

**Meeting Date:** 04/08/2021

**By:** Chris Anderson, Community  
Development

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**Information**

**Title:**

PUBLIC HEARING: Consider Ordinance #21-06 Consolidating all Landscape Requirements into a Single Section and Amending Landscape Standards in the Employment Districts

**Purpose/Background:**

The purpose of this case is to consider Ordinance #21-06, which amends landscaping requirements in the Employment Districts, as well as moves all landscaping standards from individual zoning districts into a single City Code Section entitled Landscaping.

The notion of amending the Employment District landscaping standards arose as a result of the DeltaMod Tech project. In the Employment Districts, buildings tend to be larger and have a lot of areas dedicated for parking, maneuvering, and storage. The impervious areas, coupled with the stormwater management improvements (ponding), leave much less pervious area available to accommodate plantings (trees and shrubs). Compliance with planting requirements was either physically challenging and/or was resulting in overly dense plantings that would be problematic in the future. Thus, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) directed Staff to initiate the process to amend the Employment District landscape standards.

Historically, the zoning districts were drafted to be a 'one stop shop' for all requirements in an individual district. This seemed logical prior to the advent of online resources. Even though the same landscaping standards applied to all Employment Districts (E-1, E-2, and E-3), the standards were repeated in each individual district. However, rarely, if ever anymore, do we rely on hard copies of the standards for individual zoning districts (generally accessed now online) and thus, by consolidating all landscaping standards into a single Section, a lot of repetition within City Code can be eliminated.

**Notification:**

The Public Hearing Notice was advertised in the Anoka County Union-Herald, the City's Official Newsletter.

**Observations/Alternatives:**

Staff initially assessed planting requirements from surrounding communities and found that their planting requirements were either more stringent (required more plantings) or significantly less than Ramsey's. Ultimately, the EPB recommended utilizing the Canopy Cover Formula, which is the basis for landscaping requirements in the multi-family districts and is based on available planting area (e.g. pervious areas). Additionally, the EPB also recommended excluding stormwater ponds from the pervious calculation since plantings are not permitted within them. So, rather than basing the number of trees and shrubs on the square footage of the building footprint or the lineal footage of the site perimeter, it would be based on the Canopy Cover Formula and assigned square footage of individual tree/shrub species. While this will result in fewer plantings on a site, it should still produce an attractive landscape that is healthier and more functional.

In addition to the aforementioned revisions, the Ordinance also 'cleans up' certain aspects of the landscaping requirements. The bufferyard standards in the R-2 Residential and R-3 Residential Districts have been eliminated, since the density transitioning standards between different types of densities also apply and are more restrictive. Also, bufferyard standards were added to commercial/industrial districts that currently are missing this requirement. The majority of the Ordinance is simply rearranging existing landscaping requirements from individual districts into a single section of City Code.

By creating a separate City Code Section for landscaping, it provided an opportunity to establish Intent, Goals and Objectives without repeating them over and over throughout each individual zoning district. The EPB wanted to see these developed to assist with future plan review and guiding recommendations. This will be beneficial if there are ever challenges to meeting minimum planting requirements, as a Landscape Plan can be cross checked with the Intent, Goals, and Objectives to ensure it is achieving them.

#### Alternatives

Alternative 1: Recommend adoption of Ordinance #21-06 amending the landscape standards for the Employment Districts and consolidating all landscaping standards into a single Section in City Code. Compliance with the landscape standards in the Employment Districts is becoming challenging based on the typical building footprint, amount of impervious area, and stormwater management (ponds), which all restrict planting locations. The proposed amendments would reduce the number of required plantings, but should still result in well landscaped projects. Furthermore, consolidating all landscaping standards into one Section will eliminate a lot of repetitive language in the zoning districts.

Alternative 2: Do not recommend approval of Ordinance #21-06. This would retain the current landscape standards for the Employment Districts, which are based on the square footage of building footprint or lineal footage of the site perimeter, whichever results in more plantings. Recent projects have had challenges meeting the planting standards based on limited pervious areas where plantings can be installed.

#### Funding Source:

This case is being handled as part of Staff's regular duties.

#### Recommendation:

The EPB recommends adopting Ordinance #21-06.

#### Action:

Motion to recommend City Council adopt Ordinance #21-06.

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#### Attachments

EPB Meeting Minutes Dated February 20, 2020

Ordinance #21-06

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#### Form Review

**Inbox**

Tim Gladhill

Form Started By: Chris Anderson

Final Approval Date: 03/31/2021

**Reviewed By**

Tim Gladhill

**Date**

03/31/2021 08:01 PM

Started On: 03/23/2021 03:06 PM

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**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

On Monday, February 10, 2020, the Environmental Policy Board (EPB) met in the Lake Itasca Room at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive N.W., Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present:     Chairperson Michael Valentine  
                            Board Member Reid Bernard  
                            Board Member Jane Covart  
                            Board Member Melissa Fetterley  
                            Board Member Michael Hiatt  
                            Board Member Laura Moore

Members Absent:     None

Also Present:         City Planner Chris Anderson

**1.     CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Valentine called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2.     CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.     APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Board Member Covart and seconded by Board Member Fetterley to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Valentine, Board Member Covart, Moore, Bernard, Fetterley, and Hiatt. Voting No: None.

**4.     APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated January 13, 2020**

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Bernard to approve the regular meeting minutes dated January 13, 2020.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Valentine, Board Member Hiatt, Bernard, Covart, Fetterley, and Moore. Voting No: None.

**5.     POLICY BOARD BUSINESS**

**5.01: Continued Discussion on Potential Amendment to Landscape Requirements in the**

## Employment Districts

City Planner Anderson presented the staff report. He stated that at the December 2019 EPB meeting there was continued discussion about potential amendments to the landscaping requirements for the Employment Districts (E-1, E-2, and E-3), which originated as a result of the Delta ModTech Landscape Plan. The EPB had reviewed what various peer communities had for landscaping requirements. Additionally, the EPB expressed a desire to explore what the results would be if the Canopy Cover Formula, which is applied to multi-family developments, were applied. Staff was directed to prepare exhibits to assist the EPB in understanding what the various Code requirements would look like. He reviewed the different models and examples of what is required in neighboring communities.

Chairperson Valentine asked if it would be useful for the Board to outline goals. He stated that the Board could reinforce some of the strategic thought processes of staff. He commented that the ornamental trees and shrubs provide instant greenery, rather than awaiting the larger tree species to mature. He explained that diversity ensures immediate assistance with aesthetics. He agreed that the long-term projections should also be taken into account when landscaping, such as future expansions of a business.

Board Member Hiatt stated that one goal is to create a healthy environment in the landscaping plan, to ensure the health and longevity of the trees and plants installed and in the overall environment. He commented that having diversity in the tree population helps prevent against damage that could occur from future tree diseases. He asked if there is a way to incorporate natural landscaping, which could help to reduce the amount of impervious in the calculation, similar to stormwater ponds.

City Planner Anderson referenced the Great River Energy site in Elk River that is being decommissioned. He noted the natural landscaping work that occurred on that property and stated that it would be interesting to watch that site and see what happens without the active management that was occurring.

Chairperson Valentine stated that although he likes the idea of natural landscaping, not every site would be ideal for that. He commented that there is also a lot of management that is required, which does not make it ideal for every site.

Board Member Covart referenced the formula for the tree cover and asked if the different varieties would include more greenery and would mature more quickly to provide a variety in tree species.

City Planner Anderson provided details on the characteristics of the different tree groups and stated that having some formula would ensure a variety of species and growth rates.

Board Member Hiatt asked if there is a cost factor between the different species.

City Planner Anderson stated that cost does vary depending on species and cost would be a factor in landscaping. He noted that there are also trends that cause certain trees to be selected more often.

Board Member Moore stated that she would suggest an emphasis on fitting some native landscaping into each plan, if possible. She recognized that there is active management needed on the front end, but that tends to taper off throughout the years to a lesser amount.

City Planner Anderson stated that he will call Elk River to gain input from its staff on how that element has worked in their community.

Board Member Moore stated that she would be curious as to whether businesses are maintaining native landscaping that already existed or starting fresh.

Chairperson Valentine stated that it would be rare to find true native landscaping that already exists and does not include invasive species.

City Planner Anderson agreed that there would be limited sites where a native landscape truly exists and therefore, he would want input from the Board on whether it would want preservation of native landscaping or even preservation of just existing landscape vegetation, or newly established native landscaping.

Chairperson Valentine stated that although he believes that option should be provided, he would not want to see too much focus on that because of the effort and active management that is required.

City Planner Anderson stated that perhaps native landscaping is allowed as an incentive rather than as a requirement and confirmed the consensus of the Board.

Board Member Hiatt stated that flexibility within the canopy cover formula would allow the City to work with a developer to find a solution that would be good for the land and the developer.

Board Member Fetterley commented that this seems to be moving in the right direction. She commented that if the diversified percentages are built in, that would help to prevent the situation where someone presents a landscaping plan with only the largest canopy cover species.

Motion by Board Member Hiatt and seconded by Board Member Fetterley to direct staff to proceed with drafting an Ordinance Amendment for landscaping requirements in the Employment Districts based on the discussion of the Board.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Valentine, Board Member Hiatt, Fetterley, Bernard, Covart, and Moore. Voting No: None.

## **6. BOARD / STAFF INPUT**

- **Master Naturalist Course**

City Planner Anderson referenced an email that was sent out the previous week related to a Master Naturalist course. He noted that there will be an open house on Wednesday, February 12, and encouraged anyone interested to attend and learn more. He stated that there is a cost of \$275 but noted that this is a unique opportunity as people drive from all over the metro to attend and the course is being held in Ramsey. He noted that scholarship opportunities are available to assist with the cost.

Board Member Moore stated that anyone that applies for the scholarship would likely be accepted, to her knowledge.

City Planner Anderson stated that this seems like a topic of interest for the members of the Board. He noted that more people are needed to ensure that the course could be offered.

The Board discussed opportunities of Arbor Day activities involving the new elementary school.

Board Member Hiatt volunteered to assist in making the connection to Brookside.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Board Member Covart and seconded by Board Member Moore to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chris Anderson  
City Planner

ATTEST:

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JoAnn Shaw  
Community Development Secretary

Drafted by Amanda Staple  
*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

**ORDINANCE #21-06**

**CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**AN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 117 WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE ZONING AND SUBDIVISIONS CHAPTER OF THE CITY CODE OF RAMSEY, MINNESOTA.**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 117-111 (R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT), 117-112 (R-2 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT), 117-113 (R-3 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT), 117-114 (B-1 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT), 117-115 (B-2 HIGHWAY BUSINESS DISTRICT), 117-116 (E-2 EMPLOYMENT DISTRICT), 117-117 (E-1 EMPLOYMENT DISTRICT), 117-120 (H-1 HIGHWAY 10 BUSINESS DISTRICT), 117-121 (B-3 BUSINESS DISTRICT), 117-124 (E-3 EMPLOYMENT DISTRICT), AND 117-125 (NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT), OF CHAPTER 117 OF THE CITY CODE OF RAMSEY, MINNESOTA.**

**SECTION 1. AUTHORITY**

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to and under the authority of the City Charter of the City of Ramsey.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENTS**

Sec. 117-111 (g) (3) and (4) shall be repealed entirely.

Sec. 117-112 (e) (6) a., b., c., d., and e., and all of (7) shall be repealed.

Sec. 117-113 (e) (5) a., b., c., d., and e., and all of (6) shall be repealed.

Sec. 117-114 (e) (14) shall be repealed entirely.

Sec. 117-115 (e) (16) shall be repealed entirely.

Sec. 117-116 (e) (3) shall be repealed entirely.

Sec. 117-117 (e) (3) shall be repealed entirely.

Sec. 117-120 (e) (14) shall be repealed entirely.

Sec. 117-121 (g) (2) f. shall be repealed entirely.

Sec. 117-124 (e) (3) shall be repealed entirely.

Sec. 117-125 (f) (13) shall be repealed entirely.

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Sec. 117-348 (i) shall be repealed entirely.

Section 117-364 (Landscaping) shall be added to read as follows:

- (a) Intent. The City of Ramsey recognizes the advantages that landscaping and screening can provide, including enhanced health, safety, aesthetic, ecological and economic value. The intent of this section is to:
- (1) Enhance the quality of life within the city;
  - (2) Enhance aesthetic view of development(s) from public roads;
  - (3) Maintain and enhance property values;
  - (4) Aid in both physical and mental human health;
  - (5) Improve air quality and buffer against noise, glare, and heat;
  - (6) Reduce the potential for crime and violence;
  - (7) Improve energy efficiency;
  - (8) Add visual interest to blank building facades and soften appearance of hardscaping and buildings with accent plantings;
  - (9) Complement adjacent land uses;
  - (10) Improve the visual quality and continuity within and between developments;
  - (11) Reduce storm water runoff;
  - (12) Encourage the establishment and/or restoration of native landscapes.
- (b) Goals and Objectives. Landscaping for any project is intended to achieve the following goals and objectives:
- (1) Provide immediate aesthetic enhancements to a development site while also taking into account space and input needs of plantings well into the future;
  - (2) Encourage a healthy environment and landscape in the future;
  - (3) Ensure a diverse mixture of species to protect against future pests and pathogens.
  - (4) Encourage native landscapes in suitable locations with appropriate management plans.
- (c) Landscaping Requirements.
- (1) Topsoil and Ground Cover. All exposed ground areas, including boulevards and areas not devoted to off-street parking, driveways, sidewalks, trails, patios or other such impervious improvements, shall be landscaped with turf, shrubs, trees, native grasses and wildflowers and/or other ornamental landscape materials within six (6) months of the date of issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.
    - a. Topsoil. In all zoning districts, a minimum of four inches of topsoil, as defined in Section 117-1, shall be applied across all exposed ground areas to the edge of improved streets, sidewalks, driveways and other impervious surfaces, excluding natural areas that are left undisturbed, whenever a building permit is issued for the construction of a principal building.
      1. The depth of topsoil at the time of inspection shall be not less than four inches.
      2. Alternatives to the import of topsoil, such as compost or other soil amendments known to improve soil water holding capacity may be permitted, but only with the prior approval of the City Engineer.

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- b. Required Ground Cover. In all zoning districts except R-1, all portions of a site not covered by structures, concrete, or asphalt, but excluding natural areas that are left undisturbed, shall be finished with sod and plantings, up to the edge of improved streets and other impervious surfaces. Any alternative to the sod requirement shall require City Council approval.
  - 1. In the R-1 Residential District, sod is required in all boulevards, excluding those areas devoted to sidewalks, trails and driveways.
  - 2. The remainder of a yard may be established with sod, seed, natural ground cover and/or native grasses and wildflowers. Noxious weeds do not constitute allowable ground cover.
  - 3. A landscape escrow, in an amount to be determined by the Building Official, shall be deposited for all required landscaping, including topsoil, sod and trees, which is not established at the time of issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. Installation of required landscaping, including topsoil, sod (or seeding where permitted by this Code) and trees, shall be completed within six months of the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy, weather permitting. The city may draw upon the escrow to install the required landscaping if said work is not completed within six months of the date of issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.

- (2) Irrigation. If a landscape irrigation system is provided, the system shall be equipped with the following:
  - a. Technology that inhibits or interrupts operation of the irrigation system during periods of sufficient moisture (rain sensor).
  - b. One or more water efficient technologies. This could include, but is not limited to, WaterSense labeled weather-based irrigation controllers, soil moisture sensors, and/or evapotranspiration (ET) sensors.

- (3) Existing Trees. A reasonable attempt shall be made to preserve as many existing trees as is practicable and incorporate them into a development (see Division 5. – Tree Preservation for inventory and preservation requirements). For each healthy significant tree retained on site and not identified on the City’s list of prohibited trees, one overstory tree, or the equivalent canopy square footage, can be deducted from the minimum planting requirements.

- (4) Planting types. Acceptable planting types shall be determined by the Ramsey Tree Book. The complement of trees fulfilling the landscaping requirements shall not be less than 25 percent deciduous and not less than 25 percent coniferous. Not more than 25 percent of the required plantings shall consist of ornamental or understory trees. Projects should attempt to limit the planting of any one genus to no more than 20 percent of the total plantings.

(5) Planting Requirements for the R-1 Residential District.

Zoning District	Planting Type	Minimum Number Required	Size
R-1 Residential (MUSA) - Villas	Overstory Deciduous and/or Coniferous trees	1 tree per 50 feet of frontage, planted in the boulevard.	1 inch caliper – deciduous 5 foot height – conifer

R-1 Residential (MUSA) - SF Detached Homes	Overstory Deciduous and/or Coniferous trees	2 trees per dwelling, planted in the boulevard (or front yard depending on available space)	1 inch caliper – deciduous 5 foot height – conifer
R-1 Rural Developing	Overstory Deciduous and/or Coniferous trees	2 trees per dwelling, planted in the front yard	1 inch caliper – deciduous 5 foot height – conifer

- a. In the R-1 Residential (MUSA) – Villas sub-district, alternative planting locations, such as the backyard or common areas, will be considered if there is not sufficient space in the boulevard due to other improvements such as driveways, streetlights, hydrants, etc.

(6) Planting Requirements for the R-2 Residential (Medium Density) and R-3 Residential (High Density) Districts.

- a. If the housing product is a detached style, the plantings shall consist of at least one (1) tree per 50 feet of street frontage, planted in the boulevard.
  - 1. Alternative planting locations, such as the backyard or common areas, will be considered if there is not sufficient space in the boulevard due to other improvements such as driveway, streetlights, hydrants, etc.
- b. If the housing product is an attached style, the number of plantings shall be determined based on canopy cover. To fulfill the planting requirements, a combination of trees and shrubs shall meet or exceed the minimum required canopy cover square footage.
- c. The minimum canopy cover required shall be calculated as follows:
  - 1. Determine ratio of impervious area (including stormwater ponds) to entire site.
  - 2. Multiply the impervious area/site area ratio by the square footage of the pervious area to calculate the required canopy cover square footage for the project area.
  - 3. The following formula shall be utilized to determine the average canopy cover of a species:  $[(\text{Minimum} + \text{Maximum Spread}) \div 4]^2 \times \pi \times (0.65 \text{ for preferred species or } 0.50 \text{ for acceptable species, as identified in the Ramsey Tree Book})$ .
- d. Minimum size of plantings. Required trees and shrubs shall meet or exceed the following size standards:

Plant Type	Size
Deciduous Tree	1 inch caliper
Coniferous Tree	5 feet in height
Ornamental Tree	1 inch caliper
Deciduous Shrub	2 feet in height
Evergreen	2 feet in height or width, based on growth characteristics

(7) Planting Requirements for Business and Employment Districts (B-1, B-2, B-3, Neighborhood Business, H-1, E-1, E-2, and E-3).

- a. Business Districts (B-1, B-2, B-3, Neighborhood Business, and H-1). The minimum number of trees required are outlined in the table below. These are minimum requirements and can be supplemented with other plantings, as well as flowers and various ground covers that would be appropriate to produce a complete and quality landscape.

Planting Type	Required Numbers
Deciduous/coniferous trees	1 tree per 50 lineal feet of site perimeter, or 1 tree per 1,000 square feet of building footprint, whichever is greater. For building expansions, 1 additional tree is required for each 1,000 square feet of new building footprint area.
Shrubs	1 shrub per 30 lineal feet of site perimeter or 1 shrub per 300 square feet of building footprint area, whichever is greater.

- b. Employment Districts (E-1, E-2, and E-3). The minimum number of plantings required shall be determined based on canopy cover. To fulfill the planting requirements, a combination of trees and shrubs shall meet or exceed the minimum required canopy cover square footage. The minimum canopy cover required shall be as follows:
1. Determine ratio of impervious area (including stormwater ponds below the 100 year flood elevation) to entire site.
  2. Multiply the impervious area/site area ratio by the square footage of the pervious area to calculate the required canopy cover square footage for the project area.
  3. The following formula shall be utilized to determine the average canopy cover of a species:  $[(\text{Minimum} + \text{Maximum Spread}) \div 4]^2 \times \pi \times (0.65 \text{ for preferred species or } 0.50 \text{ for acceptable species, as identified in the Ramsey Tree Book})$ .
- c. Minimum size of plantings. Required trees and shrubs shall meet or exceed the following size standards:

Plant Type	Size
Deciduous Tree	2.5 inch caliper
Coniferous Tree	6 feet in height
Ornamental/Understory Tree	1.5 inch caliper
Deciduous Shrub	2 feet in height
Coniferous Shrub	2 feet in height or width, based on growth characteristics

- d. Road frontage plantings. For every 35 feet of public road frontage, one overstory tree shall be planted adjacent to the road right-of-way on private property. These plantings are credited toward the minimum planting requirements.
- e. Parking lot landscaping. All parking lots are required to provide internal and/or adjacent overstory tree plantings in an effort to shade parking surfaces and provide visual relief. The planting schedule is established to provide an acceptable number of plantings that may be planted in regular symmetrical patterns or irregular clusters or groupings. Plantings are required at the following minimum schedule:
1. 1 tree per every ten parking spaces.

2. Every overstory tree planting shall be provided with a planting area of at least 162 square feet.
  3. Acceptable ground cover materials include sod, mulch, and other natural ground cover. Landscaping rock and plastic underlayment is prohibited in planting islands.
- f. Bufferyards. Bufferyards help to achieve screening between differing uses with varied intensities and impacts that are not always complementary when adjacent to one another. When a bufferyard is required, the yard space and planting requirements are not to be reduced for other purposes such as future parking and driveways, building expansions, or other activities that are not in keeping with the purposes of buffering and screening.
1. Bufferyards are intended to provide additional screening of businesses that are adjacent to residential areas. The following table details the width of the bufferyard along the common adjacent property line. An additional increase of landscape plantings is required in the bufferyard. The table below outlines the minimum required additional plantings, expressed as a percentage of the total required site landscaping:

Proposed Development	Existing Adjacent Development							
	R-1	R-2	R-3	NBD	B-1	B-2	B-3	H-1
Neighborhood Business (NBD) Bufferyard width	40 feet	30 feet	20 feet	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
% increase in plantings	25%	20%	20%					
B-1 Bufferyard width	40 feet	30 feet	20 feet	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
% increase in plantings	25%	20%	20%					
B-2 Bufferyard width	50 feet	40 feet	30 feet	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
% increase in plantings	30%	25%	20%					
B-3 Bufferyard width	50 feet	40 feet	30 feet	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
% increase in plantings	30%	25%	20%					
H-1 Bufferyard width	50 feet	40 feet	30 feet	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	30%	25%	20%					

% increase in plantings								
E-1 Bufferyard width %increase in plantings	60 feet 30%	60 feet 30%	60 feet 30%	35 feet 20%	35 feet 20%	35 feet 20%	35 feet 20%	35 feet 20%
E-2 Bufferyard width %increase in plantings	60 feet 30%	60 feet 30%	60 feet 30%	35 feet 20%	35 feet 20%	35 feet 20%	35 feet 20%	35 feet 20%
E-3 Bufferyard width %increase in plantings	60 feet 30%	60 feet 30%	60 feet 30%	35 feet 20%	35 feet 20%	35 feet 20%	35 feet 20%	35 feet 20%

2. As an alternative method for screening in the Neighborhood Business, B-1, B-2, B-3, H-1, E-1, E-2 and E-3 Districts, fences that are 100 percent opaque may be used to mitigate the impacts of businesses that are adjacent to residential areas. Fences are subject to the provisions found in all applicable ordinances. When a fence is used for screening purposes, the bufferyard planting requirements may be reduced by ten percent from the stated minimum requirement.
- g. Credit for preservation or establishment of native grasses and plant communities. The total number of required trees may be offset by the provision of native grasses and wildflowers. Establishment or preservation of native plant communities can reduce the required number of tree plantings by 1 tree per 500 square feet of native grass/plant community area. Credit may not exceed 50 percent of the total requirements.
  1. This area(s) must be shown on both the Landscape Plan and the Grading Plan.
  2. Species, quantities, and application method and rates, shall all be provided as part of the Landscape Plan.
  3. A 3-year management plan shall be submitted for review and approval by the City as part of the civil plan set. Thereafter, an annual management plan shall be submitted to the city every year by March 1.

**SECTION 3. SUMMARY**

The following official summary of Ordinance #20-04 has been approved by the City Council of the City of Ramsey as clearly informing the public of the intent and effect of the Ordinance.

Ordinance #20-04 amends Sections 117-111, 117-112, 117-113, 117-114, 117-115, 117-116, 117-117, 117-120, 117-121, 117-124, 117-125, and 117-348 to move all landscaping standards into a

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new Section of 117-364. Furthermore, this ordinance establishes intent, goals and objectives of landscaping. It also establishes bufferyard standards for the Neighborhood Business District and B-3 Business District. Finally, this ordinance amends the landscaping requirements in the Employment Districts (E-1, E-2, and E-3) to base them on the Canopy Cover Formula.

**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance becomes effective 30 days after its passage and publication, subject to City Charter Section 5.04.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Ramsey, Minnesota the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Administrator

Introduction date:

Posting dates:

Adoption date:

Publication date:

Effective date:

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