



Vermillion River Watershed Standards Update



Updates were made to four of the seven Standards:

- Buffers
- Erosion & Sediment Control
- Stormwater Management
- Agriculture

Individual Frequently Asked Questions sheets are available for each Standard above plus:

- Floodplain Alteration
- Wetlands
- Drainage

Standard Updates

This document highlights the changes made to the standards during the 2016 Watershed Plan update.

Where can I find the current Standards?

The standards are in Appendix B of the Plan on the Vermillion River Watershed website: www.vermillionriverwatershed.org, under "Plans/Reports".

Buffer Updates

- 6.3 A1 & A2. Language change to specify non-invasive perennial grasses and forbs or overstory of non-invasive tree and/or shrubs in description of acceptable vegetation in buffers.
- 6.3 B2. Added the condition that existing buffers will be considered unacceptable if vegetative cover is less than 90%.
- 6.3 C1 & C2. Changed list of agencies to "State of Minnesota" to encompass any applicable agencies.
- 6.3 F1.e. Added language to still allow for trails in buffers but restrict placement to the following limit: an absolute minimum distance of at least fifteen feet as measured from the edge of the trail nearest the water resource to the wetland or public waters wetland edge, the bank of the watercourse, or the meander belt, and averages at least one-half the total VRWJPO identified buffer width.
- 6.4 D. Retooled old 6.4C through F and made them into the new 6.4C and D. Clarification to item 6.4D reads: the Buffer Standards do not apply to existing outlots that received preliminary plat approval in the two year period preceding March 22, 2007. Buffer standards in effect at the time of LGU approval of a development agreement shall remain in effect throughout the term of the agreement or for a ten year period from the date of approval, whichever is less.
- New 6.4 F. Added an exception to the Buffer Standards for those lots enrolled in agricultural or rural preservation programs that limit subdivision potential (i.e., Green Acres, Rural Preserves, Agricultural Preserves, or similar programs).

NOTE: This does not affect, nor is affected by, the State of Minnesota "Buffer Law". The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization buffer standard is a separate, stand-alone, requirement that applies only within the VRWJPO and only when properties are subdivided as described in the standards.



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The Vermillion River Watershed encompasses an area of approximately 335 square miles, including portions of two counties and all or portions of 20 cities, towns, and townships. The main stem of the river begins in southeastern Scott County in New Market Township flowing east through central Dakota County, passing over a waterfall in the City of Hastings, and then discharging to the Mississippi River both through a northerly flowing outlet near the City of Hastings as well as through a southerly flowing outlet near the City of Red Wing, Minnesota.

Erosion and Sediment Control

- The construction erosion control criteria from old section 7.3.A have been made into a separate section.
- 7.4 Contains new exceptions to land disturbance sites needing to meet the criteria, as follows:
 1. cover less than five thousand square feet in area, or
 2. involve less than thirty cubic yards of soil, or
 3. do not change existing contours or drainage.
- Removed any use of turbidity measurements for determining compliance (old 7.3.A.7).

Stormwater Management Updates

- 8.3 C. 2b. Added 100-year critical duration storm event to peak rate control requirements.
- 8.3 D. 1. Added “above 2005 conditions” to create a benchmark for comparison to existing. Added the following clarifying language on practices: Runoff volume reducing practices in site design are the preferred method for meeting volume control requirements and shall be considered prior to the design of required infiltration or filtration facilities. Practices applying the Minnesota Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) are allowed. Applicants must identify specific practices and provide documentation of the application of the MIDS calculator in practice selection and site design. Stormwater volume reducing BMPs other than those identified by MIDS, and their associated credits, must be approved by the VRWJPO. Final crediting must be approved by the LGU or VRWJPO before application to final design of site stormwater volume control facility requirements.
- 8.3 D. 3. Replaced sizing infiltration criteria (old. 7.3.E.4) with a reference as follows: When using infiltration for volume control, infiltration volumes and facility sizes shall be calculated using appropriate site information and applying design criteria from the Minnesota Stormwater Manual.
- 8.3 D. 6a. BMPs and site design practices to minimize the creation of connected impervious surfaces are used to the maximum extent practicable.
- 8.9 I. Land disturbance of less than five thousand square feet in area, involving less than thirty cubic yards of soil, or that do not change existing contours or drainage, may be exempted if there is no direct threat to a water resource from the activity.
- Removed section on credits (old 7.3.E.2) and changed language in new section 8.8 Trading removing the reference to temperature trading specifically and adding a broader reference to allow off-site pollutant trading on a case-by-case basis.

Agricultural Updates

- 10B. Plans referenced by section updated to encourage implementation of the Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan of 2015 and the Pesticide Management Plan of 2005.
- Removed language on potential strategies and regulation.