

ORDINANCE NO. 772

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE

Adding Section 6-XX: Temporary Goat Grazing

The City Council for the City of Golden Valley hereby ordains as follows:

Section 1. City Code Chapter 6 Animals, Article III. Keeping and Maintenance, Section 6-69 Definitions is amended to add:

Buck: A male goat.

Doe: A female goat.

Goat: An animal in the subspecies of *Capra aegagrus hircus*.

Grazing: Goats eating vegetation.

Wethers: A castrated buck.

Section 2. City Code Chapter 6 Animals, Article III. Keeping and Maintenance, Section 6-70 Keeping is amended to add:

(7) Goats in accordance with the terms in Section 6-XX.

Section 3. City Code Chapter 6 Animals, Article III. Keeping and Maintenance. In General, Section 6-XX. Temporary Goat Grazing is hereby added:

Sec. 6-XX. Temporary Goat Grazing.

It is the purpose of this article to permit the temporary keeping of goats brought in for the purpose of vegetation management, which may include non-native, invasive, or noxious species.

(1) *Permit.*

- a. **Permit.** No person shall own, harbor, or keep within the City goats unless a permit for such goats has been obtained pursuant to the provisions stated herein.
- b. **Application.** Any person desiring a permit to keep goats shall make written application to the Planning Manager or their designee upon a form provided by the City. The application shall contain the following:
 1. A description of the real property upon which it is desired to keep goats.
 2. The breed and number of goats to be maintained on the property.
 3. The dates the goats will be kept at the property.
 4. A detailed site plan of the property showing the location and size of the proposed grazing area including dimensions, the location of stormwater ponds and pipes, wetlands, lakes, streams, and drainage ways, a list of the vegetation on the property that is sought to be controlled by the grazing, and the location of the fencing, as well as any goat pen or enclosure.

5. List of person(s) managing and monitoring the goats, including 24-hour contact information, accompanied by evidence of liability insurance in the amount of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
6. Signature from the applicant agreeing that they will at all times keep the goats in accordance with all of the conditions prescribed by the Planning Manager or their designee, or modification thereof, and that failure to obey such conditions will constitute a violation of the provisions of this ordinance and grounds for revocation of the permit.
7. Signature of the property owner, if different than the applicant.
8. Application fee as established in the City's Fee Schedule.

c. Limitations for the keeping of goats.

1. Permitted and prohibited goats. Does and wethers are permitted; bucks are prohibited.
2. Fences. Every owner, keeper, custodian, or harborer of goats shall erect and maintain a temporary or permanent fence system to contain and confine all goats kept on the premises. Fencing must be designed to prevent escape by goats and to prevent access by other animals. A double row of fencing with at least 5 feet separating fences shall be required for any grazing area. The outer fence may be located up to the property line of the permitted property. The fence shall be of sufficient height to contain the goats.
 - i. Permanent Fence. A permanent fence shall comply with all fence requirements of this code.
 - ii. Temporary Fence. The following conditions must be met for temporary fences:
 1. Fencing cannot be constructed of barbed wire.
 2. Energized fence is allowed but if used within thirty feet of an adjacent property boundary, it must be a part of a double fence system where the outer line of fencing is non-energized. This protects the public from coming into contact with the energized fence. The fence must be powered by a low impedance energizer. Low impedance energizers use a short duration pulse that minimizes risk to people. Energized fencing must be clearly identified with warning signs no more than 10 feet apart and signed on every enclosure boundary. No single warning sign shall exceed four square feet in area. Each sign shall be clearly visible on the approach to the fence and be posted on or within one foot of the energized fence.
 - iii. Temporary structure or holding pen. Any temporary structure or holding pen shall be located in compliance with all structure setback requirements for the underlying zoning district.

- iv. All temporary fencing and structures must be removed within seven days after the goats are removed from the property.
- 3. Signage. The permittee must install and maintain informational signage for the duration of the permit as follows:
 - i. Located on each side of the enclosed grazing area and visible to the public.
 - ii. Notifying the public that a permit has been issued by the City for "Temporary keeping of goats to manage vegetation" or "Temporary goat grazing in process" or similar.
 - iii. Contain 24-hour emergency contact information for the goat manager.
 - iv. The sign must be no smaller than one square foot, no larger than two square feet and no higher than three feet tall.
 - v. Placed directly on the fence.
 - vi. Shall not contain advertising.
 - vii. All signs must be removed from the property when goats and fencing are removed.
- 4. Water resources. Goats shall be kept no closer than 25 feet from stormwater ponds and pipe inlets, wetlands, lakes, streams, and drainage ways. Goats may be kept closer than 25 feet from water resources if adequate perimeter protection or barriers are installed to capture nutrients and pollutants that might runoff the land.
- 5. The number of goats allowed shall be determined by the size of the property on which the goats are kept and shall be limited as follows:
 - i. Up to four goats shall be allowed on properties that are 10,000 square feet in area or less
 - ii. Properties larger than 10,000 square feet shall be allowed one additional goat per 2,500 square feet of lot area over 10,000 square feet
 - iii. No properties shall keep more than 50 goats.
- 6. Maintenance. All properties on which goats are kept or maintained shall be kept clean from filth, garbage, and any substances that attract rodents.
- 7. Odor. The property shall be cleaned frequently enough to control odor. Manure shall not be allowed to accumulate in a way that causes an unsanitary condition or causes odors detectible on another property. Failure to comply with these conditions may result in the City revoking the permit and requiring the removal of the goats from the premises.
- 8. Nuisance. Goats shall not be kept in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance to the occupants of any adjacent property.
- 9. Humane treatment. Goats shall appear to be humanely cared for

and managed.

10. The property shall be available for inspections by the city at all reasonable times to determine compliance with this section, other sections of city code, or state law.

(2) *Violations.*

- a. A violation of any provision of this ordinance or a condition of the permit shall be grounds for revocation of the permit by the Planning Manager or their designee.
- b. Any person violating any conditions of this permit shall reimburse the city for all costs borne by the city to enforce the conditions of the permit including but not limited to the impounding and safekeeping of the goats.
- c. If any person is found guilty by a court for violation of this ordinance, their permit to temporarily keep goats shall be deemed automatically revoked and no new permit may be issued for a period of one (1) year.

(3) *Permit Term.* No property owner or person shall store goats on a property for more than 30 consecutive days or 60 days, whether consecutive or not, in any 12-month period starting with the date the animals are moved onto the property.

(4) *Exception.* No permit shall be required by the City if part of a vegetation management program on city-owned property.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Adopted by the City Council this 21st day of November, 2023.

Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

Theresa Schyma, City Clerk