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[www.cityoframsey.com](http://www.cityoframsey.com)

Dear Resident,

The City of Ramsey, in cooperation with the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, would like to remind property owners along the Rum River of the various protections that exist to protect this valuable State Resource. The intent of this educational campaign is to help Residents along the Rum River navigate these natural resource protections in a way that balances our shared desire to access and enjoy this resource.

### **Wild and Scenic Rum River Rules and Regulations**

The Minnesota State Wild & Scenic Rivers Program was established in 1973 to protect rivers that have outstanding natural, scenic, geographic, historic, cultural, and recreational values. The Rum River was designated as a Wild & Scenic River in 1978. This designation resulted in an overall Management Plan, which outlines the goals and protections for the waterway. These rules work together with Ramsey City Code to protect the river from erosion and poor water quality. Below is a brief overview of some of the rules and regulations.

#### **Vegetation & Erosion Control**

Protections are in place that guides the cutting of certain vegetation. It is important to maintain a buffer strip of vegetation cover along the river. When the shoreline begins eroding, it can diminish the aesthetic values of the river and can lead to a decrease in the water quality of the river. More importantly, it can result in the loss of valuable shoreline on your property. A buffer strip can act as natural screening, preserve wildlife habitat, and can reduce the chance of erosion. Please work with City Staff to plan your project in advance.

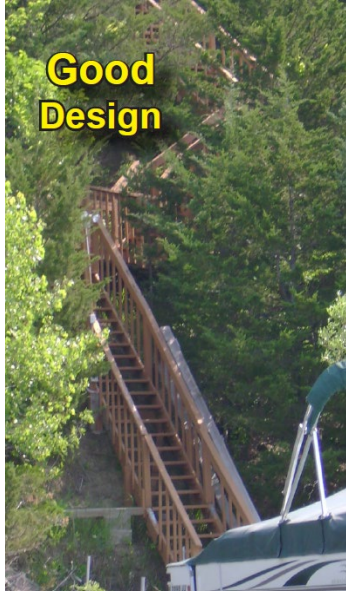


The following vegetation management **is** permitted:

1. Removal of diseased or rotten trees.
2. Pruning of brush, grasses, shrubs and small plants.
3. Mowing lawns.
4. Harvesting crops.

The following vegetation management is **not** permitted:

1. Cutting healthy trees greater than four (4) inches in diameter at breast height if the removal results in less than a continuous canopy cover.
2. Clear-cutting vegetation and trees to a point where maintaining a continuous canopy cover is not possible.



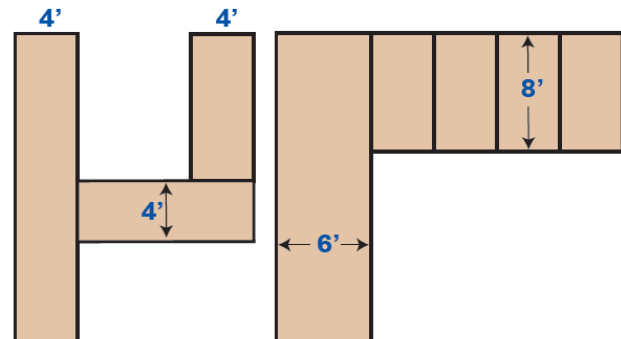
### Stairways, Landings and Lifts

Steep slopes on the Rum River can pose problems for gaining access to the river. These slopes are highly susceptible to erosion. Stairways with landings can provide safe access to the water where it would otherwise be difficult. If designed and installed properly, they can blend into natural surroundings and reduce erosion in highly traveled areas by minimizing soil compaction. Regulations and rules regarding stairways, landings and lifts go as follows:

1. Stairways and lifts must be no wider than 4 feet on residential lots.
2. Landings for stairways and lifts on residential lots must not exceed 32 square feet.
3. Canopies or roofs are not allowed on any stairways, lifts or landings.
4. Avoid removing more trees and vegetation than absolutely necessary to complete the project.
5. Secure appropriate permits from the City.

### Docks

Docks and watercraft lifts are commonly used success structures on Minnesota lakes and rivers. It is important to regulate the installation of docks on the Rum River to ensure that shoreline views do not suffer and a safe passage along the river is available. A permit is required for temporary docks. The exact approval process depends on your location on the Rum River. Permanent docks are not permitted on a Wild and Scenic River, meaning they need to be removable and removed before winter conditions. The above image shows the recommended dock styles for the Rum River.



If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please contact the City of Ramsey Planning Division at 763-433-9817 or the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at 651-296-6157. Please also note that the City of Ramsey, City of Anoka, and the City of Andover enforce the requirements of the Scenic River District and that properties in violation will be required to come into compliance.

Enclosures  
MN DNR Stairways, Landings and Lifts