



Minneapolis
living well

2007 Sustainability Report



Minneapolis

living well

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Executive Summary

Creating a safe, healthy and environmentally friendly city is a top priority in Minneapolis. In 2003, the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor R.T. Rybak launched the City's Sustainability Initiative, integrating these priorities into City decision-making and planning. At the heart of this commitment are 24 sustainability indicators, providing a blueprint upon which we will build a more sustainable city. Each of these indicators contains benchmarks and targets, allowing us to measure progress and match actions with goals.

Minneapolis – Living Well, 2007 Sustainability Report is the City's second annual report of the City's Sustainability Initiative. *Living Well* reports 2006 work on the City's 24 sustainability indicators and gives an account of where we are, compared to our goals. We have many accomplishments to celebrate. The City achieved its first targets, achieving its goals on affordable housing, teen pregnancy, graduation rate and permeable surfaces. Additional highlights include:

A Healthy Life

- Achieved five-year lows for the number of new AIDS cases and infant mortality
- Increased the percentage of young children tested for lead

GreenPrint

- Passed a new ordinance requiring all new City-owned buildings to be built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) national green building standards
- Planted more than 6,000 trees and seedlings

A Vital Community

- Launched a new plan to end homelessness in Minneapolis
- Increased overall graduation rate for students in Minneapolis Public High Schools to 80 percent

We have more to do. Racial and ethnic disparities persist in school achievement and public health. The City is committed to closing this gap, ensuring the health and achievement of all Minneapolis residents. Last year's homicide rate was high. The City is responding with multiple public safety initiatives, hiring more police and installing cutting-edge technology. Global warming presents a real and serious challenge. The City is using multiple strategies to reduce its own impact upon the global climate crisis and to protect our natural resources.

Building upon our community assets, *Minneapolis – Living Well* is creating a healthier, safer and more sustainable future. This progress is only possible by working in partnership with our community. We are grateful to the many dedicated people who have made this report possible and who work toward a sustainable city. Thank you to the members of the Citizens' Environmental Advisory Committee, the Environmental Coordinating Team, City staff, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, members of the Minneapolis City Council and our many public, nonprofit and community partners for your leadership, contributions and commitment.

Learn more about the *Minneapolis Sustainability Initiative* and join us in achieving its vision.
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability



Minneapolis

a healthy life

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Reduce Infant Mortality and Low Birth Weights

Infant mortality is defined as death from any cause during the first year of a baby’s life. Low birth weight is defined as less than 5.5 pounds. Low birth weight is a major factor in infant deaths and increases the risk that a child will have long-term disabilities. Preterm birth is the No. 1 cause of both low birth weight and infant death. Low birth weight may also be caused by tobacco, alcohol or other drug use during pregnancy; exposure to violence and other stressors; and maternal health problems such as high blood pressure.

Target

- Reduce infant death rates overall and within each racial/ethnic subgroup to 4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2010.

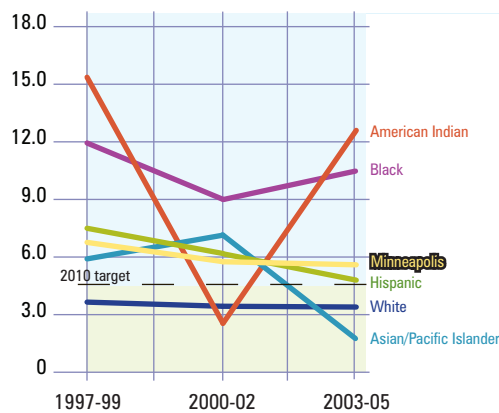
- Reduce the proportion of low birth weights to 5 percent by 2010.

Trend Analysis

Based on the three-year average, the infant mortality rate declined in recent years for Asian/Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and whites. It increased for blacks and American Indians. Because of the relatively small number of overall births for American Indians compared to other ethnic groups, the infant mortality rate shows larger variation.

The proportion of babies born at a low birth weight has been slowly increasing over the past five years and remains highest among blacks, American Indians and Asian/Pacific Islanders.

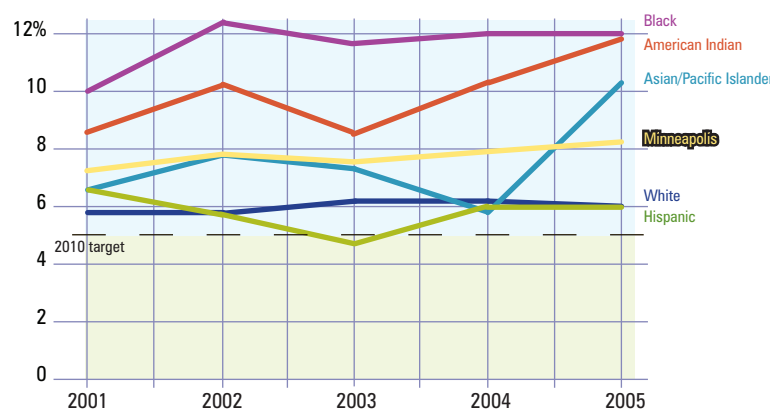
Infant mortality rate among Minneapolis residents¹
per 1,000 live births



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

¹ Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

Low birth weight babies among Minneapolis residents¹
in percent



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

¹ Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

Recent City Activities

- Screened 985 pregnant women and provided case management services to 574 high-risk pregnant women at the Twin Cities Healthy Start program sites.
- Educated more than 200 residents about racial/ethnic disparities in infant death through an infant mortality awareness campaign developed in partnership with other government agencies and health plans.
- Encouraged fathers to get involved for healthy pregnancies and parenting in the black and American Indian communities through community partnerships.
- Coordinated the participation of Twin Cities Healthy Start program sites in the American Cancer Society’s Great American Smokeout and the Breathe Free secondhand smoke reduction program.
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/healthy-start.asp

Web Links & Resources

- U.S. Department of Health
www.healthierus.gov
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov
- Minnesota Department of Health
www.health.state.mn.us/ommh/infantmort.html

Teen Pregnancy

Reduce Teen Pregnancy Rate

Because teen parents face greater challenges than older parents, preventing teen pregnancy is a high priority. Teen parents have a higher risk of poor birth outcomes and ongoing difficulties, such as long-term poverty, lower levels of education, and poorer job prospects.

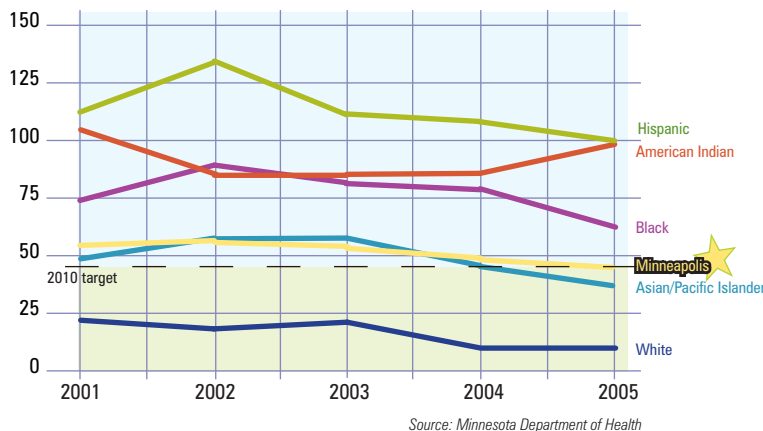
Target

Reduce the pregnancy rate among girls 15 to 17 years of age to 46 pregnancies per 1,000 girls by 2010.

Trend Analysis

The overall 2005 teen pregnancy rate dropped a dramatic 44 percent from 1999 levels and is now below the 2010 target of 46 per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17¹. Although progress is being made, significant racial disparities exist with American Indians and all populations of color having much higher proportions of births to teens than whites.

Teen pregnancies (ages 15–17) in Minneapolis²
per 1,000 female population



² Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

★ Target achieved

Recent City Activities

- Provided pregnancy prevention and reproductive health services to students through school-based clinics at six Minneapolis public schools, including Broadway School for pregnant teens and teen parents. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/school-home.asp
- Co-chaired the Teen Parent Connection, a coalition among the City, Hennepin County and Minneapolis Public Schools that provides a variety of high quality services for teen mothers with an emphasis on preventing second pregnancies.
- Produced the 2006 Teen Parent Report Card to track services helping teen parents in Minneapolis. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/Teen_Parent_2006.pdf
- Collaborated with other public health and community based agencies promoting adolescent health care, family planning services and comprehensive sex education.
- Advocated at the Minnesota Legislature to protect the rights of adolescents to confidential health care.
- Implemented community-based research initiatives such as Seen on da Streets to improve adolescent and young adult reproductive health.

Web Links & Resources

- Teen health 411 – pregnancy information
www.teenhealth411.org/pregnancy.php
- National Institutes of Health
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/teenagepregnancy.html

¹ Minnesota Department of Health

Reduce the Rates of AIDS and Gonorrhea

AIDS and gonorrhea have immense consequences on public health and the economy. Prevention involves addressing the varying cultural, social and behavioral factors that increase an individual's risk of getting and passing on sexually transmitted diseases. Not all cases of HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) are sexually transmitted, but transmission related to drug use by injection and from mothers to infants has declined, so an increasing proportion of new HIV infections in Minnesota are sexually transmitted.

Target

- Reduce the rate of new AIDS cases to 10 cases per 100,000 people by 2010.
- Reduce the rate of new gonorrhea cases to 161 cases per 100,000 people by 2010.

Trend Analysis

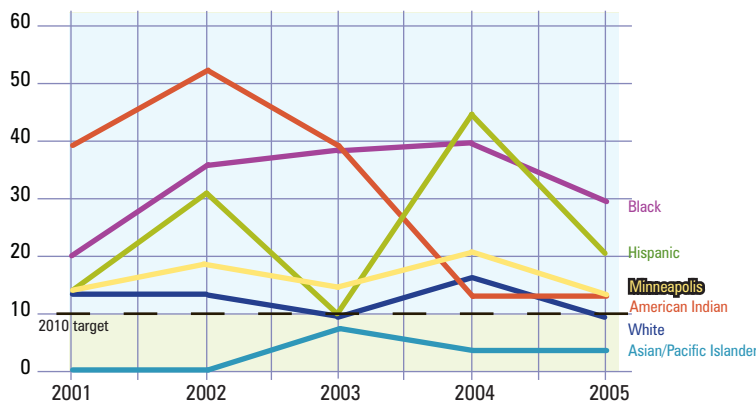
From 2001 to 2005, AIDS rates have decreased 6 percent in Minneapolis overall. Rates have fallen for whites and American Indians while increasing among blacks, Hispanics and Asians.

In Minneapolis, 30 percent of blacks with AIDS were born in Africa. This proportion has remained fairly steady for five years. Many of these individuals have cultural practices that may require different approaches for prevention and treatment than typical in the United States, many come from areas where the disease is typically transmitted in different ways than here, and many have not had exposure to AIDS prevention campaigns in the United States.

From 2001 to 2005, gonorrhea rates have fallen 4 percent in Minneapolis. The citywide decline can be principally attributed to a 22-percent decrease in the rate among blacks.

New AIDS cases in Minneapolis

per 100,000 people¹

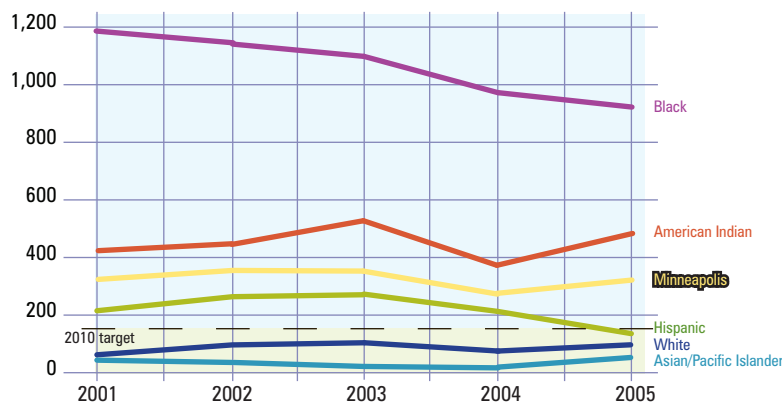


Source: Minnesota Department of Health

¹ Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

Gonorrhea cases in Minneapolis

per 100,000 people¹



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

¹ Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

Recent City Activities

- Using the Seen on da Streets federal grant project, tested 2,745 young men for sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and educated them about the connection between high-risk sexual behavior and STD/HIV transmission. Expanded health care access by testing 302 young men for STDs outside of traditional clinics.
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/seenondastreet.asp
- Tested uninsured people for STDs and HIV through Neighborhood Health Care Network Clinics.
- Provided adolescents with 2,743 family planning visits and 780 STD tests in 2006 through City-funded school-based clinics.
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/school-home.asp
- Collaborated with community-based organizations to host public forums reaching more than 100 people to increase awareness of risks associated with HIV infection and abuse of methamphetamine.

Web Links & Resources

Minnesota AIDS Project
www.mnaidsproject.org

Minnesota Department of Health – Sexually transmitted diseases statistics
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/stds/stdstatistics.html

Red Door Clinic
<http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us/portal/site/HCIInternet/menuitem.3f94db53874f9b6f68ce1e10b1466498/?vgnnextoid=5f2fb6764b9fc010VgnVCM1000000f094689RCRD>

Healthy Weight

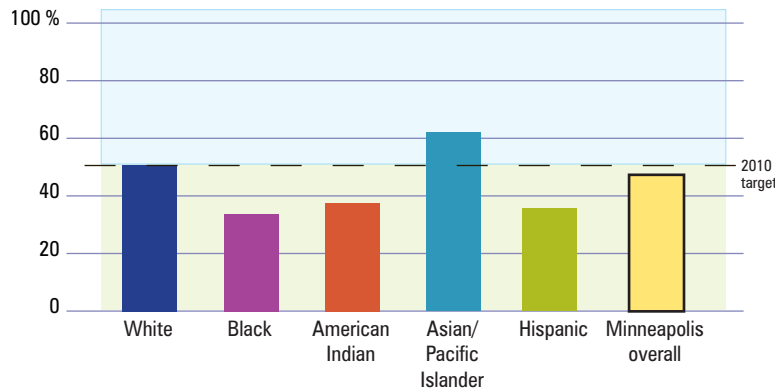
Increase the Proportion of Adults at a Healthy Weight

Healthy weight for adults is an indicator of the general health of a person and a community. Many factors influence a person's weight, but diet and exercise are the keys. Adults who are at a healthy weight are less likely to suffer from chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and high cholesterol than those with excess weight.

Target

Increase the proportion of adults at a healthy weight to 52 percent by 2010.

Minneapolis adult residents¹ at a healthy weight in percent



Source: SHAPE, The Survey of the Health of Adults, the Population and the Environment, 2002

¹ Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive.



On a chilly day, nearly 100 City of Minneapolis employees join their colleagues over their lunch break in a brisk walk to the Stone Arch Bridge, April 2006. Steps to a Healthier Minneapolis hosted several City employee walks in 2006

Trend Analysis

The proportion of Minneapolis adults at a healthy weight was 46.8 percent in 2002, based on the Survey of the Health of Adults, the Population, and the Environment (SHAPE 2002). Data from more recent surveys, SHAPE 2006 and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, will be available in late 2007.

Recent City Activities

- Collaborated with community organizations through Steps to a Healthier Minneapolis to develop walking clubs for more than 400 residents and involve 250 youths in summer park activities. Developed nutrition education classes for families in Near North and Phillips neighborhoods. www.stepstohealthiermn.org
- Provided 38 days of small-scale farmers' markets to increase access to fresh produce and high quality foods in the Near North and Phillips communities which otherwise have little access to these.
- Implemented a family-based physical activity and nutrition project for 25 families in collaboration with local YMCAs.
- Implemented a worksite project promoting physical activity and healthy nutrition for City employees. Conducted a pedometer walking challenge with 950 employees tracking the number of steps they took each day.

Web Links & Resources

- Minnesota Department of Health overweight and obesity prevention www.health.state.mn.us/obesity
- U.S. Department of Health www.healthierus.gov
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov
- List of farmers' markets – Minnesota Department of Agriculture www.mda.state.mn.us/mngrown/farmersmarkets.htm

Reduce Asthma Hospitalization Rate

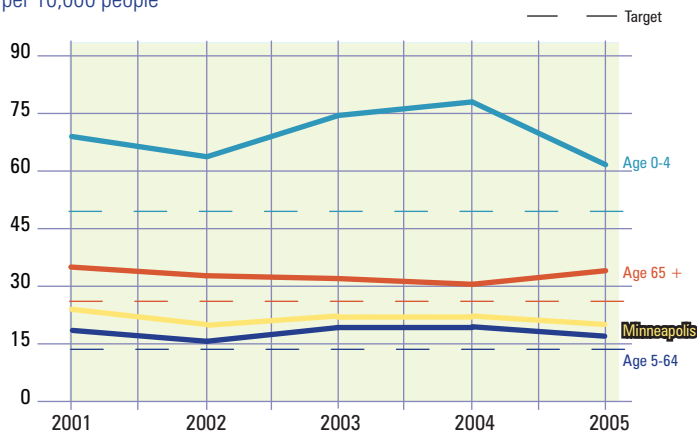
Asthma is common in Minnesota. Statewide, 10 percent of people aged 18 and older and nearly 8 percent of children have asthma.¹ It has been associated with a variety of indoor and outdoor environmental factors, including smoking. Asthma hospitalization rates often increase with a rise in fine particulate air pollution, which comes primarily from burning fossil fuels.²

¹ Minnesota Department of Health, *Asthma in Minnesota 2005 Epidemiology Report*

² Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Hospitalizations from Asthma among Minneapolis residents

per 10,000 people³



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

³ Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive



Children have the highest rate of hospitalization from asthma. Developing lungs are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, secondhand smoke, mold and other asthma triggers.

Target

Reduce asthma-related hospitalizations for the following age groups by 2010:

0 to 4 years old	51 per 10,000 people
5 to 64 years old	14 per 10,000 people
65 and older	24 per 10,000 people

Trend Analysis

Overall, asthma hospitalizations declined by about 9 percent in Minneapolis from 2004 to 2005. Asthma hospitalizations for children under the age of 5 are at the lowest rate in five years. Asthma hospitalizations for people between the ages of 5 and 64 also declined. Asthma hospitalizations for people age 65 and older have increased slightly¹.

Recent City Activities

- Created and distributed 38 outreach videos about asthma triggers in six languages to local agencies.
- Implemented new low-environmental-impact cleaning policy for City-owned and leased buildings, improving indoor air quality for City workers.
- Advocated for a statewide smoking ban in workplaces including restaurants and bars.
- Funded asthma education sessions for seven Minneapolis daycare centers.
- Created a Breathe Free project through Steps to a Healthier Minneapolis to reach more than 700 members of congregations who pledged to keep their homes and cars smoke-free, preventing exposure to secondhand smoke.
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/newsroom/200610/20061006-nr_HealthyLungMonth.asp
- Issued 44 citations to businesses for selling tobacco to minors. Fines ranged from \$250 to \$450.
- Provided more than 200 families of asthmatic children with home environmental inspections, home repairs or products to reduce allergens. Received a new three-year, \$1 million HUD Healthy Homes grant to continue the program.
- Issued 44 citations under a new requirement for rental properties aimed at controlling excessive mold related to water damage.
- Continued to inspect for environmental asthma triggers through the Asthma in American Cities grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Asthma is related to some air pollutants – see more activities under Air Quality.

Web Links & Resources

Minnesota State Department of Health asthma program
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/cdee/asthma/index.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asthma program
www.cdc.gov/asthma

American Lung Association of Minnesota
www.alamn.org/mn/asthma/index.asp

Lead Testing

Lead Testing for all Children

Childhood lead poisoning is one of the most common yet preventable health problems in the United States. Lead is highly toxic and can be found in chipping and peeling paint, soil and unregulated products. Children usually have no overt symptoms, but the damage is profound — including lower academic achievement and behavioral problems. Ensuring that all children are tested will promote prevention, education and early intervention and can reduce lead poisoning.

Target

By 2010, every Minneapolis child from 9 to 36 months old should have at least one blood test for lead.

Trend Analysis

Between 2001 and 2005, there was a 21-percent increase in lead testing children 9 to 36 months old. Reliable racial/ethnic data for those tested are not available. During the same period, elevated blood lead cases in children have declined 22-percent.

Minneapolis children tested for lead

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
% tested (9-36 months old)	58.7	58.8	60.4	66.1	70.8
Children with EBL ¹ (0-6 years old)	281	237	294	222	218

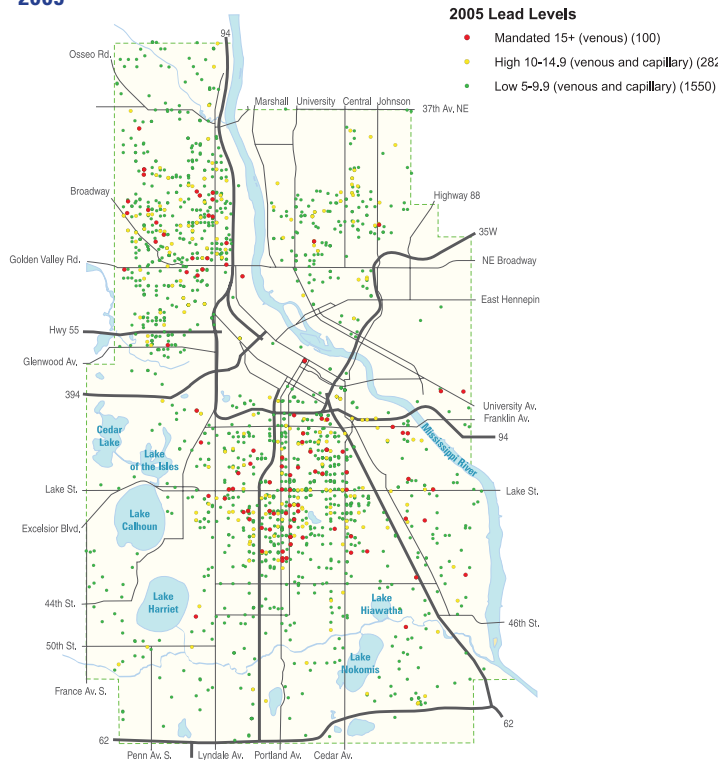
¹Elevated blood lead (EBL) is $\geq 10 \mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ (micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood).

Testing is recommended for all Minneapolis 1- and 2-year-olds and all children up to age 6 not previously tested. The City provides follow-up and intervention for EBL cases up to age 6.

Recent City Activities

- Provided lead education and testing to more than 11,000 people during home visits and at 112 community events through a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant. This outreach led to more than 500 referrals to clean up lead in homes.
- Replaced lead-painted windows and stabilized other lead hazards in 172 housing units in the Phillips neighborhood as part of a HUD lead hazard reduction project led by the City.
- Conducted door-to-door outreach on lead hazards to 2,000 people in the Phillips neighborhood in English, Somali and Spanish.
- Coordinated with health insurance providers to test previously untested, Medicaid-enrolled children by providing community-based testing sites and financial incentives for parents.
- Coordinated with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority to ensure that lead hazards are addressed where children live. In 2006 the City referred 156 properties to lead hazard remediation programs.
- Issued orders for lead abatement on 126 residential units and common areas as a result of investigations of 92 people with elevated blood lead levels.
- Worked with state and federal officials to recall lead charm bracelets nationwide and bring attention to lead hazards after a child in Minneapolis died from lead poisoning after swallowing a bracelet charm.

Residence of children under 6 with identified blood level $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$ or more in 2005



Source: Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support

Lead poisoning can occur in any neighborhood in the city but happens more often in rental units with poor paint maintenance. As a result, low-income children are disproportionately impacted by lead poisoning.

Web Links & Resources

- Minneapolis Project for Lead-Safe Kids www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/kids-home.asp
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lead information www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development www.hud.gov/offices/lead/index.cfm
- Minnesota Department of Health www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/lead/index.html



Minneapolis *greenprint*

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Increase the Use of Renewable Energy

In the face of global warming and harmful levels of pollution created by our current energy consumption, it is critical to increase our use of renewable energy – solar, wind, biomass and hydro-power. This means setting a good example as a City, and it means urging the state and federal government, industry and residents to do their part.

Target

- In City operations, by 2008 increase use of electricity from renewable sources to 10 percent above the renewable electricity supply provided by Xcel Energy.
- Citywide, by 2015 increase renewable energy use to 10 percent above state and federal mandates.

Trend Analysis

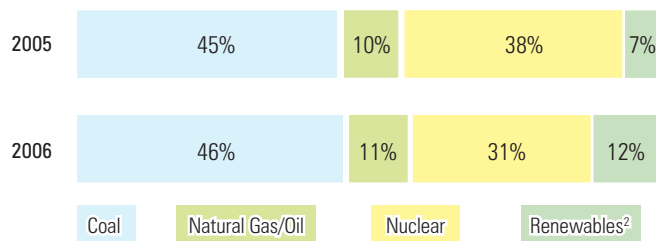
Xcel Energy is increasing its renewable power sources. Additional information on renewable energy use within Minneapolis is not currently available.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Installed City operations' third solar project at Currie Equipment Facility www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/currie.asp. The City's three solar projects produced a total of 12,500 kWh of energy, saved the City \$1,250 on its electricity bill and reduced carbon dioxide by 21,400 pounds last year.
- Purchased 46 new E85 flex-fuel vehicles for a total of 99 City-owned cars that can use 85 percent ethanol fuel. Currently using B10 (10 percent biodiesel) for City diesel vehicles and equipment.³
- Southeast Como Improvement Association implemented an innovative solar hot water pilot program. Twelve of the solar water heaters, each saving about 120 therms of natural gas each year, were installed in Minneapolis. The City assisted by waiving the permit fees. www.secomo.org
- Almost 6,300 Minneapolis customers participated in Xcel Energy's Windsource program, buying electricity from wind power. Southeast Como and Seward neighborhoods and others have encouraged more than 800 new participants. www.xcelenergy.com
- In 2006, Temple Israel, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church and Upper Midwest Gourmet installed photovoltaic solar systems, reducing their reliance on coal-burning power plants.
- More than 100,000 tons of garbage from Minneapolis homes and businesses went to the Hennepin County Waste Incinerator and was converted into electricity. www.hennepin.us keyword HERC
- See related activities under Global Warming and Air Quality.

Xcel Energy electric power sources¹

in percent



Source: Xcel Energy 2006

1 owned and purchased from other companies

2 Xcel Energy's renewables are wind, hydro, refuse-derived fuel and biomass. A significant portion of Xcel Energy's renewable energy comes from one large hydroelectric plant in Manitoba, Canada.



The Currie Maintenance Facility's solar array is one of three owned by the City of Minneapolis. The three photovoltaic systems produced 12,500 kWh of electricity last year.

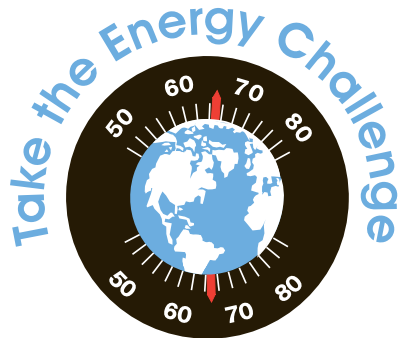
³ The City of Minneapolis supports policies, funding and research for the next generation of clean fuels using Minnesota-grown perennial crops.

Web Links & Resources

- Fresh Energy www.fresh-energy.org
- Clean Energy Minnesota www.cleanenergyminnesota.org
- Minnesota Energy Info Center www.commerce.state.mn.us

Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions

The science is clear – global warming is real, we are responsible, and it is a threat to our society. Carbon dioxide and other air pollution collects in the atmosphere, trapping the sun’s heat and causing our planet to warm up. Coal-burning power plants and vehicles are the largest sources of carbon dioxide pollution in the United States.



Find out what you can do to slow Global Warming.
Take the Energy Challenge
www.mnenergychallenge.org



A new City ordinance will increase taxi fuel efficiency by 35 percent. More than 370 taxis are licensed in Minneapolis; in total they travel close to 15 million miles a year.

Target

- Reduce CO₂ emissions from City operations by 12 percent by 2012 and by 20 percent by 2020.
- Reduce citywide CO₂ emissions by 12 percent by 2012 and by 20 percent by 2020.

Trend Analysis

The 1988 baseline for Minneapolis is 22.3 tons of carbon dioxide per person per year. Updated information will be collected this year.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Required all taxis licensed by the City to be more fuel-efficient within 10 years.
- Partnered with the Center for Energy and Environment and others to launch the Minnesota Energy Challenge. More than 700 Minneapolis residents and businesses have committed to reducing more than 8.3 million pounds of global warming pollutants annually. Take the challenge at www.mnenergychallenge.org.
- Required all new City-owned buildings to be built to a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver level of quality – a national benchmark for high performance green buildings. www.usgbc.org
- Tested use of energy-saving LED lights for holiday tree and street decoration.
- Redesigned the lighting in downtown Parking Ramp A to increase efficiency and visibility, saving more than 1.6 gigawatt hours annually – enough electricity to power 190 homes¹.
- The new Central Library exceeds the state energy code by 40 percent by using natural light and energy-efficient lighting. This saves enough electricity to power almost 300 homes annually¹. www.mpls.lib.mn.us/centralinfo.asp
- More than 220 Minneapolis residents and businesses, including the City of Minneapolis, have joined HOURCAR, a car-sharing program with highly efficient hybrid vehicles. www.hourcar.org
- Wellstone Apartments has easy access to public transportation and will have Energy Star appliances, low-water-use appliances and a solar water heating system. www.greencommunitiesonline.org/minnesota/default.asp?id=67
- See related activities under Renewable Energy, Air Quality, Downtown Transportation Alternatives, Bike Lanes and Tree Canopy.

¹ Xcel Energy

Web Links & Resources

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov/climatechange/index.html
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/globalwarming.html
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change www.ipcc.ch

Improve Air Quality Levels

Air quality in Minneapolis is among the best of major metropolitan areas in the United States. Still, the area has air quality issues that contribute to health problems such as asthma, pulmonary disease and heart disease. Most air pollution comes from the use of fossil fuels.

Target

- Reduce moderately unhealthy days in Minneapolis to fewer than 35 per year by 2015, with more reductions after that.
- Reduce all monitored air toxins to healthy levels by 2015.

Trend Analysis

The number of “moderately unhealthy” days increased by 23% from 2005 (80 days) compared to 2006 (98 days). At the same time, the number of days that had even worse air quality decreased from 4 days in 2005 to 0 days in 2006.

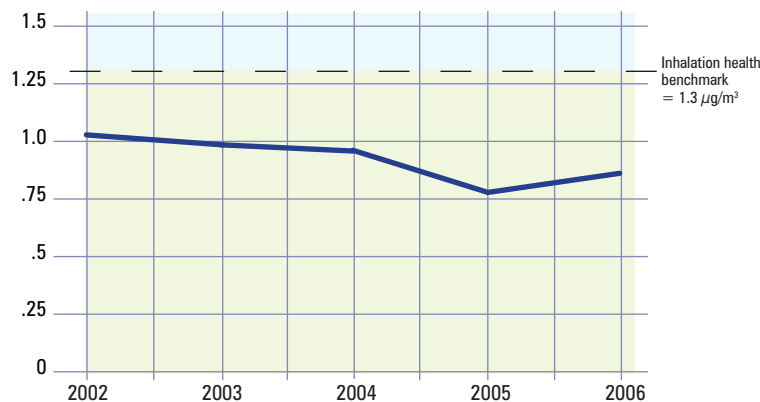
The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency found the yearly average benzene levels to be within the health benchmarks for 2006. But the Minneapolis Air Quality Study, which measures pollutants at ground level, found benzene and tetrachloroethylene levels outside of health standards in some locations. Formaldehyde has exceeded health benchmarks in previous years, but 2006 data are not yet available.

Air Quality Index for Minneapolis

Year	Good days	Moderately unhealthy days	Unhealthy for sensitive groups days	Unhealthy days
2003	289	75	1	0
2004	297	66	2	0
2005	281	80	3	1
2006	267	98	0	0

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Average benzene concentrations at monitoring stations in Minneapolis in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$



Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Ambient average levels of benzene in the air have been below health benchmarks and have declined overall since 2002.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Purchased three new hybrid-electric vehicles, for a total of eight hybrids including two for the Library Board.
- Removed *No Turn on Red* signs at 40 intersections, reducing idling times and vehicle emissions. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/traffic/NTOR.asp
- Banned the purchase and sale of mercury in thermostats and medical devices and for use in schools. Required crematoria to report mercury emissions. Mercury vapor is a potent nerve toxin that can be inhaled directly. Because mercury also can settle into lakes and rivers, it can be ingested by eating fish.
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is providing cleaner air and a quieter environment in Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden by replacing a gas tractor with an electric battery tractor.
- Metro Transit announced it will replace 314 buses with 150 next-generation hybrid electric buses that deliver 22 percent better fuel mileage and half the exhaust soot of the existing fleet.
- See related activities under Renewable Energy, Global Warming, Downtown Transportation Alternatives, Bike Lanes and Tree Canopy.

Web Links & Resources

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Air Quality www.pca.state.mn.us/air/index.html

City of Minneapolis, Air Quality www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airquality

Minnesota Department of Health, Air Quality www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air/index.htm

Increase Bicycle Lanes and Trails

In spite of our winters, Minneapolis boasts 10,000 cyclists and has one of the highest numbers of bicycle parking spaces of any city in the United States. Bicycling is good for our health, economy and environment. The City encourages bicycling by advocating for and constructing additional miles of bicycle lanes and trails.

Target

Add 44 miles of bicycle lanes and trails to 2004 levels by 2015, including 14 miles of on-street lanes and 30 miles of off-street trails.

Trend Analysis

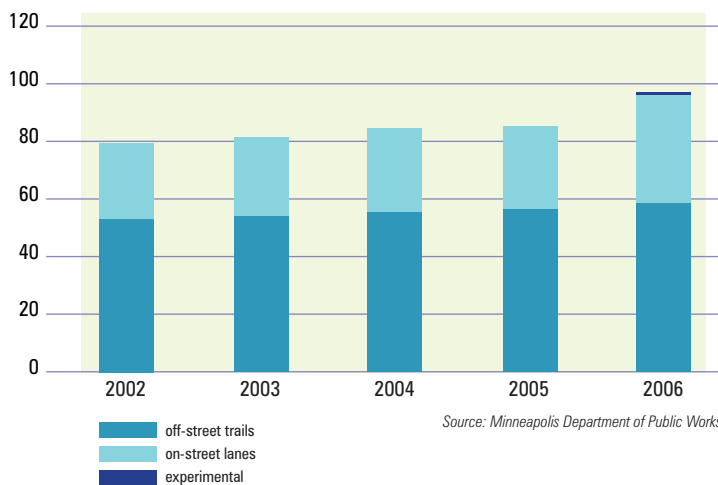
Minneapolis has steadily added bicycle lanes and trails and has moved bicycle-related capital projects ahead of schedule in recent years. The City has increased on-street lanes by nine miles and off-street trails by two miles from 2004 levels for a total of 96 miles and is on track to meet or exceed its 2015 goals.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Completed Phase 3 of the Midtown Greenway (South Minneapolis) connecting Hiawatha Avenue to the Mississippi River. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/midtown.asp
- Completed Central Avenue Trail (Northeast Minneapolis).
- Completed Phase 2 of the Loring Bikeway (downtown), which included new landscaping and public art. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/cip/loringbike2
- Added seven miles of bicycle lanes along Plymouth Avenue, 26th Avenue North, 42nd Avenue North and Second Street North (North Minneapolis). www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/cip/northside
- Installed dozens of new bicycle racks at local businesses, schools, parks and cultural centers.
- Completed a citywide bicycle parking inventory that will help the City better meet the parking needs of cyclists. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/bikeparking-rackinventory.asp
- Began work on a new Safe Routes to School Initiative in partnership with the Minneapolis Public Schools.
- Created an experimental bike route in partnership with the CARAG neighborhood organization. Instead of a separate bicycle lane, this experimental route is designed to direct bicyclists to smaller side streets, allowing for both automobile and bicycle traffic.
- Transit for Livable Communities, a local nonprofit, in partnership with the City received a \$21.5 million grant for a pilot program to increase biking and walking in Minneapolis and surrounding areas. www.tlcmnnesota.org/Resources/NTP%20Program/ntp.html
- See related activities under Downtown Transportation Alternatives.

Bike trail mileage in Minneapolis

in miles



With 10,000 cyclists and almost 100 miles of bicycle lanes and trails, Minneapolis is a great place to ride.

Web Links & Resources

- City of Minneapolis biking information www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/index.asp
- Minnesota State Bicycle Advisory Committee www.mnsbac.org
- Metropolitan Council Metro Commuter Services biking program www.metrotransit.org/serviceInfo/bikesOnTransit.asp

**Downtown
Transportation
Alternatives**

**Increase Use of Downtown
Alternative Transportation**

Getting around using transportation other than driving is good for our hearts, lungs and pocketbooks. Today in Minneapolis, alternative transportation can mean anything from light-rail and bus transit to bicycling and walking. The City plays an important role in making transit affordable and convenient, promoting its use and creating dynamic urban corridors that are safe and convenient for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Target

Increase the percentage of people who enter downtown via alternative transportation (bus, light-rail, bicycle, walking, car pool) to 67 percent by 2013.

Trend Analysis

The Hiawatha light-rail line began service in 2004 and has higher-than-projected ridership. In 2006, light-rail ridership grew 19 percent and system-wide bus ridership grew 4 percent, resulting in Metro Transit’s highest annual ridership since 1984. Because the last comprehensive count of downtown transportation use was conducted in 2003 (see chart), the total number of people carpooling, biking or walking is unknown, but public transit use downtown has increased.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Began developing a new downtown Transportation Action Plan in partnership with Metro Transit, Hennepin County, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the downtown business community and downtown neighborhoods. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/trans-plan

Elements of the proposed plan include:

- o Consolidating bus service onto priority streets.
- o Reducing bus congestion and converting to all-hybrid buses on Nicollet Mall.
- o Expanding and completing bike routes and bike racks.
- o Improving sidewalks.
- o Converting selected one-way streets to two-way streets.

- Rezoned a large portion of downtown to support higher density housing and mixed uses along the Hiawatha light-rail corridor. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/rtrezoning/tod-haiwatha.asp

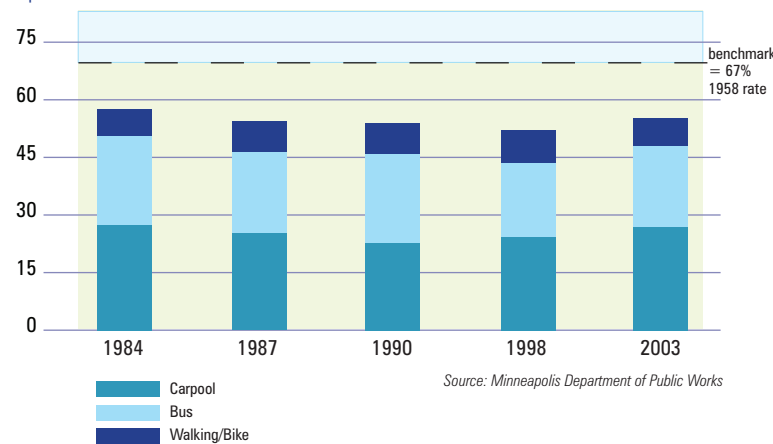
- Advocated at the state Legislature. Priorities included the North Star Commuter Rail Corridor connecting northern suburbs with downtown, the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit connecting Minneapolis and Saint Paul, the Interstate 35W and Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit facilities, and dedicated funding for transit.

- Offered Metro Pass, the pre-tax bus and light-rail farecard, to City employees. Since the end of 2004, the number of participating employees has increased 42 percent to 344.

- Provided transit passes instead of parking vouchers for Planning Commission members.

- See related activities in Bike Lanes, Global Warming and Air Quality.

People traveling downtown by car pool, bus, bike or walking
in percent



In 2006, ridership on the Hiawatha light-rail line grew 19 percent over 2005, providing 9.4 million rides.¹

¹ Metro Transit ridership numbers for the Hiawatha light-rail line.

Web Links & Resources

Metro Transit www.metrotransit.org

Tree Canopy

No Net Loss to the Urban Tree Canopy

Our urban forest cleans the air, shelters wildlife, catches water runoff, cools our homes and makes our city more beautiful. Insects, disease and increasingly construction are taking a toll on our trees, decreasing our urban tree canopy. An impending threat is the emerald ash borer. Since its discovery in Detroit in 2002, this insect has devastated ash trees in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

Target

- No net loss of citywide tree canopy cover by 2015.
- Plant at least 2,500 trees on public land annually through 2015.

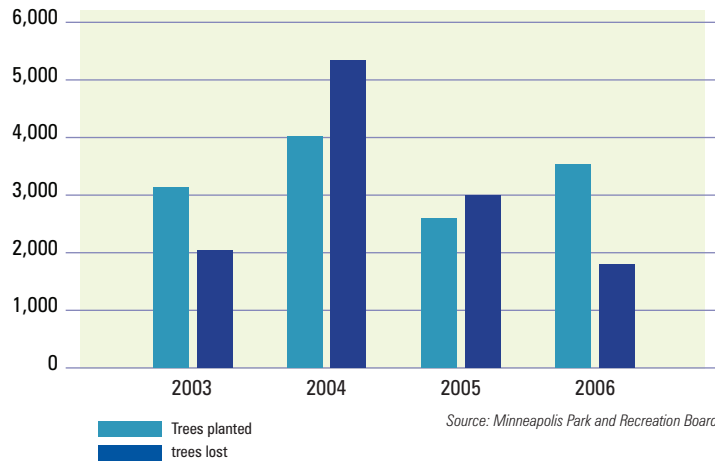
Trend Analysis

- The baseline tree canopy, measured in 2004, covers 26 percent of the city¹. After two years of heavy losses from Dutch elm disease, twice as many trees were planted in 2006 than were lost. Tree canopy information has not been updated since 2004.
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board planted an average of more than 3,300 trees along streets and in parks per year from 2003 to 2006. In 2006, more than 1,800 additional trees and saplings were planted by the City and its partners on other public lands.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Provided 1,038 trees to residents for planting in their own yards through an innovative partnership with Tree Trust, a local nonprofit. www.treetrust.org
- Created the seven and a half acre Gold Medal Park through a unique public-private partnership. The Park Development Foundation, which designed, built and will maintain the park, planted 300 large trees in this new public space along Minneapolis' downtown riverfront.
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) planted more than 3,600 street and parkland trees in 2006 and removed invasive species with public, private and neighborhood support on parkland. www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=28
- Groundwork Minneapolis planted 1,400 seedlings on City right of way to establish a buffer between homes in North Minneapolis and the railroad.
- Tree Trust, with support from the City, partnered with residents, the MPRB and others to reclaim two abandoned lots and plant 110 trees near Plymouth Avenue in North Minneapolis.
- The MPRB coordinated more than 500 volunteers, including students and teachers from Nellie Stone Johnson Community School, to plant 66 trees as part of National Arbor Day.
- Friends of the Mississippi River and 323 volunteers removed buckthorn and other invasive species to restore oak savannah and maple basswood forest remnants along the Mississippi River gorge. www.fmr.org/stewards.html
- Midtown Community Works planted 85 trees and 219 bushes along the Midtown Greenway. www.midtowncommunityworks.org/ArborDay2006_001.html

Trees on boulevards and in public parks managed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
in trees



Boy Scouts from Troop 100 plant a tree in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood. The City and its partners planted more than 6,000 trees and seedlings last year.

¹ U.S. Forest Service, Urban Forest Effects Model study, 2004

Web Links & Resources

- Minneapolis' Urban Forest www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/urbantreecanopy.asp
- Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment (CUE) www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cue

Reduce Airport Noise and the Environmental Impacts of the Airport

The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) plays an important role in our region’s economy and livability. But the airport also changes the environment, producing noise and air pollution, affecting the quality of life for nearby residents.

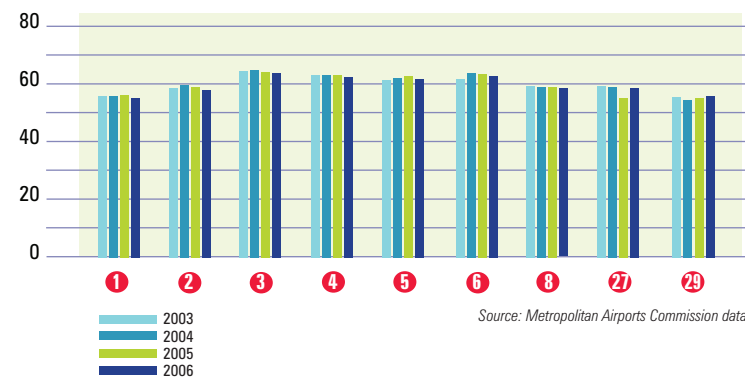
Target

Reduce the average noise levels by at least three decibels, the minimum change that is perceptible to the average person’s ear, from 2004 levels at all nine monitored locations in Minneapolis.

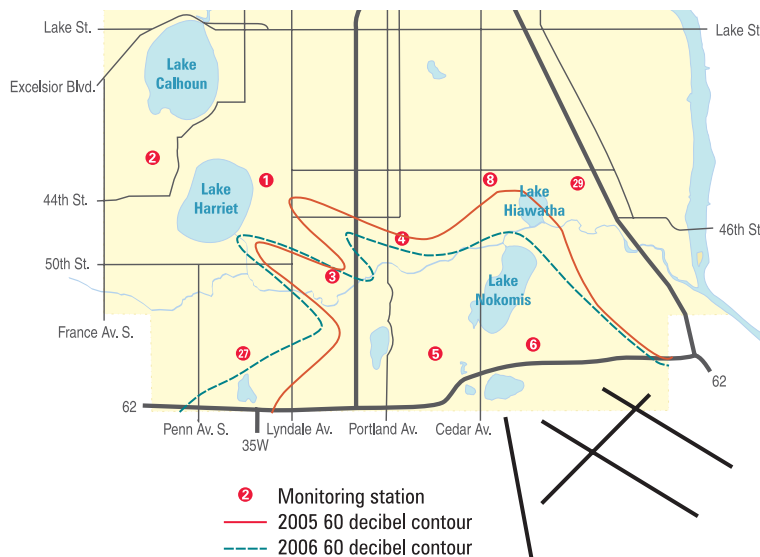
Trend Analysis

Despite a 10.6-percent reduction in airplane flights from 2005 to 2006 and a continued phasing out of older planes, noise levels in Minneapolis have not significantly declined. Use of the new north-south runway was lower than projected, resulting in heavier use of runways that direct traffic over southwest Minneapolis neighborhoods.

Average noise levels at Minneapolis monitoring stations in decibels



Airport noise monitoring stations in Minneapolis



Source: Metropolitan Airports Commission data.

Use of the new north-south runway was lower than projected in 2006, resulting in heavier use of runways that direct airplanes and airplane noise over neighborhoods in southwest Minneapolis

Recent City and Community Activities

- Continued litigation to compel the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to provide sound insulation for homeowners who are impacted by noise levels of 60 to 64 decibels and were promised insulation packages.
- Measured local noise levels with noise consultants in order to separate airport noise from background levels during both the night and day.
- Partnered with other communities to develop and host two “Airport 101” sessions for local and state elected officials.
- Advocated for and gained agreement with the MAC to start monitoring and reporting minutes above certain noise thresholds at each of the MAC’s noise monitoring stations. www.macnoise.com/opereports
- Advocated with the MAC for noise abatement measures to help manage day-to-day noise at the airport.
- Advocated for a statewide aviation strategy at the Minnesota Legislature and with the U.S. Congress.

Web Links & Resources

Metropolitan Airports Commission
www.msairport.com/mac

To file a noise complaint visit
www.macnoise.com/complaint or call 612-726-9411.

Residents Opposed to Airport Racket (ROAR) and South Metro Airport Action Council (SMAAC)
www.quiettheskies.org

Eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows

Heavy rains can fill sewer pipes beyond capacity and make them overflow into adjoining stormwater pipes, which then dump raw sewage into the Mississippi River. This is called a combined sewer overflow (CSO), and it can cause serious health and environmental problems.

Target

Eliminate combined sewer overflows by 2014.

Trend Analysis

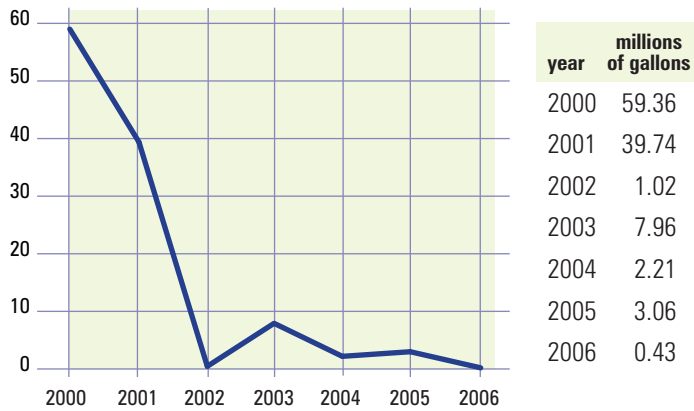
The City's earliest sewers were designed for both sewage and rain water. The City began building new systems separately in the 1930s and began separating the combined sewers in the 1960s. A decade-long accelerated sewer separation program began in the 1980s and was highly successful. Upgrades to Minneapolis' sewer system have resulted in a dramatic reduction in CSOs.

However, some overflows still occur during severe rain. The City continues to make improvements, inspecting the entire city parcel by parcel to find any roof and area water drains still connected to the sanitary sewer.

Recent City Activities

- Inspected more than 21,000 properties in 20 neighborhoods and found nearly 1,000 roof and storm drains still connected to the sanitary sewer. City ordinance requires owners to separate any combined drains on their property.
- Inspected six street construction projects to find any combined connections so they could be removed during construction.
- Investigated and resolved two instances of raw sewage flowing into the storm sewer system and removed three storm drains from the sanitary sewer.
- Diverted stormwater flow at six schools into new rain gardens instead of the sanitary sewer system through a partnership with Minneapolis Public Schools.
- Completed six capital improvement projects that stopped stormwater from nearly 20 acres flowing into the sanitary sewer system.
- Established a new community outreach program that educated residents and business owners on how they could help prevent CSOs.
- See related activities in Permeable Surfaces and Water Quality.

Combined sewer overflows into the Mississippi River
in millions of gallons

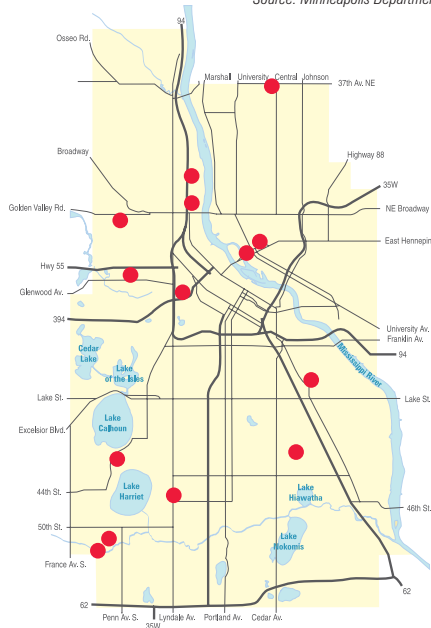


Source: Metropolitan Council

During intense rainstorms, untreated sewage may overflow into the stormwater sewers and discharge into the Mississippi River. The City of Minneapolis has dramatically reduced this, both how often it happens and how much overflow ends up in the river.

2006 projects to eliminate connections that allow stormwater to inflow into the sanitary sewers

Source: Minneapolis Department of Public Works



Web Links and Resources

City of Minneapolis CSO information
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cso

City of Minneapolis rain leader ordinance
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cso/ordinance.asp

Permeable Surfaces

Increase Permeable Surfaces in Minneapolis

Taking a lesson from nature, the City is working to manage rainwater where it falls. By cleaning and holding rain and melting snow close to its source, allowing it to soak into the ground, the City reduces the rate and amount of water running off, improves the quality of the runoff, replenishes groundwater and reduces erosion at stream banks.

Target

- If feasible, measure the baseline amount of rainwater and melting snow runoff that leaves the City or within a pilot area, then set targets for reducing it.
- By 2015, increase the number of large stormwater management amenities (such as ponds and wetlands) that treat multiple properties and large areas to 30, and amenities (such as rain gardens) that treat single properties to 500.

- By 2015, increase the number of large underground stormwater treatment chambers treating multiple properties to 150 and the number of small underground stormwater treatment chambers treating single properties to 100. These include grit chambers and swirl separators.
- By 2015, increase the number of green roofs in the city to 100. Green roofs are effective when these planted areas are designed to capture and treat rainwater.

Trend Analysis

The City has surpassed two of its targets and made rapid progress toward others. This success is due to community and neighborhood outreach programs such as the Minneapolis Blooms Rain Garden Workshops, the City’s stormwater management ordinance and stormwater utility credit program.

Stormwater management facilities

in cumulative totals, include private residential, commercial and public projects

	2005	2006	2015 Target
Large area amenities (e.g., ponds and wetlands)	20	28	30
★ Small area amenities ¹ (e.g., rain gardens)	327	753	500
Large area underground treatment chambers	128	142	150
★ Small area underground treatment chambers ¹	93	127	100
Green roofs ²	8	10	100

Minneapolis Department of Public Works

¹ 2005 figures were corrected and increased from last year’s report

² City of Minneapolis Development Review – number of permits issued for green roofs

★ Target exceeded

Recent City and Community Activities

- Completed the Mill Quarter regional facility that treats stormwater runoff in the area of the new Guthrie Theater. This underground treatment facility is expected to remove more than 20,000 pounds of suspended solids and 33 pounds of phosphorus annually. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/storm-drains
- Created rain gardens at six schools in partnership with the Minneapolis Public Schools. These gardens allow water to soak into the ground instead of running off of hard surfaces into the sewers, reducing localized flooding and improving water quality. The projects will also give schools a beautiful landscape where students can learn about the environment.
- Installed porous pavement in two road projects to reduce surface water runoff. This innovative concrete allows water to pass through it into an underground rock filter and be stored until it soaks into the ground and recharges groundwater, reducing the need for large storm drain pipes to the Mississippi River. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/cip/elliott_culdesac
- Minneapolis Blooms, with support from the City, taught 800 residents how to design and install rain gardens in their yards. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cue/Mpls_Blooms.asp
- See related activities in Combined Sewer Overflow and Water Quality.



Folwell School Interpretive Rain Gardens (under construction)
This project removed nearly two acres of asphalt and boosted the school’s environmental curriculum. Students will use the rain garden walkway to learn about managing stormwater.

Web Links & Resources

Minneapolis Surface Water Management
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/stormwater

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Stormwater Manual
www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-manual.html

Improve Lakes, Streams and the Mississippi River

As the City of Lakes, Minneapolis is known for its beautiful recreational waters. City residents and visitors enjoy swimming, boating, fishing and walking along the shores. Keeping our lakes, streams and rivers clean is critical to a healthy urban environment and safe recreation.

Target

By 2014, keep Trophic State Index¹ (TSI) levels at or below:

Brownie Lake	55 TSI	Lake Harriet	47 TSI
Lake Calhoun	47 TSI	Lake of the Isles	57 TSI
Cedar Lake	47 TSI		

Trend Analysis

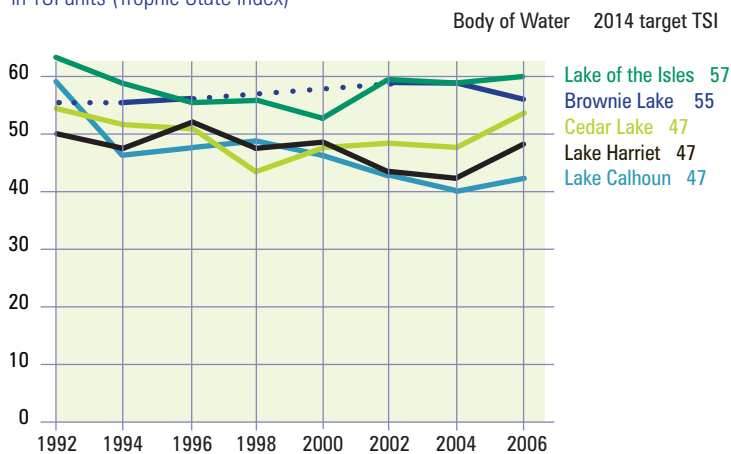
All of the target lakes except Brownie Lake worsened in clarity during 2006. Lake Calhoun is the only lake within its TSI goal for 2014. Longer term trends indicate that even though water quality in the city fluctuates, it may be improving. The TSI can vary due to a number of factors – climate, timing of rain, wind direction, temperature, aquatic plants, fish, alum treatments, watershed loading, and many others. All Minneapolis swimming beaches met health standards for swimming in 2006.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Tested samples of water that runs from storm sewers into the Mississippi River, in partnership with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), to establish baseline water quality and use the information in the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program. www.mwmo.org
- Implemented a permit program for all water outlets into the Minneapolis storm drain system. The storm drains carry water to the Mississippi River, area lakes and local creeks.
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) reduced algae and improved water quality in Powderhorn Lake with the third year of barley straw treatments. Native aquatic plants were noticeable for the first time in years. www.minneapolisparke.org/default.asp?PageID=708
- MPRB sponsored a team of volunteers who monitor wetlands for Hennepin County. www.mnwhep.org
- Seward Neighborhood Group helped residents build 125 rain barrels, while Southeast Como's organic lawn-care program provided organic fertilizer and taught clean-water yard-care techniques.
- Friends of the Mississippi River, with support from the City and other partners, coordinated the stenciling of 1,588 storm drains, distributed 5,500 educational door hangers, presented watershed protection workshops and coordinated 17 water restoration events. <http://fmr.org/stencil.html>
- See related activities in Combined Sewer Overflow and Permeable Surfaces.

Water quality of Minneapolis lakes

in TSI units (Trophic State Index)¹



Source Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

•••• insufficient data or not sampled in that year

¹ Water quality is measured using the Trophic State Index (TSI). The TSI measures water quality based on clarity, phosphorus level and the amount of algae. A lower TSI means clearer water.



A 2003 Powderhorn Lake alum treatment helps clear phosphorus from the water. Multiple water improvement techniques used by the City and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board over the past years are producing results. Powderhorn Lake is now clear enough to support aquatic vegetation.

Web Links & Resources

- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board annual report www.minneapolisparke.org/default.asp?PageID=942
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Lake Finder www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Water Resources www.pca.state.mn.us/water/index.html
- Minneapolis Stormwater Utility Fee www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/stormwater



Minneapolis

a vital community

Safe homes

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Affordable Housing

Increase Affordable Housing Units

A safe place to live is among our most basic needs, but for some it can seem out of reach. Minneapolis works to ensure that families and individuals can live in housing that is safe and affordable. Sustainable affordable housing integrates practices such as land recycling, higher density, proximity to transit and energy efficient building technology.

Target¹

By 2009

- New construction of 960 rental housing units affordable to families with incomes up to 50 percent of median family income (MFI).
- New construction of 250 rental housing units affordable to families with incomes up to 80 percent of MFI.

- Renovation of 1,340 rental housing units affordable to families with incomes up to 50 percent of MFI.
- Renovation of 350 rental housing units affordable to families with incomes up to 80 percent of MFI.
- New construction of 260 ownership housing units affordable to families with incomes up to 80 percent of MFI.
- Renovation of 90 ownership housing units affordable to families with incomes up to 80 percent of MFI.

Trend Analysis

Minneapolis has significantly increased the production and preservation of affordable housing since 2003. Between 2003 and 2006, the City helped build or renovate 3,395 affordable housing units. Of these, 925 were added in 2006.

Affordable housing units

Rental	Completed in 2005	Completed in 2006	2005-2006 totals	2009 target
New units 0%-30% of MFI ²	150	197	347	520
Renovated units 0%-30% of MFI	155	307	462	740
New units at 31%-50% of MFI	147	99	246	440
Renovated units at 31%-50% of MFI	102	37	139	600
New units at 51%-80% of MFI	195	39	234	250
Renovated units at 51%-80% of MFI	204	45	249	350

Ownership	Completed in 2005	Completed in 2006	2005-2006 totals	2009 target
New units at 31%-50% of MFI	12	32	44	110
Renovated units at 31%-50% of MFI	0	93	93	30
New units at 51%-80% of MFI	40	57	97	150
Renovated units at 51%-80% of MFI	3	18	21	60

Source: Minneapolis Community Planning & Development

² MFI = Median Family Income. In 2006 the Twin Cities metro area MFI was \$78,500²

★ Target exceeded



East River Mews, which includes six units of affordable housing in the Prospect Park neighborhood, was built on a former Superfund site cleaned up with state and local funding. (Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development)

Recent City Activities

- Launched a new Affordable Ownership Housing Development Program to help finance development of more affordable ownership housing. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/housing_resource_guide.pdf (see Page 3)
- Coordinated private and public funding for six cluster projects through the Northside Home Fund. Each cluster project acquires boarded properties in a concentrated area for redevelopment into affordable housing. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/nhf_home.asp
- Received a \$500,000 Home Depot Foundation grant to develop environmentally friendly affordable housing through the Northside Home Fund. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor/docs/THD_project_fact_sheet.pdf
- Completed 102 units of affordable senior public housing at Heritage Housing at Pond's Edge. The project contains sustainable technologies such as rain gardens. www.mphaonline.org/heritage.cfm
- Converted an underused parking lot into Linden Hills Townhomes, with five units affordable to low-income residents.
- Rehabilitated 25 units at Elliot Park's Commons and 64 units at Cecil Newman Apartments. These rental units are all preserved at affordable rates for 30-year and 25-year terms.
- The Veterans Housing project, with support from the City, added 140 supportive housing units next to the VA Medical Center for homeless single veterans.

Web Links & Resources

Minneapolis Affordable Housing Reports
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/affordable_housing_annual_reports.asp

¹ Condensed target, 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan, see chart for detailed targets.

End Homelessness

Homelessness is a critical problem facing communities across the United States. It affects individuals and families, adults and children. Innovative solutions include strategies for preventing homelessness and housing that is linked with supportive services, such as chemical dependency treatment, employment assistance and mental health resources.

Target

End homelessness by the end of 2016.

More about homelessness

- About 3,000 people in Hennepin County are homeless.
- Almost half (47 percent) of homeless people are children and young adults (21 or younger).
- More than half (52 percent) of homeless adults and 54 percent of homeless youths (17 and younger) have a diagnosable mental illness.
- One-fourth of homeless men are veterans.
- One-third of homeless women are victims of domestic violence.
- 28 percent of people experiencing homelessness have a job.

Source: Wilder Research Center, Homeless in Minnesota, 2006



People attending Project Homeless Connect share a smile after winning a new bike in a lottery. Project Homeless Connect, held at the Minneapolis Convention Center, provided services to 2,000 people experiencing homelessness.



A volunteer at Project Homeless Connect holds a girl whose family has no home. Of all people experiencing homelessness, 47 percent are children and young adults under the age of 21.

Trend Analysis

The newly established implementation teams of the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness are in the process of collecting and analyzing available data. Trend analysis will be possible when this process is completed. Implementation of the plan began in January 2007.

Recent City Activities

- Held two Project Homeless Connect events in 2006 to deliver supportive services to people experiencing homelessness. The City of Minneapolis partnered with Hennepin County, private sector partners and dedicated volunteers to connect 2,000 people to housing, employment, medical care, legal assistance and other services using a one-stop shop model. From a survey taken at the December 2006 event, 97 percent said that they learned about new services that day. When asked what was the most important thing they received at the event, the responses were, in order: bus cards, medical care, food, housing assistance, employment assistance and haircuts.
- Project Homelessness Connect received a National Award of Excellence from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org
- Greatly increased awareness on the issues of homelessness through extensive public speaking and educational outreach throughout Minneapolis.
- The broad-based City/County Commission to End Homelessness, formed in 2006, developed Heading Home Hennepin: The Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Minneapolis and Hennepin County. The plan, based on nationally recognized, evidence-based best practices, was approved by the City Council and the Hennepin County Board. Key areas of focus include: preventing homelessness, improving outreach, developing new supportive housing opportunities, improving the way we get our services to the people who need them, and connecting people to jobs and education. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/homelessness

Web Links & Resources

Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
www.mnhomelesscoalition.org

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
www.usich.gov

Wilder Research Center, Homeless in Minnesota
www.wilder.org/homelessness.0.html

Block Clubs

Minneapolis has a long tradition of strong block/apartment clubs, with neighbors working together to prevent crime, connect people who live and work on the block, and take on issues in their neighborhoods. Block/apartment clubs can improve the general quality of life, helping neighbors develop a feeling of mutual support from their community. Minneapolis has been a national leader in block club participation for more than 25 years. National Night Out has become a key method for maintaining existing block clubs and encouraging new block clubs to form.



The Minneapolis Police Department trains block club leaders and supports more than 800 block clubs in the city.

Target

Increase the number of Minneapolis neighborhood block clubs to 875.

Trend Analysis

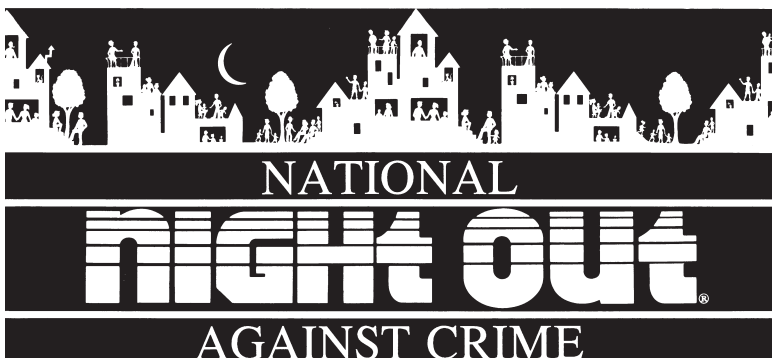
In 2006 nearly 60 percent of Minneapolis neighborhoods had organized block clubs. Minneapolis Police crime prevention specialists trained approximately 100 new block/apartment volunteer leaders on crime prevention information and available resources.

Recent City Activities

- Honored block clubs' crime prevention activities by presenting Building Blocks Awards to 14 outstanding block clubs.
- Presented the 2006 Teresa S. Ruhland Youth Award to two sisters in the Camden neighborhood who started an after-school program for children, focusing on growing and preparing healthy food.
- Added 1,548 residents to crime prevention e-mail lists. Crime updates and alerts are sent to block clubs and concerned individuals from the Minneapolis Police Department's SAFE unit.
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crimealert/emallist.asp
- Minneapolis has had the top-ranked National Night Out campaign among large United States cities for four of the past six years. In 2006, Minneapolis set a national record when residents organized 934 separate National Night Out events, a 14.1-percent increase from 2005.
- Developed partnerships with Target Corporation, the Minnesota Twins, Qwest Communications, The Park at MOA and the Star Tribune to encourage participation in National Night Out and block clubs.

Web Links & Resources

- Minneapolis block clubs
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/blockclubs-home.asp
- Minneapolis Community Crime Prevention/Safety for Everyone
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/index.asp#TopOfPage
- National Night Out
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno



Clean Up Brownfield Sites

Brownfields are former commercial or industrial properties that are difficult to redevelop because of actual or suspected soil contamination. Minneapolis was among the first cities in the country to recycle land by cleaning it up for redevelopment, open space or parks.

Target

Clean up 100 sites from 2004 to 2014.

Trend Analysis

There is growing interest in brownfield redevelopment in Minneapolis, and developers in the city have received more grants in recent years. Since 2004, the City has administered remediation grants to clean up 39 sites totaling 122 acres.

Minneapolis brownfields grants summary

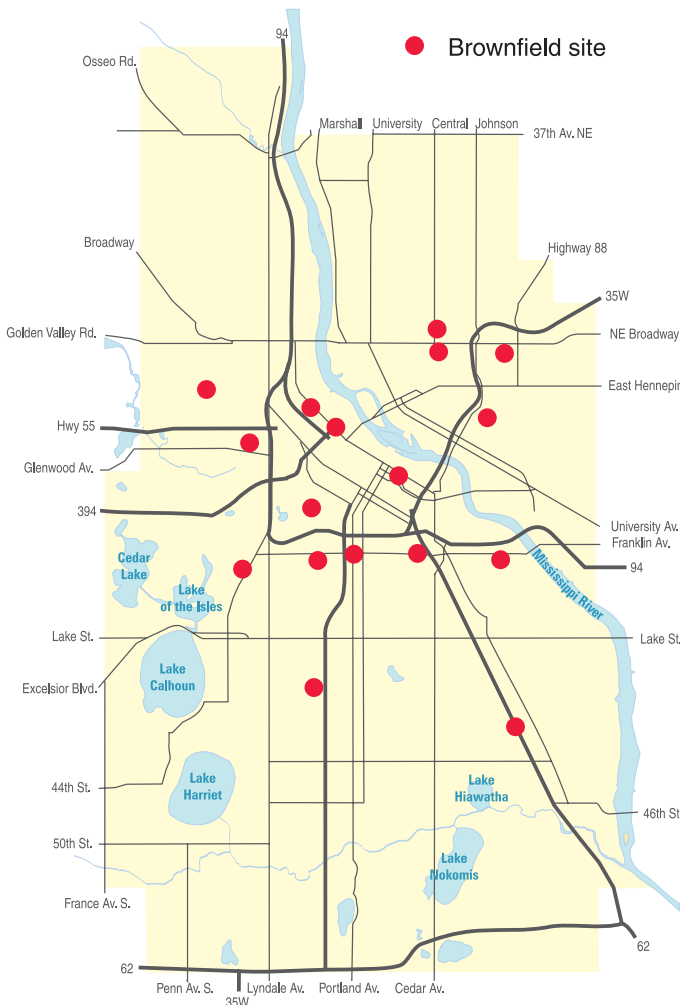
	2004	2005	2006
Number of sites	11	11	17
Total acreage	46.5	36	39.1
Total funds awarded (in millions)	\$4.3	\$4.3	\$4.1

Over the last three years, the City has facilitated over \$12 million in grant funds from the State of Minnesota, Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council to clean up 122 acres of environmentally degraded land.

Recent City Activities

- Facilitated more than \$4 million in grants during 2006 to clean up 17 different brownfield sites covering 39 acres. When complete, these sites will result in more than 1,000 new owner-occupied housing units, almost 200,000 square feet of new commercial and industrial space and 867 new jobs. Grant funds come from a variety of sources including the State of Minnesota, the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County.
- Adopted a City ordinance requiring that, as part of the Truth-in-Housing disclosure report during the sale of a property, information be provided to the purchaser regarding environmental testing and pollution removal or remediation done by a government agency at that property. The ordinance also requires landlords to give renters the results of testing performed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of arsenic contamination and cleanup associated with the CMC Heartland site in South Minneapolis.
- The EPA, with support from the City, completed arsenic sampling of approximately 3,000 properties within the South Minneapolis area impacted by the CMC Heartland site. Contaminated soil – with arsenic levels above 99 parts per million – was found on 130 parcels of land. At the end of 2006, 67 of these sites had been cleaned up by replacing the top 12 to 18 inches of soil with clean black soil. <http://epa.gov/region5/sites/cmcheartland>
- The EPA, with support from the City, completed a two-year, \$3 million cleanup of asbestos-contaminated materials at Gluek Park in Northeast Minneapolis. <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/sites/westernmineral>
- City-supported cleanup continued at the 23-acre Soo Line Shoreham Yard site in northeast Minneapolis. Contaminated soil (10,400 tons) was removed from the site and a soil vapor extraction system was installed to remove pollution from the remaining soil. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/shoreham_yards.asp

2006 remediation grant recipient locations



Source: Minneapolis Department of Community Planning & Economic Development

Web Links and Resources

Minneapolis Brownfields Program
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/brownfields.asp

Reduce the Homicide Rate

Violent crime is frightening and tragic, and it is one of the most critical ways a community assesses its public safety. In response to this concern in Minneapolis, the City is focusing on seizing guns and reducing gang violence by increasing collaboration with criminal justice agencies, community groups and corporate partners. The Police Department is committed to programs and initiatives for youth, communities and cultural understanding as important components of violence prevention.

Target

Based on a five-year baseline and the estimated impact of new and ongoing prevention activities, the preliminary goal is to reduce the homicide rate to no more than 11 homicides per 100,000 city residents annually.

Trend Analysis

Minneapolis' homicide rate has declined dramatically since the 1990s. Yet gang violence and the number of guns on the street have increased in recent years and homicides have increased from 11.2 per 100,000 residents in 2001 to 15 per 100,000 residents in 2006.

2006 homicides by neighborhood

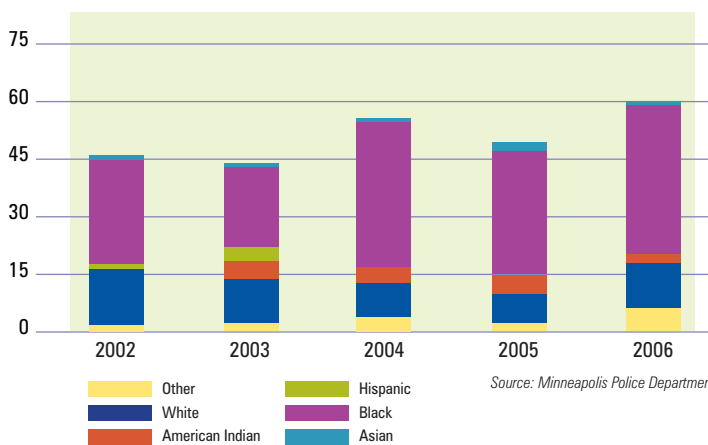
Bancroft	2	McKinley	1
Central	3	Midtown Phillips	1
Cleveland	1	Near North	5
Cooper	1	North Loop	1
Corcoran	2	Northeast Park	1
Downtown West	1	Prospect Park	1
East Phillips	2	Seward	1
Folwell	4	Sheridan	1
Hawthorne	8	St. Anthony East	1
Hiawatha	1	Standish	1
Jordan	3	Ventura Village	2
Kingfield	2	Webber-Camden	2
Loring Park	1	Whittier	3
Lyndale	1	Willard Hay	4
Marshall Terrace	1	Windom Park	1

Source: Minneapolis Police Department

Recent City Activities

- Hired 70 new police officers in 2006.
- Reinstated the Juvenile Unit, including the Juvenile Crimes Apprehension Team, to increase investigation of juvenile crimes, more of which are becoming violent.
- Implemented the Safe City collaborative, bringing together several law enforcement agencies for patrol beats in downtown Minneapolis. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20060503safecity.asp
- Installed the ShotSpotter system in the 3rd Precinct. This system can detect gunfire within a certain range, increasing the chances of finding the people firing guns and finding them more quickly. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/newsroom/200701/20070130-nr_SpotShotter.asp
- Installed cameras in Cedar-Riverside neighborhood and on Bloomington Avenue to deter crime and provide video evidence when crimes do occur.
- Used crime analysis and criminal intelligence to provide real-time deployment strategies to precincts, along with link analysis (a relationship mapping software) to identify violent offenders and their associates.
- Aggressively pursued businesses with high crime rates. Grocery stores with the highest number of police calls were required to implement crime-fighting measures such as eliminating the sale of drug paraphernalia, improved lighting, providing more staff and installing surveillance cameras. Business licenses for seven stores, which accounted for approximately 1,500 police calls in 2005 on the Northside, were revoked, reducing police calls by 95 percent.

Homicides in Minneapolis¹



¹ Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

Web Links & Resources

Minneapolis Community Crime Prevention
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach
 Minneapolis Police Department
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police

Increase the Number of High School Students Involved in the Arts

Learning about and participating in the arts increases students' academic achievement and provides lifelong value for the students and the community. Arts education is shown to be especially beneficial to low-income students and students who speak limited English.

Target

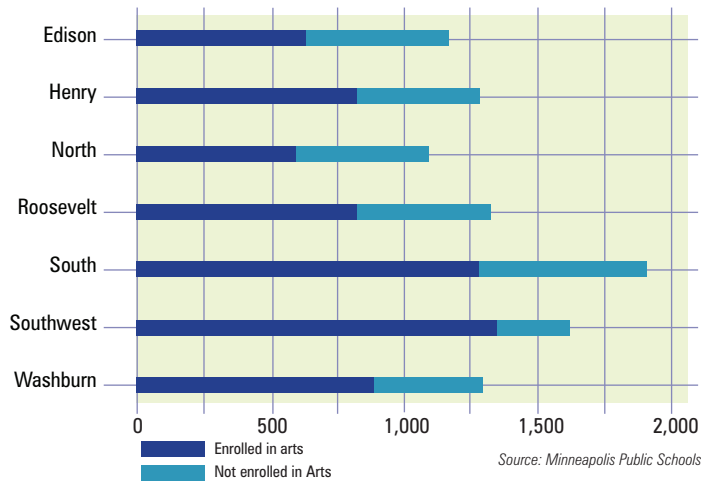
Ensure that 95 percent of Minneapolis Public High School students take at least one arts class in high school by 2014. Art classes include the visual arts such as painting, the performing arts such as theater,

dance and music or media arts such as graphic design.

Trend Analysis

During the 2005-2006 school year, 65 percent of high school students enrolled in at least one arts class. This is a 4-percent increase in high school students taking arts classes. Data are currently not available for the number of high school seniors who have taken at least one arts class during their high school career.

Minneapolis Public Schools arts class enrollments, 2005-2006 school year
in students



Recent City and Community Activities

- Sponsored Minneapolis MOSAIC, a summer celebration of the diverse arts and cultures of the city. The events engaged many school-aged children throughout Minneapolis. www.minneapolismosaic.com
- The Minneapolis Public Schools Board of Education approved a three-year Comprehensive Arts Plan to systematically improve arts instruction and evaluate progress toward higher quality arts instruction and achievement focusing on equity, excellence and accountability.
- The Minneapolis Public Schools continued using a federal professional development grant for arts teachers at schools in high-poverty areas. The program focused on teacher interaction with school community leaders, artists and art centers during 2005-2006.
- The Minneapolis Public Schools has enhanced its cultural partnerships and encouraged students to interact directly with arts and cultural institutions such as the Guthrie and Mixed Blood theaters, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Weisman Museum and the Minnesota Orchestra.
- The Minneapolis Public Schools sponsored the *Viva City Arts Festival* at Calhoun Square and Orchestra Hall to celebrate the artistic achievements of Minneapolis Public High School students. During the next three years, Viva City will continue spotlighting high school students and will develop community partnerships and collaborations with institutions of higher learning, composers and visual artists. www.finearts.mpls.k12.mn.us/Basic.html



Minneapolis high school students participate in the arts through a variety of media in the 2006 Viva City Arts Festival. (Marc Wanvig)

Web Links & Resources

Minneapolis Public Schools Fine Arts
<http://finearts.mpls.k12.mn.us>

Arts for Academic Achievement
http://mpls.k12.mn.us/Arts_for_Academic_Achievement.html

Increase the High School Graduation Rate in Minneapolis Public Schools

The high school graduation rate is a critical measure of a community's success in one of its most important responsibilities: educating children and preparing them for successful futures. City government, though not primarily responsible for schools, plays an important role by partnering with schools, residents and employers to improve student achievement.

Target

Increase the average high school graduation rate to 80 percent by 2008 for students at the seven largest public high schools: Edison, Henry, North, Roosevelt, South, Southwest and Washburn.

Trend Analysis

The average high school graduation rate of these seven high schools steadily increased over the past three years from 76 percent to 80 percent. Though the average graduation rate has reached the target, racial disparities persist and some schools still fare better than others.

Graduation rate of Minneapolis public high schools

	Average	Edison	Henry	North	Roosevelt	South	Southwest	Washburn
2004	76.1	62.0	75.2	72.3	64.2	89.0	80.9	86.9
2005	78.4	71.1	77.7	78.7	67.0	84.7	80.6	85.7
2006	80.0	60.9	74.5	79.5	71.7	94.1	85.8	86.1
Target	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0

Source: Minneapolis Public Schools

★ Target reached for overall graduation rate

Graduation rate of Minneapolis public high school students by race/ethnicity¹

	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black	White
2004		62.8	78.6	60.2	68.2
2005		58.1	84.7	57.4	71.1
2006		72.7	82.0	60.0	71.5

Source: Minneapolis Public Schools

¹ Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive



Washburn High School graduation.

Recent City and Community Activities

- Throughout the year, the Minneapolis Police Activities League program sponsored youth athletics, camps and recreational programs at which Minneapolis police officers and volunteers coached, mentored and chaperoned youths. The program encourages graduation through mentoring, fostering respectful behavior and communicating the value of education to young people. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pal
- Enforced lead regulations, which result in safer housing stock and fewer children who have lead poisoning and the learning disabilities and loss of IQ that are caused by it. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/lead-hazard-control
- Aggressively expanded STEP-UP, a summer employment program, and employed 500 youths during the summer of 2006. www.achieveminnneapolis.org/programs/StepUp.html
- Partnered with the Minneapolis Public Schools and Achieve! Minneapolis to provide college and career centers at all seven public high schools and three alternative high schools.
- Student success is related to student health – see more activities under AIDS and Gonorrhea Rate, Asthma, Healthy Weight, Lead Testing and Teen Pregnancy Rate.

Web Links & Resources

Minneapolis Public Schools
www.mpls.k12.mn.us

Workers Earn a Livable Wage

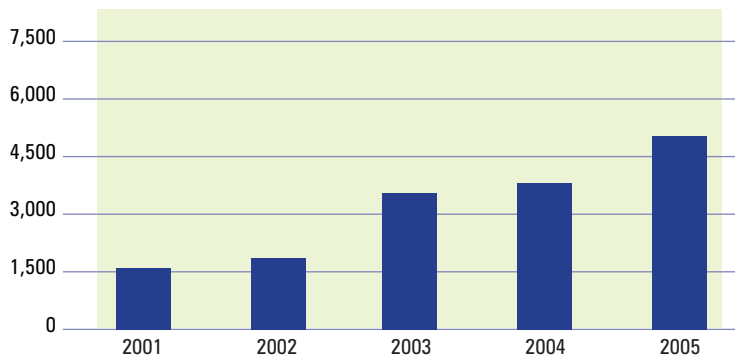
Ensure Workers Earn a Living Wage

When workers earn enough money to support themselves and provide for their families' basic needs, the entire community benefits. Minneapolis sets an important example in the way the City conducts its business.

Target

Target is currently being evaluated.

New hires at or above living wage via job-linkage agreements
in number of businesses participating



Source: Minneapolis Department of Community Planning & Economic Development

Living wage in 2005 was \$10.23/hour



City redevelopment programs support construction partnerships that involve minority-owned and women-owned contractors and raise the wages of all employees to a living wage.

Trend Analysis

Collecting accurate wage information for Minneapolis residents has proved challenging, and City staff are pursuing options for doing so. Once wage information is collected, a baseline will be established. After that, trends will be analyzed.

Recent City Activities

- The City's job placement programs placed 3,333 people into full-time jobs in 2006. Our Close the Gap campaign to bring the city's unemployment rate down to the metro's rate continues. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/metp/index.asp
- Provided funding for six Minneapolis businesses to train their current employees and increase their wages.
- Developed and launched, in partnership with the Minneapolis Employment Network and North Minneapolis businesses, a North Side Business Campaign to employ and train Northside workers.
- Developed the Minneapolis Pipeline, a program to recruit legal support staff for Minneapolis law firms, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The program seeks to groom 500 new qualified legal office specialists in the metropolitan area within the next five years.
- Executed five new Job Linkage agreements with Minneapolis companies that receive financial assistance from the City. These agreements set five-year hiring goals for the companies and connect them with neighborhood workforce organizations. Job Linkage agreements emphasize living-wage jobs for Minneapolis residents. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/living_wage.asp
- Surveyed 114 Job Linkage companies for their hiring and wage information.
- Visited 45 Minneapolis businesses with Job Linkage agreements to promote living-wage hiring and training.
- Trained City staff working in business finance and development on the City's 2005 living-wage ordinance.

Web Links & Resources

Minneapolis Employment & Training Program
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/metp

Minneapolis Community Planning & Economic Development
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/economic_development_home.asp

Minneapolis Employment & Training Program Youth Programs www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/metp/youth.asp



City Coordinator – Sustainability

230 South Fifth Street. – Room 301M
Minneapolis, MN 55415

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability

English:Attention. If you want help translating this information, call- 612-673-3737

Spanish:Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700

Somali:Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500

Hmong:Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800

Sign Language: 612-673-3220 TTY 612-673-2626

Ref. 612-673-5863

