



Office Use Only

Fee: \$100

Permit #: _____

Community Development
221 East Clark Street
Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007-2496
507-377-4340

Use of Prescribed Grazing for Land Management Permit Application

Site Information

Site Address for Prescribed Grazing

Site Owner Name

Site Owner Phone Number

Site Owner Mailing Address

Site size of prescriptive grazing (in acres or square feet)

Type of fencing to be used

Date the goats will arrive on property

Date the goats will be removed from property

Contractor Information

Name

Phone

Address

City

State

Zip

Email Address

24-Hour Emergency Contact Name

24-Hour Emergency Contact Phone Number

Required Documentation

- * A certificate of liability insurance issued to the owner of the goats to be utilized under the permit shall have and maintain insurance coverage for claims arising from prescribed grazing in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 general aggregate and shall provide to the City proof of the required insurance coverage prior to issuance of the permit.
- * A detailed site plan of the premises on which the prescribed grazing will occur. Please include the dimension of the proposed grazing area, the location and delineation of any wetlands or bodies of water and the location of the proposed fencing. Electrified fence is a double fence system with non-electric outer fence, maintained a minimum of 3 feet from the electric fence is required to serve as a safety barrier, or adjoining property owners' waivers of double fencing.

Please read and sign

Contractor:

I hereby apply for a prescribed grazing for land management permit and I acknowledge that the information provided is complete and accurate; that the work will be done in accordance with City Code Sec. 8.006 of the City of Albert Lea Code of Ordinances; that I understand this is not a permit but only an application for a permit and services are not to start without a permit;

Applicant Printed Name

Applicant Signature

Date Signed

Site Owner:

I hereby consent to have the prescribed grazing activity described in this application on my property.

Site Owner Signature

Date Signed

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Permit Approved by _____ **Date** _____

Application may be emailed to:

Wayne Sorensen, Building & Zoning Official
wsorensen@ci.albertlea.mn.us

Application may be mailed to:

City of Albert Lea
Attn: Development Services
221 E Clark St
Albert Lea, MN 56007

CITY OF ALBERT LEA CODE OF ORDINANCES

Sec. 8.006. Use of prescribed grazing for land management.

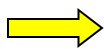
- (a) *Purpose and need for policy.* The purpose of this policy is to allow prescribed grazing of approved grazing animals on certain property in the City of Albert Lea for a specific period and for the express purpose of controlling invasive, noxious or unwanted vegetation. Invasive species and/or noxious vegetation pose a significant environmental risk to the Albert Lea environment. Prescribed grazing is intended to provide an alternative to the use of chemicals as a means to control undesired vegetation, as well as an alternative to other land management techniques like mowing, brush cutting and prescribed burning. It is also intended to provide an alternative means to control undesirable vegetation on steep slopes or other challenging terrain where it is difficult for humans to access. Prescribed grazing is not intended to allow the raising or keeping of goats as pets or livestock on property where it is not currently allowed under zoning requirements.
- (b) *Policy.* Property owners intending to use prescribed grazing must have a property that meets all criteria laid out within this policy. Property owners must hire a contractor who has received a prescribed grazing permit from the city. Contractors must obtain an annual permit prior to working in the city, meet all city requirements and agree to follow all guidelines laid out within the policy produces. The specific policy requirements are as follows:
- (1) Goats are the only animal approved for prescribed grazing.
 - (2) Significant invasive, noxious or unwanted vegetation must exist on the site and removal of it will clearly benefit the property receiving the prescribed grazing.
 - (3) Prescribed grazing shall only occur within parcels wholly or partially within the "shoreland district" or "outlying district".
 - (4) Grazing services will be provided by a permitted contractor. Contractors must obtain an annual permit from the city and must provide all requested documentation. Permits may be revoked if contractors do not follow ordinance and policy requirements, or if repeat issues arise regarding grazing activities causing public nuisances or other unwanted situations. The contractor will need to specifically provide the following information within the city's permit form and adhere to the following contractor guidelines.
 - a. No permit shall be granted, nor be effective, until the applicant files with the development services department proof of a public liability insurance policy covering all operations of such applicant under this section for the maximum liability amounts pursuant to Minn. Stat. 466.04. The policy shall provide that it may not be cancelled by the insurer except after ten (10) days written notice to the city, and if such insurance is so cancelled and the permittee fails to replace the same with another policy conforming to the provisions of this section, the permit shall be automatically suspended until such insurance is provided.
 - b. No permit shall be granted, nor be effective, until the applicant files with the development services department acceptable evidence of compliance with the worker's compensation insurance coverage requirements by providing the name of the insurance company, the policy number, and date of coverage
 - c. All contractors permitted under the provisions of this section must abide by all ANSI (American National Standards Institute) and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) regulations while operating as a business within the city limits.
 - d. Upon issue, the applicant must be able to produce their permit upon request when operating within Albert Lea City limits.
 - e. Applicant must have staff available to respond to any emergency complaints or concerns at all times of day or night. Applicant will furnish emergency contact number when applying for permit.
 - f. All contractors must notify the city at least ten (10) days in advance of any prescribed grazing projects that are to occur within city limits.

- (5) Prescribed grazing will be allowed on a parcel or lot that is 0.5 acres or greater in size. Prescribed grazing will also be allowed on more than one (1) parcel or lot provided that the grazing areas on each parcel or lot are contiguous and an aggregate of 0.5 acres or more in size. All property owners in the grazing area must grant permission to the contractor.
- (6) Prescribed grazing cannot occur on a parcel or lot more than two (2) times in a given calendar year. Each grazing event must be thirty (30) consecutive days or less in duration from the time the goats arrive to the time the goats are removed from the site. Grazing events must be separated by at least 30 days.
- (7) Goat herd size cannot exceed two (2) goats per every one-tenth (1/10) acre of enclosed grazing area.
- (8) If exceptions to the standard grazing duration, stocking rates or fencing requirements are desired, the permitted contractor must submit a written request to city staff. Factors, such as proximity to adjacent properties, will be assessed when evaluating extension requests. Extensions will be approved or denied in writing by the zoning official or other authorized agent of the city.
- (9) Prescribed grazing must occur in an area that is properly enclosed through temporary or permanent fencing. Fencing must be designed to prevent escape by goats and to prevent access by other animals and cannot be constructed of barbed wire and follow all requirements outlined below:
 - a. The fence, if electric, shall be electrified using only a UL listed fence controller, or an equivalent approved by the state electrical inspector.
 - b. The fence may consist of multiple strands of electrified wire, but at least one strand shall be installed at a height between thirty (30) inches and thirty-six (36) inches above the ground and marked with warning signs that are no less than eight (8) square inches in size and that are attached to the wire no less than ten (10) feet apart.
 - c. The fence shall be located only around the perimeter of each garden or freestanding flowerbed to be protected, up to the property line, and shall in no instance be used as perimeter fencing for the property.
 - d. The fence, including the wires, shall not exceed the height limitations in City Code Section 50.0018.
 - e. The fence shall not be located in the front yard as defined in City Code Section 50.0002.
 - f. Except as provided herein, fences outside the buildable area of a lot may not exceed six (6) feet in height and shall comply with city ordinance height limits.

Energized fence is allowed but if used within thirty (30) 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 and separated from the inner line of energized fence by at least three (3) feet or written approval must be obtained from the adjacent property owner. 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. City staff reserve the right to require that the prescribed grazing contractor install a double fence system in any situation if determined that a single energized fence line would present a significant risk to the public.

Energized fencing must be clearly identified with warning signs no more than ten (10) feet apart and signed on every enclosure boundary. Energized fence must be installed by the prescribed grazing contractor. Temporary fencing must be removed within seven (7) calendar days of the date the goats are removed from the project site. Permanent fencing must follow all other applicable city ordinances.

 (10) Where the project area is visible to the public, a sign must notify the public that prescribed grazing is occurring and list twenty-four (24) hour contact information for any emergency situations that may arise, such as a goat outside of the fenced enclosure. The sign must be no smaller than one (1) square foot, no larger than two (2) square feet and no higher than three (3) feet tall.

(11) Shelters, if provided, must follow all city structure and setback requirements.

- (12) Only females, neutered male goats or unneutered male goats less than six months old that accompany female goats are allowed.
- (13) Grazing areas must be monitored to prevent overgrazing, erosion and damage to natural resources, including but not limited to:
 - a. Complying with requirements and best management practices established by Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the local watershed district, and all other pertinent agencies.
 - b. Preventing impairment of water quality as defined by the Federal Clean Water Act.
 - c. Avoiding adversely impacting threatened or endangered plant or animal species.

(c) *Procedure.*

- (1) Contractors wishing to provide prescribed grazing services within city limits must obtain a permit application from city development services staff. Contractors must submit their permit request, including insurance documentation, at least fifteen (15) business days in advance of any work proposed within city limits.
- (2) City zoning staff will review permit requests and respond within ten (10) business days. A written permit will be issued if the request is approved. Contractor cannot start work until permit has been received.
- (3) If a permit is issued, it will be valid for the remainder of the year assuming the contractor follows all requirements. Permits are issued for each specific project.
- (4) Contractor will inform development services staff of planned project locations at least ten (10) business days prior to arriving to start work.
- (5) Contractor will notify city contact on the day that goats arrive on any project site within city limits.
- (6) If policy requirements or other city ordinances are not followed, contractor permits can be revoked by city staff. Violations of policy may include but are not limited to:
 - a. Providing any false or inaccurate information on permit application.
 - b. Failure to notify city staff of impending projects in a timely fashion.
 - c. Failure to respond in a timely fashion to or failing to correct issues or concerns raised by city staff or residents.
 - d. Failure to prevent grazing services from resulting in a public nuisance, including repeated issues with animals escaping from fenced areas.
 - e. Failure to maintain appropriate insurance coverage throughout duration of permit.
 - f. Failure to adhere to parcel size, stocking rate, stocking duration, or fencing requirements.

(d) *Responsibility.* The zoning official or designee will respond to requests for prescribed grazing permits.

(e) *Authority.* Administrative implementation of state statutes, city ordinances, and city policies.

(Ord. No. 21-064 , 10-12-2021)