

**ORDINANCE #24-XXX**

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

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30 - NUISANCES**

The City of Ramsey Ordains:

Underlined text is inserted into City Code.

~~Strikethrough~~ text is deleted from City Code.

**SECTION 1. AUTHORITY**

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

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 30 (NUISANCE CODE).**

The following portion of Chapter 30, Section 1 (Definitions), is amended as follows:

**Sec. 30-1. – Definitions**

Managed natural landscape means a planned, intentional and maintained planting of native or non-native grasses, wildflowers, forbs, ferns, shrubs, or trees, including but not limited to rain gardens, meadow vegetation, and ornamental plantings. It does not include turf-grass lawns left unattended or unmaintained for the purpose of returning to a natural state.

Meadow vegetation means grasses and flowering broad-leaf plants that are native to, or adapted to, the State of Minnesota, and that are commonly found in meadow and prairie plant communities, excluding noxious weeds.

Noxious weeds shall have the meaning assigned by Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.77, Subd. 8.

The following portion of Chapter 30, Section 3 (Property Conditions), is amended as follows:

**Sec. 30-3. – Property Conditions**

- (2) Grass, weeds, or noxious growths.
  - a. All grass, weeds, or noxious growths of vegetation upon public or private property exceeding eight inches in height, ~~or whatever height specified in the appropriate zoning district,~~ excluding ~~acceptable prairie restoration plant materials~~ managed natural landscapes with an approved management plan.

1. Exemption. All ground cover vegetation located in the following areas are hereby exempt from height restrictions:
  - i. Shore impact zones;
  - ii. Bluff impact zones;
  - iii. Areas within 50 feet of a wetland or natural drainage way;
  - iv. Areas of native plant communities with approved management plans;
  - v. Significant vegetative stands identified within City Code, relating to Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) Overlay District development standards;
  - vi. Any vegetation management within the MRCCA Overlay District shall comply with the requirements and standards of City Code and with any vegetation clearing permits approved by the City of Ramsey;
  - vii. Areas of steep slope where mowing is not safely possible;
  - viii. Any area that has been undisturbed by development, grading or building and remains in its original natural state.
2. All areas that have been graded or developed must maintain the property to turf grass standards unless an ~~appropriate prairie~~ approved management plan for a managed natural landscape has been accepted by the city or falls within the exemption list above.
  - i. Managed Natural Landscape Management Plan Required Information:
    - i. Name of the property owner and address of the property.
    - ii. Scaled site plan of the property (including all improvements such as structures, driveway(s), septic system, well, property lines).
    - iii. A general description of proposed vegetation types, plants, and plant succession to be used.
    - iv. Estimated transition period.
    - v. Elimination of prior/existing vegetation in advance of establishing a managed natural landscape.
    - vi. Non-native and/or invasive vegetation elimination (how, when, and frequency).
    - vii. A general description of the means to plant natural landscape plants (e.g. through transplanting or seeding by human or mechanical means).
  - ii. Managed Natural Landscape Standards:
    - i. Location (looking for direction from EPB on whether any sort of setback should be required from the street or adjacent properties). Examples could include: Not allowed in the road right-of-way, needs to be either 18” or 1 lawn mowers width of maintained edge along street edge, 1 lawnmowers swath or 3 feet back from side/rear lot lines, maybe an exemption if the property has an opaque (privacy) fence).
    - ii. Planting or replanting of the area by transplant or seeded by human or mechanical means (e.g. cannot just rely on wind, insect, or other natural means of establishing a managed landscape area).
    - iii. If the managed natural landscape is in a location likely to be seen by the public, a small sign, no larger than 12 inches by 12 inches,

and to a height not taller than 36 inches, which informs the public that a natural landscape is being established, shall be installed and maintained until less than 25% of the managed natural landscape area consists of weeds.

- iv. If more than 25% of the managed natural landscape area consists of weeds, it shall be mowed to a height not more than 8 inches at least once per year.
- v. The managed natural landscape area must be maintained at least once per year by way of mowing to a height not more than 8 inches or by burning, after securing the necessary burn permit(s) from the Ramsey Fire Department.

**SECTION 3. 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 \_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Introduction date: October 8, 2024

Posting dates:

Adoption date:

Publication date:

Effective date: