

CHAPTER 950—H.F.No.3093

[Not Coded]

An act relating to Ramsey county; providing for a park and open space system and recreational program; conferring power on the Ramsey county board to acquire land and personal property, to provide by regulation and ordinance for the governance of park, open space and recreational areas and to provide penalties for violation thereof, to preserve the natural drainage within the county, to make appropriations, levy taxes, borrow money and issue bonds therefor, and to expend funds for a park, open space and recreational system in Ramsey county.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. RAMSEY COUNTY; PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM. Subdivision 1. **ACQUISITION, ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE.** The Ramsey county board of commissioners hereinafter referred to as "the county board" may acquire real and personal property by purchase, lease, gift, condemnation, option contract or otherwise including any estate, interest, easement or right, and subject to any estate, interest, easement or right. The county board shall hold, improve, maintain, supervise, control and operate the property so acquired for park, open space or recreational purposes.

Subd. 2. **EXISTING AREAS.** All areas that Ramsey county has heretofore or hereafter acquired under any other law for public park and open space purposes, public access to waters or recreational purposes are subject to this act.

Subd. 3. **FOREST RESERVES.** The county board may acquire lands for conversion into forest reserves and for the conservation of natural resources of the state, including streams, lakes, submerged lands, and swamp lands, and to these ends may create parks, parkways, forests and other reservations, and develop and improve, protect and promote the use of this land in a manner conducive to the general welfare.

Subd. 4. **PUBLIC USE FACILITIES, ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE OPERATION.** The county board may provide for the construction, installation, maintenance, and operation of suitable facilities, accommodations and services in the park and open space system for public use for the purposes of this act or may authorize private persons or corporations to do so. The county board shall not acquire any right, title or interest in or to real property or develop any real property pursuant to this act without the approval of the governing body of the municipality in which such property is located.

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Subd. 5. SURVEYS AND PLANS. The county board may provide for surveys to determine the needs of the park and open space system and the location and suitability of areas available therefor, for general plans for the park and open space system and for plans for the improvement of any park or the construction or installation of facilities, accommodations or services for public use therein.

Subd. 6. SALE OR DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS TRACTS. The county board may sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any property acquired under or subject to the provisions of this act upon such terms as it considers best in the public interest, but the use of real property so disposed of must remain consistent with the purposes of this act.

Subd. 7. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES. Ramsey county shall cooperate with any public or municipal corporation, governmental body, or with any private or public organization engaged in conservation, recreational activities, protection of the public health and safety, prevention of air and water pollution, sanitation, mosquito abatement or any constructive purpose consistent with the county park and open space system.

Sec. 2. Subdivision 1. FEES. The county board may fix, alter, charge and collect fees for the use of the facilities of the park and open space system or for any facilities, accommodations or services provided for public use therein.

Subd. 2. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTAL SUBDIVISIONS. Any city, village, town or school district within or without Ramsey county or another county may make contributions of funds to Ramsey county for the purposes of this act with respect to any county park or other unit of the park and open space system. These contributions may be made out of the general funds of the contributing government subdivision or out of funds raised or designated for park and open space purposes or out of funds raised expressly for the purpose of these contributions. The governing body of a government subdivision making such a contribution may specify the particular purpose for which it is to be used, and these contributions shall be paid into the general fund of Ramsey county and used for the purposes herein authorized.

Subd. 3. GIFTS, GRANTS AND LOANS. The county board may accept a gift, grant, or loan of money or other property from the United States, the state, or any other source for any purpose under this act, enter into an agreement required in connection therewith, and may hold, use, and dispose of this money or property for the purposes of this act in accordance with the terms and conditions of the gift, grant, loan or agreement relating thereto.

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Subd. 4. **BONDS.** The county board may borrow not more than \$15,000,000 for the purposes of this act. The county board may issue and sell bonds from time to time without submitting the question of their issuance to a vote of the people. The payment of these bonds shall be secured by pledging the full faith and credit of Ramsey county. The county board shall prescribe the form of these bonds and their interest rate and shall sell them to the highest bidder after publication of the notice of the time and place for receiving of bids. These bonds shall be issued to mature serially, the first installment of which shall become due and payable in not more than three years and the last of which shall become due and payable in not more than 30 years from their date. Ramsey county shall levy a tax, without limit as to rate or amount, sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the bonds as they become due. In all other particulars, the applicable provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 475, shall control these bonds and their issuance and payment. The proceeds from the sale of these bonds shall be disbursed in the same manner as other county funds for the purposes specifically expressed in this act.

Sec. 3. **ORDINANCES.** Subdivision 1. **ENACTMENT.** The county board may enact the ordinances relating to the county park and open space system and recreational areas. The board may regulate by ordinance the use of any park, open space, or recreational area subject to the provisions of this act, including waters and public lakeshore within the system and not more than 300 feet of the waterfront immediately abutting this lakeshore.

Subd. 2. **VIOLATIONS.** A violation of any provision of an ordinance enacted under this act shall be a misdemeanor.

Sec. 4. **PERSONNEL.** Subdivision 1. **APPOINTMENT.** The county board may appoint the employees that it considers necessary for the proper administration of the park and open space system. The Ramsey county civil service law, rules and regulations for employees shall govern the employment of these employees.

Subd. 2. **POLICE POWER.** The county board may designate employees as police officers within the park and open space system to exercise police power within the system under the jurisdiction and control of the board. The board may contract with municipalities for the policing of park and open space properties.

Sec. 5. **COUNTY PARK COMMISSION.** The county board may create a county park and open space commission with such provisions for membership, terms of office and other requirements that the board may prescribe, and may delegate to this commission authority to exercise any of the powers conferred on the county board by this act, except the power to acquire or dispose of real property, to levy taxes, and to appropriate and borrow money. The commission may make recommendations to the county board in respect of any

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matter relating to the county park and open space system requiring action by the board.

Sec. 6. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This act shall take effect upon its approval by the county board and upon compliance with Minnesota Statutes 1969, Section 645.021.

Sec. 7. Any resolution of the county board pursuant to this act shall not be effective until the first business day of January next following and if within 30 days following its publication a petition asking for an election on the proposition signed by voters equal to 5 percent of the number of voters at the last regular election is filed with the county auditor, the resolution shall not be effective until it has been approved by a majority of the votes cast on the question at a regular or special election.

Approved June 7, 1971.

CHAPTER 951—S.F.No.266

[Coded in Part]

An act relating to courts; establishing county courts in certain counties; amending Minnesota Statutes 1969, Sections 260.311, Subdivisions 1, 2, and 3; and 525.01, and repealing Minnesota Statutes 1969, Section 525.0105.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1969, Section 525.01, is amended to read as follows:

525.01 [487.01] COUNTY COURTS; PROBATE AND COUNTY COURTS; PROVISIONS. Subdivision 1. A probate court, which shall be a court of record having a seal, and, except in the counties of Hennepin, Ramsey and St. Louis shall also be a county court, is established in each county. The court shall be open for the transaction of business at the county-seat at all reasonable hours. Hearings may be had at such times and places in the county as the court may deem advisable. The necessary and reasonable traveling expenses of the judge, referee, reporter judges, judicial officers, referees, reporters, clerks, and employees in attending hearings in places other than the county-seat incident to their duties shall be paid by the county.

Subd. 2. The county board of a county to which sections 1 to 39 apply shall provide and furnish to the county court the courtrooms,

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