

ORDINANCE #26-XXX

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

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 30 (NUISANCES)
AND CHAPTER 106 (ZONING CODE)**

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

~~Acceptable prairie restoration means an area of semi or continuous ground cover consisting of native grasses and forbs, with an identified plant species matrix that does not include identified, state listed noxious weeds or invasive non native plants. With respect to any undesirable plants, the establishment and long term maintenance plan shall address the eradication measures to be employed.~~

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 as approved by City Staff.

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 ~~an appropriate prairie~~ approved management plan for a managed natural landscape has been ~~accepted~~ approved by the city or falls within the exemption list above. Rain gardens or pocket pollinator gardens not exceeding 100 square feet are also exempt from requiring a management plan.

i. Managed Natural Landscape Management Plan Required Information:

- i. Name, phone number, and email address of the property owner and address of the property, along with contact information including both a phone number and email address.
- ii. Scaled site plan of the property (including all improvements such as structures, driveway(s), septic system, well, and property lines) showing where the managed natural landscape will be established.
- iii. A general description of proposed vegetation types, plants, and plant succession to be used.
- iv. Estimated transition period and timeframe to establish the managed natural landscape. If this is to be accomplished in phases, the management plan shall also specify the duration of each phase and an estimated completion date.
- v. Description of method(s) to be used to eliminate existing vegetation in advance of establishing a managed natural landscape.
- vi. Description of method(s) to be used for controlling invasive vegetation and other non-desirable vegetation elimination (how, when, and frequency).

Commented [AJ1]: This is where you give yourself authority to approve the plan and make it a code requirement.

- 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. Planting or replanting of the area shall be by transplant or seeding by human or mechanical means (e.g. cannot just rely on wind, insect, or other natural means of establishing a managed landscape area).
 - ii. 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 48 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.
 - iii. 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 twice per year, once in June and once in August, to prevent weeds from developing and spreading seeds.
 - iv. Replanting or reseeding shall be done if less than 75% of the area is covered in native or intentionally planted plants after an establishment period of three years.
 - 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.

Commented [AJ2]: Put all of this information into a Natural Landscape Management Plan Checklist. You do not need this in code because we say above that they have to provide a plan that you approve.

Sec. 106-371. – Managed Natural Landscapes

Managed natural landscapes have the following standards:

(1) Managed natural landscapes within the MUSA shall maintain a setback of three (3) feet (enough for one pass with a lawn mower) from all property lines, roads, sidewalks, and trails, unless one of the following exemptions applies:

a. The managed natural landscape area abuts another similar private or public managed natural landscape area, a wetland, pond, lake, stream or river.

b. A fully opaque fence with a minimum height of at least four (4) feet either exists or is installed along the lot line adjoining the planned managed natural landscape area.

~~(+)~~(2) Outside of the MUSA, no setback shall be required.

~~(2)~~(3) Plant cover, with not more than 25% weeds, shall be established within three (3) years' time.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance becomes effective upon publication, subject to City Charter Section 5.07.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Ramsey, Minnesota the ____ day of ____, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Introduction date:
Posting dates:
Adoption date:
Publication date:
Effective date: