

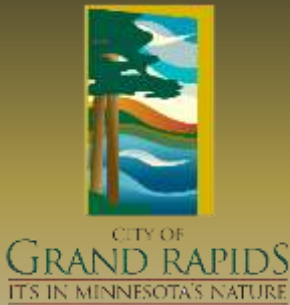


CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
ITS IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

Ordinance Amendment:

Planning Commission Initiated Amendment to Chapter 30 Land Development Regulations and Chapter 10 Animals

September 8, 2025



Text Amendment

- **Initiation Date**

Planning Commission Initiated – April 4, 2025

- **Text Amendment Summary**

The proposed amendments more clearly define use restrictions and permitting of farm animals within specific municipal zoning.

- **General sections of ordinance recommended for amendment**

30-564(23) Uses With Restrictions – Farm Animals

10-72 Chickens Limited (included with recommendation to City Council)



Text Amendment

Timeline

April 4, 2025 - Planning Commission initial review of staff identified issues, initiates formal amendment process.

August 7, 2025 - Planning Commission Review and Recommendation.

September 8, 2025 - City Council reviews Planning Commission recommendation, conducts a public hearing and considers adoption of Ordinance.



Text Amendment

Summary of Recommended Changes

The Planning Commission recommends 30-564(23) and 10-72 for amendment to clarify the keeping of farm animals.

30-564(23): the Planning Commission recommendation adds language to establish limits for type of animal in RR, SRR, and AG zones, permitted animal density, minimum parcel size, and setback of animal related enclosures from lot lines (25') and Ordinary High-Water Level (150').

10-72: the Planning Commission recommendation adds language to narrow the scope of keeping chickens by permit to R-1, SR-1, R-2, and SR-2 zones.

These proposed amendments adjust the code text to align permitting (R-1, SR-1, R-2 SR-2) and restrictions (AG, RR, SRR) with specific zoning.



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Text Amendment

• Proposed Text Amendment 30-564(23)

23. Farm animals (within AG, RR, SRR zone) provided:

1. All farm and permitted non-domestic animals must be so contained to prevent the animals from escaping onto neighboring properties or injuring the public.
2. Enclosed pens, corrals, feed lots, pasture areas and structures used to house farm and permitted non-domestic animals shall be setback a minimum of 25 feet from the nearest lot line, 150 feet from the Ordinary High Water Level of a lake or river or the applicable accessory structure setback, whichever is greater (~~said setback shall not apply to open grazing or pasture areas~~).
3. Farm animals permitted in RR and SRR zoning districts shall be limited to horses and chickens.
4. Permitted Farm Animal Density is defined as the number of Animal Units per Habitable Acre.
5. Habitable Acre is defined as an area that is fenced in accordance with this Section to restrain the animals and is accessible to the animal(s) at all times of the year.
6. Boosters shall only be permitted on parcels within AG zoning that have greater than 9 Habitable Acres
7. Density:
 1. On RR and SRR zoned parcels, which have less than 4 Habitable Acres, the keeping of farm animals is not permitted, with the exception of what is permitted under Sections 10-71 through 10-77.
 2. On AG, RR and SRR zoned parcels, where the keeping of farm animals is permitted, the following Farm Animal Density requirements, in total Animal Units per Habitable Acre, apply:
 1. 0.5 Animal Units per Habitable Acre.
 2. The Animal Units for this calculation shall be as follows:

Animal Units (A.U.)	
Dairy Cow	1.4
Horse, Steer, Heifer	1.0
Swine	0.4
Sheep and Goats	0.2
Poultry, Fowl and Rabbits	0.05
For other Farm Animals not listed, the A.U. is the average weight of the type of animal divided by 1,000 lbs.	



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Text Amendment

- **Proposed Amendment to 10-72**

10-72 Chickens Limited

Chickens may be kept by permit in R-1, SR-1, R2, and SR-2 zones. It is unlawful for any person to keep or harbor chickens on any premises unless issued a permit to do so as provided in this chapter. No permit shall be issued for the keeping or harboring of more than three hen chickens on any premises. No permit shall be issued for the keeping of any rooster chicken on any premises, and only one chicken shall be allowed per 2,500 square feet of lot size.

Chickens are regulated without permit as a Farm Animal in AG, RR, and SRR zones subject to limits described in Municipal Code 30-564 Uses With Restrictions.

Ref. Chickens are listed under farm animals in Municipal Code 30-421 Definitions.



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Text Amendment

PLANNING COMMISSION

Considerations

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

1. Will the change affect the character of neighborhoods?

Why/Why not?

2. Would the change foster economic growth in the community?

Why/Why not?

3. Would the proposed change be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance?

Why/Why not?

4. Would the change be in the best interest of the general public?

Why/Why not?

5. Would the change be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan?

Why/Why not?



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Planning Commission Findings of Fact

- The amendments will not have an adverse effect on the character of neighborhoods. It will have a positive effect in that it will align Uses With Restrictions and Chickens Limited with specific municipal zoning.
- The amendments would not have an adverse impact on economic growth in the community due to limited scope.
- That the amendment to Chapter 30 would be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Zoning Ordinance by maintaining an updated Ordinance. Furthermore, Chapter 10 Animals updates will harmonize the language between Chapter 30 and Chapter 10.
- That the amendments would be in the best interest of the public by building on existing language to clarifying the keeping of Farm Animals in specific municipal zones.
- That the amendments would be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, as the amendments will directly address allowed uses and density within specific municipal zones.



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Questions?