

ORDINANCE #26-09

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

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 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 106 (ZONING CODE).

The following portion of Chapter 106, Article III (General Performance Standards), is amended as follows:

Sec. 106-354. – Private trees in new development areas

- (a) *Requirements for a tree preservation plan.* Prior to any development, as described in subsection (b) of this section, a tree preservation plan shall be submitted to and approved by the city.
- (b) *Tree preservation plan.* A tree preservation plan shall be submitted with preliminary plats and/or site plans, drawn to the same scale as the other preliminary plat or site plan submittals.
 - (1) Residential and commercial development plans shall be designed to preserve native vegetation areas as much as possible. Streets, parcels, structures and parking areas shall be laid out to minimize the destruction of wooded areas or outstanding tree specimens.
 - (2) The city may require either the clustering of dwellings or alternate locations of dwellings to preserve significant trees during the plat approval process.
 - (3) There shall be no movement, clearing, or storage of equipment within a designated tree protection zone nor shall any construction materials, debris, or soil/fill be stored or deposited within a designated tree protection zone.
- (c) *Plan specifications content.* The content of all tree preservation plans submitted shall be prepared and signed by a licensed surveyor or forester not more than two years prior to submission to the city and shall include the following:

- (1) The name(s), contact information (telephone number and email), and address(es) of applicant(s), property owner(s), developer(s), and/or builder(s);
 - (2) Delineation of all buildings, structures, and impervious surfaces situated thereon or proposed to be built thereon;
 - (3) Delineation of all areas located within a 100-year floodplain;
 - (4) Location, diameter, species, and condition of all significant trees on site in both graphic and tabular form. For the purposes of this division, significant trees shall include:
 - a. All species of oak that have a DBH of four inches or greater;
 - b. All coniferous species that have a DBH of four inches or greater; and
 - c. All other trees that have a DBH of eight inches or more;
 - (5) Identification of which significant trees are to be (1) preserved, (2) removed; and (3) exempt from the removal calculation per subsection (e) (3) of this section. This shall be in both graphic and tabular form;
 - (6) Tabulation of total significant tree inches on site;
 - (7) Calculation of total inches being removed on site excluding exempt significant tree inches;
 - (8) Calculation of total exempt significant tree inches and indication of why each significant tree is exempt;
 - (9) Calculation of removed significant tree inches (excluding exempt tree inches) divided by the total significant tree inches on site (excluding exempt tree inches);
 - (10) Proposed locations and details of tree protection fencing to be installed around trees being preserved;
 - (11) [Alternative methods for collecting data on existing, significant trees may be approved by the Zoning Administrator upon receipt of sufficient documentation/information that supports and justifies the use of an alternative method.](#)
- (d) *Tree protection measures.*
- (1) Before any construction or grading takes place, snow fencing (polyethylene laminate safety netting) or erosion control fencing shall be placed at the dripline of significant trees to be preserved.
 - (2) No construction shall begin until this work has been completed, inspected, and accepted by the city. The tree protection measures shall not be removed until the land disturbance and construction activities are complete.
 - (3) Silt barriers or similarly effective erosion control barriers shall be required in any area where erosion or siltation may cause damage to protected trees.
 - (4) Wherein authorized excavations it becomes necessary to expose or cut roots more than one inch in diameter, it shall be the duty of the contractor to protect such root under advice from the city.

- (5) All open trenching is prohibited. Utility installation within the dripline of protected trees, during construction or thereafter, can only occur using trenchless methods.
 - (6) The mowing, clearing, and grubbing of brush located within or under the dripline of protected trees may be allowed, provided such mowing, clearing, or grubbing is accomplished by hand or by mowers. The use of heavy equipment for this purpose shall not be allowed.
- (e) *Removal threshold.*
- (1) Within residential developments, no more than 60 percent of the inches of existing significant tree DBH shall be removed.
 - (2) Within business and employment developments, no more than 70 percent of the inches of existing significant tree DBH shall be removed.
 - (3) Significant trees removed for water quality treatment ponds, public trails and sidewalks, ~~and~~ arterial and collector streets as defined herein, or significant trees that are considered invasive species, are infested with Emerald Ash Borer, or infected with Oak Wilt or Dutch Elm Disease, are considered exempt from the removal threshold calculation.
- (f) *Reforestation/restitution requirement.* If a development exceeds the removal threshold specified in subsection (e) above, the developer shall either reforest areas within the site, pay restitution, or some combination thereof. For every one significant tree inch that is removed in excess of the removal threshold, the developer shall replant 1.25 inches (caliper) of new trees or provide the city with \$125.00 in restitution.
- (g) *Reforestation/restitution plan.*
- (1) If the total number of significant tree inches to be removed exceeds the removal threshold, the developer shall provide a reforestation plan, or a calculation of restitution, or a combination thereof.
 - (2) A reforestation plan shall be prepared by a registered landscape architect or forester and shall comply with the following criteria:
 - a. The plan shall indicate the location and diameter (or height if coniferous; for each three feet in height is equivalent to one caliper inch) of all reforestation trees to be planted. This can be included on the landscape plan, but the reforestation calculation, trees, and inches, must be specified.
 - b. Size at the time of planting shall comply with the planting standards outlined in the applicable landscape standards for the respective zoning district.
 - c. No more than 25 percent of the reforestation trees shall be from any one species.
 - d. Replacement trees in the reforestation plan may count toward the trees required by the city's landscaping regulations.
 - e. Restitution, if applicable, shall be paid in cash to the city prior to the release of the final plat mylars for recording, or, if a plat was not required, prior to the issuance of a building permit subject to site plan review. Any restitution paid shall be

deposited in the community reforestation fund and be used for reforestation efforts within the city.

- (h) *Protection from disease and pestilence.* All clearing in oak stands shall be performed prior to April 15 or after July 15 of each season. Any development involving oak trees on or adjacent to the development area must submit a plan in conjunction with the preliminary plat that identifies what precautionary steps will be taken to protect the trees from oak wilt.
- (i) *Encroachment.* If encroachment into a tree preservation area occurs that causes irreparable damage to a tree(s), the tree preservation plan shall be revised to compensate for the loss. Under no circumstance shall the developer be relieved of responsibility for compliance with the provisions of this division, nor shall planned revision activities prevent the city from instituting action for violation of this division.

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: