

X. Environmental Protection

Newport's landscape is defined by natural features, including the Mississippi River and its floodplain, upland bluffs and mature woodlands on the bluffs and in the Old Town area. These elements are important to the character and health of the community, to its parks system, and to maintaining the value of its residential neighborhoods. Protecting and maintaining the long-term health of these resources is important to the community.

Figure 10-1 includes the key natural features and natural areas remaining in the community, based on data from the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS).

The City's ordinance includes several sections that protect its natural resources, including protection for floodplains, the Mississippi River Critical Area, shoreland, and bluffs and steep slopes. This Comprehensive Plan includes the City Local Surface Water Management Plan (LSWMP), which also includes protection for surface and ground water resources in Newport.

The City has identified the following new action steps, to be implemented during this Comprehensive Plan period, to improve and protect the natural environment in Newport:

- The City will review and update its ordinances to incorporate the goals and policies included in the LSWMP.
- The City will pursue discussions with other stakeholders to establish a new park on the Mississippi River, as identified in the Parks and Trails element of this plan.
- The City will support and encourage the efforts of residents to control exotic species such as buckthorn, and improve the ecological quality of their yards.
- The City will continue to implement its Parks and Trails plan, to give residents and visitors opportunities to experience the special natural resources located in the community, in ways that are compatible with the protection of those resources.
- The City has identified conservation zones to encourage future development that is sensitive to bluffs and woodlands.

A. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GOALS

The following are the City's goals for environmental protection:

- To promote conservation of key natural, cultural, and historical resources.

- To recognize natural resources as an asset to future development and redevelopment.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICIES

In order to enhance environmental protection, it is the policy of the City to:

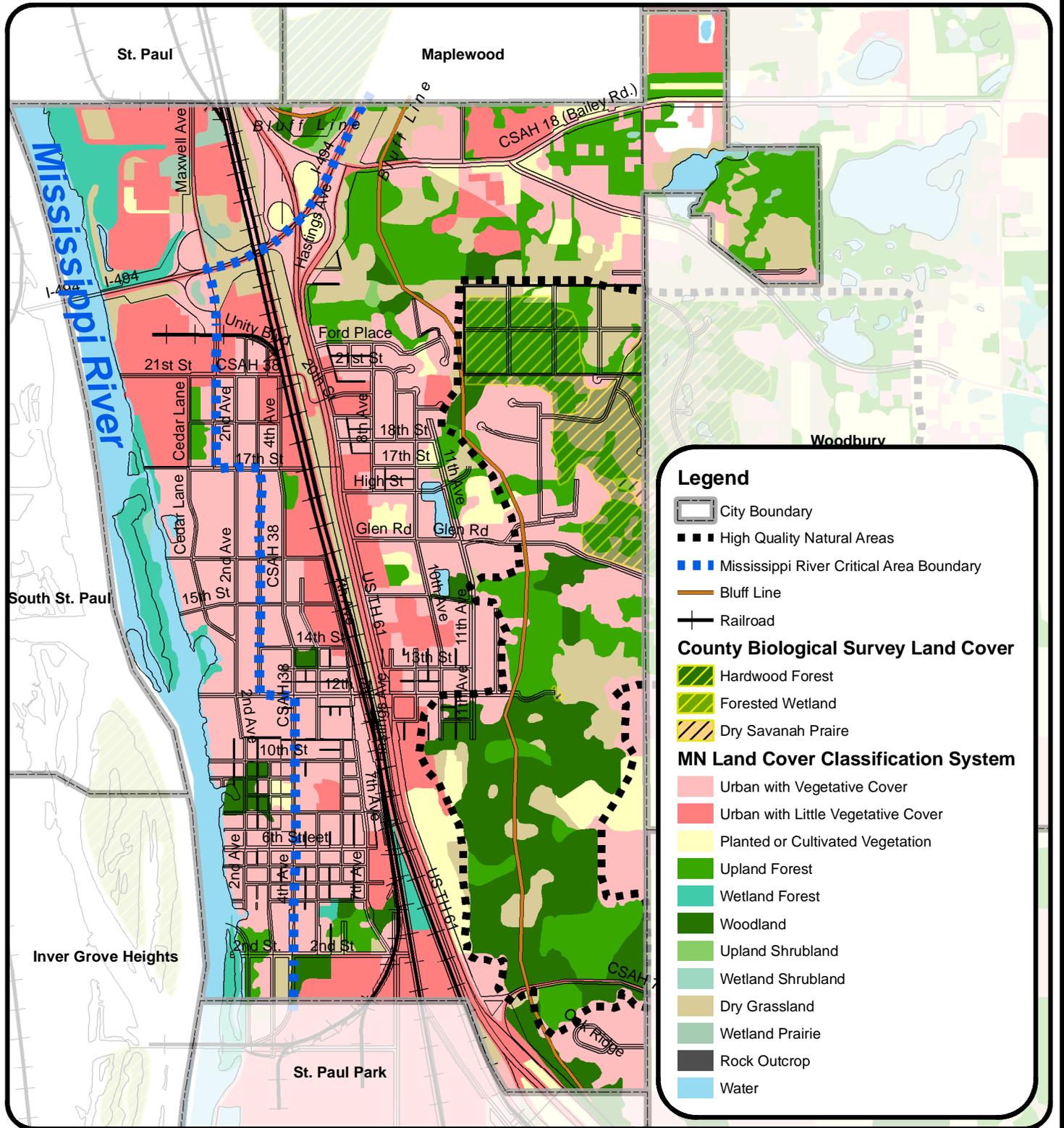
- Review and update its ordinances to incorporate the goals and policies included in the LSWMP.
- Continue to work with its residents, neighboring communities, the County and natural resource agencies on cooperative efforts to protect natural resources in the area.
- Pursue discussions with other stakeholders to establish a new park on the Mississippi River, as identified in the Parks and Trails element of this plan.
- Support and encourage the efforts of residents to control exotic species such as buckthorn, and improve the ecological quality of their yards.
- Implement its Parks and Trails plan, to give residents and visitors opportunities to experience the special natural resources located in the community, in ways that are compatible with the protection of those
- Continue to carefully monitor development by requiring Environmental Assessment Worksheets and/or Environmental Impact Statements where they are needed in order to properly assess the effect the proposed development may have on a specific area.
- Address environmental concerns as development proposals are reviewed.
- Emphasize management of parks and open space areas in to preserve the trees, steep slopes, water quality and similar significant features of these areas.
- Cooperate with the County and other levels of government in providing for the removal of diseased trees.
- Encourage re-forestation within the corporate limits.
- Prohibit urban development on slopes exceeding 18% and carefully review development on slopes ranging from 12% to 18%.
- Encourage tree planting along street rights-of-way and other publicly owned land to improve community aesthetics.
- Encourage efforts to preserve endangered and threatened wildlife species including preservation of natural habitat areas where feasible.
- Enforce federal, state and local wetland rules and regulations.

- Cooperate with state and federal agencies to achieve compliance with air quality, water quality and noise regulations.
- Work closely with state and federal agencies involved in the regulation and monitoring of heavy industrial users such as the refinery.



City of Newport Land Cover and Natural Features

Comprehensive Plan - DRAFT



Legend

- City Boundary
- High Quality Natural Areas
- Mississippi River Critical Area Boundary
- Bluff Line
- Railroad

County Biological Survey Land Cover

- Hardwood Forest
- Forested Wetland
- Dry Savannah Prairie

MN Land Cover Classification System

- Urban with Vegetative Cover
- Urban with Little Vegetative Cover
- Planted or Cultivated Vegetation
- Upland Forest
- Wetland Forest
- Woodland
- Upland Shrubland
- Wetland Shrubland
- Dry Grassland
- Wetland Prairie
- Rock Outcrop
- Water

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Data sources include the MN Department of Natural Resources, MN County Biological Survey, City of Newport, Metropolitan Council and TKDA.

