

City Council Item

August 10, 2026



Item	Ordinance XXX: Amending Chapter 10 to Permit Temporary Goat Grazing for Vegetation Management	
File No.		Item No: D.18
Agenda Section	<u>CONSENT AGENDA</u>	
Prepared By	Jamie Marsh, Environmental Resource Specialist	
Reviewed By		

<u>SUGGESTED ACTION</u>	
"The Chanhassen City Council approves the ordinance as proposed to amend Chapter 10 of City Code to permit temporary goat grazing for vegetation management."	
Motion Type	4/5 Vote
Strategic Priority	Operational Excellence

SUMMARY

The proposed ordinance amendment would allow property owners to use goats for temporary grazing of undesirable vegetation as an alternative vegetation-management technique. This practice would be permitted when the property owner's goal is to target the removal of non-native, invasive, or noxious vegetation, including but not limited to buckthorn.

A 4/5th's vote is required in order to publish the proposed ordinance via a summary ordinance.

BACKGROUND

A Citizen Action Request Form was submitted in May 2026, following public comments at a March 2024 public hearing and a January 2025 City Council meeting. Citizens expressed interest in using goats for alternative vegetation management. In response to community interest in allowing property owners to use goats for vegetation management, the proposed ordinance was developed.

The proposed ordinance amendment would establish a framework for the use of goats to graze and manage undesirable vegetation. Goats can provide an effective alternative to traditional vegetation-removal methods, including mechanical removal and use of herbicides.

Goats are well equipped for controlling different types of vegetation because they consume grasses, weeds, and certain woody plants in areas that may be difficult or costly to access with traditional equipment. Their ability to navigate uneven terrain, steep slopes, and environmentally sensitive areas can reduce the need for heavy equipment that may otherwise result in soil disturbance, erosion, and impacts to surrounding vegetation. Goat grazing can also reduce reliance on widespread herbicide applications.

DISCUSSION

BUDGET

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the ordinance as presented.

ATTACHMENTS

[REDLINED Ordinance Article 10 XI - Goat Vegetation Management
Summary Ordinance](#)