

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

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

Content prepared by:



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LOCAL PLANNING
HANDBOOK

Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101

metrocouncil.org

Main: 651.602.1000
TTY: 651.291.0904
Public Information: 651.602.1500
public.info@metc.state.mn.us

