

15. PUBLIC FACILITIES

A. City Administration

The new Ramsey Municipal Center was constructed in 2005-2006. Municipal services moved to the new facility in October of 2006. The new facility is 68,000 square feet and houses Administration, Finance, Community Development, Engineering, Fire Administration and Police. The old Municipal Center facility currently serves as Fire Station No. 2. Approximately 25 acres is owned by the city at the old Municipal Center location, and is a potential site for a future school, either for the Anoka Hennepin District or a Charter School.

The City of Ramsey currently operates under the “council-administrator” form of municipal government in which the City Council and Mayor appoint a professional administrator to carry out the City’s wishes. In 2007, the City Council authorized a charter amendment to change the form of government to “council-manager” effective January 1, 2011. Currently, the city employs 82 full-time regular employees, 6 part-time regular employees, and 50 paid-on-call fire fighters.

B. Fire and Rescue

The City of Ramsey currently operates out of two fire stations (Station #1 at 15050 Armstrong Blvd and Station #2 at 15153 Nowthen Blvd). Both fire stations house a Class A Engine, Tanker, Rescue truck, and a Grassfire Truck. Station #2 also houses the Ladder Truck. Space also includes training area, restrooms/showers, and maintenance areas. Stations are designed for separate or multi-station response. The Fire Department responds to approximately 500 calls for service annually. Dispatch is handled through the Anoka County Sheriff’s dept. Services provided include all types of response to fire incidents along with full extrication capabilities and a motorized boat for water rescue. Fire Department staff is made up of a Fire Chief (full-time), Fire Inspector (full-time), and Secretary. Paid-on-Call staff includes 2 Assistant Chiefs, 2 Captains, 4 Lieutenants and 32 firefighters distributed between the 2 stations.

A joint powers agreement between Ramsey and Nowthen facilitates mutual response into both communities. For Ramsey, the 3rd fire station responds into Ramsey on larger scaled events as needed as do the Ramsey stations into Nowthen.

C. Police

The City of Ramsey Police Department is housed in an approximately 25,000 square foot area of the Ramsey Municipal Center. The Department is comprised of 23 sworn officers, which includes the Chief of Police, one Captain, four Sergeants, two investigators and 15 patrol officers. The police staff also includes four office personnel, a Crime Prevention Specialist and a Community Service Officer. The Department also includes a Reserve Unit with 15 members and an Explorer program with 10 members that also utilize the facility. The facility has a detention area with three holding cells for up to four-hour holding, a booking area and an interview room. Three additional interview rooms are located in the main police office area. There is a large indoor parking garage that allows for indoor parking of squads and equipment. Separate locker rooms for male and female personnel contain 83 lockers total, providing for future growth. The facility also contains a large evidence processing and storage area and an armory. The Police Department utilizes dispatching services of the Anoka County Sheriff's Department.

Emergency Operations Center

The Municipal Center contains an approximately 2,300 square foot Emergency Operations Center/Training area. The center is equipped with emergency communications equipment to be used during emergencies or critical incidents. The EOC and the Police Department have back up power provided by a generator.

D. Public Works

The Public Works Department is comprised of Engineering, Parks Maintenance, Street Maintenance and Utilities. The public works responsibility is to maintain the City's public utilities and infrastructure including, parks, sewer, water, storm water and street systems and perform all professional engineering services for the City. The public works campus is approximately 25,000 square feet in size and is located in Gateway Industrial Park. This facility was purchased in 1994 and sits on a three acre site utilizing much of the area for storage.

The Public Works Department has begun acquisition of an adjacent parcel for a future public works campus to accommodate current and future growth of the department.

E. Public Schools

The City of Ramsey is served by two school districts. The northwest portion of Ramsey is served by the Elk River School District #728, while the remainder of the community is served by the Anoka Hennepin District #11. Additionally, Ramsey is home to the PACT Charter School, which relocated to Ramsey from Anoka in 200X. PACT Charter School serves students in grades K-12 and is located in Ramsey Town Center. Ramsey Elementary School, the only Anoka Hennepin facility in Ramsey, is located on Nowthen Boulevard, just east of Alpine Drive. This facility was originally constructed in 1975 with an addition that doubled the size of the building in 1996. Ramsey Elementary has a current enrollment of 1,052 students as of October of 2008. This enrollment equals the capacity of the Ramsey Elementary School. After attending elementary schools, most Ramsey students are bused to schools in Anoka for middle school at Fred Moore or Sandburg Middle Schools. High School students are bused to Anoka High School in

Anoka at the intersection of County Road 116 and 7th Avenue. Elk River School District does not have any facilities located in the City of Ramsey.

F. Anoka County Facilities

Anoka County provides several facilities and services to residents of the City of Ramsey. These facilities include, but are not limited to the Anoka County Library, Anoka County License Center, and the Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

G. Public Facilities and Services Plan

The City of Ramsey provides a broad range of high quality public services ranging from public safety services such as police and fire to environmental services such as recycling and natural resource protection and management. The City relies generally on property tax revenues and fees for services to finance its public services.

Public Facilities Goals

The following are the general goals for the City relative to Public Facilities:

1. To maintain quality public services at a reasonable, affordable cost to citizens.
2. To reduce excess and unnecessary costs of public services.
3. To maintain a high quality education system.
4. To accommodate the needs of future growth by planned, cost effective expansions of public facilities.

Public Facilities and Services Policy:

It is the policy of the City of Ramsey to:

1. Support the highest level of public education possible.
2. Cooperate with school districts, adjacent cities, and the County in the delivery of the most efficient level of public services.
3. Work with the school districts in determining the need for and siting of additional school facilities or other alternatives, including temporary classroom space to accommodate facility needs.
4. Continue to explore a range of public servicing contingency alternatives, ranging from service sharing to complete consolidation, designed to lower costs while maintaining an acceptable level of service in the event government aids are substantially reduced or eliminated.
5. Continue to study community desires and needs for a community center facility.
6. Continue to plan for expansion and growth of public safety and public works departments to continue to provide the desired level of public safety and services.

