



MRCCA Guidance for 2040 Plans

LOCAL PLANNING
HANDBOOK

Consolidated Reference for 2040 Comprehensive Plans

This document brings together key [Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Program \(MRCCA\)](#) guidance materials to support communities as they develop and implement their 2040 Comprehensive Plans. It includes requirements, sample plan elements, and resources related to the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area.

Note: Communities preparing 2050 Comprehensive Plans should review the [MRCCA Review and Approval Fact Sheet for 2050 Plans](#) for the most up-to-date requirements and guidance.

Included in this Resource:

- What is MRCCA?
- MRCCA Districts
- MRCCA County Plan Requirements
- MRCCA Vegetation Restoration
- MRCCA Open Space & Recreation Facilities
- MRCCA Primary Conservation Areas
- MRCCA Public River Corridor Views
- MRCCA Restoration Priorities
- MRCCA Surface Water Uses
- MRCCA Transportation & Utilities
- MRCCA Water Oriented Uses
- MRCCA Sample Plan Outline

PLANNING TO PROTECT THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER CORRIDOR CRITICAL AREA

What is the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area?

Designated by Governor's Executive Order in the 1970s, the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) is a land corridor along the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area governed by special land planning requirements and land development regulations. These regulations, which are implemented through local MRCCA plans and ordinances, protect and preserve the natural, scenic, recreational, and transportation resources of this section of the Mississippi River. The MRCCA comprises 72 miles of river and 54,000 acres of surrounding land in 30 local jurisdictions.

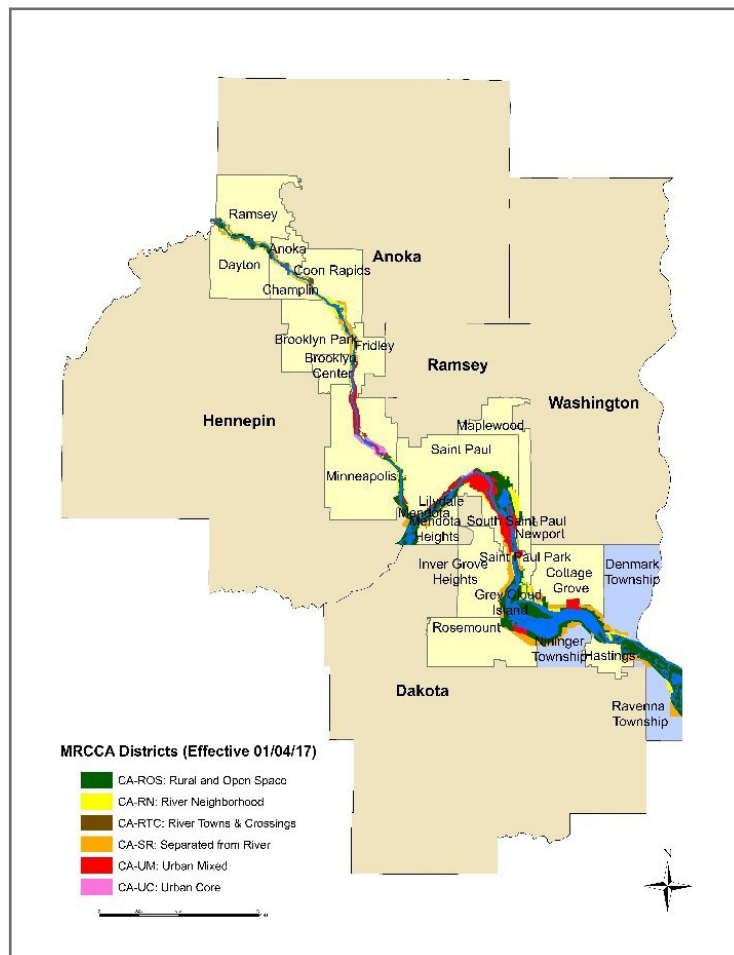
New Rules

Minnesota Rules, chapter 6106, lay out the land planning and regulatory framework that protects the MRCCA's resources. These rules became effective on January 4, 2017, and replace Executive Order 79-19, which previously governed land use in the MRCCA. The rules require local governments to update their MRCCA plans (a chapter of the local comprehensive plan) and MRCCA ordinances for consistency with the rules. The [DNR's MRCCA Program webpage](#) has additional information about the new MRCCA rules, district maps, and FAQs about the program.

Local Government Plan and Ordinance Updates

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the state agency with overall responsibility for administering the MRCCA rules. However, the Metropolitan Council plays a key role in ensuring that MRCCA plans are updated on the same schedule as, and incorporated into, the local comprehensive plans as a separate MRCCA chapter. The DNR and the Metropolitan Council coordinate review and approval of local government MRCCA plans for consistency with the planning requirements in Minn. Rules 6106. Please see the [Critical Area section of the Local Planning Handbook](#) for guidance, tools, and resources for developing plans that meet the minimum requirements.

Under the notification schedule developed by the DNR and Metropolitan Council, local governments must submit their updated MRCCA plans to the Metropolitan Council and the DNR by December 30, 2018 - the same time that the 2040 Comprehensive Plan update is due to the Metropolitan Council. Once a local MRCCA plan has been updated, the DNR will notify each local government to update their MRCCA zoning ordinance. Once notified, each local government will have 12 months to update their zoning ordinances. The DNR anticipates that it will notify all affected local governments to update their zoning ordinances between 2019 and 2021.



The MRCCA contains many sensitive features that are not always suitable for intensive development. Bluff setbacks and vegetation requirements help prevent erosion and protect the integrity of natural systems.

Why is the MRCCA Important?

The MRCCA contains many significant natural and cultural resources, including: scenic views, water, navigational capabilities, geology and soils, vegetation, minerals, flora and fauna, cultural and historic resources and land and water-based recreational resources. The MRCCA is home to a full range of residential neighborhoods and parks, as well as river-related commerce, industry, and transportation. Though the river corridor has been extensively developed, many intact and remnant natural areas remain, including bluffs, islands, floodplains, wetlands, riparian zones, and native aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna. The MRCCA also shares the same border as the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area (MNRRA), a unit of the National Park Service.

MRCCA History

The MRCCA was designated in 1976 by Executive Order following passage of the Minnesota Critical Areas Act of 1973. The Critical Areas Act (Minn. Stat., §116G) provides a general regulatory framework for protecting specific areas of the state that possess important historic, cultural, or aesthetic values or natural systems through a defined local-regional planning and regulation process. The MRCCA was the first and remains the only critical area in the state. The MRCCA protects these resources through local governments' land use plans and zoning ordinances that regulate structure placement, height, vegetation clearing, land alteration, and subdivision of land. Following is a timeline of key milestones in the MRCCA.

- 1973** Minnesota passes Critical Areas Act of 1973 (MN Statutes, Chapter 116G)
EQB adopts rules to implement Act (MN Rules, parts 4410.8100 – 4410.9910)
- 1976** Mississippi River and adjacent corridor designated a state critical area by Governor Wendell Anderson (Executive Order No. 130)
- 1979** Designation continued by Governor Albert Quie (Executive Order 79-19)
Metropolitan Council acts to make designation permanent (Resolution 79-48)
- 1988** Mississippi National River and Recreational Area (MNRRA) established by Congress as unit of NPS (MNRRA shares same boundary as Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area)
- 1991** MNRRA designated a state critical area per Critical Areas Act (MN Statutes, section 116G.15)
- 1995** Responsibility shifts from EQB to DNR by Governor Arne Carlson (Reorganization Order 170)
- 2007** Legislature directs DNR to prepare report on the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (Completed January 2008)
- 2009** Legislature amends MN Statutes, section 116G.15 and directs DNR to conduct rulemaking for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MN Laws 2009, Chapter 172, Article 2, Section 5.e.)
- 2011** DNR develops draft rule after participatory stakeholder process, but rulemaking authority lapses
- 2013** Legislature directs DNR to resume rulemaking process in consultation with local governments
- 2017** Rules become effective January 4.

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MRCCA DISTRICTS

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

MRCCA plans must map and describe districts applicable to the community.

Six districts are defined in the MRCCA rules. The districts are based on the natural and built character of different areas of the river corridor. Structure setbacks from the OHWL and bluffs, building height limits, and the amount of open space required for subdivisions/redevelopment vary by district. These are the only standards in the MRCCA rules that vary by district. All other standards apply uniformly throughout the corridor.

MINIMUM MRCCA PLAN REQUIREMENTS

1. Map and Describe

- Map each district that applies to your community. Maps have been prepared as downloadable PDF and JPGs and are available on your community page. For those who want to create custom maps, spatial data is available through the Minnesota Geospatial Commons and from the link “Download your Community Shapefiles” on your community page.
- Describe each of the mapped districts for your community using the description and management purpose specified in [MR 6106.0100](#), Subp. 3 to Subp. 8. The district description is shown under Item A and management purpose is shown under Item B in each subpart.
- Explain how future land uses (and potential redevelopment plans) fit the purpose of the MRCCA districts and identify potential conflicts (especially important for communities anticipating the need for implementation flexibility in MRCCA ordinance or future district boundary amendments).
- Overlay the district map on the future land use and/or zoning map to identify areas where the district standards for water and bluff setbacks and height limits may be different than underlying zoning.

2. Policies

A. Required Policies

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Guide land use and development and redevelopment activities consistent with the management purpose of each district.

B. Examples

The following example policies are from existing MRCCA plans, and are meant to provide ideas for developing policies related to districts (not all requirements identified above have a corresponding example):

- Retain areas zoned R-2 (single-family on 13,500 square foot lots) as the predominant residential development standard for existing and new residential developments in the MRCCA. (Brooklyn Park)
- Maintain multiple family housing within walking distance of public land and facilities. (Brooklyn Park)

3. Implementation Actions

A. Required Implementation Actions

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Amend existing or adopt new MRCCA ordinance overlay district compliant with the goals and policies of the MRCCA plan, and with Minnesota Rules, part 6106.0070, Subp. 5 - Content of Ordinances.
- Update zoning map to reflect new MRCCA districts.
- List any actions to be taken to pursue implementation flexibility (if any areas were identified as needing implementation flexibility during the planning process).
- Ensure that information on the new MRCCA districts and zoning requirements is readily available to property owners to help them understand which ordinance requirements - such as setbacks and height requirements - apply to their property for project planning and permitting.

B. Examples

- Update Local Ordinances: Update the Shoreland Management Ordinance, Critical Area Ordinance, and Zoning Ordinance to reflect goals and policies of this plan as well as the requirements of federal and state legislation. (Ramsey)

MRCCA ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

Following are specific ordinance requirements that pertain to Districts. Understanding these requirements will help guide development of the MRCCA plan for effective ordinance administration.

Structure and Impervious Surface Placement

1. Structures and impervious surfaces must meet OHWL setback standards for the relevant district
2. Structures and impervious surfaces must meet bluff setback standards for the relevant district

Structure Height

1. Structures, including accessory structures, must not exceed maximum height limits for the relevant district.
2. For the CA-SR district, structure height in the underlying zoning must be generally consistent with the height of the mature treeline, where present, and existing surrounding development as viewed from the OHWL of the opposite shore.

Subdivision

1. The width of new lots in the CA-ROS district abutting the Mississippi River must be at least 200 feet unless alternative design standards are used.

MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Matthew Bauman (matthew.bauman@state.mn.us) at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for additional information.

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MRCCA COUNTY PLAN REQUIREMENTS

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY PLANS

The MRCCA rules adopted by the State of Minnesota on January 4, 2017 update standards for protecting natural resources within the MRCCA and lay out standards for updating city and county MRCCA plans to comply with these new standards. MRCCA plans are a chapter in the comprehensive plan. Counties and cities must update their MRCCA plans as part of their comprehensive plan update, due to the Metropolitan Council in December 2018.

In updating their MRCCA plans, counties should address the minimum requirements identified for each plan element below for the land/facilities they own and/or operate, such as parks, trails, roads and highways, buildings and structures, conservation easements, and any other property interests or facilities. Please refer to the specific requirements documents for each of the plan elements on the [Metropolitan Council's website](#) for policy and implementation ideas. These requirements documents are designed for use by cities, however, many of the policy and implementation ideas also apply to counties.

1. INTRODUCTION

- Brief overview of MRCCA (history, program goals/purpose, new rulemaking)
- Public engagement process
- Include “results of previous plans” and highlight progress on previous plan goals

2. MRCCA PLAN ELEMENTS - DESCRIPTIONS, MAPS, AND POLICIES

Districts

- Identify land/facilities owned/managed by county on a map showing districts.
- Describe each of the MRCCA districts that apply to county owned/operated lands and facilities. Use the description and management purpose specified in [MR 6106.0100](#), Subp. 3 to Subp. 8. The district description is shown under Item A and management purpose is shown under Item B in each subpart. Describe the function of county owned/operated lands and facilities within each district, and plans for development/redevelopment and how their operation and development could impact, enhance, and/or conflict with the purpose of the districts.

Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs)

- Map any PCAs that are on land/facilities owned/operated by county (do NOT need to map these for entire county within MRCCA). PCAs include: Shore impact zones; wetlands, floodplains, and confluence w/key tributaries; natural drainage routes; bluff impact zones; native plant communities and significant existing vegetative stands; cultural and historic properties; gorges; and unstable soils and bedrock.
- Identify/recognize MRCCA rule provisions that regulate development and management (vegetation, storm water, etc.) of land/facilities owned and/or operated by the county.
- Adopt policies and implementation actions that protect and/or minimize impacts to PCAs on land and facilities owned/operated by the county.

Public River Corridor Views (PRCVs)

- Counties must acknowledge those PRCVs that include county operated facilities, identified by cities and townships in their MRCCA plans*. Counties do not need to specifically list or map the PRCVs identified by cities and townships, only acknowledge that communities have identified PRCVs that may include county operated facilities. These communities may not be in the subject county. PRCVs may be from county owned land towards the river or they may be from across the river towards bluffs that are on county owned land.
- Adopt policies and implementation actions to ensure these PRCVs on land/facilities operated by the county and identified in the plans of cities and townships are protected during park and facility planning efforts, development projects, and ongoing management and maintenance.
- Counties may also identify PRCVs important to park visitors, document that process, and share the results with cities and townships. (Optional)

***Note:** Counties own and/or operate parks and overlooks, trails, and other public lands, including natural areas

Continue to next page →

and some historical sites. Cities and townships will be mapping views toward the river from these public places as valued by their citizens. Cities and townships will also be mapping views toward bluffs from the river. Counties are encouraged to coordinate with their cities and townships – ideally before adjacent and affected jurisdiction review.

Restoration Priorities

- Map vegetation restoration priorities using the “[Framework for Identifying Vegetation Restoration Priorities](#).”
- List policies for restoration of native/natural vegetation during development/operation activities.
- List identified priority areas (if known) for vegetation restoration such as: stabilization of erodible soils, riparian buffers, and bluffs/steep slopes visible from the river.
- Establish policies and implementation actions to ensure that identified restoration priority areas are protected in park master plans, or if not previously identified, are identified as part of the master planning effort.

Open Space & Recreational Facilities

- Map and describe all existing and proposed future public open space and recreational facilities, including those providing public access to the river. This element can be met by including open space and recreational facilities on the relevant regional and local park and trail maps required as part of the Parks & Trails Comprehensive Plan element. The MRCCA boundary must be shown on park and trail maps in order to identify existing and planned facilities in the MRCCA.
- Develop policies and implementation actions that encourage creation, connection, and maintenance of open space and recreational facilities, including public access to the river.

Transportation & Utilities

- Map and describe existing and future planned transportation facilities (county highways, roads and bike trails not included in open space and recreational facilities). This element can be met by including existing and future planned transportation facilities on the relevant map(s) required as part of the transportation comprehensive plan element. The MRCCA boundary must be shown on the relevant transportation map in order to identify existing and future transportation facilities in the MRCCA.
- Identify/recognize MRCCA rule provisions (Minn. Rule Chapter 6106.0130 Subp. 4) that regulate road/ROW maintenance activities of transportation facilities owned and operated by the county
- Identify policies and implementation actions that protect and/or minimize impacts to PCAs/PRCVs from development/maintenance of transportation facilities operated by the county.

Surface Water Uses

- Identify/map any commercial/industrial surface water uses (e.g. barge fleeting) operated by the county, if any.
- If any, describe any existing and potential surface water use conflicts and any related policies and implementation actions.

Water-Oriented Uses

- Identify/map any water-oriented land uses operated by the county (recreational marinas), if any.
- If any, describe any existing and potential land use conflicts and any related policies and implementation actions.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Because counties do not have land use authority in the MRCCA (except in some situations for shorelands and floodplains in townships), implementation actions will focus on:

- Education & outreach: Provide information to residents and park and facility users that these facilities are in the MRCCA, including information on what the MRCCA is and ways in which the resources are being protected.
- Coordination with local jurisdictions (townships and cities)
- Capital improvements
- Land acquisition
- Specific planning efforts, projects, and initiatives

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MRCCA VEGETATION RESTORATION

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING VEGETATION RESTORATION PRIORITIES

Introduction

Each community must identify priorities for natural vegetation restoration. Natural vegetation is any combination of ground cover, understory, and tree canopy that stabilizes soils, retains and filters runoff, recharges ground water, and provides habitat for wildlife. Native plant communities are also natural vegetation, just vegetation that meets specific quality criteria. Restoration of native plant communities are preferred where practical.

GIS Desktop Analysis

Following is a GIS-based process for identifying opportunities for vegetation restoration. This process was used to create the downloadable PDF and JPG maps available on your community page:

1. Create a map project with a current aerial photo
2. Identify primary conservation areas where there is no natural vegetation.
 - a. Add the following Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs):
 - i. Wetlands
 - ii. Bluff Impact Zones (BIZ)
 - iii. Shore Impact Zone (SIZ)
 - iv. Floodplains
 - v. Gorges (may add if applicable, not required)
 - vi. Unstable soils and bedrock (may add if areas are known, not required)
 - b. Add layers for “Native Plant Communities” and “significant existing vegetation stands.”
 - c. For the purposes of this exercise, colorize all items under “a” one color, and all items under “b” another color.
 - d. Overlay items in “b” over item “a”
 - e. Review the areas where non-vegetative PCAs are still visible (the visible orange areas on the downloadable PDF and JPG maps. These are the areas where there is no or limited natural vegetation on PCAs that are particularly sensitive to vegetation removal or at risk of erosion; they serve as a starting point for restoration priorities. Determine if any of these areas should NOT be identified as opportunities for restoration at the time of development or redevelopment, and remove them. Considerations include:
 - i. Proximity to native plant communities
 - ii. Opportunities to connect development to existing and planned parks and trails.
 - iii. Opportunities to enhance PRCVs
 - iv. Areas of known erosion or bank failure
 - v. Opportunities to connect fragmented habitat
 - f. Update the map accordingly, and describe the areas identified as opportunities for vegetation restoration and why.

MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Matthew Bauman (matthew.bauman@state.mn.us) at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for additional information.

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MRCCA OPEN SPACE & REC FACILITIES

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

MRCCA plans must provide for and encourage creation, connection, and maintenance of open space and recreation facilities and identify potential public access points and trail locations. (This plan element is a combination of two plan elements, part 6106.0070, Subp. 4.A .(7) and part of (8).)

Open space and recreational facilities, such as parks, trails, scenic overlooks, natural areas, islands, and wildlife areas add to the quality of a community and increase opportunities for the public to access the river.

MINIMUM MRCCA PLAN REQUIREMENTS

1. Map and Describe

- Map and describe all existing and proposed future open space (both public and potential private open space where future land development is anticipated) and recreational facilities, including those providing public access to the river. This element can be met by including open space and recreational facilities on the relevant regional and local park and trail maps required as part of the Parks & Trails Plan element. The MRCCA boundary must be shown on park and trail maps in order to identify existing and planned facilities in the MRCCA.

2. Policies

A. Required Policies

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Encourage creation, connection, and maintenance of open space, recreational facilities, including public access to the river.
- Identify and encourage connection of CA-SR district land to existing and planned parks and trails, for LGUs with developable land in CA-SR districts. (Not applicable in communities with no CA-SR district.)
- Encourage that land dedication requirements be used to acquire land suitable for public river access.

B. Examples

The following example policies are from existing MRCCA plans, and are meant to provide ideas for developing policies to create and maintain open space and recreational facilities (not all requirements identified above have a corresponding example):

General

- Provide public open space, trails and park facilities with a river orientation (Hastings)
- Provide trail links to regional trail systems and trails maintained by adjacent municipalities (Inver Grove Heights)
- Existing islands within the Corridor shall be preserved and managed as open space. (Dayton)
- The City shall work to expand and connect parks along the Mississippi riverfront. (Hastings)
- Connections between the terrace neighborhoods and the river may be improved by adding a limited number of pedestrian routes (stairs, ramps, walkways) between the bluff elevations and the river flats. (St Paul).
- Provide uninterrupted vegetated shorelines along the Mississippi and its tributary streams and ravines (such as Rice Creek, Springbrook, Stonybrook Creek and Oak Glen Creek) to...provide connections to nearby natural areas (such as Springbrook Nature Center). (Fridley)

Subdivision/development

- Require open space provisions and encourage public spaces (such as overlooks, plazas, historic landscapes, or interpretive facilities) where possible in new development or redevelopment projects in the corridor. (Fridley)
- The city will pursue easements or public acquisition for future river trail connections in new and existing developments in the river corridor. The city will pursue opportunities as appropriate to acquire future abandoned railroad right-of-ways and appropriate tax-forfeited parcels for acquisition and possible river trail development. (St Paul)
- Require park dedication that is generated within the corridor to consist of land within the corridor or if cash

is given in lieu of land, the cash should be used towards improving open space, riverfront access, storm water drainage areas or other public service within the River Corridor. (Fridley).

3. Implementation Actions

A. Required Implementation Actions

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Include facilities in the capital improvement program for parks and open space facilities (if relevant).
- Develop a system for reviewing, tracking, and monitoring open space required as part of the subdivision process.

B. Examples

None available from existing plans

MRCCA ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

Following is a summary of the types of MRCCA ordinance requirements that local governments must adopt. Understanding these requirements will help guide development of the MRCCA plan for effective ordinance administration.

General Development Standards for Public Facilities

1. Facilities must be designed and constructed to:
 - a. Minimize visibility of the facility
 - b. Comply with structure and bluff setback, height, and lot area standards, unless subject to applicable exceptions.
 - c. Be consistent with the vegetation management, land alteration, and stormwater standards
 - d. Avoid Primary Conservation Areas
 - e. Minimize disturbance of spawning and nesting times
2. In conducting facility right-of-way maintenance
 - a. Natural vegetation must be maintained to the extent feasible
 - b. When natural vegetation is removed, it must be replaced with native plants
 - c. Chemical control of vegetation must be avoided.
3. Specific standards for recreational facilities:
 - a. Buildings and parking must comply with setback standards, unless subject to applicable exceptions.
 - b. Hard-surface trails are not allowed on the face of bluffs with slopes exceeding 30%.
 - c. Trails, paths and viewing areas must minimize
 - i. Impacts to Public River Corridor Views (PRCVs)
 - ii. Disturbance to and fragmentation of Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs).

Subdivision

1. The CA-SR district requires a 10% set aside only if the parcel contains native plant communities OR provides feasible connections to a regional park or trail system.
2. Land dedicated for public access or public facilities may be counted towards the open space set aside requirement.
3. Protected open space must connect with natural and recreational areas, where present on adjacent parcels, to form an interconnected network.

MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Matthew Bauman (matthew.bauman@state.mn.us) at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for additional information.

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MRCCA PRIMARY CONSERVATION AREAS

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INTRODUCTION

MRCCA plans must identify and protect primary conservation areas (PCAs).

Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs) are defined in the MRCCA rules (6106.0050, Subp. 53) as key resources and features, including shore impact zones (SIZ), bluff impact zones (BIZ), floodplains, wetlands, gorges, areas of confluence with tributaries, natural drainage routes, unstable soils and bedrock, native plant communities, cultural and historic properties, significant existing vegetative stands, tree canopies and “other resources” identified in local government MRCCA plans.

MINIMUM MRCCA PLAN REQUIREMENTS

1. Map and Describe

Describe the PCAs in your community and, where applicable, map them according to the groupings and instructions listed below. Maps for items 1 – 5 below have been prepared as downloadable PDFs and JPGs and are available on your community page. Detailed mapping instructions are provided below for those who want to work with spatial data and create custom maps. GIS data is available for download through the Minnesota Geospatial Commons (MnGeo) and from the link “Download your Community Shapefiles” on your community page.

1. **Shore impact zones (SIZs).** SIZs apply to the Mississippi and all of its backwaters, as well as to its four key tributaries, including the Crow, Rum, Minnesota, and Vermillion rivers. The depth of the SIZ on these rivers varies by district. Use the DNR’s “Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) Shore Impact Zones (SIZ)” data to map them. It may help to layer the SIZ data over the DNR’s “Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) Districts” data to show how the depth of the shore impact zone varies with district. Depending on the size and shape of your community, it may not make “visual” sense to map SIZs. In this case, simply describe what they are and why they are important.
2. **Wetlands, floodplains, and areas of confluence with key tributaries.** Place the “Circular 39 Class (2009-2014)” NWI data over the FEMA floodplain data. Maps are not required to differentiate between specific wetland types or flood zones. The area of confluence with key tributaries is the general floodplain area at the confluences of the Mississippi with the Crow, Rum, Minnesota, and Vermillion rivers.
3. **Natural drainage routes.** Use the DNR’s “Stream Routes – Major River Centerlines,” data to map natural drainage routes. Show “Stream Routes – Major River Centerlines” over the “LiDAR Hillshade” layer. Draw in any obvious drainage ways in your community not shown by the stream centerlines.
4. **Bluff impact zones (BIZs).** Use the DNR’s “Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) Bluff Impact Zones” data to map bluff features and the associated 20 foot buffer around each bluff. Within the geodatabase link, use the file “MRCCA Bluff Impact Zones.lyr”. Alternatively, you may generate your own bluff features using the DNR’s Bluff Mapping Tool, available on MnGeo. You will then need to create a 20 foot buffer around each bluff to create BIZs. Note that the DNR’s BIZ data has not been cleaned up to remove man-made features. Communities wanting to remove man-made features will have to edit the data. Man-made features are not subject to MRCCA regulations.
5. **Native plant communities and significant existing vegetative stands.** For mapping native plant communities, use the DNR’s “Native Plant Communities” data. Native plant communities are mapped by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) and identify sites that are 5 acres or greater and meet the criteria established by the MBS to qualify as a native plant community.

For mapping significant existing vegetative stands, use the dataset “National Park Service Vegetation Inventory Program, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, Minnesota”. Within the geodatabase link, use the file “MRCCA Significant Existing Vegetative Stands.lyr”. This data was developed for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) Vegetation Inventory Project. The vegetation inventory classified and mapped all existing vegetation stands within the MNRRA (which shares the same boundary as the MRCCA). The purpose

of the project was to develop baseline vegetation information to support resource assessment, planning, and management. Ecologists, botanists, and mappers collaborated to identify and describe vegetation types using the U.S. National Vegetation Classification system. Vegetation types were identified using color-infrared digital aerial imagery from September and October 2012. This data is the most current and comprehensive inventory of existing, intact plant communities in the corridor. For complete details, please see [the full report](#). Please contact Andrew Strassman (astrassman@usgs.gov or 641.781.6386) at the USGS for questions about the inventory.

The “MRCCA Significant Existing Vegetative Stands” layer (.lyr) file was created by the DNR, but derived from the NPS’ inventory, to only depict existing vegetation stands considered “significant.” The plant communities identified in this layer file are significant because they are largely intact and connected and contain a sufficient representation of the original native plant community to be identifiable as a distinct class. Much of this vegetation includes an overstory or tree canopy that contributes to the scenic value of the MRCCA. This vegetation provides high ecological value in addition to the water quality and scenic values of “natural vegetation.” Ecologically, this vegetation provides species diversity, habitat for endangered and threatened plants (supporting 19 state-listed rare plant species and 15 state-listed rare animal species in the MRCCA), and a continuous corridor where plants and animals can naturally spread and disperse. This latter characteristic is especially important as habitat becomes more fragmented, climate change accelerates, and invasive species increase. In addition, these vegetation areas serve as living remnants of the original native communities that existed in the corridor, even though they do not meet the size and quality criteria to be classified as a Native Plant Community by the MBS.

If a local government determines that areas mapped as significant existing vegetation stands in the layer file are not accurate, contact the DNR for guidelines on removing areas from the NPS data. If a community determines that all of the vegetation in the layer file is accurately displayed, then no further analysis is required.

To get more out of their plans, communities may supplement the areas mapped using the NPS data with additional areas using data from the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS), local vegetation inventories, or information on restored areas.

For the purposes of identifying significant existing vegetative stands, maps are not required to differentiate between specific plant community types.

Display the native plant communities layer over significant existing vegetative stands.

6. **Cultural and historic properties.** Describe, list and/or map sites listed in the “National Register of Historic Places,” including historic landmarks and districts, as well as those determined to be eligible for national historic status and sites identified as having local cultural or historical significance.
7. **Gorges.** The gorge is generally located between St. Anthony Falls and the High Bridge. If applicable to your community, map and/or describe this area and its scenic and ecological value.
8. **Unstable soils and bedrock.** Map and/or describe known or probable areas of unstable soils and bedrock.

2. Policies

A. Required Policies

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Protect PCAs (List those specifically found in your community) and minimize impact to PCAs from public and private development and land use activities (landscape maintenance, river use, walking/hiking, etc.).
- Support mitigation of impacts to PCAs through, subdivisions/PUDs, variances, CUPs, and other permits.
- Make restoration of removed Native Plant Communities and natural vegetation in riparian areas a high priority during development.
- Support alternative design standards that protect the LGU’s identified PCAs, such as conservation design, transfer of development density, or other zoning and site design techniques that achieve better protections or restoration of primary conservation areas.
- Make permanent protection measures (such as public acquisition, conservation easement, deed restrictions, etc.) that protect PCAs a high priority.

B. Examples

The following example policies are from existing MRCCA plans, and are meant to provide ideas for developing policies to protect and restore PCAs:

Vegetation Management

- Clear cutting is prohibited except as necessary for placing public roads, utilities, structures, and parking areas where these uses are permitted consistent with the other policies of this plan. Selective removal of natural vegetation may be allowed, provided that sufficient vegetative cover remains to screen cars, dwellings, and other structures when viewed from the water. Natural vegetation shall be restored to the extent feasible after any construction project is completed to retard surface runoff and soil erosion and to provide screening. Adequate erosion protection measures such as trees and vegetation plantings on slopes shall be used to ensure that soil loss levels do not degrade the protected water body. Cutting of “non-native invasive plant species” should not be prohibited. (Minneapolis)
- Identify and protect areas of significant vegetation, unique vegetative species and wildlife habitats within the corridor and retain existing vegetation and landscaping. (Fridley)
- Support the minimization of vegetative cutting to retain existing vegetation and landscaping and encourage landowners to reestablish native vegetation. Provide information and encourage use of alternatives to fertilizer and pesticides (Brooklyn Park)
- Protect natural resources with preservation areas on public land and work to restore wildlife habitat, particularly for threatened and endangered species, and preserve biological diversity in all areas of the corridor, especially development projects. (Brooklyn Park)
- Removal of natural vegetation in the MRCCA is prohibited, as all development shall be located to preserve the natural features of the site and to preserve significant trees or plant communities (including remnant stands of native trees or prairie grasses or plant communities that are rare to the area or of particular value). Also to be preserved are trees with a diameter at breast height of 12 inches or larger. (Minneapolis)
- Protect rare species and native plant communities by educating owners of property containing, or adjacent to properties containing, rare species and native plant communities of best management practices.

Subdivision/Development

- Conservation design and other innovative residential and mixed use development design techniques shall be encouraged within the (specify) District of the Hastings MRCCA to preserve open space, vegetative stands, and wildlife habitat areas. (Hastings)
- Subdivisions shall be designed to preserve natural topography, wildlife habitat areas and native resource features, to the extent possible. (Hastings)
- Preferred site plans will preserve existing vegetation, minimize vegetative cutting of existing trees, and include new native species plantings within the Corridor to improve scenic quality, to screen visually intrusive elements, to provide habitat and increase biological diversity, and to minimize erosion. (Dayton)
- Encourage private landowners within 300 feet of the river to retain existing undeveloped land as open space. (Mendota)

Unstable Soils and Bedrock

- Projects proposing stormwater facilities in Karst-sensitive areas must complete a Karst sensitivity analysis consistent with the LSCWMO Karst Feature Inventory and Management Plan (2007). (Denmark Twp)

Cultural and Historic Properties

- Work with the Anoka County Historical Society (ACHS), the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Native American groups and any other interested organizations to identify, protect and preserve historic sites, historic buildings and archeological resources within the corridor. (Fridley)
- Sites of historical and natural interest shall be preserved and access shall be promoted to these sites for the enjoyment of residents, if appropriate. Where development and access would affect a historical or archeological site, the appropriate special interest groups shall be notified to work together with the City in development decisions. (Dayton)
- Work with the Dakota County and Minnesota Historical Societies to identify and protect the City’s cultural landscapes. (South St Paul)
- The city encourages the use of historic properties in public and private riverfront development plans, particularly where interpretation of historic themes is planned. Structures and landscapes listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and those designated as local sites should be preserved in their present condition... (St Paul).

3. Implementation Actions

A. Required Implementation Actions

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Ensure that information on the location of PCAs is readily available to property owners to understand how PCA-relevant ordinance requirements, such as vegetation management and land alteration permits, apply to their property for project planning and permitting.
- Establish procedures and criteria for processing applications with potential impacts to PCAs, including:
 - ☐ identifying the information that must be submitted and how it will be evaluated,
 - ☐ determining appropriate mitigation procedures/methods for variances and CUPs,
 - ☐ establishing evaluation criteria for protecting PCAs when a development site contains multiple types of PCAs and the total area of PCAs exceed the required set aside percentages.
- Developing administrative procedures for integrating DNR and local permitting of riprap, walls and other hard armoring. (**Note:** Application procedures will be a required element of MRCCA ordinance review and approval.)

B. Examples

None available from existing plans

MRCCA ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

Following are specific ordinance requirements that pertain to PCAs. Understanding these requirements will help guide development of the MRCCA plan for effective ordinance administration.

Structure and Impervious Surface Placement

1. Structures and impervious surface must not be located in the SIZ or BIZ
2. Roads and driveways associated with public recreational facilities must not be located in the SIZ or BIZ, unless no alternative
3. Hard-surface trails are not allowed on bluffs exceeding 30%
4. Water-oriented accessory structures (WOAS) not allowed in BIZ
5. Trails, and viewing areas (signs, kiosks) for public recreational facilities allowed in BIZ and SIZ if consistent with BMPs
6. Limits on private access path widths in SIZ and BIZ
7. Structures and impervious surfaces (including private roads & parking) must be set back specific distances from the OHWL and bluffline.
8. Decks/patios may encroach into setbacks from OHWL and bluff lines per formula, but not into BIZ
9. Mining is prohibited in SIZ/BIZ and bluffline setback
10. Cell towers prohibited in SIZ/BIZ

Variances and CUPs

1. Negative impacts to PCAs must be evaluated for variances and CUPs
2. If impacts, then mitigation required

Project Information

1. LGUs must require submission of relevant project information to evaluate how proposed development complies with MRCCA plans and ordinances, including maps, plans and other materials that describe PCAs. Drainage patterns, existing topo, existing vegetation, OHWL, and blufflines are PCA-related features that are specifically listed in addition to PCAs.

Vegetation Management

1. Intensive clearing not allowed (except by permit) in the following PCAs: SIZ, BIZ, within 50 feet of wetlands or natural drainage ways, native plant communities, and significant vegetative stands.
2. Intensive clearing not allowed except for the “minimum necessary for development that is allowed as an exception under part 6106.0180.” This is provision 6106.0150 Subp. 3. A. (5).
3. Applicants requesting permits to allow intensive clearing must submit information to evaluate permits.
4. Local governments must attach conditions to permits to assure:
 - Development is sited to minimize removal/disturbance of natural vegetation
 - Removal activities are conducted so as to expose the smallest practical area of soil for the least possible time.
 - Soil, slope stability and hydrologic conditions are suitable for proposed work, as determined by engineer or resource agency.
 - Clearing is confined to the minimum area necessary and blends with terrain and minimizes visual impact to PRCVs.
 - Vegetation restoration:
 - ☐ For any native plant communities (NPCs) removed they must be replaced with vegetation of

- equivalent function.
 - ☐ For all other vegetation removed they must be restored with natural vegetation to the greatest extent practicable.
 - ☐ Restoration priorities:
 - ☐ Stabilization of erodible soils
 - ☐ Shoreline/riparian edge
 - ☐ Bluffs and steep slopes visible from river
- Disturbance of highly erodible soils is replanted with deep-rooted vegetation

Land Alteration

1. Land alteration is prohibited in the BIZ except by permit
2. Stormwater facilities are prohibited in BIZ except by permit
3. Land alteration in the water quality impact zone (WQIZ) over 10 cy or 1,000 sf requires a permit. The WQIZ is land within the SIZ or within 50 feet of public water wetland or natural drainage way, whichever is greater.
4. Construction/replacement of riprap/retaining walls within the BIZ and WQIZ are only allowed by permit
5. Permits to conduct riprap work below the OHWL require approval of the DNR Commissioner
6. Riprap must not exceed the height of the regulatory flood protection elevation (RFPE)
7. In the WQIZ, new/reconstructed impervious surface over 10,000 sf requires SW permit
8. Local governments must attach conditions to permits to assure: (covered similarly under the veg permit)
 - Natural site topo, soil and vegetation are used to control runoff and reduce erosion
 - Work is consistent with vegetation standards (prohibition on intensive clearing)
 - For SW facilities in BIZ – construction/operation does not affect slope stability and mitigation is applied to minimize risk of slope failure.

Subdivision

1. Standards apply to subdivisions, PUDs, and master-planned development and redevelopment of land.
2. Ordinance must contain provisions, including incentives, for “alternative design methods” such as conservation design, transfer of development density, or other zoning and site design techniques that achieve better protections or restoration of primary conservation areas.
3. PCAs, where they exist, must be set aside (in amounts specific to each district) as open space and permanently protected.
4. The CA-SR district requires a 10% set aside only if the parcel contains native plant communities OR provides feasible connections to a regional park or trail system.
5. If the amount of PCAs exceeds the required set aside, the LGU can determine which PCAs are to be protected.
6. If PCAs exist but do not have natural vegetation, then a vegetation assessment must be completed for the areas to be protected to determine whether vegetation restoration is needed.
7. If no PCAs, the LGU must determine whether any portion of the site has been identified as potential restoration areas (Restoration Priorities Plan Element). If potential restoration areas exist, then vegetation must be restored.
8. Storm water treatment or other green infrastructure may be used to meet the open space set aside requirements if the vegetation provides biological and ecological functions.
9. Any land dedicated for public access or “public facilities” may be counted toward the set-aside requirements.
10. Open space must be permanently protected by acquisition, easement, deed restrictions or other arrangements that achieve an equivalent degree of protection by local government.
11. Protected open space areas must connect open space, natural areas, and recreational areas, where present on adjacent parcels, as much as possible to form a connected network.
12. LGUs requiring dedication must encourage dedication of lands suitable for river access, parks, open space, SW management within the MRCCA.

MORE INFORMATION

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INTRODUCTION

MRCCA plans must identify and protect those public river corridor views and other scenic views deemed important by the community.

Specifically, each community must identify Public River Corridor Views (PRCVs):

1. Views toward the river from public parkland, historic properties, and public overlooks. These are views from “specific places” where views can be mapped and described, and
2. Views toward bluffs from the ordinary high water level (OHWL) of the opposite shore, as seen during the summer months.
3. Other scenic views that are valued by the community may be identified. Views from specific places that are accessible to the public can also be mapped and described.

MINIMUM MRCCA PLAN REQUIREMENTS

1. Map and Describe

Map and describe these PRCVs in your community. Community values are critical to selecting PRCVs and thus each community must select PRCVs that they value – No PRCVs or maps have been prepared for download from your community page.

1. For views toward the river from public places, map at least one view from each public parkland and public overlook, if any, located in the community that has a view toward the river. Also, map views toward the river from those historic properties with views most important to the community. Document each view with the following:
 - Photo taken during leaf-on conditions. View of river should be in the frame.
 - Map showing the location the photo was taken from with two arrows indicating the general boundaries of the view as depicted in the photo and point in the direction of the view.
 - Description of what makes the view valuable. The guidance document “Framework for identifying and selecting PRCVs” provides information on how to discuss and describe views.
 - Description of what changes would negatively or positively impact the view.**(Note:** If there are no public parklands or public overlooks in your community, this requirement does not apply.)
2. For views toward bluffs from the OHWL of the opposite shore:
 - Map and describe areas along the OHWL in your community where there are highly valued views of bluffs across the river (these may be in another community). For these areas with valuable views describe what makes them valuable. This may include photos and identifying what makes the view valuable and what would negatively or positively impact the view.
 - Identify bluffs in your community where the views of those bluffs from across the river may be of value to other communities or river users.
 - As part of the Met Council’s 6-month adjacent community plan review process, consider providing comments on views to bluffs across the river in adjacent communities valued by your citizens, and consider comments from other communities about the views they value in your community.**(Note:** If there are no bluffs in your community or bluffs visible from your community, this requirement does not apply.)
3. Map and/or describe other views important to your community - Optional

2. Policies

A. Required Policies

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Protect and minimize impacts to PRCVs from public and private development activities.
- Protect and minimize impacts to PRCVs from public and private vegetation management activities.
- Protect PRCVs located within the community and identified by other communities (adjacent or across the river).

B. Examples

The following example policies are from existing MRCCA plans, and are meant to provide ideas for developing policies to protect Public River Corridor Views:

- Prohibit installation of billboards or other advertisement signs that are visible from the river or its opposite shores. (Fridley)
- Evaluate possibilities for removal of billboards within the corridor when there are opportunities to do so. (South St Paul)
- The City will continue to enforce the controls on billboards that exist in the zoning ordinance. Specifically prohibited are off-premises advertising signs and billboards that would be visible from the river, with the exception of signs designated by the Heritage Preservation Commission. No advertising sign or billboard shall be located within 300 feet of a parkway or a public park of three acres or more. (Minneapolis)
- Structure site and location shall be regulated to ensure that riverbanks, bluffs and scenic overlooks remain in their natural state, and to minimize interference with views of and from the river, except for specific uses requiring river access. (Brooklyn Park)
- The City will prevent development that blocks or has a significant negative impact on key scenic views and encourages design which preserves, enhances, or creates key scenic views. Walls of tall buildings along the river corridor should be avoided. (Minneapolis)
- The City shall preserve existing scenic vistas and cultural landscapes of the Mississippi Rivers through such techniques as subdivision and development design, easement acquisition and land/ easement dedication. (Hastings)
- New development shall be designed to allow for off-site views to the Mississippi River and associated natural features. (Hastings)
- The city will work with the river corridor neighborhoods to identify additional river views or view corridors. River views and overlook points should be linked to the city's walking paths and trail system, whenever feasible. (St. Paul)
- Public views from the uplands or terrace to the water edge of the opposite side of the river should be maximized. (St. Paul)
- Promote preservation and creation of natural screening and buffering of existing and new commercial/ industrial development areas. (South St Paul)
- The scenic quality of the shorelines should be improved by:
 - ☐ Insisting on high quality urban design and site planning.
 - ☐ Minimizing shoreline parking and outdoor storage.
 - ☐ In the Upper River and Lower Gorge sections, screening buildings structures (other than historically designated buildings or structures), roads, parking, and outdoor storage with landscape, and in the Downtown section as appropriate.
 - ☐ Aiding the rehabilitation or removal of obsolete and visually blighted structures.
 - ☐ Creating linear parks along the Upper River.
 - ☐ Use of native vegetation appropriate to the ecology of the site. (Minneapolis)
- In general, structures within the Critical Area should be shorter when located closer to the river. Taller structures are possible within the Critical Area as distance from the river increases or measures are taken to provide some level of screening, buffering and/or enhancement of views of and from the river. (Minneapolis)
- In lowland areas, new development should employ building envelopes that heighten the experience of the river corridor by preserving public views to the top of the High Bluff. (St. Paul)
- The city supports maintaining building heights that maximize public views of the high bluff lines from the high water mark on the opposite side of the river. (St. Paul)
- In upland areas, the general character of the existing silhouette of lower-profile buildings along the edge should be maintained. Development should also respect the mature tree canopy at the bluff edge of the uplands with building forms that do not dominate the canopy's natural height. However, occasional, modest exceptions to the silhouette with medium-scaled landmark buildings are allowed. (St. Paul)
- Planning for terrace redevelopment sites should be careful to consider views of the terrace from Fort Snelling as referenced in the design criteria for the Shepard-Davern zoning overlay. (St. Paul)

3. Implementation Actions

A. Required Implementation Actions

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Ensure that information on the location of PRCVs is readily available to property owners to understand how PRCV-relevant ordinance requirements, such as vegetation management and land alteration permits, apply to their property for project planning and permitting.
- Establish procedures for processing applications with potential impacts to PRCVs, including:
 - ☐ identifying the information that must be submitted and how it will be evaluated,
 - ☐ developing visual analysis approach for CUPs for additional height in the RTC and UM districts

- (if applicable), as well as for proposed PUDs and variances, and
 - ☐ determining appropriate mitigation procedures/methods for variances and CUPs.
- (**Note:** Application procedures will be a required element of MRCCA ordinance review and approval).
- Actively communicate with other communities to protect views other communities have identified in your community that are valuable, and vice versa.

B. Examples

None available from existing plans.

MRCCA ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

Following is a summary of ordinance requirements that pertain to the protection of PRCVs. Understanding these requirements will help guide development of the MRCCA plan for effective ordinance administration.

Variances and CUPs

1. Negative impacts to PRCVs must be evaluated for variances and CUPs.
2. If impacts, then mitigation is required and must be proportional, have a relationship to, and offset the impacts

Project Information

1. Relevant project information must be submitted to LGUs to evaluate how development complies with MRCCA plans and ordinances. Relevant information includes maps, plans, visual impact assessment and other materials that identify and describe PRCVs and evaluate impacts to PRCVs.

Wireless Communication Facilities

1. Placement must minimize impacts on PRCVs.

Structure Design and Placement in the RTC, UM and the UC Districts

1. Placement must minimize impacts on PRCVs.
2. Tiering of structures away from the river and blufflines is prioritized.
3. For buildings in RTC district, taller buildings are allowed with consideration of the relationship of building height to the mature treeline, where present, and existing surrounding development, as viewed from the OWHL of the opposite shore and from PRCVs. Buildings taller than the maximum height in the RTC and UM district require a CUP.
4. CUP Criteria for buildings exceeding height limits in RTC and UM Districts must include:
 - A visual impact assessment on PRCVs including PRCVs in other communities.
 - Identification and application of techniques to minimize building bulk.
 - Identification of techniques for preserving PRCVs identified in the plan.
 - Opportunities for creation or enhancement of PRCVs.

Public Facilities

Ordinance requirements and questions related to each requirement:

1. All public facilities must be designed to minimize visibility consistent with the purpose of the facility.
2. Trails, paths and viewing areas must be designed and constructed to minimize visual impacts on PRCVs.
3. Public signs and kiosks are allowed in BIZ/SIZ if they avoid impacts on PRCVs

Subdivision

In reviewing and approving permit applications, permit conditions must ensure that vegetative clearing is the minimum necessary and designed to blend with the natural terrain and minimize visual impacts to PRCVs.

MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Matthew Bauman (matthew.bauman@state.mn.us) at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for additional information.

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MRCCA RESTORATION PRIORITIES

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

MRCCA plans must identify areas that are priorities for restoration of natural vegetation, erosion prevention, bank and slope stabilization, or other restoration activities.

Restoration measures are often needed to maintain resource integrity and water quality. Development and redevelopment activities represent opportunities to restore natural vegetation, prevent erosion and stabilize slopes. Communities must identify areas that are priorities for:

- Restoration of natural vegetation, and
- Erosion prevention, bank and slope stabilization, or other restoration activities.

MINIMUM MRCCA PLAN REQUIREMENTS

1. Map and Describe

- Map and describe areas identified as priorities for natural vegetation restoration. A downloadable PDF and JPG are available on your community page to meet this requirement. If you want to do your own analysis to identify restoration priorities use the [Framework for identifying Vegetation Restoration Priorities](#). This same framework was used to develop the restoration priorities map on your community pages. All spatial data used in the framework is available through the Minnesota Geospatial Commons and from the link “Download your Community Shapefiles” on your community page.
- Describe areas identified as concerns for erosion prevention, bank and slope stabilization and other identified restoration activities that may be required as part of development. Refer to studies and reports completed by the community and other organizations (conservation districts, watershed districts, counties, etc.) and issues identified by citizens, and summarize priorities for action. If these areas have not been identified, state in your plan that they have not been identified.

2. Policies

A. Required Policies

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Protect native and existing vegetation during the development process, and require restoration if any is removed by development. Priorities for restoration shall include stabilization of erodible soils, riparian buffers and bluffs or steep slopes visible from the river.
- Seek opportunities to restore vegetation to protect and enhance PRCVs identified in this plan.
- Seek opportunities to restore vegetation in restoration priority areas identified in this plan through the CUP, variance, vegetation permit and subdivision/PUD processes.
- Sustain and enhance ecological functions (habitat value) during vegetation restorations.
- Evaluate proposed development sites for erosion prevention and bank and slope stabilization issues and require restoration as part of the development process.

B. Examples

The following example policies are from existing MRCCA plans, and are meant to provide ideas for developing policies related to restoration priorities (not all requirements identified above have a corresponding example):

- Encourage residents within the river corridor to replace diseased trees with new plantings and to use other vegetative plantings on the riverbanks and steep slopes to control erosion. (Fridley)
- Require increased native landscaping on all sides of developments located east of Concord Street, within the corridor, or adjacent to the Mississippi River Regional Trail (MRRT). (South St Paul)
- Encourage the restoration of degraded wetlands where practical. (Denmark Twp)

3. Implementation Actions

A. Required Implementation Actions

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Ensure that information on the location of natural vegetation restoration priorities is readily available to property owners to understand how relevant ordinance requirements apply to their property for project planning and permitting.
- Establish a vegetation permitting process that includes permit review procedures to ensure consideration of restoration priorities identified in this plan in permit issuance, as well as standard conditions requiring vegetation restoration for those priority areas. (**Note:** A vegetation permitting process will be a required element of MRCCA ordinance review and approval.)
- Establish process for evaluating priorities for natural vegetation restoration, erosion prevention and bank and slope stabilization, or other restoration priorities identified in this plan in CUP, variances and subdivision/PUD processes. (**Note:** A process for evaluating priorities will be a required element of MRCCA ordinance review and approval.)

B. Examples

None available from existing plans

MRCCA ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

Following are specific ordinance requirements that pertain to restoration priorities. Understanding these requirements will help guide development of the MRCCA plan for effective ordinance administration.

Variances and CUPs

1. Pre-identified vegetation restoration priorities can be used to guide development of conditions of approval for variances and CUPs to mitigate impacts, where relevant.

Vegetation Management

1. Any vegetation removed through a LGU vegetation permit must be restored with natural vegetation to the greatest extent practicable. Pre-identified vegetation restoration priorities, where relevant, can help guide development of conditions of approval for vegetation permits in addition to parcel specific restoration priorities identified at the time of project application.

Subdivision

1. If PCAs exist but do not have natural vegetation, then a vegetation assessment must be completed for the areas to be protected to determine whether vegetation restoration is needed at the time of development.
2. If PCAs don't exist on the development parcel, the LGU must determine whether any portions of the site have been identified as potential restoration areas in the plan. When such areas have been identified, vegetation must be restored consistent with the restoration plan standards and set aside as protected open space areas at the time of development.

MORE INFORMATION

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MRCCA SURFACE WATER USES

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

MRCCA plans must minimize potential conflict of surface water uses, if applicable, as authorized under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 86B. Surface water uses are uses of the river surface such as recreational boat traffic, barge fleetings (a managed parking lot for barges on the river) and commercial riverboat tours. Surface water uses are related to, but different from, water-oriented uses which are land uses (barge terminals, recreational marinas). This surface water use plan element is a combination of two plan elements from rules, part 6106.0070, Subp. 4.B.(4) and part of (5).

Surface water uses may cause surface water use conflicts and external impacts. Where these surface water uses exist, the plan should address how they will be managed to minimize external impacts and surface water conflicts.

MINIMUM MRCCA PLAN REQUIREMENTS

1. Describe (if applicable)

- Describe any existing and potential surface water use conflicts or negative impacts (e.g. riverbank erosion) and/or improvement opportunities (i.e., high-traffic boating and fishing areas, paddle-share, riverboat tours, rowing, barging, other uses) on the river in your community and explain why they are important to resolve or improve.
- Describe any existing and proposed barge fleetings areas (if applicable) and explain why they are important to the community, and identify areas where barge fleetings could have a negative impact on PCAs and should be avoided.

2. Policies (if applicable)

A. Required Policies

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Recognize the Mississippi River as a “working river” that is important to the economy of the Twin Cities metropolitan area and the Midwest.
- Minimize potential conflict of water surface uses authorized under Minn. Statute, Chapter 86B (MR 6110.3000 – 6110.3800). State whether your community is regulating surface water use under Chapter 86B. If so, there needs to be a policy to minimize conflict of surface water uses. If not, then this requirement does not apply.
- Provide for barge fleetings (if applicable) and identify areas where barge fleetings could have a negative impact on PCAs and should be avoided.
- Seek to balance commercial and recreational surface water uses.

B. Examples

The following example policies are from existing MRCCA plans, and are meant to provide ideas for developing policies related to surface water uses (not all requirements identified above have a corresponding example):

- For any project that may have river frontage, provisions shall be made for the use of the river for water transportation, which is consistent with adopted state and regional policies and regulations and applicable federal laws, and to minimize any adverse effects associated with such facilities. (Ramsey)
- The City will allow the placement of dredge spoils in areas where it is compatible in appearance with surrounding landforms and land uses. (Hastings)
- The City supports the maintenance of the 9’ navigation channel and Lock and Dam No. 2 for continued barge traffic. (Hastings)
- Barge fleetings facilities and seaplane operations shall not be permitted within the Hastings Critical Area/ MNRRA Corridor because of incompatibility with existing and planned land uses and safety considerations. (Hastings)
- The City acknowledges barge fleetings is necessary for commerce and will work to provide areas if determined appropriate. Locations for future fleetings or loading should be removed from residential areas and the marina facilities to prevent conflicts with recreational boat traffic. (Inver Grove Heights)

- To the extent possible, locate barge fleeting areas at least 200 feet from any marina and next to commercial or industrial areas. Fleeting area locations will be based on physical needs for effective operations subject to local, state, and federal environment and safety regulations. (MNRRA Comprehensive Management Plan)
- Evaluate potential noise and visual impacts before making decisions to expand or locate barge operations. (MNRRA Comprehensive Management Plan)
- Evaluate the potential for bottom disturbance and sediment resuspension from propwash and bank erosion caused by towboat wakes before making decisions to locate new (or relocate existing) barge fleeting areas. (MNRRA Comprehensive Management Plan)

3. Implementation Actions (if applicable)

A. Required Implementation Actions

- Adopt surface water regulations authorized under Minn. Statute, Chapter 86B (MR 6110.3000 – 6110.3800) if community is planning to regulate surface water uses. If no plans to regulate surface water use, then this action does not apply.

B. Examples

- Establish surface water regulations to limit wake generated erosion.

MRCCA ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

The MRCCA rules do not contain any ordinance requirements pertaining to surface water use.

MORE INFORMATION

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MRCCA TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

MRCCA plans must provide for public transportation facilities and public utilities in a manner consistent with Chapter 6106. Public transportation facilities are defined as all transportation facilities provided by federal, state, or local government and dedicated to public use, such as roadways, transit facilities, railroads, and bikeways. Public utilities are defined as electric power facilities, essential services, and transmissions services. Electric power facilities, essential services, and transmission services are further defined in the rules.

Transportation and utilities can have negative impacts on scenic views, habitat and soil erosion. Development of these facilities must be conducted in a manner that minimizes impacts. MRCCA plans should describe methods for minimizing impacts to the corridor's resources from transportation and utility facilities.

MINIMUM MRCCA PLAN REQUIREMENTS

1. Map and Describe

- Map and describe existing and future planned public transportation facilities within the MRCCA. This requirement can be met by including these facilities on the relevant “Roadways,” “Transit,” and “Bicycling and Walking” maps required under the Metropolitan Council’s Transportation and Parks and Trails Plan elements. The MRCCA boundary must be shown on these maps in order to identify existing and planned facilities in the MRCCA.
- Map and describe existing and future planned public utilities within the MRCCA. Specifically:
 - Electric power generating facilities: **Map** existing and planned power generating facilities, including solar farms and wind generation and **describe** impacts to primary conservation areas (PCAs) and public river corridor views (PRCVs). If there are no existing or planned facilities or they are prohibited in your community, or if there are existing or planned facilities but no impacts to PCAs or PRCVs, please state so.
 - Describe any existing or planned zoning districts where these facilities would be allowed and identify any areas within these zoning areas where these facilities could negatively impact PCAs and PRCVs. If none, please state so.
 - Essential services and transmission services: Describe impacts of existing and planned underground and overhead facilities that impact primary conservation areas (PCAs) and public river corridor views (PRCVs). For example, key facilities causing impacts include pipelines, transmission lines, sanitary sewer, stormwater, and water systems, and intake and outfall structures, or other surface structures associated with these systems. If there are no existing or planned facilities or if there are existing or planned facilities but no impacts to PCAs or PRCVs, please state so.

2. Policies

A. Required Policies

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Minimize impacts to PCAs and PRCVs from solar and wind generation facilities, public transportation facilities and public utilities.

B. Examples

The following example policies are from existing MRCCA plans, and are meant to provide ideas for developing policies related to transportation and public utilities (not all requirements identified above have a corresponding example):

- Ensure future development emphasizes continuous open space, minimizes utility and infrastructure needs and crossings (including transportation river crossings and concentrates them at existing crossings where possible), and allows for scenic vistas, trails and walkways. (Ramsey)
- Work with federal, state, and local government agencies and environmental protection groups to study the need for a potential bridge crossing. This includes studying alternatives such as expansion of existing bridges, adding additional lanes to existing crossings, and considering a greater reliance on intermodal transportation. (Ramsey)
- In planning and designing construction or reconstruction of all public transportation facilities in the corridor,

Continue to next page →

- consideration shall be given to provision for scenic overlooks, safe pedestrian crossings, public riverfront access, and reasonable use of land between the river and roadway. (Ramsey)
- Minimize utility crossings and encourage location of necessary crossings along existing bridges and utility crossings. If feasible, crossing should be underground and should not negatively impact natural or cultural significant resources. (Fridley)
- Property within the Hastings MRCCA/MNRRRA Corridor shall not be utilized as rights-of-way for new or modified above ground utility facilities unless it can be demonstrated by the proponent of a utility that the utility cannot be feasibly be place underground and it will not substantially impact the planned land and water uses of the area. (Hastings)
- Encourage, where practical, the placing of utilities underground. (Denmark Twp.)

3. Implementation Actions

A. Required Implementation Actions

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Include transportation facilities in the capital improvement program. If applicable, identify which facilities, or portions of facilities, are in the MRCCA.
- Incorporate specific design and placement conditions that minimize impacts to PCAs and PRCVs into local permits for solar and wind generation facilities and essential and transmission services (if allowed or within the community's permitting authority). (**Note:** Permit conditions will be a required element of MRCCA ordinance review and approval.)

B. Examples

None provided.

MRCCA ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

Following is a summary of the types of MRCCA ordinance requirements that local governments must adopt. Understanding these requirements will help guide development of the MRCCA plan for effective ordinance administration.

General Development Standards for Public Facilities

1. Facilities must be designed and constructed to:
 - a. Minimize visibility of the facility
 - b. Comply with structure and bluff setback, height, and lot area standards, unless subject to applicable exceptions.
 - c. Be consistent with the vegetation management, land alteration, and stormwater standards
 - d. Avoid Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs)
 - e. Minimize disturbance of spawning and nesting times
2. In conducting facility right-of-way maintenance
 - a. Natural vegetation must be maintained to the extent feasible
 - b. When natural vegetation is removed, it must be replaced with native plants
 - c. Chemical control of vegetation must be avoided.
3. Specific standards for recreational facilities:
 - a. Scenic overlooks.
 - b. Safe pedestrian crossings.
 - c. Access to the riverfront in public ownership
 - d. Use of land between the river and the transportation facility

MORE INFORMATION

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MRCCA WATER-ORIENTED USES

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

MRCCA plans must provide for existing and future water-oriented uses. Water-oriented land uses are commercial and industrial land uses that require water access such as barge terminals and recreational marinas. Water-oriented uses are land uses that are often related to, but are different from, surface water uses, which are **uses of the river surface** (barge fleeting, recreational boat traffic, riverboat tours). This water-oriented land use plan element is a combination of two plan elements from rules, part 6106.0070, Subp. 4.B .(5) and (6).

Water-oriented land uses provide economic benefits as well as external impacts and land use conflicts (road traffic, hours of operation, noise, increased water surface use). If existing and/or future land use plans include water-oriented uses, the plan should address how existing and future commercial and industrial water-oriented uses will be managed to minimize external impacts and land use conflicts.

MINIMUM MRCCA PLAN REQUIREMENTS

1. Map and Describe (if applicable)

- Describe what water-oriented uses are and why they are important (see description under “Introduction” above).
- Describe the presence of existing and any future-planned water-oriented uses – including barge terminals, recreational marinas, public recreational uses, and any other water-oriented uses –and their benefits to the community and potential conflicts.

2. Policies (if applicable)

A. Required Policies

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Acknowledge existing and future water-oriented uses and provide for their protection. If none, please state so.
- Minimize potential conflict of water-oriented uses with other land uses.

B. Examples (if applicable)

The following example policies are from existing MRCCA plans, and are meant to provide ideas for developing policies related to water-oriented uses (not all requirements identified above have a corresponding example):

- Require that riverfront development is compatible with riverfront uses, and preserves a natural appearance while minimizing interference with views to and from the river. (Ramsey)
- Identify land uses within the corridor that are inconsistent with river related uses or are potentially hazardous to natural resources and establish a plan for replacement use. (Ramsey)
- Access to the riverfront shall be incorporated, where appropriate, in new development and redevelopment activities within the Critical Area/MNRRRA Corridor. (Hastings)
- Limited marina expansion shall be permitted providing that the expansion complies with all shoreland, floodplain, protected waters, and Critical Area zoning regulations and does not interfere with other water uses. (Hastings)
- Limited temporary docking shall be permitted along the Mississippi River provided that there is no interference with other uses and that the facility complies with all shoreland, floodplain, protected waters, and Critical Area zoning regulations. (Hastings)
- Barge Terminal #1, Red Rock, and Southport will remain the city’s principal river port terminals. The city supports the Port Authority’s policy of replacing non-river-related businesses with river-related businesses at Southport and Red Rock Industrial Districts, as leases expire. (St Paul)
- A commercial landing for interstate cruise lines will be maintained at Lambert’s Landing (Lower Landing Park), in conjunction with other activities at Lambert’s Landing. A landing for local excursion boats will be maintained at Harriet Island Marina. (St. Paul)

3. Implementation Actions (if applicable)

A. Required Implementation Actions

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Provide for water-oriented uses in the ordinance (if applicable). (**Note:** This will be a requirement of MRCCA ordinance review and approval.)

B. Examples

None available from existing plans

MRCCA ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

The MRCCA rules provide design standards and exceptions to river and bluff setbacks for facilities associated with “public recreational use” and “river-dependent use.” The rules define “river-dependent use” as use of land for commercial, industrial, or utility purposes, where access to and use of a public water feature is an integral part of the normal conduct of business and where the use is dependent on shoreline facilities. “Shoreline facilities” are facilities that require a location adjoining public waters for ingress and egress, loading and unloading, etc.

MORE INFORMATION

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MRCCA SAMPLE PLAN OUTLINE

LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

At the request of numerous communities, the DNR prepared this outline as a suggested approach for local MRCCA plans. Communities do not have to follow this outline; it simply provides one way to structure a local MRCCA plan based on DNR's review of existing MRCCA plans and the minimum plan requirements under the MRCCA rules. Much of the content for local MRCCA plans is required under the MRCCA rules and is described in the requirements documents that are referenced and hyperlinked in this outline. All other suggested content is optional but encouraged.

INTRODUCTION

- Provide brief history and overview of the MRCCA, including goals of the MRCCA program (see [SONAR](#), pages 2-5, for history and timeline of MRCCA)
- Include a map of the MRCCA in your community
- Explain public input process for developing the MRCCA plan
- Summarize progress in accomplishing plan goals and policies since the last MRCCA plan

DISTRICTS

- Explain what districts are and why they are important for managing the MRCCA (see [SONAR](#), pages 42-44, for explanation of districts)
- Describe and map the districts in your community (see [MRCCA Districts Requirements](#), Item 1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

PRIMARY CONSERVATION AREAS (PCAS)

General Overview

- Explain what PCAs are and why they are important (see [SONAR](#), page 32, for general info on PCAs, and pages 22-28, for specific information on bluffs)

Shore Impact Zone

- Describe and, depending on the size and shape of the community, map shore impact zones in the community by district (see [MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements](#), Item 1.1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Floodplains & Wetlands (and Areas of Confluence with Key Tributaries, if applicable)

- Describe and map floodplains and wetlands in the community (see [MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements](#), Item 1.2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Natural Drainage Ways

- Describe and map natural drainage ways in the community (see [MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements](#), Item 1.3 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Bluffs & Bluff Impact Zones

- Describe and map bluff impact zones in the community, including any special bluff features and known risk areas in the community (see [MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements](#), Item 1.4 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Native Plant Communities & Significant Existing Vegetative Stands

- Describe and map both native plant communities and significant existing vegetative stands in the community (see [MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements](#), Item 1.5 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Cultural & Historic Properties

- Describe, list, and/or map cultural and historic properties in the community (see [MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements](#), Item 1.6 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Gorges (if applicable)

- Describe the gorge if it exists in the community (see [MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements](#), Item 1.7 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Unstable Soils & Bedrock

- Map and/or describe areas of unstable soils and bedrock in the community (see [MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements](#), Item 1.8 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

PUBLIC RIVER CORRIDOR VIEWS (PRCVS)

General Overview

- Describe what PRCVs are and why they are important (see [SONAR](#), page 33, for info on PRCVs)
- Explain:
 - ☐ the public process for identifying PRCVs important to the community, and
 - ☐ the process for obtaining feedback on PRCVs from other communities across the river

Views Toward River from Public Places

- Describe, map, and provide photos of select views toward the river from public parkland and overlooks, and historic properties (see [MRCCA Public River Corridor View Requirements](#), Item 1.1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Views Toward Bluffs from River

- Describe and map views of bluffs in community from river (see [MRCCA Public River Corridor View Requirements](#), Item 1.2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

Other Important Views

- Describe and map other views valued by the community (see [MRCCA Public River Corridor View Requirements](#), Item 1.3 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

PRIORITIES FOR RESTORATION

General Overview

- Explain what restoration priorities are and why they are important
- Describe how restoration priorities were identified and provide maps (see [MRCCA Restoration Priorities Requirements](#), Item 1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

SURFACE WATER USES

General Overview

- Describe what surface water uses are and why they are important
- Describe any existing and/or potential surface water use conflicts/impacts and/or opportunities (see [MRCCA Surface Water Uses Requirements](#), Item 1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

WATER-ORIENTED USES

General Overview

- Describe what water-oriented uses are and why they are important
- Describe where water-oriented uses exist/are planned and any potential conflicts (see [MRCCA Water-Oriented Uses Requirements](#), Item 1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

OPEN SPACE & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

General Overview

- Describe what open space and recreational facilities are and why they are important
- Map and describe existing and potential future open space and recreational facilities (see [MRCCA Open Space and Recreational Facilities Requirements](#), Item 1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES

General Overview

- Describe how transportation and utilities facilities can have a negative impact on the MRCCA if not located and designed properly

- Map and describe existing and future planned transportation and public utility facilities within the MRCCA (see [MRCCA Transportation & Public Utilities Requirements](#), Item 1 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements)

KEY ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Many communities have these outlined in their MRCCA plans
- Focus on what's most important for community in next 10 years

POLICIES

General

- Develop policies that generally recognize the importance of the MRCCA and further its goals

Districts/Land Use

- See [MRCCA Districts Requirements](#), Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs)

- See [MRCCA Primary Conservation Area Requirements](#), Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Public River Corridor Views (PRCVs)

- See [MRCCA Public River Corridor View Requirements](#), Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Restoration Priorities

- See [MRCCA Restoration Priorities Requirements](#), Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Surface Water Uses

- See [MRCCA Surface Water Uses Requirements](#), Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Water-Oriented Use

- See [MRCCA Water-Oriented Uses Requirements](#), Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Open Space & Recreational Facilities

- See [MRCCA Open Space and Recreational Facilities Requirements](#), Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

Transportation & Public Utilities

- See [MRCCA Transportation & Public Utilities Requirements](#), Item 2 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

For implementation actions required for each plan element, refer to Item 3 under Minimum MRCCA Plan Requirements in the relevant requirements document. For communities who put their implementation actions into one section at the end of the MRCCA plan, following is a suggested way to label and organize the required (and suggested) implementation actions. The element requirements document in which each action is a required implementation action is shown in parenthesis.

Ordinance Updates (MRCCA Overlay)

- Amend existing or adopt new MRCCA ordinance overlay district consistent with the goals and policies of the MRCCA plan, and with Minnesota Rules, part 6106.0070, Subp. 5 - Content of Ordinances. **(Districts)**
- Amend zoning map to reflect new districts. **(Districts)**
- List any actions to be taken to pursue implementation flexibility (if any areas were identified as needing implementation flexibility during the planning process). **(Districts)**
- Incorporate specific design and placement conditions that minimize impacts to PCAs and PRCVs into local permits for solar and wind generation facilities and essential and transmission services (if allowed or within the community's permitting authority). **(Transportation and Public Utilities)**
- Provide for water-oriented uses in the ordinance (if applicable). **(Water-oriented Uses)**

MRCCA Ordinance Administration

- Establish procedures and criteria for processing applications to ensure compliance with MRCCA dimensional and design standards and to evaluate potential impacts to PCAs and PRCVs, including:
 - ☐ identifying the information that must be submitted and how it will be evaluated **(PCAs, PRCVs)**,
 - ☐ determining appropriate mitigation procedures/methods for variances and CUPs **(PCAs, PRCVs)**, and

- establishing evaluation criteria for protecting PCAs when a development site contains multiple types of PCAs and the total area of PCAs exceed the required set aside percentages **(PCAs only)**
- Develop administrative procedures for integrating DNR and local permitting of riprap, walls and other hard armoring. **(PCAs)**
- Actively communicate with other communities to protect views they have identified in your community that are valuable, and vice versa. **(PRCVs)**
- Establish a vegetation permitting process that includes permit review procedures to ensure consideration of restoration priorities identified in this plan in permit issuance, as well as standard conditions requiring vegetation restoration for those priority areas. **(Restoration Priorities)**
- Establish process for evaluating priorities for natural vegetation restoration, erosion prevention and bank and slope stabilization, or other restoration priorities identified in this plan in CUP, variances and subdivision/PUD processes. **(Restoration Priorities)**
- Develop visual analysis approach for CUPs for additional height in the RTC and UM districts (if applicable), as well as for proposed PUDs and variances. **(PRCVs)**
- Develop a system for reviewing, tracking, and monitoring open space required as part of the subdivision process. **(Open Space and Recreational Facilities)**

Education & Outreach

- Ensure that information on the new MRCCA districts and zoning requirements, and the location of PCAs, PRCVs, and restoration priorities is readily available to property owners to help them understand which ordinance requirements - such as setbacks, height, vegetation management and land alteration permits - apply to their property for project planning and permitting. **(Districts, PCAs, PRCVs, Restoration Priorities)**
- Specific actions may include (suggested):
 - Develop outreach and communication strategy to alert MRCCA property owners of new districts and zoning requirements, and the location of PCAs, PRCVs, and restoration priorities.
 - Develop web materials (mapping applications, FAQs, handouts, and other materials) to help property owners identify if their property is in the MRCCA and what regulations apply.
 - Provide information to residents and park and facility users that these facilities are in the MRCCA, including information on what the MRCCA is and ways in which the resources are being protected.

Capital Improvements

- Include facilities in the capital improvement program for parks and open space facilities (if relevant). **(Open Space and Recreational Facilities)**
- Include transportation facilities in the capital improvement program. If applicable, identify which facilities, or portions of facilities, are in the MRCCA. **(Open Space and Recreational Facilities)**

Land Acquisition

- Identify specific land acquisitions within the MRCCA. (suggested, if applicable)

Specific Planning Efforts, Projects & Other Initiatives

- Adopt surface water regulations authorized under Minn. Statute, Chapter 86B (MR 6110.3000 – 6110.3800) if community is planning to regulate surface water uses. (If no plans to regulate surface water use, then this action does not apply.) **(Surface Water Uses)**
- Conduct feasibility studies/research as needed to address issues in the MRCCA. (suggested, if applicable)
- Coordinate with regional, state, and national park planning efforts within the MRCCA. (suggested, if applicable)
- Conduct master planning or other planning efforts Planning Efforts. (suggested, if applicable)
- Key corridor projects and initiatives. (suggested, if applicable)

MORE INFORMATION

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