



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 the city of Hastings' vegetation clearing standards. Please review the [Property Owner Guidance for Vegetation Clearing Permits](#) before completing this application.

Applicant Information

Property Owner: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Contractor/Agent: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Site Information

Site Address: _____
Parcel #: _____

1. Identify the Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs) in which intensive vegetation clearing is proposed. View the [DNR's online PCA mapper](#) to determine if your proposed clearing activity will occur in any of these PCAs (check all that apply). If none, do not complete this application.

- ☐ 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 Hastings.
- ☐ The minimum clearing necessary for development allowed with a building permit or allowed as an exemption under Section 12 of [Chapter section 152A](#), of the city of Hastings.

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 public river corridor views and other scenic views. If the clearing is required for development allowed with a permit, also explain how the project 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 in order to expose the smallest 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 within 25 of the water 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:

Restoration Plan Performance Standards. All activities requiring a vegetation clearing permit require a planting plan that 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.

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
- ☐ 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, provided the submitted plan meets the relevant performance standards. If the plan does not meet the standards, a qualified landscape professional recognized by the city of Hastings will be needed.

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

- ☐ Planting plan completed by a qualified person as defined by the city of Hastings
- ☐ Scaled plans, surveys, 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.

Signatures

I certify that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I grant the city of Hastings 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: _____