



**CITY OF NEWPORT**  
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Newport, Minnesota 55055  
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## Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) – Vegetation Clearing Permit Application

**Directions.** Within the MRCCA, all intensive vegetation clearing in Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs) requires a vegetation clearing permit and restoration plan. A complete permit application is needed to evaluate compliance with Newport’s vegetation clearing standards. Please review the Property Owner Guidance for Vegetation Clearing Permits before completing this application.

Date of Application:

### Applicant Information

Property Owner:	Contractor/Designer:
Mailing Address:	Mailing Address:
Phone:	Phone:
Email:	Email:

### Site information

Site Address:
Parcel ID Number:

1. Identify the Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs) in which intensive vegetation clearing is proposed. View the [DNR’s online PCA mapper using the link on the City’s website or contact City staff to assist you](#) to determine if your proposed clearing activity will occur in any of these PCAs (check all that apply):
  - Shore impact zone
  - Areas within 50 feet of a wetland or natural drainage route
  - Bluff impact zone
  - Areas containing native plant communities
  - Significant existing vegetative stands
2. Identify the purpose(s) of the proposed intensive vegetation clearing (check all that apply):
  - Clearing of vegetation that is dead, diseased, dying, or hazardous
  - Clearing to prevent the spread of diseases or insect pests
  - Clearing to remove invasive non-native species
  - Clearing to prepare for restoration and erosion control management activities consistent with a plan approved by the City of Newport.

- The minimum clearing necessary for development allowed with a building permit or allowed as an exemption under Section 36-372 of the City's MRCCA Overlay Ordinance.

**Note: All other intensive vegetation clearing within PCAs is prohibited.**

3. Explain how the proposed clearing is the minimum necessary and designed to blend with the natural terrain and minimize visual impacts to scenic views. If the clearing is required for development allowed with a building permit, also explain how the development was located to minimize the removal or disturbance of natural vegetation:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Describe (and attach photo of) the vegetation being removed (ground cover, understory, tree), and names of plants, if known:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Explain how vegetation removal activities will be conducted or phased to expose the smallest practical area of soil to erosion for the least possible time:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Identify the restoration priority areas on your property (check all that apply and show on submitted aerial photo or site plan):
  - Areas with soils showing signs of erosion, especially on or near the top and bottom of steep slopes and bluffs
  - Shoreline areas (areas closest to the water's edge) with no natural vegetation, degraded vegetation, or planted with turf grass.
  - Areas on steep slopes and bluffs that are visible from the river with no natural vegetation, degraded vegetation, or planted with turf grass.
  - None of the above exist. The following restoration opportunity area is proposed instead:  
[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

**Restoration Plan Performance Standards.** All restoration plans must meet the following standards:

- Restored vegetation is planted in one or more of the restoration priority areas or opportunity areas identified under #6.
- Restored vegetation provides suitable habitat, and effective soil stability, runoff retention, and infiltration capability to address concerns specific to the priority or opportunity area.
- If any highly erodible soils are disturbed during removal and/or restoration, they are stabilized by deep-rooted vegetation with a high stem density.

- The area (sq. ft.) of the restored vegetation is similar to that removed to the greatest extent practicable.
- For **restoration of removed native plant communities** (identified under #1), restored vegetation must also provide biological and ecological function equivalent to the removed native plant communities. Vegetation species, composition, density, and diversity must be guided by nearby patches of native plant communities. The area (sq. ft.) of the restored vegetation should be equivalent to that removed.

**Restoration Plan Submittal Requirements.** Submit all of the following along with this application form:

- An aerial photo and/or site plan showing:
  - ✓ Property boundaries
  - ✓ Location and label of existing PCAs identified under #1
  - ✓ The location and area (sq. ft.) of the vegetation proposed to be cleared within identified PCAs
  - ✓ Location and area (sq. ft.) of the restored vegetation in the priority areas identified under #6.

**Note:** Aerial photos from the [DNR's online PCA mapper \(a link is available on the City website\)](#) can be printed to show property boundaries and PCAs. Hand drawings on aerial photos are acceptable.

- Photos of the vegetation proposed for removal.
- A planting plan(s) for the identified restoration priority area(s) showing the location, type (ground cover, understory, tree), and name of proposed plants. A plant list with codes referencing plants shown on the plan is suggested for complex plans. Property owners may complete their own planting plan or hire a landscape designer or other professional to complete a plan that meets the relevant performance standards.

For **large, complex projects**, also provide:

- Planting plan completed by a qualified person (as defined by local government)
- Scaled plans and drawings.
- A three-year maintenance plan that includes provisions for controlling invasive species and plant replacement.

For **restoration of native plant communities**, also provide:

- Identification of the type and location of nearby native plant communities used to guide restoration. For **developments requiring a building permit**, also show on the site plan:

- ✓ Location of ordinary high-water level (OHWL) and bluffline
- ✓ Location of OHWL and bluffline setbacks and all other relevant setbacks
- ✓ Location of buildable areas and structures
- ✓ Location of subsurface sewage treatment systems, if applicable

## Signatures

I certify that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I grant Newport city officials permission to enter the subject property for inspection of the vegetation removal and restoration sites during normal business hours until three years from the date of the certificate of completion. This is to insure adherence to the maintenance conditions of the permit. I understand failure to conform to approved

plans and conditions or to comply with lawful directives to abate violations arising from work undertaken contrary to this permit may be cause for future enforcement actions to remedy said violations.

Property owner signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor signature (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Before Construction:**

1. No work under this application is to be started until application is approved and the permit issued.
2. One copy of the permit and the special provisions must be available at the site.
3. The Applicant shall be responsible for obtaining all required Gopher One Call Clearances and other applicable permits.
4. The Applicant shall complete its work in a manner, which does not interfere with the operation, repair or maintenance of City owned facilities.