

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

ISD #15 District Office Building 4115 Ambassador Blvd. Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM

# AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 2. ROLL CALL
- 3. ADOPT AGENDA
- 4. APPROVE MINUTES
  - A. Minutes July 20, 2022
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 6. PUBLIC HEARINGS
  - A. The Bluffs of Rum River
- 7. REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS
- 8. ELECT VICE CHAIR MEMEBER
- 9. DISCUSSION BY PLANNING COMMISSIONERS
- **10. ADJOURNMENT**

#### CITY OF ST. FRANCIS ST. FRANCIS, MN PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES July 20, 2022

- 1. <u>Call to Order</u>: The Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chair Women Fairbanks
- 2. <u>Roll Call:</u> Present were Dean Becker, Liz Fairbanks, Deborah Humann, Tara Kelly, Dustin Pavel, and Colleen Sievert. Absent: Christina Bass.

Others in attendance: Kate Thunstrom, City Administrator, Colette Baumgardner, Community Development Director, Beth Richmond, City Planner; and, Kevin Robinson, City Council.

- **3.** <u>Adopt Agenda:</u> Motion by Pavel, second by Humann to approve the agenda with added amendment. Motion carried 6-0.
- 4. <u>Approve Minutes:</u> Motion by Sievert, second by Kelly to approve the June 15, 2022 minutes. Motion carried 6-0.
- 5. Public Comment: None

#### 6. Public Hearing:

a. Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Richmond reviewed the staff packet and request for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

Commission asked what difference was between high density and medium density. Richmond explained the four residential land used categories. She stated medium density residential is three to seven units per net acre, and high is 12 to 16 units per net acre. She added high density is typically townhomes, apartments, attached units.

Commission asked if it meant larger lot sizes. Richmond replied it typically coincides.

Commission asked if they are looking a reduction in the commercial space in the southern section. Richmond confirmed this adding it is going from about 24 acres to about three.

Commission asked if it still meets the Comprehensive Plan. Richmond replied it still meets the City's density requirements.

Commission asked if that land would be used for residential, just shifting things. Richmond confirmed this and showed the plan on the map.

Commission asked if there is a risk of becoming a bedroom community with this with no commercial. Richmond replied that isn't a concern of Staff because it is not an area where retail would flourish and there is still an area across 47 that could be used for office or industrial.

Commission asked about distribution of housing on the site. Richmond explained that reguiding the entire area to medium density would allow for pockets of higher density and pockets of lower density as long as together it averages out.

Commission asked about the setback from the river. Richmond replied there are requirements in the Rum River District for setbacks from the river and those are things the City and DNR would be looking at.

Commission asked if there would be access to the river by the homeowners or community. Richmond replied that would be a question that would be answered in the future.

Commission expressed concern about preservation along the river. Richmond replied the concept plan shows the lowest density along the river.

Commission commented that the neighborhood has received letters about the proposed changed weeks ahead of time but Commission members didn't receive notice. Thunstrom explained when a land use application triggers a public hearing in the urban area all properties within 300 feet will receive a letter. The Planning Commission doesn't because the information is available in the packet online.

Public Hearing opened at 7:15 p.m.

Andrew Nelson, 24105 St. Francis Boulevard NW, expressed concern about discussion and an offer he subsequently submitted about the use of his driveway to create a road into the new development, which he stated was met with opposition and then silence. He stated he has been threatened with eminent domain and expressed concern about fairness in proceedings to all. He noted discrepancies on property or site lines between the map presented and those on the Anoka County GIS. He expressed concern with changing the density and suggested having homes families can purchase to maintain stability instead of high density apartments with a lot of turn over.

Applicant's representative addressed the Commission to answer questions related to requests for change and indicated this was the first request. He stated the request is for one half of the minimum density it is guided for, with a net of five. He stated every lot along the river is a single family, for sale home. Everything on the inside is attached or detached townhome that could be for sale or rent to own. Apartments are in commercial area and were driven by a rental study that indicated there was a market for it along with other types of housing. He commented the lines on the northside of the map indicate ghost platting on adjacent properties of what could happen in the future.

Commission expressed concern about retaining the country feel of St. Francis and felt the area looked packed. Concern about apartments and rentals were also expressed.

Commission asked discussed the role of Mn/DOT in the process and influence on turn lanes. Richmond replied this has been submitted to Mn/DOT and they have 60 days to comment but didn't have strong guidance after the concept plan.

Commission asked about lot size. Richmond replied the intent is to meet lot minimums for a single-family lot in the Rum River urban district.

Applicant's representative commented this is the last section of urban river overlay district but there are quite a few rural that will preserve the country feel.

Andrew Nelson commented he and the neighbors are most against the apartment and asked if it were possible to place the apartment on the southside away from homes and closer to a more major road.

Tom Wynell, 4025 St. Francis Boulevard, commented he agreed with Mr. Nelson.

Public Hearing closed at 7:34 p.m.

Commission discussed the land use and placement of the apartments being on the south end.

Motion by Sievert, second by Kelly to recommend approval of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to re-guide the 112 acre site at 23925 St. Francis Blvd. with conditions and findings of fact as presented by Staff. Motion passed 6-0.

#### 7. <u>Regular Business Items</u> – None

#### 8. <u>Planning Commission Discussion</u>

Commission wished Sievert all the best. She asked for consideration on who would like to set up as Vice-Chair for the next meeting.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Website Link to Packets and Minutes for the Planning Commission: https://www.stfrancismn.org/meetings

Recorded by: TimeSaver **DATE APPROVED:** 



PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

TO:	St. Francis Planning Commission
FROM:	Beth Richmond, Planner
SUBJECT:	The Bluffs of Rum River
DATE:	8-10-2022 for 8-17-2022 meeting
APPLICANT:	Landform Professional Services, LLC on behalf of SBD Properties, LLP
LOCATION:	23925 St Francis Blvd NW
COMP PLAN:	Commercial, MDR, Open Space
ZONING:	B-2 General Business, R-3 High Density Residential

# **OVERVIEW:**

The City has received an application for "The Bluffs of Rum River" development, which is the next step in the Platinum Land project. The City Council approved a Comprehensive Plan amendment for this project in July 2022.

"The Bluffs" is proposed to be a phased residential and commercial development which will eventually include 302 housing units and a 3-acre commercial lot. The applicant is proposing a mix of residential uses, including 40 single-unit lots, 40 detached townhome units, 102 attached rowhouse units, and a 120-unit apartment building.

The land use and subdivision requests to be considered include a rezoning to Planned Unit Development (PUD), preliminary plat, and a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a public road within the Rum River Management Overlay District.

# **REVIEW PROCEDURE**

#### 60-Day Land Use Application Review Process

Pursuant to Minnesota State Statutes Section 15.99, local government agencies are required to approve or deny land use requests within 60 days. Within the 60-day period, an automatic extension of no more than 60 days can be obtained by providing the applicant written notice containing the reason for the extension and specifying how much additional time is needed. The deadline for the rezoning to PUD and CUP requests is September 19, 2022.

#### 120-Day Subdivision Review Process

Pursuant to Minnesota State Statutes Section 462.358, local government agencies are required to approve or deny subdivision requests, such as the preliminary plat, within 120 days. Staff deemed the subdivision application incomplete until a full traffic study has been completed; therefore, the 120 day timeline has not officially commenced. The traffic study is being required at the suggestion of MnDOT. Staff has chosen to move the subdivision requests forward in conjunction with the land use requests because the subdivision and land use requests are related to one another, the land use requests require action within the statutory timelines noted above, and the subdivision application is substantially complete.

# **Public Hearing**

City Code requires that a public hearing for review of the land use and subdivision requests be held by the Planning Commission. The public hearing notice was published in the Anoka County Union Herald on August 5, 2022 and posted on the City Hall bulletin board on August 4, 2022. The public hearing notice was mailed to all affected property owners located within 350 feet of the subject property on August 4, 2022.

# **ANALYSIS**

# **Comprehensive Plan**

An amendment to the Comprehensive Plan relating to this project was approved by the City Council in July. This amendment reduced the commercial land area on the site to roughly 3 acres and decreased the residential land use density to Medium Density Residential (3-7 units per net acre). The amendment will be submitted to the Metropolitan Council for final review and approval following the completion of the required 60-day adjacent and affected jurisdiction comment period on August 21. The current application for the rezoning, preliminary plat, and CUP is consistent with the land use categories and densities that were established with the Comprehensive Plan amendment. Any approvals granted by the City Council for this project will be conditioned upon the Metropolitan Council's approval of the Comprehensive Plan amendment.

# Planned Unit Development (PUD)

The applicant is requesting to rezone the entire site from B-2 General Business and R-3 High Density Residential to a Planned Unit Development (PUD). PUDs are intended to allow for the mixing of uses and flexibility from the general standards of the Code in order to allow for more innovative and efficient design within neighborhoods or sites. The proposed project requests flexibility from Code in order to provide a development which preserves the natural features on the site, including the wetlands, bluffs, and Rum River, while also providing a variety of housing types to serve the diverse needs of St. Francis residents. The project will also allow for future development to the north and west by extending connection opportunities with city utilities.

The following deviations are requested from the current code regulations as part of the PUD and will be discussed in greater detail below:

- Minimum lot size and lot width for single-unit detached lots
- Lot size and configuration for detached townhome units
- Reduced front yard setbacks for single-unit detached, detached townhome, and attached rowhouse use types

#### Rum River Management District

The entire site is located within the City's Urban Rum River Management Overlay District (uRRM). This district establishes additional standards which are meant to preserve the scenic quality of the Rum River and surrounding land. These standards include but are not limited to minimum lot size and lot width, setbacks, height limits, and vegetation alteration restrictions. While the applicant is requesting flexibility from a number of requirements established in this district, including lot area and setback from the road, the required 75' setback from the ordinary high water level (OHW) will be maintained. In addition, any public roads created within the Rum River Management District are required to first obtain a Conditional Use Permit. The CUP has been requested as part of this application.

For any PUD established within this overlay district, DNR review and approval of the application is required. The application has been sent to the DNR for review and is awaiting comment.

### Project Phasing

The applicant is proposing to construct this development in phases, moving from south to north. The single-unit detached, detached townhomes, and attached rowhomes are the first uses proposed to be developed. The phasing of this portion of the project will be determined by the results of the traffic study and the access points as determined with discussions between the City, developer, Anoka County, and MnDOT. A second access onto Hwy 47 will be required in order to fully build out the project.

The apartment lot and commercial lot are planned for future development to be added as market and regulatory conditions allow. If the commercial lot is developed within 3 years of approval, it will be necessary at the time of site plan review for Staff to review the need for a retroactive EAW for the entire development. The applicant has indicated that they are likely to wait to final plat and market the commercial lot until final access is determined for the Hwy 47/Ambassador intersection, as any roadway changes may impact the site. The Highway 47/Ambassador intersection is currently under review by MnDOT as part of a larger study of the Hwy 47 corridor. Any changes to this intersection would be subject to MnDOT planning, design work, and construction schedule.

#### Residential Uses

#### Single-Unit Detached

There are 40 single-unit detached lots which are proposed as part of this development. These are primarily riparian lots which are located along the Rum River on the north and east sides of the plat and which have access onto the development's proposed public street.

Requirement	Required (R-1 or uRRM, whichever is stricter)	Proposed (PUD)
Minimum Lot Area		
Riparian	20,000 SF	14,864 SF
Non-Riparian	12,150 SF	20,025 SF
Minimum Lot Width		
At the Front Setback	90'	90'
At the OHW Setback	90'	Varies
Minimum Front Setback	35'	30'
Minimum Side Setback		
Living area	10'	10'
Garage	5'	5'
Corner side	20'	20'
Minimum OHW Setback	75'	75'
Maximum Height	Lesser of 3 stories or 35'	Lesser of 3 stories or 35'
Maximum Impervious Surface	30% per lot	30% per lot

The below table shows the required and proposed dimensional standards for this use type:

The PUD deviations requested for the Single-Unit Detached lots include riparian lot area, minimum lot width, and minimum front setback.

The existing parcels which make up this site span both sides of the river. Rather than create a plat where each lot line extends to the center of the river, the applicant has chosen to set the rear lot lines at the bank of the Rum River and to dedicate the land under the Rum River as public. Doing this reduces the total lot area for the site, which correlates to the developer's request for smaller minimum lot area requirements for these lots. 9 of the 34 proposed riparian lots meet the current lot area minimum of 20,000 SF. The remaining 25 lots range in area from 14,864 SF to 18,439 SF. These are still larger than the City's lot area requirement for single-unit lots in the R-1 district, which is 10,800 SF.

Each lot is at least 90 feet wide at the front building setback. However, due to the curvature of the site and the proposed street, up to 12 of the proposed lots fall below the required 90' width at the ordinary high water level (OHW) setback. Staff has requested additional information from the applicant to determine exactly which lots may be undersized in width.

The applicant is also requesting to reduce the front yard setback from 35' to 30' in order to locate the homes further away from the existing bluff which lies between the proposed units and the river. For comparison, lots in the R-1 district are allowed a minimum 25' front yard setback. Staff feels that a 30' setback in this area is reasonable.

The City Code includes use-specific standards for single-unit detached lots. These standards include requirements for perimeter foundations, structural dimensional requirements, and roof pitch. The lots as platted have adequate space and dimensions to meet all use-specific standards.

#### **Detached Townhomes**

The applicant is proposing to create 40 detached townhome units within Block 3 of the plat which will be designated as a Common Interest Community (CIC). This means that each unit has a designated 3,040 SF "improvement area" where the home, garage, patio, and/or deck may be located. All of the site improvements for a unit must be contained within this "improvement area." A larger, common lot which is maintained by an HOA surrounds these units. This is represented by the boxes on the preliminary plat (see figure below).

This use is more comparable to the City's smaller single-unit lot sizes in the R-2 district of 7,200 SF and 70' width. Taking into account the "improvement areas" and the common lot, there is an average unit size of 9,628 SF for this use type which is smaller than the lot size requirement for the uRRM.

The applicant is also requesting flexibility from the City's building separation standard which requires buildings in a PUD to be separated by at least 12'. With the building configuration that the applicant has proposed, the living quarters of one townhome face the living quarters of the next, while the garage area of one home faces the garage area of the next, as shown in the image below. The applicant is proposing a 15' building separation between the living quarters of the units and a 10' building separation between the living quarters of the units and a 10' building separation between the garages. All structures will be required to meet applicable building code standards.



There is a maximum impervious surface requirement of 30% within the uRRM. Assuming the entire "improvement area" of each unit was completely covered by impervious surface, which is not anticipated, the entire Block 3 would have an impervious surface coverage of 31.6%. Staff recommends limiting Block 3 to a 30% impervious surface limit, rather than calculating this for each unit individually, and including this limit as a condition of approval.

The applicant is also requesting to reduce the front yard setback from 35' to 25'. This request matches the City's current front yard setback requirements for the R-1 and R-2 zoning districts. Staff feels that a 25' setback in this area is reasonable, as there is still adequate room to park cars off-street without obstructing the right-of-way.

#### **Attached Rowhouses**

There are 102 attached rowhouse units proposed as part of this development. These units are located on the north and west portions of the site, in Blocks 4, 5, and 6, and are grouped in buildings of 2-6 units. Similar to the detached townhomes, these units are proposed to be included as part of a CIC.

Block 4, which includes 77 of the 102 attached rowhouse units, will be served by a private street. Blocks 5 and 6 will have access via the public street.

The applicant is requesting to reduce the front yard setback for this use from 35' to 25'. This request matches the City's current front yard setback requirements for the R-2 zoning district, where attached rowhouses are permitted. A 25' setback is adequate, as there is still enough room for cars to park in the driveway without obstructing the right-of-way.

The City Code includes use-specific standards for these types of lots. All attached rowhouse units within the PUD would be required to meet these standards which include:

- A. There shall be no more than six (6) units per structure in a row or eight (8) units per structure if back-to-back.
- B. Individual units shall be at least 24 feet wide.
- C. No garage shall extend the full width of any individual unit. The front façade of a townhouse or rowhouse unit shall include a window and/or door.

As proposed, the attached rowhouse units fulfill Standard A. Standards B and C will be evaluated when building plans are submitted.

#### Apartment

The applicant is proposing a 120-unit apartment building in the northwest corner of the site. This portion of the project is anticipated to be a future phase of the project, so no specific designs have been provided or reviewed at this time. As it stands today, the apartment building will be limited to the 35' height maximum as specified in the City's uRRM district. If additional height is requested for the apartment building, a PUD amendment would be required. The apartment building would undergo a site plan review from the Planning Commission and City Council, and it will be required to obtain site plan approval from the City Council at the time of development. All apartment details, including architectural design, parking, and landscaping, will be reviewed with the site plan.

#### **Commercial**

A 3-acre commercial lot is proposed in the southwest corner of the site. This site will be developed as part of a future phase of the project. A site plan review from Planning Commission and City Council will be required at the time of development to ensure all standards are met.

# Preliminary Plat

#### Streets & Access

This development includes a public street extending south to north which has access to Ambassador Blvd in the south and Hwy 47 at 241<sup>st</sup> Avenue in the north. A private street is proposed to run parallel to the public street which provides looping for public safety vehicles and utilities via a public drainage and utility easement and access to the attached rowhouses. Since the public street is located in the uRRM, a CUP is required for its construction. A traffic study has been requested at the suggestion of MnDOT for this area to clarify access points, intersection types, and ultimate phasing of the project. This study is currently in progress.

#### Access

The applicant is proposing to access the City's greater street network at two points.

First, the public street is proposed to intersect Ambassador Blvd on the south end of this site. This access point is proposed to be located roughly 350 feet' from the Ambassador Blvd/Hwy 47 intersection. While this location is closer to the Hwy 47/Ambassador Blvd intersection than would be ideal, the access point cannot be moved further to the east due to the layout of the site's existing parcels, the natural topography in the area, and the location of the City's lift station.

Anoka County has reviewed this request and has provided direction that this access point should be a right-in/right-out only access. Staff and the applicant do not support the County's direction for this intersection. A right-in/right-out intersection at this location is detrimental for the commercial development that is planned for the southwest corner of the site. It also would severely limit the project's ability to provide adequate access to the residential portion of the development and would force local trips to access Highway 47 to the north. Because this project would be developed from south to north, this intersection will bear the immediate brunt of traffic increases in the area until the northern access point to Hwy 47 can be established. The number of housing units that can be established on the single Ambassador Blvd access will be informed by the traffic study and will affect the ultimate phasing of the project. The applicant is currently working to address the concern about the limited intersection with Anoka County. In addition, this area will likely be directly impacted by the forthcoming plans for Hwy 47 by MnDOT. The applicant requests that a full intersection be allowed for now, until such changes occur where this may need to change based on MnDOT's reconfiguration of Hwy 47.

Second, the applicant is proposing a northerly development access point aligned closely with where the existing 241<sup>st</sup> Ave NW exists on the west side of Hwy 47 today. This second access is necessary in order to balance out the traffic effects created by the addition of 300 housing units in this area. The applicant is proposing an access which is offset by roughly 22 feet from the existing 241<sup>st</sup> Ave NW today, which is supported by Staff. This offset is necessary in order to keep the right-of-way area completely encompassed within the project site. The initial project plans have been submitted for MnDOT review and are awaiting comments.

#### **Private Street**

Within the City, private streets may only be created as part of an approved PUD. The applicant is requesting the ability to create a 28' wide private street which loops internally within the development and which would provide access for the attached rowhouse units. The private streets would be required to be privately maintained by the site's HOA, and on-street parking will be prohibited. Guest parking is included to serve these homes.

#### Public Street

A public street meeting City standards is proposed to extend from Ambassador to Hwy 47 at the existing 241<sup>st</sup> Ave NW intersection. This street will provide access to the single-unit detached lots as well as the detached townhome lots. It will also serve the future apartment and commercial lots. The

street will have a sidewalk on the east/north side of the street. Public streets in the Rum River districts require a conditional use permit meeting the environmental criteria in Minnesota Rules 6105.0200. Staff find that the proposed project meet these conditions, and the road is designed to minimize impact to the surrounding area.

#### Parking

The amount of parking required within the City varies by use of the property. The applicant is not requesting flexibility from the City's parking standards. Therefore, the following parking requirements apply to this development:

Use	Parking Requirement
Single-unit detached	2 spaces per unit
Detached townhome	2 spaces per unit
Attached rowhouse	2 spaces per unit, plus 0.5 space/unit for guest parking

The detached townhome units are each proposed to include a 2-car garage with space for two vehicles to park directly in front of each garage. The applicant is proposing to utilize shared driveways for the detached townhome units. Staff supports this because shared driveways decrease the number of access points onto the public street by half, allowing smoother and safer traffic movement through the site, as well as increasing space for on-street parking. The shared driveways must be no wider than 24' at the street and shall be maintained by the HOA.

Guest parking is required for the attached rowhouse units, as shown in the table. With 102 units proposed, 51 guest parking spaces are required. The applicant is currently proposing 39 guest parking spaces, which does not meet this requirement. Staff recommends increasing the number of guest parking spaces provided to meet the City's requirement. If possible, guest parking should be located near Blocks 5 and 6 where no guest spaces are proposed today.

#### Landscaping

The applicant has provided a landscaping plan for the site. Existing trees which are planned to be removed or preserved should be shown on the plan.

For typical residential developments, the vegetation requirement is 2 deciduous trees per unit, with at least one of those trees being located in the front yard. The applicant has adhered to this requirement for the residential portions of the site. The apartment and commercial lots will be required to provide a landscaping plan at the time of development as part of the site plan review. It is expected that the landscaping for those lots will complement the landscaping established with the residential units.

Trees to be planted must be a mix of no less than 25% deciduous, 25% evergreen, and 10% ornamental. In addition, no genus may make up more than 25% of the full complement of trees. The applicant has met the genus requirement, but is only proposing deciduous trees. The applicant should revise the landscaping plan to meet the tree mix requirement. In addition, two of the tree types proposed, American Hophornbeam and Northern Catalpa, are not currently on the City's list of acceptable trees. Based on Staff's discussion with a landscape architect, these species are appropriate to be used as yard trees in the City.

#### Open Space

The applicant is proposing a 26.5-acre area along the Rum River on the east side of the site as private open space. This area is intended to serve the residents of this development and will be owned and maintained by the HOA.

The developer has indicated a willingness to provide this area as open space in whatever way the City determines to be most appropriate. Staff discussed the open space and whether it was more

appropriate as public or private open space. Ultimately, Staff recommends this area as private open space for a number of reasons:

- 1. Roughly half the site (11 acres) is restricted from development by a conservation easement
- 2. The site has limited potential for park development as it is heavily forested and lies within the uRRM district, which restricts vegetation alteration.
- 3. The open space land is primarily located within the floodplain. It is not typical City practice to accept land for park that is not developable.
- 4. This area is not specifically identified as a park within the City's park plan.
- 5. Access is limited to a small entry point off of the public street's cul-de-sac. If this area were to be public park, a wider access point would be required.

As private open space, there will be no credit toward the applicant's park dedication requirements. The applicant may choose to add amenities to the open space area as they see fit, so long as they are following the standards set out in the uRRM district.

Staff has suggested that the applicant provide some additional, usable open space for the residents likely located closer to the apartment lot and the attached rowhouses. The applicant was receptive to this suggestion and is reviewing the site to determine where this could be located and the amenities that may be included.

Outlots B and C which are located across the river will also be maintained as open space. The applicant has indicated that it is likely that these outlots will ultimately be entered into a conservation easement due to their proximity to the Rum River and location within the floodplain.

#### Trails/Sidewalks

Sidewalks are required along one side of all public streets within the City. The applicant is proposing a sidewalk extended along the east and north sides of the public street. The City's park plan shows a future trail running along the north side of Ambassador Blvd before ultimately connecting into the future Sugar Hills Regional Trail. This trail would be located across the commercial lot. As a condition of approval, Staff recommends that adequate provisions for an off-street trail in this area should be made at the time that the commercial lot is final platted.

#### Utilities/Stormwater

Multiple stormwater facilities are proposed to be created throughout the site, in addition to those already existing. A City lift station is currently located on Outlot A, near Ambassador Blvd. Applicant will be responsible for bringing utilities from Ambassador up to 241<sup>st</sup> within the development.

Because of this development's proximity to the lift station, oversizing of the pipes will be required in order to provide future connections to the City's infrastructure further to the north and west. The City Engineer is reviewing the grading, utility, and stormwater plans and has provided a comment memo which is attached to this packet.

#### **Recommendations**

#### Action to be Considered:

The Planning Commission is requested to hold the public hearing for the rezoning, preliminary plat, and CUP. Following the public hearing, if Planning Commission feels comfortable moving the project forward, Commissioners are requested to take action on the requests and provide a recommendation to Council.

#### Suggested Motions:

1. Move to recommend approval of the rezoning to The Bluffs of Rum River PUD with conditions and findings of fact as presented by Staff.

- 2. Move to recommend approval of preliminary plat for The Bluffs of Rum River project with conditions and findings of fact as presented by Staff.
- 3. Move to recommend approval of the public road CUP for The Bluffs of Rum River project with conditions and findings as presented by Staff.

# Findings – PUD

- 1. The proposed rezoning is consistent with the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan as amended and is compatible with present and future land uses of the area.
- The PUD provides a public benefit by adding a variety of housing to meet the diverse needs in St. Francis and expanding access to utilities to make way for future development. The project achieves these goals through a design that preserves natural features.

#### **Conditions – PUD**

- 1. Any expansion of this PUD shall require a PUD amendment as specified by Code Section 10-37-05 Amendment of a PUD.
- 2. Approval of this request is conditioned upon review and approval by the MnDNR.
- 3. Single-unit detached lots shall be allowed on site. The minimum lot size and lot width requirements shall be decreased in size as shown on the preliminary plat, pending review of the OHW setback.
- 4. Detached townhome units shall be allowed on the site and configured as shown on the preliminary plat.
- 5. Attached rowhouse units shall be allowed on the site and configured as shown on the preliminary plat.
- 6. The required front yard setback for single-unit detached lots shall be 30'. The required front yard setback for detached townhome and attached rowhouse use types shall be 25'.
- 7. All residential units shall adhere to the applicable use-specific standards established in the Code.
- 8. A minimum of 15' building separation between the living quarters of the units and a minimum of 10' building separation between the garages shall be permitted for the detached townhome units.
- 9. Blocks 3-6 shall each be limited to a maximum aggregate coverage of 30% impervious surface.
- 10. A 2-unit attached rowhouse building is permitted in Block 6.
- 11. 28-foot private streets are allowed within the PUD and shall be privately maintained by the site's HOA.
- 12. On-street parking on the private streets shall be prohibited.
- 13. Shared driveways serving the detached townhomes shall not exceed 24 feet in width at the street and shall be maintained by an HOA.

#### Findings of Fact – Preliminary Plat

- 1. The proposed rezoning is consistent with the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan as amended and is compatible with present and future land uses of the area.
- 2. Excluding the exceptions granted by the PUD, the development is consistent with the City's Zoning Ordinance with noted conditions.
- 3. City services have adequate capacity to serve the proposed development.

#### **Conditions – Preliminary Plat**

- 1. Any approvals granted by the City Council for this project will be conditioned upon the Metropolitan Council's approval of the associated Comprehensive Plan amendment.
- 2. Approval of this request is subject to the concurrent approval of the related land use requests pertaining to The Bluffs project.

- 3. If the commercial lot is developed within 3 years of approval of the PUD, it will be necessary for Staff to review the need for a retroactive EAW for the entire development at the time of final plat and site plan review.
- 4. Applicant shall dedicate land below the OHW of the Rum River as public.
- 5. Applicant shall provide guest parking meeting City Code standards for the attached rowhouses. If possible, guest parking should be located near Blocks 5 and 6.
- 6. A traffic study for the site shall be completed and reviewed by Staff prior to City Council consideration of the preliminary plat and PUD plans.
- 7. The project shall be completed as a phased development pending the results of the traffic study and adequate access to the site.
- 8. Applicant shall work with Anoka County to address the comments listed in their July 29, 2022 memo and to finalize an intersection layout for the public street/Ambassador Blvd intersection that incorporates phasing and the traffic study.
- Applicant shall work with MnDOT to finalize the northern access point and intersection that incorporates phasing and the traffic study. Applicant shall address any comments relating to the project provided by MnDOT.
- 10. Adequate provisions for an off-street trail along Ambassador Blvd shall be made at the time that the commercial lot (Block 8 Lot 1) is final platted.
- 11. Landscaping
  - a. Applicant should identify the size and type of existing trees which are planned to be removed or preserved.
  - b. Future landscaping plans for the apartment and commercial lots shall provide landscaping and vegetation which complements the landscaping established for the residential units in this plat.
  - c. Trees to be planted must be a mix of no less than 25% deciduous, 25% evergreen, and 10% ornamental. Applicant shall revise the proposed tree mix to meet this requirement.
- 12. Applicant shall revise the preliminary plat to show all setback lines and building pads and to list all requested setbacks for each use type.
- 13. Applicant shall work with the Engineer to address any Engineering concerns or revisions listed in the Engineering Review Memo dated August 10, 2022.
- 14. Park dedication shall be satisfied at the time of final plat.
- 15. Applicant shall be responsible for all fees associated with these land use and subdivision applications.
- 16. Other conditions identified during the review process by Staff, the Planning Commission, or the City Council.

#### Findings of Fact – Conditional Use Permit

- 1. The proposed public road meets the environmental criteria for a CUP as established in Minnesota Rules 6105.0200.
- 2. The proposed public road has been designed to minimize the street's impact on the surrounding area, including avoiding steep slopes, existing vegetation, and soils with high erosion potential to the maximum extent possible.

#### Conditions – Conditional Use Permit

- 1. Approval of this request is subject to the concurrent approval of the related subdivision and land use requests pertaining to The Bluffs project.
- 2. Applicant shall adhere to all vegetative requirements listed in the City's Urban Rum River Management District and MN State Rules Chapter 6105.
- 3. Applicant shall adhere to the road construction methods listed in MN State Rules 6105.0200 subp. 4.

- 4. All fees and financial obligations shall be received by the City prior to the releasing of the approval document for recording.
- 5. Other conditions identified during the review process by Staff, the Planning Commission, or the City Council.

#### Attachments:

- 1. City Engineer's Memo dated August 10, 2022
- 2. Applicant Submittals
  - o Narrative
  - o Preliminary Plat
  - Preliminary Phasing Plan
  - Existing Conditions
  - Preliminary Grading Plan
  - o Preliminary Landscape Plan

Agenda Item # 6A.

Preliminary Plat Review



ENGINEERING REVIEW for the City of St. Francis by Hakanson Anderson

Submitted to:	City of St. Francis
cc:	Kate Thunstrom, City Administrator Colette Baumgardner, Community Development Director Paul Carpenter, Public Works Director Craig Jochum, City Engineer Beth Richmond, City Planner David Schaps, City Attorney
Reviewed by:	Shane Nelson, Assistant City Engineer
Date:	August 10, 2022
Proposed Project:	The Bluffs of Rum River
Street Location:	23925 Saint Francis Blvd NW
Applicant:	SBD Properties, LLP
Owners of Record:	SBD Properties, LLP
Jurisdictional Agencies: (but not limited to)	City of St. Francis, Anoka County, MnDNR, BWSR, Army Corps of Engineers, MPCA, MDH, URRWMO, MnDOT
-	City Approval, NPDES Construction Permit, Anoka County Access Permit, MnDOT Access Permit, MPCA Sanitary Sewer Permit, MDH Watermain Permit

# **INFORMATION AVAILABLE**

Preliminary Plat of The Bluffs of Rum River, dated 7/21/2022, prepared by Landform

Preliminary of The Bluffs of Rum River, dated 7/21/2022, prepared by Landform

Stormwater Management Plan, dated 7/21/22, prepared by Landform

Wetland Delineation Report, dated 7/8/22, prepared by Kjolhaug Excavating

Soil Boring Logs, dated 7/18/2022, prepared by Haugo Geotechnical

# SITE ACCESS / VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

- The project is proposed to receive access from Ambassador Blvd (CSAH 28). Ambassador Blvd (CSAH 28) is a County Highway and is under the jurisdiction of the Anoka County Highway Department. The new street access must meet all design and safety criteria as per the Anoka County Highway Department requirements. The Applicant shall be responsible for providing a design that meets Anoka County Highway Department standards and shall be solely responsible for all costs associated with the construction of the new access and associated turn lanes, including right-of-way acquisition if necessary.
- 2. The project is proposed to receive access from Saint Francis Blvd NW (HWY 47). Saint Francis Blvd NW (HWY 47) is a State Highway and is under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). The new street access must meet all design and safety criteria as per MnDOT requirements. The Applicant shall be responsible for providing a design that meets MnDOT standards and shall be solely responsible for all costs associated with the construction of the new access and associated turn lanes, including right-of-way acquisition if necessary.
- 3. The Preliminary Plans depict a cul-de-sac at 241<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Please revise to show a road connection to Highway 47.
- 4. The street layout as provided appears to be conducive with the property and provides adequate access to the proposed lots.
- 5. This project will be a fairly significant contributor of vehicle trips, and a traffic study is being prepared to model the proposed road network and access locations. The Applicant shall be required to make any improvements as identified in the Traffic Study, as approved by the City.

# PRELIMINARY PLAT

- 1. Based on the new traffic generated from this development, a connection to Highway 47 at 241<sup>st</sup> Avenue will be necessary. Please revise.
- 2. We recommend that a minimum drainage and utility easement width of 40 feet be provided to allow for the long term operation and maintenance of the public utilities within the private streets.
- 3. Drainage and utility easements at least 10' wide shall be provided on all lot lines. (11-44-01).
- 4. Additional easements may be necessary at access paths to stormwater basins. See Grading, Drainage and Erosion Control comment below.

# **GRADING, DRAINAGE AND EROSION CONTROL**

- 1. Sediment forebays shall be incorporated into the infiltration basins to provide pretreatment of the stormwater prior to entering the infiltration basin.
- 2. The wetland buffers shall be depicted in the Grading, Drainage and Erosion Control Plan.
- 3. Redundant silt fence is required when grading activities are within 50 feet of a wetland or natural water body.
- 4. Access routes for maintenance purposes to structures outside the right-of-way and inlets/outlets at ponding areas shall be depicted on the plans. All access routes are required to have an 8% maximum grade, 4% maximum cross slope, shall be 10 feet wide and within a 20-foot-wide easement. Please clearly depict the maintenance routes on the plans and revise the Preliminary Plat as necessary to depict the easements.
- 5. This project will disturb more than 1 acre of land, therefore, an NPDES Construction Permit from the MPCA will be necessary.
- 6. A more direct route for the storm sewer from the Public Street A catchbasins (between Lots 14 and 15) to Infiltration Basin 3 is desired. In general, storm sewer in private streets will be privately owned and maintained infrastructure. However, drainage from a public roadway must be conveyed within publicly owned infrastructure located within a public drainage and utility easement. Please provide a revised storm sewer design at this location.

# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- Stormwater is proposed to be managed with curb and gutter, catch basins and storm sewer. The storm sewer will route rainfall from the proposed roadways and lots and be directed into four infiltration basins located within the plat. All stormwater is ultimately discharged into the Rum River located on the eastern boundary of the proposed plat.
- 2. Pre-treatment has not been provided for the stormwater conveyed into the infiltration basins. Please provide pre-treatment forebays for the infiltration basins that meet the Minnesota stormwater manual standards.
- 3. Please verify drawdown calculations to ensure that the infiltration basins will infiltrate to a dry state within 48 hours.
- 4. The existing stormwater model includes a small portion of HSG B type soils in Subcatchment 3S. These soils do not appear in the NRCS soils map and are also not included in the proposed conditions. Please revise existing Subcatchment 3S to reflect on site conditions.
- 5. Subcatchment 10S is inconsistently modeled between the existing and proposed conditions. Please update this subcatchment such that the existing and proposed conditions are consistent.
- 6. Ponding node 1WL is modeled inconsistently between the existing and proposed conditions. A starting elevation is used in the proposed conditions but is not used in the existing conditions. Please ensure that the wetland is modeled consistently between existing and proposed conditions.
- Please provide additional details for the outlet structures for the infiltration basins. The device routing for infiltration basins 1 & 3 is difficult to understand without more information.
- 8. Please review the surface area for pond 8P. The elevation 894.00 appears to have a decreased surface area from the previous elevation.

# **WETLANDS**

- 1. The Wetland Delineation Report has been received and is under review.
- 2. A wetland management plan is required for this development consistent with Section 10-83-04 of the City Code. Please update the Preliminary Grading Plan to depict the applicable wetland buffers as per table 10-83-04.C.7.c.
- 3. The buffer establishment plan and signage plan may be provided at a later date (with the Final Plat application).

4. The Wetland Delineation Report indicates that there is a wetland (W3) located on proposed Outlot E. Impacts to this wetland are contingent upon an approved WCA Replacement Plan.

# **UTILITIES**

- 1. This project proposes to connect to the sanitary sewer at Ambassador Blvd (near the existing City owned lift station) which is acceptable. The size of the existing sanitary sewer stub is 24 inch at the connection point at Ambassador Blvd and the Preliminary Plans indicate reducing to a 8 inch size through the proposed plat.
- 2. It may be advisable to increase the size and depth of the sanitary sewer through the plat to provide trunk sewer access to adjacent properties. If necessary, the Developer shall be required to install "extra depth" and "over-sized" sanitary sewer with this project. In accordance with City policy, the Developer will receive credit for the additional construction cost of the over-sizing and extra depth.
- 3. This project proposes to connect to the City Water system at Ambassador Blvd, near Highway 47, to an existing 8 inch watermain. There is another watermain, located approximately 600' east of the proposed entrance, on the south side of Ambassador Blvd which is 16 inch diameter. We would recommend that the 16 inch watermain be extended to the Highway 47 8 inch watermain to provide a looped connection as a City project. The watermain connection for this project could then be provided via the new 16" watermain.
- 4. It may be advisable to increase the size of the watermain installed through the plat to provide trunk water access to adjacent properties. If necessary, the Developer shall be required to install "over-sized" water main with this project. In accordance with City policy, the Developer will receive credit for the additional construction cost of the over-sizing.
- 5. We understand that this will be a phased development, with potentially 302 units which will be served by single watermain connection point. Further, we understand that the proposed apartment building, which is potentially 102 units, will be constructed with a future phase. Prior to preparation of final plans, the Applicant shall analyze the proposed watermain sizing and layout to ensure it will adequately serve the units and/or revise to adequately serve the units.

# **OTHER**

- 1. Zoning review to be completed by City Planner.
- 2. The final construction plans must be in accordance with City standards and include all applicable City standard details, which can be found here: <a href="https://www.stfrancismn.org/commdev/page/private-development-standards">https://www.stfrancismn.org/commdev/page/private-development-standards</a>

Please note that the City is in the process of updating its standard plates, which will be provided to the Applicant for inclusion in the final development plans.

3. Please provide a complete Geotechnical Report in accordance with the City's Private Development Standards.

# SUMMARY AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend approval of the Preliminary Plat subject to the comments as contained herein.

• • L A N D F O R M From Site to Finish

Narrative The Buffs of Rum River Planned Unit Development and Preliminary Plat Application

> Prepared for: SBD Properties, LLP

> > July 21, 2022

SUBMITTED TO City of St. Francis 23340 Cree Street St Francis, MN 55070



THE REAL

PREPARED BY Landform Professional Services, LLC 105 5<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Suite 513 Minneapolis, MN 55401

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# Introduction

On behalf of SBD Properties, LLP, Landform is pleased to submit this application for a Zoning amendment of the existing Urban Reserve, B2 and R-3 zones to Planned Unit Development (PUD) and a preliminary plat to be known as The Bluffs of Rum River The proposed plat was reviewed in concept form by the City's Planning Commission in 2019 and again on December 15, 2021. The concept was reviewed by the City Council on January 3, 2022. The proposed plat is significantly consistent with the reviewed concept. The Comprehensive plan amendment related to the plat was recommended for approval (5-0) by the Planning Commission on July 20<sup>th</sup> and will be before the City Council on August 1, 2022. Landform and our client recognize that the June 16 comprehensive plan amendment submittal needs to be approved by the City Council as well as the review and approval by the Metropolitan Council.

The plat that is being submitted is for a phased mixed-use development that includes 40 single family residential, 102 rowhome units 40 detached townhomes and a 120 unit apartment and a 2.96 acre for future commercial. The 2022 sketch plan for the plat is detailed below.



#### Plat Sketch Plan

The 112 gross acre site includes six parcels located at 2395 Saint Francis Boulevard NW. Our development plan includes a plat to consolidate those six parcels. We are excited about the improvements proposed for this site, and

the requested PUD rezoning and preliminary plat is the next step in our client's ability to bring the planned development to your community.

# **PUD Rezoning Request**

# **PUD Flexibility**

The existing zoning for the property is UR, B-2 and R- 3 and the request is for modification to Planned Unit Development (PUD). The following narrative and graphics identify the proposed site plan that will be associated with the PUD request. The requested deviations are from the minimum lot size for the single family residential lots along the river, the minimum front yard setbacks in the townhome section from 35 to 30 ft. for the single family units on the public road and 25 ft. for the detached townhomes on the public road. We are proposing 25 ft. to back of curb for the rowhomes on the private street. Landform recognizes the significance of the open space lots being created with this plat, and is open to discussions about dedication, conservation, ownership and use through the PUD approval Process.

#### **Proposed Site Plan/Plat**



#### **Existing zoning map**



# **Preliminary Plat Request**

The proposed Plat is to be named "The Bluffs of Rum River". The preliminary plat is in significant conformance to the approved concept plan. Lot lines, lot sizes and lot configurations were most of the modifications since the concept review. The Rum River Management District standards were utilized during the plan design and completion. Outlot E for the apartment use, and Outlot F for the Commercial use will be developed in the future. The residential balance of the plat will be developed in two phases beginning in the fall of 2022.

# **Summary**

We respectfully request approval of the application for a Zoning amendment of the existing UR, B2 and R-3 zones to PUD and a preliminary plat to be known as Bluffs of Rum River. Approval of the application would permit development of a mixed-use development that includes 40 single family residential, 102 rowhome units 40 detached townhomes and a 120 unit apartment and a lot for future commercial.

# **Contact Information**

This document was prepared by:

John M Burbank, AICP Landform 105 South Fifth Avenue, Suite 513 Minneapolis, MN 55401



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SBD PROPERTIES, LLP

DEVELOPER

8985 ROSEWOOD LANE MAPLE GROVE, MN 55369

MUNICIPALITY

St. Francis

RUM RIVER ST. FRANCIS, MN

ISSUE / REVISION HISTORY

DATE ISSUE REVISION 21 JULY 2022 CITY SUBMITTAL

THE BLUFFS OF

PROJECT



	LEGEND	
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229999999999999999999 <sup>3</sup>	:Compost or Bio Log	235 ft.
000000000000000000000000000000000000000	:Vehicle Tracking Pad	1 ea.
	Erosion Control Blanket	X ea.
	Pavement Sawcut	









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PRELIMINARY PLAT JULY 21, 2022

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- 105 South Fifth Avenue Suite 513 Minneapolis, MN 55401 FILE NAME

Tel: 612-252-9070 Fax: 612-252-9077 Web: landform.net

C300PLM003.DV

**GRADING - OVERALL** 

**C**3.0

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19.

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20.

21.

Know what's Below.

© LANDFORM 2022



# SBD PROPERTIES, LLP DEVELOPER

8985 ROSEWOOD LANE MAPLE GROVE, MN 55369

MUNICIPALITY











Tel: 612-252-907 Fax: 612-252-907 Web: landform.ne

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SCAPE PLAN



O LANDFORM 2022