

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

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

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February 2018

LOCAL PLANNING
HANDBOOK

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