





Chapter 5

CRITICAL AREA PLAN

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. Throughout the Twin Cities, the MRCCA comprises 72 miles of river across 30 jurisdictions. In Maplewood, as seen in Figure 5-1, the MRCCA includes just 115 acres, or one percent of the City's 11,574 acres. These regulations protect and preserve the natural, scenic, recreational, and transportation resources of this section of the Mississippi River. Originally designated in 1976, local communities within the corridor are required to complete a MRCCA plan as a chapter of their Comprehensive Plan.

“ WHAT WE’VE HEARD

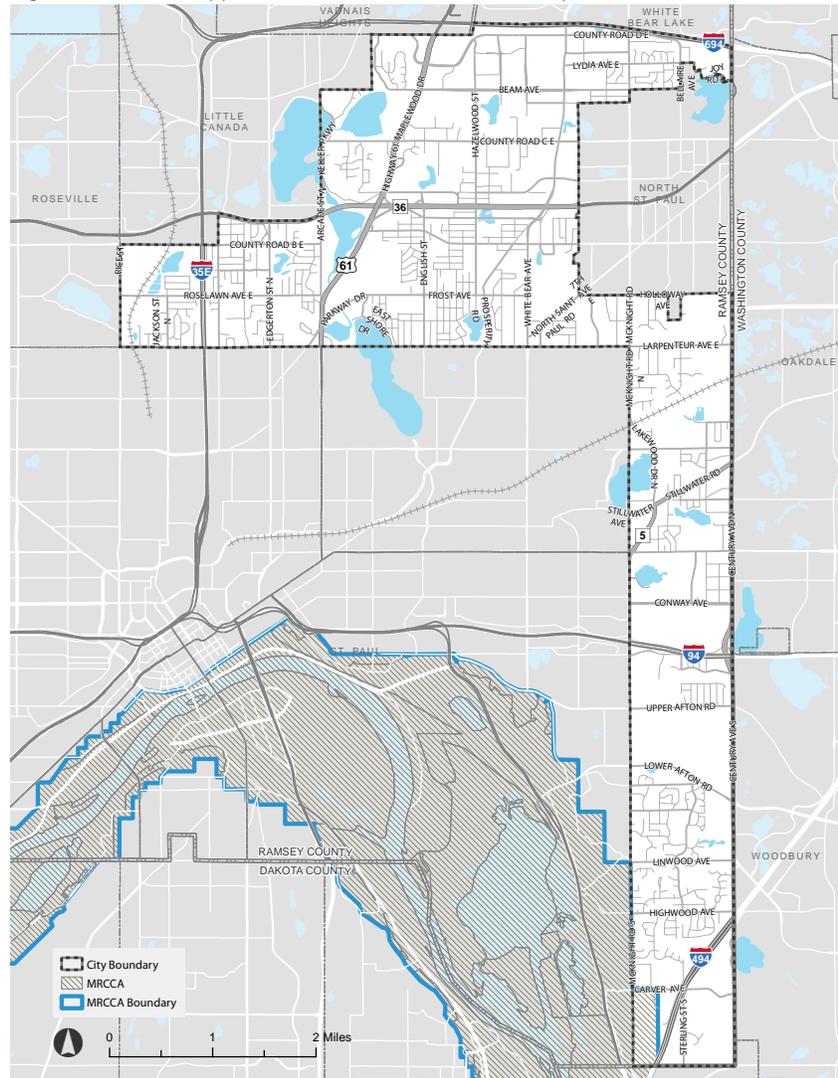
During the public engagement process one of the most popular and “liked” online comments included one praising the new Fish Creek Trail. Maplewood residents have expressed their enjoyment of this new trail as well as the desire to connect to and create other new trails within the MRCCA area.

In addition to enhancing trails, residents have also expressed the desire to preserve the steep hills and creek area south of Carver Avenue. The western half of this area within the city is part of the MRCCA.

Input received also encouraged the City to prioritize funding for active natural resources management in this area to ensure the preservation of high quality natural resources and vistas. Partnerships and collaborations with other governmental and non-governmental agencies was encouraged.

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Figure 5-1. Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area In Maplewood



History

The Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) was designated by Governor’s Executive Order in 1976, following the passage of the Minnesota Critical Areas Act of 1973.

On January 4, 2017, Minnesota Rules, chapter 6106 replaced Executive Order 79-19, which previously governed land use in the MRCCA. The rules require local governments to update their MRCCA plans and MRCCA ordinances for consistency with the rules.

The MRCCA is important because it 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. A brief timeline of the MRCCA history is below:

- » **1973** - Minnesota passes Critical Areas Act of 1973 (MN Statutes, Chapter 116G) Environmental Quality Board (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 National Park Service (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 Department of Natural Resources (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.

Progress Towards 2030 Plan

As a part of the City of Maplewood 2030 Comprehensive Plan, Maplewood acknowledged and adopted the goals of the “Urban Diversified District” which included:

- » The lands and waters shall be used as developed to maintain the present diversity of commercial, industrial, residential, and public uses of the lands, including the existing transportation uses of the river
- » Protect historical sites and areas, and the natural scenic and environmental resources
- » Expand public access to and enjoyment of the river.

In keeping with the goals of the MRCCA, the City of Maplewood, since the 2030 comprehensive plan was adopted, acquired 70 acres of land in 2013 to create the Fish Creek Preserve adjacent to Ramsey County’s 142-acre Fish Creek Open Space. This site is a natural area for wildlife and a place for people to experience and enjoy nature. Grants received for acquisition of the land restrict the land south of Fish Creek to passive uses. The City and County worked together on a 2012 Master Plan to guide improvements and restoration at their sites. The Master Plan was prepared jointly to ensure protection of natural resources, to provide public access to the site, and to ensure connectivity of habitats and trails. The plan was updated in 2016.

A new trail, which runs through both Maplewood & Ramsey County areas, was finished in November 2016 and is officially open. The trail is asphalt, so families can bike, blade, skate, or walk it with a stroller. The main loop is just under 1 mile.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 2030 PLAN

- » **Acquired 70 acres of land in 2013 to create the Fish Creek Preserve adjacent to Ramsey County’s 142-acre Fish Creek Open Space.**
- » **The City and County worked together on a 2012 Master Plan to guide improvements and restoration at their sites. The plan was updated in 2016.**
- » **A new 1 mile asphalt trail, which runs through both Maplewood & Ramsey County areas, was finished in November 2016.**

Figure 5-2. Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Districts

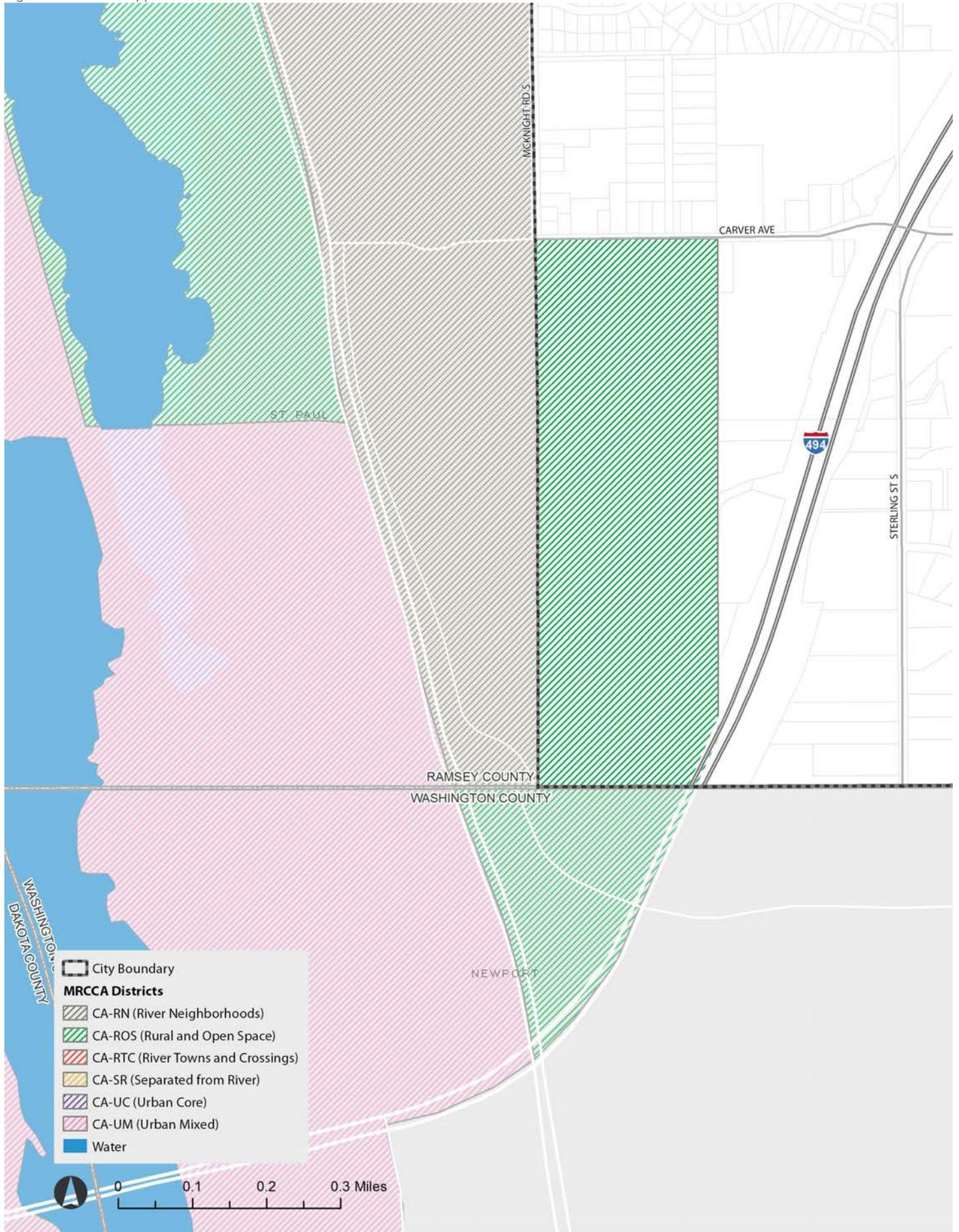
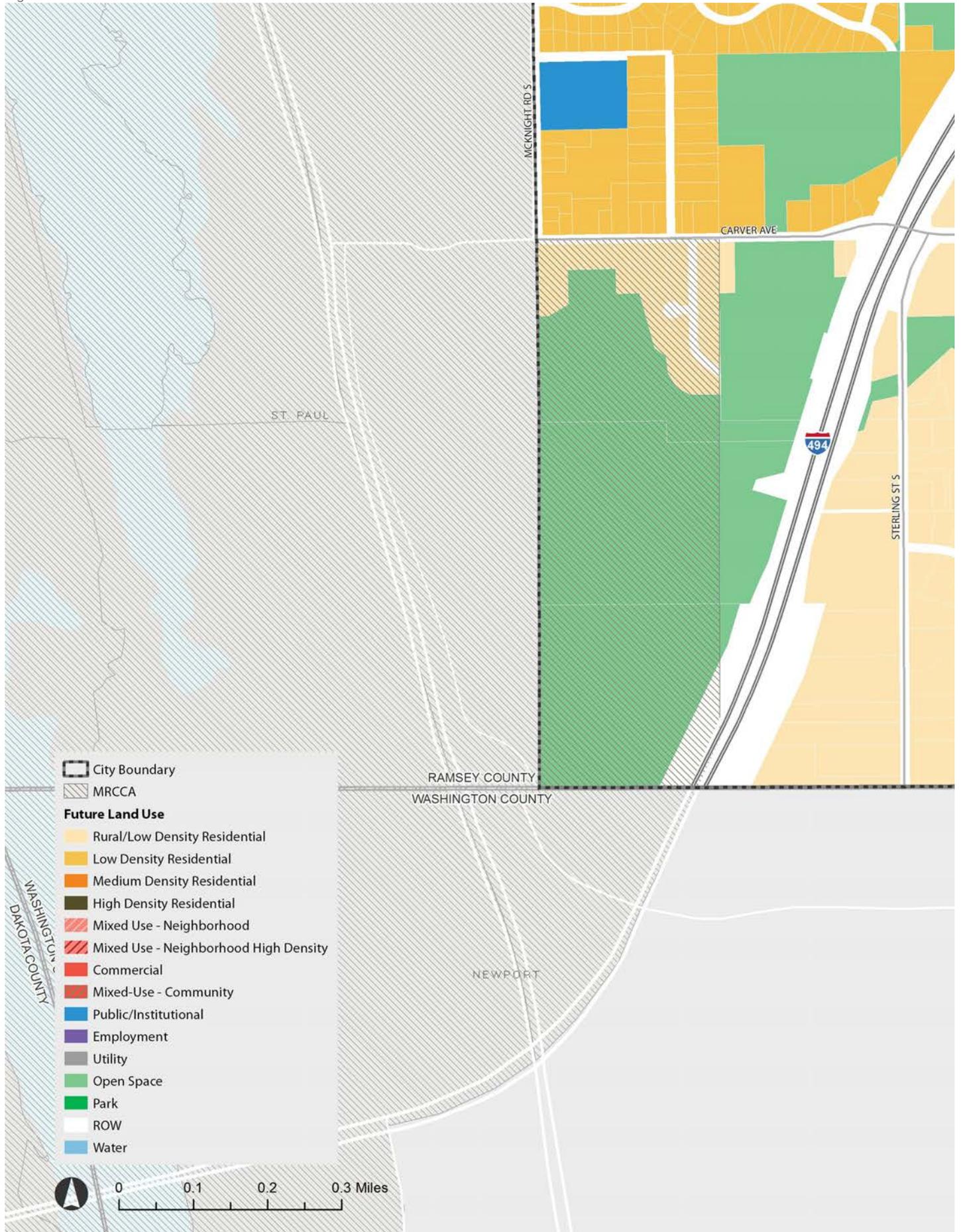


Figure 5-3. Future Land Uses within MRCCA



FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

While full definitions of each land use category are available in Chapter 3, the rural/low density and open space categories are generally described as follows:

- » **Rural/Low Density - The City intends the Rural/Low Density Residential classification to offer a rural residential setting and to help protect the City's natural resources. Future land uses and development shall maintain and embrace the existing rural character as an essential element of neighborhood planning and design.**
- » **Open Space - The City intends the open space classification to reflect lands that are either undevelopable or that city intends to not develop. Maplewood wants these areas to be used for passive recreational needs, habitat restoration, or as a preserve.**

Elements Shaping the Critical Area

MRCCA Districts

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, height limits, and the amount of open space required for subdivisions vary by district. All other MRCCA standards apply uniformly throughout the corridor. The presence and diversity of the districts supports the different dimensional standards needed to enhance the corridor's character and to protect the resources and features identified for special protection.

As seen on Figure 5-3, the only MRCCA District designation that exists within the City of Maplewood is the Rural and Open Space district. According to MR 6106.0100, Subp. 3, the Rural and Open Space district (CA-ROS) is characterized by rural and low-density development patterns and land uses, and includes land that is riparian or visible from the river, as well as large, undeveloped tracts of high ecological and scenic value, floodplain, and undeveloped islands. Many primary conservation areas exist in the district. The CA-ROS district must be managed to sustain and restore the rural and natural character of the corridor and to protect and enhance habitat, parks and open space, public river corridor views, and scenic, natural, and historic areas.

Future land uses illustrated in Figure 5-3 are reflective of the existing land uses today. More than 75% of the land in Maplewood located within the MRCCA is guided as open space and the remaining is made up of rural/low density housing. The future land use guidance of Open Space fits the purpose of the CA-ROS district through encouraging passive recreational use, habitat restoration, and natural character preservation. The Rural/Low Density Residential classification offers a rural residential setting and helps protect the City's natural resources.

Primary Conservation Areas

Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs) are defined in the MRCCA rules as key resources and features that are given priority consideration for protection. PCAs include shore impact zones, bluff impact zones, floodplains, wetlands, gorges, areas of confluence, natural drainage routes, unstable soils and bedrock, native plant communities, cultural and historic properties, significant existing vegetative stands, tree canopies, and other identified resources.

Shore Impact Zone

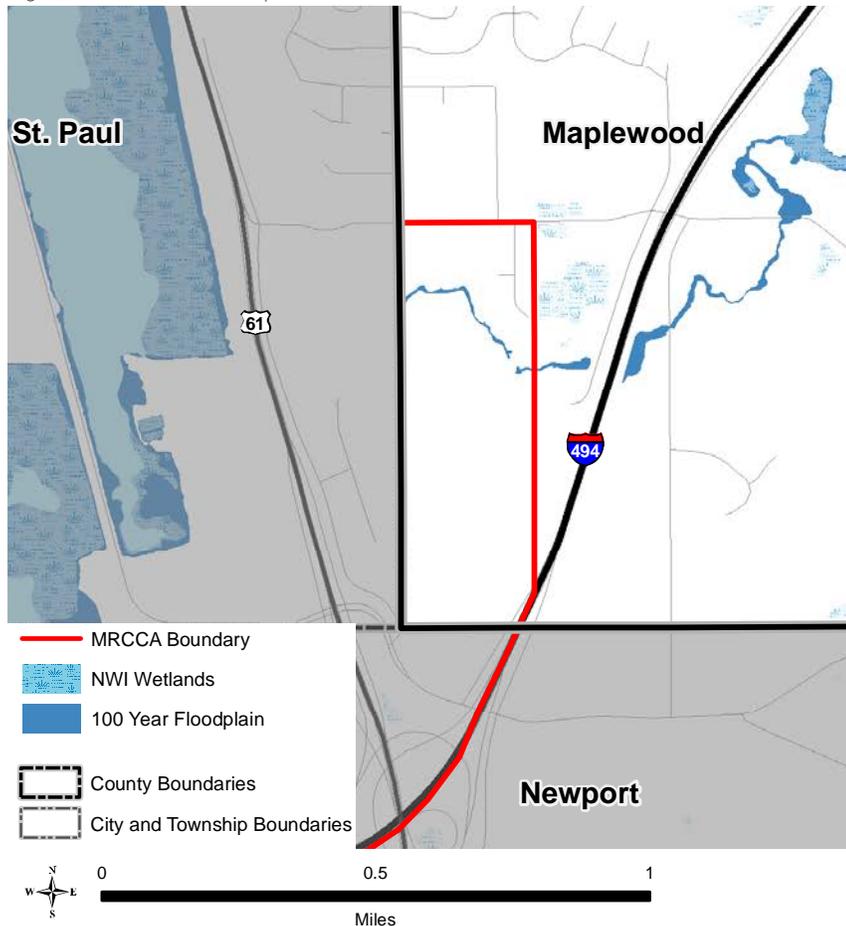
The land along the water's edge is environmentally sensitive and needs special protection from development and vegetation removal. The shore impact zone is a "buffer" area between the water's edge and the area where development is permitted.

No shore impact zones exist within the MRCCA in Maplewood.

Floodplains & Wetlands

Wetlands are transitional lands between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Floodplains are the areas adjoining a watercourse which have been or may be covered by large floods that typically occur on an average frequency in the magnitude of the 100-year recurrence interval.

Figure 5-4. MRCCA Floodplains & Wetlands



No wetlands exist within the MRCCA boundary in Maplewood. As illustrated in Figure 5-4, floodplains do exist within the MRCCA boundary in Maplewood and can generally be found in a narrow corridor along Fish Creek.

Natural Drainage Ways

Natural drainage ways are natural open linear depressions which function for the collection and drainage of surface water. It may be permanently or temporarily inundated. The liquids flow under the force of gravity.

As seen in Figure 5-5, two potentially recognizable natural drainage ways exist within the MRCCA boundary in Maplewood. The northern natural drainage way identified is Fish Creek. Fish Creek flows through Maplewood and into St. Paul where it carves a narrow channel through bedrock, an area known locally as the Fish Creek Canyon. The southern natural drainage way identified crosses underneath I-494 and travels briefly through the MRCCA boundary.

Figure 5-5. MRCCA Natural Drainage Ways

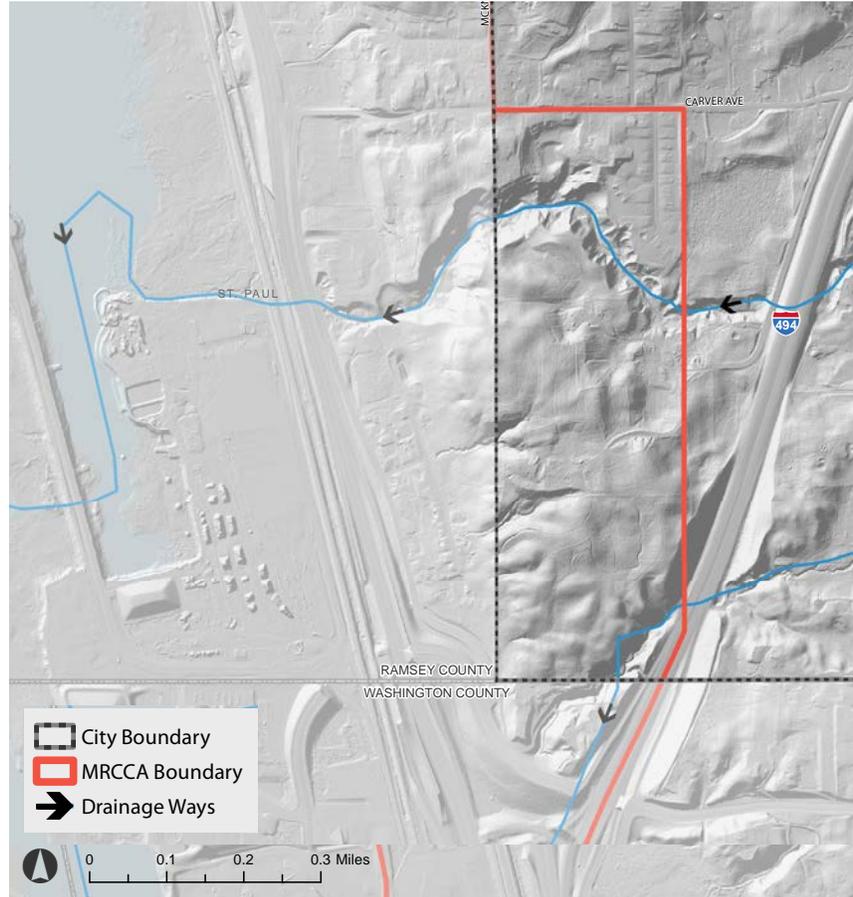
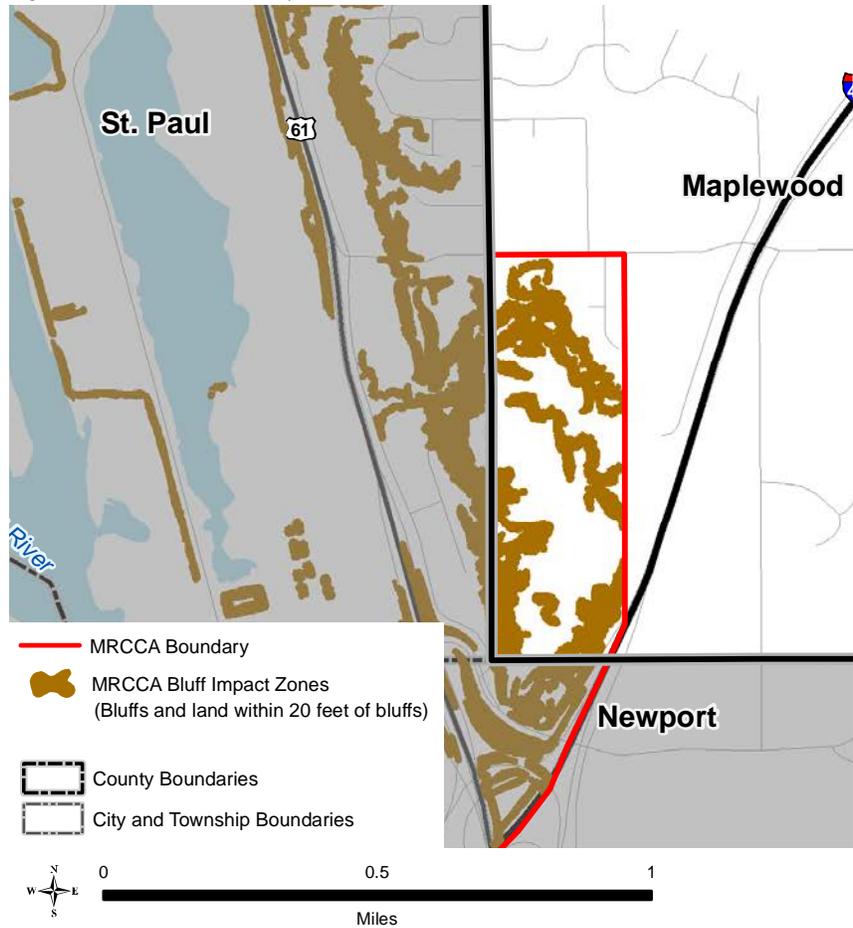


Figure 5-6. MRCCA Bluff Impact Zones



Bluffs & Bluff Impact Zones

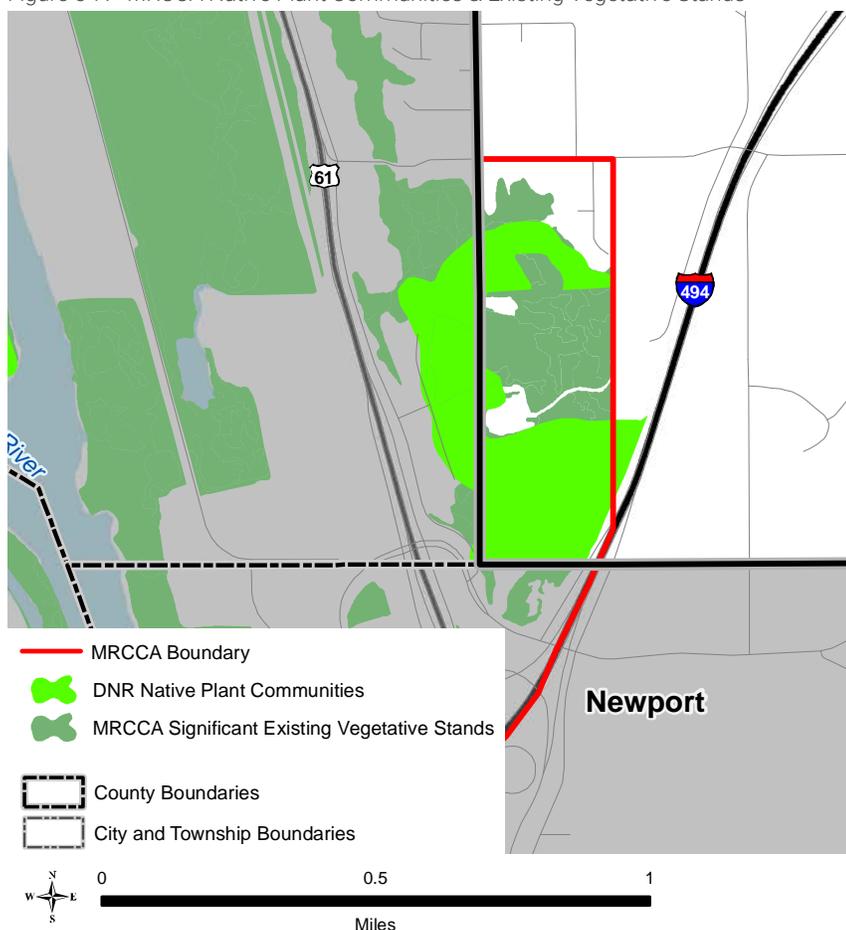
MRCCA rules define a bluff as a natural topographic feature having a slope that rises at least 25 feet and the grade of the slope averages 18 percent or greater, measured over a horizontal distance of 25 feet. A bluff impact zone is the bluff and land within 20 feet of the bluff.

As observed in Figure 5-6, bluffs and bluff impact zones exist throughout the MRCCA boundary in Maplewood. Most of these bluff impact zones are located within current open space in Maplewood. A limited number of rural residential lots back up to the bluff impact zones.

Native Plant Communities & Significant Vegetative Stands

Native plant communities are plant communities that have been identified as part of the Minnesota biological survey. They represent the highest quality native plant communities remaining in the MRCCA. Significant vegetative stands are plant communities identified by the National Park Service that are largely intact and connected and contain a sufficient representation of the original native plant community. Much of this vegetation contributes to the scenic value of the MRCCA.

Figure 5-7. MRCCA Native Plant Communities & Existing Vegetative Stands



As illustrated in Figure 5-7, the majority of land located within the MRCCA boundary in Maplewood is covered by native plant communities and

significant vegetative stands. Small gaps of this vegetation have existed within the open space, but have recently been restored with native plant communities. Much of this vegetation has been cleared from the existing residential lots and no longer exists in areas where residential lawns and homes now occupy the land.

Cultural & Historic Properties

Historic properties are properties with features such as an archaeological site, standing structure, site, district, or other property that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the State Register of Historic Places, locally designated as a historic site, or are determined to meet the criteria for eligibility.

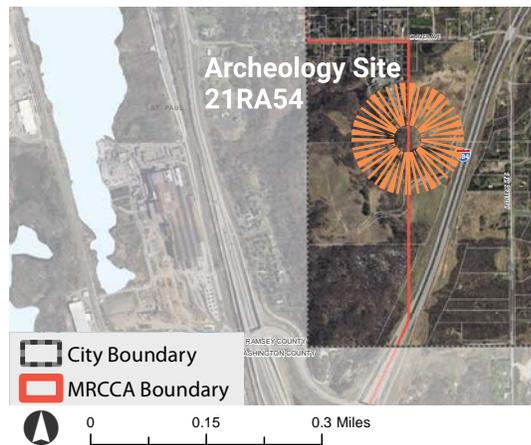


Figure 5-8. Fish Creek Archeology Site

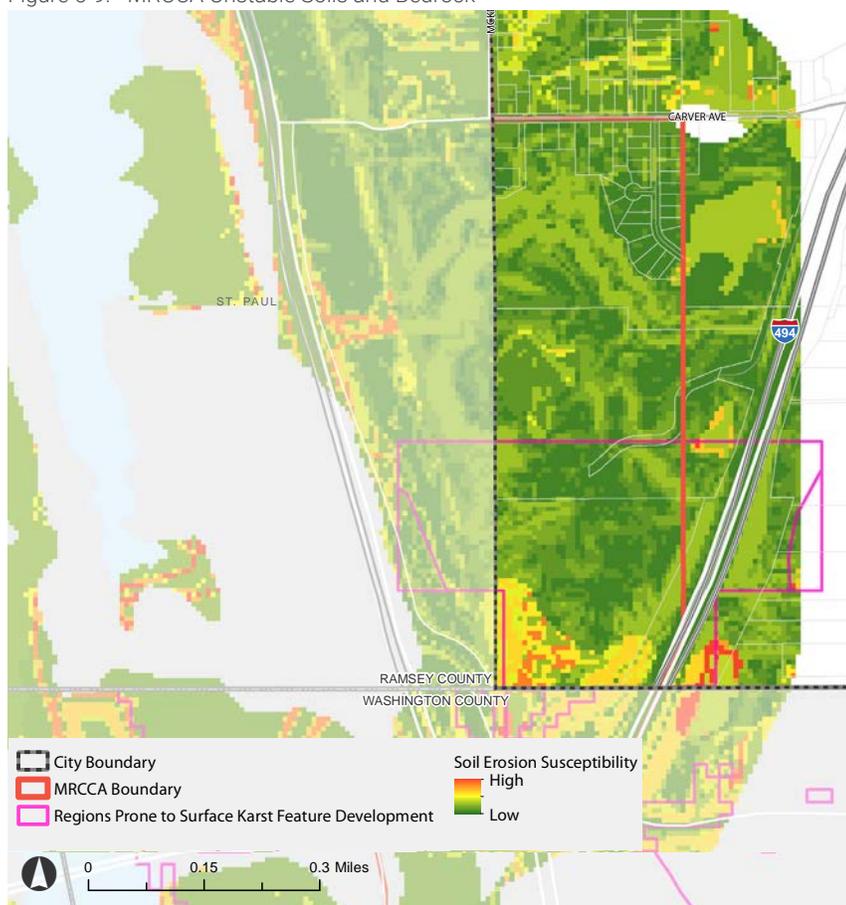
As generally indicated by Figure 5-8, Archeology Site 21RA54 is partially located inside the east MRCCA boundary in Maplewood. This site has been recommended as potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the archaeological investigation completed in 2015 for the Ramsey County and Maplewood Area Historical Societies and the City of Maplewood. A total of 68 artifacts were recovered, primarily pre-contact. Other recommendations as part of the investigation include: recreational development in the area should avoid directly crossing the site and that interpretive signage should be incorporated.

Unstable Soils & Bedrock

Soil is mixture of sand, gravel, silts, clay, water, and air. The stability of soil can be attributed to the mix of these ingredients and other factors that cause frost action, high saturation depth, steep slopes, low soil strength, ponding, high shrink-swell rates, subsidence and other soil stability issues. Bedrock is the lithified rock that lies underneath loose deposits such as soil or alluvium. Karst formations are a form of unstable bedrock and are areas where sinkholes, springs, caverns, and stream sinks may exist.

As seen in Figure 5-9, unstable soils exist, but are limited within the MRCCA boundary in Maplewood. The majority of soils that exist within the area are Mahtomedi loamy sand (454). Slopes on Mahtomedi loamy sand soils range from 0 to 40 percent, but those above 12 percent (454D-F) are unstable. Other unstable soils include Cathro Muck (544), Mahtomedi-Kinglsey complex (896D), and Mahtomedi variant - Rock complex (1820F). Most of the unstable

Figure 5-9. MRCCA Unstable Soils and Bedrock



Source: USDA Web Soil Survey, MnDNR County Geologic Atlas Program

soils exist within the southern parts of the open space areas in the MRCCA boundary in Maplewood.

In Minnesota, surface karst features primarily occur where 50 feet or less of unconsolidated material overlie Paleozoic carbonate bedrock, the St. Peter Sandstone, or the Mesoproterozoic Hinckley Sandstone. Though no known karst features exist within the MRCCA boundary in Maplewood, the St. Peter Sandstone lies within the highlighted area in Figure 5-9, and therefore may be prone to karst feature development.

Public River Corridor Views

Public river corridor views (PRCVs) are views toward the river from public parkland, historic properties, and public overlooks, as well as views toward bluffs from the ordinary high water level of the opposite shore, as seen during the summer months. PRCVs are deemed highly valued by the community and are worth protecting because of the aesthetic value they bring to the MRCCA. Phase 2 of the community engagement process for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan provided information on the Critical Area Plan online and at community open houses. This included sharing the public river corridor view. Conversations throughout the process indicated that many are unaware a view to the Mississippi River exists in the Fish Creek Preserve.

As part of the Met Council's 6-month adjacent community plan review process Maplewood considered comments from South St. Paul about the views they valued looking across the river to Maplewood.

Views Toward the River from Public Places

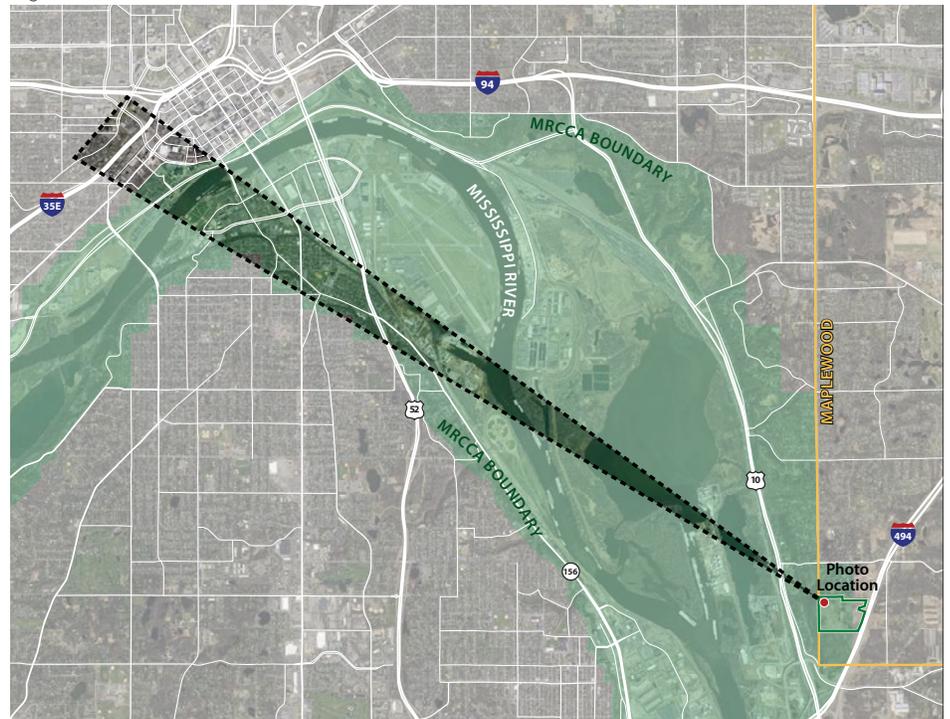
The existing tree canopy in Maplewood and St. Paul limits the views toward the Mississippi River from public places within the MRCCA Boundary in Maplewood. One public view that exists within Maplewood in the MRCCA boundary is through the trees at Fish Creek Preserve looking towards the river and downtown St. Paul. The view is valuable to Maplewood because it is a geographically distinct view of recognizable features. The view, as seen in Figure 5-10, includes both a view of the Mississippi River corridor and a view of the St. Paul skyline, specifically the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

Figure 5-10. View Toward the Mississippi River from Fish Creek Preserve



Changes that would positively affect this view of the river may include benches for people to sit down and see the view, wayfinding to direct people

Figure 5-11. Location of PRCV Photo



to where this view exists, and/or tower viewer binoculars to see landmarks in the view up close.

Because the location of the view is close to the western city limits of Maplewood, changes in Maplewood that would negatively impact this view are limited and would mainly consist of the placement of large signage or small structures.

Views Toward Bluffs from the Ordinary High Water Level of the Opposite Shore

The ordinary high water level (OHWL) of the Mississippi River does not lie within Maplewood and therefore views towards bluffs on the opposite shore from the OHWL do not exist in Maplewood. As seen in Figure 5-12, some views toward the bluffs in Maplewood within the MRCCA boundary from the opposite shore of the Mississippi River are limited due to the separated nature of Maplewood to the Mississippi River. Views towards the bluffs in Maplewood stretch across multiple jurisdictions including South St. Paul (Dakota County), Newport (Washington County), and St. Paul (Ramsey County).

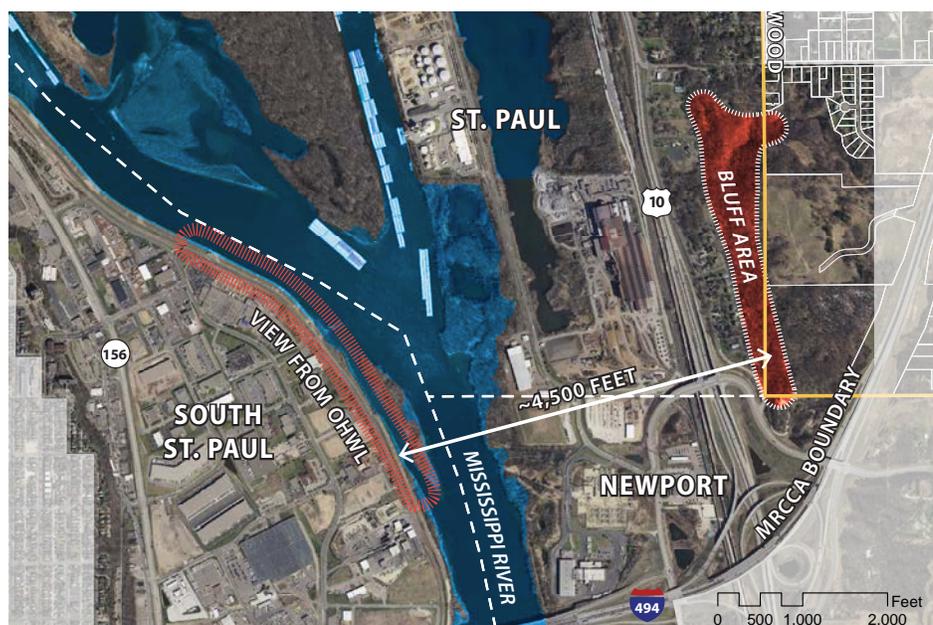


Figure 5-12. Views Toward Bluffs from OHWL on Opposite Shore

The natural backdrop that these bluffs provide behind the industrial uses along the river is what makes this a valuable view. The proximity and accessibility of these OHWL views to the Mississippi River Trail also make them valuable.

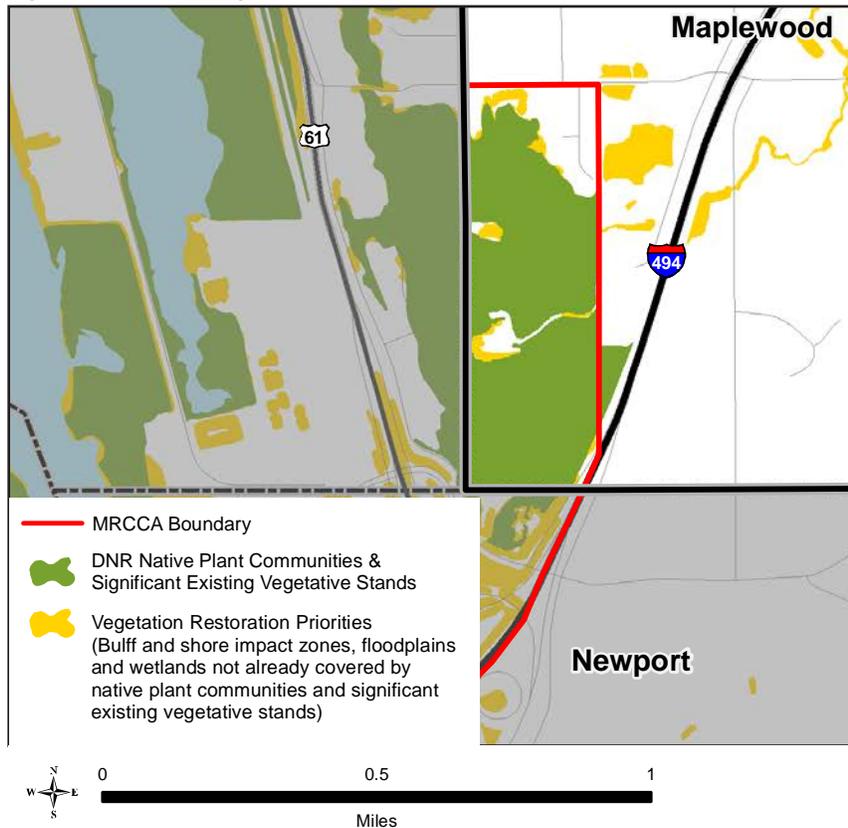
Excessive vegetative clearing, billboard installation, the addition of highway overpasses/flyovers, and the construction of tall structures in St. Paul or Newport may negatively affect the views of the bluffs in Maplewood within the MRCCA boundary. Proper cleanup and maintenance of industrial uses and highway infrastructure would positively affect these views.

Priorities for Restoration

Vegetation restoration priority areas are areas where bluff and shore impact zones, floodplains, and wetlands exist, but are not already covered with native plant communities and significant existing vegetative stands. These

areas represent opportunities to restore natural vegetation, prevent erosion, and stabilize slopes and banks. Restoration measures are often needed to maintain resource integrity and water quality.

Figure 5-13. MRCCA Vegetation Restoration



As observed in Figure 5-13, most of the land within the MRCCA boundary in Maplewood is already covered with Native Plant Communities or Significant Existing Vegetative Stands. Some small areas identified for vegetation restoration have existed within the open space where bluff impact zones aren't covered by existing vegetation, but have recently been restored with native plant communities..

Surface Water Uses

Surface water uses along the Mississippi River range from commercial and industrial to recreational and may include barge fleetings, marinas, boat tours, seaplaning, and paddle share. These uses provide both economic and enjoyment benefits as well as external impacts such as traffic, conflicting hours of operation, noise, and surface water use that need to be managed to minimize conflicts.

Maplewood is not directly adjacent to the River and therefore does not regulate surface water uses.

Water Oriented Uses

Water-oriented uses along the Mississippi River range from commercial and industrial to recreational and may include uses need water access such as barge terminals, marinas, boat tour docks, and paddle share launch areas. These uses provide both economic and enjoyment benefits as well as

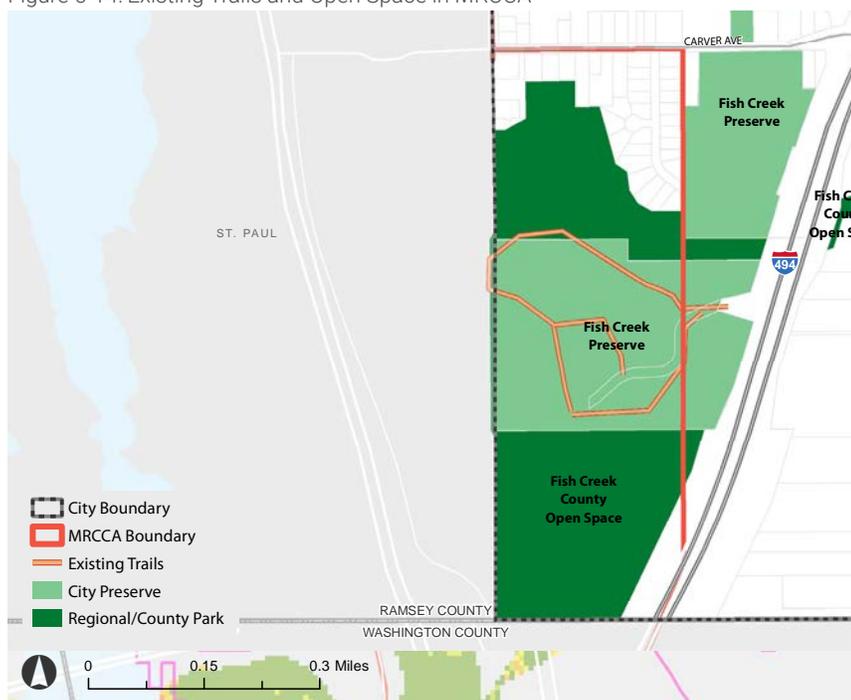
external impacts such as traffic, conflicting hours of operation, noise, and surface water use that need to be managed to minimize conflicts.

Maplewood is not directly adjacent to the River and therefore does not regulate water-oriented uses along the Mississippi River.

Open Space and Recreational Facilities

Open space and recreational facilities include features such as parks, trails, scenic overlooks, natural areas, islands, and wildlife areas. These features add to the quality of a community and increase opportunities for the public to access and enjoy the Mississippi River Corridor.

Figure 5-14. Existing Trails and Open Space in MRCCA



Over three-quarters of the land within the MRCCA boundary in Maplewood is designated as open space. This open space includes Ramsey County's 142-acre Fish Creek Open Space and Maplewood's 70-acre Fish Creek Preserve. Fish Creek Preserve is designated as a community preserve. Community preserves are integrated, multi-use areas set aside for preserving natural resources, connecting people to nature, and providing educational programming and historic interpretation.

The 2016 Fish Creek Master Plan calls for a paved trail loop, which has already been completed as shown in Figure 5-14, a hiking trail along Fish Creek, a rustic trail loop, and outlooks and benches within the MRCCA. These features are highlighted in Figure 5-15. Hiking trails identified in the master plan would be graded to minimize erosion and would be mowed grass in open areas and soil surface in wooded areas.

Figure 5-15. Fish Creek Master Plan

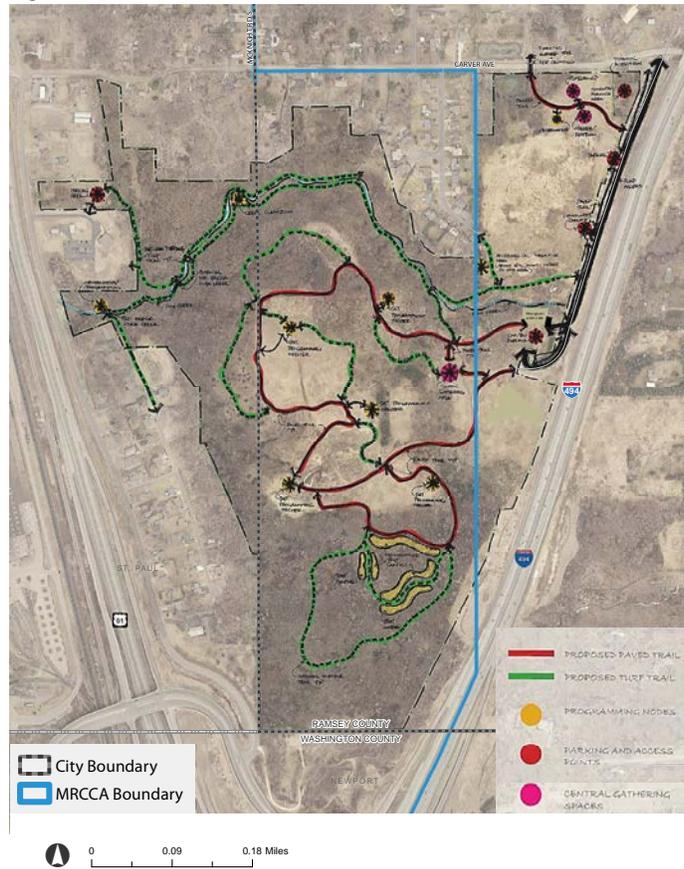


Figure 5-16. Transportation in MRCCA



Transportation & Public Utilities

Transportation and utility facilities (electricity, gas, water, sewer, stormwater) can have negative impacts on scenic views and habitat and soil erosion. Proper development of these facilities can minimize their impacts on the MRCCA.

As seen in Figure 5-16, public transportation facilities and public utilities are limited within the MRCCA boundary in Maplewood. A small sliver of Interstate 494 roadway exists in the southeast corner of the MRCCA boundary and one municipal road serving single family homes lies within the northeast corner of the boundary. The new asphalt loop trail in Fish Creek Preserve exists within the boundary. Single family homes that exist within northern quarter of the MRCCA boundary are served by underground public utilities.

No major public transportation or public utility improvements (solar, wind, or other power generation) are planned within the MRCCA boundary in Maplewood and therefore pose no threat to identified PCAs and PRCVs. Solar power facilities are allowed within the MRCCA in Maplewood.

Issues & Opportunities

Issues within the MRCCA in Maplewood are limited due to the mostly natural state of the land within the boundary. Though some issues may exist, particularly related to the residential uses located within the MRCCA boundary. These uses may pose an issue if there is future expansion of structures towards bluff impact zones or unstable soils or if impervious surfaces are added leading to the potential for more stormwater runoff or non-point source pollution into MRCCA natural drainageways.

As mentioned earlier, steps have already been taken to restore native plant communities within the Fish Creek Preserve. Future opportunities may exist to restore native plant communities on residential properties in the MRCCA. Opportunities also exist to connect to neighboring planned trails such as those identified in St. Paul's Great River Passage Plan. Building out elements highlighted in the Fish Creek Master Plan Concept presents great opportunity for people to experience the MRCCA corridor in a noninvasive manner.



HEALTH



RESILIENCE



EQUITY



AGE-FRIENDLINESS

The icons above are used to reference the guiding principles, which describe community values that are intended to be achieved through the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

See Chapter 3: Guiding Principles for further description of each.

Implementation

The following goals, policies and actions are meant to build on the accomplishments from the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Goals and policies of the Critical Area Plan all support the community's resilience.



Goals and Policies

- 1. Preserve and enhance the natural, aesthetic, economic, recreational, cultural, and historical values of the Mississippi River corridor within Maplewood and protect its environmentally sensitive areas.**

Land Use Policies

- 1.1 Maplewood will guide land use and development and redevelopment activities within the MRCCA boundary to be consistent with the management purpose of the CA-ROS district.

Primary Conservation Areas (PCA) Policies

- 1.2 Maplewood will protect and minimize impacts from public and private development and land use activities to the existing Primary Conservation Areas which include floodplains, bluffs and bluff impact zones, natural drainage ways, unstable soils and bedrock, and Native Plant Communities and existing vegetative stands.
- 1.3 Maplewood will support mitigation of impacts to PCAs through subdivisions/PUDs, variances, Conditional Use Permits, and other permits.
- 1.4 Maplewood will make restoration of removed Native Plant Communities and natural vegetation in riparian areas a high priority during development.
- 1.5 Maplewood will support alternative design standards that protect Maplewood'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 PCAs.

- 1.6 Maplewood will make permanent protection measures that protect each of Maplewood's PCAs a high priority.

Public River Corridor Views (PRCV) Policies

- 1.7 Maplewood will protect and minimize impacts to PRCVs from public and private development activities.
- 1.8 Maplewood will protect and minimize impacts to PRCVs from vegetation management activities.
- 1.9 Maplewood will protect PRCVs located within the community and identified by other communities.
- 1.10 The City shall ensure that the location and siting of new structures will keep bluffs and scenic overlooks in their natural state.

Restoration Priorities Policies

Sustaining and enhancing the ecological functions (habitat value) of vegetation is important for the MRCCA and is a goal for the restoration of new vegetation and existing degraded vegetation in Maplewood.

- 1.11 Maplewood will protect native and existing vegetation during the development process and require its restoration if any is removed by development. Priorities for restoration will include stabilization or erodible soils, riparian buffers, and bluffs or steep slopes visible from the river.
- 1.12 Maplewood will seek opportunities to restore vegetation to protect and enhance PRCVs identified in this plan.
- 1.13 Maplewood will seek opportunities to restore vegetation in restoration priority areas identified in this plan through the CUP, variance, vegetation permit, and subdivision/PUD processes.
- 1.14 Maplewood will evaluate proposed development sites for erosion prevention and bank and slope stabilization issues and require restoration as part of the development process.

Surface Water Uses Policies

Maplewood is not directly adjacent to the Mississippi River and therefore does not regulate surface water use under Chapter 86B (MR 6110.3000-6110.3800) or have any policies related to surface water uses.

Water-Oriented Uses Policies

Maplewood is not directly adjacent to the Mississippi River and therefore does not have any policies related to water-oriented uses within the MRCCA.

Open Space & Recreational Facilities Policies

- 1.15 Maplewood will encourage the creation, connection, and maintenance of open space, recreational facilities, including access to the river.

1.16 Maplewood will encourage that land dedication requirements be used to acquire land suitable for public river access.

Transportation & Utilities Policies

1.17 Maplewood will minimize impacts to PCAs and PRCVs from solar and wind generation facilities, public transportation facilities, and public utilities.

Actions implemented for the Critical Area Plan all support the community's resilience.



Actions

Ordinance Updates

1. Amend existing MRCCA ordinance/overlay district consistent with the MRCCA plan, and with MRCCA rules, MR 6106.0070, Subp. 5 – Contents of Ordinances.
2. Amend zoning map to reflect new districts.
3. 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.

Ordinance Administration

4. 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:
 - a. Identifying the information that must be submitted and how it will be evaluated,
 - b. Determining appropriate mitigation procedures/methods for variances and CUPs, and
 - c. Establishing evaluation criteria for protecting PCAs when a development site contains multiple PCAs and the total area of PCAs exceed the required set aside percentages.
5. Develop administrative procedures for integrating DNR and local permitting of riprap, walls, and other hard armoring.
6. Actively communicate with other communities to protect views they have identified in Maplewood that are valuable, and vice versa.
7. 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.
8. Establish a 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.

9. Develop a system for reviewing, tracking, and monitoring open space required as part of the subdivision process.

Education & Outreach

10. 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. Specific actions may include:
 - a. Develop an outreach and communication strategy to alert MRCCA property owners of new districts and zoning requirements and the location of PCAs, PRCVs, and restoration priorities.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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

11. Include capital improvement projects (trails, overlooks, public access, and other recreational facilities) within the MRCCA in Maplewood's Capital Improvement Plan.
12. Include transportation facilities in the capital improvement program.



Specific Planning Efforts, Projects, & Initiatives

13. Coordinate with regional, state, and national park planning efforts within the MRCCA.
14. Conduct planning efforts to identify opportunities to connect to neighboring planned trails such as those identified in St. Paul's Great River Passage Plan.