

GLOSSARY

Access — a way of approaching, entering, or using an area; river access includes boat ramps and canoe launches.

Adverse effect — an effect that diminishes the values that establish the area's national significance, impairs the structure and functioning of resources and ecosystems, impairs the quality of the visitor experience, or any combination of these.

Alternative — a possible course of action, one of several different ways to achieve an objective or vision (the term is used to describe options).

Attraction/attractor — Attractors are environments or activities that serve to bring additional tourists to the area. At-tractions are environments or activities that are used by lo-cal residents and individuals who have come to the region for other reasons (including a desire to see other attractors).

Balance — to weigh by comparing; to estimate the relative weight or importance of different factors or resources and proportion properly the parts or elements in a planning or decision-making process. This does not mean that there are winners and losers in the process; but rather, that all elements are considered before plans are developed or decisions are made.

Barge fleeting area — a parking or staging area for barges awaiting loading, unloading, or transport.

Bluff — a topographic feature such as a hill, cliff, or embankment with steep slopes (exceeding 18%) rising above the river corridor floodplain (see related but different definition for steep slopes).

Bluff Impact Area — a 40-foot-wide area adjacent to the bluff line that is subject to preservation stipulations.

Bluff Preservation Area — includes the bluff face, bluff impact area, and bluff setback area.

Bluff setback area — a 60-foot-wide area that is subject to development limitations. This area in combination with the bluff

impact area creates a 100-foot setback for buildings from the bluff line.

Bluff face — that portion of the steep slope exceeding 18% between the river bottomland and the bluff line where development is strongly discouraged (see related but different definition for steep slopes).

Bluff line (top of the bluff) — the transition point between the steep bluff face and more level terrain at the top of a bluff.

Buffer — a method of minimizing the impact of adjacent activities by the use of setbacks, vegetation screening, and other means.

Cluster — locating similar facilities together rather than spreading them out over the landscape. This land planning approach saves open space.

Commercial development (or use) — the creation or placement of buildings or facilities for business purposes, principally for the sale, lease, rental, or trade of products, goods, or services.

Commercial navigation — use of the river for hauling cargo into and out of the area, or between points in the corridor. Most commercial navigation is represented by the barge towing industry.

Comprehensive management plan — a general plan that sets forth a vision, management concepts and policies, and participant roles in the context of regional plans and trends for conservation, land use, recreation, transportation, economic development, and other identified issues.

Cooperating associations — nonprofit organizations formed to assist national parks with the publication and sale of items associated with park areas. Associations often offer donations for park purchases and scholarships for park-related study.

Consistent land use — land use activities that are consistent with the land use concepts and location policies contained in this plan.

Corridor — a long, relatively narrow area that is centered on a linear feature, such as a river. In this document "corridor" is

normally used to define that area contained within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area boundary.

Critical habitat — habitat that is important to the survival of a species.

Critical mass — In this document critical mass is used to describe the grouping together of visitor facilities to achieve a minimum desired level of activity. It is the combination of visitor experience necessary to create a major attraction that provides high-quality interpretive services to the visitor.

Cultural resources — significant for their cultural association and integrity. They include archeological resources, cultural landscapes, historic buildings and structures, museum objects and archival materials, and ethnographic resources. This includes (but is not limited to) historic resources described in the National Historic Preservation Act, which are "any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included on, or eligible for inclusion on the national register, including artifacts, records, and material remains related to such a property or resource."

Design guidelines — recommendations for development of buildings and sites relating to scale, form, materials, color, and texture. They often deal with aesthetic issues and blending new development into the surroundings (see appendix C).

Economic development activities — activities carried out primarily by local governments and chambers of commerce to attract new business and industry to an area to create jobs and increase tax revenues.

Economic resources — include existing facilities, land uses, and activities that benefit the local, regional, national, and international economy, such as (1) residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial property, equipment, and services, (2) public facilities used for economic purposes such as locks and dams, roads, bridges, municipal water systems, municipal waste water treatment plants, municipal power generating and transmission facilities, boat launching facilities and other infrastructure, (3) jobs and their associated payrolls, and (4) the value of commodity shipments into and out of the area, including the economic value of river

navigation services to the local, regional, national, and international economy. This is an interim definition for comprehensive planning purposes only. A more thorough, updated definition will be developed during resource management planning after the comprehensive plan is complete.

Endangered and threatened species — are those plants and animals that are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and offered protection under the Endangered Species Act. There are also state-listed species that are protected under state law.

Environmental education — Activities with organized groups (schools, scouts, community groups, etc.) or seminar participants that are designed to develop understanding, appreciation, and caring for the natural environment.

Floodplain — an area of land adjacent to a water body subject to periodic inundation. The 100-year floodplain is an area where the probability of being inundated is once in a 100 years. The 100-year floodplain is frequently used by federal, state, and local agencies for floodplain management purposes. In this document the floodplain refers to the 100-year event unless otherwise noted.

GIS — geographic information system, a computerized system for storing, analyzing, and displaying geographically oriented data, such as vegetation, topography, roads, historic sites, and land use (see appendix B for a description of the MNRRA GIS database).

Heritage education — Activities with organized groups (schools, scouts, community groups, etc.) or seminar participants that are designed to develop understanding, appreciation and caring for our historic and prehistoric heritage and for the manmade or built environment.

Historic resources — historic resources are defined in the National Historic Preservation Act as "any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included on, or eligible for inclusion on the national register, including artifacts, records, and material remains related to such a property or resource."

Inconsistent land use — land use activities that do not conform with the location concepts and policies contained in this plan.

Industrial development (or use) — the creation or placement of buildings or facilities for the production, manufacture, warehousing, storage, or transfer of goods, products, commodities, or for resource extraction purposes.

Integrate — make into a whole; unify; or join together. All elements of an integrated plan or integrated effort to resolve an issue are analyzed and factored together to make better decisions.

Integrated Pest Management — the coordinated use of pest and environmental information with available pest control methods to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

Interpretation — educational activities designed to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of presentations, original objects, by firsthand experience, and by graphic illustrations. Activities or media designed to help people understand, appreciate, and care for the natural and cultural environment. The similarities among interpretation and environmental education and heritage education are far more numerous than the differences. In this plan, interpretation refers to activities and products for the general public. Educational activities and products could be designed with the same objectives but are intended for specific groups and those who sign up for workshops or seminars. Interpretation also deals more with the immediate environment (that which one could see, hear, smell, touch or imagine), while educational activities could take participants farther afield.

Interpretive media — Visual, auditory, and textual products (such as exhibits, films, videos, books, pamphlets) designed to provide interpretation and education.

Law enforcement — The act of ensuring that laws or regulations are followed, including rules for management of visitor use and resource protection.

Location policies — policies that affect where activities should be sited in the landscape. They generally define desirable and undesirable land uses for a given area.

Major land use — a land use that (1) has region wide significance, (2) will cause significant adverse impacts on the river corridor, or (3) will set a precedent committing land use in the area to significant new directions.

Monitoring — a program established to track the condition of a resource over time or evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of plan elements.

Natural area — an area that visually exhibits primarily nonhuman created qualities, such as an urban forest or wetland. In this case natural does not mean pristine or without any influence by humans.

Natural resources — assets or values related to the natural world, such as plants, animals, water, air, soils, geologic features, fossils, scenic vistas, etc. Natural resources are those elements of the environment not created by humans.

Natural river — a stream of water flowing in a natural channel characterized by a variety of aquatic species (including native fish), adjacent wildlife habitats, wetlands, and floodplains where biophysical systems have not been severely disturbed (or have been substantially restored) by humans.

Non-point source pollution — pollution from a broad area resulting from activities such as agriculture (pesticides, fertilizer, etc.) or urban activities (oil, salt, etc.).

Open/enclosed landscape — unimpeded views or spatial enclosure from vegetation and landforms in the landscape.

Open space — includes public and private land that is retained as primarily undeveloped. This could include lands devoted to active or passive recreational use or lands retained for visual or natural resource protection purposes.

Ordinary high water level — a more precise way to designate the shoreline based on seasonal fluctuations in water level. It is defined

as the boundary between upland areas and the public waters and wetlands in the state of Minnesota shoreland management program. It is commonly the point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to terrestrial. For watercourses, the ordinary high water level is the elevation of the top of the bank of the channel. For reservoirs and flowages, it is the operating elevation of the normal summer pool.

Oversight — periodic review of a program's effectiveness or the success of plan implementation to determine if objectives are being met. Reviews could take place monthly, quarterly, annually, or even less often based on the need.

Permits — government authorization to proceed with an activity.

Point-source pollution — pollution coming from a single source, such as a sewage treatment plant discharge.

Pollution — that which violates, or is likely to violate, any environmental quality standard, limitation, rule, order, license, or permit of any instrumentality, agency, or political subdivision or that which materially adversely affects or is likely to materially adversely affect the environment.

Purpose — simple statement of the reason that a unit of the national park system was created. These statements are broad goals generally derived from the enabling legislation or legislative history. They are used to guide development of more detailed visions and management plans for an area.

Recreational resources — those elements of the environment that are used by humans for outdoor recreation purposes. They include natural and manmade features such as rivers, lakes, parks, trails, etc.

Residential development (or use) — creation or placement of buildings or facilities for residential (living) purposes.

Resource — something of value to be preserved, protected, and enhanced. The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area act lists nationally significant historical, recreational, scenic, cultural, natural, economic, and scientific resources. It is typical for

Congress in establishing a new area to include in the enabling legislation a long list of overlapping resource categories, such as the one found in the MNRRA act. The National Park Service normally defines resources in two broad categories (natural and cultural) for management purposes. This plan includes a third broad management category, economic resources, to ensure that all items listed in the MNRRA act are addressed.

Resource management — the art or manner of treating, directing, or handling resources.

Riverfront area — includes the floodplain or a 300-foot-wide area (whichever is greater) adjacent to the shoreline where certain types of land uses are encouraged — activities that relate to the river, require a river location, or enhance the river corridor. This area is consistent with the state shoreland management zone in the MNRRA corridor.

Riverine system — includes the river channel and all associated wetlands and deepwater habitats (non-upland areas).

Sensitive natural areas — include shorelines, floodplains, wetlands, endangered or threatened species habitat, steep slopes, and bluff lines.

Setback — minimum horizontal distance that buildings, structures, or activities are positioned back from a natural or manmade feature, such as a shoreline, bluff line, road, or property line.

Shoreline — the line marking the edge between a water body and the land, including backwaters attached to the main stream. This will normally be the same as the ordinary high water level along the river.

Shoreline area — a 40-foot-wide area along the shoreline where a natural appearance is encouraged (except in downtown areas and historic districts).

Shoreline setback area — a 60-foot-wide area subject to development restriction that together with the shoreline area creates a 100-foot total setback for buildings in the riverfront area.

Site development policies — those policies that affect a development after it has been located in the landscape. These are normally more detailed than location policies and deal with specific issues such as setbacks. They provide a basis for even more specific design guidelines.

Socioeconomic conditions — combination of social and economic elements of the environment.

Steep slopes — are defined in this plan as slopes over 12% (or more than a 12-foot vertical rise for every 100 feet of horizontal distance) where development is not recommended (see related but different definitions for bluff and bluff face).

Stewardship — care of resources to preserve and protect them for future generations.

Sustainable development (or use) — a shared commitment to orderly economic development and use, along with an understanding and respect for the capabilities and limitations of the environment to support growth and economic activity over time. Sustainability means managing resources in a manner that meets the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. Sustainable developments do not adversely affect people living elsewhere (near or far) and allow all elements of the community to flourish.

Swimmable and Fishable — a term commonly used to describe a goal contained in the Federal Clean Water Act that specifies ". . . wherever attainable, an interim goal of water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish and wildlife, and provides for recreation in and on the water. . ."

Tier 1 — Achieving the first level of MNRRA plan compliance. Under tier 1 the Metropolitan Council and Department of Natural Resources will work with corridor communities to more effectively implement existing state and regional land use planning and management requirements.

Tier 2 — Achieving the second level of MNRRA plan compliance. Under tier 2, corridor communities will adopt and implement the requirements that exceed existing state and regional land use

management requirements and substantially conform to the land use, resource protection, and open space concepts and policies in the MNRRRA plan.

Tourism — all activities related to the leisure use of the river corridor by individuals from outside the immediate area.

Urban uses — land uses that have an urban or suburban character, such as commercial areas, industrial facilities, developed parkland, institutional uses, and residential subdivisions (including low-density housing areas), regardless of their location. This includes almost all land uses in the corridor. Exceptions are agricultural lands and vacant parcels.

Variance — an exception made to a land use regulation to accommodate special situations. A variance process is included in most local zoning and subdivision ordinances to ensure that they are reasonable. In Minnesota "variance" is defined by state statute.

Vision — simple statement of agreement indicating what an area should be in the future; delineates broad objectives for the corridor that normally lead to more detailed planning alternatives, concepts, policies, and management strategies, and that generally guide more specific decisions where unusual conditions exist.

Visitor activity zones — areas managed to provide for certain types of recreational activities.

Watershed — the land area that drains into a river.

Wetland — a surface water area classified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a wetland. They include swamps, marshes, bogs, river overflows, sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, etc., where the ground is permanently wet or wet during significant periods of the year, providing habitat for water-loving or water-tolerant flora and fauna.

Working river — a river that includes natural and manmade features used for utilitarian purposes. The Mississippi has been extensively used for over 200 years for navigation, municipal and industrial water supply, hydropower, waste disposal, commercial and industrial development, and intermodal transportation

connections. The commercial navigation industry is the best example of an activity that defines the Mississippi as a working river.