

**City of Ramsey**  
**Agenda**  
**Park and Recreation Commission**  
**Thursday, January 9, 2020**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Citizen Input**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Approve Minutes**
  1. Approve the following meeting minutes.
    1. Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes dated November 14, 2019.
- 5. Commission Business**
  1. Draft Recreation Programming & Partnerships Chapter
- 6. Commission/Staff Input**
  1. Commission/Staff Input
- 7. Adjournment**

**Park and Recreation Commission**

**4. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 01/09/2020

**Submitted For:** Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

**By:** MaryJo Warner, Engineering/Public Works

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**Information**

**Title:**

Approve the following meeting minutes.

1. Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes dated November 14, 2019.

**Purpose/Background:**

Purpose: To review and approve meeting minutes.

Background: Attached are the meeting minutes for review.

**Notification:**

**Observations/Alternatives:**

**Funding Source:**

n/a

**Recommendation:**

To review and approve meeting minutes dated November 14, 2019.

**Action:**

Motion to approve meeting minutes dated November 14, 2019.

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**Attachments**

Minutes

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: MaryJo Warner

Final Approval Date: 12/19/2019

**Reviewed By**

Grant Riemer

**Date**

12/19/2019 09:46 AM

Started On: 12/19/2019 09:14 AM

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on November 14, 2019, at Ramsey City Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW.

Commission Members Present:      Chair Shane Bennett  
   Vice Chair Brandon Sis  
   Commissioner Trixy Barnes  
   Commissioner Nathan Barten  
   Commissioner Jennifer Leistico

Commission Members Absent:      Commissioner Russell Bayer

Also Present:                              Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood  
   Recreation Specialist Abby Proulx

**1.      CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bennett called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2.      CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.      APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Leistico, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Leistico, Sis, Barnes, Barten. Voting No: None. Absent: Bayer.

**4.      APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01:    Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Barten, to approve the October 10, 2019, Park and Rec Commission meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Sis, Barten, Barnes, Leistico. Voting No: None. Absent: Bayer.

## **5. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Draft Recreation Policy Plan**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood introduced the draft recreation policy plan by recalling that this same topic was on the October agenda by way of an introduction. The recreation plan is a component of the Park System Plan. A final draft will be presented at the January meeting, and then it will be presented to the City Council.

Recreation Specialist Proulx noted this plan is to be an encompassing document that has practical use for the City. Staff is looking for detailed feedback on the first section and also general feedback on the overall format. She noted it is important to set specific goals to reach desired outcomes in terms of recreation, with the goal of connecting residents physically and socially. The City's strategic plan has approved the action item to update the programming work plan and deliver to create a robust system of recreation services. Previous research has found a void of recreation programming in this area and surrounding areas.

Recreation Specialist Proulx continued that the first three chapters of the policy plan highlight the trends for the City and the surrounding areas and the call for programming. After that come the current state of offerings, the vision of what to offer in the future, and how to do it. She highlighted the mission and core values adopted by Ramsey. Four core values particularly relevant to the Park and Recreation department include: fiscal responsibility, cooperation and teamwork, excellence and quality in the delivery of services, and adaptability and continuous learning. The impact recreation has already had in the City will also be included in chapter 1 of the document. Chapter 2 of the document will include trends related to demographics, economy, and recreation. Chapter 3 of the document will include information on the necessity of programs, with a focus on the importance of promoting personal health (both physical and mental) as well as community health (livability and economic development).

Recreation Specialist Proulx then highlighted partnerships with local businesses, specifically the very first Ramsey Resident Day on the Farm at Pearson Family Farms. The City partnered to offer a day of fall events like face painting, hay rides, pumpkin painting, and more. The event was a great success, as over 180 pumpkins were painted and taken home, and there has already been talk of expanding the program for next year.

Recreation Specialist Proulx continued that chapter 4 will cover the state of the programs in Ramsey, highlighting current programming as well as programming considerations for the future. Chapter 5 will communicate the vision of the department, motivations, goals, and program philosophy. There are a lot of elements that go into the plan, and the goal is to have it be workable and maintain relevance in the future. Chapter 6 will provide an overview of the plan, i.e., restate mission and vision, provide program assessment and evaluation, prioritize record-keeping, provide a facilities update, include a consideration of local partnerships, discuss the value of programming for lifetimes, note inclusivity and accessibility for all, consider fee setting and cost recovery, as well as marketing and outreach. The goal for the final plan will be how to provide and maintain this plan for years to come.

Chair Bennett thanked Recreation Specialist Proulx for a well-done presentation.

Commissioner Barnes asked if a professional proofreader will go through this document to account for grammar mistakes.

Recreation Specialist Proulx noted this is in a very rough draft form, including her own personal comments and thoughts not intended to be presented in final formatting. It is not yet to the stage of doing grammatical proof-reading, but that will come.

Commissioner Sis asked about the lack of mentioning of Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association. He would like to highlight that in the report.

Recreation Specialist Proulx stated the Association has been important, and staff will not forget to include their valuable impact on the community.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted staff wanted to be sure to get everything out to the Commission, and it is a working copy. The Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association will show up in the recreation plan in the beginning as well as the background and also with respect to the importance and synergy that comes with partnerships. ARAA will be both highlighted and featured. Much of what the Athletic Association does is for youth and athletics. At the same time, it also means a lot of those same ages may not have an interest in organized athletics that may very well be showing up at the Art in the Park and other events. Staff will make sure to look at all the partners, even those that pre-exist Ramsey's endeavor into recreation programming.

Commissioner Barnes noted the chapter 1 introduction mentions an "in progress statement," which will be a critical statement, and she asked about the status of that statement.

Recreation Specialist Proulx stated it is still very much in a working draft form so was not included in the draft document yet.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated what Commissioner Barnes called attention to is a broad overview being picked up from the Comp Plan, and that narrative will be modified to speak more directly to the Parks System Plan. He encouraged specific feedback from the Commissioners over the next couple months.

Chair Bennett commended Recreation Specialist Proulx for her good work, and suggested some of the power point slides were text-heavy, making it easy for the reader to get lost in the details.

Commissioner Sis concurred this document is a good start.

Commissioner Barnes stated she would like to see a reduced fee for seniors, without them having to fill out a form. That would encourage more seniors on fixed incomes to participate. Also, in terms of promoting community health and livability, she would like to see references more relatable to the residents of Ramsey.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated each page is supposed to ultimately have three images related to the text, and that will be included in the final form of the document. Also, staff will use the appendices to get a little deeper into the studies and statistics, so they are not brought into the narrative so much, in order to promote readability.

## **5.02: Acknowledge Phasing Plan for Public Realm Improvements in The COR**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood reminded the Commission that the downtown was an organic, citizen-driven process that began in 1998. It showed up as an advisory question on a ballot and was affirmed by residents at the general election. It is important to note how far the City has come in the last 15 years, in spite of the Great Recession. The City has not moved substantially away from the vision, which has helped the success of the vision. The downtown area is about half developed currently. A lot of progress has been made with the residential goals. The residential component is very important to getting to the retail, which is what residents really want. The public realm elements are about 30-40% of the way there. The majority of improvements in the downtown are private sector investments, and that is why it is important to hold the vision and deliver. For example, people who are buying next to Municipal Plaza are doing so because the City promised a park there.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood continued to note that connectivity between all the planning elements is key. He presented proposed images of Municipal Plaza. The various phases may include gathering spaces, activity “rooms,” water stairs, hearths along the regional trail, splash pad, wading pool area, restaurants, indoor playgrounds, engineering and infrastructure improvements, and more. Near-term improvements include grading for Municipal Plaza and design work for first phases.

Chair Bennett thanked Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood for sharing a vision for the potential phasing of the project.

Commissioner Barnes asked about the inclusion of the water stairs.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded the water stairs may not occur, but it is a great idea to have a centralized aesthetic and functional component in that park area. The water stairs would also be a nice sound as well as aesthetic for the park. As the plans are refined, staff will look at individual elements. The stairs would not be a first phase improvement and could be looked at in later phases. First phase elements will be grading to Municipal Plaza with later improvements potentially occurring later in the summer of 2020.

Commissioner Sis asked about the refrigerated surface that may be an ice rink in the winter.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded there are vendors who bring out refrigerated surfaces, so that would be a contract relationship, much like the City contracts with people at Happy Days for generators, tents and bounce-houses. There would be irrigated turf and after the ground freezes, it would be set up. It is a popular model on the East Coast.

## 6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

Recreation Specialist Proulx provided an update on programming, including bingo with the Women of Anoka, yoga, line dancing, an ornament-making class, and the upcoming master naturalist program.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the Commission often does not have any action items in December, and that appears to be the case this year, so a meeting is not necessary.

Chair Bennett stated the Commission is fine with not having a December meeting, with the understanding that a meeting can be called if needed.

Chair Bennett noted Commission Shoemaker has resigned her spot, and an opening will be posted, with interviews occurring in March 2020. He thanked Commissioner Shoemaker for her service on the Commission.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Barten, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Sis, Barten, Barnes, Leistico. Voting No: None. Absent: Bayer.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark Riverblood  
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Allison Burr  
*TimeSaver off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

Meeting Date: 01/09/2020

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

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### Information

**Title:**

Draft Recreation Programming & Partnerships Chapter

**Purpose/Background:**

Purpose:

A subset of the 2020 Park System Plan (under development) are the recreational components which is entitled within this case; *Chapter 3, Recreation Programming & Partnerships*—which will also define the policy and theory for recreational programming. This policy development corresponds to City Council's adopted Strategic Plan Strategy to ***"Connect the community both physically and socially to destinations, services, and activities."*** and more specifically, the Action item ***"Update the Recreation Programming Work Plan—Deliver a diversity of programs that finds a balance of revenue and access."***

Background:

Formalizing recreation programming goes back approximately one half decade ago as part of the city's [then] strategic plan goal of 'creating a diverse and robust system of recreation services.' One significant step in that process was to inventory recreation opportunities available within a 15 minute drive from Ramsey. That 2015 analysis (of 134 categories) found that there was a void in Ramsey for recreational opportunity with many different offerings unavailable from neither the private or public sector.

The various attachments following the adopted Strategic Plan (below) track the above mentioned planning analysis and survey of residents' desire for recreation and enrichment programming. Attachments 2 and 3 are related to the 2018 Citizen Survey and include valuable insights into residents view of the park system.

In terms of addressing the strategic plan action item to *Update the Recreation Programming Work Plan—Deliver a diversity of programs that finds a balance of revenue and access*, this case and policy plan discussion by the Commission continues this endeavor.

**Notification:**

**Observations/Alternatives:**

Recreation Specialist Abby Proulx will present the continued development of the Recreation and Partnerships Chapter by highlighting Sections 1 through 3 at the meeting. Staff will be requesting detailed feedback on these first three sections (Section 1 is estimated to be an approximate 95% draft, Section 2 at 90% and the third at about 85% draft. Note formatting, photos, citations etc. will be addressed after Commission review).

The *Recreation and Programming & Partnerships* Chapter when approved by the Commission, would advance for Council consideration thereafter, or available leading up to City Council's strategic planning in early Winter of 2020.

To place the Chapter 3 (the subject of this case) into context, the following is an overview of the content of the larger ***Park System Plan***:

This **Park System Plan**—Ramsey’s first comprehensive planning document dedicated to parks, trails and related open space will attempt to be aspirational and visionary, yet realistic. It will catalog where we are and what we have, while describing where we are going and what we can achieve.

**Chapter 1, Introduction & Where We Are** highlights very briefly where we’ve come from, and sets up the context for this plan, However, greater detail will be revealed in the chapter that explores ‘Recreation Districts’ at the larger neighborhood scale—as well as painting a picture of what can be.

**Chapter 2, Vision & Essential Elements** will describe basic or foundational elements of the park and trail system and their value and interrelationships.

**Chapter 3, Recreation Programming & Partnerships** is a key portion of the *Park System Plan*, exploring recreation programming theory, its value to the community and most importantly, the partnerships that allow these government services to be efficient, effective, and yielding a continued return on investments.

**Chapter 4, Recreation Districts & Neighborhoods** as signaled, comprises much of this plan—describing the existing infrastructure and recommended future improvements at a both a neighborhood level and also how these neighborhoods interact to bring a community of recreational opportunities together without redundancy but with connectivity.

**Chapter 5, Implementation & the Future** explores how we move towards capitalizing on the vision and prospects, and how we pay for it, while taking care of existing investments.

**Funding Source:**

This topic does not not authorize funding per se, however the resultant recreation and programming policy will guide price setting and theory in recreation services, to include strategies relating to the revenue side of recreation and enrichment programming for 2020 and beyond.

**Recommendation:**

Staff requests feedback on the draft chapter's content (first attachment) and any other input Commissioners may have.

**Action:**

Consensus input on Draft Park System Plan, Chapter 3, Sections 1 -3.

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**Attachments**

[Rec Sections 1 - 3, Chapter 3](#)

[2018 Citizen Survery results](#)

[Citizen Survey trends](#)

[Strategic Plan](#)

[Inventory](#)

[Summary Survey](#)

[Rec Program Update](#)

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**  
Grant Riemer

**Reviewed By**  
Katie Schmidt

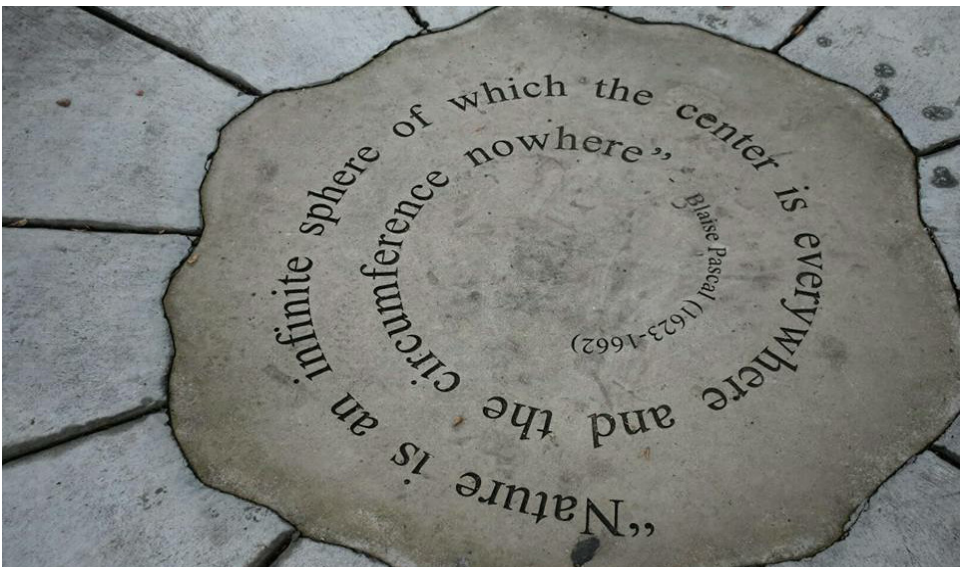
**Date**  
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Final Approval Date: 01/03/2020

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FORMATTING  
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# CHAPTER 3 RECREATION PROGRAMMING & PARTNERSHIPS

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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## CHAPTER 1 | INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE

There are many reasons Ramsey is a remarkable city to reside: agricultural roots which provide a sense of authenticity, growing opportunities spurred by new development, extensive parks and trails system to connect residents, and a sense of community drawn from shared experiences. Uniqueness can even be found in the physical shape of Ramsey. Within the winding boundaries formed by the Mighty Mississippi and Wild and Scenic Rum River, a diversity of residents can be found—each with their own individual identity, background, family, means of living, and interests that influenced their reason for calling Ramsey home.

Parks and recreation agencies offer the ability to positively impact their respective communities through safe and accessible ways to recreate. Departments in this capacity work to increase economic value in their city and simultaneously provide ways to improve quality of life for residents. An established parks and recreation department increases the value of property, attracts business opportunities, and reduces costs of health care, social services, and police departments. On the individual basis, participants in recreation programs gain substantial benefits in both their physical and social health. Participation in Recreation can reduce self-destructive behavior, lower risk of diseases, improve longevity of life, build strong bonds within a community and enhance overall wellbeing (NRPA & American Planning Association Cite, Trust for Public Land). Services from parks and recreation departments are vital to achieve well-balanced human development. Section 3 will explore the impacts of a robust parks and recreation system on both the community and individual level.

Ramsey encompasses 29 square miles, and boasts 500 acres of municipal parkland which contain [x city parks], two regional parks, [x miles of trails], [x river miles]. With natural spaces as such, Ramsey proves to be an attractive place to start a family, retire, or invest. Businesses are drawn to the opportunities presented from a growing population, while residents are still able to appreciate the quaint roots of Ramsey the and extensive green-spaces provided by protected parks, greenways and open space As Ramsey continues to grow and change, the Parks and Recreation services is placed in an opportune position to establish itself and have a long-lasting effect on the community.

Ramsey's Park and Recreation department can help solidify



Figure 1.1 Agriculture



Figure 1.2 Natural resources

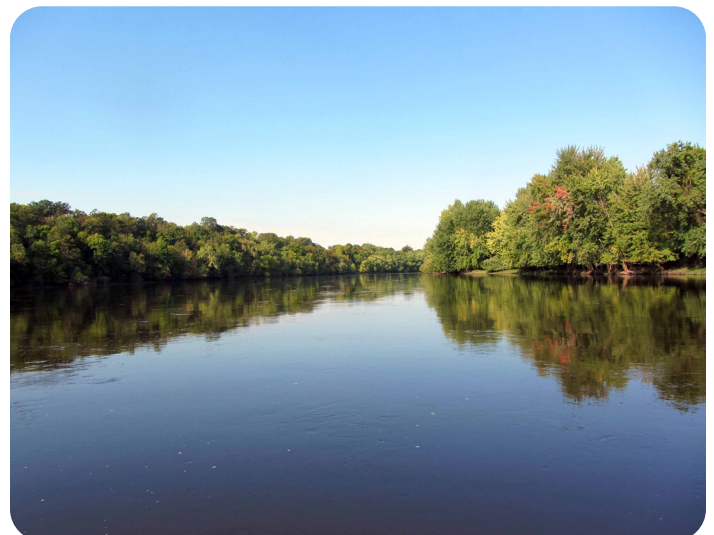


Figure 1.3 Inviting public places

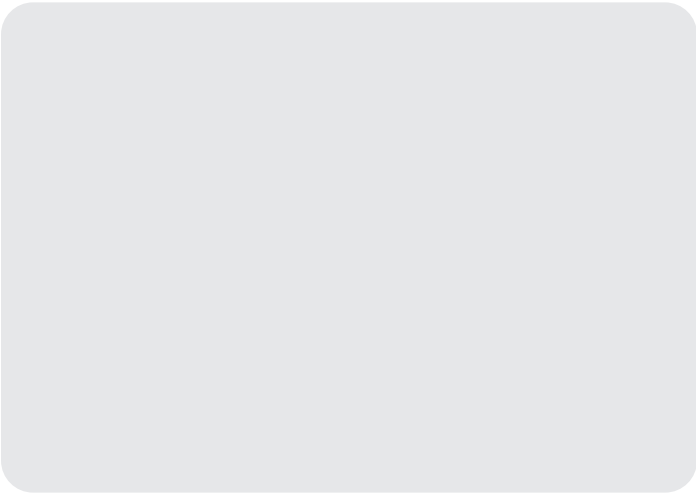


Figure 1.4 Age in



Figure 1.5 History of settlement

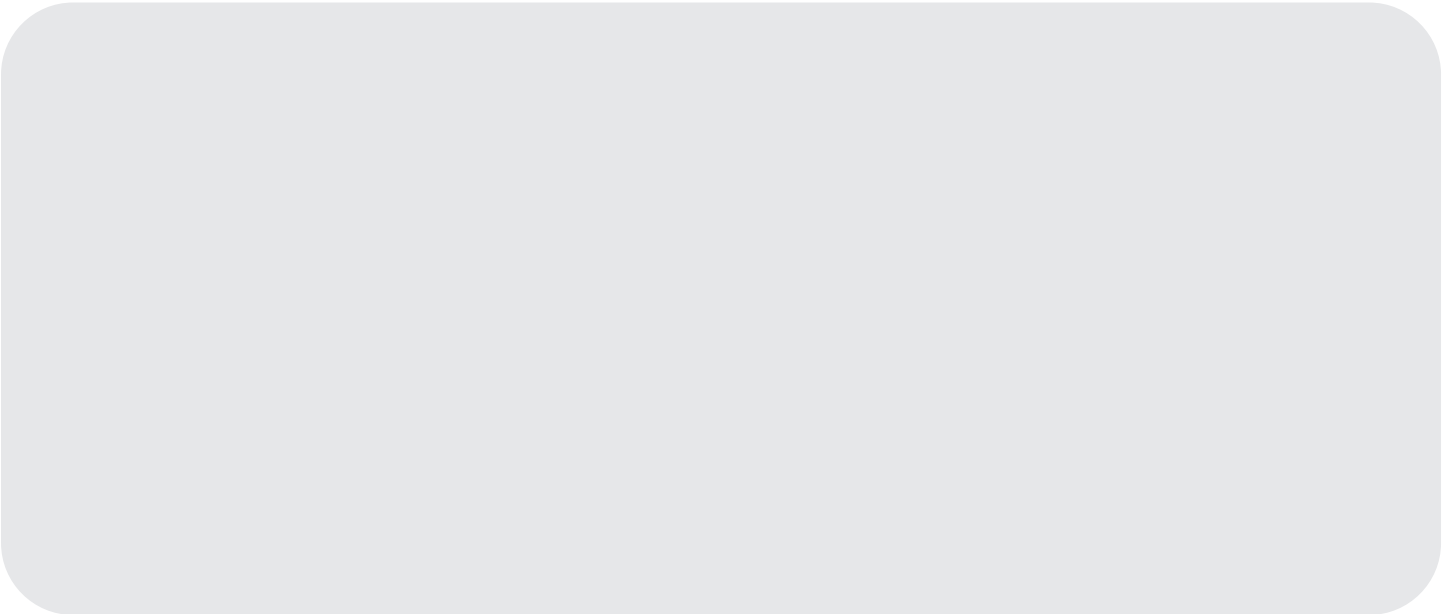


Figure 1.6 Mississippi River

positive growth with recreation opportunities that promote active and healthy lifestyles to improve the quality and longevity of life. An effective department adds significant value to the City by enhancing its livability.

The purpose of the [entire chapter name in PSP] is to explore relevant theory in recreation programming, identify a need and framework for future programs, and put in place realistic goals and strategies to achieve them. As the City that is relatively new to recreation programming, it is vital we build a strong foundation in recreation to effectively develop partnerships, create services that are efficient, effective and yield a continuing return on investments. This chapter is organized into x distinct sections. It will begin with background information on demographics and trends in Ramsey, [call for need/impact of recreation], .... [this chapter] is designed to interconnect with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and approved Strategic Action Plan. Additionally, it will support and respond to initiatives found throughout the Park Systems Plan.

### MISSION AND CORE VALUES

[Expand for parks as well, 2040 comp plan]

#### Mission

The City previously has adopted a mission to *“work together to responsibly grow our community, and provide quality, cost-effective, and efficient government services.”* [insert visual of mission & core value]. This section will describe how the Parks and Recreation Department will instill the City mission

throughout [insert for entire parks system] and various aspects of recreation programming. [statement about parks as a whole for the mission].

### Core Values

The Parks and Recreation Department will reflect of the City's Core values in program development, with a focus on the following:

**FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY** The Department will evaluate programs with cost efficiency in mind. Fiscal responsibility will be achieved through careful planning to ensure services offered are beneficial and relevant for our residents. We aim to strike a balance between accessibility and cost recovery. The added community value from parks and recreation will be carefully analyzed and considered when planning for the future of parks and programming. **Section x** will highlight the framework for recreation program funding and cost analysis.

**COOPERATION AND TEAMWORK** The Department takes great pride in our partners. We seek to form mutually beneficial relationships with our local entities whenever possible. Healthy partnerships are essential to build a strong community and help us provide higher quality programs for residents, while promoting the local economy. **Section x** will provide details and examples on our partnerships.

**EXCELLENCE AND QUALITY IN THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES** The Department will study the needs of residents to ensure provided services have significant benefits on both the individual and community levels. We seek to be responsive through constant communications and feedback from residents. **Framework for how these services will be provided can be found in section X.**

**ADAPTABILITY AND CONTINUOUS LEARNING** The Department is proud to promote continuous learning for all. We will be adaptable to the needs of residents and trends in recreation. Services will be offered to keep regular participants engaged as well as encourage new users to participate. The impact of parks and recreation on continuous learning can be **found X.** Details on integration of adaptability and continuous learning can be found in **section Y.**

### HISTORY OF RECREATION IN RAMSEY

[Hold for background of Recreation in Ramsey, tee up for necessity of programs/call for need]

### WHY PROVIDE RECREATION IN RAMSEY?

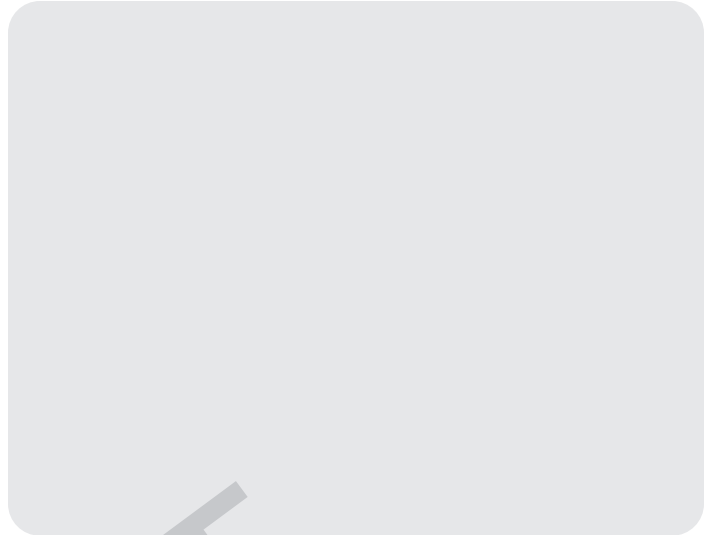


Figure 1.7 Health/living



Figure 1.8 Urban agriculture

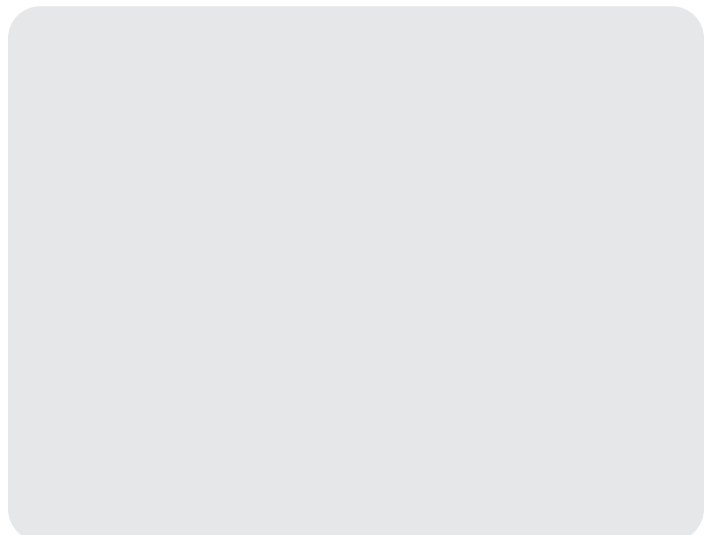


Figure 1.9 Green infrastructure



Figure 1.10 Green infrastructure

Parks and Recreation services are not only an important aspect of life in Ramsey, but are among the essential elements to the quality of life for residents. Residents interact with the Parks and Recreation Department on a daily basis—[walking paths witness footsteps year round; residents celebrating life milestones with their loved ones in reserved park buildings; an amphitheater filled with people enjoying music emanating from the Concert series; and a diverse offering of classes and events for residents to enroll.] Parks and recreation programming promote active living through providing these opportunities and facilities. They can enhance the wellbeing of residents by providing safe spaces to spend time in nature, fostering their hobbies through program offerings and help build a stronger community bond over shared experiences.

Well established recreation programs create an inviting atmosphere and become intertwined in the lives of residents. In the summer months, live music is welcomed at The Draw. Residents know to gather on Thursday evenings to watch a new band each week. As partnerships have grown stronger, and the series has expanded, supplemental programs have been added. [Art in the Park], [Car Show]. [speak more on partnerships].

The Concert Series is one example of the components that create a deeper value to what it means to reside in Ramsey. Recreation programs as such offer a space to come together, socialize and spend time outdoors. [other added values to community, briefly mention before next chapter elaborates]

Section 3 will discuss in detail the overall impact of engagement in parks and recreation and how a strong recreation program can impact the City of Ramsey.



Figure 1.12 Green infrastructure



Figure 1.11 Green infrastructure

### Summer Draw Series Highlight

2020 celebrates the 10th year of the Summer Concert Series here in Ramsey. Throughout the years...



# CHAPTER 2 | TRENDS

## INTRODUCTION

In an effort to enhance community engagement, be cost efficient, and offer services of quality...

## TRENDS IN RAMSEY

### Demographics

As of 2018, 27,051 people in 9,211 unique households called Ramsey home. Steady growth is seen from the year 2000, when the population was under 15,510, to now (Metropolitan Council, 2018). This growth in our population is projected to reach 39,500 residents living in 13,500 different households by 2040 (2040 Comp Plan).

As the population has grown, household dynamics have shifted. Within our 9,211 households; 30.45% are married families with children, 9.34% are unmarried families with children, 41.17% are families without children, 15.11% lived alone, and the remaining 3.93% are non-family households (The American Communities Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017). In comparison to the 2000 data, there are notable changes. The most significant being a decrease in married families with children. Part of the decrease can be attributed to a slight increase of unmarried families with children, increase in families without children, and increase in those who lived alone.

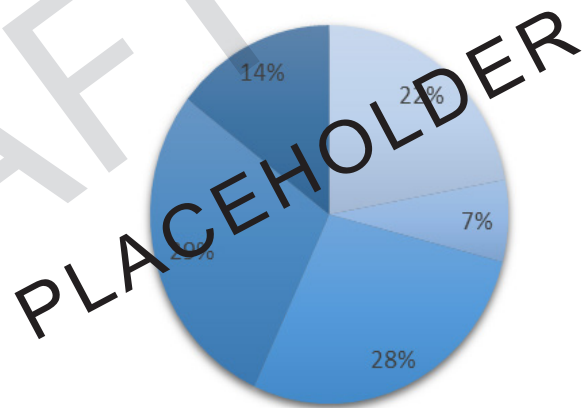
Age demographics of Ramsey provide both a dynamic and

insightful lens into the needs of residents. It is essential to understand how population age changes in order to offer appropriate services. Within recreation, we want to offer programs that respond to the needs of our residents. An example of this is noted above- while the proportion families with children has significantly gone down, due to an overall rising population, the total number of children has actually increased. By looking at age an age breakdown, we be sure to offer relevant programming for now, and predict future programming.

### Demographic Influences on Recreation

Human development is ever-changing. From the time we are born, to the time we retire, different things are required to satisfy our

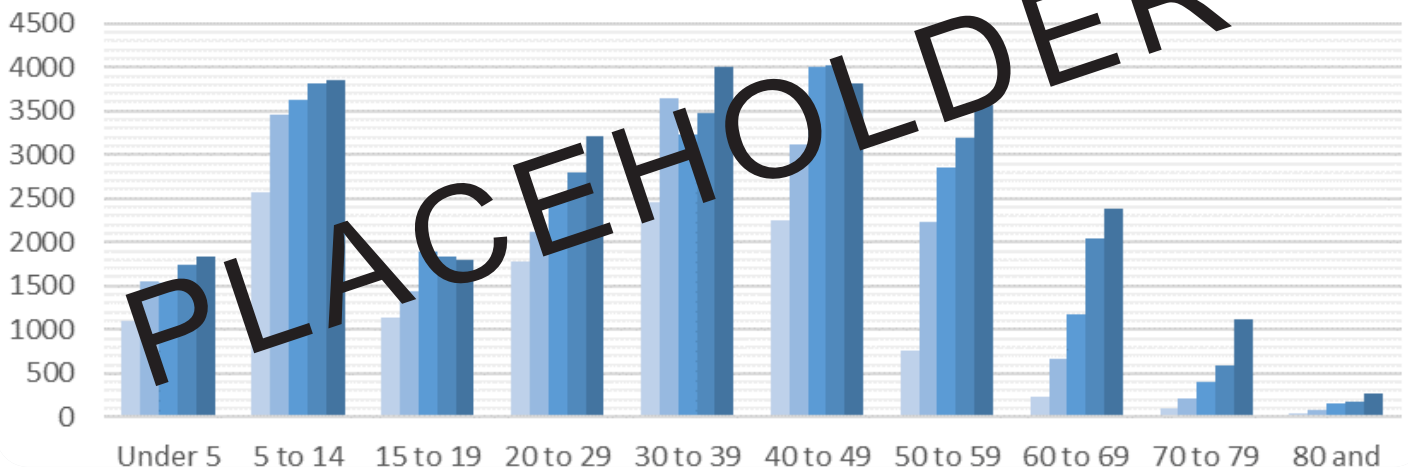
ACS 2017 age breakdown



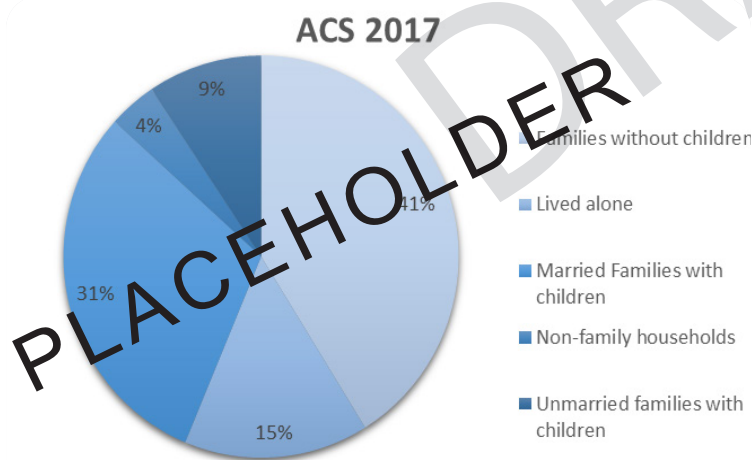
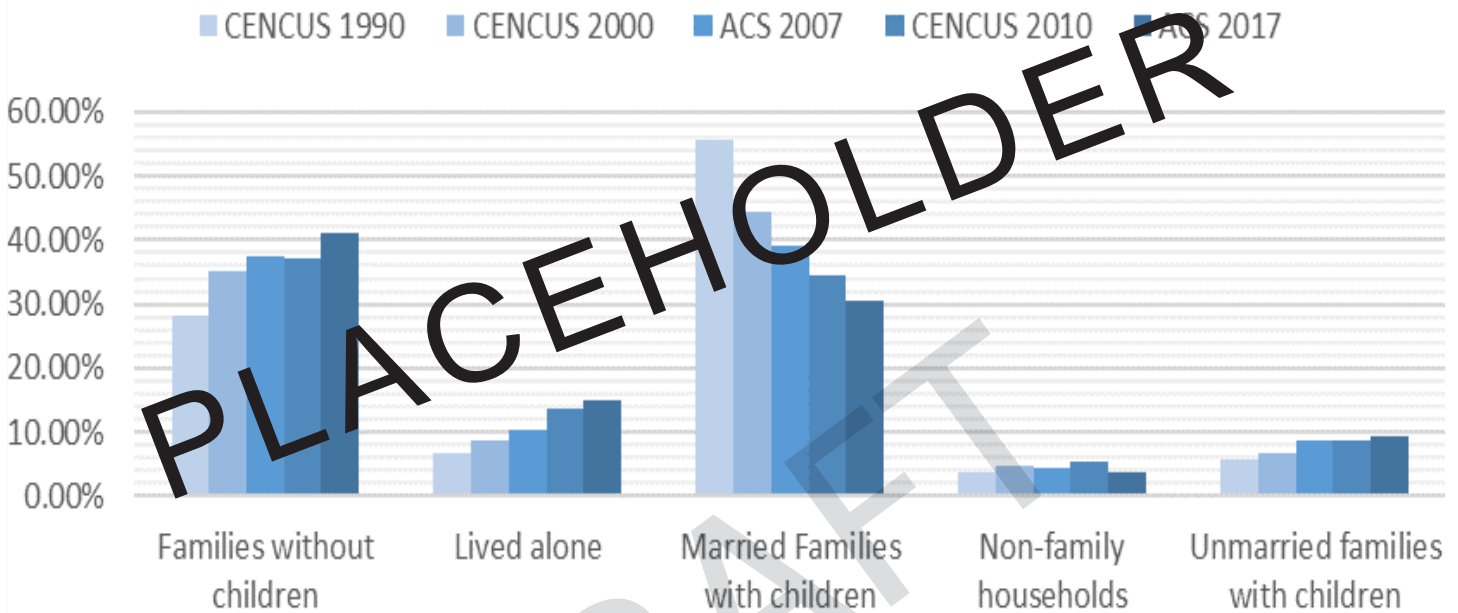
14 and under 15 to 19 20 to 39 40 to 59 60 and over

## Population Age Trends

CENSUS 1990 CENSUS 2000 ACS2006 CENSUS2010 ACS 2017



## Family Type Trends



will carry with them throughout their life. This is especially important now with the newest generations seeing an exponential increase of screen time in youth, impacting their development. In Ramsey about 40% of households have children. Those under 5 were 7.12% of the population from 2013-2017 (ACS).

**YOUTH:** Time spent outdoors in childhood is rapidly diminishing, as are the benefits children receive from it. This decreased time recreating in nature can contribute to a more sedentary lifestyle that will follow youth through adulthood (Bento, Dias/ Porto Biomed Journal Cite). Biologist E.O.Wilson, notes that children are naturally “biophilic”- or drawn towards wildlife and to the outdoors. Children have a natural affinity for environmental education, making it an effective springboard for the inclusion of many other areas of study and the development of critical life skills (Mann & Hensley, 2002). Children between the ages of 5 and 14 are 14.94% of Ramsey’s population. This proportion of the population can benefit from recreation opportunities as they provide positive self-esteem, healthy lifestyles and develop skills for a successful adulthood. Section X will speak more on the impacts of recreation on the development of youth.

interests and wellbeing. Age groups are frequently utilized as a means to classify programs in a way to account for these changes proceed through development. Age categories can be broken down into the following: 1-5 years, preschool; 6-12, youth; 13-18, teen; 19-54 adult; and 55+, senior.

**PRESCHOOL:** Recreational play is a necessity in the early development of youth. It helps develop the emotional, social, cognitive and physical aspects of life for children that they

**TEEN:** As youth transition into their teenage and early adulthood years, they are tasked with developing a sense of self and responsibility. At this point they go through a tremendous amount of biophysical and neurobehavioral changes. Approximately 7% of Ramsey’s population is in this period of development (7% is an estimate, as available data encompasses 15 to 19, not 13-18). In this point of adolescents, the brain is easily shaped by social learning through experience, direct interaction, self-reflection, education, and interaction with adults and peers. It is important to remember that adolescents are valuable resources to invest in, and not problems to be solved. Adolescents want to develop their capacities, and they need the type of opportunities that recreation programs can provide for them (cite NRPA 3).

**ADULT:** Adult programs are targeted to a range of ages and interests, as these opportunities are typically available to anyone ages 18 years and older. For the sake of clear cut categories, we will separate adult and senior programming. While youth and seniors tend to be most targeted in recreation, it is important that we do not overlook the benefits adults can receive from programming as well. [briefly mention physical and mental health for adults] It is notable that in the United States only 3

in 10 adults are regularly active during their leisure time, and 4 in 10 adults are not active at all (Schoenborn, 2002). In Anoka County, one in four residents meet the CDC recommendations for activity. Beyond physical fitness, recreation opportunities offer increased well-being for adults, which can be found further discussed in Section 3. Those who are aged 20-54 are 50.1% of the population.

**SENIOR:** As our Baby Boomer generation ages, there will be a greater need for services for seniors. Inactivity is known to increase with age. Recreation can enhance the lives of seniors through active living. Seniors who participate in recreation can limit the potential onset of diseases and impairment often associated with the aging process. Engaging in recreation activities that include a physical element can also help the aging population lead independent by helping them remain mobile, flexible and keeping their cognitive abilities sharp (source). About 1 in 5 (20.87%) of residents fall into the 55+ category and can benefit from senior programming. More information on the impact of programs for seniors can be found in section X.

### Economy State of the Economy in Ramsey



Economic standing can be indicative of a person’s ability to participate in recreation programs, especially those with fees. The 2016 average annual wages were \$47,527. This puts Ramsey slightly under the Anoka County average of \$49,918. However, median household income was \$86,800 in Ramsey, compared to \$70,900 in Anoka County. In 2015, approximately 3.5% of Ramsey lived below the poverty level (income of \$24,250 per year for a family of four), 4.5% between 100% and 149%, and 5.2% between 150% and 184% of the poverty line.

In 2018, an estimated 6,864 people held jobs in the City. The job breakdown is as follows (INSERT CHART INSTEAD OF TEXT):

- 34 % manufacturing, 11% retail trade, 6% wholesale trade, 6% health care and social assistance, 6% educational services, 5% accommodation and food services, 4% administrative and waste services, 3% public administration, 2% finance and insurance, 1% arts, entertainment, and recreation, 1% information, 19% all other industries (Metropolitan Council, 2016).

The employment forecast is positive, with an estimated increase to 7,500 by the year 2030, and 8,100 by 2040 (MET Council source) Unemployment rates remain steady around 3.5%. Ramsey falls slightly under the national average of 4% according

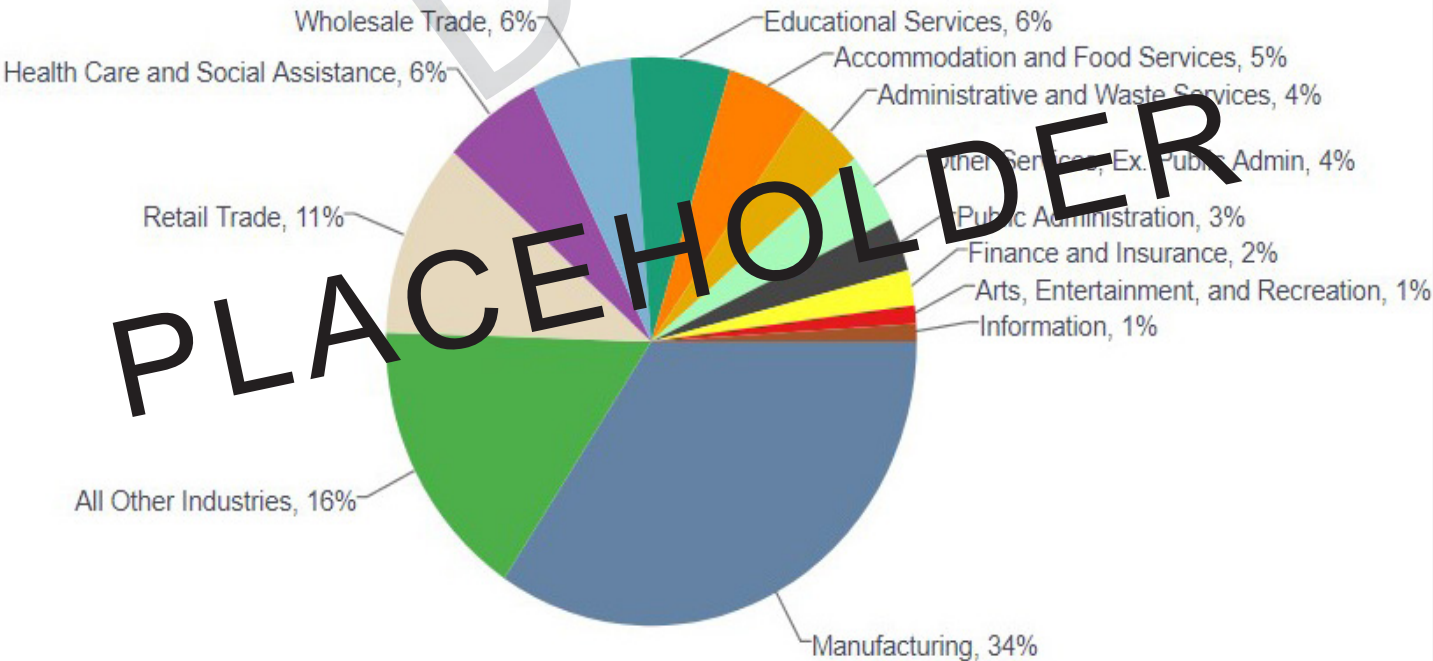
to the National Conference of State Legislature. Unemployment is projected to steadily decrease over the next few years (Congressional Budget Office, 2017).

**Recreation Impact on Economics**

Local and regional public park agencies directly provided more than 356,000 jobs in the United States during 2013 (NRPA 2). In 2015 alone, America’s local public park and recreation agencies generated more than \$154 billion in economic activity and their operations and capital spending supported more than 1.1 million jobs. (NRPA) (INSERT MINNESOTA STATS & GRAPHIC) . Local and regional park systems spent an estimated \$22.4 billion on capital programs, leading to about \$59.7 billion in economic activity, a contribution of \$29.2 billion to the GDP, \$19.6 billion in labor income and more than 340,000 jobs (NRPA 2). In Minnesota alone, \$2.8 billion in Economic Activity, and 22,411 jobs created (NRPA 2). The City of Ramsey is fortunate to have two Regional Parks and two Regional trails within its borders.

A University of Minnesota study has found every dollar invested in conserving natural lands nets a return of \$1.70 to \$4.40. During the summer months, Minnesota’s state parks generate \$1 million every week from camping, vehicle permits, and sales of wood, pop, ice, and merchandise in state parks. Similarly,

**Employment by Industry in Ramsey**



Minnesota’s non-motorized trail users spend approximately \$2.7 billion annually on trips and equipment, and support 37,000 jobs statewide. Communities located along state and regional trails are the primary beneficiaries of this economic activity. For example, the Paul Bunyan State Trail, Heartland State Trail, and Root River State Trail each generate between \$1.2 million and \$2.2 million for their local regions respectively. The majority of this spending – 90% or more – comes from trail users who reside outside the local economy, and thus are “new” dollars that would not otherwise be spent in the community. A similar study in Wisconsin found biking-related tourism and recreation contributes nearly a billion dollars to the state economy (MN Parks and Trails). [while applies to state parks, can be seen on a smaller scale with connected opportunities and Ramsey’s unique river features]

**Recreation**  
**Recreation Trends in Ramsey**

The 2018 Community Livability Report (NCS, 2018) studied a sample of residents to better understand their perception of the city and level of engagement [create visuals for this section].

Some of the key findings (2018 NCS Community Survey):

- 85% of residents rated the City as an excellent or good place to live
- On par with national averages, 59% of residents rated health and wellness as positive, and 64% rated fitness opportunities
- Only 50% rated recreational opportunities as positive, which is considered lower in comparison to the national benchmark
- In regards to governance, 76% of citizens rated City parks at positive, and 59% rated recreation centers as positive.
  - There is not a City-owned recreation center in Ramsey. Respondents may have been referring to school facilities or private businesses.

50% of citizens stated they had attended a City-sponsored  
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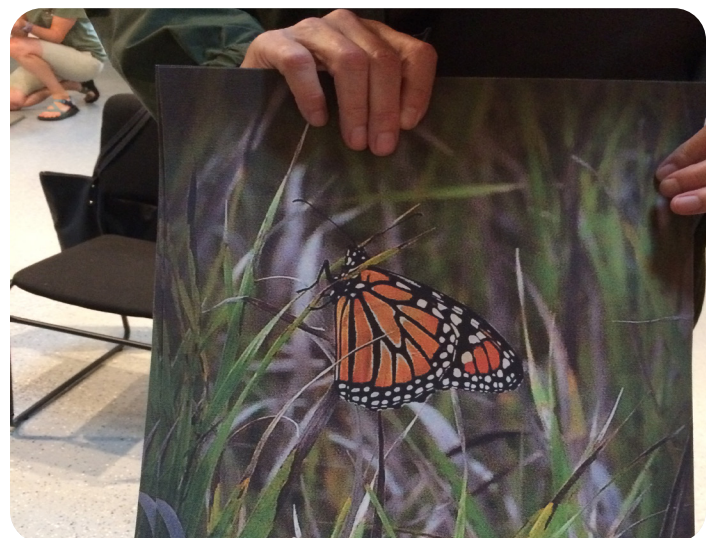
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Figure 1.14 xxxxxx

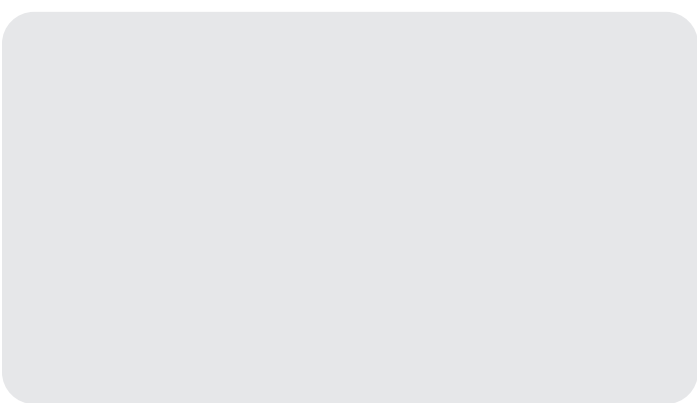


**80%** of home buyers say walking trails are a top community characteristic when choosing a new home.

**53%** of home buyers say they would prefer a home with a small yard close to a park to a home with a large yard but no nearby parks.

**52%** of home buyers say nearby bike trails are an important deciding factor when choosing a new home.

**30%** of homeowners say their neighborhood has too few parks and playgrounds.



event, up from 42% in 2016.

- Major City-sponsored events prior to 2017 include Safety Camp, The Draw Summer Event Series, Happy Days, pet clinics, recycling events, Nite to Unite, and the spring business expo.
- Only 17% have volunteered in the community, lower than comparable communities
- 87% of residents visited a City park

Overall, ratings in Ramsey for 2018 generally remained stable. Of the 94 items for which comparisons were available, 78 items were rated similarly in 2016 and 2018 and 16 showed an increase in ratings; no items showed a decrease in ratings. Some notable trends for recreation include:

- Survey respondents were more likely in 2018 to favorably rate aspects of government performance such as welcoming citizen involvement and overall confidence in City government.
- In the pillar of Community Characteristics, Ramsey residents were more likely in 2018 than in 2016 to give positive ratings to the city as a place to retire as well as to employment, fitness and cultural/arts/music activities.

[Great to see positive trends, areas that were lower than the benchmark seem to be due to lack of opportunity, especially with the high number who visit parks. programming at parks could be a great option]

### Statewide trends in Recreation

In 2017, the Minnesota DNR updated a statewide outdoor recreation household survey that had previously been conducted in 2004. Key findings from the survey included positive news that outdoor activities are an increasingly important part of most Minnesotan's lives. In 2004, data suggested that outdoor recreation participation was declining, causing concern for public agencies charged with providing outdoor recreation. Fortunately, the 2017 survey results indicate that from 2004 to 2017, the percentage of Minnesotans who reported that outdoor activities are very important increased from 57 to 70 percent. Findings also revealed that "Minnesotans see the outdoors as a place to rest and relax, connect with family and friends, and improve their health."

Favorite activities were broken up into seasonal categories, with activities such as "relaxing in the outdoors," "walking or hiking,"

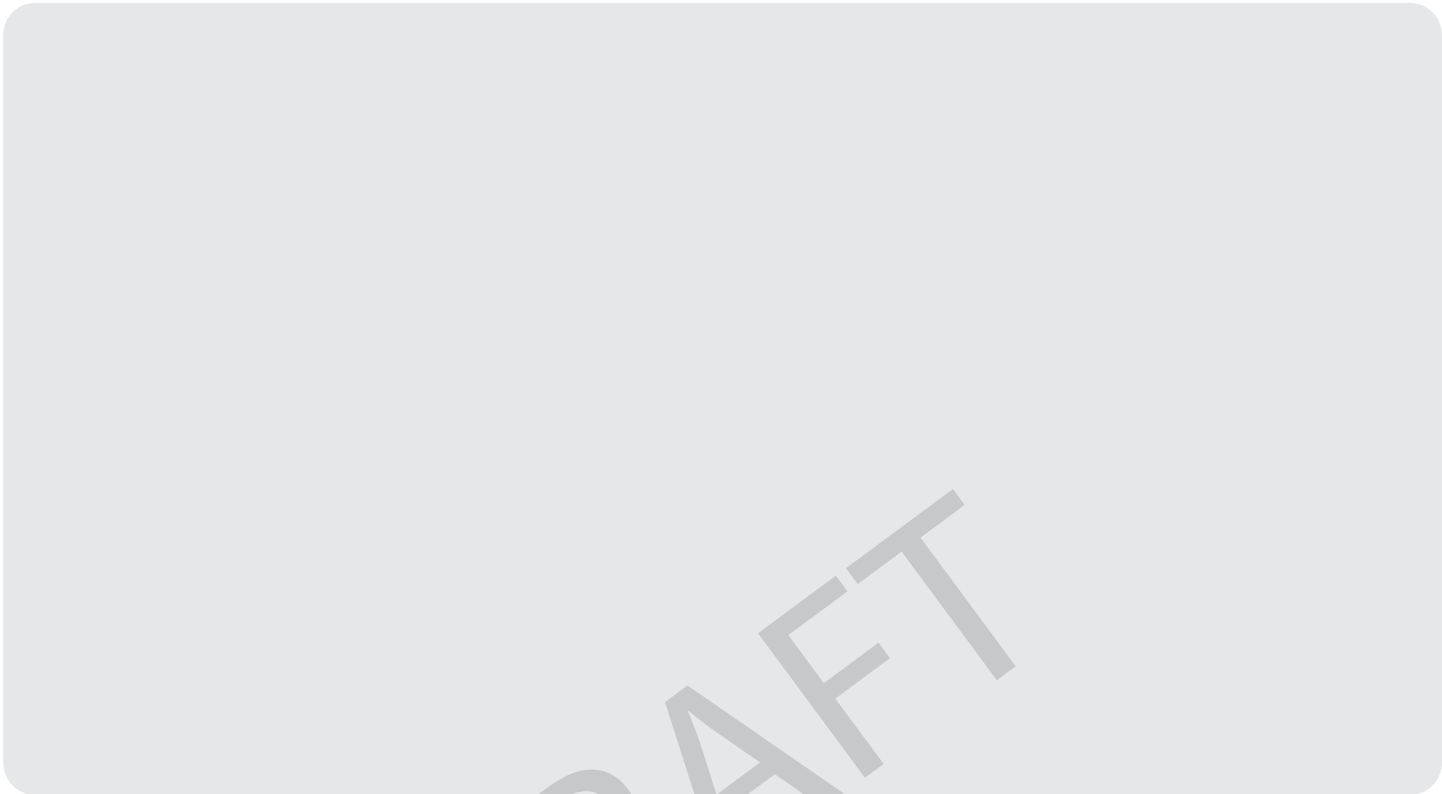


“relaxing by the water,” and “picnicking outdoors” identified as highly popular year-round and three-season activities. In winter, top activities were “sledding and snow tubing,” and “ice fishing.”

These findings suggest a number of interesting possibilities: that Minnesotans prefer activities that require less equipment or advanced skills, and/or that they have not had the opportunity to develop interests and skills to participate in other activities. This is an area for additional exploration for Ramsey programs.

How we spend our time at work, with our families and in leisure has rapidly changed in recent decades considering with technological advances. As dynamics shift, some of the traditional nature based activities are declining. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Recreation Plan,

outdoor Recreation Participation Minnesota is not escaping this broad trend—evident since the 1990s—of declining per-capita participation in nature-based outdoor recreation in the United States. This is a national trend that impacts national parks, national trails, state parks, state trails and other outdoor recreational facilities. It includes activities such as hunting, fishing, boating, wildlife watching, and wilderness use (Kelly, 2008). Although the decline in these activities in Minnesota is not as large as the national decline, it is still present. The primary driving factor behind this trend is a decline in involvement among young adults (ages 20–45) and their children. Today’s young adults and youth are not as engaged in traditional nature-based activities as older generations were. Declines in participation reduce the number of Minnesotans who receive the personal and community benefits of outdoor recreation.



These include physical activity, social and family bonding, sense of place, community pride and overall quality of life benefits that being active outdoors produces. (MN DNR REC PLAN).

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## SECTION 3 | [NECESSITY/IMPACT OF PROGRAMS]

### INTRODUCTION

“Minnesota’s outdoor recreation opportunities connect everyone to the outdoors. They create experiences that inspire a legacy of stewardship for the natural world and they provide fun, outdoor recreational opportunities that strengthen friendships, families, health and spirit now and into the future. Minnesotans experience the full range of benefits that outdoor recreation provides, reinforcing our identity as an outdoor culture.”

*MN DNR COMP PLAN*

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## RECREATION NEEDS SURVEY

### Summary

[Mesh together UMN project, and other PSP survey to be more encompassing and average out data] [notes/comments from resident feedback]

Surveys are frequently utilized in parks and recreation to assess current operations, determined the direction they are headed and quantify the need for services. Ramsey staff conducted a recreation inventory analysis in 2015 to determine offerings within a 15 minute drive of Ramsey. Public and private entities from the following areas were included: Anoka County Parks, Andover, Blaine, Champlin, Coon Rapids, Elk River, Maple Grove, Nowthen, Ramsey, Rogers, Three Rivers Park District, Elk River School District 728, and Anoka-Hennepin School District 11.

The programs gathered from these groups were separated into 127 categories and entered into a spreadsheet. This spreadsheet was divided by age group and into non-athletic, athletic non-competitive, and athletic competitive categories, and details of each offering were listed in comment boxes. These potential areas to increase opportunities will be evaluated for feasibility and likely interest and then will be put into a community interest survey to find out which of these areas community members would actually like offered through programming.

Following this initial 2015 inquiry, in 2017-2018, Ramsey was selected as one of the University of Minnesota's Resilient Community Partners. There were over 21 projects across 16 different academic departments. Some of which touched on recreation offerings in the City. [findings from U of M survey & resilient communities ]

### Findings

#### Overall Trends:

[Ramsey lacking], [not much provided in the area], [residents must drive far for YMCA] [insert feedback from other survey too] [rework following section, inserted from 2017]

#### Senior Programming:

- Programming, especially outdoor and athletic programming, for ages 55+

#### Youth Programming:

- A teen center/teen specific programming
- Programming for children and adults with special needs

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#### Revamp of traditional programs:

- Programming for all ages and abilities for emerging recreational activities such as stand-up paddle boarding, bubble soccer, ultimate Frisbee, video game programming and gardening
- New twists on common programming like combining wine and cheese tasting with an art class for adults 21+.

#### Areas that are unlikely to benefit from additional programming:

- Privately operated training facilities for activities like gymnastics, aerobics, dance, and karate
- Athletic activities covered by the Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association
- Activities with many organizations offering them such as ice skating lessons, swimming lessons, and musical

instrument class

#### Limitations of the study:

- Some organizations put out catalogs every season, so by the time each was studied, there may be new information available and the links referenced in the comments may be outdated. However, because most organizations put out a similar roster of programming each year, the overall data should remain accurate.
- Some catalogs were only available for the current season, so programming from other seasons may have been omitted.
- Though effort was made to include as many categories as necessary, some activities did not fall neatly into a category, so users of the information may not find what they are looking for in the spot they think it should be.

### [What this means for Ramsey]

Overall this survey tells us there is room to grow. From these studies, we have found there is a hole around Ramsey where many recreation opportunities are lacking. This is a great opportunity for the City to offer new and unique programs for all age groups. Additionally, we want to continue to improve on areas we are doing well in. We affirmed from the survey that the Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association is a valuable partner to offer residents a variety of physical sport activities. **Section X will talk more about partnerships in recreation programming, and Section Y will outline goals and strategies to expand programming.**

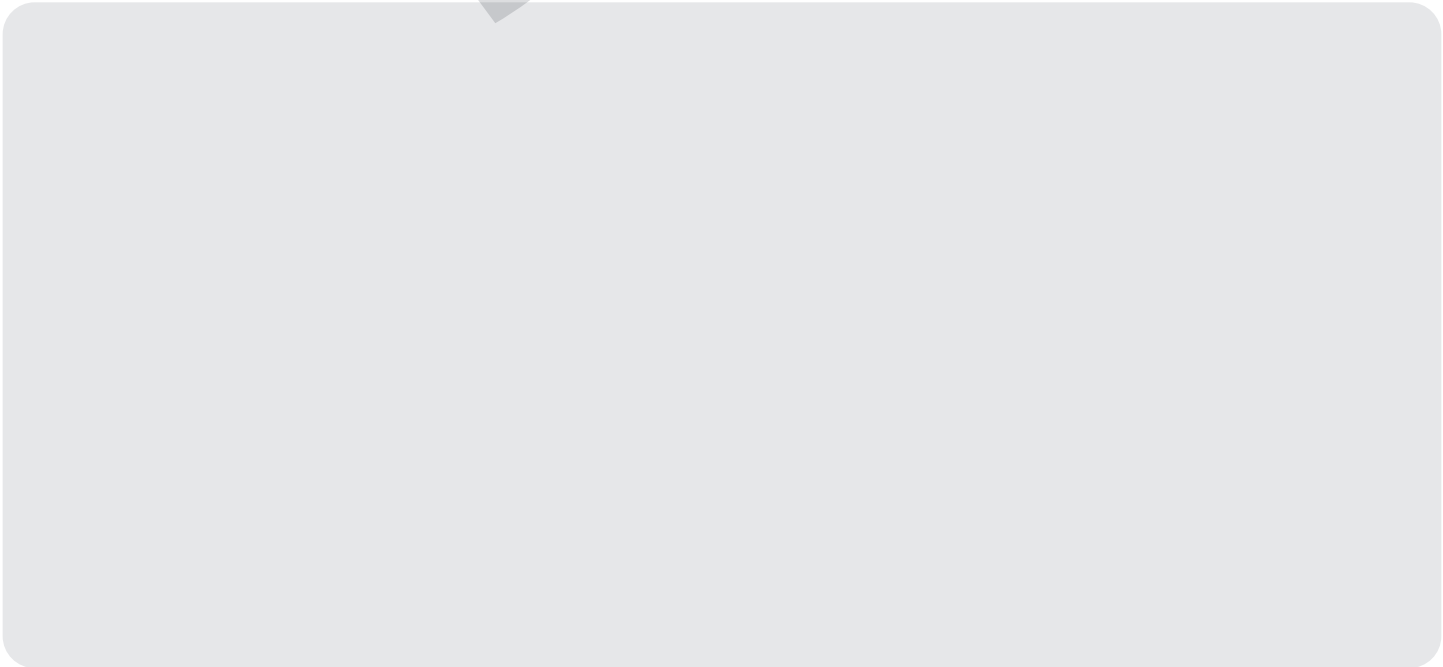
## PROMOTING PERSONAL HEALTH

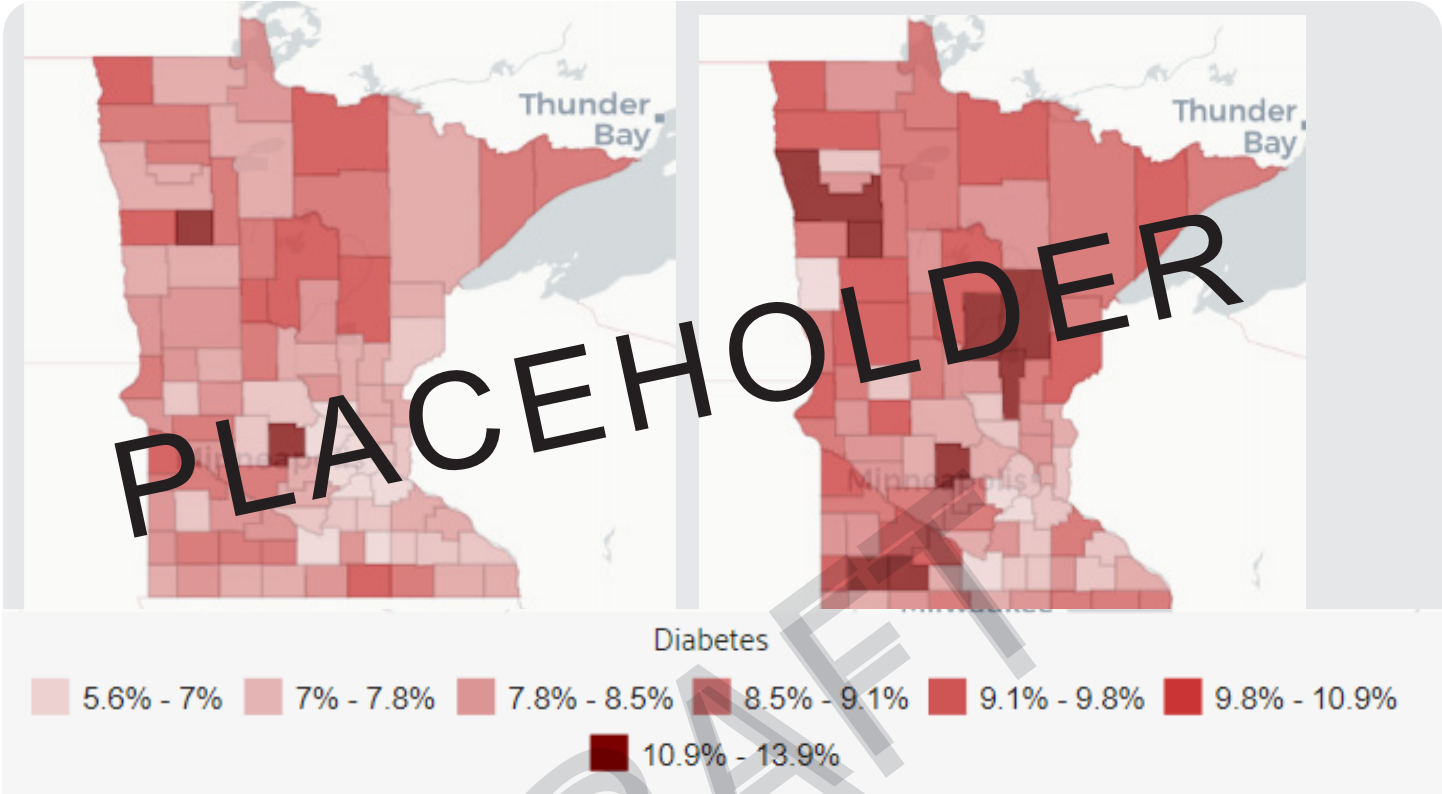
**(MNDRN SCORP).** “As of 2019, there have been over 400 studies that demonstrate the numerous health benefits that nature provides. Most of the research on health and nature has focused on physical health benefits. Many of the benefits discovered are helpful in preventing leading causes of chronic disease, including stress reduction; reduced blood pressure; faster healing; addiction recovery; and reduced cardiovascular, respiratory and long-term illness.

Benefits of nature exposure for cognitive development is increasingly recognized in the fields of education and human development, among others. Studies illustrate nature’s positive

effects on attentional restoration, reduced mental fatigue, improved academic performance, improved cognitive function in children and improved productivity. Increased self-esteem, improved mood, reduced anger/frustration and reduced anxiety are some of the key examples of the improvements documented by research on nature interactions for mental health.

Finally, a less well-known, but critically important benefit of time outdoors is the positive social effects at an individual or community public health scale. Several articles have found that nature facilitates social interaction, enables social empowerment, reduces crime rates and violence, and enables



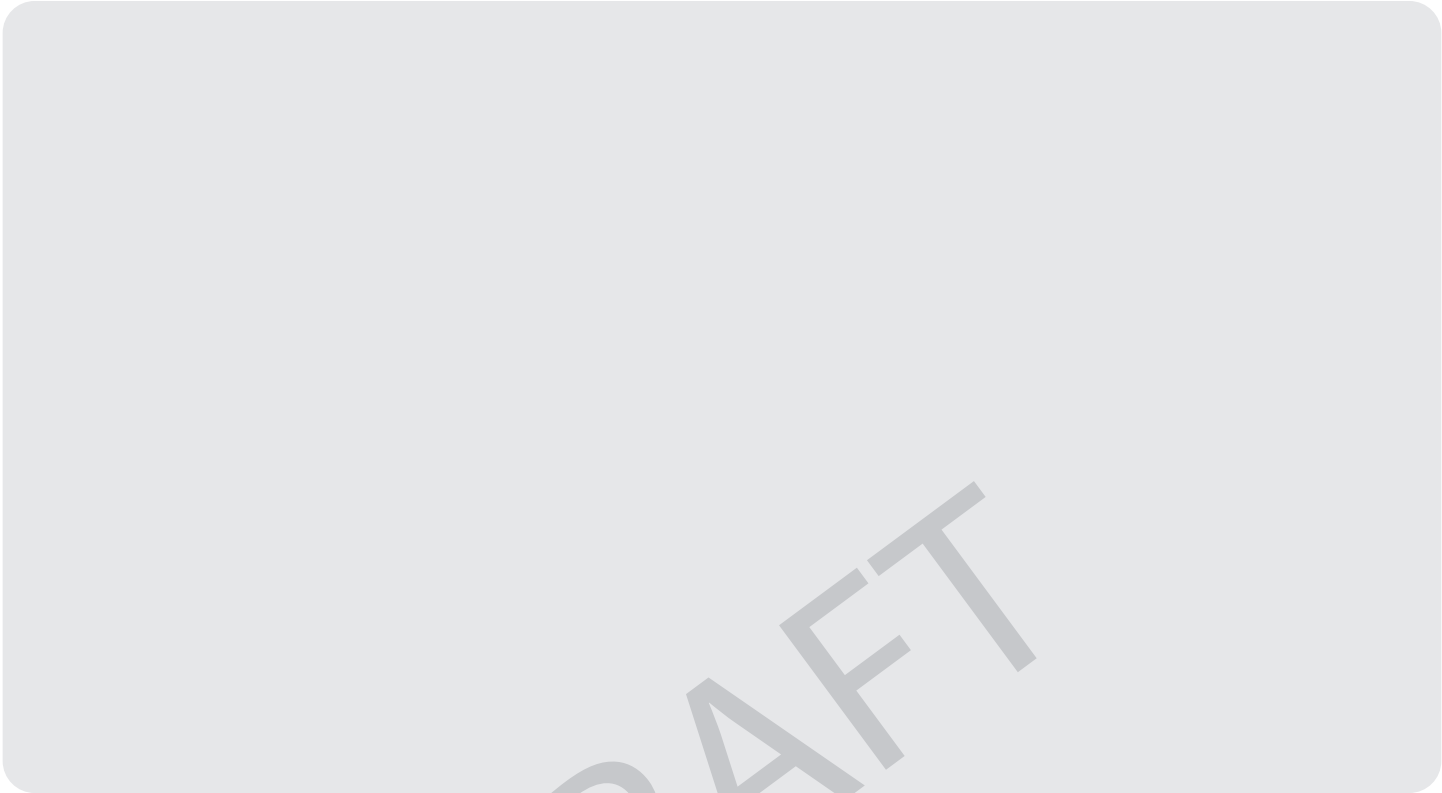


“interracial interaction, among other positive social behaviors”

### Physical Health Fitness

Failure to engage in sufficient physical activity has potentially serious consequences. Indeed, an estimated 10.8 percent of all deaths in the United States is attributable to physical inactivity. Physical inactivity is responsible for 6.7 percent of U.S. deaths from coronary heart disease. Physical activity affects multiple systems in the body, particularly the circulatory and musculature systems. Fully one-third of all U.S. adults over age 20 have hypertension, a cause of both heart disease and stroke. This number is even higher among African Americans, among whom 44 percent are affected. (NRPA 4)

Physical activity can reduce the risk of numerous health issues, ranging from diabetes and heart disease to osteoporosis and obesity. The American Planning Association states that exposure to nature can result in lowered blood pressure, lower cholesterol levels, enhanced survival after a heart attack, and improved recovery after surgery. Parks and recreation departments promote and provide numerous opportunities for physical activity. The US Centers for Disease Control found that creating places and opportunities for physical activity could lead to a 25% increase in the number of people who exercise at



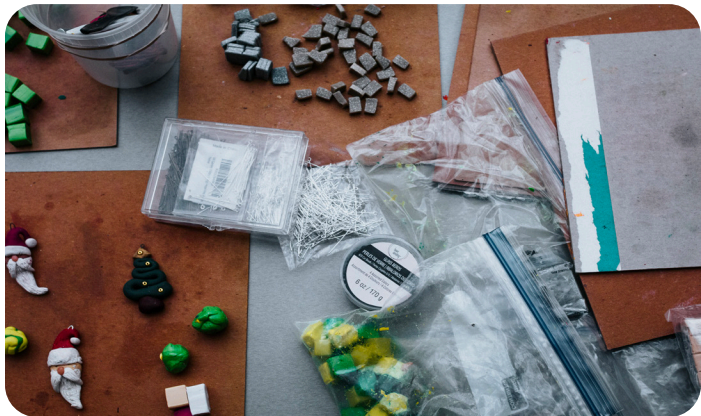
least three days a week (Recreation Management, 2007).

More than one-third of Anoka County residents are obese and one-third are overweight. The proportion is comparable to Minnesotans overall. The CDC recommends 30 or more minutes of moderate activity per day five or more days per week and 20 or more minutes of vigorous activity per day four or more days per week. Only one-quarter of Anoka County Residents met these CDC recommendation for either vigorous or moderate physical activity. Three-quarters of respondents got insufficient or no physical activity. 22% of residents reported they had not participated in any physical activity or exercise in the past 30 days. This is a slight increase from 15% in 2013 15%.



### Independent Living/Life Expectancy

Recreation services can be a valuable asset as we age. Minnesota has consistently been a national leader for various health measures, including life expectancy. Today the average life expectancy in Minnesota is 80.9 years, with Ramsey slightlying under the average at 80.0 years. This comes from the 2019 County Health Rankings that utilized data from 2015-2017 for current estimates. As much of our population transitions into their golden years, we want to ensure adequate resources to live happy and healthy lives.



It should come as no surprise the benefits of physical activity to protect elderly residents against chronic diseases and improve their daily functioning. Other than the positive effects of regular physical activity, recreation services have more to offer in terms of independent living and overall wellbeing of seniors. Often, seniors who live on their own can be prone to feel cut off from their mainstream community. This may prompt them to lose their purpose for being, and retreat further into their homes, thus increasing their health risks. It is generally accepted that as we age, our risk of depression increases. Recreation activities provide opportunities to socialize and reduce feelings of alienation and loneliness. With seniors active in the community there is an increase intergenerational understanding and bonding. Older adults involved in an organizational/recreation activity scored significantly better on the happiness scale than those who were not involved (Parks CA Source). Benefits of recreation expand well into the latter years of life. Staying active physically and socially within our communities can help us live longer, and happier lives.

**Mental Health**  
**Depression/Stress**

As our society is increasingly fast paced, stress has become a major contributor to poor health. Left unresolved, long-term stress can lead to immune system issues and illness. One in

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four Anoka County residents has been told by a health care professional that they have anxiety (24%) or depression (23%). Females were twice as likely to have depression than males (anoka county source). The experience of nature is one antidote to stress, and the body's positive response is remarkably fast, occurring within minutes. Studies by environmental psychologists show that visual exposure to nature, in the form of trees, grass and flowers, can effectively reduce stress, particularly if initial stress levels are high (source). Staying physically active is another common way to cope with mental health issues. Parks and recreation services can be a powerful tool to help those suffering tackle some of the obstacles to cope. They provide safe and accepting atmospheres to spend time outside, be physically active, foster social interactions and introduce others to new skills. [By spending time in recreation, impact]

#### Quality of life/self-esteem/growth/satisfaction

It is becoming more common to identify with the activities we participate in, seeing ourselves as "hikers," "swimmers" or "soccer players," rather than with the positions we hold at work. Parks and natural environments also have great spiritual meaning and represent a strong sense of place for many of us. They elicit fond memories of family outings, fun times, bonding with children and freedom, representing the less stressful side of our lives. Personal and Spiritual Growth Self-expression and identity affirmation is positively reinforced through participation in

recreation activities. Recreation helps us explore our inner spirit and sense of self, creating new behaviors and a new identity. This is especially important as the effects of social media have shown trends of lower self esteem. It makes it easier for us to compare ourselves to others' online personas. Recreation activities can help subdue these negative effects as improvements are made on physical abilities and socialization.

Recreation activity is important to personal life satisfaction and those who participate in recreation are notably happier. Those who recreate more often are likely to be completely satisfied with their choice of careers, friends, and their perceived success in life. The evidence strongly suggests that participation in outdoor recreation, particularly as a child, leads people to have more satisfying and fulfilling lives. Nine out of ten outdoor recreation participants express satisfaction with their personal health and fitness while the six out of ten who don't participate are unsatisfied with their personal health and fitness (ARC, 2000). Close to half of those who participate in recreation several times a week say they are "completely satisfied with the quality of their lives," compared to just one quarter of nonparticipants (ARC, 2000). The enjoyable experiences we pursue directly affect our quality of life. (Source).

Parks and recreation services not only promote time spent outside, but create an atmosphere to feel comfortable atmosphere to try things that may be daunting to try on our



own.

### Productivity

Mental, or cognitive fatigue can occur following periods of intense concentration or directed attention. Symptoms of cognitive fatigue include: irritability, lack of concentration, inability to solve problems, and increased likelihood of making mistakes or causing accidents. Working adults and students alike are prone to cognitive fatigue as there is an increased demand for their concentration for long periods, often without frequent breaks or a changes in scenery. This is especially true at a time where Americans generally tend to be overworked. We have more structured activities and tasks that extend far past the end of our workdays. The Attention Restoration Theory, or ART, suggests that certain environments can actually help individuals recover from mental fatigue. Restorative environments provide time away from tasks that require voluntary or directed attention, which allows the mind to recharge. Natural settings are particularly effective as restorative settings. These environments allow the mind to pay attention with little effort so it can relax and recover. Even brief glimpses or short amounts of time spent in a natural setting can improve brain performance and reduce stress. Visiting parks or engaging in recreation activities can act as a way to be in nature, socialize with others, and gain the benefits from being in a restorative environment.

More than 80% of the United States population now lives in

developed cities and towns (cite all of previous). In modern times work and study involve primarily mental and cognitive processes, and the use of computers has further focused human productivity indoors. The biophilia hypothesis describes an innate attraction that humans have for nature due to a long history of being directly dependent on living things for basic needs. This deep connection persists, and may explain why the experience of nearby nature may help people perform better in the office or at school (source).

## PROMOTING COMMUNITY HEALTH

Parks and recreation departments build communities by providing a place for people to gather, socialize and be around others. Today, we realize that parks are more than recreation and visual assets to communities; they are valuable contributors to larger community policy objectives, such as public health, youth development, job opportunities, social and cultural exchange, and community building.

Parks play a special role for gathering and socialization. They have something to offer everyone from young children and teens, to families, adults and the elderly. They are more than places to recreate and relate to nature; parks also offer a multi-

tude of opportunities to engage in arts and music.

A park can be a community focal point, a symbol of its vitality and character, adding to its overall health, well-being and quality of life. *“Parks and trails provide an outlet for refreshing my spirit and keeping me fit and active” – Parks & Trails Legacy Plan Public Workshop Participant.* Community members near parks value them because they give members a feeling that their community is a special place to live and that it is a natural setting in which the community can take pride (Minnesota Legacy).

### Livability Safer Neighborhoods

Safety was a top rated concern for residents of Ramsey (cite survey). Recreation services can be used to provide youth with positive ways to fill out-of-school time and reduce their risk to commit a crime. The department can service students by providing a safe place to go and engage in stimulating activities when school is not in session. Recreation program staff can help staff ensure parks and public spaces are properly maintained for safe use and provide an additional figure outside of home and school for developing youth to look up to.

Youths who participate in extracurricular activities are more likely than non-participants to have higher self-esteem, greater academic achievement and in turn, lower incidences of delinquency. Furthermore, at-risk youths have been found to especially benefit from guided recreation programming. Data has also shown that students who reported spending no time in afterschool extracurricular activities were 57 percent more likely to drop out of high school, 49 percent more likely to use drugs and 27 percent more likely to have been arrested than students who spend as much as four hours in structured activities. Park and recreation agencies have the ability to provide the programs that can address the root causes of juvenile crime. Because the types of leisure in which youth participate have profound impacts on social development, active and adult-supervised recreation programming available through park agencies are positioned perfectly to equip youth with the tools that develop positive social and cognitive skills, self-confidence and a sense of community (source).

[Safety Camp and the Home Alone Safety class example]

### Community Pride and Identity

[Draw Summer Series Placeholder]

Public parks and recreation agencies ensure community members have equal access to recreation opportunities, regardless of gender, socioeconomic status, ability, ethnicity, or age. Agencies have the ability to create community “buy-in” and bring people together through nature (NRPA, 2017). Parks and recreation systems foster social interactions by providing gathering places for residents regardless of their age, economic status or ability to pay for access. This in turn aids in developing a sense of belonging across demographics (Bradley, 2013). Whether visiting a neighborhood park or attending an art class, residents have the chance to meet new people in an inviting setting. This can create community ties and make living in the area more desirable.

Engagement in parks and recreation opportunities are vital to maintaining a healthy community and provide significant positive impacts. Other than bringing neighbors together, participation encourages safer, cleaner neighborhoods and creates a livelier community atmosphere. Facilities provided by parks and recreation help improve a community’s image, socioeconomic status and enhance the areas desirability. When individuals move, they seek out a desirable community, when they retire they search for a community that will accommodate their needs. Residents recognize the numerous benefits that well-maintained open spaces and recreation programs can



have for a community (source).

### [Youth Engagement]

The amount of time that the youth of today spend outdoors is rapidly diminishing. Whether this be a rise of technology, increased school requirements, or some combination, the lack of nature play is taking a toll on physical health and well-being.

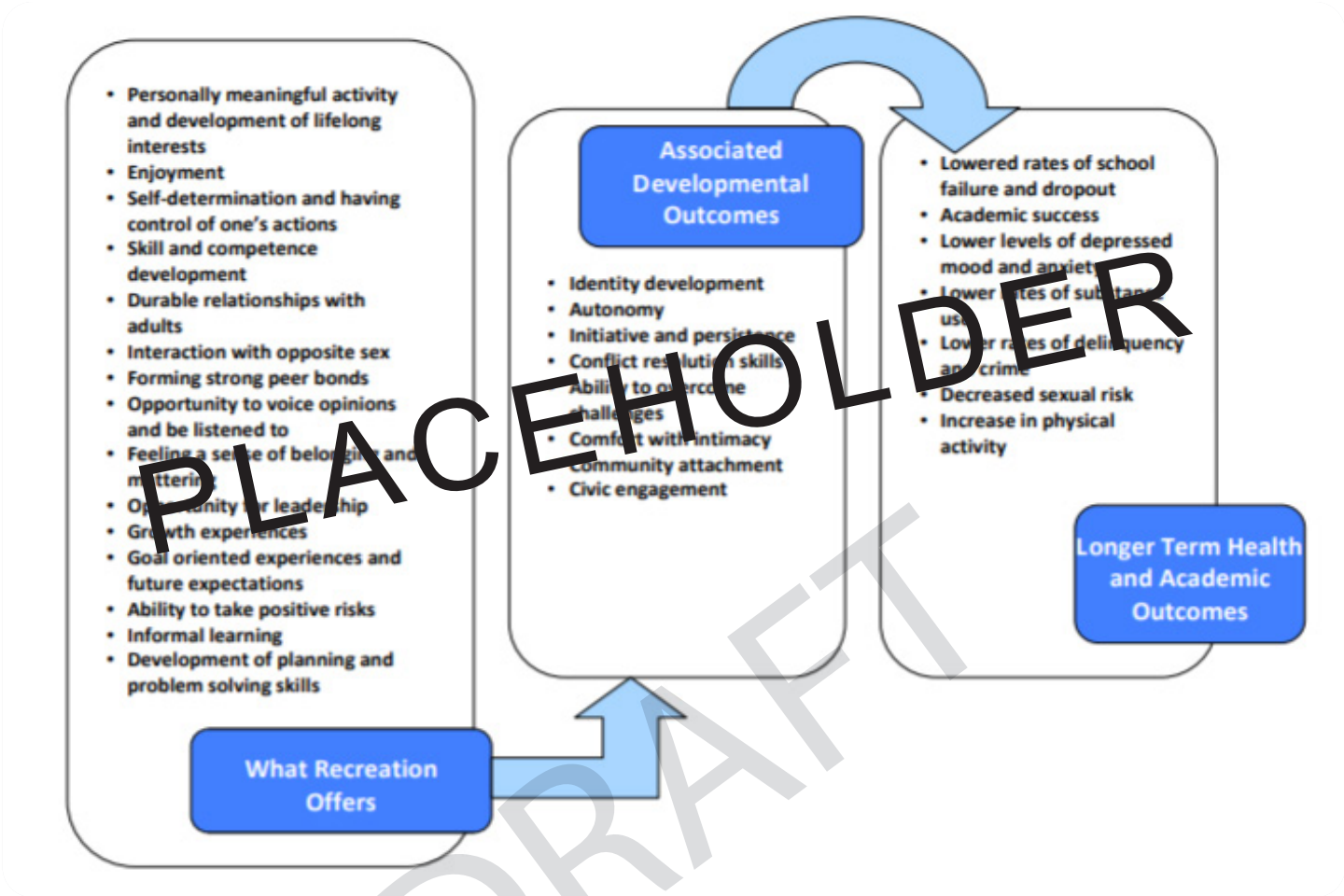
Park and recreation departments have been significant players youth development through providing services and programming. However, the case for the importance of the departments has not always been fully made. Parks and recreation departments provide more than just fun and games, or gym and swim programs. When youth participate in these programs, they gain excellent opportunities to develop and gain necessary skills to become fully functioning adults. Participation in these activities is associated with autonomy and identity development, positive social relationships, and learning conflict resolution, academic success, mental health, and civic engagement. (Witt and Caldwell, 2010, p.4, MRPA 3)

Parks and recreation programs can achieve these outcomes by providing programs that follow standards that will be outlined in (SECTION X).

When parks and recreation departments provide out-of-school time recreation programs, individuals who participate and the community at large gain valuable outcomes.

- Contribute to reducing juvenile delinquency
- Contribute to increasing positive and reducing negative behaviors
- Expose youth to less violence
- Improve children’s education performance and thus impact the quality of the future work force and the national economy
- Help decrease health care costs related to childhood obesity
- Increase the economic contributions of young people to society when they become adults
- Help youth develop self-confidence, optimism, and initiative (MRPA 3).

Park and recreation departments are ideally situated to afford both opportunities and adult guidance through activities that are intrinsically motivating. Adolescents do not need



adults to do things “to” or “for” them; rather they need to have opportunities to “develop themselves” through active experience or experiential learning. Too many parents hover over their children directing all their experiences, being involved with all their problems, and making too many decisions for them (so called “helicopter parents”). Children of helicopter parents often have little opportunity to make meaningful decisions on their own

### Family Development

Parks often serve as places for families and friends to enjoy public spaces in each other’s company (Bradley, 2013). Playgrounds may serve as a meeting place for young families, and as a family develops, they are able to use other park amenities, such as sports fields, trails, and open spaces. Families that recreate together tend to be closer and more cohesive, and have a greater chance of staying together (California State Parks, 2005). A very important aspect of parks and recreation programs is that children and families can create lasting memories in these spaces. By providing the opportunity to create those special memories, recreation agencies create a positive relationship between people and parks and often encourage future

participation.

[Parks as valuable spaces for families in just green spaces, making memories and rentals for larger occasions]

### Economic Development Economic Growth and Value

Operations and capital spending pertaining to parks and recreation created \$2,834,173,626 in economic activity, and supported 22,411 jobs in Minnesota in 2013 (The Economic Impact..., 2015). Nationally, parks and recreation created nearly \$140 billion in economic impact, added \$68 billion in GDP, and one million jobs. The National Association of Home Builders reports that the presence of parks seriously influences 65% of home-buyers. A 2001 study conducted by the National Association of Realtors found that 50% of survey respondents would be more likely to choose a neighborhood near parks or open spaces, and are willing to pay more to live near a park.

Municipalities with strong parks and recreation systems benefit from improved health and a greater sense of community. This all leads to lower healthcare costs, higher property values, and increased standard of living. Research shows that areas with a

**Highlight**

Local property values around the park ????????

high quality of life attract businesses, as this also attracts and retains high quality workers (Local Government..., 2017). Parks and recreation opportunities can have a major impact on quality of life, as having the chance to engage with parks is crucial to leading a healthy lifestyle

“Beyond the impact of their expenditures, park and recreation agencies generate even more economic value through their promotion of health and wellness, as well as conservation and resiliency that foster higher property values and increase tourism. Most critically, park and recreation amenities are the cornerstones to improving a region’s quality of life, a major factor in enticing employers and workers to an area. The powerful impact parks and recreation has on economic activity, when combined with the ability to deliver healthier and happier communities, highlights the fact that these offerings are not merely a “nice-to-have,” luxury government service. Rather, parks and recreation is a critical aspect of what makes a city, town or county a vibrant and prosperous community.” (source)

[Example of archery tournament, bringing in visitors—concert series, car counter, partnerships]

**Volunteering/Stewardship**

[Master naturalist program] [volunteer opportunities lacking in the city] [value volunteers can add to a city] [recreation can be that avenue to create opportunities, but only with a developed system, people will volunteer where they have fun, and see that their time is of impact]

**Local Businesses/partners**

[Through partnerships, we can reach more people, provide more services, and maintain higher quality facilities than we could do on our own. Strategies 1. Build relationships with organizations and community leaders that help us better reach our target markets. • Develop long-lasting, trusting relationships with new immigrant and racial and ethnic minority group organizations and community leaders. Devote ongoing staff resources to these interactions. • Invest in relationship-building with schools, recreation centers, and youth groups in order to reach youth and young adults. Promote opportunities for field trips, site visits, and summer camps. • Reach out to faith-based organizations as a means to reach our target markets. • Reach out to senior centers and group tour operators in order to maintain visitorship by older adults. • Support interconnections for wildlife watching opportunities (e.g. Minnesota’s birding trails).]-mn DNR

PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES CAN BENEFIT BY PARTNERING WITH THEIR FELLOW PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES IN NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS TO PRESENT A UNIFIED IMAGE OF A DESIRABLE PLACE TO LIVE (source)

[Pearson family farms, kitchen table, scouts, rum river arts, athletic association] [community pride, supports local]

[Section x will talk more about partnerships] [Importance of partnerships within Ramsey]

[Talk about tournaments ARAA]

### Encourages Investment

Opportunities for outdoor recreation can attract new business and talented workers and help keep established businesses competitive. Small business owners have cited quality of life as a key reason for choosing a location (Crompton, Love & Moore, 2007). High quality of life makes it easier for businesses to attract and maintain a highly educated professional workforce and has been shown in at least one instance to be a bigger draw than a favorable business climate (Crompton, 2007a). Park, recreation, and open space amenities are among the most important components of quality of life. Furthermore, providing and promoting quality outdoor recreational opportunities can be a more sustainable way of attracting and retaining businesses than offering tax or other cash incentives. Companies that relocate to an area for tax incentives alone will likely continue seeking out other tax incentives and move on when they are able. High-quality outdoor recreational opportunities cannot be so easily replaced (Minnesota Legacy).

### Property Values

As a general guideline, researchers have found nearby parkland increases home values 5%-15%, depending upon proximity and quality of the park. Trails have a similar effect: researchers estimate homeowners are willing to pay an additional \$4,000-\$9,000 to be located within a thousand feet of a trail. Minnesotans value open space, leading a Wilder Research analysis to conclude:



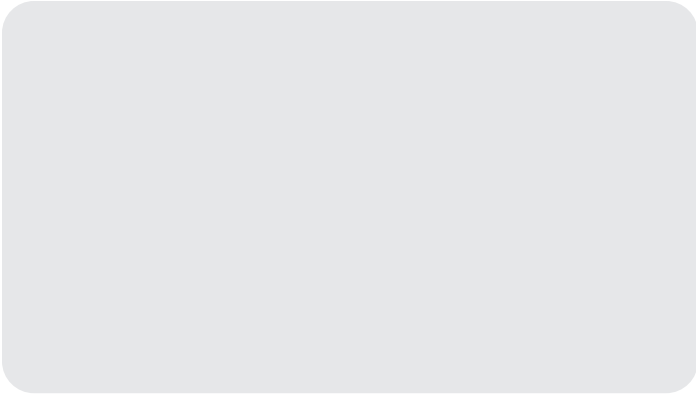
Figure 1.16 Green infrastructure



Figure 1.15 Green infrastructure



“the additional future tax revenues generated by residential properties near an open space may be sufficient to pay the debt service on funds borrowed to acquire and/or develop a park.” Overall, the message is clear: Minnesota’s economy benefits when we invest in parks and trails ([MN Parks & Trails](#)).





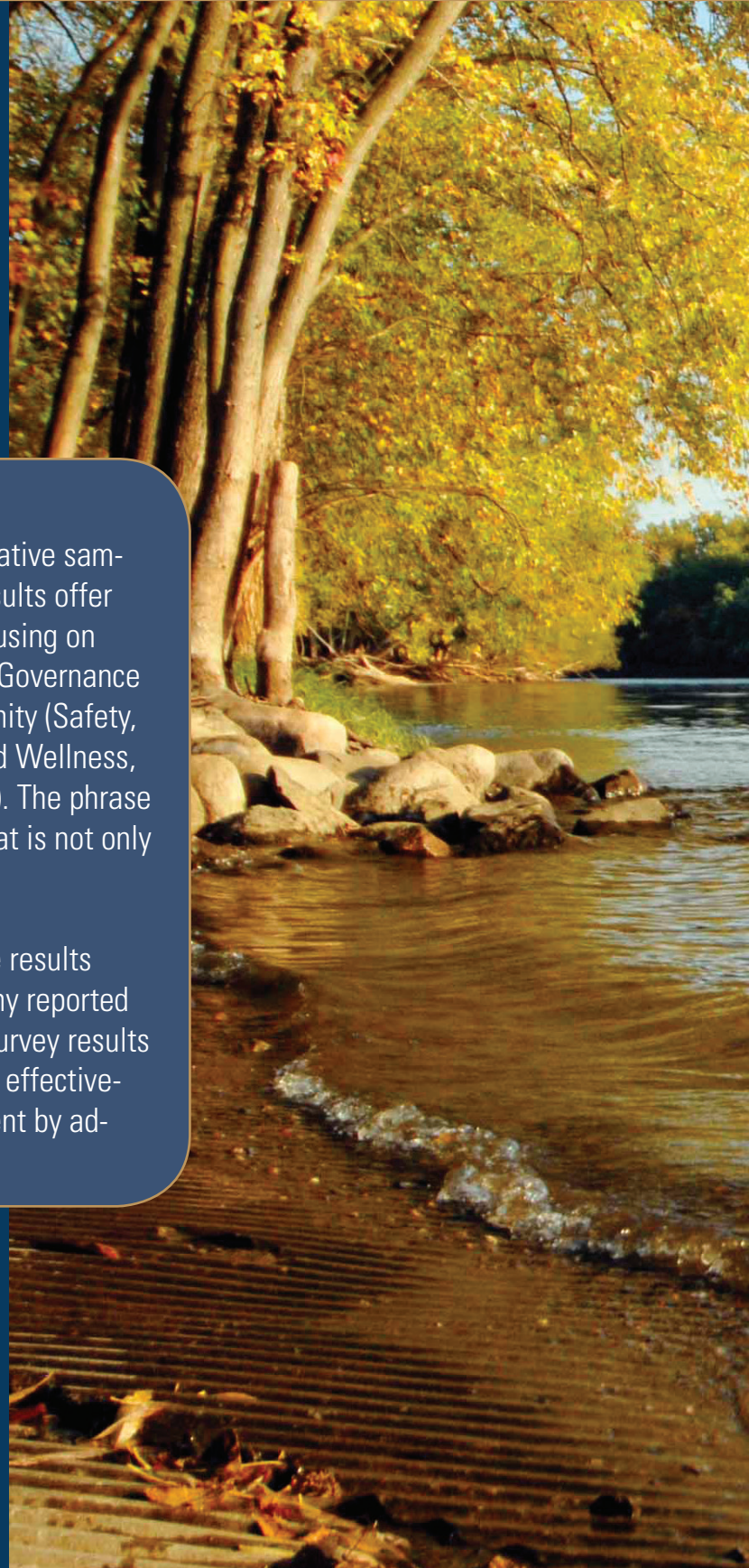
DRAFT



# City of RAMSEY

## 2018 Citizen Survey Results

In August 2018, the City of Ramsey issued its third biannual Citizen Survey, gathering input from its residents on various City services, parks and trails, road and infrastructure, organizational direction, community events, property development and much more. The purpose of the survey was to provide feedback for Ramsey policymakers to consider as they prioritize the use of limited resources to meet the needs of Ramsey residents and businesses.



### **ABOUT THE CITIZEN SURVEY**

The Citizen Survey captured the opinions of a representative sample of 465 randomly selected Ramsey residents. The results offer a report on the “livability” of the City of Ramsey, by focusing on three pillars of community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement). The phrase “livable community” is used here to describe a place that is not only where people do live, but where they want to live.

Participants in this survey remained anonymous and the results are displayed collectively. The margin of error around any reported percentage is  $\pm 5$  percent for the entire sample. These survey results will be utilized by the City to evaluate its organizational effectiveness and to implement smart, citizen-focused government by addressing the needs identified.

### **IN THE REPORT**

- \* Quality of Life in Ramsey
- \* Community Characteristics
- \* Governance
- \* Participation
- \* Conclusions
- \* Next Steps

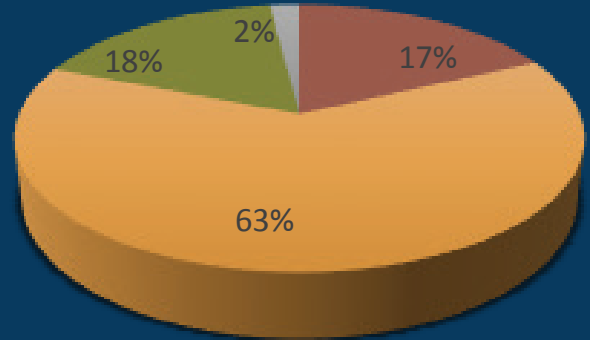




## QUALITY OF LIFE

Eighty one percent of residents rated the overall quality of life in Ramsey as excellent or good. This rating was similar to the national benchmark and has increased from Ramsey's 2014 and 2016 ratings.

### OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor

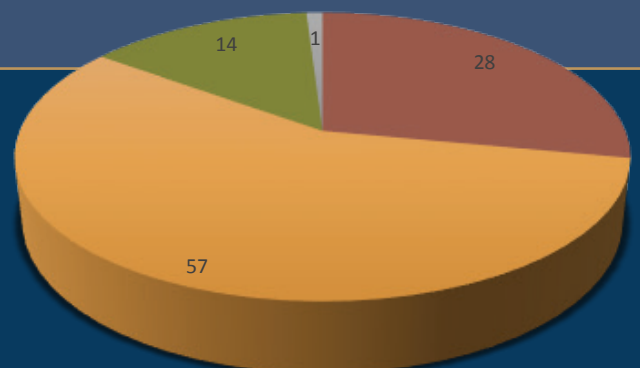
Of the eight facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement) Ramsey residents identified Safety and Economy as community priorities in the next two years.

## COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

What makes a community livable, attractive and a place where people want to be?

Overall quality of community life represents the natural ambiance, services and amenities that make for an attractive community. Eighty five percent of residents surveyed rated the City of Ramsey as an excellent or good place to live. This was similar to ratings in other communities across the nation and similar to the City's 2014 and 2016 ratings.

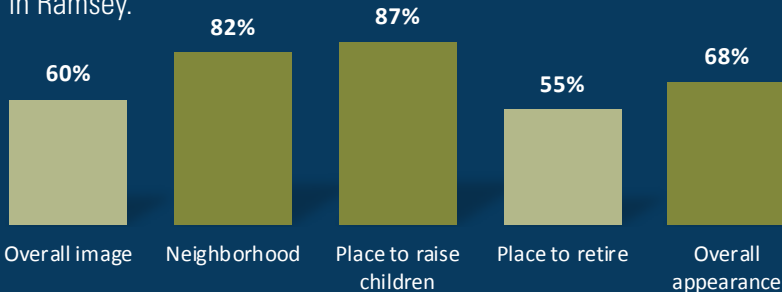
### RAMSEY AS A PLACE TO LIVE



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor

### COMMUNITY RATINGS

About half, or more, of respondents also rated these aspects of community quality as being excellent or good in Ramsey.



# GOVERNANCE

How well does Ramsey's government meet the needs and expectations of its residents?

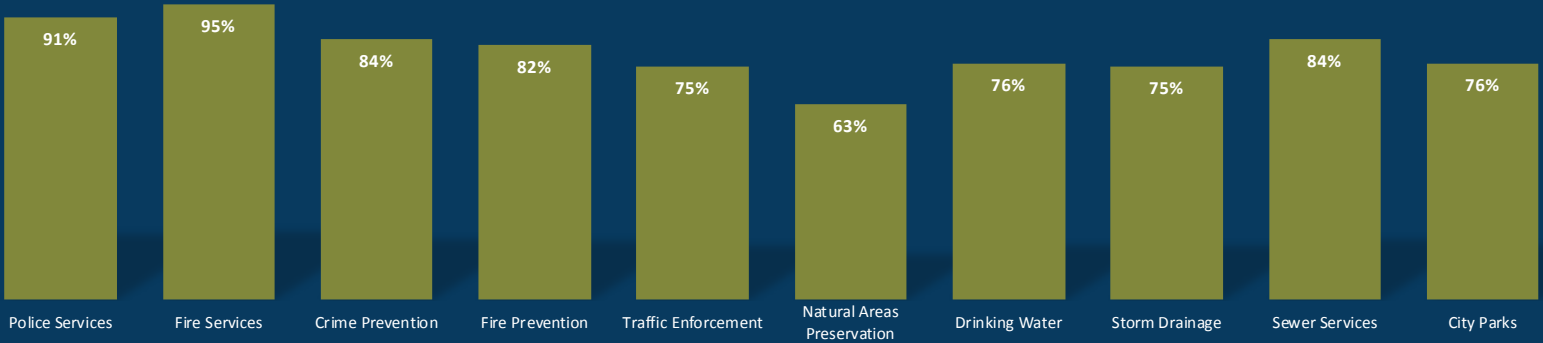
Seventy seven percent of Ramsey residents rated the overall quality of City services as excellent or good. This rating was similar to those observed elsewhere across the country.

## TOP 10 CITY SERVICES

Respondents evaluated over 30 individual services and amenities available in Ramsey. The services shown in the graph below were the top 10 highest rated services. At least seven in ten residents rated these City services as excellent or good. This was similar to the national benchmark and several trended up since 2016.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

City services or amenities that were indicated by respondents as areas for improvement included' street repair, traffic signal timing land use, planning and zoning, code enforcement and economic development. However, these ratings were still similar to ratings in other communities across the nation.



## OVERALL QUALITY OF SERVICES



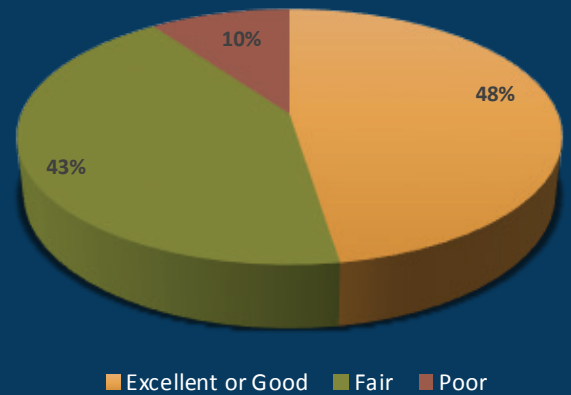
# PARTICIPATION

Are the residents of Ramsey connected to the community and each other?

The connections and trust among residents, government, business and other organizations help to create a sense of community; a shared sense of membership, belonging and history.

About half of residents rated the sense of community in Ramsey as excellent or good. Compared to the 2014 and 2016 results, this rating has increased to be similar to the national benchmark. The majority of residents said that they would recommend living in Ramsey (84 percent) and had plans to remain living here (86 percent).

## SENSE OF COMMUNITY





## CONCLUSIONS

**Resident satisfaction with City services and government performance is on the upswing.**

When presented with a series of questions about leadership and governance in Ramsey, about 8 in 10 residents gave favorable marks to the customer service provided by the City, and roughly half were pleased with items related to local government performance. Most notably, ratings for welcoming citizen involvement, overall confidence in City government, government acting in the best interest of Ramsey and being honest improved since 2016, demonstrating a positive increase in public trust.

**The economy remains a priority for residents.**

Residents indicated that the facet of economy would be an important focus area for the City to address in the next two years. About half of residents gave favorable marks to the overall economic health of Ramsey, cost of living, the City as a place to work and economic development and these ratings were all similar to those given since 2016.

However, ratings for a vibrant downtown area, overall quality of business and service establishments, shopping opportunities and Ramsey as a place to visit were lower than those seen in other communities across the country. While these ratings might be indicative of community support for greater economic development, it is important to note that balancing rural character and urban growth was identified as a key priority for the City in the upcoming five years.

**Residents support improvements to Mobility.**

About six in ten residents gave positive ratings to most aspects of mobility. Road maintenance was important to residents with nearly 85 percent of respondents reporting they were interested in receiving information from the City about road work; the only type of information of greater interest was related to community events. When asked about street maintenance funding, about 8 in 10 residents supported the current method of funding for City street maintenance, which requires 25 percent of funding by special assessments of benefiting properties. Finally, connectivity is a priority for Ramsey residents. Seven in ten residents thought that creating a connected community (roads, trails, sidewalks, rail and transportation) was essential or very important to the future of the community.

## NEXT STEPS

Substantial and valuable feedback was provided by Ramsey residents through this survey. This information will be used by elected officials as a tool for improvement to the City's operations and organizational direction. Survey results will provide a base of information to help guide the City Council's strategic planning, budgeting process, various policy discussions and more.

Moving forward, the City continues to gather one Resident Survey every two years. Now that the City has conducted three surveys, trending analysis of citizen feedback will be calculated.

For more information please visit: [www.cityoframsey.com/performance/measurements](http://www.cityoframsey.com/performance/measurements) or contact Kurt Ulrich at 763-433-9845.

The results and content featured in this article were provided by The National Research Center (NRC). National Citizen Survey (NCS).

 City of **RAMSEY**





**THE NCS**<sup>TM</sup>  
The National Citizen Survey<sup>TM</sup>

# Ramsey, MN

Trends over Time

2018



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# Summary

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS™) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The NCS communities. The NCS captures residents' opinions within the three pillars of a community (Community Characteristics, Governance and Participation) across eight central facets of community (Safety, Mobility, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy, Recreation and Wellness, Education and Enrichment and Community Engagement). This report discusses trends over time, comparing the 2018 ratings for the City of Ramsey to its previous survey results in 2014 and 2016. Additional reports and technical appendices are available under separate cover.

Trend data for Ramsey represent important comparison data and should be examined for improvements or declines. Deviations from stable trends over time, especially, represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs or public information may have affected residents' opinions.

Meaningful differences between survey years have been noted within the following tables as being "higher" or "lower" if the differences are greater than six percentage points between the 2016 and 2018 surveys, otherwise the comparisons between 2016 and 2018 are noted as being "similar." Additionally, benchmark comparisons for all survey years are presented for reference. Changes in the benchmark comparison over time can be impacted by various trends, including varying survey cycles for the individual communities that comprise the benchmarks, regional and national economic or other events, as well as emerging survey methodologies.

Overall, ratings in Ramsey for 2018 generally remained stable. Of the 94 items for which comparisons were available, 78 items were rated similarly in 2016 and 2018 and 16 showed an increase in ratings; no items showed a decrease in ratings. Notable trends over time included the following:

- No items trended down from 2016 to 2018.
- In the pillar of Community Characteristics, Ramsey residents were more likely in 2018 than in 2016 to give positive ratings to the city as a place to retire as well as to employment, fitness and cultural/arts/music activities.
- Residents in 2018 tended to give higher ratings to Built Environment-related services than in 2016.
- Survey respondents were more likely in 2018 to favorably rate aspects of government performance such welcoming citizen involvement and overall confidence in City government.
- Respondents were more likely in 2018 than in 2016 to believe the economy would positively impact their income. They were also more likely to have attended a City-sponsored event.

The National Citizen Survey™

Table 1: Community Characteristics General

|                         | Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good) |      |      | 2018 rating compared to 2016 | Comparison to benchmark |         |         |
|-------------------------|--|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
|                         | 2014   | 2016 | 2018 |                              | 2014                    | 2016    | 2018    |
| Overall quality of life | 72%  | 80%  | 81%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Overall image           | 51%  | 56%  | 60%  | Similar                      | Lower                   | Lower   | Similar |
| Place to live           | 82%  | 87%  | 85%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Neighborhood            | 84%  | 87%  | 82%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Place to raise children | 83%  | 87%  | 87%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Place to retire         | 51%  | 48%  | 55%  | Higher                       | Lower                   | Lower   | Similar |
| Overall appearance      | 77%  | 73%  | 68%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |

Table 2: Community Characteristics by Facet

|                     |                                  | Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe) |      |      | 2018 rating compared to 2016 | Comparison to benchmark |            |            |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
|                     |                                  | 2014   | 2016 | 2018 |                              | 2014                    | 2016       | 2018       |
| Safety              | Overall feeling of safety        | 90%  | 90%  | 90%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Safe in neighborhood             | 94%  | 98%  | 97%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Safe downtown/commercial areas   | 94%  | 96%  | 96%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
| Mobility            | Overall ease of travel           | 68%  | 69%  | 69%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Paths and walking trails         | 75%  | 68%  | 69%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Ease of walking                  | 70%  | 66%  | 67%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Travel by bicycle                | 66%  | 60%  | 62%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Travel by car                    | 64%  | 67%  | 69%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Traffic flow                     | 55%  | 56%  | 59%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Overall natural environment      | 84%  | 81%  | 84%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
| Natural Environment | Cleanliness                      | 82%  | 80%  | 74%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Overall built environment        | 56%  | 56%  | 58%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
| Built Environment   | New development in Ramsey        | 48%  | 47%  | 42%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Affordable quality housing       | 69%  | 67%  | 64%  | Similar                      | Higher                  | Higher     | Higher     |
|                     | Housing options                  | 75%  | 73%  | 68%  | Similar                      | Higher                  | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Public places                    | 50%  | 56%  | 51%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Lower      |
|                     | Overall economic health          | 50%  | 51%  | 54%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Vibrant downtown/commercial area | 21%  | 20%  | 20%  | Similar                      | Lower                   | Lower      | Much lower |
| Economy             | Business and services            | 49%  | 43%  | 46%  | Similar                      | Lower                   | Lower      | Lower      |
|                     | Cost of living                   | 49%  | 49%  | 50%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Shopping opportunities           | 23%  | 20%  | 20%  | Similar                      | Much lower              | Much lower | Much lower |
|                     | Employment opportunities         | 27%  | 24%  | 31%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                     | Place to visit                   | 35%  | 35%  | 39%  | Similar                      | Lower                   | Lower      | Lower      |

The National Citizen Survey™

|                          |   | Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good, very/somewhat safe) |      |      | 2018 rating compared to 2016 | Comparison to benchmark |         |         |
|--------------------------|---|--|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
|                          |   | 2014   | 2016 | 2018 |                              | 2014                    | 2016    | 2018    |
| Recreation and Wellness  | Place to work                                     | 42%  | 49%  | 50%  | Similar                      | Lower                   | Similar | Similar |
|                          | Health and wellness                               | 66%  | 63%  | 59%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                          | Recreational opportunities                        | 53%  | 50%  | 50%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Lower   |
|                          | Fitness opportunities                             | 60%  | 55%  | 64%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Education and Enrichment | Education and enrichment opportunities            | 54%  | 52%  | 53%  | Similar                      | Lower                   | Similar | Lower   |
|                          | Cultural/arts/music activities                    | 41%  | 37%  | 44%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Lower   | Similar |
|                          | Adult education                                   | 54%  | 46%  | 52%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                          | K-12 education                                    | 75%  | 72%  | 71%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                          | Child care/preschool                              | 69%  | 56%  | 61%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Community Engagement     | Opportunities to participate in community matters | 52%  | 47%  | 51%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                          | Opportunities to volunteer                        | 55%  | 46%  | 49%  | Similar                      | Lower                   | Lower   | Lower   |

Table 3: Governance General

|   |  | Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good) |      |      | 2018 rating compared to 2016 | Comparison to benchmark |         |         |
|---|--|--|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
|   |  | 2014   | 2016 | 2018 |                              | 2014                    | 2016    | 2018    |
| Services provided by Ramsey                 |  | 74%  | 73%  | 76%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Customer service                            |  | 79%  | 81%  | 81%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Value of services for taxes paid            |  | 44%  | 45%  | 45%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Overall direction                           |  | 48%  | 46%  | 49%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Welcoming citizen involvement               |  | 48%  | 48%  | 55%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Confidence in City government               |  | 43%  | 45%  | 51%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Acting in the best interest of Ramsey       |  | 43%  | 48%  | 56%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Being honest                                |  | 47%  | 50%  | 60%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Treating all residents fairly               |  | 52%  | 56%  | 58%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Services provided by the Federal Government |  | NA   | 37%  | 45%  | Higher                       | NA                      | Similar | Similar |

Table 4: Governance by Facet

|          |                     | Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good) |      |      | 2018 rating compared to 2016 | Comparison to benchmark |         |         |
|----------|---------------------|--|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
|          |                     | 2014   | 2016 | 2018 |                              | 2014                    | 2016    | 2018    |
| Safety   | Police              | 86%  | 90%  | 91%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|          | Fire                | 92%  | 93%  | 95%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|          | Crime prevention    | 80%  | 79%  | 84%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|          | Fire prevention     | 83%  | 81%  | 82%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|          | Animal control      | 60%  | 62%  | 61%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Mobility | Traffic enforcement | 68%  | 76%  | 75%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|          | Street repair       | 45%  | 40%  | 43%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |

The National Citizen Survey™

|                         |                               | Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good) |      |      | 2018 rating compared to 2016 | Comparison to benchmark |         |         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
|                         |                               | 2014   | 2016 | 2018 |                              | 2014                    | 2016    | 2018    |
|                         | Street cleaning               | 57%  | 60%  | 56%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                         | Street lighting               | 55%  | 57%  | 59%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                         | Snow removal                  | 55%  | 62%  | 58%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                         | Sidewalk maintenance          | 61%  | 65%  | 60%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                         | Traffic signal timing         | 42%  | 46%  | 52%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Natural Environment     | Drinking water                | 72%  | 72%  | 76%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                         | Natural areas preservation    | 69%  | 57%  | 63%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Built Environment       | Storm drainage                | 73%  | 71%  | 75%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                         | Sewer services                | 81%  | 78%  | 84%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                         | Land use, planning and zoning | 43%  | 37%  | 44%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                         | Code enforcement              | 40%  | 44%  | 50%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Economy                 | Economic development          | 43%  | 41%  | 47%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Recreation and Wellness | City parks                    | 75%  | 77%  | 76%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                         | Recreation centers            | 59%  | 53%  | 59%  | Similar                      | Lower                   | Lower   | Similar |
| Community Engagement    | Public information            | 58%  | 57%  | 61%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |

Table 5: Participation General

|                            | Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes) |      |      | 2018 rating compared to 2016 | Comparison to benchmark |         |         |
|----------------------------|---|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
|                            | 2014  | 2016 | 2018 |                              | 2014                    | 2016    | 2018    |
| Sense of community         | 45%   | 51%  | 48%  | Similar                      | Lower                   | Similar | Similar |
| Recommend Ramsey           | 82%   | 86%  | 84%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Remain in Ramsey           | 85%   | 86%  | 86%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Contacted Ramsey employees | 44%   | 40%  | 38%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |

Table 6: Participation by Facet

|                     |   | Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes) |      |      | 2018 rating compared to 2016 | Comparison to benchmark |         |         |
|---------------------|---|---|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|
|                     |   | 2014  | 2016 | 2018 |                              | 2014                    | 2016    | 2018    |
| Safety              | Did NOT report a crime                        | 90%   | 85%  | 81%  | Similar                      | Higher                  | Similar | Similar |
|                     | Was NOT the victim of a crime                 | 94%   | 92%  | 94%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Mobility            | Used public transportation instead of driving | 38%   | 35%  | 36%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                     | Walked or biked instead of driving            | 56%   | 65%  | 63%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
| Natural Environment | Recycled at home                              | 95%   | 96%  | 97%  | Similar                      | Higher                  | Higher  | Higher  |
| Built Environment   | NOT under housing cost stress                 | 78%   | 80%  | 79%  | Similar                      | Higher                  | Higher  | Higher  |
| Economy             | Purchased goods or services in Ramsey         | 95%   | 90%  | 88%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |
|                     | Economy will have positive impact on income   | 29%   | 29%  | 40%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Similar | Similar |

The National Citizen Survey™

|                          |   | Percent rating positively (e.g., always/sometimes, more than once a month, yes) |      |      | 2018 rating compared to 2016 | Comparison to benchmark |            |            |
|--------------------------|---|---|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
|                          |   | 2014  | 2016 | 2018 |                              | 2014                    | 2016       | 2018       |
|                          | Work in Ramsey                              | 20%   | 24%  | 22%  | Similar                      | Much lower              | Lower      | Lower      |
| Recreation and Wellness  | Visited a City park                         | 83%   | 88%  | 87%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
| Education and Enrichment | Attended a City-sponsored event             | 53%   | 42%  | 50%  | Higher                       | Similar                 | Lower      | Similar    |
| Community Engagement     | Campaigned for an issue, cause or candidate | 11%   | 6%   | 8%   | Similar                      | Lower                   | Lower      | Lower      |
|                          | Contacted Ramsey elected officials          | 11%   | 10%  | 11%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                          | Volunteered                                 | 22%   | 17%  | 20%  | Similar                      | Much lower              | Much lower | Much lower |
|                          | Attended a local public meeting             | 14%   | 11%  | 14%  | Similar                      | Lower                   | Lower      | Similar    |
|                          | Watched a local public meeting              | 26%   | 21%  | 17%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |
|                          | Voted in local elections                    | 83%   | 79%  | 82%  | Similar                      | Similar                 | Similar    | Similar    |

# Strategic Plan Update

2019 Update – May 28 Version

## ABOUT RAMSEY

Ramsey is a suburban city located in the northwestern part of Anoka County, with a population of approximately 26,500. Two rivers dominate its borders, the Rum River and the Mississippi River.

The first settlement in Ramsey began because of trading along the banks of the Mississippi. Many settlers came here on a steamboat called *The Governor Ramsey* named after our first territorial governor, from which the City reportedly acquired the name.

Only a few of the first houses and structures built in Ramsey remain today. The most notable structure of historic significance is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Old Ramsey Town Hall, located west of Highway 47 (Saint Francis Boulevard) just north of County Road 116 (Bunker Lake Boulevard). This 19th century structure was originally used as a schoolhouse. The building is a community landmark and the City is working on a long term plan for the structure.

Two school districts now serve Ramsey - Elk River #728, and Anoka-Hennepin #11. Students from both districts regularly exceed the state average on the Minnesota Basic Standards in math, reading, and writing, and score well above the national average on college entrance exams.

Many people have chosen to live in Ramsey because of its rural character, wetlands, wildlife, parks, recreation and the housing choices. Ramsey is a mixture of farms, large-lot single family, urban single-family, and multi-family with a range of prices that appeals to a wide variety of families and individuals. The City is expected to grow by approximately 10,000 people over the next 20 years. Economic Development continues to be a priority for our City. With nearly 7,000 employees working in Ramsey everyday, new industrial and retail growth may add an additional 5,000 employees over the next 20 years. We are proud of our commitment to attract economically and environmentally sound commercial development.

Ramsey is committed to manage future growth to provide a high quality of life, enhanced employment opportunities and a stable tax base. Looking ahead, our city is working toward retail and commercial growth that includes restaurants, shopping, entertainment and additional employment opportunities.

*Please note: this document is a work in progress. Staff is still working on final formatting. Please focus on content over formatting at this stage.*

## 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

## VISION

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

## MISSION

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

## OBJECTIVES

Financial Stability

A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth

An Active and Connected Community

Smart, Citizen-Focused Government

An Effective Organization

## STRATEGIES

Identify and implement operational efficiencies, cost savings and additional funding sources.

Promote economic growth and development.

Create a positive image for residential neighborhoods, business districts and key corridors.

Enhance Community Engagement in policy decision-making processes.

Strengthen and enhance our identity and brand.

Improve the safety and mobility of transportation corridors.

Connect the community both physically and socially to destinations, services and activities.

Enhance customer service through process improvements.

Enhance sustainability and efficiency through public facilities and infrastructure investments.

Improve City's communication.

Improve and sustain high organizational morale.

Strive to reflect the demographics of the community.

# ACTION PLAN

| Action   | Timeframe | Resources  | Key Outcomes and Indicators  | Responsible Party |
|--|-----------|--|--|-------------------|
| <b>Strategy: Identify and implement operational efficiencies, cost savings and additional funding sources.</b> |           |  |  |                   |
| 1. Complete a Road Maintenance Funding Study and Public Engagement/Education Process.                          | Q3 2019   | Existing Staff<br>WSB Contact<br>Budget Impact = Medium                    | Updated policy on appropriate funding for long term maintenance of local roads.<br><br>Results will influence future decision on road funding.   | Bruce Westby      |
| 2. Implement a Road Maintenance Funding Program.   | Q1 2020   | Budget Impact = Medium   | Retain existing program or choose a new program.   | Diana Lund        |
| 3. Identify and improve one organizational workflow process.   | 2019      | Budget Impact = Low  | Experienced cost savings as a result of improved workflow.<br><br>Example: Purchasing Policy   | Kurt Ulrich       |
| 4. Create an Alternative Funding Toolkit.  | 2019      | Budget Impact = Low  | List of potential funding sources for capital improvements.<br><br>Improved funding partnership and successful capital projects.   | Diana Lund        |
| 5. Evaluate Asset Management Options for Public Infrastructure.  | 2019      | Budget Impact = Low<br>RCP Report  | Improved tracking of roads, utilities, etc.<br><br>More efficient utilization of personnel resources.  | Bruce Westby      |
| <b>Strategy: Promote economic growth and development.</b>  |           |  |  |                   |
| 6. Expand Business Retention and Expansion efforts.  | 2019      | Existing Staff:<br>Budget Impact = Low                                     | Stable base of local employers, representing the largest opportunity for future growth of jobs and tax base.<br><br>Increase the number of business visits.<br><br>Improve the quality and attendance at EDA events. | Sean Sullivan     |
| 7. Expand recruitment process to secure new commercial (retail) users.   | 2019      | Existing Staff:<br>Real estate broker<br>Budget Impact = Low<br>RCP Report | Continued growth of jobs, tax base, and services.<br><br>5,000 square feet of new retail space.  | Sean Sullivan     |
| 8. Expand recruitment process to secure new industrial users.  |           |  | Continued growth of jobs, tax base, and services.<br><br>50,000 square feet of new industrial space.   |                   |
| 9. Complete Comprehensive Housing Study and recruit new residential neighborhoods.                             | Q3 2019   | Existing Staff:<br>Budget Impact = Medium<br>RCP Report                    | Plan for market relevant housing to jobs ratio (1 job per 1.5 household).  | Tim Gladhill      |
| <b>Strategy: Create a positive image for residential neighborhoods, business districts and key corridors.</b>  |           |  |  |                   |

| Action   | Timeframe                                     | Resources   | Key Outcomes and Indicators   | Responsible Party   |
|--|---|---|---|---------------------|
| 10. Create baseline metrics to track and evaluate effectiveness of changes to Code Enforcement Program and use to track future trends. | Q4 2019                                       | Existing Staff:<br>Budget Impact = Low                                      | Reduced blight and public nuisance.<br><br>Improved responsiveness of neighborhood concerns.<br><br>Improved empathy to private property rights and complex regulations.<br><br>Improved aesthetics and reduced blight along Highway 10 and Highway 47. | Tim Gladhill        |
| 11. Create a coalition of local multifamily (apartments, condos, etc.) property managers.  | 2019  | Budget Impact = Low<br>RCP Report   | Ensure that multifamily properties maintain high quality.<br><br>Consider HOAs  | Chloe McGuire Brigl |
| <b>Strategy: Enhance Community Engagement in policy decision-making processes.</b>   |   |   |   |                     |
| 12. Create Public Engagement Toolkit/Manual.   | Q1 2020                                       | Existing Staff:<br>Budget Impact = Low<br>RCP Report                        | New and improved engagement with the community on all key policy topics.  | Tim Gladhill        |
| <b>Strategy: Strengthen and enhance our identity and brand.</b>  |   |   |   |                     |
| 13. Complete a feasibility study for a future Postal Facility to obtain a Ramsey ZIP Code.   | 2020  | Existing Staff<br>Budget Impact = Medium<br>RCP Report (community identity) | ZIP Code will identify itself as Ramsey.<br><br>Take a step forward in achieving a Ramsey ZIP Code.<br><br>Seek third-party funding to assist.  | Kurt Ulrich         |
| 14. Install and/or replace signs at Highway 10/Ramsey Boulevard, Highway 10/Rail Station.  | Q3 2019                                       | Budget Impact = Medium to High<br>RCP Report                                | Unified community brand for key nodes.  | Chloe McGuire Brigl |
| 15. Develop a plan for Historic Town Hall.   | Q3 2019                                       | Budget Impact = Low<br>RCP Report   | Adaptive reuse and tax base generation of historic town hall.<br><br>Consider other buyers.   | Kurt Ulrich         |
| <b>Strategy: Improve the safety and mobility of transportation corridors.</b>  |   |   |   |                     |
| 16. Complete County Road 5 Corridor Study.   | Future Parking Lot List<br><br>Revisit adding | Budget Impact = Medium  | Unified vision for Nowthen Boulevard.<br><br>Improved safety and reduced congestion.  | Bruce Westby        |
| 17. Complete State Highway 47 Study Update.  | Q1 2020                                       | Existing Staff:<br>Budget Impact = Medium                                   | Unified vision for Highway 47.<br><br>Improved safety and reduced congestion.   | Bruce Westby        |
| 18. Complete the Ramsey Gateway Study.   | Q4 2019                                       | Existing Staff/Resources<br>Budget Impact = High<br>RCP Report              | Unified vision for Highway 10.<br><br>Improved safety and reduced congestion.   | Tim Gladhill        |

| Action   | Timeframe | Resources  | Key Outcomes and Indicators   | Responsible Party |
|--|-----------|--|---|-------------------|
| <b>Strategy: Connect the community both physically and socially to destinations, services, and activities.</b>   |           |  |   |                   |
| 19. Complete the Master Parks and Trail Plan/Capital Improvement Program Update.                                 | 2019      | Existing Staff/Resources<br>Budget Impact = Medium<br>RCP Report | Adequate parks, trails and public spaces, both future and existing.<br><br>Unique recreation destinations.  | Mark Riverblood   |
| 20. Update Recreation Programming Work Plan  | 2019      | Budget Impact = Low  | Deliver a diversity of programs that finds a balance of revenue and access.   | Mark Riverblood   |
| <b>Strategy: Enhance customer service through process improvements.</b>  |           |  |   |                   |
| 21. Complete snow removal study and alternatives analysis.   | 2019      | Budget Impact = Low  | Ensure process and staffing for snow removal meets community expectations.  | Grant Riemer      |
| <b>Strategy: Enhance sustainability and efficiency through public facilities and infrastructure investments.</b> |           |  |   |                   |
| 22. Complete Regional Surface Water Supply Feasibility Study.  | Q1 2020   | Study funded by Metropolitan Council.<br>Budget Impact = Low     | Adequate supply of water to supply community's future vision.<br><br>Ensure that groundwater is the most appropriate source for the future.   | Bruce Westby      |
| 23. Explore Water Supply Treatment Options   |           |  | Reduce levels of manganese in municipal water supply.   |                   |
| 24. Complete Plans and Specifications for Future Public Works Campus.  | 2019      | Budget Impact = High   | Adequate space to effectively maintain public infrastructure.<br><br>Savings of time and money in operational efficiencies.   | Grant Riemer      |
| 25. Consider smart irrigation rebate program.  | 2019      | Budget Impact = Medium   | Reduced demand on public water supply and avoid/delay of infrastructure investments.  | Chris Anderson    |
| <b>Strategy: Improve City's communication.</b>   |           |  |   |                   |
| 26. Update Communications Plan.  | 2019      | Existing Staff<br>Budget Impact = Low<br>RCP Report              | Improved external communication.<br><br>Provide more information of interest to residents in multiple formats.<br><br>New and more effective ways to reach the community, including but not limited to social media.<br><br>Talking Points for Key Projects.<br><br>Policy, process, and timing for communicating key topics.<br><br>Improved administration of Ramsey Resident Newsletter. | Megan Thorstad    |
| 27. Enhance Employee Intranet.   | Q4 2019   | Budget Impact = Low  | Enhanced access for personnel policies and resources for existing and future Councilmembers, Employees, and Commissioners.<br><br>Improved internal communication.  | Colleen Lasher    |

| Action   | Timeframe | Resources | Key Outcomes and Indicators | Responsible Party |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Strategy: Improve and sustain high organizational morale.</b>                           |           |           |                             |                   |
| This remains a high priority for the community and is addressed in multiple actions above. |           |           |                             |                   |
| <b>Strategy: Strive to reflect the demographics of the community.</b>                      |           |           |                             |                   |
| This remains a high priority for the community and is addressed in multiple actions above. |           |           |                             |                   |

*Budget Impact Key; Low = Existing Staff/thousands of dollars; Medium = Additional Staff/Consultants/tens of thousands of dollars; High = capital improvement/hundreds of thousands of dollars.*

*RCP Report = Partnership with the University of Minnesota completed in 2018. This partnership created a library of resources and policy alternatives. A full list of completed reports can be found online at [rnp.umn.edu/ramsey-projects](http://rnp.umn.edu/ramsey-projects).*

## PARKING LOT LIST

| Action   | Strategy  |
|--|---|
| Complete a Development Fee Impact Study.   | Identify and implement operational efficiencies, cost savings and additional funding sources. |
| Complete Comprehensive Streetscape and Greenway Manual.                                    | Create a positive image for residential neighborhoods, business districts and key corridors.  |
| Complete Neighborhood Plans for Pearson Properties and Makowsky Farms.                     | Create a positive image for residential neighborhoods, business districts and key corridors.  |
| Remodel 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor of City Hall for additional collaboration and meeting space. | Enhance Community Engagement in policy decision-making processes.                             |
| Complete a Fire Department Duty Crew Analysis.   | Enhance customer service through process improvements.  |
| Complete Organization Staffing Plan.   | Improve and sustain high organizational morale.   |

## CULTURE

- Utilize Strategic Plan to prioritize budget requests.
- Leverage additional funding sources.
- Seek grants to do high priority projects.
- Seek public and private partnerships.
- Improve Park and Recreation revenue through user fees and sponsorships.
- Provide adequate public safety staffing based upon common metrics (i.e., calls for service, time of day caseload, land use and population, citizen expectations).
- Continue Staff Recognition Programs.
- Increase awareness of various employee resources.

|   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Survey of Recreational Offerings Within a 15 Minute Drive of Ramsey |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|

City/ District Codes : Ra- Ramsey  
 AC- Anoka County  
 Ad- Andover  
 An- Anoka  
 Bl- Blaine  
 Ch- Champlin  
 CR- Coon Rapids  
 ER- Elk River  
 MG- Maple Grove  
 No- Nowthen  
 Ro- Rogers  
 3R- 3 Rivers Park District  
 11- District 11  
 728- District 728

Green= non-athletic activity Blue= non-competitive athletic activity Red= competitive athletic activity Orange= Ramsey  
 Purple= Dist. 11

| Activity  | Age Group                   |                                     |                                     |                     |                     |                      |                      |  |  |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|--|
|   | 0 to 6                      | 7 to 12                             | 13 to 18                            | 19 to 54            |                     | 55+                  |                      |  |  |
| <b>Aerobics Class</b>                           |                             |                                     | <a href="#">MG</a>                  | <a href="#">11</a>  | <a href="#">11w</a> | <a href="#">Ch</a>   | <a href="#">An</a>   |  |  |
|   |                             |                                     |                                     | <a href="#">728</a> | <a href="#">Ch</a>  | <a href="#">MG</a>   | <a href="#">Ro</a>   |  |  |
|   |                             |                                     |                                     | <a href="#">MG</a>  |                     | <a href="#">11</a>   | <a href="#">11w</a>  |  |  |
| Aerobics Class,<br>Adults With<br>Special Needs | <a href="#">Ra</a> , Ad, CR | <a href="#">Ra</a> , Ad, CR         | <a href="#">Ra</a> , Ad, CR         |                     |                     | <a href="#">11</a> , | <a href="#">11</a> , |  |  |
| Agriculture Club                                | 728                         | Ad, 3R,<br><a href="#">11</a> , 728 | Ad, 3R,<br><a href="#">11</a> , 728 |                     |                     |                      |                      |  |  |
| Archery   |                             |                                     | Ad                                  |                     |                     | Ad, 3R               | Ad, 3R               |  |  |

|   |                     |                     |             |  |  |                 |                     |  |  |  |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|--|--|-----------------|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Archery League                                      | An, ER, MG, 11, 728 | An, ER, MG, 11, 729 | An, 11, 728 |  |  | Ad              | Ad                  |  |  |  |
| Art Class   |                     |                     |             |  |  | AC, MG, 11, 728 | AC, Ad, MG, 11, 728 |  |  |  |
| Astronomy/<br>Stargazing Class                      |                     | An, Ra, 11,         | An, Ra, 11, |  |  | 11              | 11                  |  |  |  |
| Baseball, Rec League Program                        | Ra, An, 11, 728     |                     |             |  |  |                 |                     |  |  |  |
| Baseball, T-Ball                                    |                     |                     |             |  |  |                 |                     |  |  |  |
| Baseball, T-Ball, Adults with Special Needs         |                     | Ra, An,             | Ra, An      |  |  | 11,             | 11,                 |  |  |  |
| Baseball Traveling Program                          | 11,                 | Ra, An, 11, 728     | Ra, An, 728 |  |  |                 |                     |  |  |  |
| Basketball, Clinic                                  | Ad,                 | Ad                  | Ad          |  |  |                 |                     |  |  |  |
| Basketball, Open Play                               |                     |                     |             |  |  | Ad, 11          | Ad, 11              |  |  |  |
| Basketball, Open Play for Adults with Special Needs | Ra, An              | Ra, An, 11          | Ra, An, 11  |  |  | 11              | 11                  |  |  |  |
| Basketball, Rec League Program                      |                     | Ra, An              | Ra, An      |  |  |                 |                     |  |  |  |
| Basketball, Travelling Program                      |                     | 3R                  | 3R          |  |  |                 |                     |  |  |  |
| Bicycling   |                     | 11                  | 11          |  |  | Ad, 3R          | Ad, 3R              |  |  |  |
| Bicycle, Repair Clinic                              | AC                  | AC, 3R              | AC          |  |  | 11              | 11,                 |  |  |  |
| Birding/<br>Ornithology Class                       |                     |                     |             |  |  | AC, 11          | AC, 11              |  |  |  |
| Book Club   |                     |                     |             |  |  | ER              | Ad, CR, ER, MG      |  |  |  |



|   |                            |                            |                            |  |  |                            |                            |  |  |  |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Craft Making Class, Adults with Special Needs |                            |                            |                            |  |  | 11, 728                    | 11, 728                    |  |  |  |
| Curling Clinic                                | An, Ad, Ch, 11, 728        | An, Ad, Ch, 11, 728        | An, Ad, Ch, 11, 728        |  |  | 11                         | 11                         |  |  |  |
| Dance Class                                   | Ad, Ch                     | An, Ad, Ch, 11             | An, Ad, Ch, 11             |  |  | An, Ad, Ch, MG, 11         | An, Ad, CR, ER, MG, 11     |  |  |  |
| Dance Team                                    |                            |                            |                            |  |  | Ad, Ch                     | Ad, Ch                     |  |  |  |
| Driving class                                 | An, Bl, Ch, CR, ER, MG, Ra | An, Bl, Ch, CR, ER, MG, Ra | An, Bl, Ch, CR, ER, MG, Ra |  |  |                            | Ch, CR, MG, Ro             |  |  |  |
| Farmers Market                                |                            |                            | MG                         |  |  | An, Bl, Ch, CR, ER, MG, Ra | An, Bl, Ch, CR, ER, MG, Ra |  |  |  |
| Fashion Design                                | 728                        | Ch, 11, MG, 728            | Ch, 11, 728                |  |  |                            |                            |  |  |  |
| Fencing                                       |                            |                            |                            |  |  |                            |                            |  |  |  |
| First Aid                                     |                            |                            | MG                         |  |  | 728                        | 728                        |  |  |  |
| Fishing Class                                 | Ra, An                     | Ra, An                     |                            |  |  | 11                         | 11                         |  |  |  |
| Football, Flag & Instructional                |                            | Ra, An                     | Ra, An                     |  |  |                            |                            |  |  |  |
| Football, Tackle                              | AC                         | AC                         | AC                         |  |  |                            |                            |  |  |  |
| Frisbee, Disc Golf                            |                            | Ch                         | Ch                         |  |  | AC                         | AC                         |  |  |  |
| Frisbee, Ultimate                             |                            | MG                         |                            |  |  |                            |                            |  |  |  |
| Games, Misc.                                  | 11                         | 11                         |                            |  |  |                            | CR,                        |  |  |  |
| Gardening Class                               | 11, 728                    | 11, 728                    |                            |  |  | 11                         | 11                         |  |  |  |
| Golf Camp/Class                               |                            | 11                         | 11                         |  |  | 11                         | 11                         |  |  |  |
| Golf Tournament                               |                            | An, Ch                     | An, Ch                     |  |  |                            |                            |  |  |  |
| Gymnastics, Competitive                       | An, Ch, MG, 11, 728        | An, Ch, MG, 11, 728        | An, Ch, 11, 728            |  |  |                            |                            |  |  |  |
| Gymnastics Instruction                        |                            |                            | AC                         |  |  |                            |                            |  |  |  |
| Hiking  | Ra, An                     | Ra, An                     | Ra, An                     |  |  | AC                         | AC                         |  |  |  |

|  |                                   |                           |        |  |  |                 |    |                 |    |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|--|--|-----------------|----|-----------------|----|--|
| Hockey, Camp/<br>Skills<br>Development         |                                   |                           |        |  |  |                 |    |                 |    |  |
| Hockey, Floor,<br>Adults with<br>Special Needs | Ra, An                            | Ra, An                    | Ra, An |  |  |                 | 11 |                 | 11 |  |
| Hockey, Rec<br>League                          | Ad, 728                           | Ad, MG,<br>728            | Ad,    |  |  |                 |    |                 |    |  |
| Horseback Riding                               |                                   | 728                       | 728    |  |  | Ad              |    | Ad              |    |  |
| Improv   | Ad, Ch, Ra,<br>11                 | Ad, Ra, 11                | Ad, Ra |  |  |                 |    |                 |    |  |
| Karate/ Martial<br>Arts                        |                                   |                           |        |  |  | Ad, Ch, Ra, 728 |    | Ad, Ch, Ra, 728 |    |  |
| Karate, Adults<br>with Special<br>Needs        |                                   |                           |        |  |  |                 | 11 |                 | 11 |  |
| Kickball                                       |                                   |                           |        |  |  | Ch              |    | Ch              |    |  |
| Kickball, Adults<br>With Special<br>Needs      |                                   |                           |        |  |  |                 | 11 |                 | 11 |  |
| Knitting/<br>Needlework Class                  |                                   | Ra, An                    | Ra, An |  |  | MG, 11          |    | CR, ER, MG, 11  |    |  |
| LaCrosse, Box                                  | Ra, An                            | Ra, An                    | Ra, An |  |  |                 |    |                 |    |  |
| Lacrosse, In-<br>House                         |                                   | MG                        | MG     |  |  |                 |    |                 |    |  |
| Magician Class                                 |                                   |                           | MG     |  |  |                 |    |                 |    |  |
| Movie Club                                     | Ro, Ch                            | Ro, Ch                    | Ro, Ch |  |  |                 |    |                 |    |  |
| Movies in the<br>Park                          | Ch, 728                           | Ch, 11,<br>728            | MG, 11 |  |  | Ro, Ch          |    | Ro, Ch          |    |  |
| Movie Making<br>Class                          | Ch, CR, ER,<br>MG, Ro,<br>11, 728 | Ch, CR,<br>ER, Ro,<br>728 | CR,    |  |  |                 |    |                 |    |  |

|   |                     |                 |             |  |  |                 |                     |  |  |  |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|--|--|-----------------|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Misc. Recreation  | 11, 728             | 11, MG, 728     | 728         |  |  |                 |                     |  |  |  |
| Multi-Sport, Camp   | An, Ch, MG, 11, 728 | Ch, MG, 728     | Ch, MG, 729 |  |  |                 |                     |  |  |  |
| Musical Instrument Class  |                     |                 |             |  |  | Ch, MG, 11, 728 | Ch, Ad, MG, 11, 728 |  |  |  |
| Musical Instrument Class, Adults with Special Needs                 | ER, 3R, 11, 728     | ER, MG, 3R, 11  | ER, 3R, 11  |  |  | 11              | 11                  |  |  |  |
| Outdoor Exploration/ Nature Interpretation/ Historic Interpretation | 3R, 728             | 3R, 728         | 3R          |  |  | ER, 3R, 11      | ER, 3R, 11          |  |  |  |
| Outings/ Field Trips  |                     |                 |             |  |  | 3R, MG          | Ch, CR, MG, Ro, 3R  |  |  |  |
| Outings for Adults With Special Needs                               |                     |                 |             |  |  | 11, 728         | 11, 728             |  |  |  |
| Paddleboarding, Stand Up  |                     |                 |             |  |  | ER, 11, 728     | ER, 11, 728         |  |  |  |
| Photography Class   | Ad                  | Ad              | Ad          |  |  | 11              | 11                  |  |  |  |
| Pickleball  |                     |                 |             |  |  | Ad, CR, MG, 11  | Ad, CR, ER, MG, 11  |  |  |  |
| Pool  | An, 728             | An, 728         | An, 728     |  |  | MG              | MG, Ro              |  |  |  |
| Pottery Class   |                     |                 |             |  |  |                 |                     |  |  |  |
| Rubber Stamping   | ER, 728             | ER, MG, 728     | ER          |  |  |                 | CR                  |  |  |  |
| Running   | 11, 728             | An, MG, 11, 728 | An          |  |  | 11, 728         | 11, 728             |  |  |  |

|  |                           |                       |                       |  |  |                   |                   |  |  |  |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Science/<br>Engineering<br>Exploration |                           | 728                   | 728                   |  |  |                   |                   |  |  |  |
| SCUBA Diving<br>Class                  | CR,                       | CR,                   | CR,                   |  |  | 728               | 728               |  |  |  |
| Skating, Roller                        | Ch, CR,<br>MG, 728        | Ch, CR,<br>MG, 728    | Ch, CR,<br>MG, 728    |  |  | CR,               | CR,               |  |  |  |
| Skating Lessons,<br>Ice                | Ch, MG                    | Ch, MG                | Ch, MG                |  |  | Ch, CR, MG, 728   | Ch, CR, MG, 728   |  |  |  |
| Skating, Ice, Open<br>Skate            |                           | AC                    | AC                    |  |  | Ch, MG            | Ch, MG            |  |  |  |
| Skiing Class,<br>Nordic                |                           |                       | MG                    |  |  | <b>AC, 11</b>     | <b>AC, 11</b>     |  |  |  |
| Skateboarding                          | AC                        | AC, 3R                | AC, 3R                |  |  |                   |                   |  |  |  |
| Snowshoeing                            | Minneapolis               | Minneapolis           | Minneapolis           |  |  | <b>AC, 3R, 11</b> | <b>AC, 3R, 11</b> |  |  |  |
| Soccer, Bubble                         | Minneapolis               | Minneapolis           | Minneapolis           |  |  | Minneapolis       | Minneapolis       |  |  |  |
| Soccer, Bubble<br>Rec League           | <b>Ra, An, 11,</b><br>728 | <b>Ra, An,</b><br>728 |                       |  |  | Minneapolis       | Minneapolis       |  |  |  |
| Soccer, Clinics                        | <b>Ra, An,</b>            | <b>Ra, An</b>         | <b>Ra, An</b>         |  |  |                   |                   |  |  |  |
| Soccer, Rec<br>League                  |                           | <b>Ra, An</b>         | <b>Ra, An</b>         |  |  |                   |                   |  |  |  |
| Soccer, Travelling                     | <b>Ra, An</b>             | <b>Ra, An</b>         | <b>Ra, An</b>         |  |  |                   |                   |  |  |  |
| Softball, Clinic                       | <b>Ra, An</b>             | <b>Ra, An</b>         |                       |  |  |                   |                   |  |  |  |
| Softball, Rec.<br>League               |                           | <b>Ra, An</b>         | <b>Ra, An</b>         |  |  | CR,               | CR,               |  |  |  |
| Softball,<br>Travelling                |                           |                       | <b>Ra, An</b>         |  |  |                   |                   |  |  |  |
| Softball, Fastpitch                    | An, CR, ER,<br>3R         |                       |                       |  |  |                   |                   |  |  |  |
| Storytelling                           |                           | <b>Ra, An</b>         | <b>Ra, An,</b><br>728 |  |  |                   |                   |  |  |  |

|                                    |                         |                         |                     |  |  |                     |  |                         |  |  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|--|---------------------|--|-------------------------|--|--|
| Swimming, Competitive              |                         |                         | 728                 |  |  |                     |  |                         |  |  |
| Swimming, Laps                     | An, Ch, MG, Bl, 11, 728 | An, Ch, MG, Bl, 11, 728 | An, Ch, MG, Bl, 11, |  |  | 728                 |  | 728                     |  |  |
| Swimming, Lessons                  |                         |                         |                     |  |  | An, Ch, MG, Bl, 11, |  | An, Ch, MG, Bl, 11,     |  |  |
| Swimming, Water Aerobics           |                         | Ro                      | Ro, MG              |  |  | 11                  |  | 11                      |  |  |
| Teen Hangout                       | 11, 728                 | 728                     |                     |  |  |                     |  |                         |  |  |
| Tennis, Lessons                    | Ra, An,                 | Ra, An, 11              | Ra, An              |  |  | MG                  |  | MG                      |  |  |
| Tennis, In-House                   | Ra, An                  | Ra, An, 11              | Ra, An, 11          |  |  |                     |  |                         |  |  |
| Tennis, Travelling                 | 11, 728                 | MG, 11, 728             | MG, 11, 728         |  |  |                     |  |                         |  |  |
| Theater Class                      | 728                     |                         |                     |  |  |                     |  |                         |  |  |
| Tours, Local                       |                         | 11                      | 11                  |  |  | 728                 |  | An, 728                 |  |  |
| Track                              | Ch                      | An, Ch                  | An, Ch              |  |  |                     |  |                         |  |  |
| Video Game Club                    |                         | Ra, An                  | Ra, An              |  |  |                     |  |                         |  |  |
| Volleyball, Rec League             |                         | MG, 11                  |                     |  |  |                     |  |                         |  |  |
| Volleyball, Camp                   | Ad                      | Ad                      | Ad                  |  |  |                     |  |                         |  |  |
| Volleyball, Open Play              |                         |                         |                     |  |  | Ad, 11              |  | Ad, 11                  |  |  |
| Walking, Adults with Special Needs | Ad                      | Ad                      | Ad                  |  |  | 11                  |  | 11                      |  |  |
| Walking Club                       |                         |                         |                     |  |  | Ad                  |  | Ad, Ro                  |  |  |
| Wood Carving                       | Ra, An                  | Ra, An                  | Ra, An              |  |  | MG                  |  | CR, ER, MG              |  |  |
| Wrestling                          |                         | 11                      | 11                  |  |  |                     |  |                         |  |  |
| Writing Class                      | 728                     | 728                     | MG                  |  |  | 11                  |  | An, CR, Ro, 11          |  |  |
| Yoga/ Qigong/ Tai' Chi Class       |                         |                         |                     |  |  | Ad, Ch, MG, 11, 728 |  | Ad, Ch, CR, MG, 11, 728 |  |  |



## RAMSEY PARKS & RECREATION

Summary of Recreation Opportunities Survey

April 2018

Tillery Bailey, Recreation Program Intern  
tbailey@cityoframsey.com

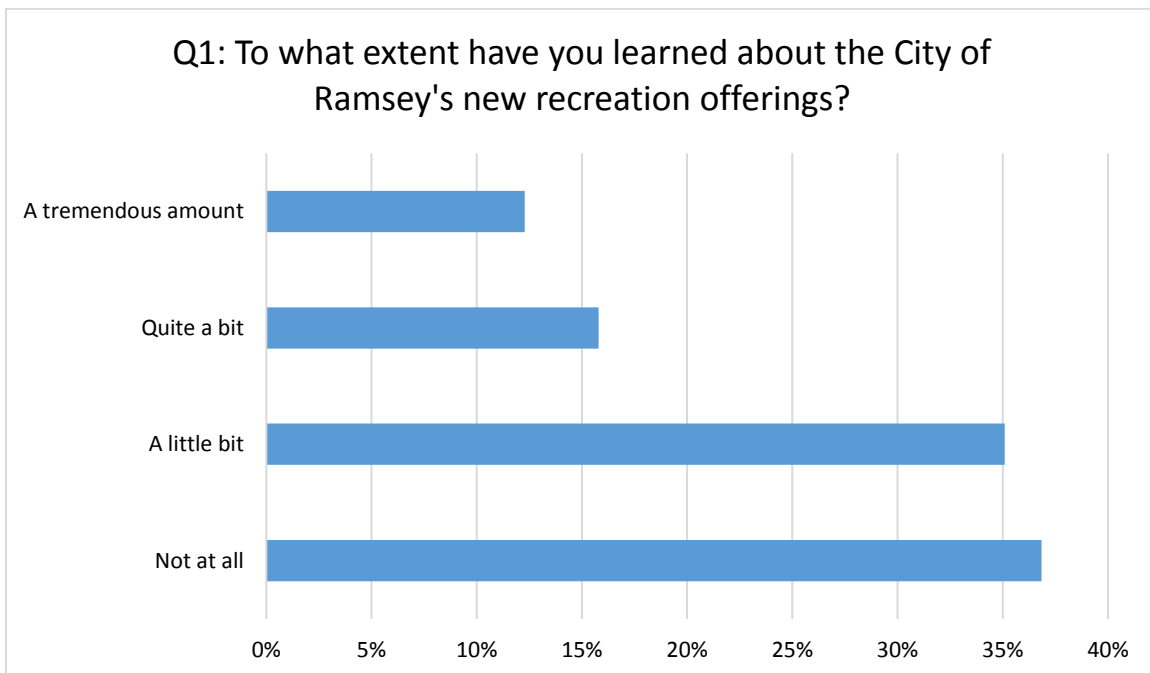
## BACKGROUND

A general questionnaire was created to determine the types of recreation programs community members would like to see the City of Ramsey offer. The survey was administered via the online website SurveyMonkey and was posted on the City website on the park events page. A total of 57 respondents completed the questionnaire between March and November 2017, with a majority of responses collected in March 2017. This response rate is approximately 3% of the total program participants in 2017.

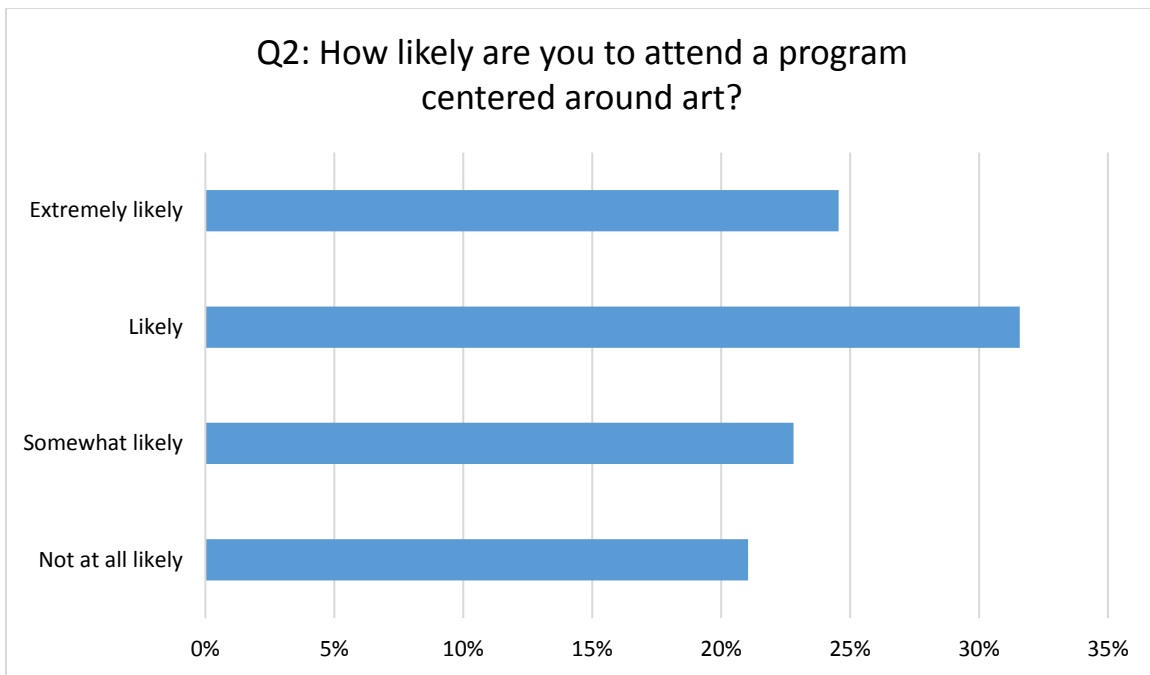
Although the results can be useful in planning the future of recreation programs in Ramsey, it must be taken into account that this data is not representative of the population as a whole. Since the questionnaire was posted on the park events webpage, most respondents were likely previous participants or those that had visited the website to learn about current offerings. All questionnaires were anonymous to aid in yielding honest responses.

The first portion of this report shows results for multiple choice questions, with the second portion being the open-ended question, “What would you like to see the City offer in terms of recreation programs?” Respondents were required to answer all 10 questions in the recreation opportunities survey and the open-ended question was also required for all post-event questionnaires.

When analyzing the open-ended question, key words were counted to determine the weight respondents put on various areas. The top ten recurring words were: yoga (23), kids (16), parks (14), fitness (12), outdoors (10), sports (10), activities (8), classes (8), art (8), and community (7). Results are visualized on the cover page, with larger words having greater weight. While this shouldn’t be a means to determine what to offer, it does provide insight into what people are looking for the City to offer.



With a majority of respondents completing the questionnaire in March 2017 (just two months after light programming began), it seems reasonable that just over 35% had learning “nothing at all” regarding recreation offerings, while 12% had learned “a tremendous amount.” In the future, it would be beneficial to determine which outlets people have learned about City offerings as well as their preferred outlets (i.e. Facebook, emails, Ramsey Resident, mailings, etc.). Staff could also benefit to see how this data changes over time, especially following various marketing initiatives or special events.



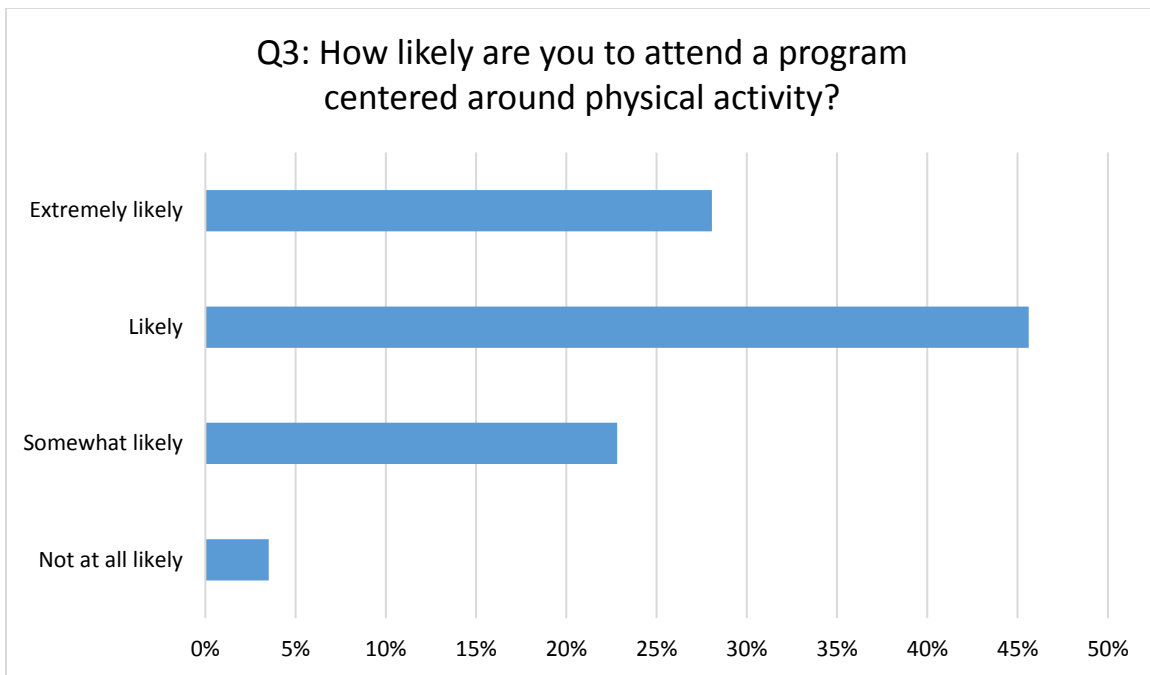
With over half of respondents saying they would be “likely” or “extremely likely” to attend an art program, it is worthwhile to offer various art classes for different ages. There are not many options for residents to pursue art in the area outside of school programs and personal endeavors.

Survey responses for individual Art in the Park classes show positive feedback for previous offerings. In 2017, free youth art classes were offered in conjunction with The Draw Sumer Event Series. Nearly 90% of respondents were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the program content. Feedback was very positive, with highlights included below:

- We love art in the park! Great way to learn and meet friends in our community! \*BONUS\* no cost! We are [grateful]!!!
- Excellent art project that taught us a new way to watercolor and was so easy for all ages
- This was a great project for a variety of ages. I wish that I could have done it with my daughters!
- We love all the art events at the Draw And, the free art in the park events are amazing!! Thank you!

Art classes were offered throughout the year and all but one (wine and canvas night) were open to people of all ages. One participant of the June plein air painting class remarked, “I have always been afraid to do some plein air painting but this little intro was perfect to get me started. Very low key relaxed atmosphere.” Survey results seem to show that people want introductory classes that require little to no previous experience. Participants are focused on learning something new and having fun, rather than creating a high quality piece of art. Family-based and youth classes are also popular options, as offerings are affordable and inclusive.

Some classes had lower attendance than others, showing which areas may be of less interest to the community. Classes that may seem intimidating or requiring skill (such as stained glass) were cancelled due to low registration. This was noted and similar classes are not being offered in 2018. But as programming expands, there may be a small market for unique, skills-based art classes.



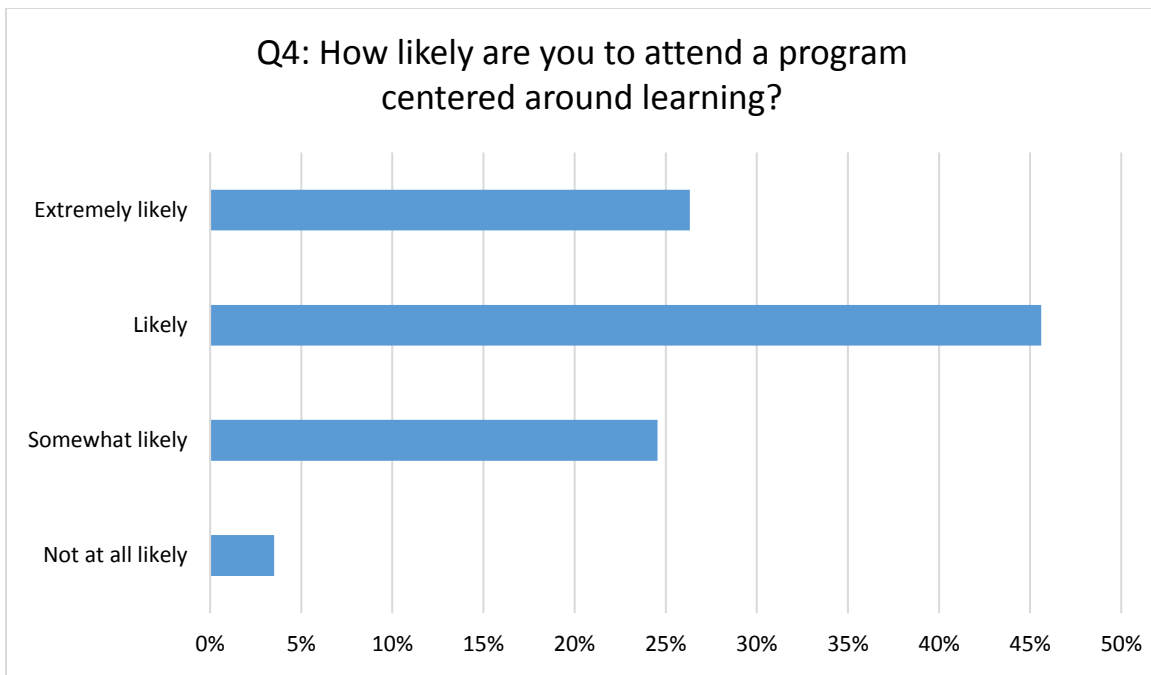
Without a public community or recreation center in Ramsey, residents have few options for formal fitness programming outside of the often specialized private sector. Every questionnaire includes the question, “What would you like to see the City offer in terms of recreation programs?” And many responses relate to formal physical activity, ranging from yoga and walking clubs to group fitness and a recreation center. This feedback shows the need to offer fitness programming, but finding a facility can be difficult. Realistically, only yoga and similar are the only classes that can be offered at City Hall due to carpeting. All other classes, such as Zumba or kickboxing, must be held at park buildings or school gyms with hard flooring.

In 2017-2018, yoga was offered for up to three days per week and had attendance from five to over 30 people per session. Feedback was very positive regarding instructors. One participant said “this instructor is awesome. She presents in such a welcoming and fun way.” Most yoga participants who also completed surveys repeatedly asked for continuing and adding more yoga classes. Another respondent had attended numerous programs and said, “I enjoyed the yoga. I also enjoyed the movie in the park recently. I think it's great to see the increase in community activities. I've participated in the bird watching, movie in the park, and yoga. All have been wonderful. Thank you!”

Another fitness opportunity in 2017 was a Zumba class held July – October at PACT Charter School. While attendance was lower (three to twelve participants per session) it was well received. The fee was \$5 per class, which is lower than most gym or recreation centers would offer for a drop-in class rate. Participants appreciated the ability to pay for one session at a time, either ahead via credit card or day-of by cash or check.

Physical activity programs can also include youth sports and recreational adult leagues. Although the Anoka-Ramsey Athletic Association has a large number of participants, they do not offer introductory preschool-age programs. This is a potential area of exploration, as there is limited staffing and equipment needs. Adult recreational leagues are an area that can be pursued in partnership with neighboring cities, but often require hiring and training referees/officials.

In the future, other fitness opportunities may include: Pilates, boot camps, strength, cardio kickboxing, aerobics, core, and senior-focused classes. Until there is a dedicated fitness/recreation facility, classes should require little to no equipment due to storage and transportation.

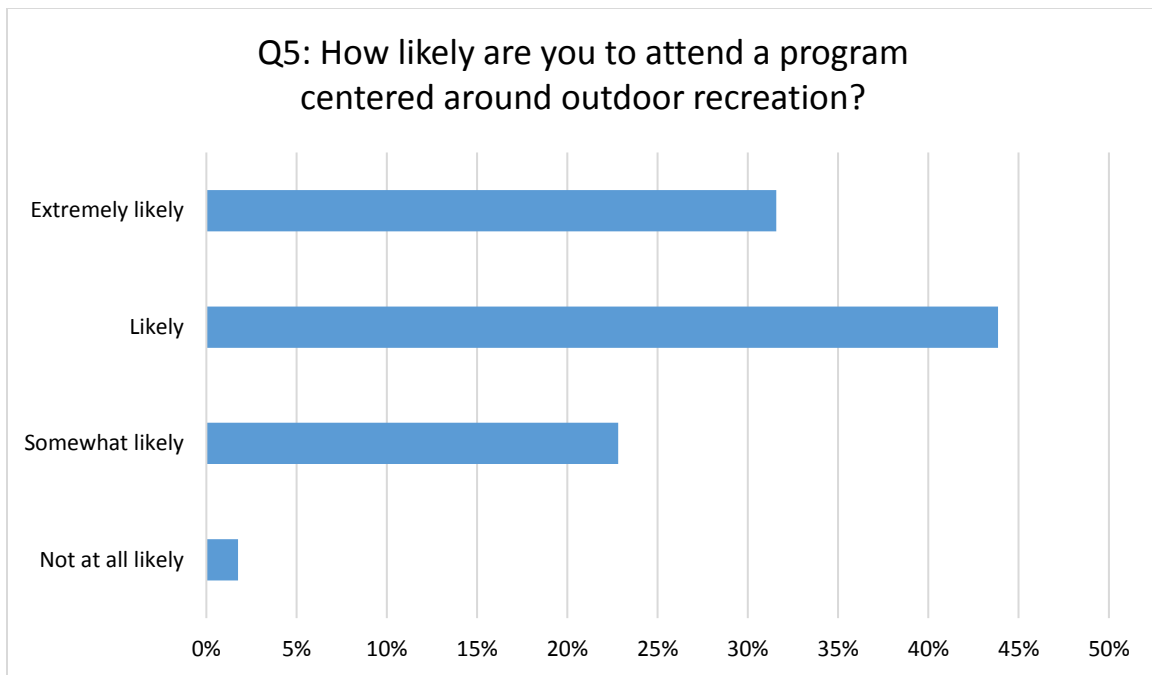


While opportunities for learning can include many different areas, most parks and recreation agencies focus learning/education-based programs on adults and seniors. When programs are catered to seniors or older adults, fees are often nominal to eliminate barriers to participation. One-fourth of survey respondents said they are “extremely likely” to attend a program centered on learning, which shows this could be a reasonable path to follow for future programs.

Senior or 55+ programs are a popular category to add for education and general programs, since that is a growing segment of the population that wants to stay active and involved in their community. Potential areas of education programs could include defensive driving, personal finance, a history series, nutrition, health and wellness, among others. Some senior centers offer programs for older adults and their care givers on topics such as offering care or a support group for those with memory loss.

Another avenue is outdoor or nature education. Offering a Lunch with a Naturalist series could be popular, as some cities or nature centers offer it on a monthly or even weekly basis. Wargo Nature Center offers this program and has a different topic for each session. The following is from their website:

Bring your lunch and join a naturalist for our Lunch with a Naturalist series. These monthly presentations will include local natural history information and possibly a relaxing stroll on the trails at Wargo. Any equipment that may be needed will be provided. Pre-registration is not required.



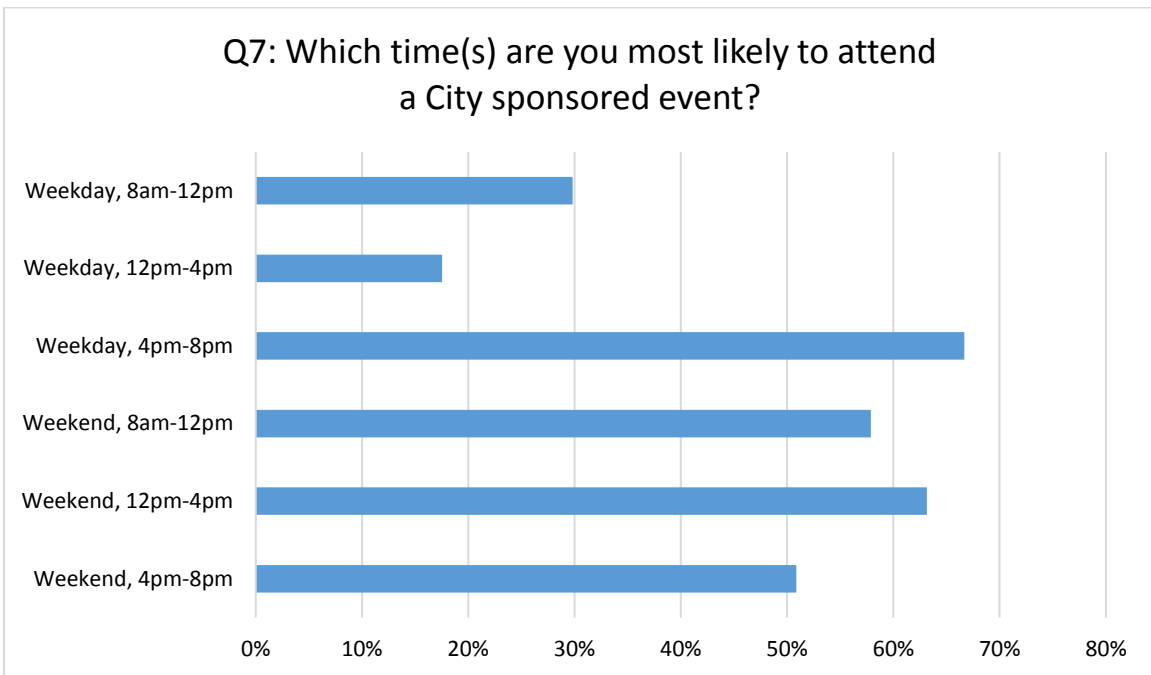
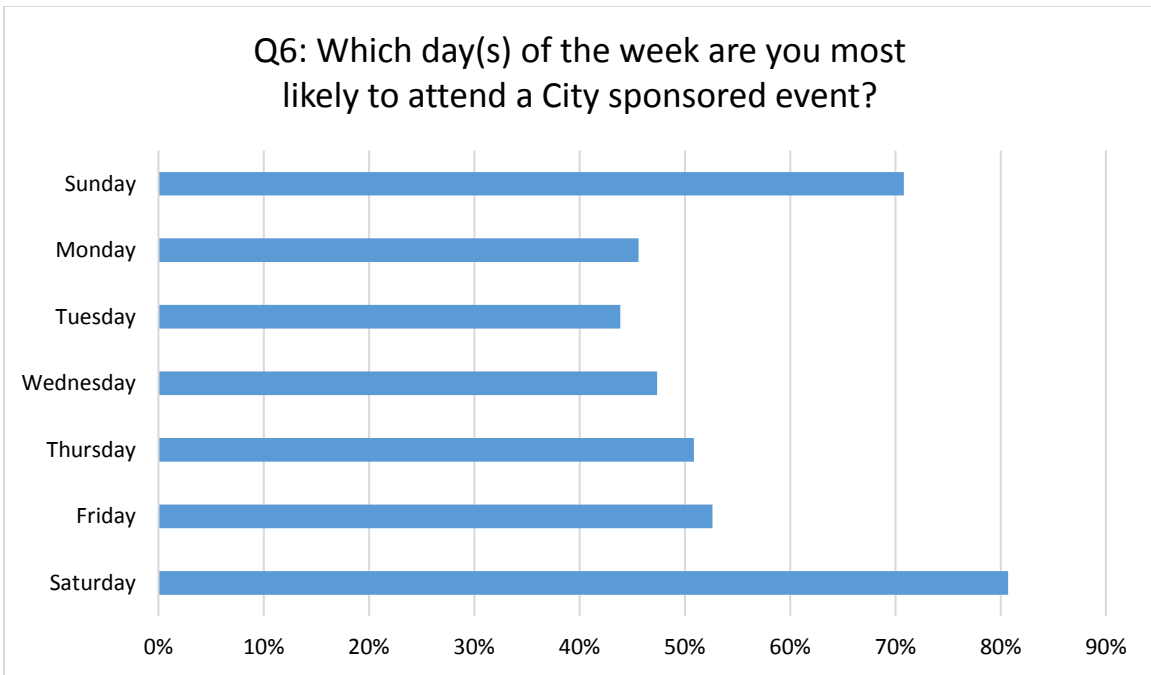
Outdoor recreation is a major program area for recreation agencies, especially in Minnesota. Over 70% of respondents say they are “likely” or “extremely likely” to attend an outdoor recreation program. Ramsey has ample parks and open space that can host such programs, but the difficult aspect is finding instructors and any potential equipment needs.

In 2017, a few outdoor recreation opportunities were offered in partnership with Anoka County Parks and staff at Wargo Nature Center. Classes offered included birding, canoeing, kayaking, and stand-up paddleboarding. The birding class was offered three times in the spring when there is minimal tree coverage. It was held at Lake Itasca trailhead, Rum River Central Park, and Sunfish Lake Park. While there was low attendance, it received very positive feedback. One participant said, “[the instructor’s] obvious personal interest in birding was inspiring,” while another said “staff was very personable and knowledgeable. He was patient considering my son (age 12) had to attend as well and was somewhat distracting. He was patient and shared relevant information.”

The stand-up paddleboarding class had full participation with seven people. It was held at Sunfish Lake Park and Anoka County Parks brought paddleboards, paddles, and life jackets. The instructor taught the basics and ensure all were comfortable on the water. They then moved into more free-time and exploring the lake. One person said it was “lots of fun. Two hours was just the perfect amount of time as was the Sunfish Lake location.” Numerous participants said the instructor was “terrific, knowledgeable, patient, and very helpful.” The kayaking class was cancelled due to weather.

Although Anoka County Parks received positive feedback, it was difficult to schedule and work with them as their programs must come first. Their staff was not always receptive on expanding programming to Ramsey parks. Due to this, they are not currently a 2018 partner and a new instructor was selected for the 2018 stand-up paddleboarding classes.

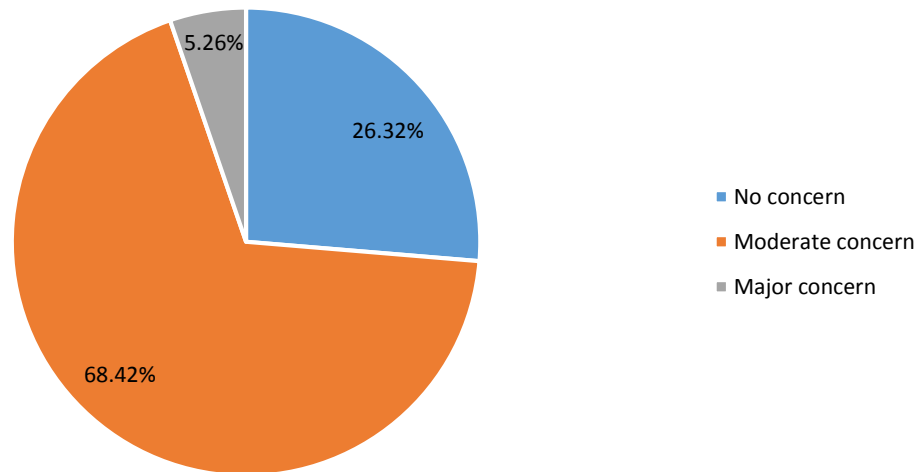
In the future, assuming instructor and equipment availability works out, potential outdoor recreation programs could include: canoeing/kayaking, camping, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, nature walks, fishing, birding, maple syruping, or full moon hikes. For some programs, it may be beneficial to structure it as a special event in order to increase attendance.



Although these responses can give some insight into which days and times may be best suited for programs, it will also depend on the target demographics and instructor/facility availability. Some programs will have a best suited time of day, such as mornings or evenings for outdoor summer sports and fitness. While others may have attendance vary based on the season.

Elmcrest Park is often unavailable on weekends in the summer due to soccer and graduation parties or other groups reserving the community building.

### Q8: How much of a concern is program cost?



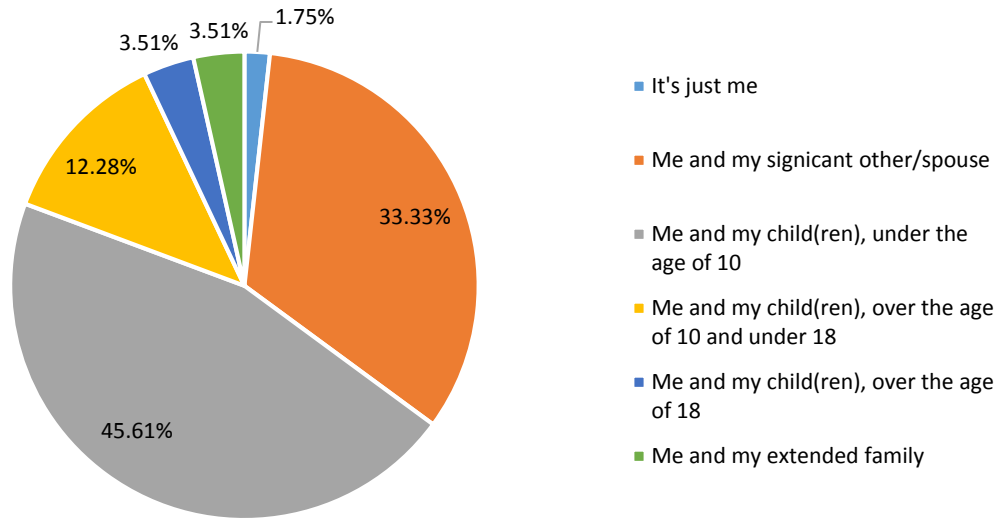
Fee-setting is another concern for future programming. In 2017, most programs were free or low cost compared to neighboring organizations. This was in hopes of increasing attendance for such new programs. Although 75% of respondents say program cost is a “moderate” or “major concern” this may be due to people not wanting to spend too much money on something when they don’t know what they will receive. This aspect of recreation programs should be continued to be evaluated, as fees can be a turning point or barrier for participation.

In 2016, annual wages in Ramsey was \$47,527, slightly under the average in Anoka County (\$49,918). Median household income was \$86,800 in Ramsey, compared to \$70,900 in Anoka County. In 2015, approximately 3.5% of Ramsey lived below the poverty level (income of \$24,250 per year for a family of four), 4.5% between 100% and 149%, and 5.2% between 150% and 184% of the poverty line. Overall, Ramsey residents are in a good financial position, which shows that people are more likely to participate in fee-based recreation programs.

The fee-setting pyramid is a tool to determine pricing, which includes the following factors: access, responsibility, anticipated impacts, social value, and benefit. Benefit is the largest consideration, with programs providing the most *community* benefit having the lowest fees and cost recovery and programs with the most *individual* benefit having highest fees and cost recovery.

Another aspect to consider is establishing a fee-assistance program. Many agencies offer financial assistance to those who qualify, but there is not a uniform policy as communities have varying needs and available resources. Fee assistance is necessary to allow all users who want to participate in a program do so. Eliminating economic barriers is key to growing an involved community, as well as enriching people’s lives through parks and recreation. Communities may fund these programs through community foundations, grants, sponsors, or other program revenues.

### Q9: Which best describes your family in Ramsey?

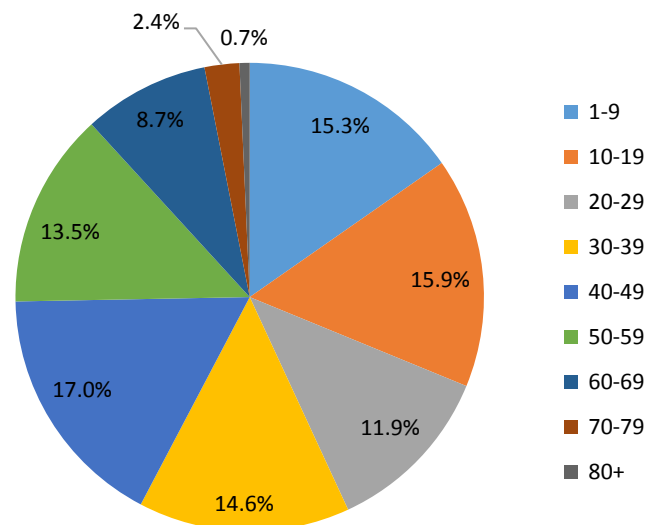


Ramsey is the second fastest growing city in Anoka County and is increasingly becoming a place to call home for younger families. A majority (nearly 80%) of survey respondents describe their family as “me and my significant other/spouse” or “me and my child(ren), under the age of 10.” This shows there could be opportunities for family-based programs or community events, such as a summer or winter kids/family fest. A great number of survey respondents, both from the recreation opportunities and general program surveys, stated they wanted youth and family activities. One response that sticks out is from a parent expressing interest in “a recreational center (YMCA) as [they] currently drive to the Y in Elk River or Andover. [They] live in Ramsey, but unfortunately have to support businesses and programs in the other cities because Ramsey is so lacking in family/child oriented programs and facilities.”

Age groups often classify programs, as program categories can be standard throughout the lifespan. Preschool is typically ages 1-5 years, youth ages 5-12 years, and teen ages 12-18 years. Most recreation agencies seem to focus on preschool and youth programs, although teen programs may be offered if they have a teen center.

According to 2015 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 29.95% of Ramsey’s population is under the age of 20. This is a large group that could benefit from recreation programming, as the primary recreation activities for youth in the area are private sports associations or school activities.

### Population by Age





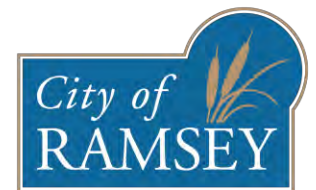
# RECREATION PROGRAMMING UPDATE

Park & Recreation Commission

April 13, 2017

# HIGHLIGHTS

- Yoga
- Mike Lynch Starwatch Party
- Art in the Park
- Programming questionnaire



# YOGA FLOW

“I really think this is great! I have lived in Ramsey 37 years and work close. The timing is good. Wish it could be more days. Thanks so much for getting this together....”

“Class was relaxing and kept me challenged in a good way.”



**Ramsey Parks & Recreation presents:**

## Yoga Flow

**Yoga Flow with Barbara Sandarin, RYT**

Yoga Flow is restorative, challenging, invigorating, and fun! It's Barbara's goal to introduce yoga in a safe, non-competitive, judgment-free way. Yoga is for EVERY BODY! Barbara will guide a Vinyasa style of yoga that focuses on breath and movement. All levels welcome, as modifications will be offered.

**Prepare for class:**

- Bring a yoga mat or towel, water, and a small hand towel
- Wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to practice barefoot
- Yoga is best done on a (nearly) empty stomach
- Flexibility NOT required!

**Registration** is requested. Please arrive 5-10 minutes early. Admittance to class closes at 12:10pm.

**Event:** Yoga Flow

**Location:**  
Ramsey City Hall  
Mississippi River Room, Annex  
(2<sup>nd</sup> floor, east side)  
7550 Sunwood Drive NW

**Dates:** Wednesday afternoons  
April: 5, 12, 19 & 26  
May: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
(Additional classes will be scheduled pending interest)

**Time:** 12:05 - 12:50 pm

**To register:**  
[www.cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents](http://www.cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents)

**Contact:**  
[tbailey@cityoframsey.com](mailto:tbailey@cityoframsey.com)  
763-576-4309



# STARWATCH PARTY

“Good time...Even with the cloudy skies it was great.”

“Informative and interesting. Loved seeing the large telescopes.”

“It was Mike Lynch!  
What else is there to say?!”



The poster features a green header with the Ramsey Parks & Recreation logo (a stylized plant) and the text "Ramsey Parks & Recreation presents:". To the right, it says "Starwatch Party with Mike Lynch". Below the header are three images of space: a spiral galaxy, a star cluster, and a nebula. The bottom right of the poster contains event details in a light beige box.

**Starwatch Party with Mike Lynch**

**Join us for a night of starwatching with WCCO Radio's Mike Lynch!**

We will start our night with Mike's Minnesota Starwatch orientation at twilight. Once we learn the basics, we will go outside to see the constellations and hear some great stories. Using some of the largest telescopes in Minnesota, we will get up close views of planets, star clusters, galaxies and other wonders. Mike will even teach the basics of celestial photography.

All participants will receive a booklet of star maps and constellation charts, websites, a telescope buying guide and more.

Be ready to explore the stars and spend the evening outside!

Registration required—suggested donation of \$10 per participant. In case of clouds or rain, we will do a "virtual stargazing" program and participants will receive a "cloud check" to visit a future program (at any location) for free.

**Event:** Starwatch Party with Mike Lynch

**Location:** Elmcrest Park  
16603 Quicksilver St. NW

**Date:** Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

**Time:** 7:45-9:45 pm

**To register:** [www.cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents](http://www.cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents)

**Contact:** [tbaily@cityoframsey.com](mailto:tbaily@cityoframsey.com)  
763-576-4309

# ART IN THE PARK

“I had no idea what a bee house was. So I went. Of course it was focused on younger people and all had a great time and learned about the importance of bees and how we can help.”  
Staff was “extremely friendly and helpful”

ART IN THE PARK:

## Mosaic Bee House



Help protect our pollinators at  
**Art in the Park**

Presented by Ramsey Parks & Recreation  
and the Rumriver Art Center

Did you know that bees and other pollinators play a critical role in the food supply for wildlife and people? Yet many species are suffering declines. The City of Ramsey is committed to incorporating pollinator-friendly practices into our community and to creating, restoring and protecting pollinator habitat.

**You can help!** Welcome pollinators into your yard with your very own bee house. Rumriver Art Center instructors will lead you step-by-step through this class, as you use broken china dishes to decorate a new home for these special pollinators in your garden or yard.

**Registration** is required. Suggested donation of \$10 per participant.

**Event:**

Create a Mosaic Bee House

**Location:**

Elmcrest Park  
Meeting Room  
16603 Quicksilver Street NW

**Date:** Monday, March 27, 2017

**Time:** 6:30 - 8:00 pm

**To register:** Visit our website  
[www.cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents](http://www.cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents)

**Contact:**

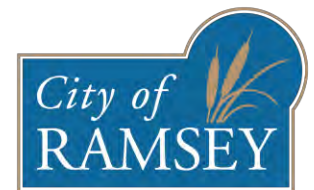
[tbailey@cityoframsey.com](mailto:tbailey@cityoframsey.com)  
763-576-4309

# ART IN THE PARK



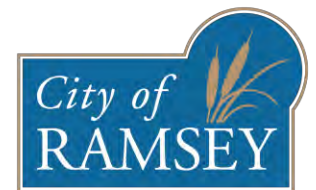
# PROGRAMMING QUESTIONNAIRE

- To what extent have you learned about the City of Ramsey's new recreation offerings?
- How likely are you to attend a program center around....art, physical activity, learning, outdoor recreation?
- Which day(s) of the week are you most likely to attend a City sponsored event?
- Which time(s) are you most likely to attend a City sponsored event?
  - Weekday or weekend
  - 8am-12pm, 12pm-4pm, 4pm-8pm



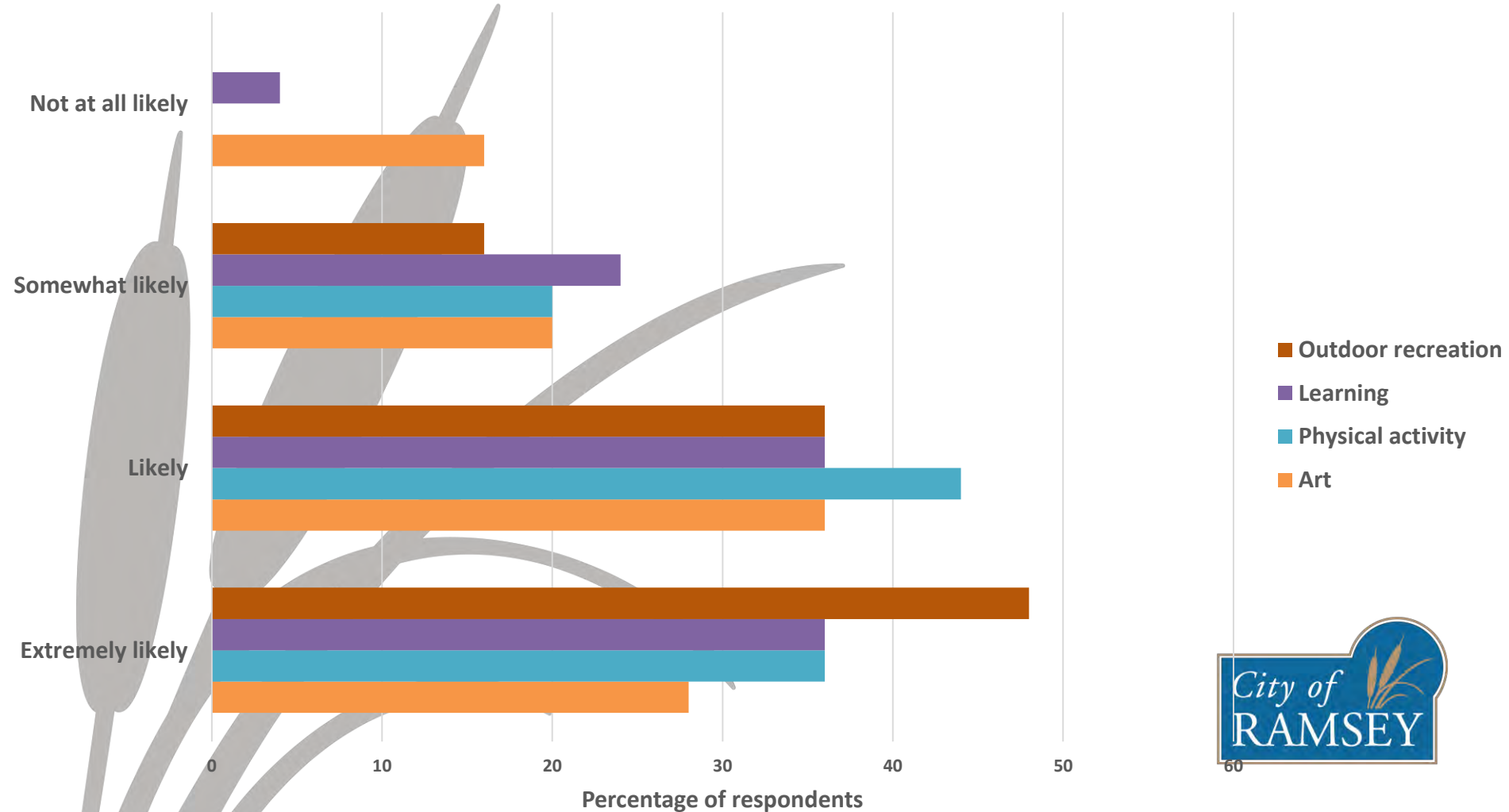
# PROGRAMMING QUESTIONNAIRE

- How much of a concern is program cost?
- Which best describes your family in Ramsey?
- What would you like to see the City offer in terms of recreation programs?



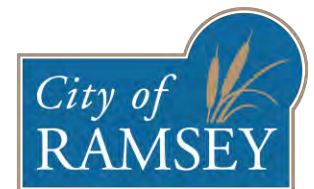
# PROGRAMMING QUESTIONNAIRE

Likelihood of Attending a Program Centered Around...



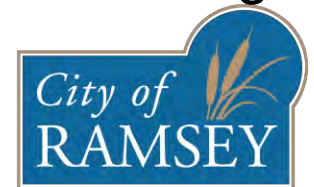
# PROGRAMMING QUESTIONNAIRE

- What would you like to see the City offer in terms of recreation programs?
  - “Introduction to \_\_\_\_\_ type sports programs. I'd like to introduce my young children to different sports without the long time commitment and expense that is found with the athletic associations...I have taken my children over to Andover previously, for these types of programs, but I would prefer to stay in my community.”
  - “Movies in the park and continued art in the park events (those are so fun!), pet friendly events would be nice, too.”
  - “I would like to see fitness and nutrition education classes offered. These classes are normally expensive at some of the big box fitness clubs.”
  - “Anything outdoors, yoga, exercise classes”
  - “What you have started with is awesome! Movies?”



# PROGRAMMING QUESTIONNAIRE

- What would you like to see the City offer in terms of recreation programs?
  - “Family and child based programs! Ramsey is growing leaps and bounds, but unfortunately is very limited in it's parks and recreational activities. Variety of day Camps, family nights out in the park. Improvements on the park systems. A splash pad would be amazing (we frequent the Champlin or Otsego one)! A recreational center (YMCA) as I currently drive to the Y in Elk River or Andover. I live in Ramsey, but unfortunately have to support businesses and programs in the other cities because Ramsey is so lacking in family/child oriented programs and facilities.”



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- Yoga Flow, ongoing
- Intro to Birding, Thursday 4/20 and Saturday 4/29
- Art in the Park, Friday 4/14
- Movie in the Park, Friday 5/5
- Learn to Garden, Thursday 5/11
- Art in the Park, Friday 5/12
- Kayaking with Anoka County Parks, Wednesday 5/17



Ramsey  
Parks &  
Recreation  
presents:

## Basics of Stand Up Paddle Boarding



 **Anoka County**  
PARKS & RECREATION

### Learn How to Paddle Board with the City of Ramsey and Anoka County Parks & Recreation

Stand up paddle boarding is easy, fun, and a great workout! This class is the perfect introduction for paddle board beginners. Class sizes are small and the instruction is quick and easy, which means most of your time will be spent out on the water exploring.

#### Prepare for class:

Dress in layers for the weather. Bring a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and shoes that can get wet. Equipment will be provided.

**Registration** is required- \$15 per person.

Class is limited to the first 8 registrants. Participants must be at least 15 years of age.

#### Event:

Basics of Stand Up Paddle  
Boarding

#### Location:

Sunfish Lake Park  
Pavilion  
6330 Sunwood Drive NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303

#### Date and time:

Thursday, June 22, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Friday, July 7, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Monday, August 28, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

#### To register:

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

#### For more information:

Todd Murawski, 651-429-8007

[Todd.Murawski@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:Todd.Murawski@co.anoka.mn.us)



Ramsey  
Parks &  
Recreation  
presents:

## Introduction to Kayaking



 **Anoka County**  
PARKS & RECREATION

### Get outdoors, learn something new, and experience your parks!

Learn the basics of kayaking while you explore Sunfish Lake in Ramsey. Regardless of skill and comfort levels, participants will enjoy their kayaking experience. Class will cover basic strokes, boat safety, bracing, and determining which type of boat is best for you.

#### Prepare for class:

Dress in layers for the weather. Bring a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and shoes that can get wet. Equipment will be provided.

**Registration** is required- \$15 per person.

Class is limited to first 8 registrants. Participants must be at least 15 years of age.

#### Event:

Introduction to Kayaking

#### Location:

Sunfish Lake Park  
Pavilion  
6330 Sunwood Drive NW

#### Date:

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

#### Time:

5:30 - 7:30 pm

#### To register:

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

#### For more information:

Todd Murawski, 651-429-8007

[Todd.Murawski@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:Todd.Murawski@co.anoka.mn.us)



# MOVIES IN THE PARK



Ramsey  
Parks &  
Recreation  
presents:

## Movies In The Park

### Enjoy a Movie under the Stars

Bring your friends and family to experience a movie at Elmcrest Park. Arrive before sunset to enjoy pre-movie music and concessions for sale. The movie will start soon after the sun is low in the sky.

When you register you will get to vote on the movie selection for May. If you attend the spring showing, you will get to vote for the fall movie.

Spring movie options include: Meet the Robinsons, Dumbo, The Karate Kid, Bolt, The Smurfs, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Registration is encouraged but not required.

**Event:** Movies in the Park

**Location:**

Elmcrest Park  
16603 Quicksilver Street NW

**Date & Time:**

**Friday, May 5, 2017, 8:45 pm**

Rain check: Friday, May 12, 8:45 pm

**Friday, Sept. 8, 2017, 8:30 pm**

Rain check: Friday, September 15, 8:30 pm

**To register:**

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

**For more information:**

[tbaily@cityoframsey.com](mailto:tbaily@cityoframsey.com)

763-576-4309



# ART IN THE PARK

## ART IN THE PARK: Wine and Canvas Painting



### Ramsey Parks & Recreation and the Rumriver Art Center present Art in the Park

Spend your Friday night relaxing with friends, painting, and wine. You will create your own unique spring flower painting. Rumriver Art Center Instructors will lead participants step-by-step through this project, allowing you to understand the process of each technique and still be able to create your own version.

**Registration** is required. Suggested donation of \$20 per person. Fee includes cost of all materials.

#### Event:

Wine and Canvas  
Spring Flower Painting

#### Location:

Elmcrest Park  
Meeting Room  
16303 Quicksilver Street NW

#### Date:

Friday, April 14, 2017

#### Time:

6:30 – 8:30 pm

**To register:** Visit our website  
[www.cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents](http://www.cityoframsey.com/ParkEvents)

#### Contact:

[tbailey@cityoframsey.com](mailto:tbailey@cityoframsey.com)  
763-576-4309

# IN PROGRESS

- 12 week summer program
- Summer Sports Sampler
- U of M Raptor Center program
- U of M Monarch Lab



**Park and Recreation Commission**

**6. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 01/09/2020

**By:** Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

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**Information**

**Title:**

Commission/Staff Input

**Purpose/Background:**

**February Agenda Items**

- 2019 Photo Contest
- Continued Review of Chapter 3 of the PSP
- Recommend Update to Resolution #91-06-138, Public Facility Naming Policy
- Recreation Programs Update

**Notification:**

**Observations/Alternatives:**

**Funding Source:**

**Recommendation:**

**Action:**

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**Attachments**

[Resolution 91 06 138](#)

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: Mark Riverblood

Final Approval Date: 01/03/2020

**Reviewed By**

Katie Schmidt

**Date**

01/03/2020 12:40 PM

Started On: 01/03/2020 10:50 AM

Councilmember Hardin introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**RESOLUTION #91-06-138**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S PUBLIC FACILITY NAMING POLICY**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Ramsey has supported the development of recreation facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to name all public facilities in a consistent, timely and appropriate manner; and

**WHEREAS**, under this policy all proposed public facility names shall first go before the Park and Recreation Commission of the City of Ramsey; and

**WHEREAS**, in the case of parklands, the name shall be chosen before final plat approval and will generally reflect the name of the subdivision or other significant geographical feature; and

**WHEREAS**, any sign bearing the name of a public facility will be in accordance with City Code requirements for signs; and

**WHEREAS**, facility names other than those of the subdivision that contains them will be brought before City Council for approval.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RAMSEY, ANOKA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, as follows:**

- 1) That the City Council adopts the Park and Recreation Commission's Public Facility Naming Policy.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Mayor Gilbertson and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Mayor Gilbertson  
Councilmember Hardin  
Councilmember Cich  
Councilmember Beyer

and the following voted against the same:

None

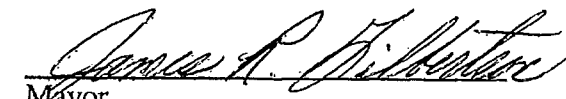
and the following abstained:

None

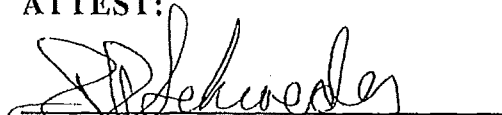
and the following were absent:

Councilmember Peterson

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this the 11th day of June, 1991.

  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
City Administrator