

# Environmental Policy Board Work Plan

2021-2022

## ABOUT RAMSEY

Ramsey is a suburban city located in the northwestern part of Anoka County, with a population of approximately 28,000. 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 11,000 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 1,500 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.

## CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

The Environmental Policy Board Work Plan is an important component of achieving the City Council Strategic Plan. The initial sections of this Work Plan are an incorporation of the City Council's Strategic Plan.

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Environmental Policy Board (EPB) will promote environmental awareness and conservation practice by advising the City Council on policy issues, review of new development proposals, communication and education. Through careful review, the EPB will present multiple perspectives, ideas and new technologies that promote both discovery and accountability.

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## 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

# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY BOARD (EPB) WORK PLAN

Action	Timeframe	Resources	Key Outcomes and Indicators	Responsible Party
<b>Strategy: Enhance sustainability and efficiency through <i>public policy</i>, public facilities and infrastructure investments.</b>				
1. Create a Shoreline Erosion Control Plan for the Mississippi River	2020 2022	Budget Impact = Low	<p>Reduced erosion along the Mississippi River that adds sediment load and reduces water quality.</p> <p>High priority shorelines are identified for partnerships with Owners to improve stabilization of shoreline.</p>	Chris Anderson
2. Consider smart irrigation (and other water reduction) rebate program.	2019	Budget Impact = Medium	<p>Reduced demand on public water supply and avoid/delay of infrastructure investments.</p> <p>Review policy recommendations of the Metropolitan Council Regional Surface Water Supply Feasibility Study.</p> <p><i>This action is identified as a specific action from the City Council's Strategic Plan.</i></p>	Chris Anderson
3. Update City Recycling Program	2020	Budget Impact = Low	<p>Maintain or increase amount of material recycled rather than entered into the solid waste stream.</p> <p>Increased participation in organics recycling program.</p>	Chris Anderson
4. Revitalize Focus on Environment Column	2021	Budget Impact = Low	Increase public awareness of environmental initiatives and issues in the community	Chris Anderson
5. Enhance Public Engagement Efforts Related to Natural Resources	2022	Budget Impact = Low	<p>Increase interagency cooperation and collaboration and connect youth to natural resources.</p> <p>Invite 'guest speakers' from other agencies to familiarize the Board (and the general public) about current policies, processes, and programs related to natural resources.</p> <p>Work with local schools to identify natural resources topics that mesh with ongoing or planned curriculum.</p> <p>Establish a 'Student Liaison' position that can provide a unique perspective on topics being reviewed/discussed by the EPB.</p>	Chris Anderson

Action	Timeframe	Resources	Key Outcomes and Indicators	Responsible Party
6. Design and Implement a Demonstration Garden	2021-2022	Budget Impact = Low	Through collaborative efforts with other advisory boards, civic organizations, and schools, establish a “hands on” demonstration garden, including pollinator plants, vegetables, and aspects of a food forest.  Promote sustainable and local food production  Establish a volunteer network for ongoing maintenance.	Chris Anderson
7. Complete a Lighting Audit of the Parking Ramp	2022	Budget Impact = Medium	Determine if there is a cost benefit to converting the parking ramp lighting to LED.  Determine what the timeframe is before the City would realize it’s return on investment.  Understand what the energy savings would be if the lighting system were upgraded.	Chris Anderson
8. Research Opportunities to Increase Accessibility of EV Charging Stations within The COR	2021-2022	Budget Impact = Low	Identify potential partnerships (e.g. Connexus Energy, Anoka County, etc.)  Identify potential grant programs that could be pursued.  Understand what, if any, incentives may assist in incorporating EV charging stations as part of private development.	Chris Anderson

*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 [rcp.umn.edu/ramsey-projects](http://rcp.umn.edu/ramsey-projects).*

## 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.