minneapolis, with stations in Elk River, Ramsey, Anoka, Coon Rapids, and Fridley. It uses the BNSF rail corridor, and the Ramsey station is located within the COR area, supporting transit-oriented development and providing an alternative for Ramsey residents commuting to Minneapolis. The station includes a park-and-ride lot with 350 free parking spaces as well as ticket machines, seating, and covered and enclosed waiting areas. The Northstar Link also provides commuter bus service to Ramsey on Fridays. Transit facilities in Ramsey are shown on **Figure 21**.

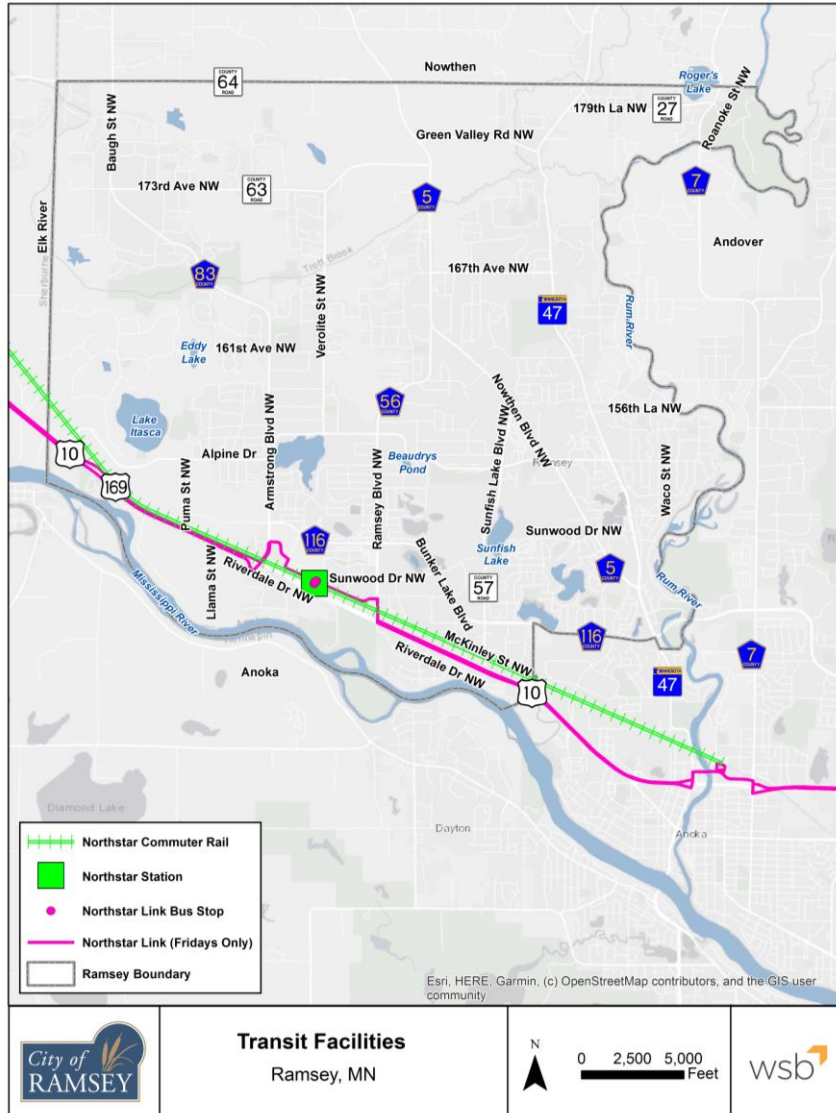
In addition to the fixed-route transit options, the city is also served by Anoka County Transit Link, a dial-a-ride service for the general public. Transit Link provides connections to destinations within Anoka County. Transit Link also connects to regular route transit for trips within the metro area, including outside of Anoka. Ramsey residents also have opportunities to participate in the Metro Vanpool program. This program provides financial assistance for vanpools to serve areas with limited regular-route transit service.

A small area of the City is also served by Metro Mobility. Metro Mobility is a shared ride public transportation service for certified riders who are unable to use regular fixed-route buses due to a disability or health condition. Trips are provided for any purpose.

The TPP's transit investment plan does not show any additional regional transitway investments planned for Ramsey in the current revenue scenario. The city is interested in exploring the feasibility of future bus service between Ramsey Station and Anoka Technical College. Following additional growth in the COR, demand may be sufficient in the future to provide this service. There is also interest in partnering with Anoka Commuter Solutions in the future to provide circulator-type service between the city and Anoka and Coon Rapids, connecting the Northstar station and the COR with employment areas in neighboring communities.



Figure 21: Transit Facilities



Aviation

There are currently no existing or planned aviation facilities within Ramsey. However, the city is responsible for airspace protection in order to reduce hazards to air travel within the region. The closest airport is the Anoka County-Blaine Airport, approximately 10 miles southeast of Ramsey.

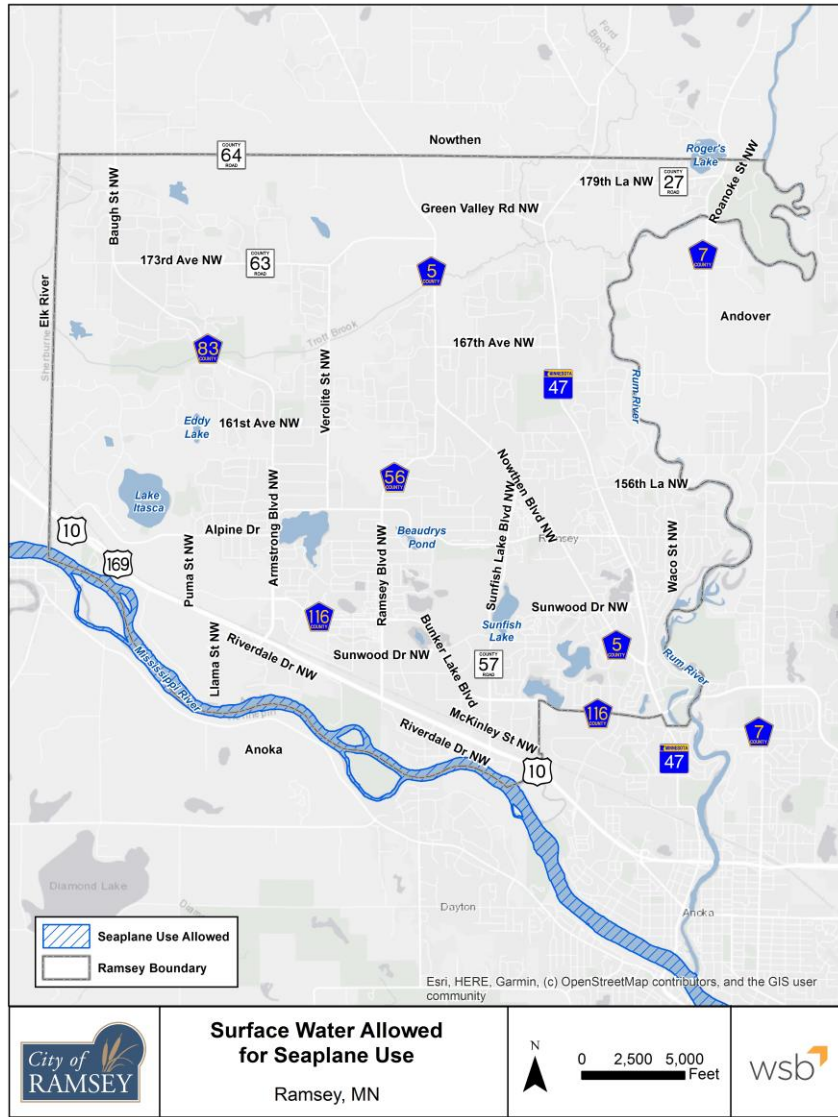
Due to the distance to the nearest airport, there are no radio beacons or other air navigation aids located in off-airport locations in Ramsey. The city is not within an area of influence, and is therefore not subject to associated land use restrictions.

Any person or organization who intends to sponsor the construction or alteration of a structure affecting navigable airspace as defined in Federal Regulation Title 14; Part 77 needs to inform the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) of the project. This notification is accomplished through the completion and submittal to FAA of Form 7460-1, Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration. In Ramsey, this requirement applies to any construction or alteration exceeding 200 feet above ground level. The city's zoning code also requires the zoning administrator to provide notification to MnDOT when an applicant proposes construction or alteration of a structure that would exceed 200 feet.

There are currently no heliports in Ramsey or any known plans to construct one. As shown on **Figure 22**, the Mississippi River within the city is identified by MnDOT as an authorized landing site for seaplanes.



Figure 22: Surface Waters Allowed for Seaplane Use



Transportation Strategies and Actions

This Plan, and the city’s actions over the next 20 years, will be guided by the following transportation goals, objectives, and strategies.

Strategies and Actions

Table 44 below displays the goals and of the Ramsey Transportation Plan. These goals represent the city’s overall vision for transportation over the next 20 years. The strategies listed in the following section provide guidance that the city can use to reach the transportation objectives.

Table 44: Transportation Plan Goals and Objectives

Strategies	Actions
1. Facilitate efficient movement of people within and through the city	1.1. Improve local roadway system connectivity to county roadways and state highways. 1.2. Provide safe and efficient routes for emergency and public safety vehicles. 1.3. Provide adequate capacity to relieve congestion. 1.4. Encourage sound access management. 1.5. Preserve necessary rights-of-way for the 20-year planning horizon and beyond.
2. Facilitate efficient movements of goods within and through the city	2.1. Maintain a safe and effective network of roadways for freight movement. 2.2. Coordinate with MnDOT and Anoka County to proactively address freight safety.
3. Provide a transportation system that is integrated with land use and development	3.1. Coordinate transportation system investments with the City of Ramsey Land Use Plan. 3.2. Connect land use districts and provide safe access to major activity areas. 3.3. Design, construct, and maintain roadways that fit the character of the adjacent land use (rural vs. urban development areas). 3.4. Require private residential streets be designed to city standards.
4. Improve transportation safety for all users and modes of transportation	4.1. Implement safety improvements to address high crash locations. 4.2. Proactively address bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns along roadways and at crossings.



	4.3. Bring sidewalks, trails, and intersections into compliance with ADA.
	4.4. Support traffic calming and design to minimize speed on minor city collectors and local roadways.
5. Develop a safe and convenient multimodal transportation system	5.1. Invest in multi-modal transportation solutions including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
	5.2 Consider a "complete streets" approach to designing and constructing roadways in high pedestrian and bicycle traffic corridors.
	5.2. Preserve adequate right of way for sidewalk and trail construction.
6. Conserve and enhance environmental resources	6.1. Support investments in bicycle, pedestrian, and transit infrastructure to reduce environmental impacts of transportation.
	6.2. Manage storm water effectively and minimize the construction of new impervious surfaces.
	6.3. Support native plant landscapes along roadways.
	6.4. Design new roadways to preserve natural features.
7. Maintain the Existing Transportation System	7.1. Regularly assess transportation maintenance needs and include roadway, trail pavement, and other transportation infrastructure maintenance in the City of Ramsey Capital Improvement Program.

Multimodal Strategies

The multimodal strategies listed in this section are specific, actionable steps that the city can take in support of the goals of this Plan. These strategies are based upon existing and future transportation needs as described in detail in the previous sections of this Plan.

Each strategy is tied to one or multiple goals; however, not all goals are associated with a specific strategy. In these cases, the city's goals apply across individual projects, and the city will identify opportunities to achieve them throughout its existing project and policy development processes.

Table 45 on the following pages describes each strategy, notes which goal(s) is/are related to each strategy, and identifies the lead agency for the strategy. **Figures 23–25** following the tables illustrate the location-specific strategies geographically.



Table 45: Transportation Implementation Strategies

Location	Type of Improvement	Action	Lead Agency(ies)
CR 63/TH 47/179th Avenue NW (CR 27 from CSAH 83 to Roanoke Street NW	Corridor Study	Conduct a multimodal safety/operations corridor study to evaluate potential elimination of intersection jog at Green Valley Road NW/County Road 5/175th Avenue NW. Also evaluate overall safety operations along entire corridor to evaluate speed, shoulder adequacy, signing, bicycling and pedestrian safety, traffic enforcement etc.	Anoka County/ City of Ramsey
East/West Collector between CR 63 (Green Valley Road) and Bunker Lake Boulevard (CSAH 116)	Corridor Study	Conduct a multimodal corridor feasibility study to evaluate purpose and need and potential alignment alternatives for a new east/west collector roadway connecting Armstrong Boulevard (CSAH 83) to TH 47.	City of Ramsey
Mississippi River Crossing	River Crossing Study	Conduct a feasibility study to evaluate purpose and need and potential alignment alternatives for a new Mississippi River crossing connecting the City of Ramsey to the City of Dayton	City of Ramsey/ City of Dayton/ Anoka County/ Hennepin County
Bunker Lake Boulevard (CSAH 116) and Puma Street NW from Alpine Drive to CSAH 7	Corridor Study	Conduct a multimodal corridor study to evaluate safety, operations, and capacity deficiencies. As part of this study, the segment between Ramsey Boulevard (CSAH 56) and Sunfish Lake Boulevard (CSAH 57) should specifically be considered for a four-lane divided expansion and signals at Sunwood Drive NW	Anoka County/ City of Ramsey
Armstrong Boulevard (CSAH 83) from Sunwood Drive to 161st Avenue NW	Corridor Study	Conduct a multimodal corridor study to evaluate safety, operations, and capacity deficiencies. As part of this study, a four-way stop, or other intersection control options should be considered at Alpine Drive and updates/enhancements to the pedestrian crossing and associated signage will be considered at 161st Avenue NW.	Anoka County/ City of Ramsey



TH 47 from north city limits to south city limits	Corridor Study	Conduct a multimodal corridor study to evaluate safety, operations, and capacity deficiencies.	MnDOT/ City of Ramsey
TH 10/Ramsey Boulevard (CSAH 56)	Interchange and Railroad Grade Separation	Construct full access grade-separated interchange including railroad grade separation of BNSF mainline railroad per Highway 10 Access Planning Study Report (September 2014) and Metropolitan Council Principal Arteria Intersection Conversion Study (January 2017) – “low priority” in Metropolitan Council Study	MnDOT/ City of Ramsey/ Anoka County
TH 10/ Sunfish Lake Boulevard (CSAH 57)	Interchange and Railroad Grade Separation	Construct full access grade-separated interchange including railroad grade separation of BNSF mainline railroad per Highway 10 Access Planning Study Report (September 2014) and Metropolitan Council Principal Arterial Intersection Conversion Study (January 2017) – “high priority” in Metropolitan Council Study	MnDOT/ City of Ramsey/ Anoka County
TH 10	Frontage Roads	Construct north and south frontage roads through the City of Ramsey consistent with the Highway 10 Access Planning Study Report (September 2014)	City of Ramsey/ MnDOT/ Anoka County
Alpine Drive and Armstrong Boulevard (CSAH 83)	Intersection Control	Explore need for intersection control and/or geometric improvements	City of Ramsey
Sunfish Lake Blvd/157th Lane and Nowthen Boulevard	Safety/ Operations	Evaluate intersection for potential left-turn lane or other geometric improvements	City of Ramsey
Bunker Lake Boulevard (CSAH 116)	Freight – Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)	Evaluate feasibility of installing advanced warning system to notify drivers of approaching trains along BNSF mainline to allow drivers time to consider alternate routes	Anoka County/City of Ramsey



TH 10/Tungsten Street NW	Freight – Truck Ingress and Egress	Coordinate with MnDOT to explore solution to truck ingress/egress	City of Ramsey/MnDOT
Ramsey Northstar Station	Transit Improvement	Consider long-term improvement of circulator shuttle bus service by Anoka Commute Solutions between Anoka businesses and the Ramsey Northstar Station	Anoka County/Metro Transit
Ramsey Northstar Station	Transit Improvement	Consider long-term improvement of adding shuttle bus service between Anoka Technical College and the Ramsey Northstar Station	Anoka County/Metro Transit
COR Area	Transit-Oriented Development	Continue to implement urban design and land use policies (including the Design Framework for the COR) supportive of transit use within the COR area, including compacted, mixed use development patterns and convenient multimodal connections to Ramsey Northstar Station	City of Ramsey
TH 10/Ramsey Northstar Station	Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge	Construct Trunk Highway 10 pedestrian bridge extension of existing Ramsey Northstar Station pedestrian bridge between Ramsey Boulevard (CSAH 56) and Armstrong Boulevard (CSAH 83) consistent with the Mississippi Skyway Preliminary Engineering Report (December 2014)	City of Ramsey/MnDOT
Rum River Regional Trail Corridor	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Construct trail between Ramsey–Anoka border and Ramsey–Oak Grove border as opportunities arise	Anoka County
Mississippi River Regional Trail Corridor	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Construct final trail alignment along river as opportunities arise. Designate as Tier 1 RBTN alignment.	Anoka County/City of Ramsey
Central Anoka Regional Trail Corridor	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Realign regional trail along Bunker Lake Blvd. and E. Town Center Dr. through COR and over Mississippi Skyway to Mississippi West Regional Park	Anoka County



Various Locations	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Sidewalks shall be installed with any street reconstruction project occurring within the City's urban service area	City of Ramsey
Various Locations	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Continue to proactively pursue opportunities to make off-road multiuse trails and on-road bicycle lane and wide shoulder network connections to existing trails, schools, parks, commercial nodes, and residential areas	City of Ramsey
Various Locations	Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety	Evaluate intersections for potential safety improvements such as intersection controls, crosswalks, etc.	City of Ramsey
Various locations	Bicycle and Pedestrian Maintenance	Continue to monitor and maintain bicycle and pedestrian facilities to provide safe and convenient conditions for users	City of Ramsey/ Anoka County

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Figure 23: Roadway and Freight Strategies

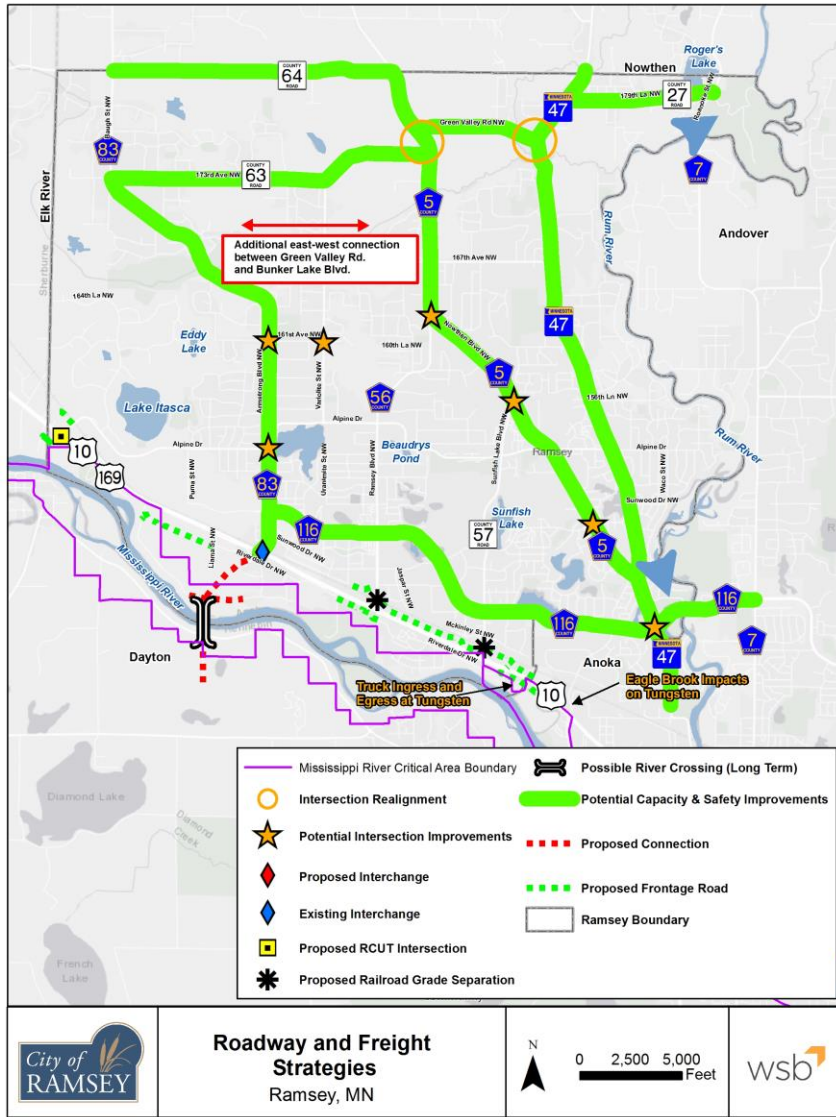
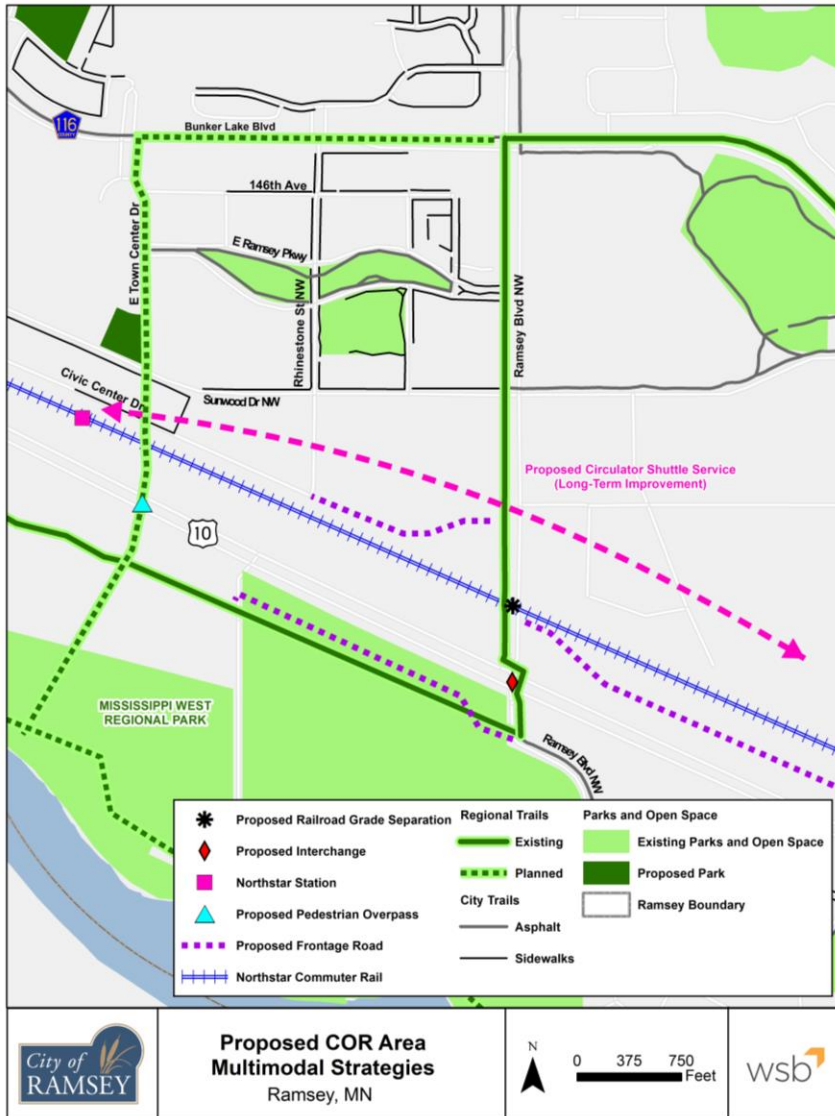


Figure 25: Proposed COR Area Multimodal Strategies



Proposed Short and Long Range Roadway Projects

The sections below identify proposed short and long range roadway projects identified in the city's CIP and based on the proposed land use and redevelopment activities described in previous sections of this Plan. This section does not include information on proposed projects from the Metropolitan Council 2040 TPP, as the TPP does not include any planned improvements to principal arterials in Ramsey (aside from the completed interchange at TH 10 and Armstrong Boulevard (CSAH 83). No additional interchanges, MnPASS lanes, dedicated busways, or bus-only shoulders are proposed in the Current Revenue Scenario of the 2040 TPP.

Proposed Projects from CIPs

The city's CIP identifies a number of roadway projects. These projects are primarily reconstruction and overlay projects intended to improve and maintain the roadway surface. However, there are also several projects that will extend or expand the operational capacity of the roadway network within the COR area, including improvements along Zeolite Street and Bunker Lake Boulevard. A number of projects identified in the Highway 10 Access Planning Study are also included in the CIP, including extension of Riverdale Drive, construction of a BNSF railroad underpass on Ramsey Boulevard, construction of north and south frontage roads along TH 10. Other road improvement projects included in the CIP include projects for striping, lighting, and landscaping.

There are also a number of non-motorized transportation projects identified in the city's CIP. These include completion of the off-road Mississippi River Regional Trail within the city, construction of a trail connection to McKinley Street in the City of Anoka, a number of other high-priority trail connections, and a pedestrian underpass at Alpine Drive.

Proposed Projects based on Land Use and Development

Transportation needs in the city will shift as development occurs. Narrow rural roadways may no longer be suitable in certain areas. Additionally, there may be areas where development occurs and requires new connecting roadways to ensure that roadways and intersections can accommodate additional traffic volumes. Similarly, areas with new development may require non-motorized transportation facilities to provide safe access to the transportation system for pedestrians and bicyclists. Consideration of roadway modifications, intersection traffic control improvements, and non-motorized facilities will continue as individual proposals for development move forward.



Public Comments

The city held a workshop to gather public input on the transportation plan. At this workshop, members of the public identified issues and opportunities related to transportation as well as parks, trails, and recreation. A wide range of topics was raised, including roadway speeds, pedestrian safety, congestion, enforcement of speeding/stop signs, general support for trails, support for an additional river crossing, and a request for a new east/west road connection in the community. These comments were compiled and used to inform the strategies identified in **Table 45**.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The purpose of this Transportation Plan is to set a multimodal transportation vision for the City of Ramsey through the year 2040. Goals and specific strategies have been identified collaboratively by the city, Anoka County, MnDOT, and members of the public within the framework of Metropolitan Council requirements. The vision and associated strategies outlined in this Plan were established by considering existing and forecasted conditions, City of Ramsey priorities, regional travel patterns and a variety of other factors.

As the owners of the transportation network in Ramsey (i.e. City of Ramsey, Anoka County, MnDOT, Metro Transit, and the BNSF railway) advance their respective Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs), this Plan is intended to serve as an important resource and reference in establishing priorities and advancing transportation projects for implementation. Advancing these projects from a planning to implementation phase will require collaborative discussions among facility owners, adjacent communities, the Metropolitan Council, residents and others to conduct traffic studies, finalize designs, preserve rights-of-way, obtain environmental clearances and leverage necessary financial resources.





Chapter 04: Housing Plan



Housing Plan Background

Through the City of Ramsey's Open Houses, Workshops, and updates to the Planning Commission and City Council regarding the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, as well as working directly with the Housing Committee, the City of Ramsey has created the following vision statement:

"We envision a community with a variety of housing options, with options for residents of all socioeconomic statuses, races, income levels, preferences, and ages. We envision a community where residents can age in place, but also one where young families want to live. Our community provides homes with rural character, homes for those who prefer a more urban environment, and amenities for homeowners and renters."

Housing Goals and Strategies

The following represents goals and strategies for the housing plan which are consistent with the five key goals of the Comprehensive Plan, as set by the City Council. Subsequent chapters will include their objectives, policies and actions related to these goals. Specific policies and actions for the housing plan goals and strategies appear at the end of this chapter.

- Create low-cost solutions to improve housing stock
- Support county-wide, regional, state-wide, and national funding sources for new development projects
- Rehabilitate and improve housing stock to preserve rural character and enhance existing neighborhoods
- Provide sufficient housing options for all types of residents; provide lifecycle housing options
- Promote development that preserves the natural environment and respects residential health
- Support affordable housing development
- Increase community knowledge of affordable housing
- Ensure that discrimination does not occur against persons seeking housing in Ramsey based on age, religion, race, ethnic origin, sexual preference, gender, status with regard to public assistance, marital or familial status, or disability
- Ensure that individuals of similar income levels have equal access to Minnesota Housing programs, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, familial status, gender identity, or sexual orientation
- Plan for multi-family and senior residential developments near transit, bicycle routes, trails, sidewalks, etc. in order to reduce building footprints, energy consumption, and reliance on automobiles
- Ensure new development projects support an active lifestyle
- Expand community engagement efforts to create lasting relationships and educated residents
- Employ innovative engagement strategies to keep residents informed
- Identify areas for life cycle housing and update city land use and zoning designations accordingly



2030 Housing Plan Accomplishments

The last plan was adopted in 2010. While a number of factors changed since the last plan was adopted, the City can celebrate a number of successes as it relates to our housing plan vision. Subsequent chapters of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan will celebrate their own successes.

- Exceeded the 2030 goal of renters within the City of Ramsey
- Provided an increased variety of housing options including difference lot sizes maintenance levels and affordability
- Increased the overall number of available housing units
- Developed strong, positive relationships with developers
- Increased customer service and efficiency in the development process
- Established a right-sized Rental License Program

Housing Definitions

Affordable Housing:

In general, housing for which occupants are paying no more than 30 percent of their income for gross housing costs, including utilities. This type of housing can be an apartment, single family home, townhome, duplex, etc. This type of housing does not need to be subsidized by the government, but instead is only based on monthly housing costs as related to the area median income.

Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH):

Residential properties that are affordable, but are unsubsidized by any federal program. The housing costs associated with these properties are relatively low compared to the regional housing market.

Multifamily Housing:

Also known as multi-unit dwellings, multifamily building contain multiple housing units within one building or complex, such as an apartment building, quad-plex, or duplex.

Publicly Subsidized Housing:

Government-sponsored assistance program aimed towards alleviating housing costs and expenses. Often referred to as “affordable housing.”

Single Family Housing:

A stand-alone housing unit, such a detached home, detached townhouse, or attached townhouse.

Existing Housing Supply

The following tables and figures represent the current context of the City of Ramsey. The data for the following tables, graphics, and narratives were provided by the Metropolitan Council or the American Community Survey 2016 5-Year Estimates. The City of Ramsey had approximately 8,776 units in 2016, as estimated by the American Community Survey 2016 5-Year Estimates. The Metropolitan Council estimated a slightly higher number for housing units in Ramsey – 8,896.



Total Housing Units

According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 2016 5-Year Estimates, the City of Ramsey has 8,776 units. The majority of these, 97 percent, are occupied housing units. Total housing vacancy was approximately 2.6% in 2016. This low vacancy rates shows a demand for existing housing units. Due to movement in and out of units, housing vacancy cannot reach zero percent. 2.6% vacancy is an extremely healthy vacancy rate for the City of Ramsey and is on par with other cities in the region.

Table 46: Total Housing Units

Unit Type	Total Units
Occupied Housing Units	8,544
Vacant Housing Units	232
Total Housing Units	8,776

Source: ACS 2016 Estimates

Total Existing Affordable Housing Units

Affordable housing is based upon the Area Median Income (AMI) of the region. Half of those in the region earn more than the AMI, and half earn less than the AMI. Housing policies for affordable housing are based upon income thresholds related to this AMI.

In the Twin Cities Metropolitan Region, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has defined the following affordability levels for a family of four.

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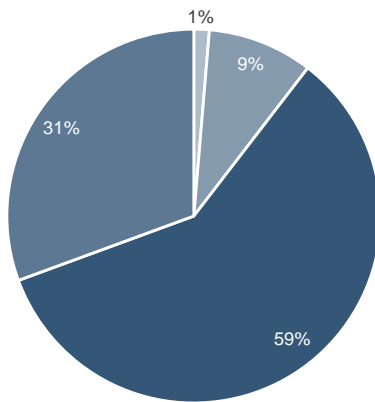
Table 47: Housing Affordability Level

Affordability Level	Number of Units	Percent of Total
Affordable at 30% AMI	122	1%
Affordable from 31 – 50% AMI	834	9%
Affordable from 51 – 80% AMI	5,400	59%
Total Affordable Units	6,356	
Units Not Affordable to Households with Income 80% of AMI or Less	2,802	31%

Source: Metropolitan Council Existing Housing Assessment

Housing Affordability in Ramsey

Source: Metropolitan Council staff estimates for 2016



- Units affordable to households with income at or below 30% of AMI
- Units affordable to households with 31% to 50% of AMI
- Units affordable to households with income 51% to 80% of AMI
- Units not affordable to households with income 80% of AMI or less



Owner vs. Renter Occupied Housing Units

The majority of Ramsey units, around 87%, are owner-occupied housing units. In these owner-occupied housing units, the average household size is approximately 3.01. Renter-occupied housing units are approximately 11% of the total housing units in Ramsey. These renter-occupied housing units have an average household size of approximately 2.58. On average, gross rent in 2016 was \$1,313 per month.

Vacancy rates are extremely low in Ramsey, which shows a demand for housing and a quick movement of people in and out of units. Although there is no agreed upon number, a vacancy rate of 5% is typically considered “a healthy vacancy rate” within the planning community. The rental vacancy rate is less than half a percent, which shows there is a need for this type of housing, because essentially all rental units are rented. The City of Ramsey should look into the opportunity to provide additional housing units, because there clearly is a demand for housing within the community.

The number of owner-occupied units (according to the US Census estimates) increased from 3,493 in 1990 to 7,593 in 2016, while the number of renter-occupied units increased from 127 to 951. The rate of increase in rental housing units was over 6% in the last 26 years, significantly higher than the rate of owner-occupied units at just over 1%.

Table 48: Housing Units by Renter, Owner, or Vacant

Unit Type	Number of Units
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	951
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	7,593
Vacant Housing Units	232
Total Housing Units	8,776

Source: ACS 2016 Estimates

Table 49: Owner vs Rental Units

Unit Type	Vacancy Rate
Owned Housing Units	1.5%
Rental Housing Units	0.3%

Source: ACS 2016 Estimates

Table 50: Housing Tenure

Housing Tenure	1990	2000	2010	2016	Percent Increase 1990 - 2016
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	3,493	5,756	7,349	7,593	1.2%
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	127	150	684	951	6.5%
Vacant Housing Units	54	40	269	232	3.3%
Total Housing Units	3,674	5,946	8,302	8,776	1.4%

Source: ACS 2016 Estimates, US Census 1990, 2000, 2010



Housing Types

The vast majority of Ramsey residents, almost 75%, live in single-family detached housing, while only 9 percent of residents live within multi-family housing. Approximately 16% of residents live in townhomes, and only 1% in manufactured homes.

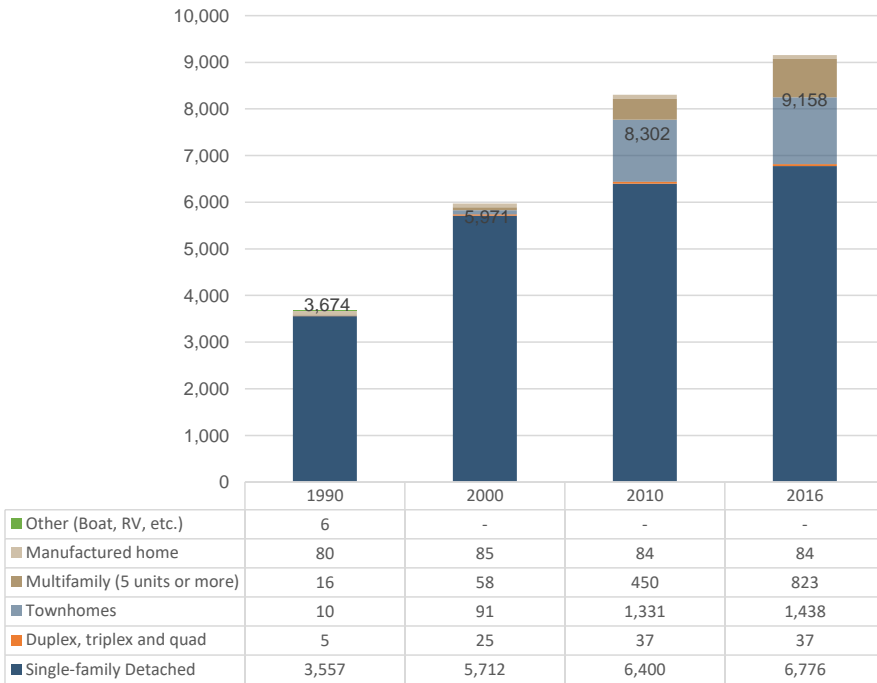
Table 51:

Housing Type	1990	2000	2010	2016
Single-family Detached	3,557	5,712	6,400	6,776
Duplex, triplex and quad	5	25	37	37
Townhomes	10	91	1,331	1,438
Multifamily (5 units or more)	16	58	450	823
Manufactured home	80	85	84	84
Other (Boat, RV, etc.)	6	-	-	-
Total	3,674	5,971	8,302	9,158

Source: Metropolitan Council, Ramsey Community Profile

Housing Type in Ramsey

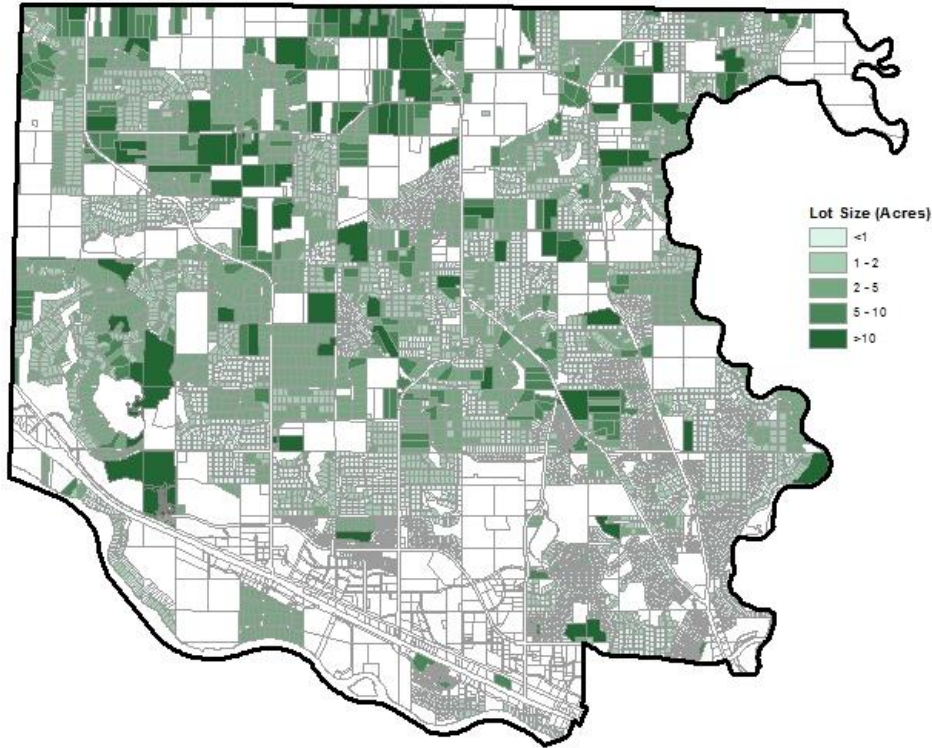
Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census and Metropolitan Council Housing Stock Estimates



Lot Sizes

Of the residential lots with one unit (detached townhomes, single family homes, etc.), the majority are on lots less than one acre according to 2016 Metropolitan Council data. The map below shows the geographic distribution of different sized single-family residential lots. The larger lots are generally not near The COR, but are instead in the west, north, and northeast portions of the City. Lots in residential subdivisions are generally less than 5 acres, and usually less than 2 acres. Lot sizes tend to increase in the northern portion of the City, and are smaller in the central and southern portions of the City. This shift in lot size reflects the shift from rural character in the north into a more urban growth pattern in the central and southern parts of the City.

Figure 26: Area Lot Sizes



Though it may seem like the larger lots identified on the map represent an opportunity for future subdivisions and absorption of residential growth, many of the larger lots contain wetlands, which are protected in the City.

Table 52: Lot Sizes

Lot Size	Count
Less than 1 acre	6,456
1 acre – 2 acres	1,417
2 acre – 5 acres	1,037
5 acre – 10 acres	181
10 acres or greater	111
Total	9,202

Source: Metropolitan Council GIS data, 2016

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Publicly Subsidized Housing Units

Publicly subsidized housing units represent housing projects that receive funding to keep rents low. Often, this type of funding subsidizes the mortgage, allowing the building owner to keep rents low, and is not a direct subsidy to renters. These buildings have income restrictions and limits. As of 2016, the City of Ramsey only has general units, none specifically for seniors or people with disabilities. The City of Ramsey has a goal of having lifecycle housing options and housing options for all types of residents. In order to reach this goal, the City of Ramsey should support housing for differently-abled types of residents, as well as senior residents with fixed incomes, who are not currently served by public housing.

Table 53: Subsidized Housing by Type

Housing Type	Number of Units
Senior Housing	0
Housing for People with Disabilities	0
All other Publicly Subsidized Units	102
Total Publicly Subsidized Housing Units	102

Source: Metropolitan Council Existing Housing Assessment and HousingLink Streams Data, total housing units 8,896

Information on Publicly Subsidized Buildings:

The Seasons

Funding: LIHTC 9% Tax Credit		Funding Dates & Programs	
7436-7600 147 th Cir NW		First known closing:	07/01/2013
Year Built:	2013	Most recent closing:	07/01/2013
Total Units:	50	Earliest expiration:	07/01/2043
Affordable Units:	49	Last Activity:	New construction
Affordability by Bedroom		MHFA: Housing Tax Credits 9%	
2 BR:	22	Close Date:	07/01/2013
3 BR:	27	Est. Expiration:	07/01/2043
Affordability by AMI		Property Identifiers	
60%:	49	HousingLink	10893
		MHFA	D7574
		HUDLIHTC	MNA2013019



Sunwood Village

Funding: Other		Funding Dates & Programs	
7550 Sunwood Dr NW		First known closing:	09/24/2015
Year Built:	2016	Most recent closing:	12/21/2016
Total Units:	47	Earliest expiration:	01/01/2017
Affordable Units:	47	Last Activity:	New construction
Affordability by Bedroom		County: County	
1 BR:	9	Close Date:	12/21/2016
2 BR:	26	Expiration:	03/01/2047
3 BR:	12		
		MHFA: LHIA	
Affordability by AMI		Close Date:	12/21/2016
30%:	4	Expiration:	03/01/2047
50%:	43		
		MHFA: LMIR	
Property Identifiers		Expiration:	03/01/2047
HousingLink	10924	Close Date:	12/21/2016
MHFA	D7721		
		MHFA: Bonds	
		Close Date:	12/21/2016
		Expiration:	03/01/2047

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Sunwood Townhomes

Funding: LIHTC 9% Tax Credit		Funding Dates & Programs	
5350 - 5444 Sunwood Dr NW*		First known closing:	07/01/2002
Year Built:	2003	Most recent closing:	07/01/2003
Total Units:	34	Earliest expiration:	05/16/2023
Affordable Units:	27	Last Activity:	New construction
Affordability by Bedroom		County: County	
1 BR:	2	Close Date:	05/16/2003
2 BR:	12	Est. Expiration:	05/16/2023
3 BR:	12		
4 BR:	1	MHFA: LHIA	
		Close Date:	05/16/2003
Affordability by AMI		Est. Expiration:	05/16/2023
60%:	49		
		MHFA: ARIF	
Property Identifiers		Close Date:	05/16/2003
HousingLink	4521	Est. Expiration:	05/16/2023
MHFA	D2743		
TC9:	D2743, MNA2002095	MHFA: Housing Tax Credits 9%	
		Close Date:	07/01/2002
		Est. Expiration:	07/01/2021
*Some addresses within City of Anoka Source: HousingLink - Streams Search, data through 12/31/2016			



Housing Cost Burden

According to the Metropolitan Council in 2018, 1,537 households in Ramsey are cost-burdened. Being cost-burdened is defined as spending more than 30% of your annual income on housing costs. Being cost-burdened by housing costs affects lower income residents at a higher rate than higher income residents.

In 2016, the ACS data showed that of those households making less than \$35,000 annually (which is almost one third of Ramsey households), around 22% of those households spend more than 30% of their annual income on housing costs. The percent of households who spend more than 30% of their annual income on housing costs is much higher for lower income residents. Households that make more than \$75,000 per year rarely pay more than 30% of their income to housing costs – less than 2%.

Approximately 17% of all households in Ramsey are cost-burdened to some extent. Ideally, no residents in Ramsey would be cost-burdened. While this goal is not realistic or likely even achievable, the City of Ramsey should strive to support housing options at all affordability levels to decrease the burden on its residents. As the City tries to provide housing for all types of residents, at all stages of life, maintaining low costs for residents with lower incomes is extremely important. These types of residents could be seniors with fixed incomes, residents with disabilities, or firefighters, teachers, non-profit workers, etc. The City of Ramsey is proactively working on their “Could I Be Your Neighbor?” campaign to remove the stigma around low-income housing, as providing low-income housing options reduces the cost-burden for those individuals and families.

While there are only 122 housing units affordable to households with income at or below 30% of AMI, there are 272 households that are cost-burdened and have income at or below the 30% AMI threshold. The 150 units differential between available units to cost burdened households means that Ramsey simply does not have the necessary number of units at that affordability level to meet the City’s existing need. Comparatively, while there are households that have cost-burden at higher income levels, Ramsey already has a surplus of units deemed affordable at those income levels.

Table 54: Household Income Levels

Income Levels	Number of Households	Discrepancy
< 30% AMI	272	-150
31 – 50% AMI	411	423
51 – 80% AMI	674	4,726
Total	1,357	

Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2010 – 2014 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) Data

Assessed Values of Owner-Occupied Housing Units

Values above and below \$238,500 are shown in the figure below. \$238,500 represents the affordable purchase prize for a housing unit in 2015 for those at 80% of AMI. 2015 AMI was \$86,600 for a family of four in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul-Bloomington Metropolitan Area. The median value for a home in Ramsey was approximately \$210,200 in 2016. Assessed values are typically lower than sale values, especially when homes are selling for above asking price during a busy housing market. The map below shows total market values for housing units across Ramsey,



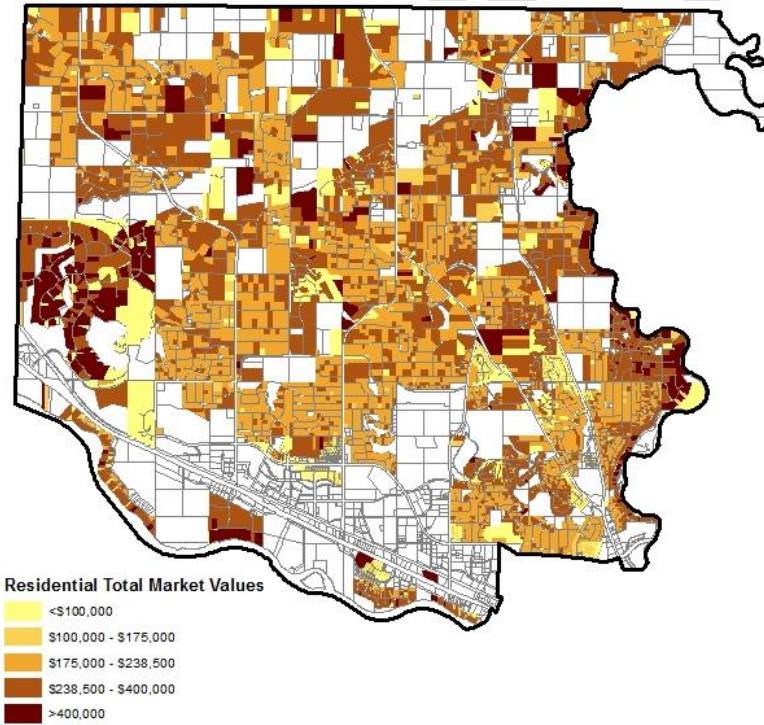
as reported by the Metropolitan Council, in order to attempt to show residential market values more accurately.

Table 55: Household Assessed Value

Assessed Value	Number	Percent of Total
Less than \$50,000	329	4%
\$50,000 - \$99,999	141	2%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	851	11%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	2,109	28%
\$200,000 - \$299,999	2,965	39%
\$300,000 - \$499,999	1,067	14%
\$500,000 - \$999,999	131	2%
\$1,000,000 or more	0	-
Total Units:	7,593	
Median Value:	\$210,200	

Source: ACS 2016 Estimates

Figure 27: Residential Total Market Values



Building Permit Data

Buildings permits for 2013, 2014, and 2015 show 247 permits issued for new residential dwellings. The total value for all new homes in this period was almost \$56,000,000. This data was pulled to supplement the American Community Survey data shown below, which is an estimate created by the Census every year. This estimate shows that very few homes were built after 2013, which is not realistic. In reality, the number of houses built in the 2010s will likely compete with the numbers shown during the housing booms in the 1990s and 2000s, as Ramsey continues to grow.

Housing Age (Single Family Homes)

The majority of single-family homes were built between 1970 and 2009. Less than 10% of all single-family homes in Ramsey were built outside this period.

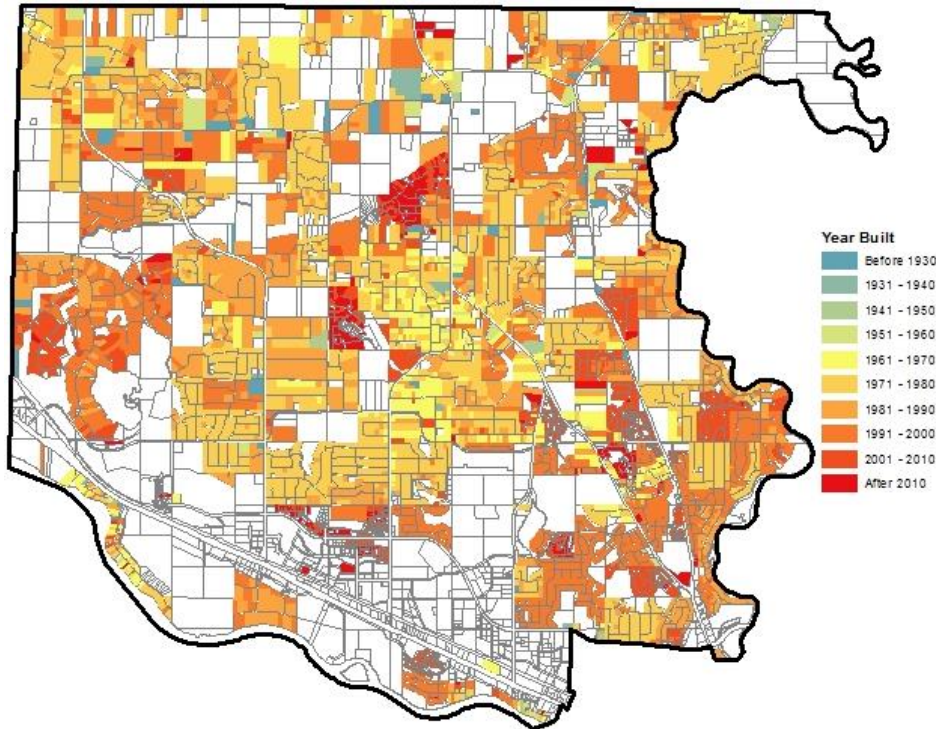
Table 56: Year Principal Structure was Built

Year Built	Number of Houses	Percent of Total
Before 1939	53	<1%
1940s	16	<1%
1950s	56	<1%
1960s	375	4%
1970s	2,017	23%
1980s	1,322	15%
1990s	2,381	27%
2000s	2,397	27%
2010 to 2013	134	2%
2013 or Later	23	<1%
Total Housing Units	8,776	

Source: ACS 2016 Estimates



Figure 28: Year Principal Structure was Built



Summary of Existing Housing

Within Ramsey, most of the homes are owner-occupied, and rentals are approximately 11% of the total housing units. Ramsey has a healthy vacancy rate, less than 3%, showing the high demand for housing units within Ramsey.

Approximately 96% of all housing units in Ramsey are single-family homes, both attached and detached. Only 4% of all housing units are multi-family units. Likely, future housing growth will be single family in the northern portions of the City, which represent and maintain Ramsey's rural character. Areas near The COR represent areas where multi-family housing is more likely to occur in the future, this area represents the urban, transit-oriented growth around the Northstar Commuter Rail Station.

The Future Land Use Map and Development Maps show future areas that are likely to change in land uses. There are areas in the northern half of the City that will likely accommodate future single-family housing development projects.



Seventeen percent of all Ramsey households are cost-burdened, and the percent of lower income residents who are cost-burdened (spending more than 30% of their income on housing) is much higher than higher income residents. Creating and maintaining affordable housing options is a key priority for the City of Ramsey, in order to support these residents.

In summary, the existing housing assessment shows that there are residents who could use assistance from the City in order to reduce their housing costs. One route to reduce the number of cost-burdened residents is to provide additional housing options, including affordable housing options, across the City. The existing housing assessment also shows that housing in Ramsey is sought-after. There is a low vacancy rate, and a low rental rate, which means that those who want to move to Ramsey likely have to buy a single family home in order to move to the community. In order to provide options for all types of residents, at all stages of life, different housing options, including multi-family options and single-family rentals, the City should support these types of projects.

Most of the homes in Ramsey were built in 1970 or after, with very few built after 2010. Many of these homes will likely need reinvestment in coming years, such as putting in a new roof, updating well and septic, or upgrading the interior finishes in the home. The City could consider options to providing incentives for homeowners to make these improvements.

Land Supply

The Future Land Use Map guides the future land uses for the entire City of Ramsey. The areas designated low density, medium density, and high density residential are sufficient to absorb the City's necessary growth in housing and affordable housing allocations. The mass of the affordable housing allocation will likely be in The COR area, which provides flexibility and density bonuses for projects near the Northstar Commuter Rail Station.

With the City of Ramsey's knowledge of the area and land that is likely to develop, or projects that have been started on vacant land, the City does not expect to have any issues meeting the projected growth or affordable housing allocation.



Projected Housing Need

Ramsey’s population is anticipated to steadily increase through 2040. In order to accommodate the future growth, there will need to be additional housing units within Ramsey. A variety of housing types will need to be provided in order to house residents of all income levels, stages of life, and housing preferences. For instance, young families may prefer single family homes or townhomes, while seniors may prefer a denser living environment near The COR.

By 2040, the City of Ramsey will need to provide almost 4,000 additional housing units for almost 8,000 additional residents. Population and housing projections through 2040 are shown below.

Table 57: Population and Households by Decade

	2010	2020	2030	2040
Population	23,668	26,400	30,700	34,700
Households	8,033	9,400	11,300	13,000

Source: Metropolitan Council

Affordable Housing Allocation

The City participates in the Livable Communities Program of the Metropolitan Council, which provides access to a number of funding opportunities. As part of said participation, the City plans for an allocation of affordable housing. The total need for affordable housing in the region from 2021 – 2030 is 37,900 units. In order to reach this total need, the City of Ramsey will need to provide plan for an additional 499 units between 2021 and 2030. The breakdown of unit types is shown below.

Affordable housing is defined by different affordability levels depending on tenant income. Affordability levels for necessary affordable housing in Ramsey is shown at three different levels below. 292 units will be required for those who make less than 30% Area Median Income (AMI). In 2015, annual income for those in this type of housing would need to be less than \$25,980 as the 2015 AMI was \$86,600 for a family of four in the region.

The need for affordable housing is shown below. As the City of Ramsey meets its affordable housing need, less Ramsey residents will experience a housing cost-burden. These residents, many of whom are members of the workforce in Ramsey and surrounding communities, can reside in our community without fear of homelessness.

Table 58: Housing Affordability Need

Affordability Level	Number of Units
At or Below 30% AMI	292
31% to 50% AMI	167
51% to 80% AMI	40
Total Units	499

Source: Metropolitan Council Existing Housing Assessment, total housing units 8,896

Guided Land Use

The Future Land Use Map shows the areas guided for low density, medium density, and high density residential. The areas included in The COR are estimated to be approximately



50% residential, as The COR is a fully mixed-use area. As shown in Table 7: Forecasted Growth Allocations in the Land Use Chapter, based on planned densities and associated acreages available for development, the City can expect a minimum of 528 housing units. This meets the minimum requirements.

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Existing Housing Programs

Anoka County Programs

~~When we would use these: The City of Ramsey cannot actively maintain or manage these programs; however, they are important to note as the City of Ramsey actively supports these programs and will lend their support to maintaining these programs in any way possible. Additionally, these tools are included in this section to provide additional resources for residents, and potential residents, of the City.~~

~~1–Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP) for Affordable Housing~~

~~Affordable Housing is a partnership between ACCAP and Anoka County Corrections to construct affordable housing in Anoka County. The goal of the program is to build two new homes each year using inmate labor to reduce construction costs making homeownership for eligible buyers very affordable. These homes are available to buyers who have completed the Home Ownership Program offered by ACCAP.~~

~~2–Anoka County – Housing & Redevelopment Authority~~

~~Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (ACHRA) was created in December 1994 and is responsible for the administration of federal, state, and Anoka County programs. They provide housing and redevelopment services to many communities in Anoka County, including Ramsey. The City of Ramsey utilizes ACHRA dollars for numerous projects that support the City's goals and visions, including those related to affordable housing. The City will continue to utilize this program for development of affordable housing, cleanup of residential sites, and other applications if deemed fitting of the City's goals. The City would also utilize these dollars to support efforts to explore the preservation of expiring low-income housing tax credit properties.~~

~~3–Anoka County – Senior Housing~~

~~Anoka County owns four properties, managed by Great Lakes Management Company, with market rate rental units for residents 55 years and older.~~

~~4–Anoka County – MN Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program (MNRLP)~~

~~Owner-occupied properties in Anoka County that are either single-family detached home, townhome, duplex, or condominium, or manufactured homes that are taxed as real or personal property can apply for eligible improvements including: Roof, furnace/boiler, insulation, radon mitigation, lead paint hazards, siding, handrails, plumbing, smoke/CO detectors, well and septic systems, electrical wiring, windows/doors. Applicants must meet the income requirements based on household size and other borrower requirements.~~

~~When we would use these: The City of Ramsey cannot actively maintain or manage these programs; however, they are important to note as the City of Ramsey actively supports these programs and will lend their support to maintaining these programs in any way possible. The City would, and has in the past, utilize ACHRA dollars to support a variety of housing needs, including development of affordable housing and gap funding for projects with community benefit. The Anoka County programs listed above support a variety of local housing needs and will remain programs widely used by the City to support housing goals. The City Council makes formal requests to Anoka County on behalf of the City, and would make requests to utilize ACHRA dollars for items~~



such as housing studies, cleanup of residential properties (brownfields), creation of new affordable housing projects, preservation of NOAH properties, and exploring the preservation of expiring low-income housing tax credit properties.

The City would also utilize these programs and dollars for research and exploration of new tools.

Additionally, these tools are included in this section to provide additional resources for residents, and potential residents, of the City.

Regional Programs

Livable Communities Demonstration Account – Metropolitan Council Grant Fund

The Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) funds innovative projects that efficiently link housing, jobs, services, and transit.

When we would use this: The City of Ramsey is actively seeking projects that align with the mission of the LCDA. Due to the funding schedule and timeline, partners in these types of applications must be able to wait approximately 6 months from application to award letters. Because of this timeline, City-initiated projects, affordable housing projects (likely for those less than 50% AMI), and senior living projects are likely the prime candidates for this program.

Section 8 Housing

Section 8 programs for Anoka County are administered by the Metropolitan Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), located in Saint Paul, MN.

When we would use this: The City of Ramsey does not administer Section 8 housing. Ramsey residents apply through the Metropolitan Council. The City of Ramsey does make interested parties aware of the opportunity and would support applications to this program.

Home Energy Loan Program

Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) offers low-interest home energy loans for homeowners to make improvements to their homes. Examples of eligible projects include: heating system upgrades, central air conditioning, light fixtures, window and exterior door replacement, attic air sealing and insulation, wall insulation and heater, and geothermal and heat pumps. Loans are typically from \$1,000 - \$2,000 dollars. There is no maximum income limit for these loans.

When we would use this: The City of Ramsey does not manage this program, but they do support this program. The City has resources available to residents of all income levels, and is able to point residents to Center for Energy and the Environment for additional information on which they are not experts (such as insulating attics). Specially, the City is able to direct residents whose homes have code enforcement issues to this type of program to help increase the safety, value, and appearance of the home. Because these loans do not have income limits, these are options for all residents, developers, and others throughout the City. This type of program supports small upgrades to homes that long-term increase cost savings and environmental savings. This program not only represents the City of Ramsey's commitment to maintaining existing properties, but also our commitment to environmentally sensitive housing and design.



Statewide Programs

1- Minnesota Housing – Coordinated Entry

Coordinated Entry is a HUD initiative to those who may be at-risk of losing their housing, or who are homeless. The Coordinated Entry initiative supports people in connecting their housing needs with the appropriate resources. Anoka County has a separate resource line to assist residents.

When we would use this: The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program, but does believe this program is an important tool they are able to point residents towards. The City of Ramsey provides a connection to this resource for residents who are at risk, or afraid of, losing their housing. They can also direct homeless individuals towards this program. The City of Ramsey will continue to support this program as they believe it is an important part of supporting their residents and maintaining their mission of equity.

Minnesota Housing – Start Up Program

This first-time homebuyer program is meant to promote affordable interest rates and help homeowners' better tackle their down payments and closing costs. Qualified first-time homebuyers must have a credit score of at least 640, they must meet certain income limits and must be able to obtain a mortgage from a lender. Borrowers must also attend a homebuyer education course.

In order to be eligible for this program, residents must be first-time homebuyers, have a credit score of at least 640, and meet the income requirements.

When we would use this: The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program, but believes it to be a great opportunity for potential homebuyers. Because so much of the City has naturally-occurring affordable housing (NOAH), the City expects to see first time homebuyers purchasing properties in Ramsey. This type of program is an excellent tool to point those types of residents towards. Additionally, this type of program supports low-income individuals, and supports the City of Ramsey's goal and mission to provide lifecycle housing options and affordable housing options.

Minnesota Housing - Step Up

This is a loan can be used for home purchase or to help homeowners refinance. The loan is meant to promote affordable interest rates in the state of Minnesota. The monthly payment portion of this Minnesota Housing program is available to help buyers afford closing costs and the down payment of a home purchase. The loan allows borrowers to reduce or eliminate mortgage insurance costs. Qualified borrowers need to have a credit score of at least 640, they must meet program income limits and, in some cases, borrowers must attend homebuyer education courses.

Summary:

- Loan can be used for home purchase or refinancing.
- Must have a credit score of at least 640.
- Must meet income limits.

When we would use this: The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program, but does make interested parties aware of the opportunity. [The City of Ramsey would support applications to this program.](#)



Minnesota Housing - Deferred Payment Loan

This loan is meant for first-time homebuyers to help ease the cost of home ownership. There are two loan options, a deferred payment loan and a plus loan. The deferred payment loan starts at \$5,000 and up to \$7,500. The maximum for the plus loan is higher, up to \$10,000 for those borrowers who fit target criteria. Minimum credit score for qualified borrowers is 640. The borrowers must also attend a homebuyer education course. The loan term is equal to the first mortgage and has 0% interest - the loan is repaid when the property is sold, no longer the homestead of the homeowners, or the loan is refinanced.

Summary:

- Must be first-time homebuyers
- Two loan options — can borrow from \$5,000 to \$10,000
- Minimum credit score of 640

Minnesota Housing - Monthly Payment Loan

This program is designed to help Minnesota homebuyers afford the costs of purchasing a home. Minnesota Housing has a monthly payment loan to help with 5% of the purchase price or \$5,000, whichever is greater, to be put towards closing costs and the down payment. Borrowers need to get a Minnesota Housing first mortgage loan as well, which is either a Start Up (first-time homebuyers), Step Up (refinancing), or MCC (mortgage credit certificate). The ten-year loan term comes with monthly payments with an interest rate equal to first mortgage rate. Qualified borrowers need a minimum 640 credit score and must meet program income limits. Borrowers also need to attend a homebuyer education course.

Summary:

- Loan towards closing costs and home down payment
- Ten-year loan term with monthly payments
- Minimum 640 credit score
- Qualified borrowers must attend homebuyer education course

When we would use this: [The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program, but does make interested parties aware of the opportunity. The City of Ramsey would support applications to this program.](#) ~~The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program.~~

Minnesota Housing - Mortgage Credit Certificate

This program was designed to help Minnesota homeowners better afford their mortgages. This Mortgage Credit Certificate allows homeowners to claim 35% of their mortgage interest paid every year as a federal income tax credit — this can provide households with up to \$2,000 in tax savings. This certificate can be used in conjunction with a Minnesota Housing mortgage, as well as the Monthly Payment Loan which helps with the home down payment and closing costs. This program is geared towards first-time homebuyers (not owned a home in at least three years and not displaced by divorce). The certificate has many qualifications like: borrowers must qualify for a mortgage on a house, meet the income limits of the program, plan to have the property as their primary residence



and hold a federal income tax liability. In order to be eligible for this program, residents must be first-time homebuyers, qualify for a home mortgage, and meet the income restrictions

When we would use this: The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program, but does make interested parties aware of the opportunity. The City of Ramsey would support applications to this program.~~The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program.~~

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency – Consolidated Request for Proposals

The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) currently utilizes a single application for affordable housing financing with multiple partners, including the Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Housing, Family Housing Fund, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), and the Saint Paul Public Housing Agency. The Consolidated RFP has a significant amount of financial resources and numerous partners, which allows for creative finance packages for projects.

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When we would use this: The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program; however, the City of Ramsey would support and engage in applications to this program to maintain naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH), particularly rental units, within the City. The City would support an application to this program for any NOAH preservation within the City, and would prioritize well-maintained housing throughout the City at 80% or less of AMI. The City would consider being a partner for applications to this program for affordable housing projects at any affordability level. It is likely that the City Council would write a letter of support on behalf of an application to this program.

Greater Minnesota Housing Fund

The Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF) provides equity investments in affordable housing projects, both for new LIHTC projects and for NOAH preservation projects. Their priority projects include the preservation of affordable homes, preventing and ending homelessness, and the creation of new affordable homes. They provide gap loans, interim loans, and permanent loans to multifamily projects.

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When we would use this: The City of Ramsey actively makes potential project partners aware of GMHF programs, and would support applications to their loan funds for the creation of new affordable housing projects, and for the preservation of NOAH. The City would consider utilizing this program for NOAH preservation if the City decided to create its own housing programs. It is likely that the City Council would write a letter of support on behalf of an application to this program.

Minnesota GreenStar Certification

In order to be eligible for this program, residents must be first-time homebuyers, qualify for a home mortgage, and meet the income restrictions



When we would use this: [The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program, but does make interested parties aware of the opportunity. The City of Ramsey would support applications to this program.](#)~~The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program.~~

Weatherization Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program through the Minnesota Department of Commerce provides free home energy upgrades to income-eligible homeowners and renters. The goal of this program is to allow homeowners to save energy and ensure their homes are healthy and safe. Weatherization services include: exterior wall and attic insulation, air leakage reduction, furnace, boiler, and hot water heater repair or replacement, and can help decrease energy costs by 30% annually. The 2017 income limit for a household of 4 to be eligible for this program was an annual income of \$49,200.

When we would use this: [The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program, but does make interested parties aware of the opportunity. The City of Ramsey would support applications to this program.](#)~~The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program.~~

Low Income Energy Assistance Program

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps pay for heating costs and furnace repairs for low-income households. In order to be eligible, households must be at or below 50% AMI for the state. This program is eligible to homeowners and renters. Services may include: payment of energy bills, education on safe energy use, repair or replacement of broken heating systems, and help with utility disconnections or fuel deliveries. The 2017 income limit for a household of 4 to be eligible for this program is \$48,077.

When we would use this: The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program, but believes it to be a great opportunity for potential homebuyers. Because so much of the City has naturally-occurring affordable housing, the City expects to see first time homebuyers purchasing properties in Ramsey. This type of program is an excellent tool to point those types of residents towards. Additionally, this type of program supports low-income individuals, and supports the City of Ramsey's goal and mission to provide lifecycle housing options and affordable housing options.

When we would use this: [The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program, but does make interested parties aware of the opportunity. The City of Ramsey would support applications to this program.](#)~~The City of Ramsey does not maintain this program.~~

Federal Programs

When we would use this: Federal program are managed by the Federal Government; however, they are noted in this section of the Comprehensive Plan Update to provide additional information to residents seeking guidance or specific tools to increase homeownership. The City of Ramsey is supportive of these types of programs and will guide residents towards these programs in order to increase homeownership rates within the City, and provide opportunities for residents who many not have the option to purchase a home without these types of programs, specifically low-income residents and people of color. These programs have income limits, and therefore would be helpful for residents with lower incomes.



FHA Loans

Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans typically have lower interest rates and smaller down payments than other loans. They also have low closing costs and are typically available to first-time homebuyers and those who are trying to make their homes more energy efficient (FHA Energy-Efficient Mortgage).

FHA Down Payment Assistance

Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans typically have lower interest rates and smaller down payments than other loans. They also have low closing costs and are typically available to first-time homebuyers and those who are trying to make their homes more energy efficient (FHA Energy-Efficient Mortgage).

Other Tools

Public-Private Partnerships

The City of Ramsey is actively creating relationships with local businesses, developers, and potential partners. The Economic Development Department works diligently to find opportunities for public-private partnerships, when private dollars can assist a public project with a mutually beneficial outcome.

When we would use this: Public-private partnerships work best when the City and the partner have similar goals and desired outcomes for a project. Potential projects that the City is actively looking at are new park spaces around affordable housing projects, a new parking ramp near affordable, multi-family housing, park spaces, and The COR, as well as roadway improvements. For new single-family housing development projects proposed through the PUD process, the City will attempt to suggest the cost-sharing of public amenities and improvements to adjacent spaces – such as parks, trails, open spaces, roadway improvements, or pedestrian crossings.



Projected Housing Need

Ramsey's population is anticipated to steadily increase through 2040. In order to accommodate the future growth, there will need to be additional housing units within Ramsey. A variety of housing types will need to be provided in order to house residents of all income levels, stages of life, and housing preferences. For instance, young families may prefer single family homes or townhomes, while seniors may prefer a denser living environment near The COR.

By 2040, the City of Ramsey will need to provide almost 4,000 additional housing units for almost 8,000 additional residents. Population and housing projections through 2040 are shown below.

Table 55: Population and Households by Decade

	2010	2020	2030	2040
Population	22,668	26,400	29,700	34,700
Households	8,033	9,400	11,300	13,000

Source: Metropolitan Council

Affordable Housing Allocation

The City participates in the Livable Communities Program of the Metropolitan Council, which provides access to a number of funding opportunities. As part of said participation, the City plans for an allocation of affordable housing. The total need for affordable housing in the region from 2021 – 2030 is 27,900 units. In order to reach this total need, the City of Ramsey will need to provide an additional 499 units by 2030. The breakdown of unit types is shown below.

Affordable housing is defined by different affordability levels depending on tenant income. Affordability levels for necessary affordable housing in Ramsey is shown at three different levels below. 292 units will be required for those who make less than 30% Area Median Income (AMI). In 2015, annual income for those in this type of housing would need to be less than \$25,980 as the 2015 AMI was \$96,600 for a family of four in the region.

The need for affordable housing is shown below. As the City of Ramsey meets its affordable housing need, less Ramsey residents will experience a housing cost burden. These residents, many of whom are members of the workforce in Ramsey and surrounding communities, can reside in our community without fear of homelessness.

Table 56: Housing Affordability Need

Affordability Level	Number of Units
At or Below 30% AMI	292
31% to 50% AMI	167
51% to 80% AMI	40
Total Units	499

Source: Metropolitan Council Existing Housing Assessment, total housing units 8,896

Guided Land Use

The Future Land Use Map shows the areas guided for low density, medium density, and high density residential. The areas included in The COR are estimated to be approximately 50% residential, as The COR is a fully mixed-use area. As shown in Table 7: Forecasted



~~Growth Allocations in the Land Use Chapter, based on planned densities and associated acreages available for development, the City can expect a minimum of 528 housing units. This meets the minimum requirements.~~

Implementation Plan

Strategy: Create low-cost solutions to improve housing stock

Policies and Actions:

1. Provide incentive-based approaches for individual improvements to private properties
2. Create a toolkit or cheat sheet of resources available to homeowners and renters to improve existing housing stock, including programs listed in the previous section
3. Engage with manufactured housing community members and management to ensure infrastructure and City service needs are being met
4. Support the creation of a cooperative community in the manufactured housing community

Strategy: Support county-wide, regional, state-wide, and national funding sources for new development projects

Policies and Actions:

1. Provide letters of support for new development projects for funding applications

Strategy: Rehabilitate and improve housing stock to preserve rural character and enhance existing neighborhoods

Policies and Actions:

1. Provide incentive-based approaches for individual improvements to private properties
2. Eliminate blighting influences such as unkempt yards, glaring lights, unscreened storage, noise, inappropriate vehicle storage, etc.
3. Identify and remove substandard housing units that are economically unfeasible to rehabilitate.
4. Create a simple webpage/portal that allows residents to voice anonymously code enforcement concerns
5. Create relationships with neighborhood leaders and Community Development Staff
6. Create and implement a strategy for targeted outreach to homeowners of aging housing
7. Monitor the City's housing supply to ensure quality, low-income options
8. Create Eliminate blighting influences such as unkempt yards, glaring lights, unscreened storage, noise, inappropriate vehicle storage, etc.

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8.9. Develop a strong relationship with manufactured housing community management to continue ongoing rehabilitation of site and provide resources for continued maintenance

Strategy: Provide sufficient housing options for all types of residents; provide lifecycle housing options

Policies and Actions:

1. Complete a housing needs assessment and analysis in the immediate future
2. Create a policy (allow, not allow, and under what conditions) accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on single family lots in order to maintain rural character while increasing lifecycle housing options and increasing affordability levels
3. Create policy allowing flexibility for senior projects to convert to affordable housing when the demand for senior housing changes
4. Encourage developers to consider all aspects of resident needs, such as one level living for seniors, shared workspaces in multifamily buildings, and wheel-chair accessible doorway widths in senior housing
- 4.5. Allow higher density housing options near The COR and the Northstar Commuter Rail Station; in neighborhoods furthest from The COR, allow new housing within existing range of housing densities
- 5.6. Support preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH), particularly rental units, including partnering with organization that have funds dedicated to NOAH preservation
7. Consider the use of local tax increment financing (TIF) for creation of new affordable housing projects
- 6.8. Support a local notice of sale or first look provision to provide residents in manufacture housing communities time to consider cooperative ownership if the land was ever placed for sale

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Strategy: Promote development that preserves the natural environment and respects residential health

Policies and Actions:

1. Promote improvements to existing housing that meet or exceed energy efficiency standards and implement sustainable design features
2. Maintain, and update if needed, conservation subdivision ordinances.
3. Provide incentives for innovative water-saving solutions for stormwater management, water conservation, and rainwater reuse
4. Create a policy regarding sprinkler gauging for single family homes, townhomes, and homeowners associations in order to save water
5. Encourage multifamily buildings and homeowners associations to require individual tenants to pay utilities, which typically reduces the amount of water, electricity, and heat used, creating responsibility for own actions



6. Require environmentally-sensitive site planning, green building design, and indoor environmental quality best practices. Continue to require stormwater management, strict wetland setbacks, tree preservation standards, and environmental review on development projects.

Strategy: Support affordable housing development

Policies and Actions:

1. Monitor the City’s housing supply to ensure quality, low-income options
2. Create relationships with affordable housing developers to determine working styles, possible grants, and quickly take advantage of opportunities
3. Ensure development fees are appropriate but do not restrict affordable housing development
4. Create an inclusionary housing policy and toolkit
5. Consider the use of Anoka County HRA and City of Ramsey EDA powers to subsidize new affordable housing projects
4. Consider the use of local tax increment financing (TIF) for creation of new affordable housing projects.
7. Consider proactive site assembly for affordable housing projects
8. Issue housing revenue bonds for new construction of workforce housing, with special focus on mixed-income housing projects in the COR and those projects that meet City goals and vision
9. Prioritize the sale of City-owned land to projects that meet, and exceed, City goals
10. Consider tax abatement for new affordable housing projects, with special consideration to mixed-income housing projects in the COR and those projects that meet City goals and vision
11. Support applications to the Minnesota Housing Consolidated RFP for mixed-income housing projects in the COR and those projects that meet City goals and vision for affordable housing

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Strategy: Increase community knowledge of affordable housing

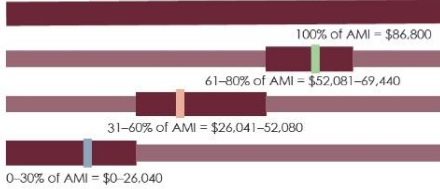
Policies and Actions:

1. Roll out the “Can I Be Your Neighbor?” initiative

Housing Affordability

When determining housing affordability, developers target **income ranges** of future residents. The most commonly targeted income ranges are 0–30%, 31–60%, and 61–80% of **average median income (AMI)**. In actual dollars, this breaks down to:

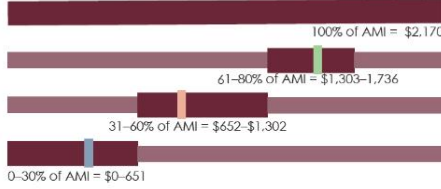
City of Ramsey (2015) Average Annual Median Income



Housing Costs

There is a general rule in finance that people should **spend no more than 30% of their income on housing costs**. Based on Ramsey’s AMI, the following represents what people in different income ranges should be spending on housing (including mortgage and rent) per month:

Monthly Housing Cost Based on AMI



Now that we understand the **different income levels in Ramsey**, we will match them with **people in the community**. Your child’s teacher, your local firefighter, the senior you see on Sundays at church... **how much can these community members truly afford to pay for housing given their incomes?**

Can I be your neighbor?

Age: 88
Occupation: Retired, Ramsey native
Annual Income: \$16,320 (Social Security)
30% of Income: \$488 per month

Source: Minnesota Social Security Income data (Social Security Administration)

Can I be your neighbor?

Age: 28
Occupation: Firefighter
Annual Income: \$34,770
30% of Income: \$869 per month

Source: Minnesota Firefighter Income data (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Can I be your neighbor?

Age: 37
Occupation: Middle-School Teacher
Annual Income: \$42,300
30% of Income: \$1,557 per month

Source: Redwood County Income data (The Minnesota Department of Commerce)

An Active and Connected Community

The City will attempt to eliminate barriers in fair housing through ongoing policy development and evaluation informed by community engagement and fair housing evaluations and data. Because many fair housing barriers are regional in nature, the City will participate in regional efforts to eliminate racial disparities and fair housing barriers.

As Ramsey attempts to utilize HUD grants for future projects, we have the responsibility to take meaningful action to eliminate discrimination and remove barriers that restrict access based on protected characteristics, such as race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, and family status. The City will examine policies, regulations, programs and actions that both the City and its partners take to assess their impact on affordable housing



and the ability of people to make housing choices in an environment free from discriminatory practices, referred to as “fair housing choice.”

Strategy: Ensure that discrimination does not occur against persons seeking housing in Ramsey based on age, religion, race, ethnic origin, sexual preference, gender, status with regard to public assistance, marital or familial status, or disability.

Policies and Actions:

1. Adopted a Fair Housing Policy for the City including the creation of a Fair Housing Officer.

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Strategy: Expand fair housing choice and access throughout the City

Policies and Actions:

1. Direct developers to the Affirmative Marketing Toolkit from the Fair Housing MN Resource Guide to make it easier for providers to meet federal requirements for planning fair housing
2. Direct those seeking assistance with housing programs to Minnesota Housing programs
3. Provide clear, concise, and easy to access fair housing information and resources
4. Support and collaborate on the expansion of fair housing work throughout the region, including the 7 county metropolitan area, and those outside the metropolitan area
5. Participate in regional collaboration to eliminate fair housing barriers, including completing a fair housing assessment every five years (at minimum) which is informed by resident and stakeholder engagement

Strategy: Plan for multi-family and senior residential developments near transit, bicycle routes, trails, sidewalks, etc. in order to reduce building footprints, energy consumption, and reliance on automobiles.

Policies and Actions:

1. Allow flexibility in regulations for multi-family or senior housing projects near Northstar Commuter Rail Station
2. Create and maintain a policy that allows for density bonuses for new projects in The COR that provide additional public amenities, such as open space dedication or affordable housing, in exchange for densities greater than the Zoning Ordinance typically would allow

Strategy: Ensure new development projects support an active lifestyle.

Policies and Actions:

1. Continue to require internal trails and sidewalks on adjacent roads for new residential development projects
2. Continue to require sidewalks on adjacent roads for all non-residential development projects



3. Encourage new residential development projects to include items such as bike racks, bike storage, workout centers, and showers

Strategy: Support all types of active lifestyles, including children, seniors, differently-abled, disabled and families.

Policies and Actions:

1. Require strict accessibility standards on new development projects that comply with updated ADA standards
2. Ensure new housing developments have sidewalks and trails wide enough for strollers, wheelchairs, and other mobility devices

Strategy: Expand community engagement efforts to create lasting relationships and educated residents

Policies and Actions:

1. Educate residents on tools available for rehabilitation and upgrading of residences
2. Encourage multifamily buildings and homeowners associations to provide spaces for community gathering and learning, such as libraries, incubator spaces, and computer labs
3. Create informational packet of first time homebuyer programs to provide to prospective homebuyers
- 3.4. Develop a strong relationship with the manufactured home community to provide information, resources, and that City service needs are being met

Strategy: Employ innovative engagement strategies to keep residents informed

Policies and Actions:

1. Invite community members on housing tours to show different types of housing first-hand
2. Host living room meetings, understanding that some community members may not be comfortable or able to attend meetings at City Hall

Strategy: Provide efficient customer service to development applications that provide housing to residents.

Policies and Actions:

1. Review expectations for timeliness of application and permit reviews





Chapter 05: Natural Resources Plan



Natural Resources Goals and Strategies

The following represents goals and strategies for Natural Resources Plan, which are consistent with the five key goals of the Comprehensive Plan, as set by the City Council. Subsequent chapters will include their objectives, policies and actions related to these goals. Specific policies and actions for the land use plan goals and strategies appear at the end of this chapter.

- Prioritize areas of preservation to identify key areas of preservation
- Utilize staff and local knowledge to reduce consulting costs
- Utilize Planned Unit Development (PUD) process where applicable to acquire high-priority natural resource areas and provide flexibility in development design
- Ensure sustainability of food supply and food web
- Maintain and enhance the public community forest (boulevard tree program)
- Reduce erosion along both the Mississippi and Rum Rivers
- Preserve significant ecological resources through conservation design.
- Improve sustainability and resilience
- Improve connections to significant ecological resources
- Improve recreation opportunities along the City's Priority Greenway Plan
- Improve water quality of Mississippi River
- Improve awareness for groundwater planning
- Improve awareness for solid waste reduction
- Maintain efficient use of public works staff to maintain community natural resources

2030 Plan Accomplishments

Before looking forward to what Ramsey will strive to accomplish within the timeframe of this Comprehensive Plan, it is always good to pause and look back to what it was able to accomplish over during the course of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The last plan was adopted in 2010. While a number of factors have changed since the adoption of the last plan, the City can celebrate a number of successes as it relates to natural resources. Subsequent chapters of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan will celebrate their own successes.

- Relied on the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) to inform recommendations on subdivision design and areas of focused protection/preservation where feasible.
- Purchased two (2) Weed Wrenches to assist property owners with managing and eradicating certain invasive species, specifically Buckthorn.
- Protected Ramsey's rural character in many areas of the community, representing the largest land area category in the community.
- Mitigated City's financial risks associated by new developments by encouraging new development to focus near existing infrastructure.
- Ensured new development protected natural resources, made trail connections, and blended in with surrounding development.
- Employed conservation subdivision practices intended to protect existing neighborhoods and natural resources.



- Struck a balance between land use planning, policy development, natural resource protection, and private property rights.
- Refined the Tree Preservation Ordinance to establish a reforestation standard and proactively began working with developers to establish street trees rather than just front yard trees.
- Encouraged stormwater management systems/plans that incorporate rain harvesting techniques (reducing the demand on and use of groundwater for irrigation) and rain gardens (to promote infiltration and groundwater recharge).
- Employed new strategies to help residents recycle additional materials and divert more materials from landfills.
- Implemented an organics recycling drop-off program for residents.
- Secured grant funds to establish a 'mini-arboretum' of tree species native to Minnesota in North Commons.
- Continued to maintain the Tree City USA designation (twenty-five [25] years and counting).
- Updated the Floodplain Ordinance and adopted new Flood Insurance Rate Maps to remain compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Adopted an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan.

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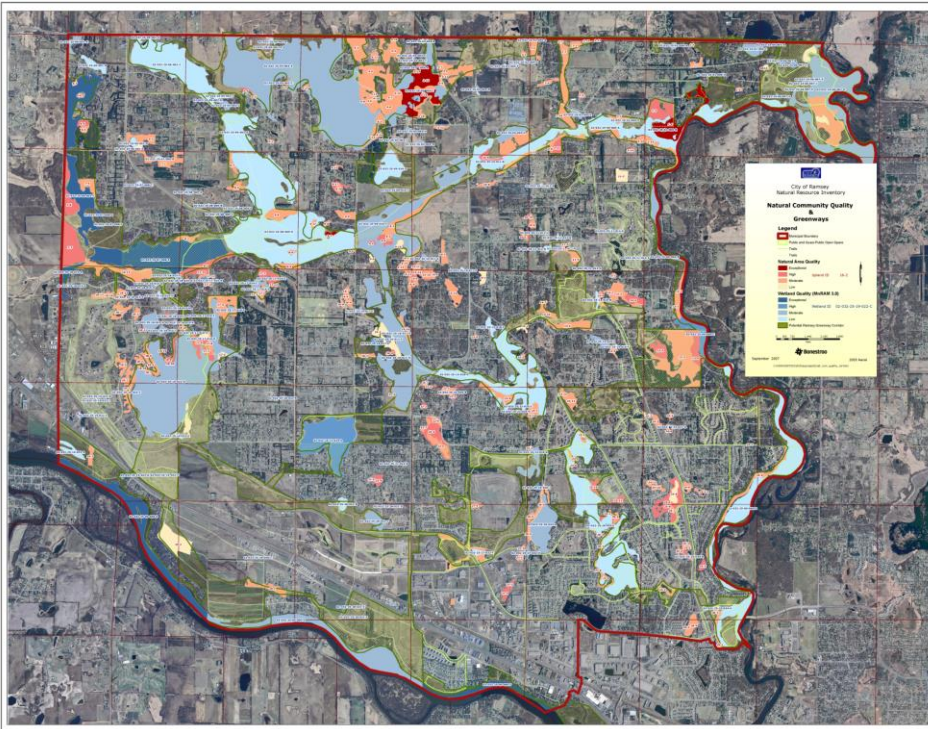


Existing Natural Resources

Ramsey undertook two (2) comprehensive inventories in the mid-2000s; a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and a Wetland Inventory. Both of these data sets are referenced any time a new development is proposed. These data sets help inform Ramsey if there are significant and/or high value natural resources within a development site that may warrant greater protections. While both provide valuable insight, Ramsey acknowledges that both require periodic updates to ensure that the data is accurate and relevant. There has been no specific timeframe identified for updates to either, but for this data to remain useful, they should be revisited no less than every ten (10) to fifteen (15) years.

Existing Natural Resource Quality

Figure 29: Natural Resource Inventory



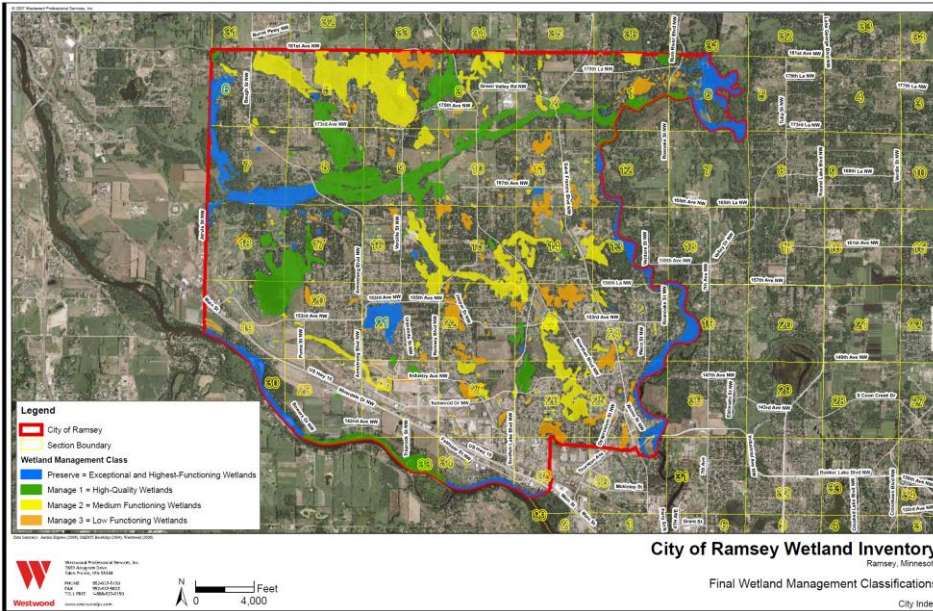
As part of the NRI, potential greenway corridors were identified. Thus, in addition to providing insight to the potential presence of higher value natural areas, the NRI can also be utilized as a reference and guide for critical corridor connections. As Ramsey continues to experience



development pressures, the NRI will eventually need to be 'recalibrated' to ensure that it is still a meaningful and reliable data source.

Existing Wetland Quality

Figure 30: Wetland Inventory



In 2006, Ramsey completed a Wetland Inventory utilizing the Minnesota Routine Assessment Method (MnRAM) to accompany a now repealed wetland buffer ordinance. While the wetland buffer standards are no longer codified, the Wetland Inventory is still relied upon to understand what, if any, impacts proposed development may have, especially regarding wetlands classified as high and exceptional.

Natural Resource Initiatives and Pilot Projects

Ramsey has completed a number of natural resource initiatives and pilot projects in recent years. Key programs include, but are not limited to the following.

- Buildable Area Standards
- Pollinator Friendly Habitat
- Shoreline Protection

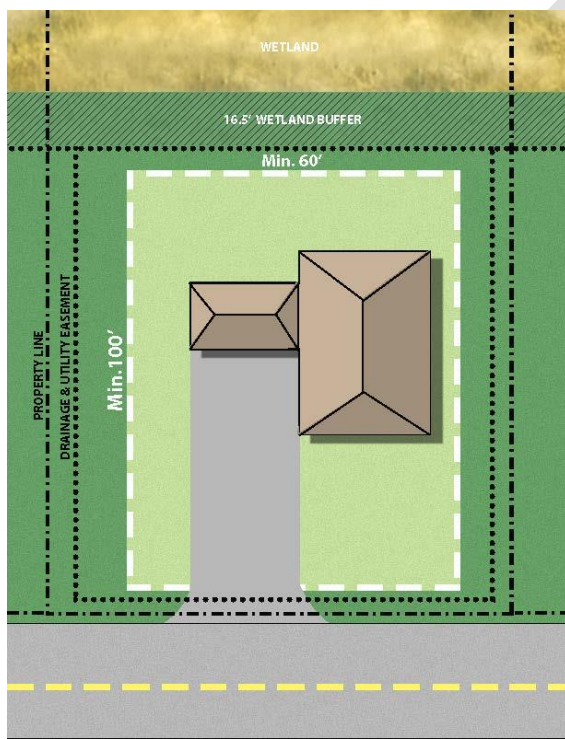
Buildable Area Standards

In 2016, the City adopted new standards related to lot depth as well as instituted a wetland setback. The purpose of both of these standards was to ensure that newly created lots would actually have



sufficient buildable and usable area to accommodate typical homeowner additions, such as a deck, small shed, a yard to play in, etc. Too often, homeowners attempting to make improvements to their property were discovering that there was not sufficient space to accommodate a new deck, a detached accessory building, or even to establish what they viewed as a usable backyard. This was creating a lot of frustration on their part and was also resulting in code violations as well. By implementing these new standards, it not only assured that each newly created lot would have buildable and/or usable space beyond the footprint of their home, but also helped to protect wetlands both from being filled in as well as from a water quality stand point (more filtration of runoff before entering the wetland).

Buildable Area and Wetland Setback Example



Pollinator Friendly Habitat

The City desires to encourage more pollinator friendly habitat for a multitude of reasons. First and foremost, Ramsey desires to ensure the sustainability of food supply and the food web, which relies heavily on pollinators. By promoting pollinator friendly practices and initiatives, the City not only helps foster the concept of local food through opportunities such as a local farmer’s market, but also encourages the protection, restoration, and/or establishment of pollinator habitat.



Broadly speaking, pollinator habitat generally consists of native plants, shrubs and trees. Native species are generally more drought tolerant and require fewer inputs, such as water (irrigation) and chemicals (fertilizers and herbicides). Thus, by establishing more pollinator friendly habitat, the demand on groundwater for irrigation purposes should decrease. Furthermore, the reduced need for chemical applications should lower the potential of groundwater and/or surface water contamination from inappropriate application of these products on the landscape.

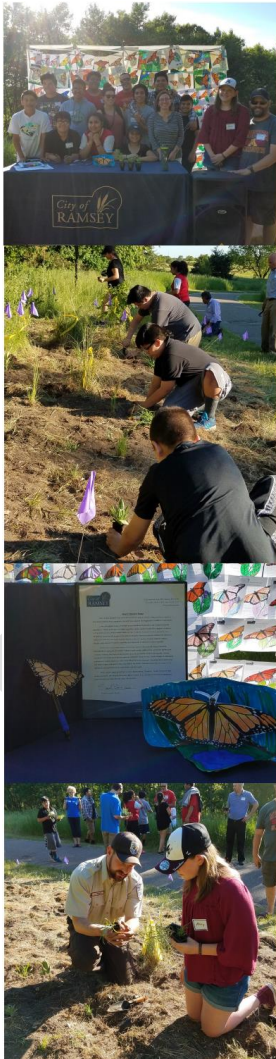
Protecting, restoring, and/or establishing pollinator habitat also creates habitat for a variety of wildlife. Where feasible, conglomerations of pollinator friendly landscapes can become the basis for wildlife corridors and potentially even a greenway corridor. Even small patches, such as a backyard butterfly garden, of pollinator friendly habitat can be beneficial for many pollinators whose populations are declining as habitat loss continues to increase.

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Mayors for Monarchs

The City has taken the Mayors for Monarchs Pledge to affirm its support not only for the iconic monarch butterfly, but also for pollinators in general, whose habitat continues to be fragmented and/or destroyed.



Mayors for Monarchs

Many people may not realize that Monarch butterflies play an important role in pollinating various plants, including many of our food crops. But their population has declined by more than 90% in the last two decades. That is why it is important to create special habitats for these pollinators in our yards and gardens. Recently, the City of Ramsey adopted a resolution to support pollinator initiatives throughout our community.



Ramsey Mayor, Sarah Strommen, launched the initiative by signing the Mayors for Monarchs Pledge to support Monarch butterflies in our community by implementing efforts to create, restore, and protect pollinator habitat and encouraging our citizens to do the same in their own backyards. The Mayors for Monarchs Pledge Signing event took place on June 6, 2017 at the Lake Itasca Trailhead in Ramsey.

At the pledge signing event Mayor Strommen designated a new "Monarch Trail" along the Lake Itasca Trail corridor. Together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the City of Ramsey will be restoring six and a half acres of land along this trail to a natural habitat designed to support Monarch butterflies and other important pollinators.



Students from Youth First Community of Promise were there to jump-start the project by planting a small section of native plant plugs at this event, which was representative of the larger-scale planting that will happen this fall.

Fourth grade students from Ramsey Elementary also contributed to the event by creating 150 colorful butterflies, which served as the backdrop for this event and will also be on display in the Ramsey City Hall in honor of National Pollinator Week, June 19 - 25, 2017.

If you are interested in learning more about the Monarch butterfly, be sure to check out Ramsey Parks & Recreation's Monarch Lab on July 25. Visit www.cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents for more information on how to register.

City of RAMSEY



Lake Itasca Monarch Trail

In the summer of 2017, the City designated a portion of the Lake Itasca Trail as a Monarch Trail. This was in conjunction with the Mayor's Monarch Pledge proclamation. The Monarch Trail includes roughly seven (7) acres of land on both sides of an existing, well used trail segment along Lake Itasca. A ceremonial planting of a mixture of plugs was completed in the summer of 2017. Site preparations occurred over the following fall, winter and spring seasons. This included a prescribed burn to eliminate non-native and undesirable vegetation (forbs/grasses) and removal of red cedar and Siberian elms within approximately 100 feet of the trail. The site was then seeded with species favored by monarch butterflies and other pollinators. This project converted fallow land into a native, pollinator friendly landscape that abuts a heavily used walking/biking trail in the community. Thus, it not only created new habitat but also did so in a location that would be highly visible to the community.



Brookfield Trail Connection

In 2016, Ramsey identified an opportunity to create a new trail connection to the Trott Brook Trail, a very popular walking/biking trail that parallels Trott Brook. There were multiple facets to this project that, in concert, would improve mobility, create pollinator friendly habitat, promote infiltration and improve water quality. The new trail segment provided a 'mid-block' connection to the existing Trott Brook Trail. Since the existing pedestrian ramp was at the low spot in the road, an opportunity existed to incorporate a rain garden into this project to promote infiltration and groundwater recharge while also improving the water quality of a large stormwater pond that serves as a 'water feature amenity' for this neighborhood also. Finally, rather than installing a typically turf grass landscape that would require irrigation and regular, routine maintenance (mowing), a native, pollinator friendly landscape was established on both sides of the trail. This creates not only additional habitat for pollinators, but also will result in year round interest and variability in the view shed.

Figure 31: Brookfield Trail Connection



Shoreline Protection

The Mississippi River and Rum River experience significant erosion that poses a threat to individual properties and water quality as well. The Anoka Conservation District completed an inventory of the Mississippi River shoreline in December of 2015 to assess the severity of erosion. While a



formal shoreline erosion inventory has not been completed on the Rum River, the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO), along with City Staff, do conduct annual inspections to identify potential erosion concerns (as well as potential violations of the Wild and Scenic River Overlay District).

One of the primary impetuses for the formal inventory of the Mississippi River shoreline was to identify the most problematic properties and to use that data to solicit funding assistance.

Acceptable Shoreline Stabilization Techniques

There are a number of potential acceptable stabilization techniques that can be employed. While Ramsey would look for guidance from other, more technically specialized agencies, such as the Anoka Conservation District and the Department of Natural Resources, some potentially acceptable techniques may include:

- Vegetation
- Natural Barriers
- Rip Rap
- Wing Dams
- Other

Oftentimes, a combination of techniques may be necessary. However, each site likely will have specific conditions or circumstances that will, at least in part, determine which method(s) will be most effective.

New Preservation Efforts

Moving forward, Ramsey desires to enhance efforts in two (2) main categories.

1. Groundwater Supply Preservation
2. Solid Waste Reduction
3. Access to Solar
4. Alternative Energy
5. Greenway Planning
6. Water Quality
7. Public Realm Landscaping

Groundwater Supply Preservation

Ramsey desires to protect the quantity and quality of our groundwater supply and aquifers. The City will accomplish this goal with two (2) broad strategies.

1. Programs, Incentives, and Rebates
2. Educational Initiatives

In the summer months, Ramsey's water usage typically doubles or almost triples that of winter months. This is not due to a lack of concern by Ramsey residents regarding water supply, but rather it is the result of the predominantly sandy nature of sandy soils. This previously prompted Ramsey to adopt a topsoil requirement applicable to any property with a Building Permit for a new



principal building. However, this is not necessarily addressing the water usage as many property owners have not altered the programming of their irrigation system to account for the higher organic content of the topsoil.

The Environmental Policy Board (EPB) recommended a change to City Code that required any new in-ground irrigation system to be equipped with some form of water efficient technology (e.g. smart controller, soil moisture sensors, evapotranspiration sensors, etc.). But, beyond that, the EPB also expressed an interest in incentives and/or rebates to encourage existing property owners with in-ground irrigation systems to consider retrofitting their irrigation system with water efficient technologies. Due to the greater financial impact of retrofitting, the EPB felt that a carrot, rather than a stick, approach would be better.

There continues to be a need for public education on the current status of groundwater availability and conservation techniques and measures that could be implemented by individual property owners to help reduce the demand on aquifers. Ramsey has a keen interest in this subject as it had previously explored utilizing surface water from the Mississippi River as a source of drinking water. However, this is truly a regional issue and one that Ramsey believes needs a regional solution. Thus, instituting an education and awareness campaign around groundwater has the distinct ability to help delay and defer any significant capital expenses that Ramsey may incur.

Solid Waste Reduction

Ramsey contracts with a single hauler for curbside service for single-family residential. This not only helps with participation rates and education, but also helps reduce the number of trucks traversing local streets (less wear and tear and likely reduces air pollutants as well). The curbside program provides collection of recyclables on an every other week (EOW) schedule. Ramsey is divided into an east side and west side for collection purposes, generally along Sunfish Lake Blvd and Nowthen Blvd (with all residential properties south of Highway 10 being considered west).

In 2014, State Statute 115A.551 (Recycling) was amended to specify that by December 31, 2030, each metropolitan county will have a goal to recycle seventy-five percent (75%), by weight, of the total solid waste generated. Furthermore, it states that counties will develop or require political subdivisions within the county to develop and implement programs, practices, and/or methods designed to achieve this goal.

In recognition of this aggressive goal, Ramsey has created new and/or additional opportunities for residents to properly dispose of recyclable materials. This includes expanding the list of acceptable materials collected during Ramsey's Recycling Day events, which now accepts carpet, carpet padding, textiles, motor oil, oil filters, and antifreeze. Additionally, Ramsey has added a third Recycling Day (summer) event to provide an additional opportunity for residents to properly dispose of materials generally not accepted through the curbside program.

After review of a recent metropolitan waste sort (completed for Hennepin County in 2016), it is clear that organic materials represent the largest component remaining in trash. This represents a potential opportunity to boost Ramsey's recycling tonnage, which led the city to implement an organics recycling drop-off program.



Ramsey is providing 'starter kits' at no cost to encourage residents to participate in this program. There are carts located at the Public Works Campus for participants to drop off their organics. Ramsey is continuing to explore various options to expand and improve the organics program. This could include a larger scale drop-off site and/or a curbside program is yet another attempt to increase the amount of material diverted from the trash to the recycling stream.



The greatest opportunity to realize significant gains in recycling, however, will likely come from the commercial sector. While Ramsey's recycling program is focused on the residential sector, primarily based on how the program is funded (Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment, aka SCORE), Anoka County does work with the commercial sector. They have partnered with Minnesota Waste Wise to conduct waste audits for interested commercial entities and guidance on how to increase recycling and reduce waste (and possibly costs too). Ramsey supports this work and will continue to explore opportunities to educate and assist the commercial sector with waste reduction measures where feasible.



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Access to Solar

In the mid-2010s, Ramsey amended its Zoning Code to permit both ground mounted and building mounted solar arrays as an accessory use in any zoning district. This created the possibility for both the residential and commercial/industrial sectors to lawfully install solar energy systems if they so desired. In 2017, Ramsey amended its Zoning Code again to identify solar energy systems as a principal use with the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit within the Public/Quasi-Public zoning district.

Figure 32: Gross Solar Potential

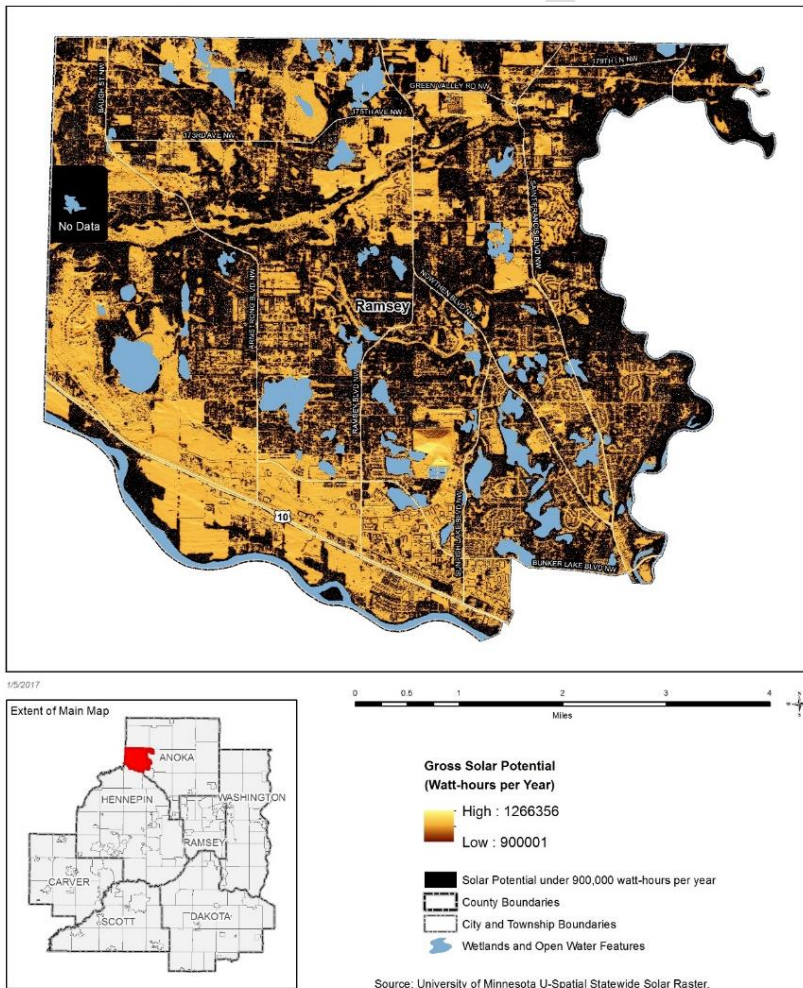


Table 59: Solar Resource Calculation

Gross Potential (Mwh/year)	Rooftop Potential (Mwh/year)	Gross Generation Potential (Mwh/year)	Rooftop Generation Potential (Mwh/year)
42,494,174	1,503,708	4,249,417	150,370

Alternative Energy

Ramsey recognizes the growing field of renewable energy sources and has taken steps over the past decade to include provisions in the Zoning Code that govern their installation. In addition to solar energy systems (as addressed above), Ramsey also permits, under certain conditions, Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) and Ground Source Heat Pumps. Ramsey will continue to monitor the evolution of alternative energies and, where appropriate and supported by the community, will contemplate zoning amendments to avoid unintentionally prohibiting their installation.

Greenway Planning

Ramsey has developed a robust system of parks and trails. Trail connectivity is a key metric of success for our community. Ramsey desires to continue our tradition of prudent trail planning, connecting important recreational and ecological resources. In order to prioritize limited resources to accomplish this goal, Ramsey has prioritized important trail connections around the 'Circle of Ramsey' connecting our system of Community Parks. More information on this topic is found in the parks section of this plan.

Water Quality

Chlorides (de-icing salts) are a growing concern, not only in Ramsey but across the state, due to their likely impact on water quality. Ramsey is committed to exploring opportunities to reduce the quantities of de-icing salts used on roadways as long as it does not negatively impact safety. Options that could be considered or further investigated include an outright reduction in salt applied to roadways and parking lots, installation of pervious pavement and/or pervious concrete roads, alternative road surfaces (e.g. 'solar' roads that aid in melting snow), etc.

Public Realm Landscaping

Ramsey is committed to growing its boulevard/street tree program. A well designed urban forest addresses several of the key imperatives that were identified throughout the public engagement process. Boulevard trees aid with reducing stormwater runoff (improved water quality and increased infiltration). As Ramsey continues to develop, it will inevitably result in a greater number of vehicles on the roads. Boulevard trees will help filter out pollutants and other particulates from the air while also having a traffic calming effect. Boulevard trees also add economic and aesthetic value to neighborhoods and commercial districts.



University of Minnesota Resilient Communities Project

During the 2017-2018 Academic School Year, Ramsey partnered with the University of Minnesota's Resilient Communities Project (RCP) to advance resilience planning and goals. A summary of the projects evaluated during the academic year is found below. Project reports are available upon requests. Many of the recommendations from the RCP partnership are integrated into this document's goals and implementation strategies.



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROJECT

What is the Resilient Communities Project?

The Resilient Communities Project (RCP) is a cross-disciplinary program at the University of Minnesota whose mission is to connect communities in Minnesota with University faculty and students to advance local sustainability and resilience through collaborative, course-based projects. Ultimately, RCP strives to

- build local capacity to address community sustainability and resilience issues
- train students to be future sustainability practitioners in their fields
- produce new studies, reports, and other resources that advance sustainability and resilience practice at the community scale

How does RCP work?

Each academic year, RCP selects a partner community (typically a city, county, or tribal government) through a competitive process. RCP collaborates with the selected community to identify between 5 and 10 projects—based on community-identified environmental, social, and economic issues and needs—that will advance local sustainability and resilience. Then, RCP serves as a matchmaker, strategically connecting the community's projects with existing U of MN courses that can provide appropriate research or technical assistance.

Staff and stakeholders from our partner communities work closely with faculty and students to provide local knowledge and deeper insight into the issues, ensuring the work students undertake is relevant to the community context. Outcomes from each University course are documented in a final report and presentation at the conclusion of the semester. Project results are shared with the community, and disseminated through RCP's website for use by other communities.

What are the benefits to students of collaborating with RCP?

- Efficient access to high quality and well-organized community projects
- Experience applying your knowledge and skills to real-world issues
- Opportunities to build your resume or portfolio for future job interviews
- Potential to meaningfully advance local sustainability and resilience
- Local and regional visibility and recognition for your work
- Opportunities to network with local government and industry professionals



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Resilient Communities Project
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
DIVERSITY TO DISCOVER



RCP-RAMSEY PROJECTS, 2017-2018



For the 2017-2018 academic year, RCP is collaborating with the City of Ramsey on 20 projects that will engage dozens of U of MN courses and hundreds of students to provide information, ideas, and new perspectives on locally identified sustainability and resilience issues.

Community Identity and Engagement

Every Voice Matters
Resident Engagement and Volunteerism Plan

A Gathering Place for Community
Community Center Plan

Sustaining Our Legacy
Historic Preservation Plan

Creating Community Identity
Branding and Marketing Plan

Land Use and Transportation
Highway 10: A Community and Regional Focal Point

U.S. Highway 10 Corridor Plan

Connecting Ramsey
City Wide Greenway Plan

A Gathering Within: An Attraction Beyond
The CTR Development Plan Update

Paying for Future Infrastructure Needs
Development Fee Study

Environmental Stewardship

Integrating Resources Into Our Future
Natural Resources Management and Outreach Plan

Preventing Flood Damage and Disaster
Floodplain Communications Plan

Reduce Waste, Reuse Resources
Organics Recycling Plan

Clean Water, Clean Soil
Sewer System Communications Plan

Will the Faucet Turn On?
Water Conservation Toolkit

Restoring Our Edge
Missoula Shoreline Plan

Housing and Economic Development
Encouraging Small Business Growth and Expansion

Business Incubator Plan

Creating Housing Opportunities for All Generations
Housing Plan

Creating Destination
Retail Market Analysis

Administration
Protecting Our Investments

Asset Management Plan

Sustaining Our Team
Employee Development Plan

Employee Benefits for the Next Generation
Employee Benefits Plan

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Printed on recycled and 100% Laid paper with at least 10 percent post-consumer waste material.



Natural Resources Implementation Plan

Strategy: Ensure sustainability of food supply and food web

Policies and Actions:

1. Promote pollinator-friendly landscape practices

Strategy: Maintain and enhance the community forest

Policies and Actions:

1. Develop a boulevard tree program

Strategy: Reduce erosion along shorelines

Policies and Actions:

1. Create a Shoreline Protection Plan for the Mississippi River
2. Create a Shoreline Protection Plan for the Rum River

Strategy: Preserve significant ecological resources during development

Policies and Actions:

1. Create a Conservation Subdivision Design policy
2. Create and overlay district for Trott Brook
3. Implement the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Plan

Strategy: Improve Sustainability and Resilience

Policies and Actions:

1. Create a Community Resilience Plan

Strategy: Improve recreation opportunities along the City's Priority Greenway Plan

Policies and Actions:

1. Complete the priority greenway plan

Strategy: Improve connections to significant ecological resources

Policies and Actions:

1. Inventory potential access points to significant ecological resources

Strategy: Improve awareness for groundwater planning

Policies and Actions:

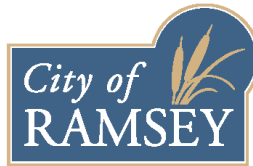
1. Create an outreach plan for groundwater planning

Strategy: Improve awareness for solid waste reduction

Policies and Actions:

1. Create an outreach plan for organics recycling





Chapter 06: Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Plan (MRCCA)



Introduction

Designated by Governor's Executive Order in the 1970s, the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) is a land corridor along the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area governed by special land planning requirements and land development regulations. These regulations, which are implemented through local MRCCA plans and ordinances, protect and preserve the natural, scenic, recreational, and transportation resources of this section of the Mississippi River. The MRCCA comprises 72 miles of river and 54,000 acres of surrounding land in 30 local jurisdictions.

Ramsey adopted its first Critical Area Plan in 1980. Ramsey adopted its first Critical Area Ordinance in 1985, and has processed several amendments since that date.

Ramsey has ensured that plan preparation has included extensive public engagement. In 2013, Ramsey hosted a series of public workshops on the topic, and maintains a contact database. [With the 2040 Comprehensive Plan update that included the updating of the MRCCA plan, the City has conducted the most extensive public engagement process to date for any of its Comprehensive Plan updates. Community engagement included both online and in person activities resulting in feedback from a wide variety of stakeholders, many of which had likely not previously participated in community planning efforts.](#)

In 1988, the U.S. Congress established the Mississippi River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), a unit of the National Park System. The MNRRA shares the same boundary as the MRCCA, and the park's Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), signed by the Governor and Secretary of the Interior, incorporates by reference the MRCCA program for land use management. Rather than institute a separate layer of federal regulations, the MNRRA largely relies on the MRCCA to manage land use within the park. This reliance establishes a unique partnership and framework for land use management amongst the local, state, and federal governments to protect the intrinsic resources of the Mississippi River Corridor.

Comprehensive Plan Strategic Imperatives

- A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth
- An Active Community (Parks, Recreation, and Open Space)
- A Connected Community (Transportation)
- A Positive Learning Environment

Initiatives for the Critical Area

- Protect and Restore Significant Ecological Resources
- Improve Water Quality
- Maintain and Improve Recreation Opportunities along and adjacent to the Mississippi River
- Improve Access to the Mississippi River
- Communicate the Benefits of Protection of Ecological Resources



Progress on MRCCA goals

The City of Ramsey has accomplished many goals described in previously approved plans including the Critical Area Plan.

1. Pearson Place Residential Development – a 12 unit large lot subdivision which is serviced by an extension of Bowers Drive was recently approved by the City. The City maintained large lot standards to improve pretreatment of runoff prior to flowing down to the Mississippi River.
2. Connexus Solar Garden – Connexus Energy recently developed a solar garden near the intersection of Riverdale Dr NW and Llama St NW. The solar garden had native pollinator plants established as ground cover providing additional water treatment benefits as well as increased habitat for area wildlife.
3. Riverwalk Village – a 14 unit single family residential development on the southeastern edge of the City will result in the removal of a former landfill and will have stormwater ponds constructed for additional pretreatment of runoff. The project received Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) funds from the Metropolitan Council to assist with the clean up costs.

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Districts

The City is not currently aware of any conflicts with future land use designations and the established purpose of the MRCCA districts.

River Neighborhood (CA-RN)

The river neighborhood district is characterized by primarily residential neighborhoods that are riparian or readily visible from the river or that abut riparian parkland. The district includes parks and open space, limited commercial development, marinas, and related land uses.

The river neighborhood district must be managed to maintain the character of the river corridor within the context of existing residential and related neighborhood development, and to protect and enhance habitat, parks and open space, public river corridor views, and scenic, natural, and historic areas. Minimizing erosion and the flow of untreated storm water into the river and enhancing habitat and shoreline habitat vegetation are priorities in the district.

Rural Open Space (CA-ROS)

The rural and open space district is characterized by rural and low-density development patterns and land uses, and includes land that is riparian or visible from the river, as well as large, undeveloped tracts of high ecological and scenic value, floodplain, and undeveloped islands. Many primary conservation areas exist in the district.

The rural open space district must be managed to sustain and restore the rural and natural character of the corridor and to protect and enhance habitat, parks and open space, public river corridor views, and scenic, natural, and historic areas.



Separated From River (CA-SR)

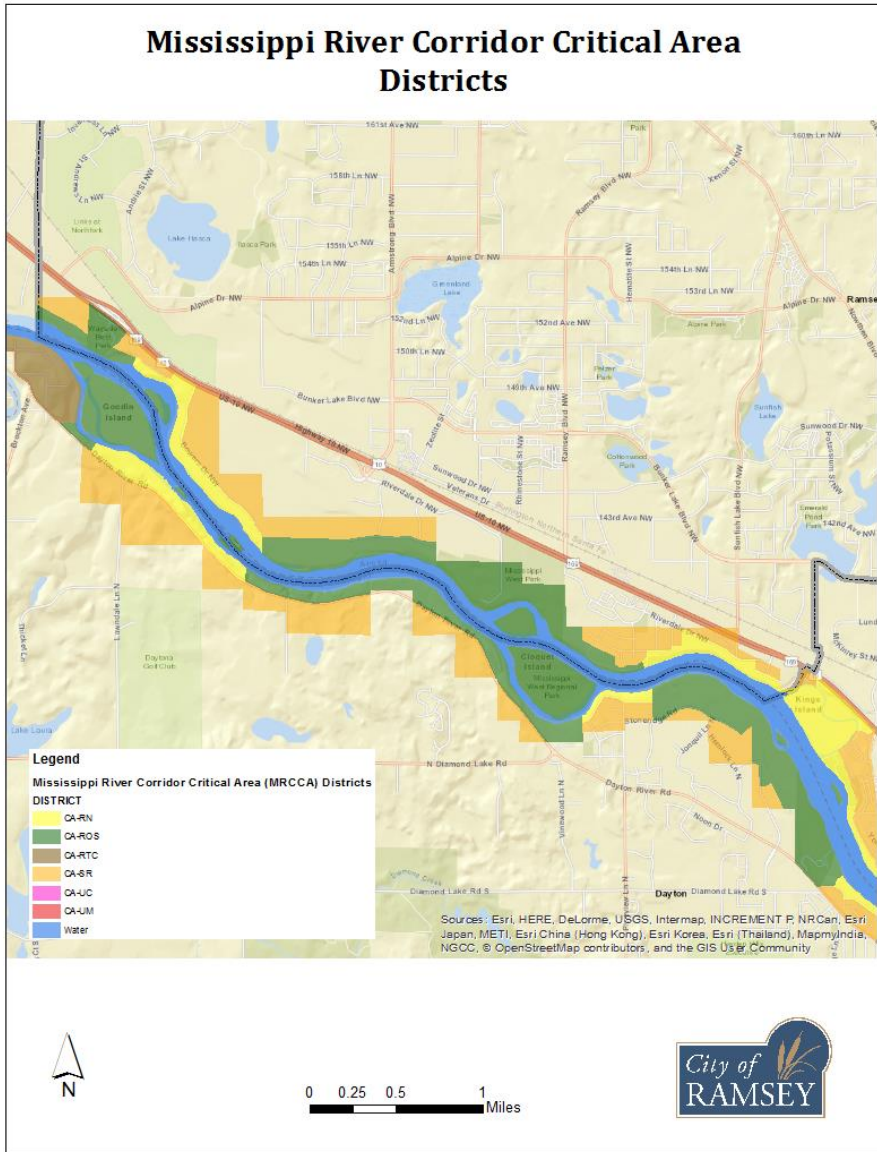
The separated from river district is characterized by its physical and visual distance from the Mississippi River. The district includes land separated from the river by distance, topography, development, or a transportation corridor. The land in this district is not readily visible from the Mississippi River.

The CA-SR district provides flexibility in managing development without negatively affecting the key resources and features of the river corridor. Minimizing negative impacts to primary conservation areas and minimizing erosion and flow of untreated storm water into the Mississippi River are priorities in the district.

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Figure 33: Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Districts



Primary Conservation Areas

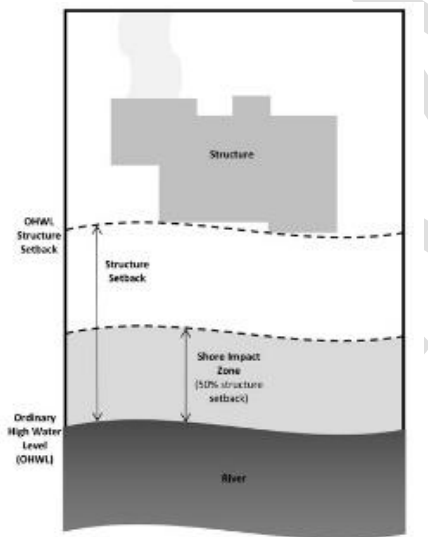
"Primary conservation areas" means key resources and features, including shore impact zones, bluff impact zones, floodplains, wetlands, gorges, areas of confluence with tributaries, natural drainage routes, unstable soils and bedrock, native plant communities, cultural and historic properties, significant existing vegetative stands, tree canopies, and other resources identified in local government plans.

General Overview and Description

The City recognizes bluffs, wetlands, and DNR identified native plant communities as primary conservation areas (PCAs) within the MRCCA boundary in the City. These areas are shown on Figures 35, 38, and 39. The City will strive to protect these areas from public and private development and land use activities. Generalized maps of the Primary Conservation Areas below are included in the text below. Larger, more detailed maps are included as an appendix. Detailed maps will be available upon request.

Shore Impact Zones

"Shore impact zone" means land located between the ordinary high water level of public waters and a line parallel to it at a setback of 50 percent of the required structure setback or, for areas in agricultural use, 50 feet landward of the ordinary high water level.



Floodplains and Wetlands

"Floodplain" means the areas adjoining a watercourse which has been or hereafter may be covered by the regional flood.

Confluence with Key Tributaries

There are no confluences with key tributaries within Ramsey.

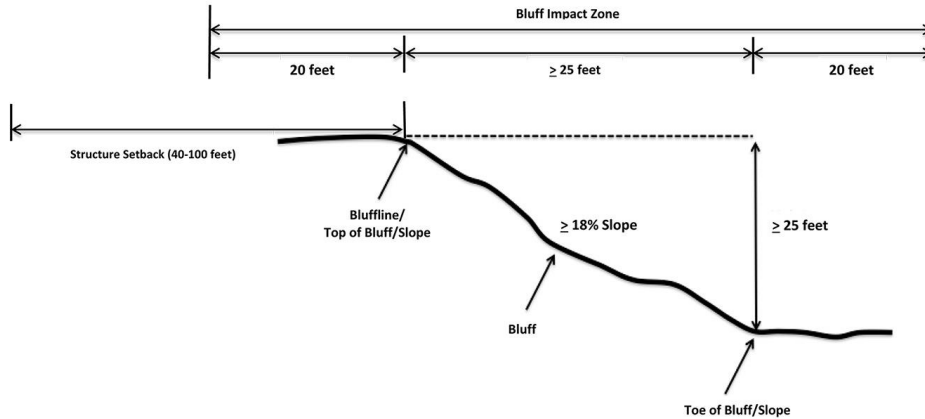


Natural Drainage Areas

The Critical Area Plan includes mapping of natural drainage areas that impact the Mississippi River.

Bluff Impact Zone

"Bluff impact zone" means the bluff and land within 20 feet of the bluff.



Native Plant Communities and Significant Existing Vegetative Stands

"Native plant community" means a plant community that has been identified as part of the Minnesota biological survey or biological survey issued or adopted by a local, state, or federal agency. Significant existing vegetation stands refers to vegetation considered 'significant'. The plant communities are significant based on their state of being largely intact and connected and contain a sufficient representation of the original native plant community. This vegetation provides high ecological value in addition to the water quality and scenic values of "natural vegetation".

Cultural & Historic Properties

"Historic property" means an archaeological site, standing structure, site, district, or other property that is:

- Listed in the National Register of Historic Places or the State Register of Historic Places or locally designated as a historic site under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 471;
- Determined to meet the criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places or the State Register of Historic Places; or
- An unplatted cemetery that falls under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 307, in consultation with the Office of the State Archeologist.

One area of cultural and historic significance is located in the corridor. It does not meet the definition above. The location of the first settlement in Ramsey is located within the corridor, originally known as Itasca Village. There are no remaining structures or assets from this original settlement.



Gorges

There are no gorges located in Ramsey.

Unstable Soils and Bedrock

There are significant areas of shoreline erosion located along Ramsey's Mississippi River Shoreline. This erosion is documented through a 2016 Anoka Conservation District Survey. The results of said survey are incorporated into this document by reference. Ramsey will be utilizing this information for education, outreach, and funding purposes to restore priority areas from further erosion.

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Figure 34: Shore Impact Zone Map



Figure 35: Floodplains and Wetlands

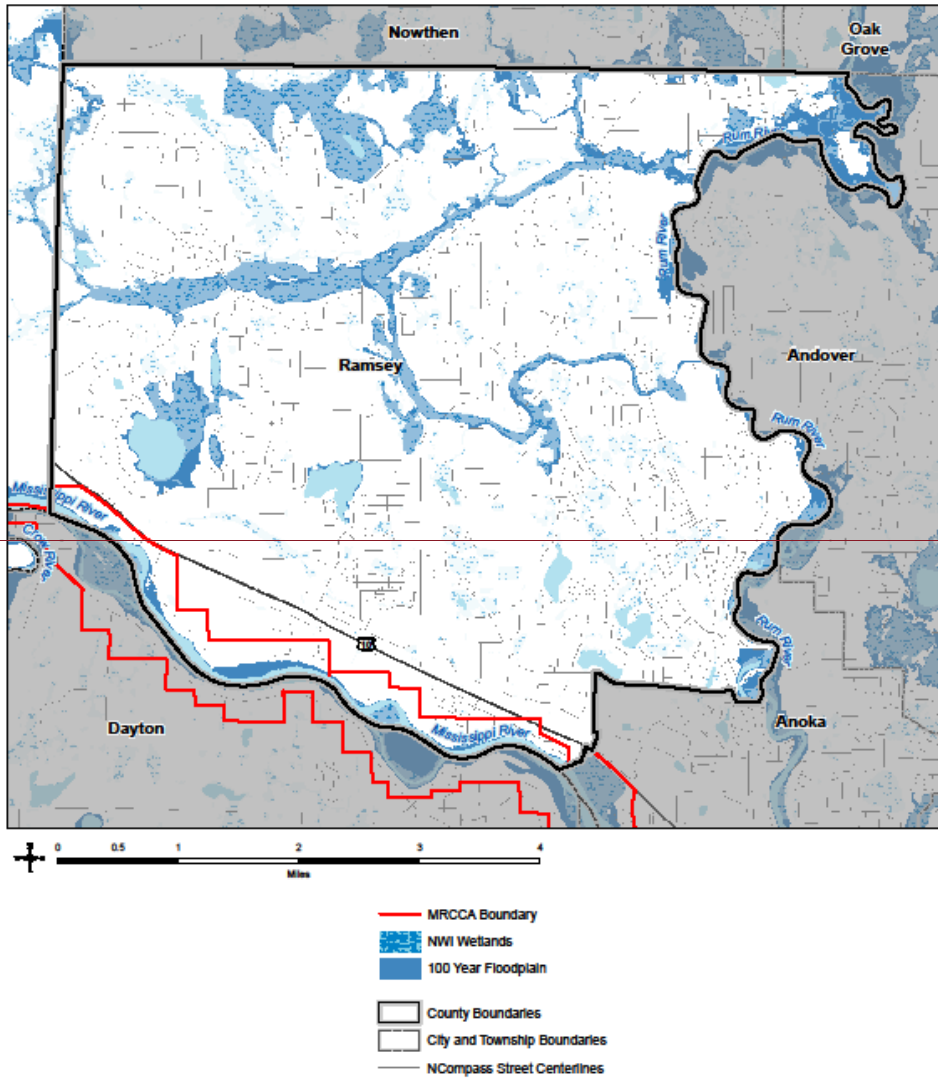
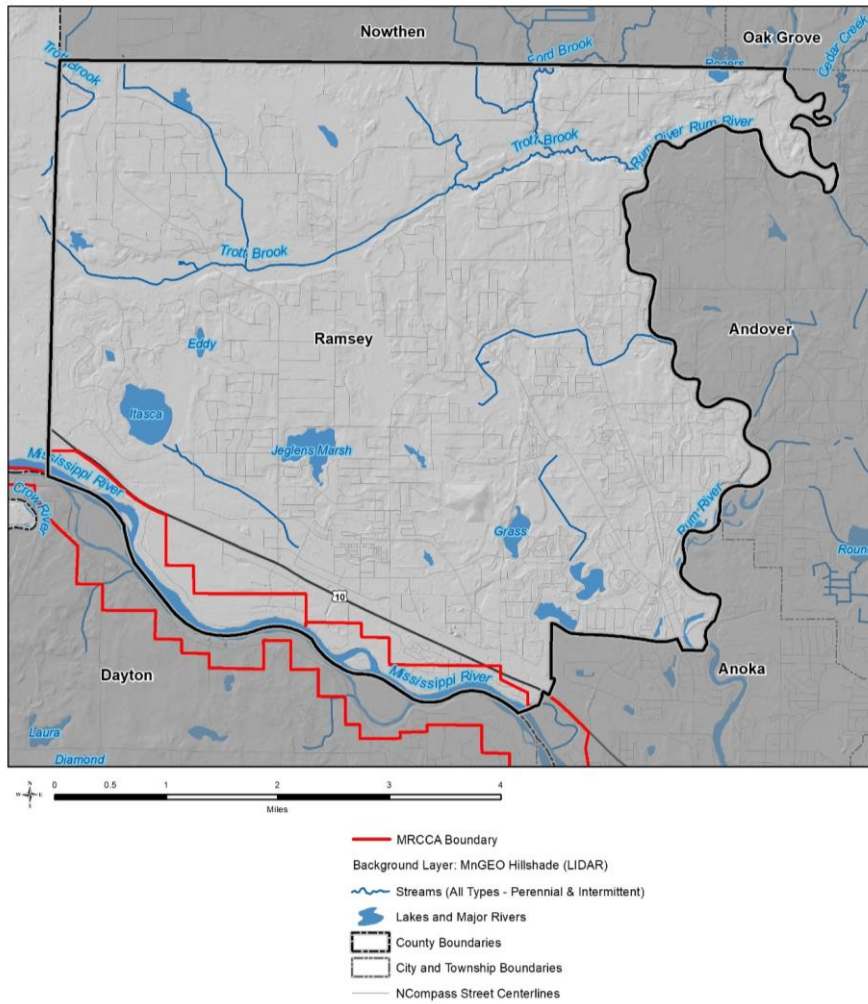


Figure 36: Natural Drainage Areas

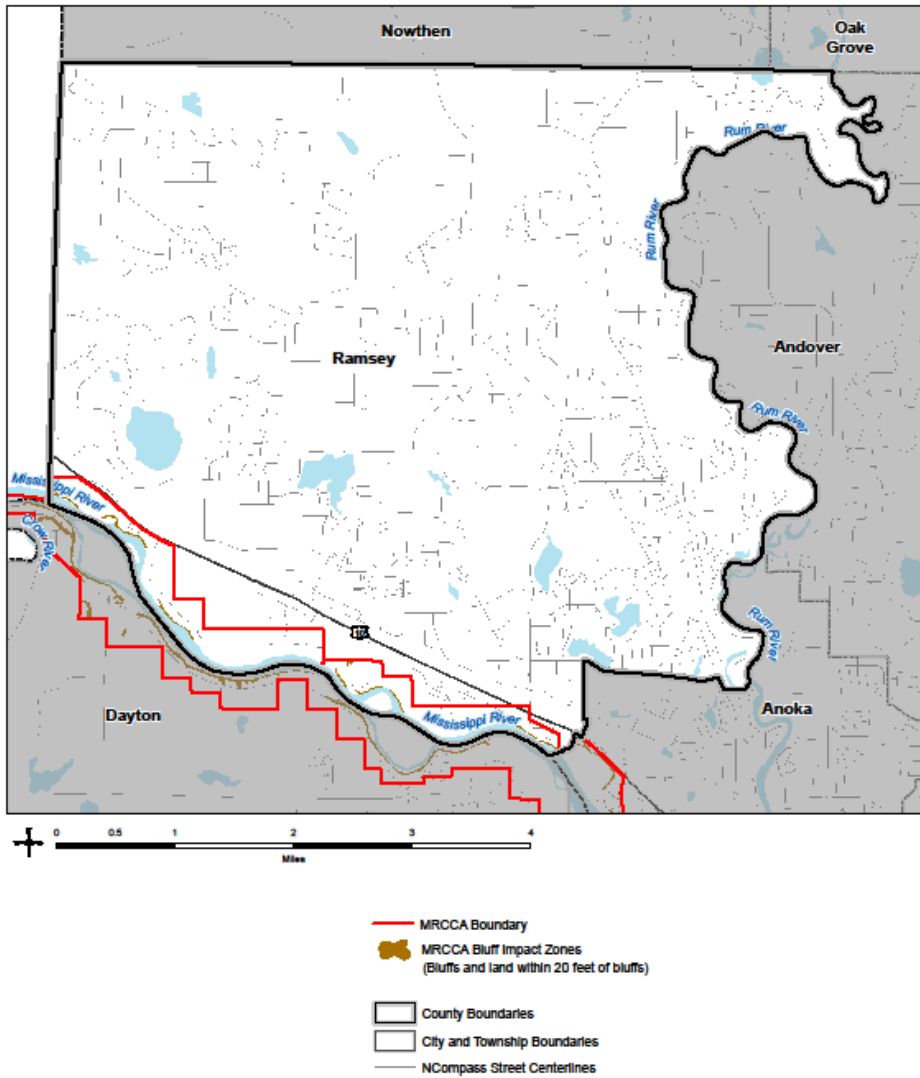
Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area - Major Natural Drainage Routes City of Ramsey, Anoka County



There are currently no natural drainage routes within the MRCCA.



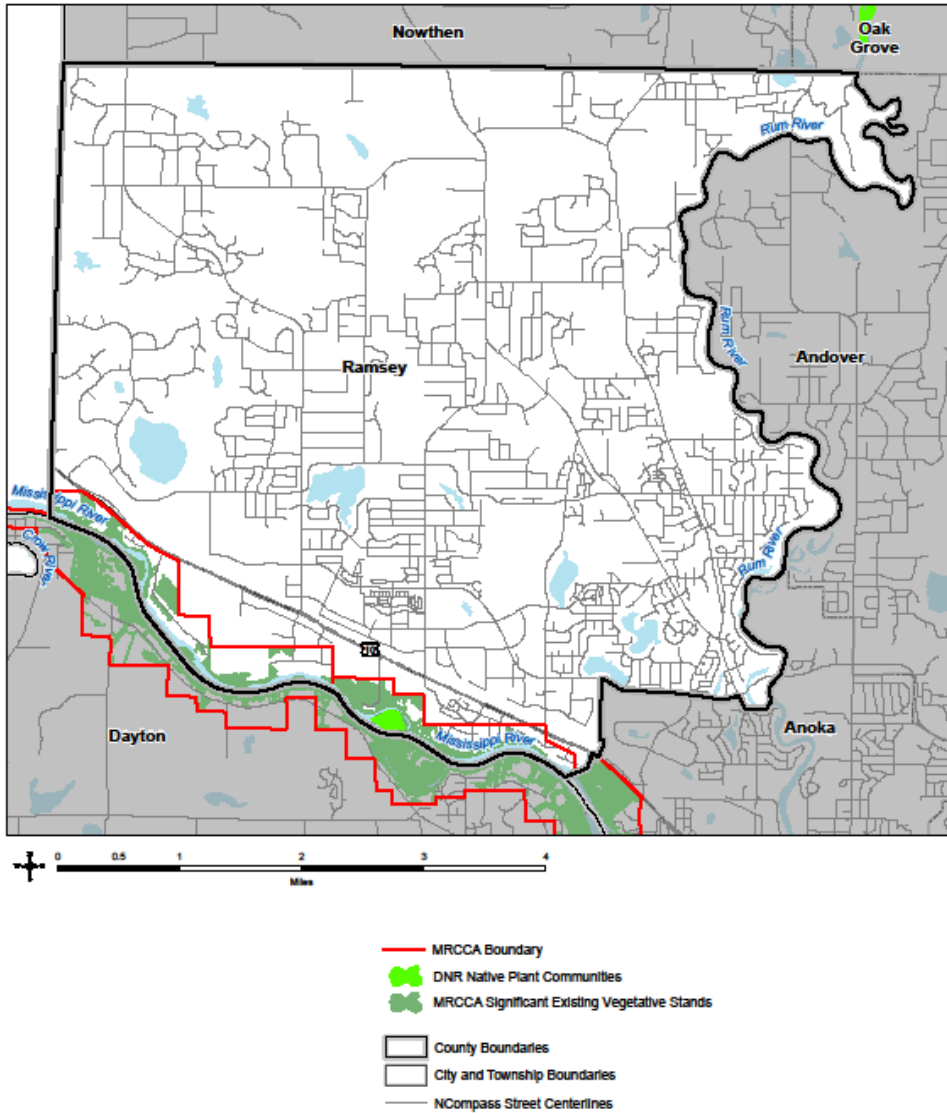
Figure 38: Bluffs and Bluff Impact Zones



Bluffs are located on both the City of Ramsey as well as City of Dayton sides of the river. These bluffs are visible from the adjacent communities and provide valuable scenic views due to the bluffs themselves as well as the vegetation which exists along the bluffs. These views are of scenic value to those on land as well as river users.



Figure 39: Native Plant Communities & Significant Existing Vegetative Stands



Public River Corridor Views

General Overview

The City of Ramsey is fortunate to have ~~a series of public locations~~ the Mississippi West Regional Park from which residents and visitors can view the Mississippi River. ~~Those locations~~ The location of this park is ~~are~~ shown on Map 40. A key component of the Critical Area Plan is to when possible to improve access to public river corridor views and protect the views of bluffs from the river.

Views Toward River from Public Places (PRCV)

Two views were identified by Staff as being key public river corridor views (PRCVs) which are showing below as well as the location of the PRCV mapped with the direction of the view included.



PRCV View 1

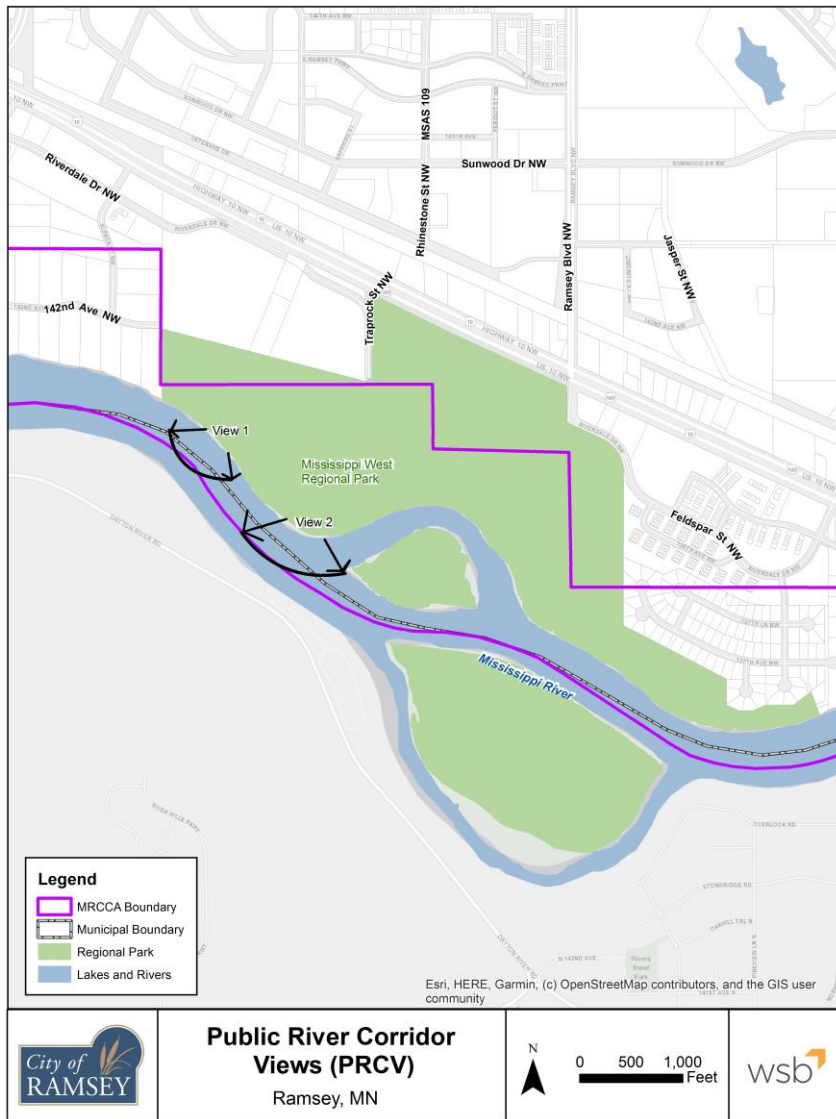


PRCV View 2

View 1 and 2 are deemed important PRCV's due to their direct pedestrian (view 1) and vehicular (view 2) access to the waterfront as well as existing dense vegetation at both sites. Loss of vegetation at either site may result in erosion that could reduce water quality in the area and thus degrade the overall aesthetic of the area.



Figure 40: Public River Corridor View Location



Priorities for Restoration

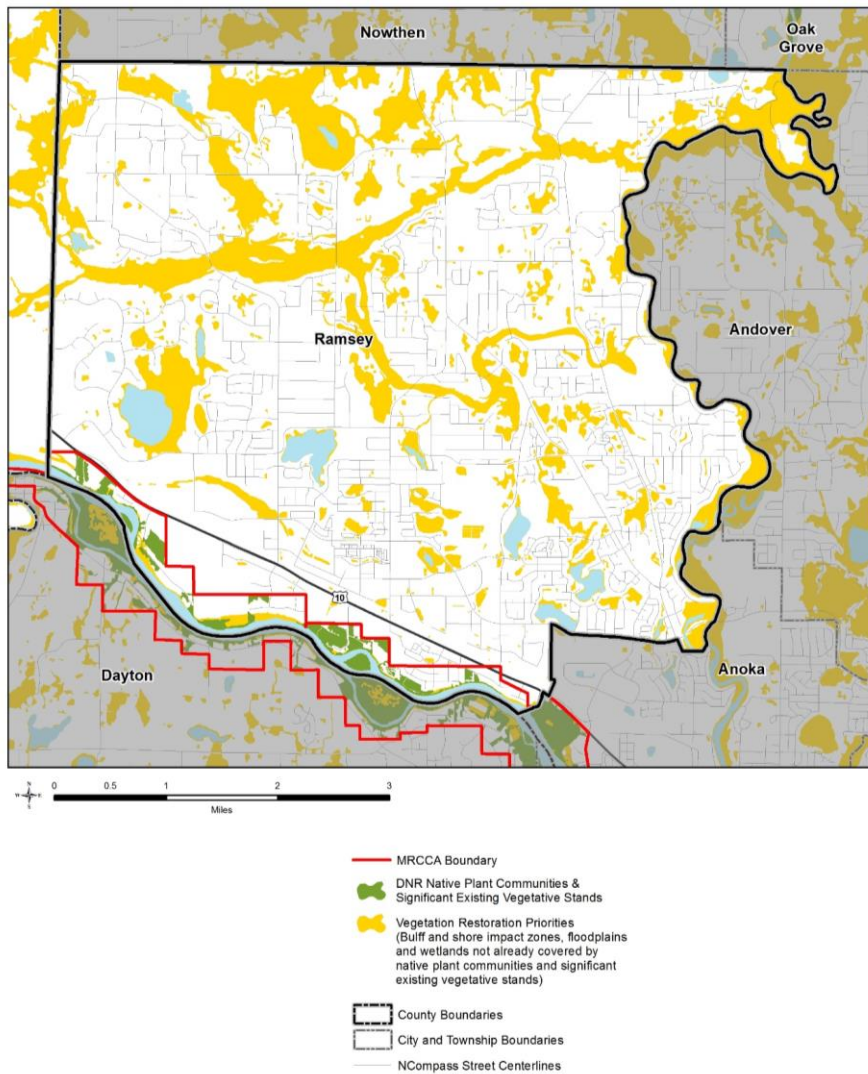
Ramsey's priority for restoration within the Corridor is protecting the Corridor from significant erosion as identified by the 2017 Anoka Conservation District Mississippi River Shoreline Inventory for Ramsey.

The City will work to make available the location of natural vegetation restoration priorities and the relevant ordinance requirements that apply to their property for project planning and permitting.

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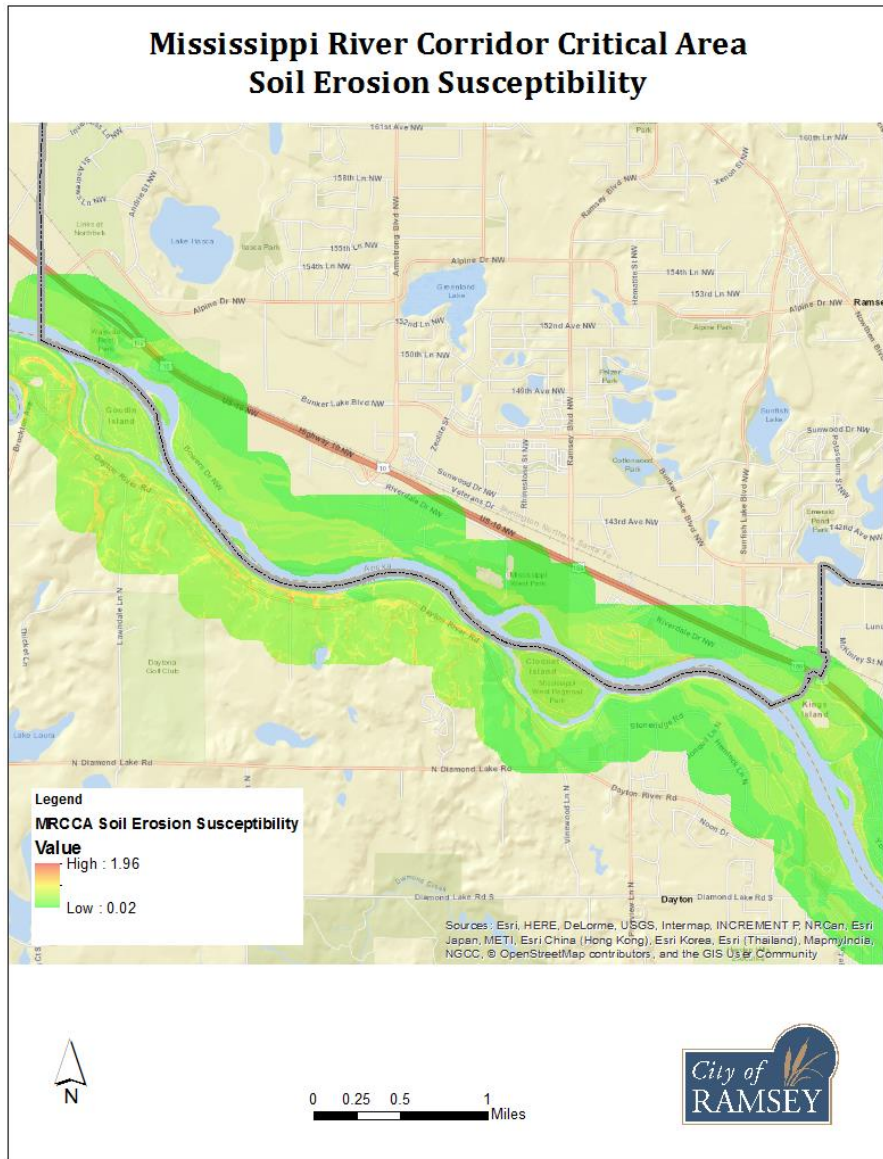
Figure 41: Vegetation Restoration Priorities
Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area - Vegetation Restoration Priorities
City of Ramsey, Anoka County



Vegetation restoration priorities are shore and bluff impact zones, floodplains and wetland that do not have native or natural vegetation cover and are susceptible to erosion or degradation because they are not stabilized with high quality vegetation. Restoration priorities are composed of both vegetation establishment as well as erosion and bank stabilization.



Figure 42: Soil Erosion Susceptibility



Those areas with higher erosion susceptibility are of increased importance for vegetation restoration and bank and slope stabilization as the likelihood of damage is higher due to the increase susceptibility of soil erosion in these areas.



Surface Water~~Water-Oriented~~ Uses

Water-Oriented Uses can have negative impacts on riverbank erosion. The City is aware that recreational boat uses have known impacts on the Coon Rapids Dam Pool. Currently there is a boat launch at the site of the planned Mississippi River West Regional Park. This is an important community asset for the purposes of public river access.

Open Space & Recreational Facilities

Existing Recreation Facilities

The Mississippi River Trail, Mississippi West Regional Park, and Riverdale Park are currently located within the Corridor.

Future Recreation Facilities

The future Mississippi West Regional Park is located within the Corridor. In addition, the future alignment of Central Anoka County Regional Trail connects to the Corridor. A future component of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail is a grade-separated pedestrian crossing over the BNSF/Northstar Commuter Rail Corridor and U.S. Highway 10, known as the Mississippi Skyway.

Water-Oriented~~Surface Water~~ Land Uses

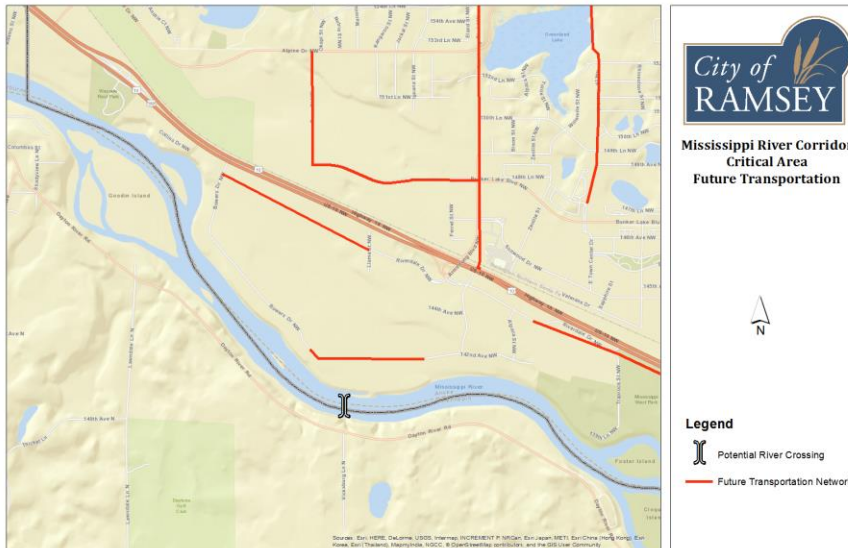
The City does not currently regulate any surface water use under Chapter 86B (MR 6110.3000 – 6110.3800).

Transportation & Public Utilities

An existing Connexus Energy Electric Transmission Line current crosses the Mississippi River connecting Ramsey and Dayton. Ramsey continues to plan for a future River Crossing between Ramsey and Dayton which is shown in Figure 23 in the Transportation chapter.

Figure 43: Mississippi River Bridge/Crossing





There are currently no electric power generating facilities installed within the MRCCA boundary. There is however a solar garden owned and operated by Connexus Energy just outside of the boundary. The City and will work with Connexus Energy to minimize the visual impact future transmission lines to the system would have on PCAs and PRCVs in the area. Solar power generating facilities are allowed as an accessory use in all city zoning districts. Ground mounted solar energy systems are required to comply with all building setbacks in the applicable zoning district. The height of ground mounted solar energy systems at maximum designed tilt shall not exceed the distance from the nearest property boundary or the maximum allowable building height for the applicable zoning district, whichever is more restrictive. Building mounted solar energy systems shall comply with the maximum allowable building height for the applicable zoning district. The limitations on height to be in conformance with height of other structures in the zoning district will limit the amount of impact a solar energy system could have on area PRCV's.

MRCCA Policies

Districts/Land Use

Policy 1: The City will implement the policies of the Critical Area by adopting the new MRCCA districts within our Zoning Code and amend the City's Zoning Map accordingly.

Policy 2: The City will protect native and existing vegetation during the development process and require restoration if any is removed by development. Priorities for restoration shall include stabilization of erodible soils, riparian buffers and bluffs or steep slopes visible from the river.

Policy 3: Identify and encourage connection of CA-SR district land to existing and planned parks and trails for Local Governing Units (LGUs) with developable land in CA-SR districts.



Policy 4: Encourage that land dedication requirements be used to acquire land suitable for public river access.

Policy 5: Guide land use and development consistent with management purpose of each district.

Policy 6: Amending existing or adopting new MRCCA ordinance overlay district compliant with the goals of the MRCCA Plan and Minnesota Rules, part 6106.0070, Subp. 5 – Content of Ordinances

Primary Conservation Areas

Policy 1: The City will encourage conservation subdivision design to protect Primary Conservation Areas.

Policy 2: Conservation Subdivision Design will be utilized to allow the clustering of lots in exchange for permanent protection of Primary Conservation Areas.

Policy 3: The City will continue its proactive approach to subdivision design by encouraging setbacks and adequate lot depth to preserve Primary Conservation Areas.

Policy 4: The City will support mitigation of impacts to PCAs through subdivisions/PUDs, variances, CUPs, and other permits.

Policy 5: The City will where possible and feasible restore previously removed native plant communities and natural vegetation in riparian areas a high priority during development.

Policy 6: The City will seek to establish permanent protection of PCAs through either public acquisition, conservation easement, or deed restrictions.

Policy 7: The City will seek to minimize impacts to PCAs from solar and wind generation facilities, public transportation facilities and public utilities.

Public River Corridor Views

Policy 1: The City will strive to work with applicable partners, especially Anoka County Parks, to improve access to Public River Corridor Views.

Policy 2: When feasible, the City will protect and minimize impacts to PRCVs from public and private development activities.

Policy 3: The City will protect and minimize impacts to PRCVs from public and private vegetation management activities.

Policy 4: The City will protect PRCVs located within the community and identified by other communities adjacent or across the river.

Policy 5: The City will seek to minimize impacts on PRCVs from solar and wind generation facilities, public transportation facilities and public utilities.

Restoration Priorities

Policy 1: The City will continue to implement pilot demonstration projects and incentives to encourage restoration of priority areas.

Policy 2: The City will seek opportunities to restore vegetation to protect and enhance PRCVs identified in this plan.



Policy 3: The City will seek opportunities to restore vegetation in restoration priority areas identified in this plan through the CUP, variance, vegetation permit and subdivision/PUD processes.

Policy 4: The City will work to sustain and enhance ecological functions (habitat value) during vegetation restorations.

Policy 5: The City will require that proposed development sites be evaluated for erosion prevention and bank and slope stabilization issues and require restoration as part of the development process.

Surface Water Uses

Policy 1: The City will continue to support Anoka County's operation of a Boat Launch along Traprock Street.

Policy 2: The City recognizes the Mississippi River as a "working river" that is important to the economy of the Twin Cities metropolitan area and the Midwest.

Policy 3: The City does not currently regulate surface water use under Minn. Statute, Chapter 86B and does not intend to assume that responsibility.

Policy 4: Where applicable, the City will seek to balance commercial and recreational surface water uses.

Water Oriented Uses

Policy 1: The City will work to minimize potential conflicts of water-oriented uses with other land uses.

Policy 2: While there are currently no existing water-oriented uses, the City will coordinate with any future water-oriented uses within the MRCCA boundary.

Water-Oriented Use

There are no private Water-Oriented Uses planned along the shoreline of the Mississippi River. However, the Mississippi West Regional Park will be a primary access to encourage interaction with the Mississippi River. There is also a future local park planned west of Mississippi West Regional park. The location of this water-oriented use is identified as "view 2" on the Public River Corridor View figure.

Open Space & Recreation Facilities

Ramsey will continue to support planning and implementation for Mississippi West. Ramsey will continue to own and maintain Riverdale Park. Ramsey will continue to plan for a new municipal park along the Mississippi River between the Alpaca Estates and Bowers neighborhoods.

Transportation & Public Utilities

Ramsey will continue to support future planning for the future Mississippi River Crossing to the City of Dayton in Hennepin County.

Ramsey will continue to support Connexus Energy's electric transmission line across the Mississippi River to the City of Dayton.

Natural Resources Planning

Ramsey undertook two (2) comprehensive inventories in the mid-2000s; a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and a Wetland Inventory. Both of these data sets are referenced any time a new



development is proposed. These data sets help inform Ramsey if there are significant and/or high value natural resources within a development site that may warrant greater protections. While both provide valuable insight, Ramsey acknowledges that both require periodic updates to ensure that the data is accurate and relevant. There has been no specific timeframe identified for updates to either, but for this data to remain useful, they should be revisited no less than every ten (10) to fifteen (15) years. This may be useful as Ramsey continues to consider partnering with other agencies, especially as it relates to shoreline stabilization efforts.

City Code Amendments

In order to properly administer this amended plan, the City will need to make certain amendments to City Code. These amendments include but are not necessarily limited to the following.

- Establish General Land Use Review Procedures.
- Develop administrative procedures for shoreline stabilization.
- Establish a vegetation permitting process that includes permit review procedures to ensure consideration of restoration priorities identified in this plan in permit issuance, as well as standard conditions requiring vegetation restoration for those priority areas.
- Establish process for evaluating priorities for natural vegetation restoration, erosion prevention and bank and slope stabilization, or other restoration priorities identified in this plan in CUP, variances and subdivision/PUD processes.
- Develop visual analysis approach for CUPs for additional height in the RTC and UM districts (if applicable), as well as for proposed PUDs and variances.
- Develop a system for reviewing, tracking, and monitoring open space required as part of the subdivision process.



Critical Area Implementation Plan

Strategy: Protect and Restore Significant Ecological Resources

- Update Zoning Code to reflect Amended Plan
- Establish a plan to reduce erosion, protect canopy coverage, protect significant vegetative areas, and encourage pollinator-friendly landscapes
- Ensure that information on the location of PRCVs is readily available to property owners to understand how PRCV-relevant ordinance requirements, such as vegetation management and land alteration permits, apply to their property for project planning and permitting.
- Actively communicate with other communities to protect views they have identified in your community that are valuable, and vice versa
- Establish procedures for processing applications with potential impacts to PRCVs including
 - Identifying the information that must be submitted and how it will be evaluated
 - Determining appropriate mitigation procedures/methods for variances and CUPs

Strategy: Improve Water Quality

- Establish a plan to reduce the amount of sediment and phosphorus entering the river.

Strategy: Maintain and Improve Recreation Opportunities along and adjacent to the Mississippi River

- Prioritize areas for acquisition to increase opportunities to access the river
- Coordinate jurisdictional planning efforts

Strategy: Improve Access to the Mississippi River

- Encourage creation, connection, and maintenance of open space, recreational facilities, including public access to the river
- Create and maintain access facilities for public access
- Complete the Central Anoka County Regional Trail Connection
- Update the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to reflect the amended Plan
- Update Surface Water Use Regulations
- Provide Guidance to Private Property Owners for Private Accesses

Strategy: Communicate the Benefits of Protection of Ecological Resources

- Create Informational Packets that provide the location of PCAs and information for property owners to understand how PCA-relevant ordinance requirements, such as vegetation management and land alteration permits apply to their property for project planning and permitting
- Establish procedures and criteria for processing applications with potential impacts to PCA's including:
 - Identify what information must be submitted for projects within the MRCCA boundary and the way in which it will be evaluated
 - Determine appropriate mitigation procedures/methods for variances and CUPs
 - Establish evaluation criteria for protecting PCAs when a development site contains multiple types of PCAs and the total area of PCAs exceed the required set aside percentages



- Develop administrative procedures for integrating DNR and local permitting of riprap, walls and other hard armoring.
- Develop a Communications Plan
- Create a new Critical Area Webpage
- Create a Signage Package for Public Spaces
- Provide information on the location of natural vegetation restoration priorities to property owners to help them understand how relevant ordinance requirements apply to their property for project planning and permitting.

Strategy: Prioritize Areas of Preservation

- Focus efforts on stabilizing erosion at Mississippi West Regional Park
- Work collaboratively with owners of undeveloped land with shoreline to partner of preservation and flexibility in subdivision design

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Chapter 07: Parks and Recreation Plan



Parks and Recreation Goals and Strategies

- Prioritize desired recreation amenities with goal for financial stability in complete the Master Park and Recreation Plan.
- Preserve and enhance continuous open space corridors.
- Balance a variety of smaller neighborhood parks and larger community parks.
- Expand opportunities for community recreation programming.
- Expand recreation opportunities for aging population.
- Ensure equitable access to recreation programs and facilities.
- Ensure connected regional and local parks and open spaces.
- Coordinated planning efforts across multiple jurisdictions.
- Maximize joint use facilities and recreation opportunities.
- Strengthen relationships with local youth organizations.
- Prioritize desired recreation amenities with goal for financial stability in complete the Master Park and Recreation Plan.

Parks and Recreation Introduction

Ramsey recognizes parks, trails, and natural open spaces as vital to the quality of life and in many ways define the community. In some ways, Ramsey's park system emerged from the conversion of agricultural land to suburban in the 1970's with small park areas—often just open space, dedicated with these subdivisions. Ramsey created its first prominent park in the early 1980's, largely to meet the demand for youth athletics' play fields. Originally envisioned as a community park, Central Park serves as our flagship park. In the 1990's trails were added to Ramsey's landscape—and these were embraced every bit as much as parks. Citywide, the *value* of parks, trails and open space continues to grow, mirroring the increasing population, and corresponding with the conversion of open space to residential uses.

Taking advantage of its unique geography, cherished natural resources, and a diversity of recreational venues, while responding to its history and recognized rural character, are both determinants and opportunities for future public realm investments in the community. The Public Realm is what gives cities and neighborhoods their identity—typically including streets, parks, plazas, trails and other amenities. This network of connected spaces supports a host of broader city goals, sets the stage for ongoing quality development, and at the same time; promotes Community Parks and Trails, Regional Parks and The COR, to become a vibrant, dynamic, must-experience destinations.

Remaking infrastructure (including public space), as Ramsey develops a stewardship plan for a three decade-old 'built' park system, invites an opportunity to promote innovative design strategies that embrace the challenges of a growing city. Ramsey also has a bounty of natural resources to build upon, as in the instance of one of the most renowned rivers in the world. Indeed, both the Mississippi River and Rum River are significant water resources, and both part of the State's Wild and Scenic Rivers system that literally define the borders of the community. These two rivers are also state designated canoe routes, or recreational water trails—reconnecting residents through parks and trails, connects us to our past—as well as our future.



Another relevant stream is Trott Brook with its associated wetlands and uplands, representing a natural greenway spanning the northern 1/3rd of the city. Ramsey by area is also more than 17% wetlands of varying types and classes. Of the many wetland complexes, some have valuable oak and other forested areas in association, providing people opportunities to both live and recreate in these natural settings. These layers of habitat are valuable vestiges for the wildlife that residents embrace and enjoy. The greenway system referred to as the Circle of Ramsey. Trott Brook is the primary element and will inspire people to move within their community and will help restore ecological connectivity at the same time.

Exploring opportunities to reconnect all these valuable resources, to re-establish the continuity, functionality and beauty of these systems through a citywide greenway will serve as an expression of Ramsey's history, physical character and community identity.

People also want safe and enjoyable places that meet a range of recreational needs, providing both indoor/outdoor venues, supporting programmed or spontaneous activities. However, Ramsey will not be 'locked in' to an auto-centric environment as the only means to access parks and destinations, but rather, view the opportunity when thinking about parks and the public realm to creating a community that invites bicycling and pedestrians, to experience the city via greenways that connect neighborhoods, amenities and destinations.

Healthy, thriving cities invariably contain significant civic components that celebrate the "publicness" of place—yielding measurable returns; economic, environmental, and social—this Comprehensive Plan highlights the investments in the Park, Trail, and Recreation and Open Space system that will pay dividends for generations to come.

2030 Plan Accomplishments

The Comprehensive Plan is an important document that establishes a vision for the community that stakeholders can rely upon. The Comprehensive Plan is the result of commitment policy makers as well as engagement and participation by the community. Only true priorities make it into the Plan. The goals and strategies identified become the City's work plan and focus for the coming years. The following are a sampling of completed goals and strategies from the Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Chapter of the 2030 Plan.

'Establish a regional trail along the Mississippi River'

Status: The City of Ramsey has completed construction of the Mississippi River Trail from King's Island in the City of Anoka to city limits at the border with Elk River.

'Improve coordination of park and trail planning within City and adjacent communities'

Status: Ramsey's Council meets with neighboring Councils regularly, which has resulted in collaboration on the above trail project with the City of Anoka.

'Design for connectivity with local and regional parks'

Status: The concept for the Circle of Ramsey emerged to address this goal with much of the greenway that encircles the community, now in place today.



'Develop a Trott Brook Trail Corridor'

Status: A quarter mile long boardwalk that will be constructed in the Spring of 2018, will complete the Trott Brook Trail between Variolite Street and Nowthen Boulevard.

'Explore providing pedestrian access from the Mississippi River to the north side of Highway 10'

Status: The skyway over Veteran's Drive was completed with the 2012 construction of the Northstar Rail Station. More recently a private landowner granted the 'touchdown' location (valued at \$100,000) for the proposed pedestrian bridge referred to as the Mississippi Skyway. In 2014, the City secured \$490,000 from the National Park Service, and completed the Final Plans and Specifications—for a project that is shovel ready.

'Minimize at-grade crossings of trails and roads and other interactions between trail users and automobiles, with underpasses or overpasses'

Status: See above. In addition to the underpass constructed below T.H #47 with the second phase of Elmcrest Park's development—a realignment of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail is underway to be routed from Ramsey Boulevard, through The COR and over both the railroad tracks and Hwy #10.

'Seek out alliances and partnerships with non-profit and governmental agencies to assist in securing funding and other resources that will assist in implementing the park and trail plan'

Status: Ramsey has secured well in excess of \$2 million dollars from governmental agencies for park and trail construction in recent years. In 2017, an alliance with the Mississippi River Park Connection (a non-profit) and Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI) funded a new recreational opportunity for Ramsey, canoe campsites on the Mississippi River. A partnership with Anoka County and Ramsey Parks, MN DNR and Conservation Corps Minnesota implemented this unique amenity.

'Work with the schools and community organizations to plan for athletic fields and facilities that will accommodate the growing community'

Status: The City is working closely with the School District #11 on the new elementary school (2018-19 construction) which will have several outdoor facilities, as well as trail connections to the adjoining neighborhoods. Additionally, the City and the Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association have a strong partnership in both planning for and renovating and developing fields and facilities to meet increasing demands.

'Study the need for a Community Center that offers a variety of recreational uses for all age groups'

Status: Through the Resilient Communities Program partnership with the University of Minnesota, the City is organizing a number of different evaluations on how a Community Center may be structured to meet the future needs of residents. These studies will inform City Council on the way forward, with this discussion expected to occur later in 2018.



Public Engagement

Since the early 1990s, Ramsey has engaged residents purposely and consciously in their neighborhood park planning with good success. This approach creates ownership in their public spaces. More recently, the City of Ramsey has undertaken a variety of engagement efforts, citywide that directly and indirectly affect decision making about the park system. The responses to all those efforts have highlighted the importance of parks, recreation, trails, and open space on the quality of life in Ramsey. Access to parks and trails, coupled with high-quality open space—even if only visually, evokes a sense of rural character and is a significant reason that people choose to live and invest in the community and thus, parks, trails greenways should remain a priority for on-going municipal investment.

As part of the specific engagement effort for this Comprehensive Plan Update, the City of Ramsey has held several meetings and workshops, along with other engagement tools. Specifically, we have heard Ramsey should:

- Prioritize preservation along Trott Brook.
- Begin addressing reconstruction of aging/existing parks.
- Develop a plan for filling in trail gaps in the community—especially in the northern tier of the community, and along arterial roadways.
- Find a balance in investment between larger Community Parks and Neighborhood Parks.
 - A few of our newer subdivisions are asking for parks to be included within their new neighborhood.
 - Many existing neighborhoods desire updating of play structures—some less than 15 years old, some exceedingly beyond their useful life.
- Preserve open space along the Mississippi River as a priority.
- Focus new park efforts on
 - Future Community Park #6 (north central portions of the city)
 - The COR (at the top of the list is a splash pad/water recreation)
 - Lake Itasca Park (natural resource-based development, lake access and the proposed Lake Itasca Greenway—connecting The COR)

There were related comments with more of a focus on Ramsey’s ecological resources, such as “Protect Mississippi River and Rum River from shoreline erosion,” and those comments are included in Ramsey’s Natural Resources Plan.

Existing Parks System

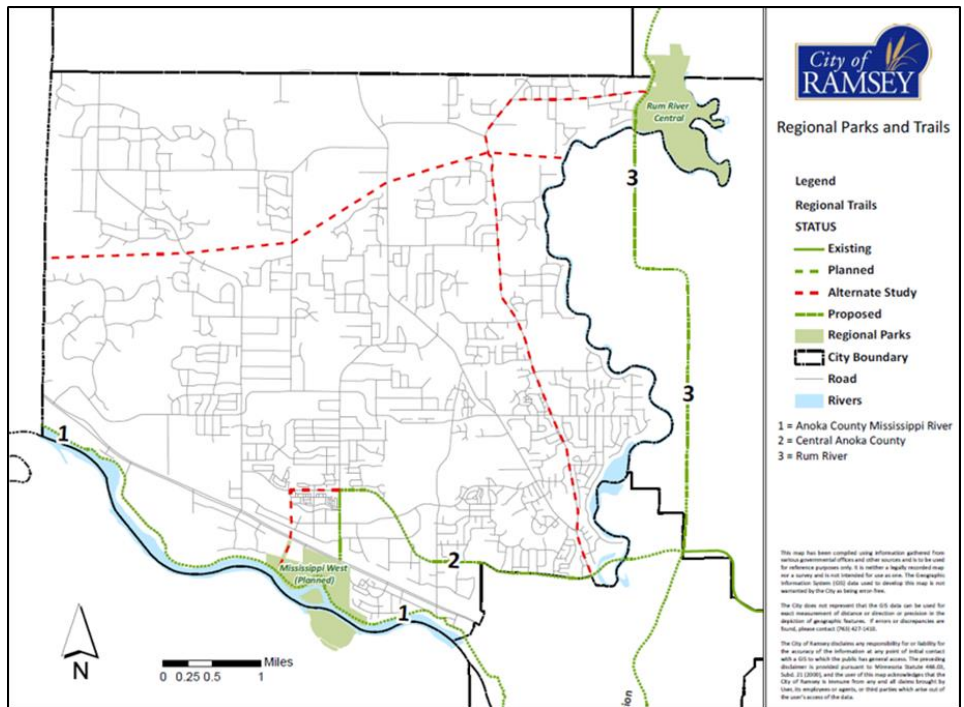
Regional Parks

There are two (2) Regional Parks and two (2) Regional Trails in Ramsey.

- Central Anoka County Regional Trail
- Mississippi River Regional Trail
- Mississippi West Regional Park
- Rum River Central Regional Park

Figure 44: Regional Parks and trails





The City of Ramsey is unique and fortunate in that it has two county parks within its boundaries that are a part of the Metropolitan Council’s regional system. Rum River Central Park is 434 acres, 304 acres of which are in the City of Ramsey (the remaining is in the City of Oak Grove) and occupies the northeast corner of the city.

Mississippi West Regional Park

Mississippi West Park includes bluffs, wooded areas and two islands on the Mississippi River. The 273-acre park includes a small boat landing and shore fishing, and, in the Fall of 2017, canoe campsites were established on the islands—an amenity that is rare in the Metropolitan area—and one that provides additional recreational access to the most renowned river in the nation. The campsites required close coordination between the City, County and the MN DNR, and are an example of the success of inter-jurisdictional cooperation and planning.

Mississippi River Regional Trail

Coursing along America’s most renowned river, the Mississippi River Trail winds its way from the headwaters within Lake Itasca State Park in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. A 3,000-mile system of bicycle-friendly roads and multi-use pathways, the Mississippi River Trail is referred to as a "string of pearls" connecting ten states, the cities of Ramsey, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Memphis, New Orleans, and myriad towns between.



In addition to being a Regional Trail within the Twin Cities metro, this trail is also United States Bikeway #45 within the entirety of Minnesota—connecting 700 miles of existing shouldered highways, low-use roads and off-road paths for bicyclists. While in place in Minnesota, southern states are actively constructing and identifying additional routes. Once complete, USBR 45 will continue south along the Mississippi River to Louisiana—then the U.S. Bicycle Route System will encompass more than 50,000 miles of riding connected to Ramsey.

A key improvement benefitting the utility and safe access to the Mississippi River Regional Trail in Ramsey, will be the completion of the pedestrian bridge over Hwy #10 discussed below.

Wayside Rest

In addition, the aforementioned county facilities, Ramsey also benefits from the Mn/DOT Wayside Rest between Highway 10 and the Mississippi River in western Ramsey that has visitor contact building with restrooms, canoe access and picnic facilities. This site serves as a trailhead for the Mississippi River Trail that traverses from the Headwaters in Minnesota, through 10 states to New Orleans.

Local Parks

The City of Ramsey is approximately 29 square miles in area, has a population of approximately 23,500, and is fortunate to be known for its natural resources. More than half of the City borders the Rum and Mississippi Rivers, and over 15% of its area is protected wetlands.

Establishing parks and creating quality recreational and open space opportunities remains a high priority for the City. There are approximately 500 acres of existing municipal parkland and two regional parks with varying amenities, creating a comprehensive system with many diverse opportunities to recreate and enjoy the natural environment.

Other Recreation Opportunities

Ramsey is also home to a variety of other unique recreation amenities.

- Game Fair
- Rum River Hills Golf Course
- Rum River Scout Camp (Boy Scouts of America)
- The Links at Northfork Golf Course
- Wayside Rest (State of Minnesota)

Planned Park System

Recreation Districts

Most residents cherish their park system. Given the choice, most would like more parks, especially near their homes. However, financial priorities continue to challenge city leadership to build and manage a park system that meets those desires yet meet the financial obligations to build and maintain these improvements. Currently, the overall amount of acreage devoted to Ramsey's park and open space system is over 1,800 acres, or approximately 10% of the of the City's 28 square miles. Given this large available area, the focus is on using these spaces wisely and connecting them effectively.



The gap between the desire for more parks and the stark reality of limited annual maintenance funding calls for a strategy to plan a system of interconnected parks and trails distributed reasonably and equitably throughout the community. Ramsey can achieve this goal by viewing Ramsey's park system as divided into ten 'Recreation Districts.' These districts are delineated by major roadways or other barriers and provide a means for more effective planning in determining future park needs at the scale of larger groups of neighborhoods (see map below).

A broad overview of the existing park system in Ramsey reveals a number of small, underutilized park spaces scattered throughout rural areas of the community. These low-density (or large lot) developments do not support high use of a neighborhood park system and thus can lead to inefficiencies. Larger scale community parks, which would provide park and recreation opportunities not available within private yards or large lots, would prove a more effective and efficient use of a park and recreation system for these areas, and at the same time serve both rural and urban areas of Ramsey—especially if well connected by trails or greenways.

It should be clarified that these Recreation Districts are not only a planning tool, but are an organizing structure of aggregating neighborhoods in order to interconnect them with the 'Circle of Ramsey' greenway. This greenway encircles the community, while connecting each Recreation District to each other, as well as to destinations like retail areas, schools, and workplaces.

Using the structure of the Recreation Districts, it is evident that there are relatively few developed neighborhood parks in the northern third of the city. This, coupled with the need for additional spaces for a growing youth athletic program, suggests the need for a sixth community park in the north central part of the city. The remaining major emphases in the rural area of Ramsey should be, first, to provide trail connections to connect people to larger park facilities and destinations such as Central Park, Elmcrest, and Rum River Central Regional Park and, second, to preserve open space corridors consistent with a more rural land use. This approach is also consistent with the refrain heard throughout the public engagement process of the Comprehensive Plan: strive to find the "balance of rural and urban character."

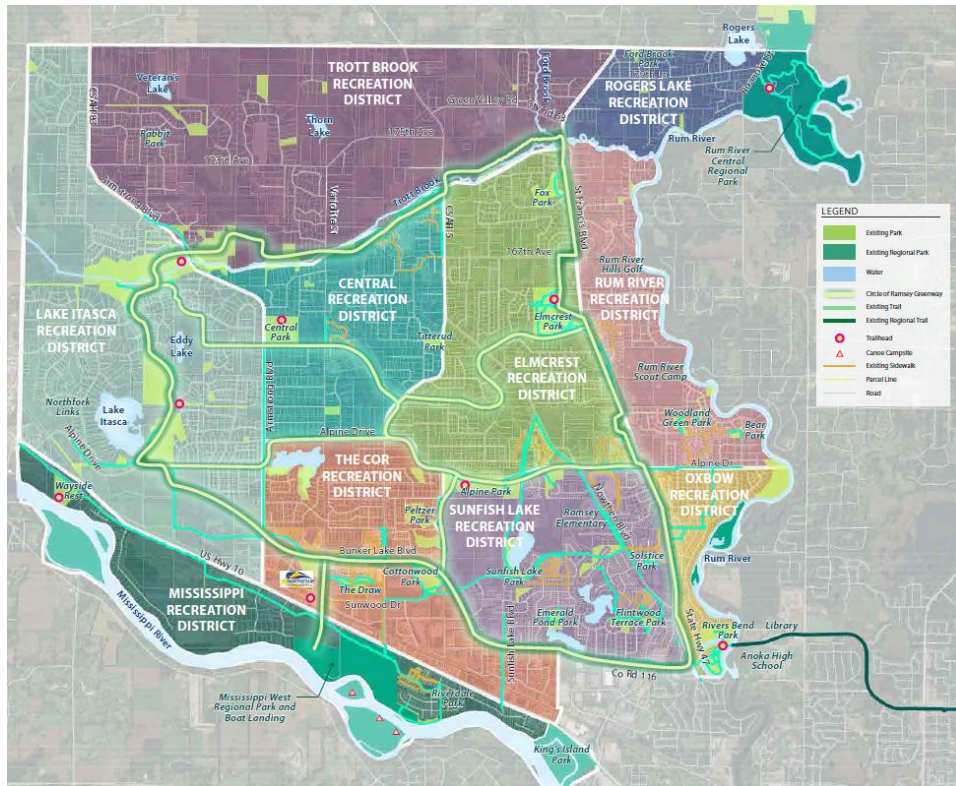
In urban districts, this same approach is not effective. Higher density development demands more parks that are within walking distance of homes and provide a greater variety of activities. It would be prudent to start more detailed planning for the provision of neighborhood parks in future urban areas as well as looking to fill gaps in existing urban developed areas. As traffic patterns become denser within the urban areas, more neighborhood barriers may occur and further accentuate the need for more neighborhood park facilities. Trail, sidewalk, and greenway development is a significant element of future park planning to connect residents to the places they work, shop, and recreate. Therefore, the City must continue installing paved trails or sidewalks along all collector streets concurrent with their construction and enhance intersections with pedestrian-friendly treatments in the more urban areas.

In terms of significant outdoor recreation available from the private sector, Ramsey has two 18-hole golf courses open to the public; the Links at Northfork located in northwest of Lake Itasca and Rum River Hills Golf Course to the east, adjacent to the river at the 167th Avenue alignment. An additional privately-owned outdoor recreation facility is the 160-acre Boy Scouts of America site along the Rum River. Upon request, this site is open to the public. Recreational camping and



outdoor activities for scouts are available, and the site serves as an area of important wildlife habitat along the river. If the Owner ever proposes this site for development, Ramsey proposes that a portion of the Scout camp along the Rum River to become a municipal park with access to the river.

Figure 45: Recreation Districts



Park Types and Classifications

Community Park

A Community Park is generally defined as a larger park (usually more than 40 acres) serving multiple neighborhoods, enhanced amenities, and with trail connections to the large area. Examples include Alpine Park, Central Park, Rivers' Bend, and Elmcrest Park.

Neighborhood Park

A Neighborhood Park is generally defined as a smaller park serving mainly an individual neighborhood, or a group of neighborhoods. Neighborhood Parks generally have less amenities.

Future Improvements

Existing Park Replacement Plan

Ramsey heard throughout the Comprehensive Plan public engagement process a desire to reinvest in existing park spaces. Through the Parks System Plan, and the associated Capital Improvements Plan, Ramsey will identify and prioritize park, trails, and open spaces in need of reinvestment.

New Park Improvements

A number of areas are planned for future expansion and improvements. The key improvements in the current plan include.

- Circle of Ramsey
- Community Center
- Community Park #6
- Lake Itasca Park
- The COR



Potential Regional Trail and Regional Trail Search Corridor Realignments.

Ramsey requests an analysis of multiple regional trail corridors for alternate alignment as part of the next regional planning cycle. These corridors include the following.

- Central Anoka County Regional Trail
- Rum River Regional Trail
- Regional Trail Search Corridor (Trott Brook Greenway)

Rum River Regional Trail

Rum River Regional Trail - Existing Planned Alignment

The exhibit below identifies the proposed Rum River Regional Trail as number 3 between the Central Anoka County Trail (at Bunker Lake Boulevard) and Rum River Central Park. None of the trail is currently in place. Ramsey assumes that construction of the trail would occur in existing right-of-way.

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Figure 46: Destinations along a Potential Realigned Rum River Regional Trail

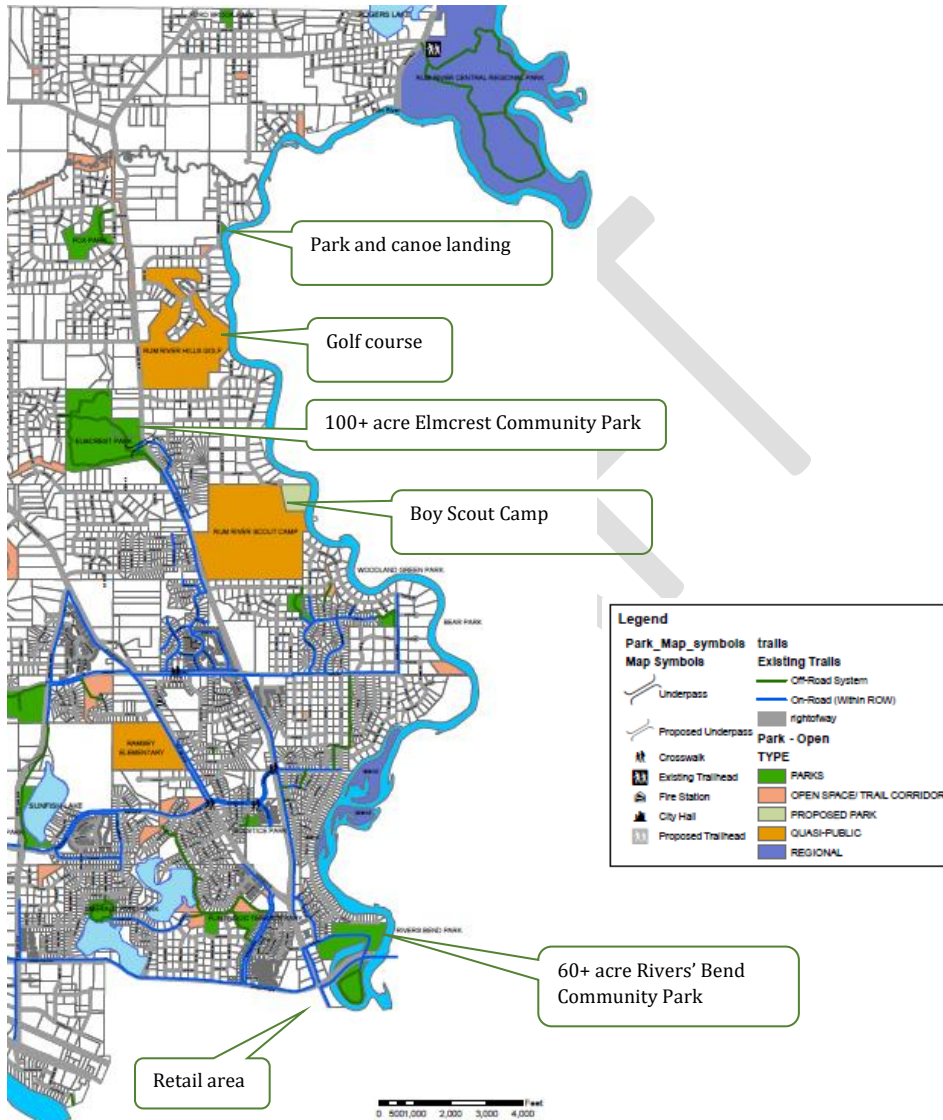




Figure 2: Illustration of the newly completed one million-dollar Elmcrest Park Community Building with public restrooms

In addition to many more parks and recreation facilities on the west side of the Rum River than the east, there is an area of retail services (restaurants etc.) that are presently accessed by trails on both sides of T. H. #47 north of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail at Bunker Lake Boulevard.



Within the **Linking Regional Trails** definitions in the 2040 Policy Plan, indicates that: “Visitor origin data from the [Metropolitan] Council’s **2008 Regional Parks and Trails Survey** indicate that regional trails in the metropolitan area are used most by people who live nearby or can reach the trail in a short bicycle trip or drive. Therefore, a priority is to develop more trail corridors in the Metropolitan Urban Service Area, where more than 90% of the population lives”.

Ramsey has many thousands of residents in the Metropolitan Urban Service Area within 1.5 miles of the proposed, realigned Rum River Regional Trail.

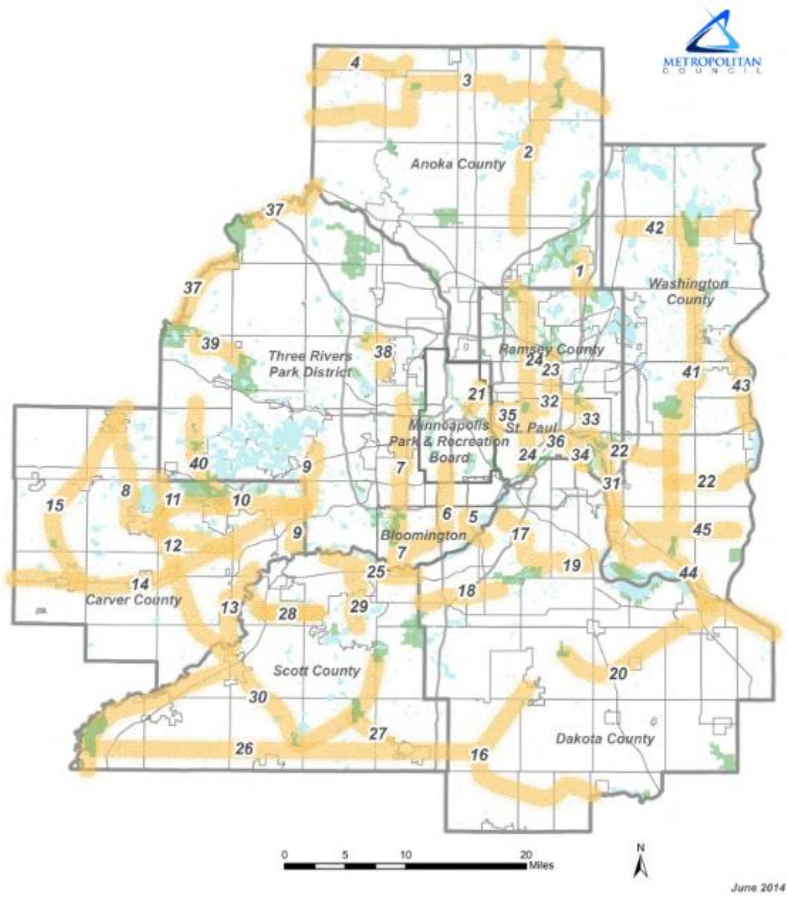
In concluding, the Alternate Alignment Study would explore moving this proposed regional trail from the east side of the river to the west, (#3 from green to the red dashed line west of the Rum River above).



North Anoka County Regional Trail Search Corridor – Trott Brook Greenway Alternative

The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, Chapter Three identifies 'Regional Search Corridors', including one entitled 'North Anoka County' generally designated as number three on Figure 3-9 below.

Figure 47: Regional Trail Search Corridors

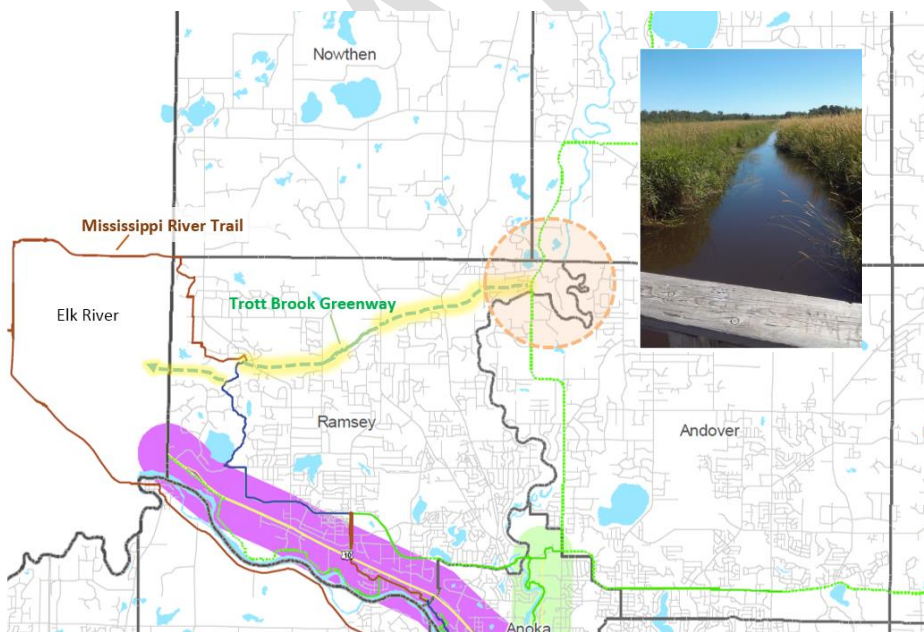


Regional Trail Search Corridor - Better Connectivity to Regional Parks System

The introduction of Regional Trails within Chapter 3 states: “[...] regional trails are selected to pass through or provide connections between components in the Regional Parks System. The regional parks and park reserves perform the important function of providing places for parking, comfort facilities and safe water supplies.

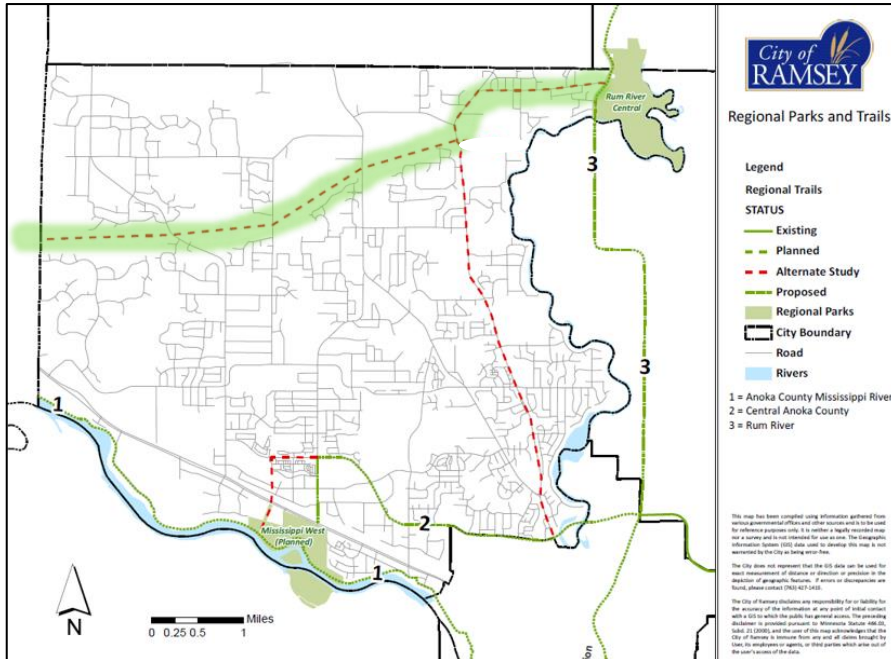
Trails also are selected for their ability to intersect with local trail networks, with the regional trails functioning much like regional highways that interconnect with more local arterials and local streets”.

In keeping with the above statement and intent, Anoka County Parks and the Metropolitan Council should investigate the west portion of Search Corridor 3 to connect to the only regional park in this area. By aligning the proposed, search area trail south to Rum River Central Regional Park, it also then intersects with the east/west Trott Brook Greenway. Additionally, this connects the Four-corner sub-regional center (depicted by the circle below) of Nowthen, Oak Grove, Andover and Ramsey, thus connecting four communities to; the Mississippi River Trail, a Regional Park, Wild and Scenic Rum River, and proposed Rum River Regional Trail—(without regard to whether the trail is east or west of the Rum).



In concluding, this proposal would recommend that the Trott Brook Greenway be considered as a Regional Trail, fulfilling the east/west Regional Search Corridor goals, as aligned generally and depicted below.

Figure 48: Trail Search Corridors and planned/existing trails within Ramsey



The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, Chapter 4: Siting and Acquisition – Strategy 3, cites, “New regional trails must serve a regional audience and provide connection between regional parks, park preserves, and regional trails without duplicating an existing trail.” The proposal above meets this objective, by connecting Rum River Central Regional Park to the proposed Rum River Regional Trail (potentially west of the river, as described above) and does not duplicate an existing trail. Moreover, by designating the Trott Brook Greenway as a regional trail, it will function as described by the Council “...two major types of trails to serve the region: 1) destination or greenway trails and 2) linking trails”. The trail would be a destination, and one significant linkage would be the Mississippi River Trail in Ramsey, with its connection to the west in Elk River and subsequent link to the Great Northern Trail.





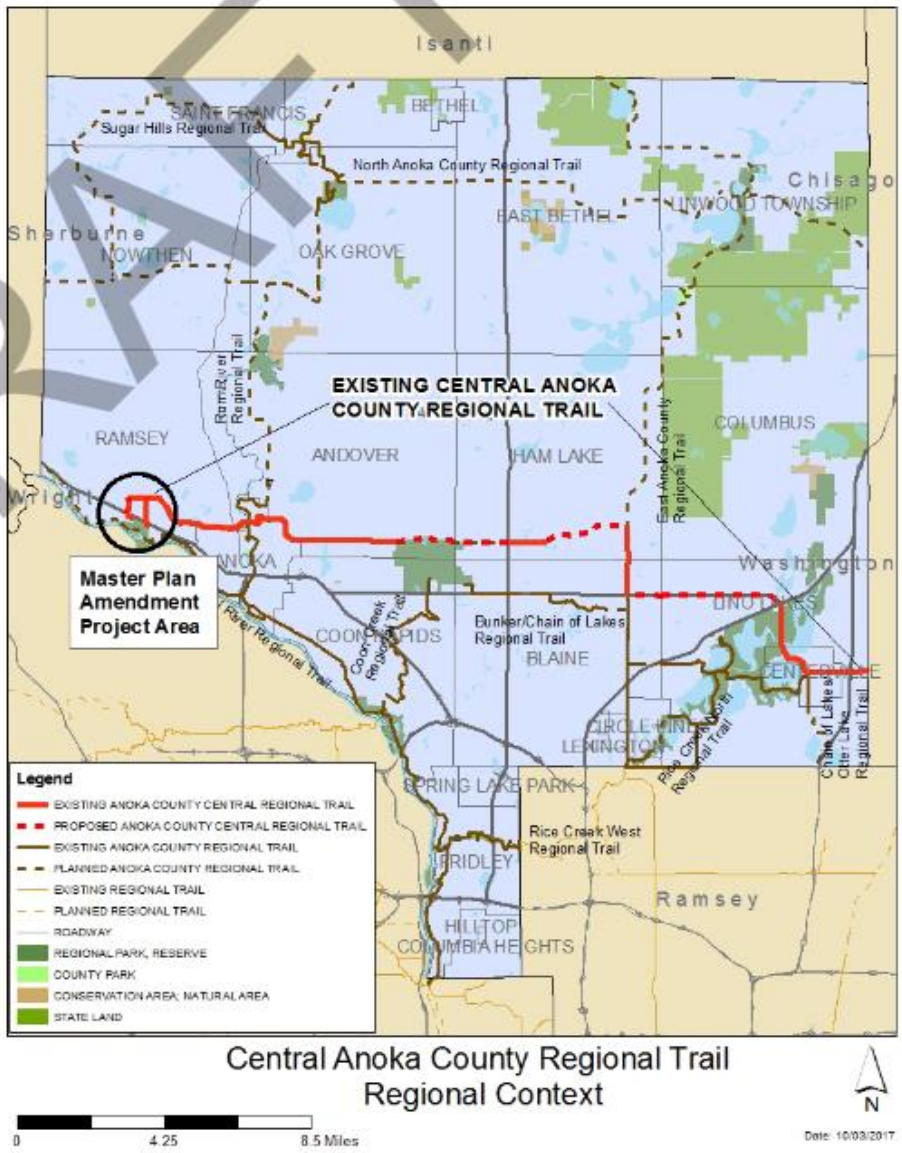
Central Anoka County Regional Trail

The Central Anoka County Regional Trail is an outstanding recreational (and transportation) amenity for Ramsey residents, and connects them via trail to broad swaths of the county. This includes Bunker Hills Regional Park to the east, with planned connections that will link the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes near Lino Lakes and Centerville, and on to Washington County. Approximately 19 miles of this 26-mile trail are in place today.

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Figure 49: Central Anoka County Regional Existing Alignment

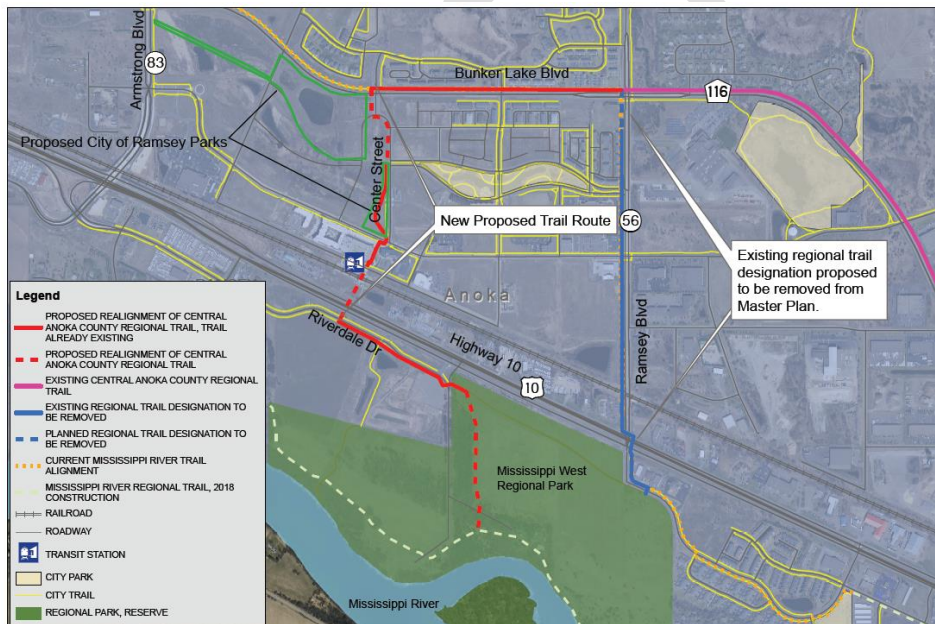


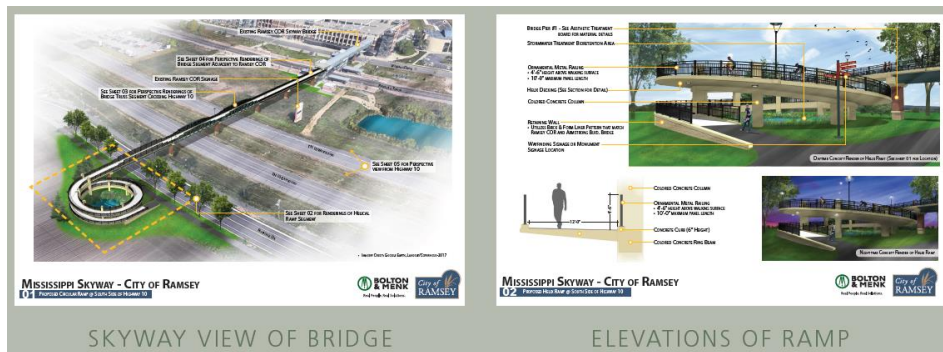
Central Anoka County Regional Trail - Pending Alternative Alignment

Anoka County Parks & Recreation has submitted to Metropolitan Council, a Master Plan Amendment for the realignment of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail. This amendment is located between Ramsey Boulevard and Center Street and connects to the Northstar Commuter Rail station and future grade separated pedestrian crossing of Highway 10, for a safe, direct, and multi-modal connection to the Mississippi River Regional Trail, and Mississippi West Regional Park.

The realignment in Ramsey is needed as, presently the City of Ramsey has limited access to the Mississippi River and Mississippi West Regional Park because Highway 10 is a significant barrier for bicycle and pedestrian access. The amendment will change the alignment of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail within the City of Ramsey to better connect with local parks, trails, restaurants, businesses and transit, while still providing a safe connection to the river and Mississippi West Regional Park.

Figure 50: Potential Anoka County Regional Trail Alignments





Considerable investments in regional improvements converge in this location, including the \$13 million-dollar Northstar rail station, with \$1.1 million-dollar pedestrian skyway over Veteran’s Drive, \$8 million dollar covered transit and parking facility, as well as more than one-half million in boat landing and river access improvements. Additionally, a segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail is now complete from the City of Anoka, through the City of Ramsey to Sherburne County (including within Mississippi West Regional Park). The trail together with two bridges on the 80-acre King’s Island represents over one million dollars in bike facilities that are also a key component of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. The National Parks Service awarded Ramsey a \$490,000 planning grant to complete Final Plans and Specifications for the Mississippi Skyway. This now makes the project shovel-ready.

This Central Anoka County Regional Trail with multi-modal connections and host of retail services will make this pedestrian bridge the nexus of regional systems and destinations. Therefore, it is imperative that Anoka County Parks and the City of Ramsey work with Metropolitan Council and other regional partners to develop a cost-share plan for the funding and construction of the remaining portion of the Mississippi Skyway, utilizing grant monies that are uniquely available for pedestrian and bicycle facilities



Figure 51: Mississippi Skyway (Central Anoka County Regional Trail) Layout



Parks and Recreation Implementation

Relationship to Local Park System Plan Process

Concurrently with this Comprehensive Plan Update process, the City of Ramsey is conducting our first-ever Park System Plan (PSP) process. The foundation of that plan is an analysis of the needs and desires of the community, a review of existing features, and an exploration of the context for the system. It will then provide a vision for the overall system and planning and policy direction for parks, trails, recreation, and open space. It is meant to guide the system as it evolves over the next several decades, including how new investments and ongoing maintenance and operations will be conducted.

Ramsey anticipates completing the Local Parks System Plan by the end of 2019. Because that plan is underway and will be a formally adopted City policy document, this Chapter refers to the PSP for much of its findings about local planning direction and implementation for the system. This current Comprehensive Plan will cover topics such as relationship to other citywide planning decisions and regional coordination. Ramsey will ensure consistency between this Comprehensive Plan and the future Local Parks System Plan.

Parks and Recreation Action Items

Strategy: Balance desire for additional amenities with goal for financial stability.

- Actions
 - Establish a policy for Neighborhood Park selection
 - Consider a Long-Term Park and Trail Replacement Plan

Strategy: Preserve and enhance continuous open space corridors.

- Actions
 - Continue to acquire land along Trott Brook for the Trott Brook Greenway Segment of the Circle of Ramsey

Strategy: Balance a variety of smaller neighborhood parks and larger community parks.

- Actions
 - Complete the Local Parks System Plan

Strategy: Ensure equitable access to recreation programs and facilities.

- Actions
 - Each of these strategies is achieved by maintaining the existing Recreation Program.

Strategy: Ensure connected regional and local parks and open spaces.

- Actions
 - Complete the Parks System Plan
 - Create a Master Trail Plan

Strategy: Coordinated planning efforts across multiple jurisdictions.

- Actions
 - Amend Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan



- Create a plan to connect the Mississippi River Regional Trail to the Oliver Kelly Farm

Strategy: Maximize joint use facilities and recreation opportunities.

- Actions
 - Consider a plan for a future Community Center

Strategy: Strengthen relationships with local youth organizations.

- Actions
 - Formalize a process to include youth athletic associations in CIP Updates

Strategy: Improve the accessibility and user experience of the City’s Trail System

- Actions
 - Create a sustainable maintenance plan for routine maintenance of trails.

Strategy: Provide staffing levels which are efficient will providing for the appropriate support for recreational activities in the community.

- Actions
 - Assess the impacts of the recreational coordinator position

Table 60: Capital Improvement Plan

Capital Improvement	Construction Date	Cost	Responsible Agency
Central Anoka County Trail	TBD	TBD	Anoka County Parks
Circle of Ramsey	TBD	TBD	Ramsey
Community Center	TBD	TBD	Ramsey
Community Park #6	TBD	TBD	Ramsey
Lake Itasca Park	TBD	TBD	Ramsey
Local Trail Gaps	TBD	TBD	Ramsey
Nathe Park	TBD	TBD	Ramsey
Mississippi River Trail	TBD	TBD	Anoka County Parks
Mississippi West Regional Park	TBD	TBD	Anoka County Parks
Rum River Trail	TBD	TBD	Anoka County Parks
The COR Parks	TBD	TBD	Ramsey



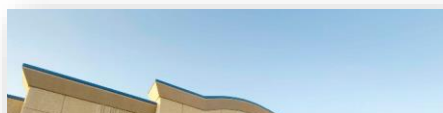
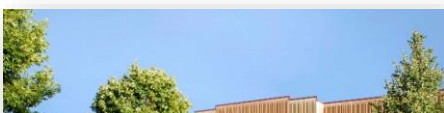


Chapter 08: Economic Development Plan



Economic Development Strategies

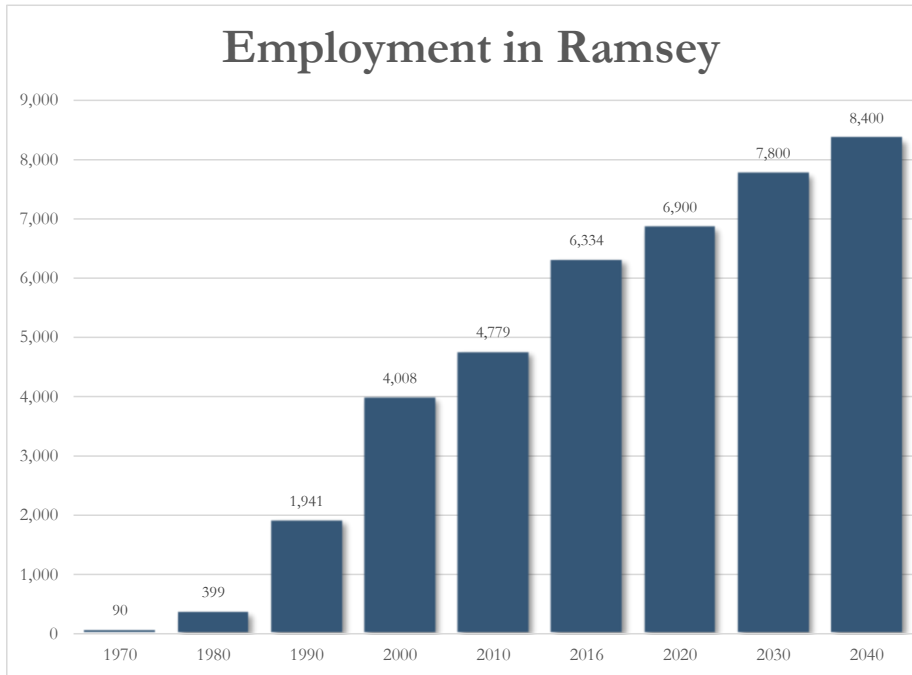
- Complete Built-Out of The COR according to the approved Development Plan.
- Create a Robust Offering of Recreational Opportunities that benefit Businesses.
- Improve Highway 10
- Increase and Construct Retail Options for Residents and Businesses
- Improve the Image of Ramsey and its Neighborhoods, Business Districts, and Key Corridors
- Maintain and Expand our Employment Base



Economic Development Outlook

Ramsey has an estimated employment base of 6,334 employees working in Ramsey and approximately 634 acres of industrial land.

Figure 38: Employment Forecasts



Source: U.S. Census Decennial Survey, U.S. Census American Communities Survey, Metropolitan Council Forecasts



Industrial Development

Existing Industrial Conditions

Ramsey/Anoka Industrial Park

Ramsey's existing industrial park area borders another large industrial park in the City of Anoka. Highlights of the combined industrial park area are below.

- Approximately 1,000 acres
- Approximately 15,000 jobs
- Hundreds of businesses, with a high concentration of manufacturing

Future Industrial Opportunities

Employment growth is expected to continue to grow through 2040. The current estimated employment within Ramsey is 6,334 jobs. The number is expected to grow 8,100 jobs in the year 2040.

Ramsey has been fortunate to be extremely successful in both greenfield development and redevelopment. Ramsey's supply of industrial land guided by the 2030 Comprehensive Plan is extremely low. In response, Ramsey amended its 2030 Comprehensive Plan to guide an additional 115 acres for future employment growth.

Highlights of existing employment growth opportunities include, but are not limited to the following.

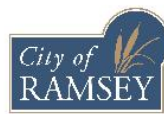
- AEC Energy Park (15 Acres)
- Bunker Lake Industrial Park (140 Acres)
- Highway 10 Business Park (150 Acres)
- Jaspar Industrial Park (9 Acres)



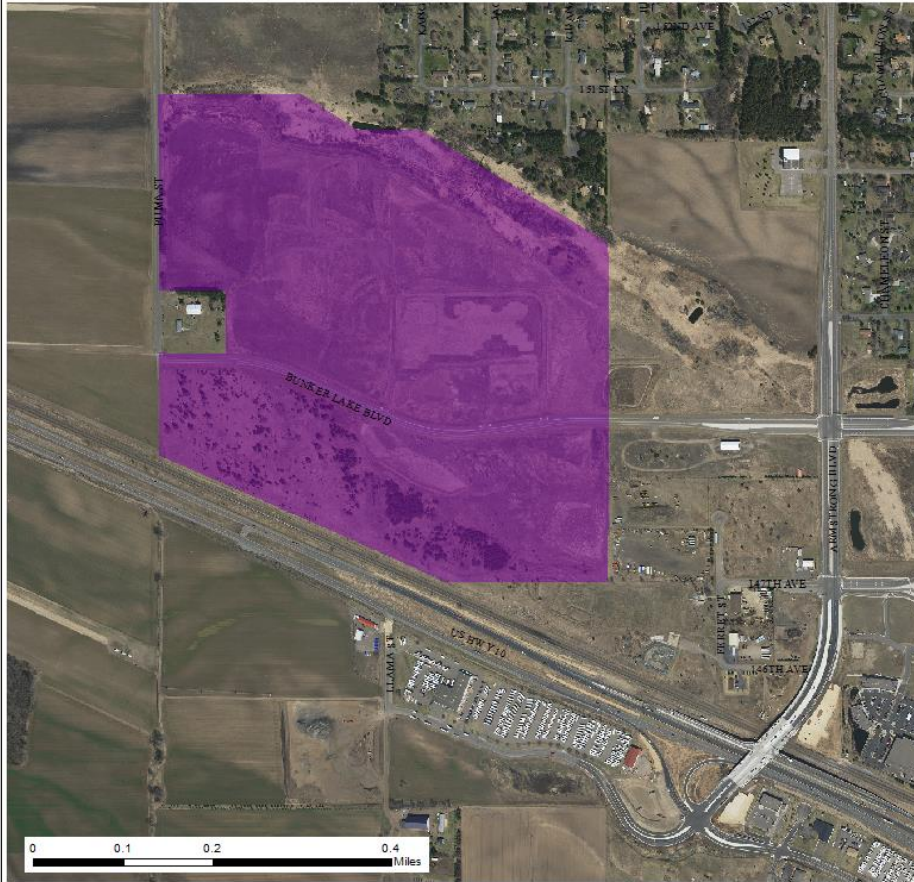
Future Industrial Opportunities



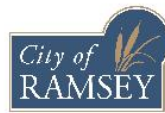
Opportunity
AEC Energy Park



Future Industrial Opportunities



Opportunity
Bunker Lake Industrial Park



Market Conditions in Ramsey

Ramsey's Market Area for retail growth has a positive outlook, but is constrained by several factors. While the Mississippi River and Rum River are some of Ramsey's primary assets, they do constrain Ramsey's Retail Market Area, as these physical barriers restrict access for many in close proximity.



Future Retail Opportunities

The COR

The COR is commonly known as Ramsey’s Downtown Area. This development has a planned mix of uses, including a variety of retail areas. Within The COR and surrounding area, there are approximately 100 acres of area guided for retail growth. Ramsey has employed an aggressive economic development strategy to attract retailers to the area. This includes, but is not limited to a dedicated economic development staff, partnering with a commercial real estate broker, and offering a variety of financial incentives to locate to Ramsey.

Figure 53: The COR Development Plan

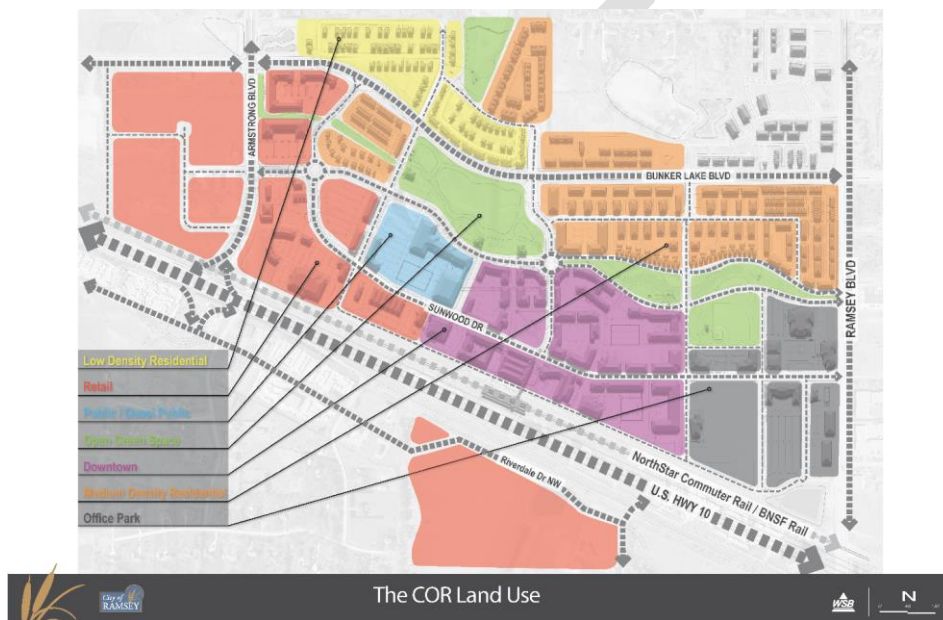
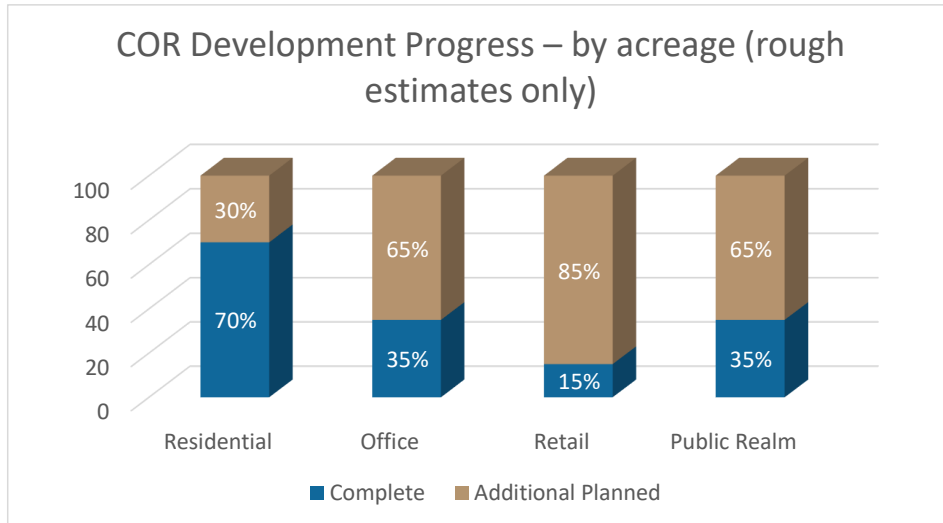


Table 61: Planned Growth in The COR



Elmcrest District

The Elmcrest District is anchored by a small retail node at the intersection of 167th Avenue and Saint Francis Boulevard (T.H. 47). For a number of years, Ramsey has analyzed how to best revitalize this node that has experienced a high rate of vacancy and blight. This node has seen some private reinvestment in recent years. The Rum River Hills Golf Course has also expressed an interest in redeveloping a small portion of their land for residential development.

The goal of this district is to improve and/or remove blight from the retail node and encourage sustainable market-driven redevelopment that will benefit the entire City of Ramsey.

Ramsey’s vision for the neighborhood is a mixture of residential and retail uses. Residential users may include single family residential, townhomes, or senior living units as directed by the market. Retail will include a market driven neighborhood commercial node. Redevelopment should include a connection to Elmcrest Park and/or nearby trails where feasible.



Economic Development Tools

The City of Ramsey has a number of financial tools available for economic development projects. Below is an overview of the most commonly used economic development tools.

Gap Financing:

The City's RLF and the DEED MIF programs are used to fill the financial "gap" of a particular project. A financial gap occurs when private financing and/or owner equity cannot fund an entire project. Commonly, these programs are used to purchase equipment; however, other eligible uses exist. Interest rates and terms are negotiable.

Deed Job Creation Fund:

DEED assistance to projects that have capital investment and provide well-paying jobs. Program would allow for a company to receive a 5% rebate on capital expenditures (construction costs, materials etc.) up to \$500,000. In addition, this program allows for up to \$500,000 in job creation rebates based upon jobs created and their salary levels.

Property Tax Programs:

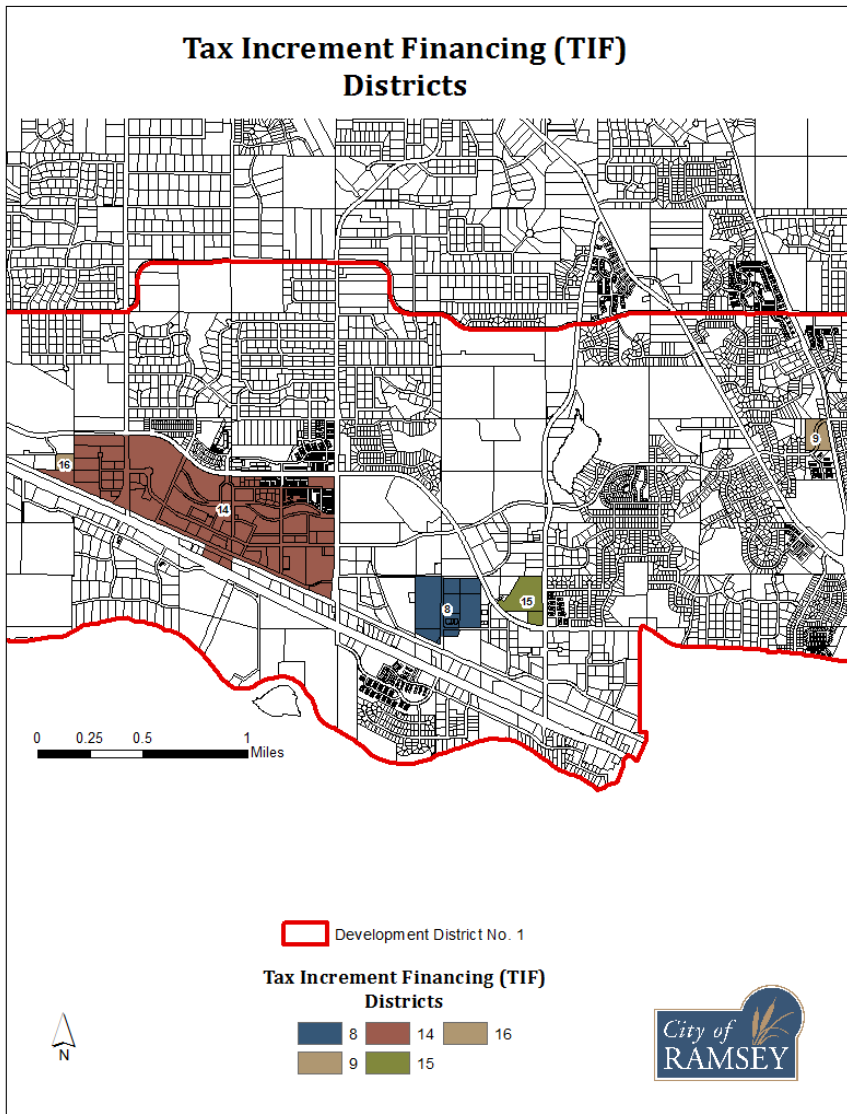
Tax abatement and TIF are local tax programs typically used for public infrastructure or land acquisition costs. In general, both programs work by capturing property taxes generated by a particular parcel then dedicating said tax revenue for a specific project cost.

Eligibility for financing tools based on the merit of an individual project, compliance with specific program requirements and in many cases approval from the Ramsey EDA and City Council. The City of Ramsey targets quality projects with high quality job growth. Typically, projects require owner equity and/or private financing. Most programs require specific job creation goals and annual reporting.



Tax Increment Financing

Figure 53: Tax Increment Financing District



Economic Development Strategies and Actions

Ramsey will strive to achieve its economic development goals through the following actions and policies.

Strategy: Maintain and Expand our Employment Base

- Continue our Business Retention and Expansion Efforts.
- Build Out the Bunker Lake Industrial Base.
- Plan for the Highway 10 Business Park (next Business Park after Bunker Lake Industrial Park).
- Make sites shovel ready.
- Provide incentives to achieve our economic development goals.
- Be flexible with zoning.

Strategy: Complete Built-Out of The COR according to the approved Development Plan.

- Complete the Development Plan Update.
- Continue Current Recruitment Efforts.

Strategy: Improve Highway 10

- Establish a Stakeholder Group for Highway 10.
- Improve Traffic Conditions (Complete Highway 10 Traffic Plan).
- Create a sustainable funding plan for right-of-way acquisition and construction.
- Remove Blight and Public Nuisances (Complete Highway 10 Land Use Plan).

Strategy: Improve the Image of Ramsey and its Neighborhoods, Business Districts, and Key Corridors

- Improve signage.
- Grade separate rail crossings to eliminate physical barriers.
- Remove Blight and Public Nuisances at the Rum River Hills Node.
- Remove Blight and Public Nuisances at the Highway 47 Corridor.
- Improve Relationships Communitywide to Remove Blight and Public Nuisances.

Strategy: Create a Robust Offering of Recreational Opportunities that benefit Businesses.

- Support the completion of the Master Park and Recreation Plan

Strategy: Increase Retail Options for Residents and Businesses

- Continue and Expand Current Marketing and Recruitment Efforts for New Retailers.
- Improve Access and Visibility for Retailers from Key Corridors.
- Consider free land and incentives.
- Directly recruit businesses.
- Execute a marketing campaign to draw businesses.
- Coordinate with existing efforts (Anoka County, DEED, Chambers of Commerce, etc.)

Strategy: Provide quality customer service to development contacts and residents

- Improve access and visibility of economic development staff.





Chapter 09: Water Resources Plan

Prepared with assistance from Bolton and Menk



Water Supply Plan

In 2004 the City of Ramsey completed a Water Supply and Distribution plan as required by State Legislation adopted in 1993, which required public water suppliers to adopt plans to promote the efficient use of water. This plan, prepared by consulting engineers Bolton & Menk, Inc. documented the water supply, demand and use characteristics of the existing municipal water system and projected future municipal water system needs. The plan also established a conservation plan and an emergency preparedness plan.

Continued growth and changes in development plans of the future community prompted a need to update this study in 2012 as part of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

The 2012 Comprehensive Water Plan included a plan for meeting the City's needs based on development projected within the City's 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The 2012 Comprehensive Water Plan outlined infrastructure needs and included an implementation schedule based on the anticipated development.

In 2017, the 2012 Comprehensive Water Plan was updated based on current (2017) population and land use projections and included the following revisions:

- Development projections from 2012 indicated a new water supply capacity would be required by 2019. With the updated development data, new water supply is now projected to be required by 2022.
- In the 2012 report, a water treatment facility was identified as a means of water supply. This was intended to be a surface water treatment facility that drew raw water from the Mississippi River. Based on current discussions with regulatory agencies, there is the potential to provide more water to the system through the addition of wells. In the 2017 report, the treatment facility was removed.
- A new treatment facility was added to the 2017 report to provide greater water quality than exists from the untreated well water current used in the City. The construction of the facility will depend on several factors, including: needs of business and industrial users, and acceptability of the water by residents of the community. The water treatment facility is depicted as being constructed in 2027 and 2028. The actual timing of the construction of the facility is undetermined at this time.
- Construction of new wells in 2023 and 2028 will provide adequate capacity to the year 2040 based upon projected growth rates. In order to determine a viable location for a new well, and potential for additional water supply options utilizing groundwater sources, a well location study should be undertaken.

The Proposed Water System Improvements map from the 2017 update is attached as Figure 1 in Appendix A. The 2017 Comprehensive Water System Study Update completed by Bolton & Menk, Inc is incorporated in this Plan as Appendix B.

In August 2009, the City of Ramsey adopted a Wellhead Protection Plan as required by the Minnesota Department of Health. The purpose of this study was to protect the city's water supply system from pollution by updating information regarding private wells, storage tanks, hazardous waste generators, etc. within close proximity to public wells. The Wellhead Protection Plan is



included in Appendix B. An update to the Wellhead Protection Plan is scheduled to be completed in 2019.

In 2017, the City of Ramsey completed a Water Supply Plan and submitted it to the Department of Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Council for approval. The submitted Water Supply Plan is included in Appendix B.

The City of Ramsey will continue to explore opportunities for water conservation, including the recently adopted topsoil ordinance for new primary structures.

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Wastewater Plan

Overview and Background

Growth of population and jobs in a community can present challenges to ensuring the needs of residents and businesses are adequately met. One of the key elements in addressing this challenge is the planning, construction, and maintenance of adequate wastewater collection systems. A Wastewater and Comprehensive Sewer Plan is a useful tool for defining the strategies the City will use to accomplish planning, construction, and maintenance of the wastewater system.

Under the state Metropolitan Planning Act, local governments are required to submit a wastewater and comprehensive sewer plan element as part of their overall comprehensive plan. This includes describing service needs from the regional system in support of planned growth. Prior to any expansion of sanitary sewer service, this plan must be found consistent with the regional 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan produced by the Metropolitan Council.

In 2005 the City of Ramsey completed a Comprehensive Sanitary Sewer Study which was prepared by consulting engineers Bolton & Menk, Inc. The 2005 Plan presented a guide plan for the extension of the sanitary sewer trunk system to the entire City. In 2012 the City updated the 2005 Comprehensive Sanitary Sewer Study. This update focused on the proposed sanitary sewer trunk extensions and improvements which are required to provide service to all areas within the 2030 MUSA boundaries. In September, 2017, the City completed an update to the 2012 Comprehensive Sanitary Sewer Study. The 2012 study and 2017 update identified the ultimate sanitary sewer flows for the City. The City of Ramsey is considered by Metropolitan Council to be a “Developing Community” and as such is presently allowed to extend sanitary sewer service anywhere within MWCC Sanitary Sewer District 3 boundary (south of Trott Brook). The current extent of the sewered area is now adjacent to Trott Brook and revised land use plans require its extension to the remaining portion of the City. The City’s current wastewater flow allocation is 3.8 million gallons per day (mgd).

The 2017 update to the Comprehensive Sanitary Sewer Study completed by Bolton & Menk Inc. is incorporated in this Plan in Appendix B. Revised sanitary sewer flow projections based on the revised Future Land Use Map are included as Exhibit 8:1 of this Chapter. The flow assumptions for calculating sanitary sewer flow are as follows:

Description	Factor
Gallons per Person per Day	75.0
Flow Variation Factor	2.5 to 4.0
People per Unit	3.0
Flow per unit	225
Employees per Acre	20
Commercial/Industrial Flow per Acre	1,500



Existing System

The existing wastewater treatment system, shown in Figure 1 in Appendix A, includes 8 Lift Stations, forcemain and gravity sanitary sewer. This figure also shows the location of the two connection points to the MCES system. The City does not have a separate sanitary sewer treatment facility from the MCES, however, approximately 4,100 Individual Sewage Treatment Systems are active in the City limits. A map of the ISTS is included in Appendix A as Figure 3.

Population, Household, and Employment Forecasts

The municipally owned sanitary sewer system provides service to all residents and businesses in the City. The City has requested the following revisions to the Met Council projections of population, household, and employment forecasts, the City of Ramsey anticipates the following sewer demands, as detailed in Table 62.

	Forecast Component	2010	2020	2030	2040
Population	Sewered	10,615	<u>14,210</u>	<u>19,865</u>	<u>25,520</u>
	Unsewered	13,053	<u>13,340</u>	<u>13,485</u>	<u>13,630</u>
Households	Sewered	3,615	<u>5,000</u>	<u>6,850</u>	<u>8,800</u>
	Unsewered	4,418	<u>4,600</u>	<u>4,650</u>	<u>4,700</u>
Employment	Sewered	4,304	6,280	7,100	7,640
	Unsewered	475	620	700	760

Actual and Projected Wastewater Flow

Table 63 shows actual and projected average flows for the City's wastewater system, in millions of gallons per day (MGD). The current system has sufficient capacity to meet the demands of population forecasts.

According to the Metropolitan Council, regional capacity for North Trott Brook Sewer District can be provided through the existing Regional Disposal System by system capacity improvements. Therefore, a future Regional waste water treatment plant (WWTP) is not being planned at this time.

2010	2020	2030	2040
.78	.98	1.51	1.74



Table 64: Sewer Flow Forecasts for North Trott Brook Sewer District

North Trott Brook Sewer District	Year	Households (Sewer)	Peak Flow Projection-MGD	Employment (Sewer)	Peak Flow Projection-MGD	Total Flow
	2020	672	0.2	42	0.0	0.2
	2030	1089	0.2	48	0.0	0.2
	2040	1288	0.3	52	0.0	0.3
Mississippi River Sewer District	2020	2084	0.5	5825	1.3	1.8
	2030	3379	0.8	6584	1.5	2.3
	2040	3998	0.9	7087	1.6	2.5
Rum River Sewer District	2164	0.5	413	0.1	0.6	2164
	3512	0.8	467	0.1	0.9	3512
	4154	0.9	502	0.1	1.0	4154

Inflow and Infiltration

Groundwater infiltration and surface water inflows, often called infiltration/inflow (I/I), may contribute a substantial amount of municipal wastewater volume. Reducing I/I through proper design, construction, maintenance, and other interventions can reduce the strain this puts on municipal wastewater systems.

The Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) goal established for the City of Ramsey varies based on annual average flow for each connection point to the Metropolitan Disposal System (MDS). The Metropolitan Council's metering program shows that the City's 2017 annual average flow at meter M302 was 0.567 mgd. The current I/I goal for the City of Ramsey at this point is an allowable peak hourly flow of 2.54 mgd. The 2017 annual flow at meter M304 was 0.279 mgd. The current I/I goal for Ramsey at this point is an allowable peak hourly flow of 1.29 mgd.

The City continues to monitor the integrity of its Sanitary Sewer infrastructure. The City has had a Sewer Vac truck since 2009 and have a program in place to clean one third of the Sanitary Sewer system each year. In addition to cleaning the existing sewer system, the City has a program in place to televise one tenth of the system each year to monitor for I/I issues. The City has historically spent approximately \$10,000 per year televising and mitigating I/I issues that are discovered during the televising process. Items that are repaired through this process include: private utility hits, leaking joints, collapsed pipes and leaking manholes. The City does not have an ordinance that prohibits the connection of sump pump, rain leaders, or passive drain tile from the sanitary sewer system. The City of Ramsey has adopted the Minnesota State Building Code, which states that drainage systems shall discharge into an approved sewer system or to daylight (§R405.2.3) and storm sewer systems shall not drain into sewers intended for sanitary sewage only (§4715.2700). The City of Ramsey interprets that these systems must drain to daylight only unless storm sewer is available on-site. The City of Ramsey will explore the need for such ordinances if it is determined the City is not meeting the established I/I goal.



The City applied for \$25,250 in matching grant funds from the 2014 State Bond Fund Municipal Inflow & Infiltration Grant program through the Met Council Environmental Services to perform needed I&I improvements. The grant was awarded, and this project was completed in 2016 where multiple castings were adjusted and chimney seals were installed to prevent I&I at those structures. A lift station and a manhole were also rehabilitated to seal the structure by coating the insides of the structures.

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Figure 55: Existing Sanitary Sewer Trunk Map

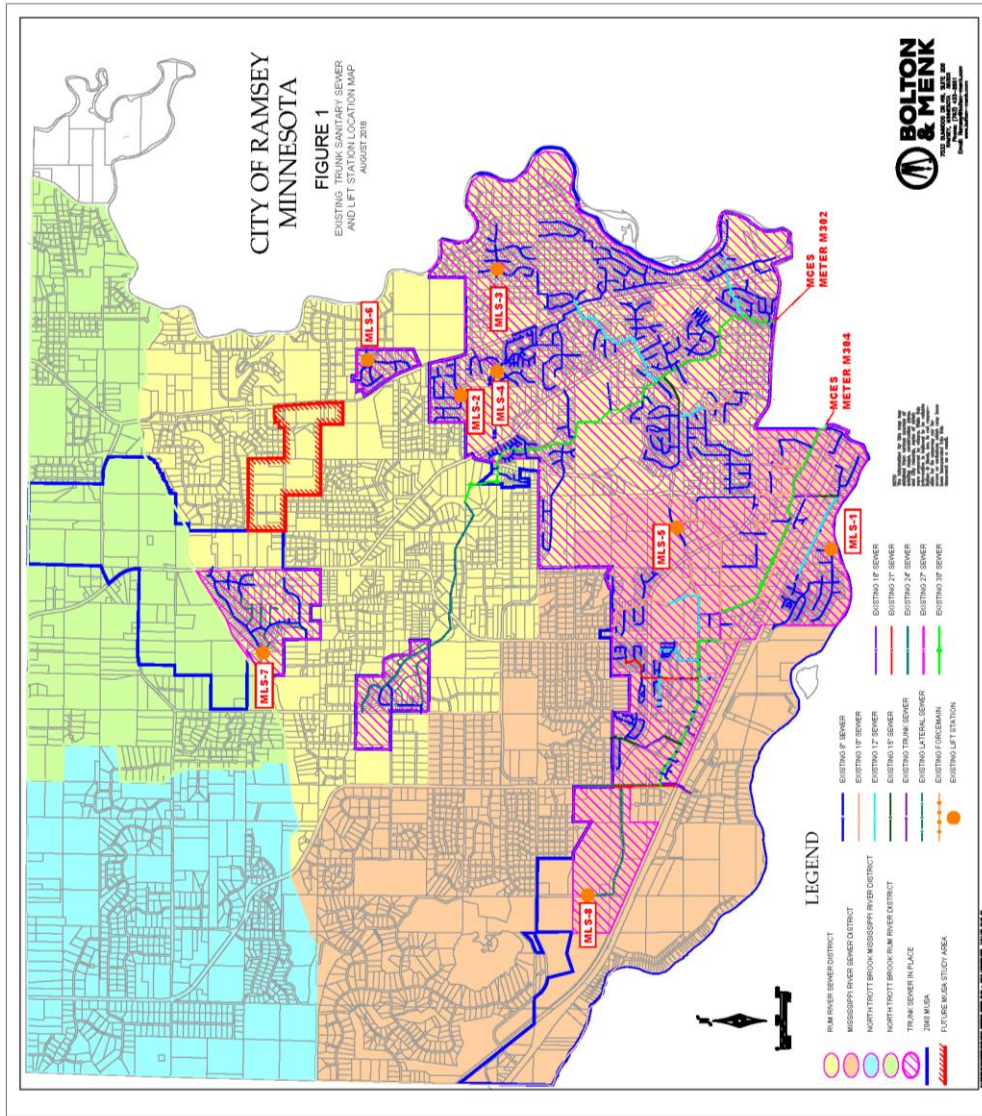
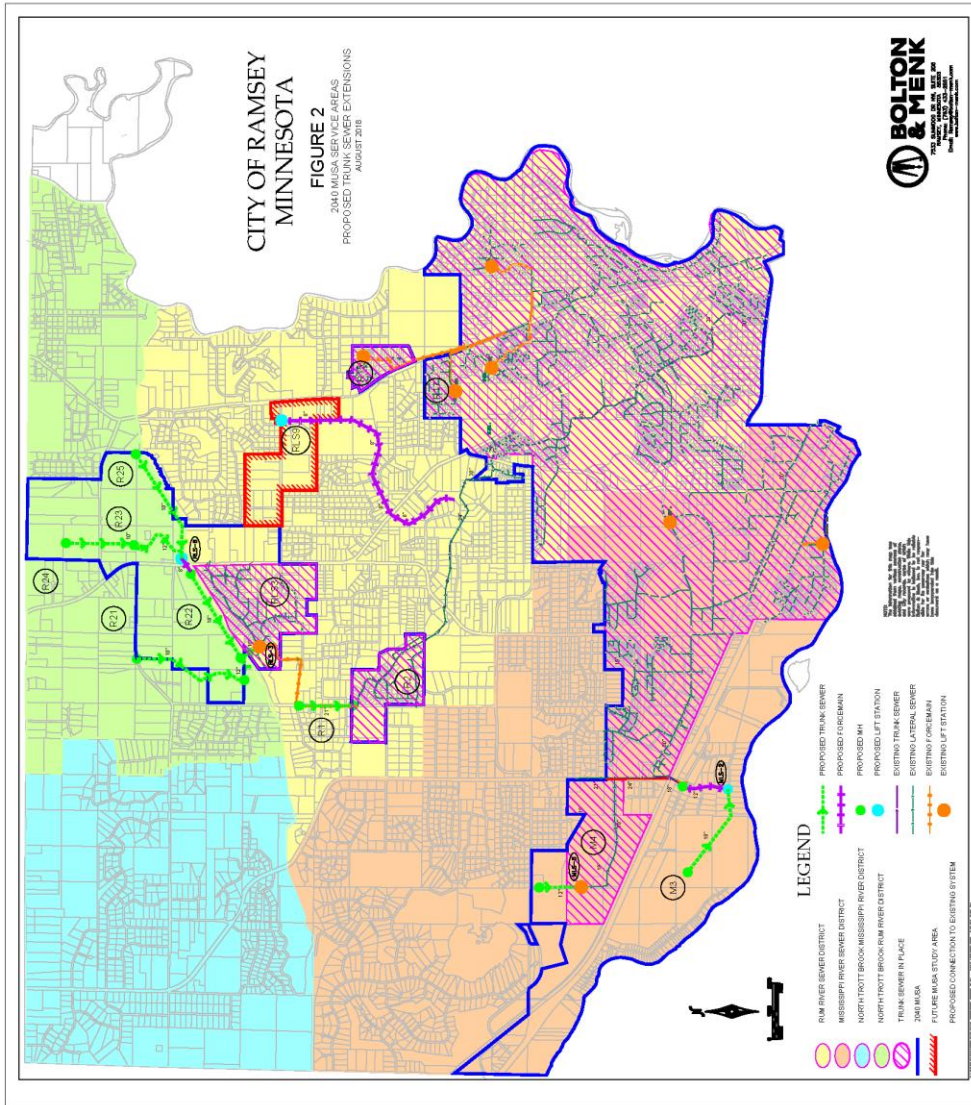


Figure 565: Future Sanitary Sewer Trunk Map

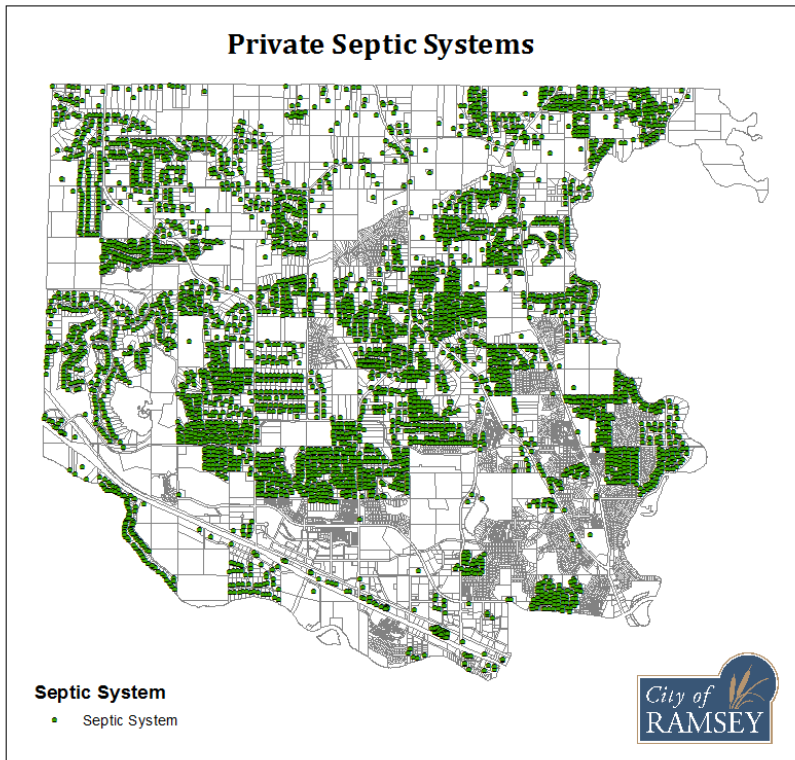


Community and Subsurface Treatment Systems

Community and Subsurface Treatment System Management Program

Ramsey maintains a database of approximately 4,100 private subsurface septic systems. A majority of these are for single-family homes. There is one group septic system for a six (6) unit townhome development owned and operated by a private Home Owners Association (HOA). In 2016, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) reported a total of approximately 541,000 septic systems in Minnesota. Anoka County has an estimated 28,000 systems, the second highest number of septic systems per County in the State and the highest number of systems of any County in Metropolitan Area. When properly maintained, these systems are an adequate means of treating wastewater. However, given the number of private septic systems in the community, Ramsey must dedicate resources to ensure that these systems are being properly maintained in order to protect groundwater quality, prevent public health threats, and avoid public nuisances.

Figure 57: Private Septic Systems



Ramsey is a Home Rule Charter City. Ramsey City Charter states the following.

Connection Policy. The city may not compel any property owner with a functional private sewer and water system to connect to city sewer and/or water.

Assessment policy. The city may not levy an assessment for any component of any project which includes sewer and/or water improvements against a property whose owner elects to remain on a functional private sewer and/or water system.

Request for urban services. Property owners who remain on private sewer and water systems after urban services become available may request connection to urban services at any time. Upon connection to urban services an assessment may be levied provided it is consistent with the original assessment.

Ramsey tracks septic systems with a permit management system known as Permit Information Management System (PIMS). PIMS is a product of the Local Government Information System (LOGIS) consortium of local communities.

Public Treatment Systems

Ramsey has no public treatments in our community. Ramsey does have three (3) cluster systems serving four (4) units each, resulting in twelve (12) units being served by a clustered (shared) system.

Subsurface Treatment Systems

Ramsey has an estimated 4,170 subsurface treatment systems.

Public Education

Ramsey has set a goal to improve public education on proper maintenance of septic systems. Ramsey's primary clearinghouse for education materials is www.cityoframsey.com/septic. The website serves as a clearinghouse leveraging a number of existing resources including, but not limited to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Know the Flow (Anoka County).

Ramsey actively participates in Septic Smart Week each September.

Additionally, during the 2017-2018 Academic Year, Ramsey collaborated with the University of Minnesota through its Resilient Communities Project (RCP). One of the projects this partnership worked on was septic education. The partnership developed printed materials and website content. Ramsey is working on incorporating these resources within our new website rolling out in 2018.

Required Pumping and/or Maintenance Reminders

Each year Ramsey sends reminders to septic system owners that are due for septic pumping and/or maintenance at an interval not to exceed once every three (3) years as required by the State of Minnesota.

Financial Assistance for Public Health or Safety Concerns

In instances where a septic system has failed to the point it poses a threat to public health or safety, Property Owners may request the City replace a private septic system and assess the costs of the replacement to the benefitted property. The Property Owner must enter into an Assessment



Agreement and the costs of replacement will be levied against the Property as a Special Assessment. The Property Owner must submit proof that they have exhausted all other financial options to replace the system.

Anoka County also has potential dollars and/or loans available for septic replacement needs.

Administrative Enforcement of Septic Rule Violations

Ramsey has established an administrative process to enforce violations of various sections of our City Code, including our Septic Code. When the City becomes aware of a septic system in violation of the Septic Code, we track the violation through our code enforcement management system. Property Owners are provided two (2) notices of violation with instruction on how to comply with Septic Code. The City is able to issue Administrative Fines in addition to the Notices of Violation.

Civil Prosecution

In the rare occasion where Ramsey's Administrative Enforcement is unsuccessful in achieving compliance, the City will file civil prosecution charges in order to obtain an injunction from District Court to remedy the situation.

Criminal Prosecution

In extremely rare occasions, especially in events of threats to public health or safety, Ramsey may choose to seek criminal charges to remedy the situation.

Future Community Treatment Systems

In certain instances, Ramsey may consider allowing private, community septic systems.

Land Uses and Physical Conditions

Ramsey will generally only allow a private, community system outside of the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA). In certain circumstances where an agreement for future connection is reached, Ramsey may allow private, community septic systems within the MUSA boundary.

Rural Residential

Private septic systems are generally reserved for rural residential lots of at least one (1) acre in size. Properties shall ensure adequate space for a primary and secondary drainfield area.

Shoreland Areas

Ramsey is supportive of private, community septic systems in areas located within our Shoreland Overlay District, Rum River Wild and Scenic Overlay District, and Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA). These are environmentally sensitive areas, and the public benefits from limiting the number of potential individual source points of pollution that could pose a threat to water quality.

Urban Residential

For areas in the future urban service area but future municipal utilities are not expected within the current planning period (20 years), Owners may cluster lots and serve through a private, community septic system. The Owners must enter into a Future Connection Agreement providing for future connections when municipal services are available.



Administrative Procedures

Ramsey will require that a legal entity be established prior to the construction of any private, community septic systems. Although Ramsey will have no enforcement responsibilities of the entity, Ramsey will require a review of the articles of incorporation by the City Attorney. The participating properties shall enter into a Maintenance Agreement with the City and shall agree to allow the City to assess the costs of future repair in the event of failure to repair a non-compliant system.

Compliance with Applicable Regulations

Owners and Installers of private, community septic systems shall design and construct consistent with Minnesota Rules, Anoka County Ordinances, and Ramsey City Code.

Ramsey Administration

Ramsey shall administer applicable Minnesota Rules consistent with other private septic systems. Ramsey shall require the issuance of a permit prior to installation and shall ensure ongoing compliance.

Surface Water Management Plan

Ramsey originally updated its Surface Water Management Plan in 2015. Changes to Minnesota Rules required updates to this plan sooner than originally planned as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update. A revised Surface Water Management Plan is incorporated by reference into the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Ramsey supports additional discussion to coordinate the efforts of local municipalities, watershed organizations, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), and the Metropolitan Council to provide clarity, consistency, and reasonable update cycles for Surface Water Management Plans.





Chapter 10: Implementation Plan



Action Item	Policy or Capital Improvement?	Resources Needed	Timeframe
Land Use			
Establish Policy for Urban Service Boundary Extensions	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Update Density Transitioning Ordinance	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Small Area Plan – The COR	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Small Area Plan – Green Valley District	Policy	Existing Resources	2020
Small Area Plan/Infrastructure Study – Mississippi West District	Policy	\$25,000 Partner with Developers and Land Owners	2020
Small Area Plan – Elmcrest District	Policy	Existing Resources	2020
Complete the Streetscape Plan	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Advocate for a new Middle School and Third Elementary School	Policy	Existing Resources	Ongoing
Encourage School Districts to Amend District Boundaries to follow Neighborhood Boundaries	Policy	Existing Resources	Ongoing
Prioritize Desired Amenities with goal of Financial Stability through Annual CIP Process	Policy	Existing Resources	Ongoing
Update Official Zoning Map for consistency with Comprehensive Plan	Policy	Existing Resources	Ongoing
Complete a Comprehensive Zoning Code Update	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Transportation Plan			
Complete the Ramsey Highway 10 Plan	Policy	Existing Resources	2019



Complete the Highway 47 Corridor Plan	Policy	\$25,000	2020
Complete the Nowthen Boulevard/CSAH 5 Corridor Plan	Policy	\$25,000	2020
Complete the Green Valley Road/CR 63 Corridor Plan	Policy	Existing Resources	2021
Complete the 181 st Avenue/CR64 Plan	Policy	Existing Resources	2021
See Transportation Plan for Capital Improvements			
Housing Plan			
Provide incentive-based approach to neighborhood revitalization	Policy	TBD	2022
Identify and remove substandard housing units that are economically unfeasible to rehabilitate.	Policy	TBD	2023
Create a simple webpage/portal that allows residents to voice anonymously code enforcement concerns	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Complete a housing needs assessment and analysis in the immediate future	Policy	Existing Resources	2020
Create policy allowing flexibility for senior projects to convert to affordable housing when the demand for senior housing changes	Policy	Existing Resources	2023
Maintain, and update if needed, conservation subdivision ordinances	Policy	Existing Resources	2020



Consider incentives for innovative water-saving solutions for stormwater management, water conservation, and rainwater reuse	Policy	TBD	2023
Consider a policy regarding sprinkler gauging for single family homes, townhomes, and homeowners' associations in order to save water	Policy	TBD	2023
Create an inclusionary housing policy and toolkit	Policy	Existing Resources	2022
Roll out the "Can I Be Your Neighbor?" initiative	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Create a Fair Housing Policy for the City	Policy	Existing Resources	2020
Create and maintain a policy that allows for density bonuses for new projects in The COR that provide additional public amenities, such as open space dedication or affordable housing, in exchange for densities greater than the Zoning Ordinance typically would allow	Policy	Existing Resources	2020
Create informational packet of first-time homebuyer programs to provide to prospective homebuyers	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Natural Resources Plan			
Create a Pollinator-Friendly Toolkit	Policy	Existing Resources	2020
Consider a Boulevard Tree Program	Policy	Existing Resources	2020



Create a Shoreline Protection Plan	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Create a Conservation Subdivision Design Policy	Policy	Existing Resources	2021
Create an Environmental Protection Overlay District for Trott Brook	Policy	Existing Resources	2020
Implement the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) Plan	Policy	Existing Resources	2021
Create a Community Resilience Plan	Policy	Existing Resources	2020
Complete the Circle of Ramsey Greenway Plan	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Inventory potential access points to significant ecological resources	Policy	Existing Resources	2022
Create an Outreach Program for Groundwater Planning	Policy	Existing Resources	2022
Create an Outreach Program for Organics Recycling/Solid Waste Reduction	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA)			
Parks and Recreation			
Circle of Ramsey Greenway	Capital Construction	TBD (Private/Public Partnership)	Opportunity Driven
Community Center	Capital Construction	TBD	Opportunity Driven
Lake Itasca Park	Capital Construction	\$750,000 (paid by Developer Park Dedication Dollars)	2023
Nathe Park	Planning and Design	\$25,000	2023
The COR Parks System	Capital Construction	TBD	2020-2030 (phased)



Community Park #6	Capital Construction	TBD (paid by Developer Park Dedication Dollars)	2025
Complete the Parks System Plan	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Acquire Land along Trott Brook	Acquisition	TBD	Opportunity Driven
Maintain the Recreation Program	Policy	0.50 FTE Recreation Coordinator	2019
Create a Trail Plan to connect Mississippi River Regional Trail to Oliver Kelly Farm	Policy	\$10,000	2020
Create a Trail Maintenance Plan	Policy	Existing Resources	2020
Formalize process to involve local athletic association in Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Process	Policy	Existing Resources	2019
Create a policy for Neighborhood Park Selection	Policy	Existing Resources	2020
Economic Development			
Create a Plan for the Highway 10 Business Park	Policy	Existing Resources	2023
Create a Plan to increase access and visibility for Retailers	Policy	Existing Resources	2020
Create a Marketing and Recruitment Campaign for Economic Development	Policy	Existing Resources	2020
Create the Highway 10 Steering Committee	Policy	Existing Resources	2018
Complete the Highway 10 and Highway 47 Plans	Policy	Existing Resources	2020

