



Date: March 2, 2023
To: City Council
From: Andrew Hogg, Water Resource Coordinator
Re: Ordinance Revisions to Chapter 52, 63 and 69 to update water resource processes.

The Water Resource Coordinator position implements several aspects of the legislative code which protect water resources and guide development. These codes relate to stormwater runoff, wetlands, and floodplains. Amendments to Chapter 52 will bring the City into compliance with State rules and permits. Over time different site plan reviews have surfaced inefficiencies and technical contradictions within the existing code. In addition, several minor text amendments are proposed to improve water resource processes and improve compliance. These are summarized below.

ORD 23-17

Stormwater.

The amendments to Chapter 52 are necessary to bring the City's regulation of development projects into compliance with current requirements identified in permits issued to the City by the State of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The various requirements are related to construction-phase stormwater management practices and implementation of permanent stormwater management features. In addition, various rainfall precipitation depths have been updated in the industry based on climate patterns and years of observed data and are incorporated into amendments. The City of Saint Paul has chosen to simplify its City ordinance and rely upon an official Stormwater Design Standards publication to convey the thorough and precise requirements necessary for effective Stormwater regulation. This approach provides a nimble framework to respond to any future regulatory changes. The goal of the Design Standards is to consolidate the City's various Stormwater controls to a single authoritative location, unify the various permitting thresholds and development requirements to a common platform, and streamline development permitting procedures.

ORD 23-16

Stormwater

Strike runoff rate control design criteria from parking lot [63.319(a)] and subdivision [69.504(g)1.a] zoning codes. The design criteria are explicitly included in chapter 52 [52.04(c)] with citywide applicability. Removing it from the zoning code corrects unnecessary redundancy which has confused enforcement and the compliance process.

Wetlands.

Strike the requirement that wetland replacement plans be approved by the Planning Commission [63.607(b)]. A public resolution regarding a replacement plan decision is only required if no person is officially designated to make the decision. The Water Resource Coordinator position can fulfill the process because it is technical in nature and because there is an appeal process for a staff decision.



Floodplains.

Strike language that erroneously excludes Zone A from the scope of chapter 72. This was brought to Comprehensive Planning Committee a year ago (attached) but was not advanced to City Council to due staff error.

Recommendation

The amendments to Chapter 52 (Ord 23-17) are not anticipated to materially impact requirements for development. Many of the proposed changes will place the City in conformance with State, Watershed, and adjacent community standards that the development community is already aware of.

The additional minor amendments for stormwater (Chapter 63 and Chapter 69) (Ord 23-16) and wetlands do not materially affect existing requirements for development. The floodplains amendment is required for proper conformance with the National Flood Insurance Program and existing floodplain maps. No policy issues are anticipated from these amendments. No significant public interest is expected as a result of proposing these changes