

Mississippi River Critical Area Corridor

Communities Survey

FINAL REPORT

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Waters
December 2007

INTRODUCTION

The Mississippi River Critical Area corridor was designated approximately 30 years ago and extends approximately 72 miles, encompassing portions of some 30 governmental subdivisions. At the direction of the Minnesota State Legislature, the MNDNR must report on the status of plans and ordinances, discuss variances to the ordinances, and include options and recommendations for improving Critical Area management, especially for protecting the river corridor's visual and natural amenities.

To obtain information on variances, and plan and ordinance status, the DNR conducted a survey of local government units within the Critical Area corridor to obtain first-hand information on the status of Critical Area Plans and Ordinances, community perspectives on the program, and ascertain the number and types of variances sought and issued in each community.

The survey was conducted in August and September of 2007. The survey consisted of an explanatory cover letter, a Questionnaire addressing the status of Critical Area plans and ordinances and community perspectives on the program, and a Variance Data Table for communities to record the number and types of variances sought and denied or granted in each community for each year since ordinance adoption.

Communities were also asked to indicate whether they would be interested in participating in a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program.

The DNR contacted each community to determine the appropriate contact person for survey completion. After the survey was mailed, the DNR contacted each community at least once by phone or e-mail to insure the survey was received, and to encourage the community to complete and return it.

The DNR received responses from twenty-two communities. Responses for each community are discussed in this report using the original statements (edited for readability) made by the respondents to the LGU Questionnaire. The discussion of variance activity consists of each community's listing of numbers, types, and disposition of variances by year in the Variance Data Table that was also sent to each community. Copies of each community's original responses to the survey can be found following this report.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESPONSES

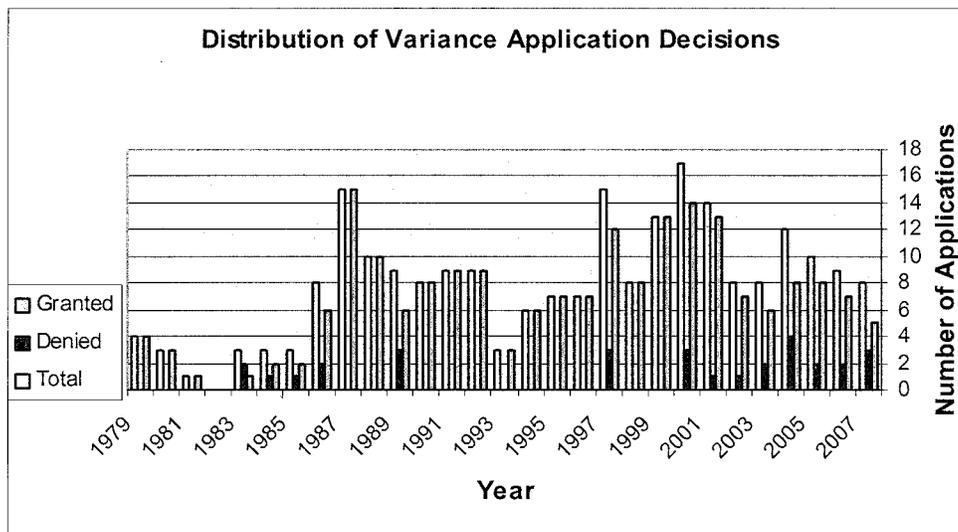
Twenty-two units of government (of 30 contacted) responded to the survey.

Administration of the Mississippi River Critical Area Corridor was transferred to the DNR in 1995. During the next five years, with staff funding and community assistance grants from the National Park Service (NPS), the DNR worked with corridor communities to update their plans and ordinances to incorporate goals from the NPS' 1995 Mississippi National River Recreation Area Comprehensive Plan. Twenty-seven communities have revised their Critical Area Plans since 1995, including twenty-one of the communities responding to the survey. Six communities

have updated their Critical Area regulations or ordinances since they were originally approved by the EQB, including five of the communities responding to the survey.

Communities responding to the survey reported a total of 230 variance applications since adopting their respective ordinances. Variance applications were granted for 200 (87%) of that total. Variance applications were denied for 30 (13%) of the total. The types and numbers of variances granted were: Bluffline setbacks (41, or 20.5%); Setbacks for Accessory Structures and Rear or Side yard setbacks (31, or 15.5%); OHWL setbacks (30, or 15%); Structure Height and Dimensional Standards (21, or 10.5%); Lot Size or building density (18, or 9%); Steep Slopes (9, or 4.5%); Grading and filling (5, or 2.5%); and other (44, or 22%). Setbacks constituted the majority of variances granted; bluffline, OHWL, and accessory structures/rear/side yard setbacks comprised 51% of all variances granted, and represent the three most common categories of variances given (excluding the miscellaneous category of Other).

The following figure depicts the total variance applications received for every year of the Critical Area Program. The total number of variance applications shows a general increasing trend from the beginning of the program until the present; this trend is also displayed by both total numbers of variances granted and total numbers denied.



Community perspectives on the program were mixed, but responding communities generally considered the program valuable.

The following table summarizes survey response results, including numbers of variance applications reported by the community and the dates of each community’s current plan and regulations:

Community Name	Responded to Survey?	# Variance Applications reported	Date of Approved Critical Area Plan*	Date of Approved Critical Area Regulations*
Anoka	Y	19	2005	1980
Anoka County	Y	NA	2002	NA
Brooklyn Center	Y	1	2003	1980
Brooklyn Park	Y	26	2001	1980
Champlin	Y	26	2003	1980
Coon Rapids	Y	1	2001	1979
Cottage Grove	Y	24	1982	1980
Dakota County	N	NA	1999	NA
Dayton	Y	0	2001	2003
Denmark Township	N	Unknown	1999	1982
Fridley	N	Unknown	2001	1980
Grey Cloud Island Twp	Y	6	1999	2001
Hastings	Y	12	2001	NA ¹
Hennepin County	N	NA	NA	NA
Inver Grove Heights	Y	2	1999	1992
Lilydale	Y	Not reported	1997	1998
Maplewood	Y	0	1992	1983
Mendota	Y	Not reported	2000	1980
Mendota Heights	Y	14	2002	2006
Minneapolis	N	Unknown	2006	NA ²
Newport	Y	Not reported	2000	1980
Nininger Township	Y	2	2000	2000
Ramsey	Y	28	2001	1985
Ramsey County	N	NA	2001	NA
Ravenna Township	N	Unknown	1998	1999
Rosemount	Y	4	1998	1991
St. Paul	Y	26	2001	1982
St. Paul Park	Y	39	1999	2002
South St. Paul	N	Unknown	2000	1982
Washington County	Y	NA	2001	NA

Notes:

*Dates provided by communities returning questionnaires, but verified or corrected with DNR file information; for communities not returning questionnaires, dates are from DNR files.

1: Although the EQB approved an ordinance for the community, it apparently has never adopted it and is operating under interim guidelines.

2: In 1989, EQB approved Minneapolis' existing land use framework for regulating activity in the Critical Area; neither EQB nor DNR have approved a Critical Area ordinance for the City

COMMUNITY RESPONSES

Twenty-two communities responded to the survey. The responses of each community are summarized below in alphabetical order. Copies of the completed questionnaires and completed variance data tables are included in Appendix A, and Appendix B, respectively.

CITY OF ANOKA

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Anoka reports that it originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1979, and that it updated the plan in 2005. The City does not plan to update its Critical Area Plan as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update. The City reports that it does not currently have a Critical Area ordinance, but that it plans to update its Critical Area ordinance in 2008. DNR records indicate that the City's ordinance does include Critical Area protections, and that the City's Critical Area regulations were approved by the EQB in 1980.

Community Perspectives

When asked what the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program are, the City responded that the additional regulations help the City enforce river projects. The City felt that a weakness of the Mississippi River Critical Area program was that boundaries are a great distance from the River in some places. The City felt that it would be helpful to have seminars that are City-specific. The City also felt that the program was valuable to the community in protecting an area that people take pride in recreating and living in. The City expressed interest in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variances

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of Anoka (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	0	0	0
OHWL setback	4	3	1
Lot setbacks	5	4	1
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	2	1	1
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	0	0	0
Lot Density/Size	6	3	3
Other	2	2	0
Totals (1980-2007)	19	13	6

ANOKA COUNTY

Status of Plans and Ordinances

Anoka County reported originally adopting its Critical Area Plan in 2001. DNR records indicate final adoption was in 2002. The County will not update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area

Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update and no other updates are planned. The County currently does not have a Critical Area Ordinance since the County is fully incorporated and is not responsible for land use regulation. The County indicated that it did manage Highway projects to comply with MNRRA and/or with the local City Ordinances and these will be reflected in its 2015 Transportation Plan.

Community Perspectives

The County responded that the strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program was that it provides for management/protection of a natural resource. It also stated that the weakness of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that it makes unreasonable, unrealistic demands of organizations like itself that have no land use controls. When asked what suggestions the County would have for improving the program, the County's response was that the program was administered to communities in Critical Areas which created resentment against the DNR and that that was not fair to the DNR or to the communities. The County stated that there were not enough reasonable compromises made. The County also stated that the program would be more valuable if it focused on the benefits of implementation and if more effort was made to make it a program people wanted to implement instead of dread hearing about. The County would like to participate in a stakeholder group.

Variances

Anoka County does not administer a zoning ordinance and thus does not receive or consider variance applications.

CITY OF BROOKLYN CENTER

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Brooklyn Center reported that it originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1980, revised the plan in 2002, and formally adopted its current Critical Area Plan in 2003. DNR records show that the Metropolitan Council approved the plan in 1999, but that it did not receive final approval from the DNR. The City plans to update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update if required to do so. No other updates are planned. The City reported that it had not yet adopted a Critical Area Ordinance although DNR records indicate an ordinance was adopted in 1980. The City plans to update its Critical Area Ordinance sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

Community Perspectives

The City felt that the strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program was that it was designed to protect and preserve a valuable resource for the benefit of citizens of the State, Region and Nation and prevent irreversible damage to it. The City expressed interest in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variances

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of Brooklyn Center (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	0	0	0
OHWL setback	1	1	0
Lot setbacks	0	0	0
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	0	0	0
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	0	0	0
Lot Density/Size	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Totals (1980-2007)	1	1	0

CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Brooklyn Park reported that it originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1979. The City did a major revision in 2001 adopting the Mississippi River Stewardship Plan as part of the 2000 Comprehensive Plan Update. The City will not update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update and no other updates are planned.

The City originally adopted its Critical Area Ordinance in 1980. The City made a minor revision to the Critical Area Ordinance in 2001 allowing for reconstruction/replacement of a structure within its existing footprint. The City plans to update its Critical Area Ordinance sometime after the 2008 comprehensive plan update.

Community Perspectives

The City thinks the strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is as a tool to help in the preservation of the corridor. The weakness of the Mississippi River Critical Area program lies in multiple jurisdictions and inconsistent rules with inconsistent enforcement. The program could be improved through clearer expectations and reasonable application of the rules. The program is valuable since the River is considered an important asset to the City and the program can help in protecting it. The City would like to see more education materials on protecting the River to provide for all owners. Some owners are very good stewards, others are not. The City is interested in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variances

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of Brooklyn Park (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	10	10	0
OHWL setback	1	0	1
Lot setbacks	6	6	0
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	0	0	0
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	0	0	0
Lot Density/Size	4	4	0
Other	5	5	0
Totals (1979-2007)	26	25	1

CITY OF CHAMPLIN

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Champlin reported that it originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1980. The City made a major revision to the Plan in 2003 that addressed the 1988 MNRRA Comprehensive Management Plan. The revisions addressed the 1988 MNRRA Comprehensive Management Plan. The City will update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update.

The City originally adopted its Critical Area Ordinance in 1980. The City reported that it updated its Critical Area Ordinance in 2003 to meet MNRRA policies. The DNR reviewed drafts in 1997 and 1998, but it has not reviewed or approved the 2003 ordinance revisions. No other updates are planned. The City has no plans to further update the Critical Area Ordinance.

Community Perspectives

The City would be interested in participating in a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program.

Variances

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of Champlin (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	0	0	0
OHWL setback	17	15	2
Lot setbacks	9	3	6
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	0	0	0
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	0	0	0
Lot Density/Size	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Totals (1980-2007)	26	18	8

CITY OF COON RAPIDS

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Coon Rapids reported that it originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1979. The City indicated it amended its Comprehensive Plan in 2001 and stated that there was no impact to the Critical Area Plan. DNR records indicate the Comprehensive Plan was updated in 2001 to achieve MNRRRA standards. The City plans to update its Critical Area Plan as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update. The City did not report when its Critical Area Ordinance was originally adopted, but DNR records indicate it was adopted in 1979. The City does not plan to update its Critical Area Ordinance.

Community Perspectives

The City would be interested in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variances

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of Coon Rapids (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	1	1	0
OHWL setback	0	0	0
Lot setbacks	0	0	0
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	0	0	0
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	0	0	0
Lot Density/Size	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Totals (1979-2007)	1	1	0

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Cottage Grove reported that it originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1978 and that it has not been updated. DNR records indicate the plan was approved in 1982 and that while the plan has not been updated, DNR records also indicate that the City reviewed the plan in 2000 and determined it was still in conformance with Executive Order 79-19 and thus did not require updating. The City reports updating its Comprehensive Plan in 1999 but the update did not affect any portions of the Critical Area Plan. The City reports adopting a Critical Area Ordinance in 1978, but DNR records indicate it was adopted in 1980. The City indicated that it had no plans to update its Critical Area Ordinance.

Community Perspectives

The City thinks the weakness of the Mississippi River Critical Area program lies in the fact that Cottage Grove is classified as rural and that rural standards applied to urban development require numerous variances. The City suggested that urban standards should be applied in its case. The City would be interested in participating a stakeholder group.

Variances

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of Cottage Grove (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	15	15	0
OHWL setback	0	0	0
Lot setbacks	3	3	0
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	2	0	2
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	0	0	0
Lot Density/Size	4	3	1
Other	0	0	0
Totals (1980-2007)	24	21	3

DAKOTA COUNTY

No response was received. DNR records show that the County adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1999.

CITY OF DAYTON

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Dayton reported that it had originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 2003 but DNR records show that the Critical Area Plan was first adopted in 1980. A major revision was made when the City updated the Plan in 2001. The City will update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update.

The City reported that it had originally adopted its Critical Area Ordinance in 2003 but DNR records show that the Critical Area Ordinance was first adopted in 1980. A major revision was made when the City updated the Ordinance in 2003. The City indicated that it had plans to update its Critical Area Ordinance sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update.

Community Perspectives

The City felt that the strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program was the protection of shoreline/viewsheds from pending development. The City felt that the weakness of the Mississippi River Critical Area program was that it was very difficult to make existing homes that want to “slightly” expand conform to the ordinance. The program is valuable to the City to protect a valuable resource. The City would be interested in participating a stakeholder group.

Variances

The City did not report any variances applications.

DENMARK TOWNSHIP

No response was received. DNR records indicate that the EQB may not have approved the Township’s Critical Area Plan dated 7/15/82. The DNR approved a revised Critical Area Plan in 1999. The Township has an EQB-approved Critical Area Ordinance dating to 1982.

CITY OF FRIDLEY

No response was received. DNR records show that the City originally adopted a Critical Area Plan in 1980 and that the DNR approved an updated Critical Area Plan in 2001. DNR records show that the City has an EQB-approved Critical Area Ordinance from 1980.

GREY CLOUD ISLAND TOWNSHIP

Status of Plans and Ordinances

Grey Cloud Island Township reported that it originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1980. The Township made a major revision to the Critical Area Plan in 1999 to meet MNRRA standards. The Township will update its Critical Area Plan in 2008. There were amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and zoning affecting the Critical Area Corridor in 1983 in which an area was annexed by the City of Cottage Grove, in a 1989 annexation of Lower Grey Cloud Island by Cottage Grove, and in 2007 in which 300 acres were annexed by St. Paul Park. The Township will update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update. The Township states that it originally adopted a Critical Area Ordinance in 1980. The Township made a major revision to the Critical Area Plan in 1999 to meet MNRRA standards. The Ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor were made to reflect the aforementioned annexations. The Township plans to update its Critical Area ordinance in 2008.

Community Perspectives

The strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that it reflects the desire of citizens to preserve pristine river frontage. The weakness of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that it demonstrates loss of control by Minnesota Townships because of annexation favoring Cities. The Township was not interested in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variances

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the Grey Cloud Island Township (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	0	0	0
OHWL setback	0	0	0
Lot setbacks	1	1	0
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	0	0	0
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	3	3	0
Lot Density/Size	0	0	0
Other	2	0	2
Totals (1980-2007)	6	4	2

CITY OF HASTINGS

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Hastings reported that it had originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 2000. The Plan was subject to DNR approval and final adoption was completed in 2001. There were amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and zoning affecting the Critical Area Corridor in 2005 involving a rezoning from C3 Community Regional Commerce to DC Downtown Core contained in a two block area directly south of the Mississippi River between Ramsey Street to Baily Street. The City plans to update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update. The City reported that it had never adopted a Critical Area Ordinance. DNR files show that Interim Development Regulations are still in effect for the City. (Note: Executive Order 79-19 includes Interim Development Regulations intended to control development after Critical Area designation but before communities adopt approved plans and ordinances. In communities that never adopted approved ordinances, the Interim Development Regulations are still in effect).

Community Perspectives

The City states that the strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that it protects vegetation and intensive development. The City stated that a weakness of the Mississippi River Critical Area program was that it does not allow established cities the ability to develop or redevelop and creates many nonconformities leading to numerous variances. The City also stated that it would be helpful to allow established urban development to continue in certain areas. The City has attempted to establish a separate district on several occasions but has been turned down by the DNR. The City states that the program was valuable to the community in "Green Areas"

but was a terrible burden in developed areas. The City expressed interest in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variances

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of Hastings (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	1	1	0
OHWL setback	4	4	0
Lot setbacks	0	0	0
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	0	0	0
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	0	0	0
Lot Density/Size	6	5	1
Other	1	1	0
Totals (1979-2007)	12	11	1

HENNEPIN COUNTY

The County did not fill out the survey. While much of the County is incorporated into cities, there is land in the vicinity of Fort Snelling and the airport that is in Hennepin County but not incorporated into cities. When there is development on these lands it is subject to the Interim Development Regulations contained in Executive Order 79-19 (see note under City of Hastings). The County does not have a Critical Area Plan or Ordinance.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Inver Grove Heights responded on the LGU Questionnaire that it had originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1998 but DNR records show that it had originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1989. The City adopted its current plan in 1998 and the DNR approved it in 1999. The Critical Area Plan has not undergone any major revision since then. The City will not update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update. The City also responded on the LGU Questionnaire that it had originally adopted its Critical Area Ordinance in 1992 but DNR records show that the City’s Critical Area regulations were approved by the EQB in 1989. The City adopted its current Critical Area Ordinance in 1992. The Ordinance has not undergone any major revision since then. The City indicated that it had no plans to update its Critical Area Ordinance.

Community Perspectives

The City states that the strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that it provides increased protection of natural resources. The City is interested in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variations

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of Inver Grove Heights (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	0	0	0
OHWL setback	0	0	0
Lot setbacks	0	0	0
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	2	2	0
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	0	0	0
Lot Density/Size	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Totals (1989-2007)	2	2	0

CITY OF LILYDALE

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Lilydale originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1979 and updated it in 1997 to meet MNRRA standards. The City reports an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and zoning affecting the Critical Area Corridor in 2000, and the DNR has records of another amendment and rezoning in 2006. The City plans to update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update. The City originally adopted a Critical Area Ordinance in 1979, and updated it in 1998. The City indicated that it had plans to update its Critical Area Ordinance in 2008.

Community Perspectives

The City states that the strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that it protects riverfront properties from improper development. The City felt that the program was valuable as another tool for river preservation.

The City was not interested in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variations

The City did not report any variance applications.

CITY OF MAPLEWOOD

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Maplewood reported that it had originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1988. However, DNR files show the original plan was adopted in 1980, and in 2002 the DNR approved an amendment to the MRCAC Management Plan component of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The City is uncertain whether it will update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update. The City

reported that it had originally adopted a Critical Area Ordinance in 1988. DNR records indicate their first ordinance was approved by the EQB in 1980, and then it was consolidated with other ordinances and approved by the EQB in 1983. They do not have a more recently adopted and approved Critical Area Ordinance. The City indicated that it was uncertain when it would update its Critical Area Ordinance.

Community Perspectives

The City was not interested in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variations

The City reported no variance applications.

CITY OF MENDOTA

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Mendota reported an original adoption date of 1990 for its Critical Area Plan. The DNR approved a revised plan in 2000. The Critical Area Plan has not undergone any other major revisions. The City reported an original adoption date of 1990 for its Critical Area Ordinance. However, DNR records show that the original Critical Area Ordinance was approved by the EQB in 1980. The City indicated that it would update its Critical Area Ordinance in 2008.

Community Perspectives

The City reports that one strength of the program is that it helps with development and that the program is very valuable to the community. They also express interest in participating in a stakeholder session.

Variations

The City did not report any variance applications.

CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Mendota Heights reported on the LGU Questionnaire a date of 1980 for its Critical Area Plan and that the Critical Area Plan has not undergone any major revision since adoption. DNR records indicate the City's plan was updated in 2002. The City will review its Critical Area Comprehensive Plan as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update but does not anticipate any changes. The City reported that it originally adopted a Critical Area Ordinance in 1980 and has not updated it. However, DNR records indicate the City's ordinance was updated in 2006. City indicated that it had no further plans to update its Critical Area Ordinance.

Community Perspectives

The City states the strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that it serves as a useful tool for controlling development on the River bluff. The weakness of the Mississippi River Critical Area program lies in the fact that a majority of Critical Area properties are far from the bluff and that the vast majority of Critical Area permits are not variances but simple plan reviews. The program could be improved if boundaries were revisited. The program is

valuable as a control for development along the River. The City is interested in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variations

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of Mendota Heights (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	0	0	0
OHWL setback	0	0	0
Lot setbacks	6	4	2
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	1	1	0
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	0	0	0
Lot Density/Size	0	0	0
Other	7	7	0
Totals (1980-2007)	14	12	2

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

The City did not respond to the survey. DNR records indicate that the EQB approved the City’s Critical Area Plan in 1989. The Plan relied on existing City regulations for implementation. The City did not develop a separate Critical Area ordinance. EQB approved the existing City ordinances as the regulations for implementing the Plan. The City revised its Critical Area plan in 2006. The Plan has been approved by the DNR. The City does not have a DNR-approved Critical Area ordinance.

CITY OF NEWPORT

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Newport reported that it originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 2002. DNR files show that their original plan was approved by the EQB in 1980 and that they updated the plan in 2000. The City will not update its Critical Area Plan as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update. The City reported that it originally adopted a Critical Area ordinance in 2002 and that the ordinance has not undergone any major revision since adoption. DNR files show the City first adopted a Critical Area ordinance in 1980 and that it has not been updated since. DNR files also indicate the City discussed ordinance revisions with the DNR in 1997 but that a revised ordinance was not submitted for DNR approval. The City indicated that it had no plans to update its Critical Area ordinance.

Community Perspectives

The City stated the strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that it protects riverfront properties from improper development. The program is valuable as another tool for river preservation. The City was not interested in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variations

The City did not record any variance applications on the table.

NININGER TOWNSHIP

Status of Plans and Ordinances

Nininger Township reported its Critical Area Plan was adopted in 2000. DNR files show that their original plan was adopted in 1980, and it was substantially revised in 2000 to meet MNRRRA standards. The Township reports additional amendments in 1982, 1995, and 1997. The Township will not update its Critical Area Plan as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update. The Township stated it did not know the date on which it had adopted a Critical Area Ordinance; DNR files indicate that it was originally adopted and approved by the EQB in 1980, and updated in 2000. The Township indicated that it had no plans to update its Critical Area ordinance.

Community Perspectives

The Township was not interested in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variations

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by Nininger Township (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	1	0	1
OHWL setback	1	0	1
Lot setbacks	0	0	0
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	0	0	0
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	0	0	0
Lot Density/Size	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Totals (1980-2007)	2	0	2

CITY OF RAMSEY

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Ramsey originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1980. The Plan was updated during Comprehensive Plan updates in 1990 and 2001. The revisions are primarily changes to the MUSA boundary. The City reports a number of minor Comprehensive Plan and zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor in 1979, 1982, 1988, 1993, 1995, 2003, and 2006. The major update to the Critical Area Plan was in 2001.

The City will update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council but anticipates only minor changes.

The City adopted a Critical Area Ordinance in 1985. The Ordinance has not undergone any major revision since adoption. There were amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor in 1988 and 1990 to add descriptions of future trails along the Mississippi River. The City indicated that it plans to update its Critical Area Ordinance sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update.

Community Perspectives

The City felt that one of the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program was the vegetative management requirements. The City felt that the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program were that boundaries were designated by legal description/section line rather than river buffer or some other method more directly tied to the river; there was difficulty in applying standards to existing development, redevelopment, and new development; there was difficulty in applying standards to urban and rural development; there is overlap, inconsistency, conflict, and confusion with other river regulations (Scenic River, Shoreland, etc); there is a lack of cohesive plan/implementation/zoning requirements throughout the Critical Area; and there was difficulty in applying standards that were established in the 1970s to an urbanizing area.

Some suggestions the City had for improving the program were: eliminating sub-districts; revising boundaries to a buffer rather than following section lines; accounting for major roads (e.g., Highway 10); pursuing a plan for the entire Critical Area and coordinating with other river planning/zoning requirements; and working with other Cities to develop standards that protect the resource yet are flexible enough to accommodate existing and new development. The program is valuable to the City for vegetative management requirements, and the ability to collaborate with DNR staff on reviewing development proposals within the corridor. The City would be interested in participating a stakeholder group.

Variances

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of Ramsey (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	0	0	0
OHWL setback	6	6	0
Lot setbacks	10	10	0
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	2	2	0
ISTS	1	1	0
Grading and filling	0	0	0
Lot Density/Size	3	3	0
Other	6	5	1
Totals (1985-2007)	28	27	1

RAMSEY COUNTY

Ramsey County indicated that they would not be submitting a completed survey since the County is fully incorporated and does not administer a zoning ordinance or receive or consider variance applications.

RAVENNA TOWNSHIP

No response was received. DNR files indicate that the EQB originally approved the Ravenna Township Critical Area Plan in 1979. The plan was updated in 1998. DNR files do not indicate when a Critical Area ordinance was first approved by the EQB. However, the current Township Critical Area ordinance was adopted in 1999 and approved by the DNR.

CITY OF ROSEMOUNT

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of Rosemount adopted its original Critical Area Plan in 1979. They revised their Comprehensive Plan in 1993 (2010 Plan) and 1998 (2020 Plan), with a major revision of the Critical Area plan in 1998. The City reports being undecided regarding whether it will update its Critical Area plan during the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update. They plan to evaluate the plan and revise it if necessary. The City reported adopting a Critical Area Ordinance in 1991. DNR files show that the original ordinance was approved by the EQB in 1979 and that it has not been updated or approved by the DNR since then. The City indicated that it would update its Critical Area Ordinance sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update.

Community Perspectives

The City indicates the strength and value of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is protection of Mississippi River bluff areas that are difficult to develop. A weakness is that it requires State oversight of development, which otherwise is a local issue. The City would not be interested in participating a stakeholder group.

Variances

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of Rosemount (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	2	2	0
OHWL setback	0	0	0
Lot setbacks	0	0	0
Slopes	1	1	0
Bldg Dimensions	0	0	0
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	1	1	0
Lot Density/Size	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Totals (1979-2007)	4	4	0

CITY OF ST. PAUL

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City originally adopted its Critical Area Plan in 1981. The City amended the plan in 1987 to incorporate the “Riverfront Pre-development Plan”. In 1997, the City developed the “St. Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework” which was an important plan relating to the river, although it is not a chapter in the Comprehensive Plan. DNR records indicate the City adopted the Mississippi River Corridor Plan, a chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, in 2001. In 2007 the City developed a draft National Great River Park chapter for the 1997 framework, and it plans to develop a “National Great River Park Plan in 2008 or 2009. The City will not update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update.

The City originally adopted a Critical Area Ordinance in 1982. The Ordinance has not undergone any major revision since adoption but City staff indicate that a revised ordinance has been developed through a Task Force process. The Task Force issued its report in July 2006; the matter is before the City Planning Commission. The City has adopted two zoning changes with potential implications in the Critical Area: Preliminary zoning for urban villages in 2001, and a general update of the zoning code adding Traditional Neighborhood (TN) zones in 2004.

Community Perspectives

City staff state that the strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that it provides environmental and scenic standards for the River Corridor in the entire Metro area. They also state that the weakness of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that DNR staff have had an “anti-urban bias” and have been “unwilling to acknowledge the environmental benefits of urban living.” Staff suggest that the program could be improved by ensuring a metro perspective and specific expertise on ecological and hydrological questions. The City is interested in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variances

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of St. Paul (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	14	12	2
OHWL setback	1	1	0
Lot setbacks	0	0	0
Slopes	9	8	1
Bldg Dimensions	2	1	1
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	0	0	0
Lot Density/Size	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Totals (1982-2007)	26	22	4

CITY OF ST. PAUL PARK

Status of Plans and Ordinances

The City of St. Paul Park updated its Critical Area Plan as a chapter of the City's Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in July of 1999. The EQB approved the City's original Critical Area Plan in 1982. The City will update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update. There are other updates planned in 2008. A portion of Grey Cloud Island Township is proposed for annexation. This may be included in the Comprehensive Plan Update, or may be a separate Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The City of St. Paul Park's Critical Area ordinance was first approved by the EQB in 1982. The City revised its Critical Area Ordinance in 2000. The City reports a number of ordinance revisions: two in 2000, one in 2001 and another in 2002. The City developed draft ordinance revisions in 2002, which the DNR reviewed. The City also reported submitting a draft ordinance to DNR to review in 2006, and expressed concern that DNR had not responded. While DNR files include documentation of meetings and correspondence with the City, they do not indicate DNR inaction has delayed ordinance review. DNR and City staff recently met to discuss final ordinance language, and City staff plan to submit a final draft ordinance to the Planning Commission and City Council in early 2008.

Community Perspectives

The strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that it provides guidance across municipal boundaries for river corridor management. It is a tool that communities can utilize when discussing appropriate development and conservation activities adjacent to the River. The weakness of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that the inflexible administration of the program does not reflect current land use patterns, and this inflexibility may or may not ultimately protect the River and its amenities. The arduous plan, ordinance and development review process takes too much time. Because of the two concerns listed above, it seems other municipalities are inclined to grant variances rather than engage in discussions. The program could be improved by either revision of the boundaries and guidelines, or more appropriate interpretation of the intent of the Executive Order 79-19. The River and its amenities should not be compromised for the sake of development activities, but the guidelines inhibit what could be better development scenarios that could be more protective of the natural, cultural and social aspects of the River. This program is valuable because it provides communities with guidelines that are expected to be adhered to by many municipalities and gives communities further support in implementing River protection strategies. The City is interested in participating in a stakeholder group.

Variations

The following table summarizes variance application and disposition information provided by the City of St. Paul Park (see Appendix B Variance Data Tables).

Type of Variance	# applications	# granted	# denied
Bluff setback	0	0	0
OHWL setback	0	0	0
Lot setbacks	0	0	0
Slopes	0	0	0
Bldg Dimensions	14	14	0
ISTS	0	0	0
Grading and filling	1	1	0
Lot Density/Size	0	0	0
Other	24	24	0
Totals (1982-2007)	39	39	0

* No variances or conditional use permits were granted for residential property. All were variances or conditional use permits granted to Marathon Ashland Petroleum.

CITY OF SOUTH ST. PAUL

No response to the questionnaire was received. DNR files indicate that the EQB originally approved the City of South St. Paul's Critical Area Plan in 1982, and that DNR approved a plan update in 2000. The City's Critical Area ordinance also was approved by the EQB in 1982.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Status of Plans and Ordinances

Washington County is uncertain regarding the original date of their Critical Area plan. DNR records indicate a plan was approved in 2001. The County does not administer a Critical Area ordinance since the individual Critical Area communities in Washington County (Cottage Grove, Denmark Township) perform their own zoning functions. The County indicated it will update its Critical Area Plan as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Community Perspectives

The strength of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is that it highlights the importance of the River area. The weakness of the Mississippi River Critical Area program is inconsistent enforcement due to so many different communities implementing ordinances. The program could be improved by the oversight of individual community decisions by either the DNR or County. The County is interested in participating in a stakeholder group.

Summary of the Mississippi River Critical Area survey responses

Twenty-two units of government (of 30 contacted) responded to the survey.

Administration of the Mississippi River Critical Area Corridor was transferred to the DNR in 1995. During the next five years, with staff funding and community assistance grants from the National Park Service (NPS), the DNR worked with corridor communities to update their plans and ordinances to incorporate goals from the NPS' 1995 Mississippi National River Recreation Area Comprehensive Plan. Twenty-seven communities have revised their Critical Area Plans since 1995, including twenty-one of the communities responding to the survey. Six communities have updated their Critical Area regulations or ordinances since they were originally approved by the EQB, including five of the communities responding to the survey.

Communities responding to the survey reported a total of 230 variance applications since adopting their respective ordinances. Variance applications were granted for 200 (87%) of that total. Variance applications were denied for 30 (13%) of the total. The types and numbers of variances granted were: Bluffline setbacks (41, or 20.5%); Setbacks for Accessory Structures and Rear or Side yard setbacks (31, or 15.5%); OHWL setbacks (30, or 15%); Structure Height and Dimensional Standards (21, or 10.5%); Lot Size or building density (18, or 9%); Steep Slopes (9, or 4.5%); Grading and filling (5, or 2.5%); and other (44, or 22%).

Community perspectives on the program were mixed, but responding communities generally considered the program valuable.

Community Name	Responded to Survey?	# Variance Applications reported	Adopted Plan Date	Adopted Ordinance Date
Anoka	Y	19	2005	1980
Anoka County	Y	NA	2002	NA
Brooklyn Center	Y	1	2003	1980
Brooklyn Park	Y	26	2001	1980
Champlin	Y	26	2003	1980
Coon Rapids	Y	1	2001	1979
Cottage Grove	Y	24	1982	1980
Dakota County	N	NA	1999	NA
Dayton	Y	0	2001	2003
Denmark Township	N		1999	1982
Fridley	N		2001	1980
Grey Cloud Island Twp	Y	6	1999	2001
Hastings	Y	12	2001	NA ¹
Hennepin County	N	NA	NA	NA
Inver Grove Heights	Y	2	1999	1992
Lilydale	Y	?	1997	1998
Maplewood	Y	0	1992	1983
Mendota	Y	?	2000	1980

Mendota Heights	Y	14	2002	2006
Minneapolis	N		2006	NA ²
Newport	Y	?	2000	1980
Nininger Township	Y	2	2000	2000
Ramsey	Y	28	2001	1985
Ramsey County	N	NA	2001	NA
Ravenna Township	N		1998	1999
Rosemount	Y	4	1998	1991
St. Paul	Y	26	2001	1982
St. Paul Park	Y	39	1999	2002
South St. Paul	N		2000	1982
Washington County	Y	NA	2001	NA

Notes:

1: Although the EQB approved an ordinance for the community, it apparently has never adopted it and is operating under interim guidelines.

2: In 1989, EQB approved Minneapolis' existing land use framework for regulating activity in the Critical Area; the city does not have an approved Critical Area ordinance.

Appendix A

Community Survey

Questionnaires

Your Community: CITY OF ANOKA

Your Name ERIK THORVIG

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1979

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year? 2005

Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year Description

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/No

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No. If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance: Currently don't have a critical Area ordinance.

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? _____

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year(s) _____?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year Description

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

_____ no plans to update

_____ in 2007

X in 2008

_____ in 2009

_____ sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

(Please complete other side)

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
Additional regulations help city enforce river projects.
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
Boundaries are a great distance from the river in some places.
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
Seminars that are city specific.
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
Protects an area that people take pride in recreating; living in.
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? Yes
 No thanks.
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

Please mail this form, along with the completed variance table, in the envelope provided. The address is: Bret Anderson, DNR Waters
500 Lafayette Road, Box 32
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032

You also may fax the information to the DNR at 651-296-0445, or e-mail it to bret.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us. If you would like to have these forms electronically or have any questions, please contact Bret at 651-259-5653, or by e-mail.

Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: ANOKA COUNTY

Your Name KATE GARWOOD, AICP

ANOKA COUNTY HWY DEPT.
1440 BUNKER LAKE BLVD.
ANDOVER, MN 55304

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 2001

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year? _____

Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year Description

2015 TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/No

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

WE DO NOT CONTROL LAND USE

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 2001

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year(s) _____?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

IN ANOKA COUNTY, THEREFORE DO NOT

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year Description

HAVE ANY ORDINANCES

WE ONLY MANAGE OUR HWY
PROJECTS TO COMPLY W/MNRRRA AND/OR
WITH THE LOCAL CITY ORDINANCE

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

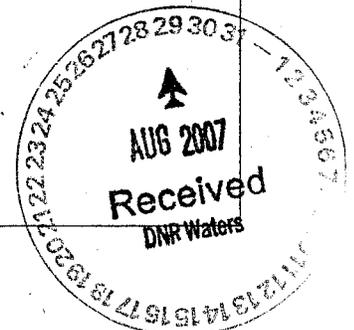
_____ no plans to update

_____ in 2007

_____ in 2008

_____ in 2009

_____ sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update



(Please complete other side)

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
IT ~~MANAGES~~ PROVIDES FOR MANAGEMENT / PROTECTION OF A NATURAL RESOURCE
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
IT MAKES UNREASONABLE, UNREALISTIC DEMANDS OF ORGANIZATIONS LIKE OURS THAT HAVE NO LAND USE CONTROLS
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
FIX #2 = THE PROGRAM WAS ADMINISTERED TO THE COMMUNITIES IN THIS AREA SUCH THAT WE ALL RESENTED DNR =
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
IT COULD BE MORE SO IF IT FOCUSED ON BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTATION *THAT WAS NOT FAIR TO DNR OR TO US. REASONABLE PEOPLE CAN MAKE REASONABLE COMPROMISES, AND SHOULD DO SO.*
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? Yes
 No thanks.
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?
PLEASE HELP MAKE THIS A PROGRAM PEOPLE WANT TO IMPLEMENT, INSTEAD OF DRED HEARING ABOUT.

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

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500 Lafayette Road, Box 32
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: BROOKLYN CENTER Your Name RON WARREN

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1980
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes / No If Yes, what year? 2002

Please briefly describe the revision:
FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS OF STATE OF MINNESOTA & NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER CORRIDOR THROUGH THE METROPOLITAN AREA.

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year	Description
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes / No IF REQUIRED TO UPDATE

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No _____. If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? NOT YET ADOPTED
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes / No If Yes, what year(s) _____?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year	Description
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)
- no plans to update
 - in 2007
 - in 2008
 - in 2009
 - sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program? *DESIGNED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF CITIZENS OF STATE, REGION & NATION AND PREVENT IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE TO IT.*
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? _____ Yes
_____ No thanks. *I BELIEVE THE CITY WOULD HAVE AN INTEREST.*
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: City of Brooklyn Park Your Name Cindy Sherman

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1979
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes / No If Yes, what year? 2001

Please briefly describe the revision:

The Mississippi River Stewardship Plan was adopted as part of the 2000 Comprehensive Plan Update

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year Description

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes No

Are any other updates planned? Yes No. If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 1980
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes No If Yes, what year(s) 2001 ?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

allows reconstruction/replacement within existing footprint

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year Description

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

_____ no plans to update

_____ in 2007

_____ in 2008

_____ in 2009

sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

(Please complete other side)

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
a tool to help in the preservation of the corridor
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
Multiple jurisdictions and inconsistent rules w/ inconsistent enforcement.
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
Clear expectations, reasonable application of the rules
4. How is this program valuable to your community? *The River is an important asset to our community and the program can be a help in protecting it.*
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? Yes
 No thanks.
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?
More education materials on protecting the river to provide for all owners. Some are very good stewards others are not.

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

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St. Paul, MN 55155-4032

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: City of Champlin

Your Name Scott Schulte

763-923-7102

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1980

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year? 2003

Please briefly describe the revision:

The revisions addressed the 1988 MNRA Comprehensive Management Plan.

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year Description

Year	Description

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/No

Are any other updates planned? Yes/ No. If so, what year ___?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 1980

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year(s) 2003 ?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Amendments met MNRA policies.

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year Description

Year	Description

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

no plans to update

in 2007

in 2008

in 2009

sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

(Please complete other side)

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? Yes
 No thanks.
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

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St. Paul, MN 55155-4032

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: COON RAPIDS

Your Name SCOTT HARLICKER

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1979

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No No If Yes, what year? _____

Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year Description

2001 Comp plan amend - no impact

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/No

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No No. If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? _____

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No No If Yes, what year(s) _____?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year Description

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

no plans to update

in 2007

in 2008

in 2009

sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update



(Please complete other side)

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? Yes
 No thanks.
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

Please mail this form, along with the completed variance table, in the envelope provided. The address is: Bret Anderson, DNR Waters
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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: CITY of COTTAGE GROVE Your Name HOWARD BLIN

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1978
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year? _____
Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year	Description
<u>1999</u>	<u>UPDATE TO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/No

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No. If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 1978
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year(s) _____?
Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year	Description
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)
 no plans to update
 in 2007
 in 2008
 in 2009
 sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
COTTAGE GROVE IS CLASSIFIED AS RURAL. RURAL STANDARDS APPLY TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT, REQUIRING NUMEROUS VARIANCES
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
~~THE~~ APPLY URBAN STANDARDS TO COTTAGE GROVE
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? Yes
 No thanks.
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

Please mail this form, along with the completed variance table, in the envelope provided. The address is: Bret Anderson, DNR Waters
500 Lafayette Road, Box 32
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032

You also may fax the information to the DNR at 651-296-0445, or e-mail it to bret.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us. If you would like to have these forms electronically or have any questions, please contact Bret at 651-259-5653, or by e-mail.

Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: City of Dayton

Your Name Erin Stover

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 2003

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/ No If Yes, what year? _____

Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year Description

Year	Description
_____	<u>na</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes / No

Are any other updates planned? Yes/ No. If so, what year _____?

unless MRRP Plan requires us with illicit discharge plan.

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 2003

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/ No If Yes, what year(s) _____?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year Description

Year	Description
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

- no plans to update
- in 2007
- in 2008
- in 2009
- sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION

(Please complete other side)

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
Protection of shoreline/wetlands from pending development
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
Very difficult to make existing laws that want to "slightly" expand conform with the audience
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
None at this time
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
to protect a valuable resource
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? Yes
 No thanks.
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

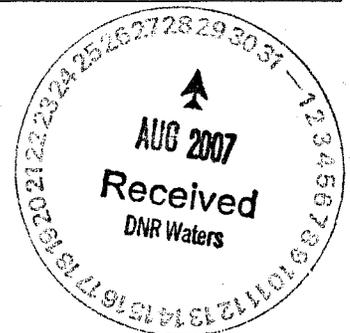
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(Please complete both sides)



Your Community: GREY CLOUD ISLAND TOWNSHIP Your Name RICHARD E. MULLEN - CLERK

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1980
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes / No If Yes, what year? 1999
Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year	Description
<u>1983?</u>	<u>LOSS OF LOWER PORTION OF LOWER GRAY CLOUD ISLAND TO COPTAGE GROVE</u>
<u>2007</u>	<u>LOSS OF 300 ACRES TO ST PAUL PARK (BT ANNEXATION (STILL BEING CONTESTED))</u>

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes / No

Are any other updates planned? Yes No. If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 1980
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes / No If Yes, what year(s) 1999 ?
Please briefly describe the revision(s):

LOSS OF LAND DUE TO ANNEXATION TO COPTAGE GROVE 1983?
LOSS OF 300 ACRES TO ST PAUL PARK - (CONTESTED BY SEVERAL PEOPLE)

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year	Description
<u>1989</u>	<u>LOSS OF LOWER GRAY CLOUD ISLAND TO COPTAGE GROVE</u>

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

- no plans to update
- in 2007
- in 2008
- in 2009
- sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

DESIRE OF CITIZENS TO PRESERVE PRISTINE RIVER FRONTAGE

2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

LOSS OF CONTROL OF MINNESOTA TOWNSHIPS BY ANNEXATION
FAVORING CITIES

3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?

4. How is this program valuable to your community?

5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? _____ Yes

No thanks.

6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

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(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: Hastings

Your Name John Hinzman

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 2000 ~~Never Adopted using E.O. 79-19~~

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year? _____

Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year	Description
<u>05</u>	<u>Rezone From C-3-Community Residential Commerce to DC-Downtown core</u>
_____	<u>- contained 2 Block area Directly South of Mississippi River</u>
_____	<u>between Ramsey Street to Baily Street</u>

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/ No

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No. If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? Never Adopted using E.O. 79-19

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year(s) _____?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year	Description
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

- no plans to update
- in 2007
- in 2008
- in 2009
- sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

Protects vegetation and intensive development

2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

*Does not allow established cities the ability to develop or ~~redevelop~~ redevelop.
Creates many non-conformities, ~~and~~ leading to numerous variances, ~~at~~*

3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?

~~Allow established urban development to continue~~
*Allow established urban development to continue
in certain areas. The city has attempted to establish a separate district on several
occasions, but has been turned
down by DNR*

4. How is this program valuable to your community?

*Valuable in green areas. A terrible burden
in developed areas.*

5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? Yes
 No thanks.

6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: City of Inver Grove Heights Your Name: Jennifer Emmerich

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1998
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year? _____

Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year	Description
_____	<u>None</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/No

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No. If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 1992
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year(s) _____?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year	Description
_____	<u>None</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

- When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)
- no plans to update
 - _____ in 2007
 - _____ in 2008
 - _____ in 2009
 - _____ sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
- Increased protection of our nat. resources.
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? Yes
 No thanks.
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

my contact info:
Jenn Emmerich

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(Please complete both sides)

Your Community:

Lilydale

Your Name

Jan Oler

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1979

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No No If Yes, what year? _____

Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year	Description
<u>2000</u>	<u>re-zone from Industrial to Multi-family</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/No

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No No. If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 1979

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No No If Yes, what year(s) _____?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year	Description
<u>2000</u>	<u>re-zone from Industrial to Multi-family</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

- no plans to update
- in 2007
- in 2008
- in 2009
- sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

Control over construction

2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? _____ Yes
_____ No thanks.
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: MAPLEWOOD Your Name KEN ROBERTS

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1988
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year? _____
Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year	Description
_____	<u>NONE</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/ No NOT SURE YET

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No __. If so, what year __?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 1988
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year(s) NO?
Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year	Description
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)
_____ no plans to update
_____ in 2007
_____ in 2008
_____ in 2009
_____ sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

NOT SURE YET



III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? _____ Yes
 No thanks.
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)



Your Community: Mendota

Your Name: Joan Olin

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1990
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No No If Yes, what year? _____
Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year	Description
_____	<u>none</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/No Yes

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No No. If so, what year _____?



II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 1990
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No No If Yes, what year(s) _____?
Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year	Description
_____	<u>none</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)
 no plans to update
 in 2007
 in 2008
 in 2009
 sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

help with development

2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?

4. How is this program valuable to your community?

being

5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? Yes
 No thanks.

6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: Mendota Heights

Your Name Ike Sedlacek

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 80

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes No If Yes, what year? _____

Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year Description

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes No *it will be reviewed, we don't anticipate changes to the critical area comp. plan.*

Are any other updates planned? Yes No . If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 81

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes No If Yes, what year(s) _____?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year Description

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

no plans to update

in 2007

in 2008

in 2009

sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
it serves as a useful tool for controlling development on the river bluff
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
*# A majority of our critical area properties are far from the bluff -
the vast majority of our critical area permits are not variances, but simple plan reviews*
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
revisit the boundaries
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
control for development along the river
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? X Yes
 No thanks.
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

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(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: City of Newport Your Name Chris Weirens

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 6-2-2002
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/ No If Yes, what year? _____
Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year Description

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/ No

Are any other updates planned? Yes/ No. If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 6-2-2002
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/ No If Yes, what year(s) _____?
Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year Description

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

- no plans to update
 in 2007
 in 2008
 in 2009
 sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

Protects riverfront properties from improper development.

2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

—

3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?

—

4. How is this program valuable to your community?

Another tool for river preservation.

5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? _____ Yes

No thanks.

6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

—

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: Nininger Township

Your Name Judy Kransich, Clerk

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? August 15, 2008

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year? _____

Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year Description

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/No

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No. If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? unk

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year(s) _____?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year Description

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

- no plans to update
 in 2007
 in 2008
 in 2009
 sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update



(Please complete other side)

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

- 1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
- 2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
- 3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
- 4. How is this program valuable to your community?
- 5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? _____ Yes
 No thanks.
- 6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions? *1/6*

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

Bret Anderson
bret.anderson
2007-08-03

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: **City of Ramsey** Your Name: **Amy Geisler**

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? **1980 (as best I can tell)**

Has it undergone major revision since then? **Yes** If Yes, what year? **1990 and 2001 Comp Plan updates**

Please briefly describe the revision: **appears to be primarily changes to the MUSA boundary – 2001 update is most complete plan**

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them: **(Our records from before the 1990s may not be complete)**

Year Description

2001 Critical Area plan updated as part of overall Comprehensive Plan Update

2006 Comp Plan Amendment/Rezoning to convert a business parcel to residential (still pending)

1979 Rezoning from Residential/Industrial to Residential/Business for Alpaca Estates 1st, 2nd, 3rd Additions (portion within CA)

1982 Rezoning from Business to Residential south of Highway 10 (portion within CA)

1988 Rezoning from Business to Residential for plat of Riverside west (portion within CA)

1993 Rezoning to Combination of Business and Residential for plat of Rivenwich (portion within CA)

1995 Rezoning riparian lot from Highway Business to Residential

2003 Rezoning from Business to Residential for plat of Rivenwick 3rd Addition

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? **Yes – probably minor**

Are any other updates planned? **No**. If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? **1985**

Has it undergone major revision since then? **No** If Yes, what year(s) _____?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year Description

1988, 1990 Amendments to add descriptions of future trails along the Mississippi

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

_____ no plans to update

_____ in 2007

_____ in 2008

_____ in 2009

X sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

-Vegetative management requirements

2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

-Boundary by legal description/section line rather than river buffer or some other method more directly tied to the river

-Difficulty in applying standards to existing development, redevelopment, and new development

-Difficulty in applying standards to urban and rural development

-Overlap, inconsistency, conflict, and confusion with other river regulations (Scenic River, Shoreland, etc)

-Lack of cohesive plan/implementation/zoning requirements throughout the Critical Area

-Difficulty in applying standards that were established in the 1970s to an urbanizing area

3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?

-Eliminate subdistricts

-Revise boundary to a buffer rather than following section lines – should also account for major roads (e.g. Highway 10)

-Pursue plan for entire Critical Area, coordinate with other river planning/zoning requirements

-Work w/cities to develop standards that protect the resource yet are flexible enough to accommodate existing and new development

4. How is this program valuable to your community? **Vegetative management requirements, ability to collaborate w/DNR staff on reviewing development proposals within the corridor**

5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? X Yes

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

Please mail this form, along with the completed variance table, in the envelope provided. The

address is: Bret Anderson, DNR Waters
500 Lafayette Road, Box 32
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032

You also may fax the information to the DNR at 651-296-0445, or e-mail it to bret.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us. If you would like to have these forms electronically or have any questions, please contact Bret at 651-259-5653, or by e-mail.

Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: Rosemount

Your Name Eric Zweber

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1979

Has it undergone major revision since then? **Yes/No** If Yes, what year? 1998

Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year Description

1979 Adoption of the 1990 Comprehensive Plan

1993 Adoption of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan

1998 Adoption of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/ No **Currently undecided. We will be evaluating the Critical Area Plan during the update and revise if we determine it is nessecary.**

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No . If so, what year ?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 1991

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year(s) ?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year Description

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

 no plans to update

 in 2007

 in 2008

 in 2009

X sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

(Please complete other side)

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
Protection of Mississippi River bluff areas that are difficult to develop.
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
Requires State oversight of development which otherwise is a local issue.
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
None.
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
Protection of Mississippi River bluff areas that are difficult to develop.
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? _____ Yes
_____ No thanks.
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: ST. PAUL, MN.

Your Name LARRY SODERHOLM

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? 1981

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes / No If Yes, what year? 1987 amended

Please briefly describe the revision:
1987 - incorporated "Riverfront Pre-development Plan"
2002 - New, more detailed plan

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year	Description
<u>1997</u>	<u>"Mississippi River Critical St. Paul on the Miss. Development Framework"</u> <u>was an important plan, though not itself a comp plan chapter.</u>
<u>2007</u>	<u>National Great River Park chapter of (above).</u>

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes / No

Are any other updates planned? Yes / No. If so, what year _____?

- Not currently planned, but this could change.
- We are planning to do a "National Great River Park Plan" in 08 or '09

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? 1982

Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes / No If Yes, what year(s) _____?

Please briefly describe the revision(s):
St. Paul Critical Area Task Force Report of July 2006
But we're working on it.

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year	Description
<u>2001</u>	<u>Preliminary zoning for urban villages.</u>
<u>2004</u>	<u>General update of zoning code with traditional Neighborhood (TN) zones.</u>

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)

- no plans to update
- in 2007 } at Planning Commission now (Sept. '07) - ordinance
- in 2008 }
- in 2009
- sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
Provides environmental and scenic standards for River Corridor in entire metro area.
2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?
DNR staff have had an anti-urban bias, have been unwilling to acknowledge the environmental benefits of
3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?
The 1979 guidelines ought to be updated and coordinated with Metro Council planning. (urban living)
4. How is this program valuable to your community?
By ensuring a metro perspective and specific expertise on ecological & hydrological questions.
5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? Yes
 No thanks. *(Or Al Torsterson or Lucy Thompson)*
6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: St. Paul Park Your Name Kristina Smitten

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? _____
Has it undergone major revision since then? **Yes/No** If Yes, what year? 1999

Please briefly describe the revision:

Updated as a chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. City adopted the Comprehensive Plan in July of 1999.

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year Description

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? **Yes/ No**

Are any other updates planned? **Yes/No**_. If so, what year 2008 ? Note: A portion of Grey Cloud Island Township is proposed to be annexed to the City. This may be included in the Comprehensive Plan Update, or may be a separate Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? _____
Has it undergone major revision since then? **Yes/No** If Yes, what year(s) 2000 ?

Please briefly describe the revision(s): The ordinance was updated after the plan update to make the planning and zoning consistent. The first revision was in 5/2000, and revised again 7/2000, 4/2001, and 10/2002.

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

Year Description

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (*check one*)

no plans to update

in 2007

in 2008

in 2009

sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

Note: The City sent the ordinance revisions to the DNR for review and comment 11/06, and has not received a response yet. The City desires to adopt its revised ordinances as soon as possible.

(Please complete other side)

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

It provides guidance across municipal boundaries for river corridor management. It is a tool that communities can utilize when discussing appropriate development and conservation activities adjacent to the River.

2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

Inflexible administration of the program that doesn't reflect current land use patterns, and this inflexibility may or may not ultimately protect the River and its amenities.

Arduous plan, ordinance and development review process that takes too much time.

Because of the two concerns listed above, it seems other municipalities are inclined to grant variances rather than engage in discussions.

3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?

Either revision of the boundaries and guidelines, or more appropriate interpretation of the intent of the Executive Order 79-19. The River and its amenities should not be compromised for the sake of development activities, but the guidelines inhibit what could be better development scenarios that could be more protective of the natural, cultural and social aspects of the River.

4. How is this program valuable to your community?

It provides communities with guidelines that are expected to be adhered to by many municipalities, and gives communities further support to implement River protection strategies.

5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? X Yes

_____ No thanks.

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

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St. Paul, MN 55155-4032

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Your Community: Washington County Your Name Dennis O'Donnell

I. Please provide information on your community's Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan chapter):

What year was your community's Critical Area Plan originally adopted? Some reference made to it
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No No If Yes, what year? in 1997
Please briefly describe the revision:

Please list the years of any Comprehensive Plan or zoning amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe them:

Year	Description
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Will your community update its Critical Area Plan (or Critical Area Comprehensive Plan component) as part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update required by the Metropolitan Council? Yes/No

Are any other updates planned? Yes/No No If so, what year _____?

II. Please provide the requested information on your community's Critical Area Ordinance:

What year was your Critical Area ordinance originally adopted? Did not Adopt an ordinance
Has it undergone major revision since then? Yes/No If Yes, what year(s) _____?
Please briefly describe the revision(s):

The County was not required to Adopt Critical Area Ord. Individual cities & towns were only required to adopt

Please list the years of any ordinance amendments affecting the Critical Area Corridor and briefly describe the amendments:

We have Adopted Shoreland Regulations that are applicable along the RIVER.

Year	Description
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

When does your community plan to update its critical area ordinance? (check one)
 no plans to update
 in 2007
 in 2008
 in 2009
 sometime after the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update

III. Community Perspectives

The DNR would like to learn community views of the Critical Area program. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions from your community's perspective:

1. What are the strengths of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

Highlights the importance of the River Area

2. What are the weaknesses of the Mississippi River Critical Area program?

Inconsistent enforcement due to so many different communities implementing the ordinances.

3. What suggestions do you have for improving the program?

Oversight of individual community decisions by either the DNR or County.

4. How is this program valuable to your community?

It defines the River Corridor & sets forth the goals to protect it.

5. If DNR convenes a stakeholder group to develop ideas and recommendations for changing the program, would you be interested in participating (1-2 sessions, maximum)? Yes
_____ No thanks.

6. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

Thank you for helping us with this project! We will send you a copy of the report when completed.

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Please return the table and the forms by August 31, 2007.

(Please complete both sides)

Appendix B

Community Survey

Data Tables

Aggregated Community Responses - Variance Data Table

Year of Application	Setbacks from top of Mississippi River Bluffline		Setbacks from OHWL		Accessory Structures/Rear/Side yard setbacks		Building on Steep Slopes (>18%)		Structure Height and Dimensional Standards		Sewage Treatment System Design/Location		Topographic Alterations/Grading/filling		Lot Density and Size		Other types of Variances to Critical Area Ord.		Total Number of Applications per year	
	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied
2007	1				1				3								1		5	3
2006	1	1	2		1	1		1	1						1				7	2
2005	3		1	1	1					1					1		2		8	2
2004		1	1		3	2	1								2	1	1		8	4
2003	2				1	1									1	3			6	2
2002	1				1										2	1			7	1
2001	1				4				2	1					1				13	1
2000	4	1	3	1	2				1						4		1		14	3
1999	3		1		1				3						1				13	0
1998	5				1	1									1		6		8	0
1997	6				2	2				2					1				12	3
1996	1				1	1			3						1		1		7	0
1995	1		1		2	1									1				7	0
1994	2				1									1					6	0
1993	1																		3	0
1992	1		1		1	1													3	0
1991	2				2														9	0
1990	1		1		1	1			3						1		2		9	0
1989	1		1	1	1	1			1						1		4		8	0
1988			4		4				2	1					1		2		6	3
1987	1		7		2				1						1		1		10	0
1986	2		3			2									4		4		15	0
1985	1				1										1		1		6	2
1984	1				1	1									1		1		2	1
1983						1									1		1		1	2
1982																			0	0
1981																	1		1	0
1980																			3	0
1979			1																4	0
totals	41	3	30	5	31	9	9	1	21	4	1	0	5	0	18	5	44	3	200	30

Community Name: City of Brooklyn Park

Year of Application	Setbacks from top of Mississippi River Bluffline		Setbacks from OHWL		Accessory Structures/Rear/Side yard setbacks		Building on Steep Slopes (>18%)		Structure Height and Dimensional Standards		Sewage Treatment System Design/Location		Topographic Alterations/Grading/filling		Lot Density and Size		Other types of Variances to Critical Area Ord.		Total Number of Applications per year			
	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied		
2007			1																	1		
2006																						
2005																						
2004																						
2003																						
2002					1																1	
2001																						
2000	2				1																3	
1999																						
1998	1				1																2	
1997	1																				1	
1996																						
1995	1																				1	
1994	1																				1	
1993	1																				1	
1992																						
1991	2																				2	
1990					1																2	
1989					1																1	
1988					1																1	
1987																						
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1983																						
1982																						
1981																						
1980																						
1979																						
totals	10		1	6												4	5				25	1

Community Name: City of Champlin

Year of Application	Setbacks from top of Mississippi River Bluffline		Setbacks from OHWL		Accessory Structures/Rear/Side yard setbacks		Building on Steep Slopes (>18%)		Structure Height and Dimensional Standards		Sewage Treatment System Design/Location		Topographic Alterations/Grading/filling		Lot Density and Size		Other types of Variances to Critical Area Ord.		Total Number of Applications per year			
	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied		
2007																						
2006																						
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2004																						
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2002			1																	1		
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1990			1																			
1989			1	1																1		
1988			4		2															1	2	
1987			5																	6		
1986			2																	5		
1985																				2		
1984																						
1983																						
1982																						
1981																						
1980																						
1979																						
Totals			15	2	3	6														18	8	

Community Name: City of Cottage Grove

Year of Application	Setbacks from top of Mississippi River Bluffline		Setbacks from OHWL		Accessory Structures/Rear/Side yard setbacks		Building on Steep Slopes (>18%)		Structure Height and Dimensional Standards		Sewage Treatment System Design/Location		Topographic Alterations/Grading/filling		Lot Density and Size		Other types of Variances to Critical Area Ord.		Total Number of Applications per year		
	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	
2007	1				1										1				2	1	
2006																					
2005																					
2004																					
2003	1																			1	
2002	1																			1	
2001	1				1															2	
2000	2												3							5	
1999	2																			2	
1998	2																			2	
1997					1					2										1	2
1996																					
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1990	1																			1	
1989																					
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1987	1																			1	
1986	1																			1	
1985	1																			1	
1984	1																			1	
1983																					
1982																					
1981																					
1980																					
1979																					
totals	15				3					2						3				21	3

Community Name: Grey Cloud Island Township

Year of Application	Setbacks from top of Mississippi River Bluffline		Setbacks from OHWL		Accessory Structures/Rear/Side yard setbacks		Building on Steep Slopes (>18%)		Structure Height and Dimensional Standards		Sewage Treatment System Design/Location		Topographic Alterations/Grading/filling		Lot Density and Size		Other types of Variances to Critical Area Ord.		Total Number of Applications per year		
	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	
2007																					
2006																					
2005					1															1	
2004																					
2003																					
2002																					
2001													3								
2000																				3	
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1984																					
1983																					
1982																					
1981																					
1980																					
1979																					
totals					1							3						2		4	2

Community Name: City of Hastings

Year of Application	Setbacks from top of Mississippi River Bluffline		Setbacks from OHWL		Accessory Structures/Rear/Side yard setbacks		Building on Steep Slopes (>18%)		Structure Height and Dimensional Standards		Sewage Treatment System Design/Location		Topographic Alterations/Grading/filling		Lot Density and Size		Other types of Variances to Critical Area Ord.		Total Number of Applications per year		
	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	
2007																					
2006																					
2005	1																				1
2004																					1
2003																					1
2002																					1
2001																					3
2000																					1
1999																					1
1998																					1
1997																					1
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1984																					1
1983																					1
1982																					1
1981																					1
1980																					1
1979																					1
Totals	1			4												5	1				11

Community Name: Mendota Heights

Year of Application	Setbacks from top of Mississippi River Bluffline		Setbacks from OHWL		Accessory Structures/Rear/Side yard setbacks		Building on Steep Slopes (> 18%)		Structure Height and Dimensional Standards		Sewage Treatment System Design/Location		Topographic Alterations/Grading/filling		Lot Density and Size		Other types of Variances to Critical Area Ord.		Total Number of Applications per year		
	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	
2007																					
2006																					
2005																		1		1	
2004					2	1													2		1
2003					1	1												1		2	1
2002																					
2001																					
2000																					
1999																		1		1	
1998																					
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1982																					
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1980																		1		1	
1979																					
totals					4	2				1							7		12	2	

Community Name: City of Ramsey:

Year of Application	Setbacks from top of Mississippi River Bluffline		Setbacks from OHWL		Accessory Structures/Rear/Side yard setbacks		Building on Steep Slopes (>18%)		Structure Height and Dimensional Standards		Sewage Treatment System Design/Location		Topographic Alterations/Grading/filling		Lot Density and Size		Other types of Variances to Critical Area Ord.		Total Number of Applications per year		
	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	
2007																		1		1	
2006					1															1	
2005																				1	
2004			1		1														1		4
2003																					
2002			1																		1
2001					3				1												6
2000			2																		3
1999																					1
1998																					3
1997					1																1
1996																					2
1995					1																2
1994																					
1993																					
1992					1																1
1991																					
1990																					
1989																					
1988																					
1987			2		2				1												4
1986																					
1985																					
1984																					
1983																					
1982																					
1981																					
1980																					
1979																					
totals			6		10				2		1				3			5	1		27

Community Name: City of Rosemount

Year of Application	Setbacks from top of Mississippi River Bluffline		Setbacks from OHWL		Accessory Structures/Rear/Side yard setbacks		Building on Steep Slopes (>18%)		Structure Height and Dimensional Standards		Sewage Treatment System Design/Location		Topographic Alterations/Grading/filling		Lot Density and Size		Other types of Variances to Critical Area Ord.		Total Number of Applications per year			
	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied		
2007																						
2006																						
2005																						
2004																						
2003																						
2002																						
2001																						
2000																						
1999																						
1998																						
1997	2						1						1								4	
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1982																						
1981																						
1980																						
1979																						
Totals	2						1						1								4	

Community Name: City of St. Paul

Year of Application	Setbacks from top of Mississippi River Bluffline		Setbacks from OHWL		Accessory Structures/Rear/Side yard setbacks		Building on Steep Slopes (> 18%)		Structure Height and Dimensional Standards		Sewage Treatment System Design/Location		Topographic Alterations/Grading/filling		Lot Density and Size		Other types of Variances to Critical Area Ord.		Total Number of Applications per year		
	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	# Granted	# Denied	
2007																					
2006	1	1	1				1	1												3	2
2005	2								1											2	1
2004		1					1													1	1
2003																					
2002																					
2001																					
2000																					
1999	1								1												
1998	2							1												2	
1997	3							1												3	
1996	1							1												4	
1995								1												2	
1994	1							1												1	
1993																				2	
1992	1							1													
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1988																					
1987																					
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1985																					
1984																					
1983																					
1982																					
1981																					
1980																					
1979																					
totals	12	2	1				8	1	1	1									22	4	

Appendix C

Community Survey

List of Contacts

Community Survey Contacts

Community	First Name	Last Name	Title	Building	Address	City	State	Zipcode
City of Anoka	Carolyn	Braun	Planning Director	City Manager's Office	2015 First Avenue	Anoka	MN	55303-2270
City of Brooklyn Center	Ronald	Warren	Planning and Zoning Specialist	Brooklyn Center City Hall	6301 Shingle Creek Parkway	Brooklyn Center	MN	55430-2113
City of Brooklyn Park	Robert	Schreier	Director of Community Development	Department of Community Development	5200 85th Avenue North	Brooklyn Park	MN	55443-4300
City of Champlin	John	Cox	Community Development Director	Champlin City Hall	11955 Champlin Drive	Champlin	MN	55316
City of Coon Rapids	Marc	Nevinski	Community Development Director	Coon Rapids City Hall	11155 Robinson Drive	Coon Rapids	MN	55433-3761
City of Cottage Grove	Howard	Blin	Director of Community Development	Cottage Grove City Hall	7516 80th St. South	Cottage Grove	MN	55016
City of Dayton	Erin	Stwora	Zoning Administrator/City Planner	Dayton City Hall	12260 S. Diamond Lake Road	Dayton	MN	55327
Denmark Township	Richard	Thompson	Planner	Denmark Town Hall	14008 90th St. S.	Hastings	MN	55033
City of Fridley	Julie	Jones	Planning Coordinator	Fridley City Hall	6431 University Ave.	Fridley	MN	55432
Grey Cloud Island Township	Richard	Mullen	Town Clerk		P.O. Box 4	St. Paul Park	MN	55071
City of Hastings	John	Hinzman	Planning Director	Hastings City Hall	101 4th St. East	Hastings	MN	55033-1955
City of Inver Grove Heights	Tom	Link	Community Development Director	Inver Grove Heights City Hall	8150 Barbara Avenue	Inver Grove Heights	MN	55077-3410
City of Lilydale	Bernard	Weitzman	Clerk/Treasurer	Lilydale City Hall	1011 Sibley Memorial Highway	Lilydale	MN	55118-5109
City of Maplewood	Tom	Ekstrand	Senior Planner	Maplewood City Hall	1830 Co. Rd. B East	Maplewood	MN	55109-2702
City of Mendota	Joan	Olin	City Clerk		PO Box 50688	Mendota	MN	55150
City of Mendota Heights	Jake	Sedlacek	Assistant City Administrator		1101 Victoria Curve	Mendota Heights	MN	55118

Community Survey Contacts

Community	First Name	Last Name	Title	Building	Address	City	State	Zipcode
City of Minneapolis	Stephen	Weckman	Zoning Specialist	Minneapolis City Hall, Rm 210	350 S. 5th Street, Room 210	Minneapolis	MN	55415-1316
City of Newport	Chris	Weirens	CSO/Planning and Zoning Official	Newport City Hall	596 7th Avenue	Newport	MN	55055-1345
Nininger Township	Judy	Krupich	Township Clerk	Nininger Town Hall	6725 157th St. E. 15153 Nowthen Boulevard	Hastings	MN	55033
City of Ramsey	Amy	Geisler	Associate Planner	Ramsey City Hall	20425 Red Wing Boulevard	Ramsey	MN	55303
Ravenna Township	Barbara	Kienberger				Hastings	MN	55033
City of Rosemount	Eric	Zweber	Senior Planner	Rosemount City Hall	2875 145th St. West	Rosemount	MN	55068-4941
City of St. Paul	Larry	Soderholm	Principal Planner	Department of Planning and Economic Development	1400 City Hall Annex	St. Paul	MN	55102
City of St. Paul Park	Barry	Sittlow	City Administrator	St. Paul Park City Hall	600 Portland Avenue	St. Paul Park	MN	55071-1500
City of South St. Paul	Peter	Hellegers	City Planner	South St. Paul City Hall	125 Third Avenue North	South St. Paul	MN	55075
Hennepin County	Richard	Johnson	Acting County Administrator	A2300 Government Center		Minneapolis	MN	55487
County of Anoka	Karen	Skepper	Community Development Manager	Anoka County Government Center	2100 3rd Avenue Western Service Center, 14955 Galaxie Ave	Anoka	MN	55303-2265
Dakota County	Brandt	Richardson	County Administrator	Dakota County Office of Planning	Center, 14955 Galaxie Ave	Apple Valley	MN	55124-8579
Ramsey County	David	Twa	Ramsey County Manager	Ramsey County Court House	15 W. Kellogg Blvd, Room 250	St. Paul	MN	55102
Washington County	Dennis	O'Donnell	Senior Planner	Washington County Planning and Zoning	Washington County Government Center, 14949 62nd St N, PO Box 6	Stillwater	MN	55082-0006

Appendix D

Community Survey

Cover Letter

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40__

August 6, 2007

First, Last, Title
Community name
Street Address
City, MN ZIP

Re: Request for Assistance in completing Mississippi River Critical Area Report

Dear M/M:

The Minnesota State Legislature has directed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to report on the status of the Mississippi River Critical Area Program (*2007 Laws, Ch. 57, Art. 1, Sec. 4, Subd. 8*), by February 1, 2008. *"The report shall include the status of critical area plans, zoning ordinances, the number and types of revisions anticipated, and the nature and number of variances sought."* Because your community contains a portion of the critical area, the DNR needs your assistance in completing the study.

We are asking you to complete the enclosed questionnaire, which is in two parts. The first is a questionnaire asking for the status of your community's Critical Area Plan and Critical Area Zoning Ordinance and asking for general input about the efficacy of the program in your community. We need the dates of adoption for both the Plan and Ordinance and a description of the number and types of anticipated revisions to each.

The second is a table that we would like you to use to record the number and types of variance applications you have received over the years. We are interested only in variances from the critical area standards in your ordinance(s). Please fill out the attached table breaking down variance applications per year and by type and disposition over the years (denied or granted) since adoption of your community's Critical Area and Zoning Ordinance. Please complete and return the questionnaire and table **by August 31, 2007**.

If you would like to receive this information in an electronic format, please call or e-mail Planner Bret Anderson (651) 259-5653 or bret.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us. Mr. Anderson also will call you in the next week to ensure you have received this request and to answer any questions you might have.

I greatly appreciate your assistance in this project, as well as your community's efforts to manage and protect this valuable resource. The program could not function without the stewardship of the River Communities.

DNR Information: 651-296-6157 • 1-888-646-6367 • TTY: 651-296-5484 • 1-800-657-3929



Critical Area Community
August 6, 2007
Page 2

Sincerely,
DNR Waters

Rebecca A. Wooden
Land Use Supervisor
(651) 259-5717

Enclosures: Questionnaire
Variance applications table
Return envelope