



CITY OF  
**GRAND RAPIDS**  
ITS IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

## **Text Amendment:**

# **Planning Commission Initiated Amendment to Chapter 30 Land Development Regulations**

**May 1, 2025**



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# Text Amendment

- **Initiation Date:** Planning Commission Initiated – April 3, 2025
- **Text Amendment Summary:** The proposed amendment of Section 30.564 (w) establishes uses with restrictions specifically farm animals within established zoning districts.



# Text Amendment

- **General sections of ordinance initiated for amendment to supplement (current):**

**(w) 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, and structures used to house farm and permitted non-domestic animals shall be setback a minimum of 25 feet from the nearest lot line or the applicable accessory structure setback, whichever is greater (said setback shall not apply to open grazing or pasture areas).**



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- **General sections of ordinance initiated for amendment and supplementing (additions):**

**(3) On parcels of less than five acres, keeping of farm animals is not permitted.**

**(4) On parcels five to nine acres, three animal units are permitted.**

**(5) On parcels or contiguous parcels larger than nine acres, three animal units plus one animal unit for every two acres beyond nine acres are allowed.**

**(6) On all public waters, farm animal uses shall be setback 150' from the ordinary high-water level. Farm animals shall not be contained in shore impact zones, bluff impact zones or steep slopes.**

**(7) Farm animal units shall be determined according to below:**

<u>Animal</u>	<u>Animal Units</u>
1 dairy cow	1.4 units
1 steer, heifer, horse	1.0 units (each)
1 swine	.4 units
1 sheep	.2 units



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- **Reasoning and Justification:**
  - **The change is needed to protect the essential character of smaller lots and residential neighborhoods within the city.**
  - **The amendment will add needed regulations and standards for keeping of animals in areas of acreage more than five acres.**
  - **The amendment will provide farm animals with larger tract areas and incorporate an animal unit chart that is consistent with other counties.**
  - **The amendment is consistent with the Comprehensive plan and protects smaller lots from incompatible land uses.**



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## 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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# Questions/Comments?