Minneapolis
living well

2008 Sustainability Report

Minneapolis
living well

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Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability

Minneapolis
living well

Executive Summary

Creating a safe, healthy, environmentally friendly city is a top priority for the City of Minneapolis. In 2003, the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor R.T. Rybak set a road map for making Minneapolis truly sustainable by launching the City's Sustainability Initiative. In 2006, the council adopted six Citywide goals, throughout which sustainability is woven and in which the "Enriched Environment" goal specifically integrates these priorities into City decision-making processes. At the heart of this commitment are 24 sustainability indicators, providing a blueprint upon which we are building a more sustainable city. Each of these indicators contains benchmarks and targets, allowing us to measure our progress and match actions with goals.

Minneapolis – Living Well, the 2008 sustainability report, is the City's third annual report taking stock of our work on the 24 sustainability indicators and providing an account of where we are compared to our goals in improving the well-being of our residents, reducing our impacts on the environment and ensuring a healthy community for generations to come. The report is divided into three sections and highlights include:

A Healthy Life

- Tested a higher percentage of young children for lead and inspected a higher percentage of homes where lead-poisoned children live.

Greenprint

- Integrated the Greenprint's sustainability efforts into The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth, the City's comprehensive plan.
- Achieved no combined sewer overflows during rainstorms for the first time ever.
- Met water quality improvement goals at Lake Calhoun, Cedar Lake and Lake Harriet.

A Vital Community

- Implemented the multifaceted, multisector, multiyear Blueprint for Action to prevent youth violence and saw a 20-percent decrease in violent crime with juvenile suspects.
- Greatly exceeded the target for new block clubs.
- Facilitated a record-setting $5.72 million in grants to clean up more than 56 acres at 17 brownfield sites.

We have more to do. Infant mortality rates, teen pregnancy rates and hospitalizations from asthma rose. Our air quality, water quality and tree canopy face ongoing challenges. The threat of global warming continues. Racial and ethnic disparities persist in public health and school achievement. Using multiple, integrated strategies and improved data collection and reporting, the City continues working to close these gaps and presses forward in new ways to protect our health and community resources, and reduce our impact on the planet.

Adapting as quickly as possible to the challenges we face requires the extensive, ongoing effort now taking place through strong intercommunity partnerships and the combined efforts of numerous individuals. A special thanks go to the City's Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee and the Environmental Coordinating Team, City staff, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, the Minneapolis City Council, businesses, nonprofits, other organizations and to every resident exercising daily efforts toward creating a sustainable city. It is your action and commitment that makes all of the accomplishments listed above and in the following report possible.

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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Healthy Infants

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. In the U.S., the five leading causes of infant death are birth defects, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), pregnancy complications, accidental injuries, and disorders related to low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds). Preterm birth (before 37 weeks) is the No. 1 cause of low birth weight. Infants born to teenage mothers have the highest rate of infant mortality.

Risk factors for low birth weight and preterm birth include a mother's diabetes, high blood pressure, stress and substance abuse. Risk factors for sleep-related infant deaths include preterm birth, low birth weight, prenatal smoke exposure, secondhand smoke exposure during infancy, and unsafe sleep practices or environments.

Target

- Reduce infant mortality rates overall and within each racial/ethnic subgroup to 4.5 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2010.
- Reduce the proportion of infants born at low birth weight to 5 percent by 2010.

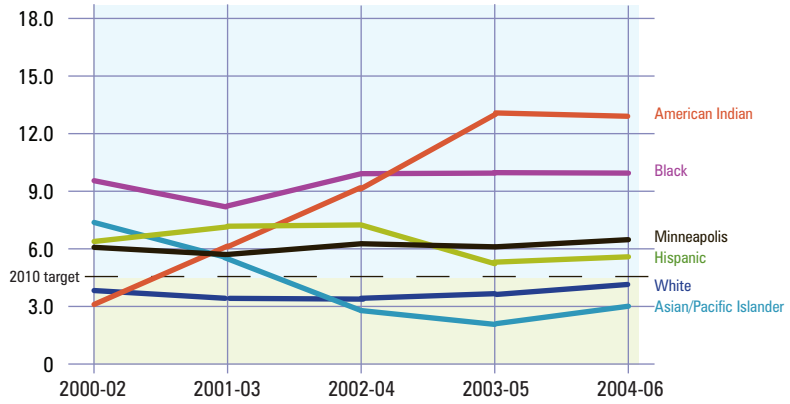
Trend Analysis

The infant mortality rate – calculated as the number of deaths per 1,000 live births – has been rising in Minneapolis. The average rate from 2004 to 2006 was 6.5 deaths. The infant mortality rate among American Indians has increased the most. Between 1999 and 2004, the rate for infants born to black mothers reflects divergent trends between U.S.-born women, for whom the rate decreased from 11.1 to 9.8, and African-born women, for whom the rate increased from 6.9 to 8.6. The infant mortality rate overall was lower than in other U.S. cities of similar size and for whites, blacks and Asians/Pacific Islanders for the most recent period having national comparison data (2002 to 2004).

The percentage of low birth weight babies born in Minneapolis in 2006 was 7.6 percent. The proportion of babies with low birth weights decreased for all populations of color between 2005 and 2006.

Infant mortality rates among Minneapolis residents[1]

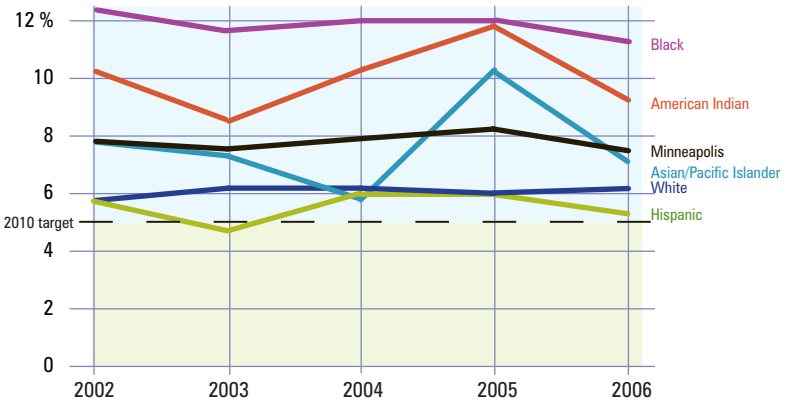
per 1,000 live births in three year rolling average rates



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Low birth weight babies among Minneapolis residents[1]

in percent



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

1 Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

Recent City & Community Activities

- Screened 698 pregnant women in Minneapolis clinics and provided case management services to 409 through the Twin Cities Healthy Start Program.
- Conducted 201 home visits with pregnant women through Way to Grow.
- Conducted a Breathe Free campaign to reduce infant exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Provided portable cribs to 36 families in need.
- Promoted safe sleep environments for infants.
- Educated more than 100 adults about infant death disparities at the Twin Cities Healthy Family Fair.
- Provided training for 47 black and American Indian fathers about the importance of fathers' involvement during pregnancy and infancy. Founded male involvement programs to help reduce infant mortality in the highest risk Minneapolis communities.
- Won recognition as the nation's third best city in which to have a baby by Fit Pregnancy. www.fitpregnancy.com/bestcities2007/main07

Web Links & Resources

Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support: Twin Cities Healthy Start
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/healthy-start.asp

U.S. Department of Health
www.healthierus.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

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. Children born to teen parents are at a higher risk for abuse, neglect and poor school performance.

Target

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

Trend Analysis

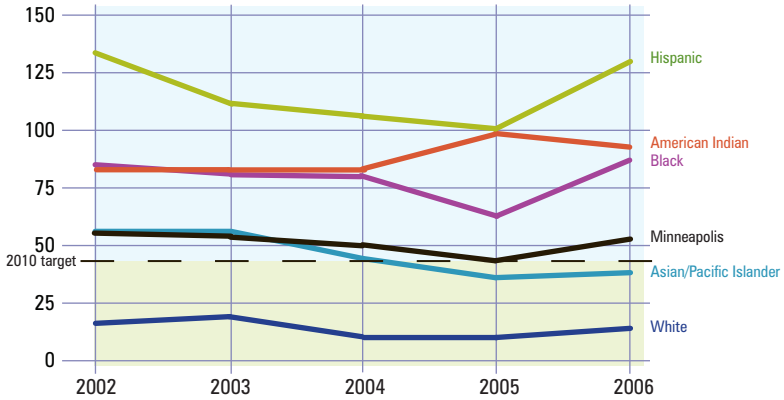
The teen pregnancy[1] rate in Minneapolis increased in 2006, reversing a steady downward trend in which the pregnancy rate for this age group had declined 41 percent between 1999 and 2005. The number of pregnancies per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 17 rose from 45.1 in 2005 to 53.3 in 2006. The increase in teen pregnancies in Minneapolis is largely driven by increases among black and Hispanic teens.[2]

1 Pregnancy is defined as live births, abortions and fetal deaths.

2 These rates were calculated based on the 2000 U.S. Census. To the extent the number of teens overall or within a specific racial/ethnic group has increased since that time, the rates presented would be inflated.

Teen pregnancies (ages 15–17) in Minneapolis[3]

per 1,000 girls ages 15–17



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

3 Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

Recent City & Community Activities

- Provided pregnancy prevention and reproductive health services to students through school-based clinics at six Minneapolis public schools, including Broadway High School for pregnant teens and teen parents. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/school-home.asp
- Co-chaired the Teen Parent Connection, a coalition of the City, Hennepin County and Minneapolis Public Schools that provides a variety of services for teen mothers with an emphasis on preventing second pregnancies. Co-sponsored training and hosted a community networking event for governmental and community-based agencies that serve teen parents.
- Awarded $156,000 in contracts to community-based agencies to provide youth development activities, parenting education for teen parents and case management services aimed at reducing teen pregnancy.
- Provided health education to high school students selected to participate in the STEP-UP program. www.achieveminneapolis.org/programs/stepUp.html
- Produced the 2007 Teen Parent Report Card to track services helping teen parents in Minneapolis. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/tprc07.pdf
- Collaborated with other public health and community-based agencies to promote adolescent health care, family planning services and comprehensive sex education in the schools.
- Contracted with local community-based clinics to provide outreach, reproductive health education and testing for sexually transmitted diseases primarily to young black men through the Seen on da Streets initiative, a project now in its fifth year. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/seenondastreets.asp
- See related activities under High School Graduation Rate.

Web Links & Resources

Teen Health 411 pregnancy information
www.teenhealth411.org/pregnancy.php

National Institutes of Health
www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/teenagepregnancy.html

HIV and Gonorrhea

Understanding the HIV epidemic in Minnesota requires analysis of individuals who were not born in the United States. Information about foreign-born status, however, is missing from 2000 to 2006 for 43 percent of HIV cases, making it difficult to assess the trends. Many immigrants and refugees come from areas where heterosexual transmission is most common. As a result, some of the prevention campaigns used in the United States may not seem relevant to them, and different approaches for prevention and treatment may be necessary.

Reduce the Rates of HIV and Gonorrhea

HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) and gonorrhea have immense consequences for 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 are sexually transmitted, but transmission related to injecting drugs and from mothers to infants has declined, so an increasing proportion of new HIV infections are sexually transmitted.

Target

- Reduce the rate of new HIV cases in Minneapolis to 20.77 cases per 100,000 people by 2010.
- Reduce the rate of new gonorrhea cases in Minneapolis to 161 cases per 100,000 people by 2010.

Trend Analysis

In 2006, there were 124 new cases of HIV reported in Minneapolis. For Minneapolis overall, the three-year rolling average of HIV cases fell 11 percent to 29.7 during the time period studied but remains above the 2010 goal of 20.77 cases per 100,000.[1] Rates fell among blacks, American Indians, whites and Asians. The trend was less clear among Hispanics, but the rate was its highest from 2004 to 2006.[2]

In 2006, there were 1,196 cases of gonorrhea reported in Minneapolis. From 2002 to 2006, gonorrhea rates fell 10 percent in Minneapolis. Among American Indians and blacks, rates fell from 2003 to 2004 but rose from 2004 to 2006.[3]

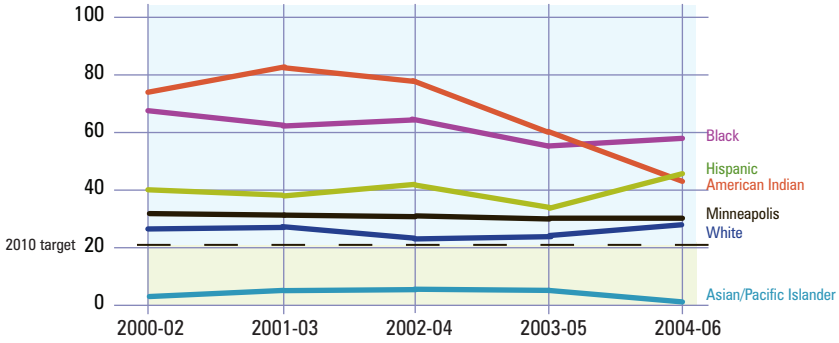
1 Minneapolis has a small number of HIV cases, so rolling averages from 2000 to 2006 are presented to interpret trends in HIV rates.

2 These rates were calculated based on 2000 U.S. Census population counts. Because the population has increased since 2000, the reported rates are higher than the actual rates of the disease.

3 These rates represent identified cases. While people with symptoms typically seek treatment, screening programs targeting high-risk individuals without symptoms have been implemented in recent years resulting in improved case-finding. This increases the rate of reported disease, so how much a reported increase represents an actual increase in disease incidence is unknown.

New cases of HIV[1,2,4] in Minneapolis

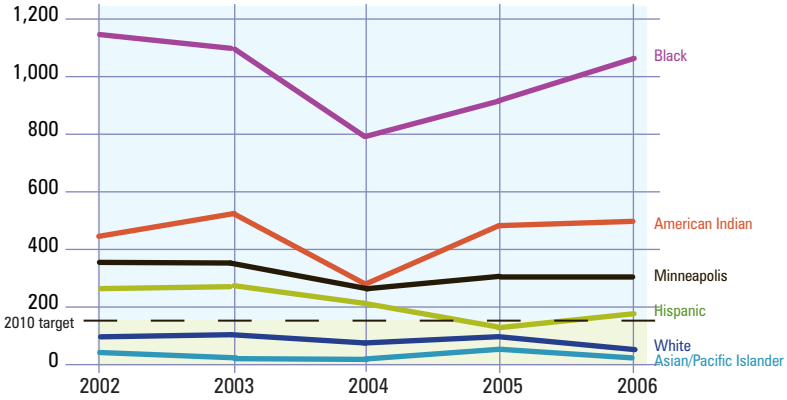
per 100,000 people



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Gonorrhea cases in Minneapolis[3,4]

per 100,000 people



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

4 Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

Recent City & Community Activities

- Through the Seen on da Streets federal grant project, provided outreach to 1,078 young men for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and educated them about the connection between high-risk sexual behavior and STD/HIV transmission. Expanded health care access by testing 256 young men for STDs in non-clinical settings.
  www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/seenondastreets.asp
- Tested uninsured people for STDs and HIV through Neighborhood Health Care Network Clinics.
- Provided adolescents with 2,187 family planning visits and 609 STD tests through City-funded school-based clinics.
  www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/school-home.asp
- Began a public health methamphetamine and HIV risk awareness poster campaign. Local agencies were involved in the design and distribution effort. The campaign's target audience includes gay and bisexual men who are current or potential meth users. In the first month of the campaign, 50 posters were distributed and posted in the community.

Web Links & Resources

Some of the sites below contain explicit information about prevention and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases and are not appropriate for all viewers.

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
www.reddoorclinic.org

Healthy Weight

Increase the Proportion of Adults at a Healthy Weight

Healthy weight for adults reflects an individual's health and the general health of a community. Diet and exercise directly influence a person's weight while other factors play a role too. Compared to people with excess weight, individuals at a healthy weight are less likely to suffer from chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and high cholesterol. Women in their childbearing years who are at a healthy weight are less likely to have problems with infertility, pregnancy and birth.

Target

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

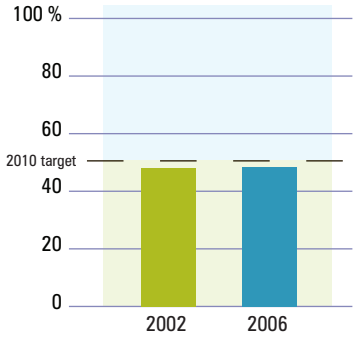
Trend Analysis

According to the 2006 Hennepin County SHAPE survey, the percentage of Minneapolis adults at a healthy weight was 48.6 percent, up from 46.8 percent in 2002.[1] National and Hennepin County surveys have found that black, American Indian and Latino adults are more likely to be overweight or obese than Asian or white adults. Adults with lower levels of education and lower incomes are at a greater risk for obesity.

1 Assessment of healthy weight for adults is based on a Body Mass Index (BMI). BMI is a number calculated from a person's weight and height and is a reliable indicator of body fat for most people. People are considered to be at a healthy weight if they have a BMI of less than 25.

Minneapolis adult residents at a healthy weight

in percent



Source: Hennepin County

Minneapolis residents demonstrate salsa aerobics at the finale celebration of Get Fit Twin Cities.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Launched Get Fit Twin Cities, a team-based, four-month fitness challenge that attracted 3,037 participants who live or work in Minneapolis.
- Partnered with Minneapolis Public School's Community Education to develop adult and family fitness classes in areas of the city that lack affordable, bilingual fitness opportunities.
- Supported the development and coordination of clinic- and community-based walking clubs, which more than 1,000 people joined.
- Funded the development of six new, neighborhood-based farmers markets. Streamlined the licensing process to make it easier and more affordable for organizations to start small-scale farm stands in their neighborhoods.
- Funded three community-based organizations to promote healthy eating. Nearly 1,000 people attended nutrition education classes or received information.
- Won recognition as the nation's fourth fittest city in the Men's Fitness magazine's annual survey of the "Fittest and Fattest Cities in America," up from 21st place in 2006.
  www.mensfitness.com/city_rankings/411
- Won recognition as the nation's fourth top city to best fit a philosophy of eating smart, being fit and living well by Cooking Light magazine.
  www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20070112cookinglight.asp

Web Links & Resources

Get Fit Twin Cities
www.getfittwincities.org

Steps to a Healthier Minneapolis
www.stepstoahealthiermn.org

List of local farmers markets
www.mda.state.mn.us/mngrown/farmersmarkets.htm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Nutrition for Everyone
www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/nutrition/nutrition_for_everyone/index.htm

Asthma

Reduce Asthma Hospitalization Rate

Asthma 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.[1]

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, there were 841 asthma hospitalizations in Minneapolis during 2006, a 7.6 percent increase over the prior year. Asthma hospitalizations have increased in people up to age 34 and 65 and over while declining in people ages 35 through 64.

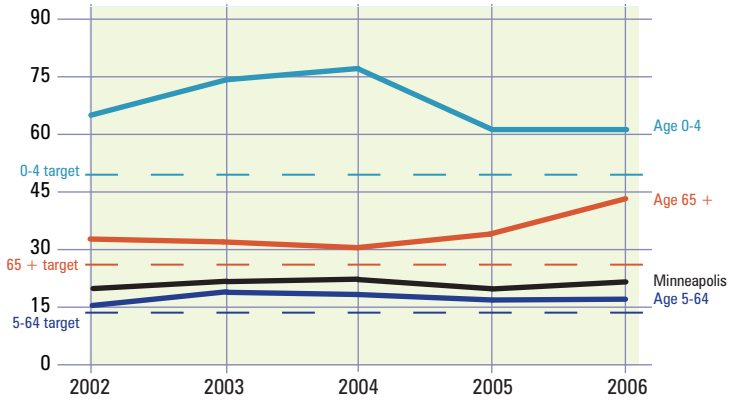
According to recent surveys, 11.2 percent of Minneapolis high school students (grades 9 through 12) reported that they have physician-diagnosed asthma, and 8.5 percent of adults in Minneapolis (ages 18 and older) reported that they have asthma.[2]

1 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

2 Youth data comes from the 2007 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey and the adult data from the 2006 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

Hospitalizations from asthma among Minneapolis residents

per 10,000 people



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Children's lungs are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, secondhand smoke, mold and other asthma triggers.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Partnered with Northpoint Health and Wellness Clinic to reach north Minneapolis residents with a campaign to reduce children's exposure to secondhand smoke. Conducted a similar campaign with Little Earth Housing Association.
- Partnered with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Pediatric Home Services and other agencies to continue exceeding the Healthy Homes Demonstration Grant goals. Provided families with environmental assessments and interventions to reduce triggers of asthma in the home including inspections for poor indoor air quality, cockroaches, mice, mold, lead paint, radon and safety hazards. Enrolled 155 children in the Healthy Homes Demonstration Project through physician referrals, school nurses, Community Action of Minneapolis, Way-to-Grow and the Sustainable Resource Center.
- Partnered with the American Lung Association on a Controlling Asthma in American Cities grant to complete 48 environmental assessments in homes.
- Inspected all restaurants and bars for violations of the smoking ordinance. Cited four violations.
- Increased enforcement of ordinances related to water damage and staining (indicator of mold).
- Enforced for pest control (cockroaches and mice), resulting in 78 housing orders requiring pest control.
- Inspected every licensed tobacco dealer in the city and issued 108 citations for selling tobacco to minors.
- 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/americancities

Lead Poisoning

Keep Children Lead Safe

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.

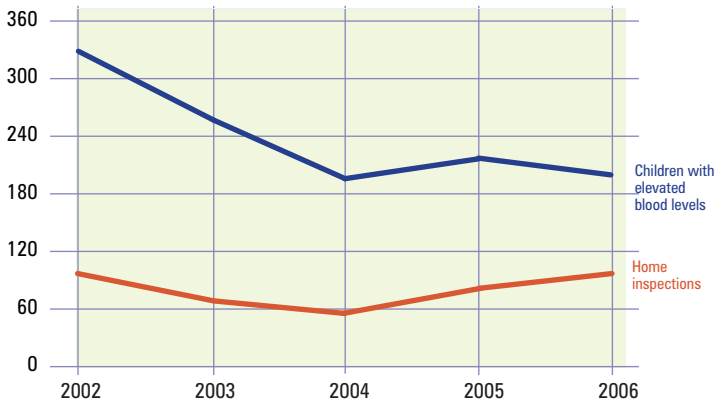
Target

- Test all 1- and 2-year-old children for lead by 2010.
- Inspect all homes with children who have elevated blood-lead levels (10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood) by 2010.

Trend Analysis

Between 2002 and 2006, lead testing of 1- and 2-year-old children in Minneapolis increased 25 percent to 69 percent. Reliable racial/ethnic data for those tested are not available. During the same period, elevated blood-lead cases in children under 6 years old declined 36 percent. In 2006, 208 Minneapolis children were identified as having lead poisoning (10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood or higher), a decrease from the prior year. In 2006, 44 percent of poisoned children's homes received inspections, up from 26 percent in 2002.

Home inspections of children who have elevated blood-lead levels[1]



Source: City of Minneapolis

1 The City inspects the homes of children with a blood-lead level greater than 14.9 μg/dl (micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood). Children are considered poisoned at 10 μg/dl.

Minneapolis 1- and 2-year-olds tested for lead

in percent

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
55.1	57.6	63.0	64.8	68.9

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

Testing is recommended for all 1- and 2-year-olds plus anyone up to age 6 not previously tested.

A child's pacifier is seen amid chipping and peeling paint. Ingesting paint chips and dust is the most common yet preventable way children are poisoned.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Passed a new ordinance requiring Lead Safe Work Practices certification when rental property owners address chipping and peeling paint citations in pre-1978 buildings. The certification course teaches contractors, landlords and property owners how to work safely with lead paint.
- Provided lead education, including information about toy recalls, to 7,457 people in English, Somali and Spanish through community events, home visits and door-to-door outreach.
- Required repair of deteriorating painted surfaces in 5,146 dwellings.
- Ordered lead remediation in 120 residential units and common areas in response to children with the highest levels of poisoning.
- Oversaw development of 72 renovated lead-safe housing units funded by Hennepin County and other sources.
- Secured $1.56 million in new grant funding for 2008 to 2010 for remediation, outreach and education.

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

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/lead

Minnesota Department of Health, Environmental Health
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/lead/index.html

Minneapolis greenprint

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Urban Design & Mobility

Bikeways 16

Downtown Transportation Alternatives 17

Airport Noise 18

Clean Water

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Combined Sewer Overflow 20

Permeable Surfaces 21

Water Quality 22

Climate Change

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 collects in the atmosphere, trapping the sun's heat and causing our planet to warm up. Vehicles and coal-burning power plants are the largest sources of carbon dioxide pollution in the United States.

Target

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

Trend Analysis

It is estimated that consumption of goods and services, including electrical use and vehicles, resulted in the emission of 29 metric tons of carbon dioxide per Minnesotan in 2005. This is higher (worse) than the national average of 24 metric tons per person per year. The City started updating its carbon dioxide emissions data in 2007 and will finalize the work in 2008.

Minnesota Energy Challenge

www.mnenergychallenge.org

Find out what you can do to slow global warming. Take the Minnesota Energy Challenge.

© istockphoto.com/anika Salsera

The Southeast Como Improvement Association used a City micro grant to promote clotheslines – they save money and energy by minimizing use of clothes dryers.

Reduce, reuse, recycle MORE and lower your global warming impact.
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid%2Dwaste/garbage-zero-hero.asp

Recent City & Community Activities

- Hired an energy manager to improve energy conservation and renewable energy use in City buildings and operations.
- Updated the electrical, heating and cooling systems in 100-year-old City Hall, saving money and reducing global warming impact.
- Became the first city in the nation to award 25 micro grants to support grassroots activities that motivate residents and businesses to take action to reduce global warming. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/ClimateChangeMicroGrant2007.asp
- Incorporated green building training and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accreditation for City employees, increasing capacity to integrate sustainable design into building and economic development options.
- Obtained commitments from two developers purchasing City property to make three projects LEED-certified.
- The Minnesota Energy Challenge now has more than 2,500 Minneapolis businesses and residents pledging to reduce carbon dioxide emissions compared to 700 in 2006.
- See related activities under Renewable Energy, Air Quality, Downtown Transportation Alternatives, Bikeways and Tree Canopy.

Web Links & Resources

City of Minneapolis
simple steps to reduce global warming
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/energychallenge/SimpleSteps_EnergyChallenge.asp

Minneapolis Building Options
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mdr/GreenBuildingOptions_home.asp

The Center for Energy and Environment
www.mncee.org

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
www.ipcc.ch

Artic explorer Will Steger's Global Warming 101
www.globalwarming101.com

Renewable Energy

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 including solar, wind, biofuels and hydropower. 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.

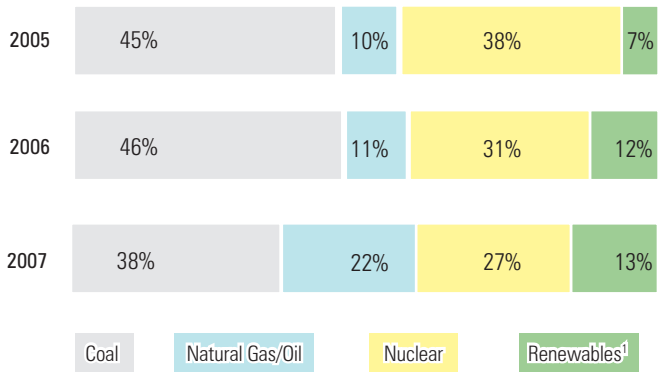
Target

- 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

Three City buildings now have solar photovoltaic systems helping to supply their electricity. Xcel Energy slightly increased the amount of renewable energy used to furnish electricity in Minnesota. New Minnesota regulations require Xcel Energy to obtain 30 percent of its electricity from renewable resources by 2020 – with most of it coming from Minnesota-generated wind power.

Xcel Energy electric power sources



Source: Xcel Energy

1 Includes hydro, wind, and other renewables

This north Minneapolis home has both a solar photovoltaic (electrical) and a solar thermal (hot water) system that meets about 25 percent of its residents' energy needs.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Minneapolis received a grant to equip a City building with the largest solar photovoltaic system in the upper Midwest with support from Xcel Energy's Renewable Development Fund. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/120071210SolarArrayGrant.asp
- Updated the zoning code to allow wind turbines under specific circumstances. There are currently no wind turbines in the city.
- Over the last few years, 67 solar energy systems have been installed on homes and businesses in Minneapolis. *(Source: Minnesota State Energy Office)*
- More than 7,600 Minneapolis customers participated in Xcel Energy's Windsource program, buying enough wind-generated electricity for almost 2,800 homes for a year. This is an increase from about 5,100 customers in 2005. This ensures additional Minnesota-produced wind power, which helps our economy and environment. www.xcelenergy.com
- The Linden Hills Co-op installed a 54-panel solar photovoltaic system with the help of more than 300 volunteers.
- The University of Minnesota's steam plant is expected to burn 15,000 tons of oat hulls and save about $600,000. This represents about 7 percent of the heat required for the use of campus steam.
- The University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and Environment continues to be nationally recognized in development of bio-based and other renewable resources and processes as an economic engine for the region. www1.umn.edu/iree/index.html
- See related activities under Climate Change and Air Quality.

Web Links & Resources

City Goes Solar
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/solar.asp

Minnesota Renewable Energy Society
www.mnrenewables.org

Fresh Energy
www.fresh-energy.org

Air Quality

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, lung disease and heart disease. Most air pollution comes from the use of fossil fuels, especially by cars and trucks.

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 levels within state health guidelines by 2015.

Trend Analysis

The number of moderately unhealthy days increased by 5 percent from 169 days in 2006 to 178 days in 2007 in the metro area. At the same time, the number of days that had even worse air quality increased from three days in 2006 to nine days in 2007.

The yearly average levels of benzene, a dangerous air toxin, have been within health benchmarks citywide for the past five years and have declined citywide by 27 percent since 2003.

Air Quality Index for Minneapolis and surrounding metro area[1]

Year	Good days	Moderately unhealthy days	Unhealthy for sensitive groups days	Unhealthy days
2003	161	191	13	0
2004	187	172	7	0
2005	166	191	5	3
2006	193	169	3	0
2007	178	178	9	0

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

1 Please note: data for a Minneapolis-only air quality index do not exist.

A City of Minneapolis employee fills up using E85, cutting emissions of air toxins.

Fluorescent lamps use 70 percent less energy than conventional incandescent lamps, saving you money and protecting our air by reducing the need for coal-fired power plants.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Purchased 18 new hybrid-electric vehicles for a total of 25 and 34 new E85 flex-fuel vehicles for a total of 132.[1] The mayor's Prius hybrid was converted to a plug-in hybrid expanding its fuel efficiency to more than 70 miles per gallon.
- Installed a new E85 fuel tank at a City maintenance facility in partnership with Hennepin County. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20070523E85FuelStn.asp
- Reduced idling times and vehicle emissions by removing No Turn on Red signs at 60 intersections. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/traffic/NTOR.asp
- Received the 2006 Air Quality Excellence Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the City's sustainability efforts. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/newsroom/200705/20070509-nr_CleanAirAward.asp
- Implemented neighborhood-based inspections using remote office/telecommuting technology to reduce inspector vehicle trips.
- The newly released Minneapolis Air Quality Study measured pollutants at ground level and found benzene and trichloroethylene levels outside of health standards at a number of locations. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airquality/docs/AirQualityReport_July2007.pdf
- Made use of transit more attractive by adopting new zoning standards for the future light-rail transit station near the University of Minnesota.
- See related activities under Renewable Energy, Climate Change, Downtown Transportation Alternatives, Bikeways and Tree Canopy.

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

Web Links & Resources

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

Bikeways

Increase Bicycle Lanes and Trails

Nearly 15,000 people bicycle within the City of Minneapolis on an average spring, summer or fall day. Approximately 25 percent bike year-round, which is remarkable given Minnesota winters. Minneapolis has the highest number of bicycle parking spaces per capita of any city in the United States. Bicycling is good for our health, economy and environment. The City encourages bicycling through promotion and education and by constructing additional miles of bicycle lanes and trails.

Target

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

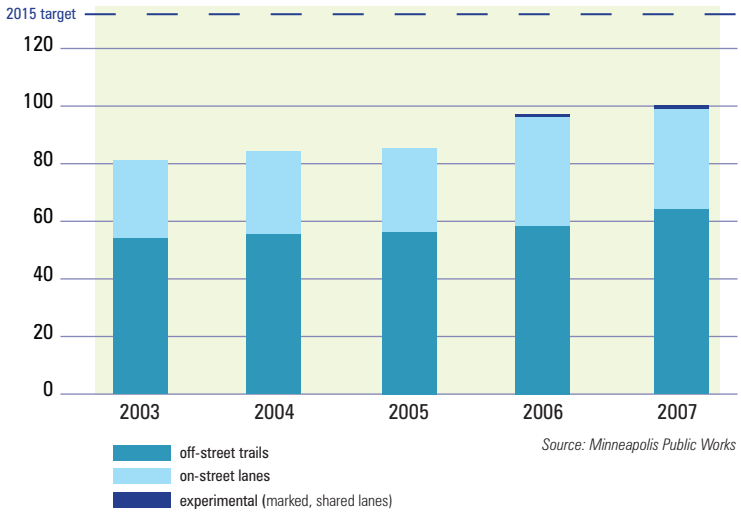
Trend Analysis

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 six miles from 2004 levels for a total of 100 miles and is on track to meet or exceed its 2015 goals.

In 2007, the City added approximately four miles of off-street trails while on-street lanes remained at 2006 levels.

Bikeway[1] mileage in Minneapolis

in miles



1 Bikeways are multi-use paths, bike lanes and marked shared lanes.

With almost 15,000 cyclists and 100 miles of bicycle lanes and trails, Minneapolis is one of the best places to ride in the nation.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Completed the Midtown Greenway bridge over Hiawatha Avenue in partnership with Hennepin County. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/mg_pedbridge
- Installed more than 200 new bicycle racks through an innovative cost-sharing program. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/bikeparking-rack.asp
- Secured more than $7 million for 2008-2010 for the Bicycle Program through Transit for Livable Communities' Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/NTP-funded-projects.asp.
- Partnered with the City of St. Anthony, Three Rivers Park District, Hennepin County and the City of Roseville to construct the Northeast Diagonal Trail corridor. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/cip/ne-diag/index.asp
- Conducted citywide bicycle counts at 57 locations with the help of community volunteers. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/bicycle-counts.asp
- Published the City's first online cycling map. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/bikemap-sharedlanes.pdf
- The U.S. Census Bureau reported that Minneapolis has the second highest percentage of people biking to work among the 50 largest cities. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20080116TopinAlternateTransit.asp
- Bicycle events included the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Minneapolis Bike Tour; Great River Energy Bicycle Festival; Bike/Walk to Work Day; Bike-In at the Bell; Bicycling, Travel and Fitness Expo; and Midtown Greenway Arbor Day.
- Bike On, a local nonprofit, used a Minneapolis climate change micro grant for multilingual urban bicycling training with immigrant women.
- The MPRB constructed a trail link along the Mississippi River from Plymouth Avenue to 22nd Avenue North.
- Hennepin County constructed park and trail access ramps at 10th and 11th avenues South from the Midtown Greenway to the Midtown Exchange.

Web Links & Resources

City of Minneapolis biking information
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/index.asp

Minnesota State Bicycle Advisory Committee
www.mnsbac.org

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, carpool) to 67 percent by 2013.

Trend Analysis

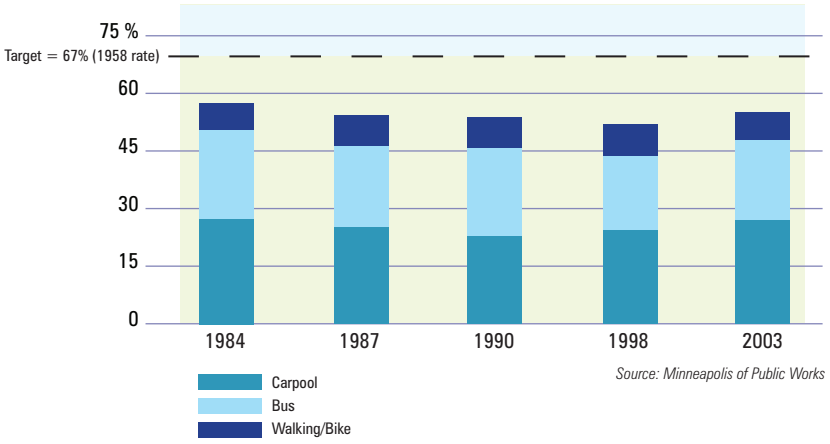
Because the last comprehensive count of downtown transportation use was conducted in 2003 (see graph), the total number of people carpooling, biking or walking is unknown, but public transit use and bicycling downtown has increased.

A 2007 count of bicycles at selected locations in downtown showed a 51 percent increase over 2003 levels.

Light-rail ridership grew 1.5 percent despite closure of the Humphrey Terminal for part of 2007. Systemwide bus ridership grew 5.1 percent, resulting in Metro Transit's highest annual ridership since 1982.

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

in percent



Source: Minneapolis of Public Works

Photo courtesy of Metro Transit

A new hybrid-electric bus moves through downtown Minneapolis

Recent City & Community Activities

- Increased City employee Metropass use by 20%.
- Registered 1,811 carpools and vanpools for free or discounted parking in City owned or operated facilities.
- Completed and adopted the Downtown Transportation Action Plan. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/trans-plan/Downtown_Final_Adopted_062907.pdf
- Began developing the City's first pedestrian master plan and updated the City's bicycle plan. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/bicycle-plans.asp
- Worked with regional partners to secure a $133 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to mitigate traffic congestion in the Twin Cities region. This project includes construction of double-width bus lanes and new bus shelters. Funding is dependent on 2008 state legislative action. www.dot.state.mn.us/funding/upa
- Advocated for transit capacity and improvement of bottlenecks and livability in the on- and off-ramp areas of the new Interstate 35W Bridge. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/minneapolisrebuilds/index.asp
- Counted bicyclists and pedestrians in a number of downtown locations. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20071023MplsTopBikeandWalkPaths.asp
- Metro Transit purchased 19 of a planned 172 hybrid-electric buses, which will result in a 100 percent hybrid-electric vehicle fleet on Nicollet Mall within five years. www.metrotransit.org/news/stories/04_07_gogreener.asp
- More than 250 Minneapolis residents and businesses were members of HOURCAR, an innovative hybrid car-sharing program with 10 hub locations. www.hourcar.org/index.html
- See related activities under Bikeways, Climate Change and Air Quality.

Web Links & Resources

Downtown Minneapolis Transportation Management Organization www.mplstmo.org

Airport Noise

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

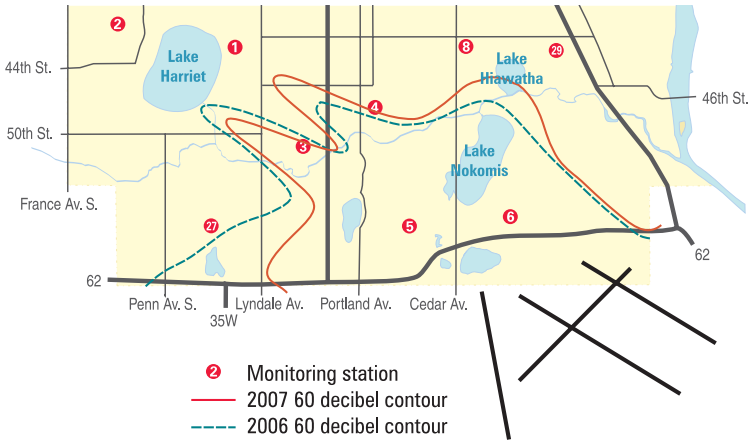
Reduce the average noise levels by at least three decibels, the minimum change that is perceptible to the average person's ear, from 2004 levels at all nine monitored locations in Minneapolis.

Trend Analysis

MSP experienced a 10.6-percent reduction in airplane flights from 2005 to 2006 and a further reduction of 4.6 percent in 2007. Total operations in 2007 were 453,566 compared to the peak of 541,093 in 2004. This is largely attributed to Northwest Airlines and its partners reducing capacity.
Combined with a continued phasing out of older planes, noise levels in Minneapolis declined slightly at six of the nine monitors (1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 27) while three monitors showed slight increases over 2004 levels (2, 8 and 29). The increases at the three monitors are likely attributable to increased traffic on the north parallel and flights to and from the north during reconstruction of the south parallel runway. Neither the increases nor the decreases are of a value considered "normally discernable" (greater than three decibels) to the average person's hearing.

Airport noise contours and monitor station locations

in decibels



Source: Metropolitan Airports Commission data

The north/south runway and the crosswind runway were used extensively during a two-month reconstruction of the south parallel runway, shifting additional flight traffic over north Minneapolis. Some neighborhoods had higher noise impacts while neighborhoods normally under the paths associated with the south parallel runway received temporary relief.

© CG Stock Photos/Bob Firth

Recent City & Community Activities

- The cities of Minneapolis, Richfield and Eagan and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority reached a settlement agreement with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to provide noise mitigation to the approximately 9,500 homes in the area most affected by airport noise – the 60 to 64 "day-night level" (DNL) noise impact area. Implementation will start in 2008 and finish in 2012. Approximately 80 percent of the homes are located in Minneapolis. This settlement results in the largest program in the country addressing airport noise impacts beyond 65 DNL, the Federal Aviation Administration's defined level of significant noise exposure. Settlement maps and details can be found on the City's Web site at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airportnoise.
- Continued advocating with the MAC for measures to help manage day-to-day noise at the airport, resulting in greater compliance with noise abatement procedures such as increased use of the Eagan-Mendota Heights corridor for night operations and the Minnesota River Valley for westbound departures.
- Continued advocating at the Minnesota Legislature for a statewide aviation strategy, which ultimately died with the Omnibus Transportation Bill.

Web Links & Resources

Metropolitan Airports Commission
www.mspairport.com/mac

To file a noise complaint call (612) 726-9411.
www.macnoise.com/complaint

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

City of Minneapolis Airport Noise
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airportnoise

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.

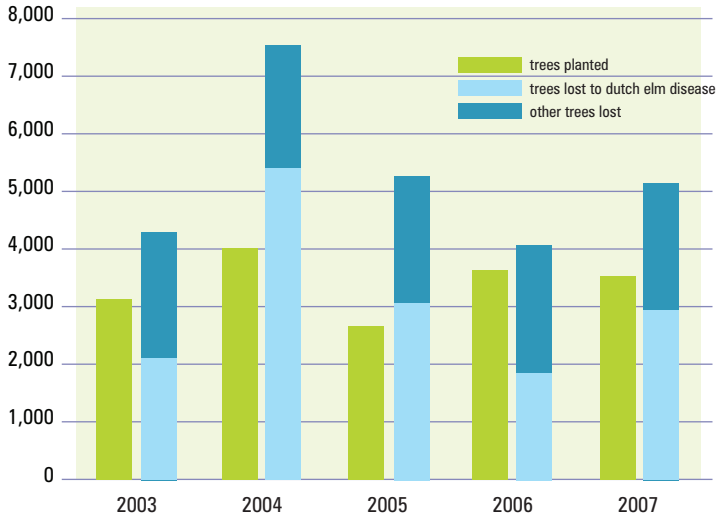
Trend Analysis

The baseline tree canopy, measured in 2004, covers 26 percent of the city[1]. Tree canopy information has not been updated since 2004. Since then, however, more than 13,000 public elm trees have died from Dutch elm disease. Because of their age and large stature, their loss has a disproportionately negative impact upon the city's tree canopy.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) planted an average of 3,385 trees per year along streets and in parks from 2003 to 2007. In 2007, more than 1,800 additional trees were planted by the City and its partners on public and private land. There has still been a net loss of more than 9,000 public trees in the city over the past five years.

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

Trees lost and trees planted on boulevards and in public parks by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board[1,2]



Source: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

1 The trees counted here do not include trees planted on public property by volunteer groups or other partners.

2 The 2003-2006 figures are corrected from last year's report.

Photo courtesy of Tree Trust

Volunteers help a resident pick up one of the 1,500 trees provided by the City.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Provided 1,500 trees to city residents for planting in their own yards through a partnership with Tree Trust, a local nonprofit. www.treetrust.org
- Provided sustainable landscaping design information encouraging residents who purchased abandoned lots to convert these underused side yards with trees and sustainable landscaping.
- Received the Outstanding Partnership Award from the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee for the City's innovative work with Tree Trust. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/newsroom/200705/20070517-nr_TreeAwards.asp
- Created licensing requirements and qualifications for companies providing tree maintenance services.
- The Minneapolis Fire Department provided 900 hours watering new trees on public property.
- The MPRB planted more than 3,500 street and parkland trees, controlled the spread of oak wilt disease in the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and ground stumps, making way for new trees to be planted. www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=28
- The MPRB dedicated an arborist as forestry preservation coordinator.
- The MPRB coordinated volunteers to plant 200 trees on public land as part of the City's official Arbor Day celebration. The event earned the Minnesota Society of Arboriculture's Award of Merit.
- Friends of the Mississippi River and volunteers removed buckthorn and other invasive species to restore forest remnants along the Mississippi River gorge. www.fmr.org
- Midtown Community Works and volunteers planted 350 trees/shrubs along the Midtown Greenway. www.midtowncommunityworks.org/ArborDay2007.htm

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

Combined Sewer Overflow

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.

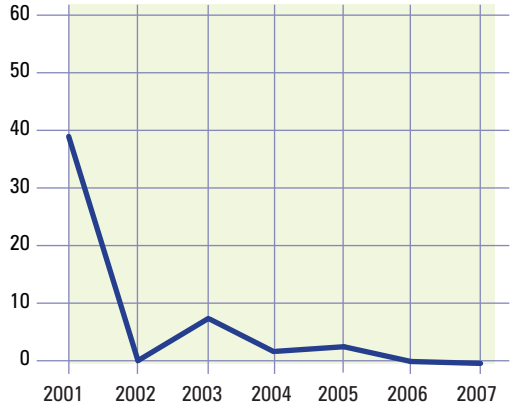
Trend Analysis

The City's earliest sewers were designed for both sewage and rainwater. The City began building new systems separately in the 1930s and began separating combined sewers in the 1960s. A highly successful, decade-long accelerated sewer separation program began in the 1980s. Upgrades to the sewer system in Minneapolis have resulted in a dramatic reduction in overflows. The separations that remain are generally the toughest to locate or resolve.

For the first time, there were no overflow events in Minneapolis during the year. The five-year trend, the most meaningful measurement for this indicator, continues to show very good progress.

Combined sewer overflows into the Mississippi River

in millions of gallons



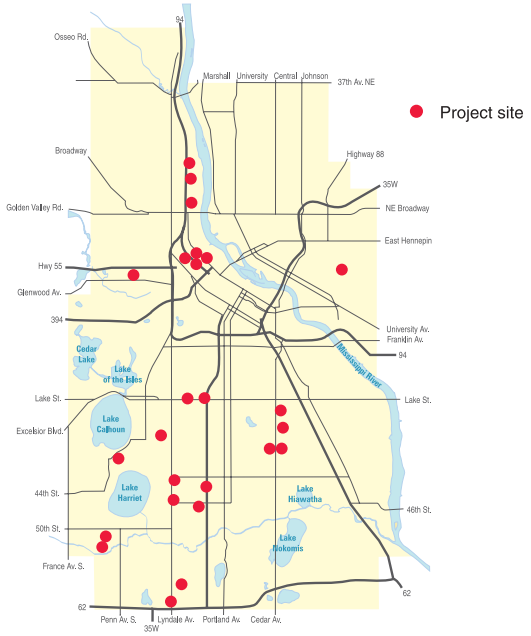
year	millions of gallons
2001	39.74
2002	1.02
2003	7.96
2004	2.21
2005	3.07
2006	0.43
2007	0.00

Source: Metropolitan Council

Target met

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

2007 projects separating sanitary and storm sewers



Recent City & Community Activities

- The Rainleader Disconnect Program Team completed a five-year program, physically inspecting every building and parcel within the city for improper connections and is now following up to ensure compliance.
- One of the City's problematic and potentially costly disconnection challenges was solved when the Minnesota Department of Transportation allowed the City to use its storm tunnel for runoff from 116 acres that were previously connected to the sanitary system.
- In the past, it was permissible to connect residential downspouts and open standpipes to the sanitary system. "Rainleader" connections to the sanitary sewer system are no longer allowed in Minneapolis, and a grant from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization provided materials to help many homeowners redirect the rainwater onto lawns. More than 1,000 homeowners received cement needed to seal their open standpipes, and about 350 homeowners received materials to redirect their downspouts.
- Carried out smoke testing in Bryn Mawr, Lind-Bohanon, Camden Industrial, Webber-Camden, Cleveland, Folwell, McKinley, and Hawthorne neighborhoods. Smoke testing is a technique to identify improper locations where rainwater enters the sanitary sewer system. Eliminating this inflow helps reduces the risk of overflows.
- See related activities under Permeable Surfaces and Water Quality.

Web Links & Resources

City of Minneapolis
combined sewer overflow information
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cso

City of Minneapolis
storm and surface water management
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/stormwater

City of Minneapolis rainleader 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 allowing rain and melting snow to soak into the ground close to its source, the City reduces the rate and amount of water running off, makes the runoff cleaner, 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 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 50, and increase the number of smaller amenities (such as rain gardens) that treat single properties to 500.
- By 2015, increase the number of large underground stormwater treatment chambers (that treat multiple properties) to 165 and the number of small underground stormwater treatment chambers (that treat single properties) to 200. These include grit chambers and swirl separators.
- By 2015, increase the number of green roofs to 150.

Trend Analysis

The City has made rapid progress by using the stormwater management ordinance, the stormwater utility credit program, and community and neighborhood outreach programs such as the Metro Blooms rain garden workshops.

Progress toward original targets exceeded expectations. Some new aggressive targets were set and some are in progress. After a comprehensive inventory of small area stormwater amenities is completed, a new target for these rain gardens and other amenities will be proposed.

Stormwater management facilities

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

	2005	2006	2007	2015 Target
Large area amenities (i.e., ponds and wetlands)	20	28	28	50 ◎
Small area amenities (i.e., rain gardens)	327	753	776	500 *
Large area underground treatment chambers	128	142	151	165 ◎
Small area underground treatment chambers	93	127	143	200 ◎
Green roofs	29	35	39	150 ◎

Source: Minneapolis Public Works

* The target for small area amenities will be increased after completion of a new, comprehensive inventory.

◎ New target

This new development has two rain gardens – one for rooftop runoff and the other for the parking lot. New rain gardens reduce the rate and amount of runoff, improve water quality, promote stormwater awareness, and add habitat and visual interest.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Hosted the Fifth Annual International Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference, Awards and Trade Show. www.greenroofs.org
- Partnered with Hennepin County to install a green roof on the approximately 5,800-square-foot area of the historic City Hall Courthouse building. It will be covered with a landscaping system in 2008 that will allow various types of plants to thrive on the roof deck.
- Adopted the Infill Housing Text Amendment (also known as the "monster home" ordinance) to reduce water runoff by decreasing impervious surfaces.
- Under the City's permitting review process, more than 100 stormwater "best management practices" were implemented on 52 large construction projects.
- Using a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, distributed 2,000 rain barrels at reduced cost to Minneapolis residents and provided information on managing rain water through the Green Institute/Re-Use Center and Metro Blooms.
- Metro Blooms, with support from the City, taught 518 Minneapolis residents how to design and install rain gardens. www.metroblooms.org
- See related activities under Combined Sewer Overflow and Water Quality.

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

Water Quality

Improve the Water Quality of Lakes, Streams and the Mississippi River

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

Target

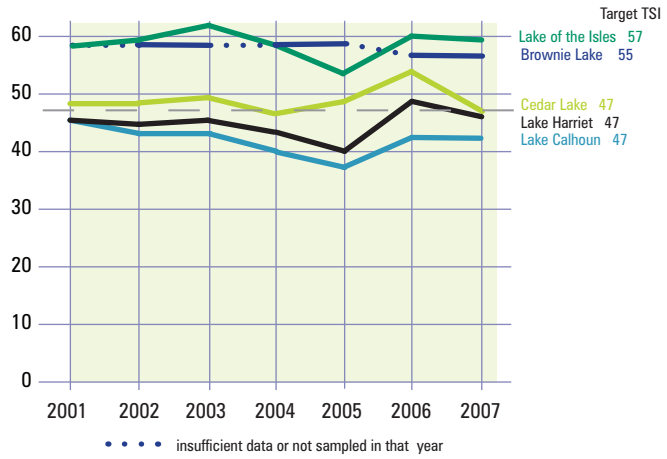
Water quality is measured using the Trophic State Index (TSI). The TSI measures water quality based on clarity, phosphorus level and the amount of algae. A lower TSI means clearer water.

Trend Analysis

Lake Calhoun, Cedar Lake and Lake Harriet are now within the TSI goals for 2014. The TSI can vary due to a number of factors – climate, timing of rain, wind direction, temperature, aquatic plants, fish, alum treatment, watershed loading and many others.

Water quality of Minneapolis lakes

in Trophic State Index(TSI[1]) units



Source: Minneapolis Park & Recreation

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.

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board staff conducting a macroinvertebrate sampling study. Aquatic macroinvertebrates help maintain the health of the water ecosystem by eating bacteria and dead, decaying plants and animals; their abundance is an indication of good water quality.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Along a nearly one mile stretch of the river in north Minneapolis, stabilized the shoreline and installed a large bio-infiltration rain garden to minimize erosion through natural planting and bioengineering techniques.
- Minnehaha Creek from Chicago Avenue to Bloomington Avenue is being restored to stabilize its steeply eroded banks and enhance wildlife habitat. The two-year project is funded by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.
- Protected Mississippi River aquatic life by working with the new Twins ballpark and Gopher stadium designers to ensure that food and drink residue and other organic materials are sent through the sanitary sewer system instead of the storm drain system, avoiding a direct discharge into the river.
- Used innovative stormwater management techniques in developing the Wabun Picnic Area of Minnehaha Park.
- Reopened the Lake Hiawatha beach in 2007 and opened a new beach on the east side of Cedar Lake. Closed for several years for budget reasons, the Lake Hiawatha beach's reopening also reflects improved water quality from public education and outreach, ongoing beach maintenance, and an extensive shoreline restoration project.
- See related activities under Combined Sewer Overflow and Permeable Surfaces.

Web Links & Resources

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board annual report
www.minneapolisparks.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/fee

Minneapolis *a vital community*

Safe Homes

Affordable Housing 24
Homelessness 25
Block Clubs 26
Brownfield Sites 27
Homicide 28

Thriving People

Students in the Arts 29
Graduation Rate 30
Workers Earn a Livable Wage 31

Affordable Housing

Increase Affordable Housing Units

A safe place to live is among our most basic needs, but for some it is 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 densities, proximity to transit and energy-efficient building technology.

Target[1]

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 2007, the City helped build or renovate 3,920 affordable housing units. Of these, 340 new affordable housing units were created in 2007.

1 Condensed target, 2005 to 2009 Consolidated Plan, see table for detailed targets.

Affordable housing units in Minneapolis

Rental	Completed in 2006	Completed in 2007	2005-2007 totals	2009 target
New units at 0-30% of MFI[2]	197	45	392	520
Renovated units at 0-30% of MFI	307	154	616	740
New units at 31-50% of MFI	99	96	342	440
Renovated units at 31-50% of MFI	37	28	167	600
New units at 51-80% of MFI	39	143	377	250
Renovated units at 51-80% of MFI	45	1	250	350

Ownership	Completed in 2006	Completed in 2007	2005-2007 totals	2009 target
New units at 31- 50% of MFI	32	43	87	110
Renovated units at 31-50% of MFI	93	0	93	30
New units at 51-80% of MFI	57	13	110	150
Renovated units at 51-80% of MFI	18	2	23	60

Source: Minneapolis Community Planning & Economic Development

2 Median family income (MFI). In 2007 the Twin Cities metro MFI was $77,600.

★ Target exceeded

Washington Court is a new 38-unit apartment building with 8 units affordable at or below 50% of Median Family Income (MFI) and all units affordable at or below 60 percent of MFI. The site received extensive environmental cleanup of past contaminants.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Redeveloped the historic Ripley Maternity Hospital into mixed-income housing with 60 rental and home ownership units. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Gave green and sustainable building elements more weight in selection criteria for competitive housing applications. www.mngreencommunities.org
- Added proximity to jobs, transit routes, light-rail transit and higher densities as factors in evaluation criteria for housing development proposals.
- Completed St. Anne's Senior Housing, a 59 unit affordable multifamily housing development built on the former location of blighted properties.
- Performed 13 federal environmental reviews for future affordable housing projects.
- Received environmental cleanup grants for six future affordable housing developments.
- Received public environmental cleanup funding for four completed housing developments.
- Certified 98 rehabilitated units as lead-safe and/or Energy Star units according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reporting standards.
- Received the National Planning Excellence Award for a Grassroots Initiative from the American Planning Association for the Corridor Housing Strategy, a City effort to locate new affordable housing development along transit routes.

Web Links & Resources

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

Higher Density Corridor Housing Program
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/higher_density_home.asp

Homelessness

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 providing housing opportunities that are linked with supportive services such as chemical dependency treatment, employment assistance and mental health resources.

Target

End homelessness by the end of 2016.

Trend Analysis

Teams implementing the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness are collecting and analyzing available data. Trend analysis will be possible when this process is completed.

Affordable housing opportunities developed in Hennepin County during 2007*

	Youths	Singles	Families	Total
Benchmark	100	250	390	740
Achieved	108	374	231	713

Source: Hennepin County

* This includes both new construction and access to existing rental units.

Photo courtesy of Chuck Dahl

An attendee at Project Homeless Connect tries on new eyeglasses.

Photo courtesy of Chuck Dahl

A Project Homeless Connect volunteer works with a couple to identify service needs for the day.

Recent City & Community Activities

- The Office to End Homelessness held its fourth Project Homeless Connect event with more than 1,800 people attending and 800 volunteers to connect them with services. Attendees received customized housing referrals, on-site dental care, transportation vouchers, and other hard-to-come-by services. With the help of private partners, additional services were provided after the event. In a survey of attendees, 99 percent reported the event as very helpful. Two Project Homeless Connect events are planned for 2008.
- Implementation of the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness began on Jan. 1, 2007 under the title Heading Home Hennepin. The City Council passed this plan in December of 2006 and more than 250 community members, service providers, faith communities, and people experiencing homelessness are engaged in Heading Home Hennepin working groups. Through this plan 713 housing opportunities and a new street outreach initiative were created, and considerable gains were made in streamlining services and providing preventative services. The outreach workers are partnering with the Minneapolis Police Department to help keep homeless people out of jail while improving community livability.
- 2008 implementation efforts focus on developing an opportunity center with a focus on . . . expanding housing and rental assistance, increasing outreach efforts for homeless adults and young people, and increasing education and employment for homeless individuals.
- See related activities under Affordable Housing.

Web Links & Resources

The 10-Year Plan, reports and video
www.headinghomehennepin.org

For more information on Project Homeless Connect or to sign up, donate or volunteer
www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org

Block Clubs

Block Clubs

Minneapolis has a long tradition of strong block clubs and apartment clubs with neighbors working together to prevent crime, connect with others who live and work on the block and take on issues in their neighborhoods. Block and apartment clubs can improve the general quality of life by helping neighbors and their communities support each other. Minneapolis has been a national leader in block club participation for more than 25 years, with National Night Out (NNO) becoming a key method for maintaining existing block clubs and encouraging new block clubs to form.

Target

Increase the number of block clubs to 875.

Trend Analysis

The 2007 target was greatly exceeded when the city ended the year with a total of 1,801 block clubs. All residential neighborhoods in Minneapolis currently participate in the Minneapolis Police Department's (MPD) block club program. There is a block club on nearly every block in some neighborhoods. MPD crime prevention specialists trained more than 100 new block and apartment club leaders on crime prevention, problem solving and resource availability in 2007.

Neighborhood block clubs offer a chance for the community and Minneapolis Police officers to interact.

Recent City & Community Activities

- Developed partnerships with businesses to support NNO and encourage participation in block clubs.
- Minneapolis had the top-ranked NNO campaign in the country for the fifth time in seven years, with record-breaking attendance.
- Cedar-Riverside neighborhood residents, partnering with the 1st Precinct's crime prevention specialists, knocked on every door in the neighborhood and recruited 10 new block club leaders.
- The MPD, Regulatory Services and the Fire Department developed a pilot project for implementation in 2008 to deal with problem properties in the 2nd Precinct neighborhoods.
- The 3rd Precinct organized block clubs to work with the City, Hennepin County, neighborhood associations, local churches and businesses to clean up neighborhoods by picking up trash and removing graffiti from neighborhood buildings.
- In the 4th Precinct, the West Broadway Safety Center reopened. Staffed by a City crime prevention specialist, police officer and paralegal, the center helps residents and businesses with problem properties, trespassing, shoplifting and social service requests and referrals. The center served more than 300 walk-in customers.
- In the 5th Precinct, block clubs and the community had an opportunity to connect and have a direct impact on livability crimes in their neighborhoods through the Restorative Justice and Direct Referral program. Block clubs are now used as a primary link between communities and Regulatory Services so when housing inspection initiatives are planned, all block club captains are sent the information.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT® AGAINST CRIME

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/safe

National Night Out www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno

Brownfield Sites

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

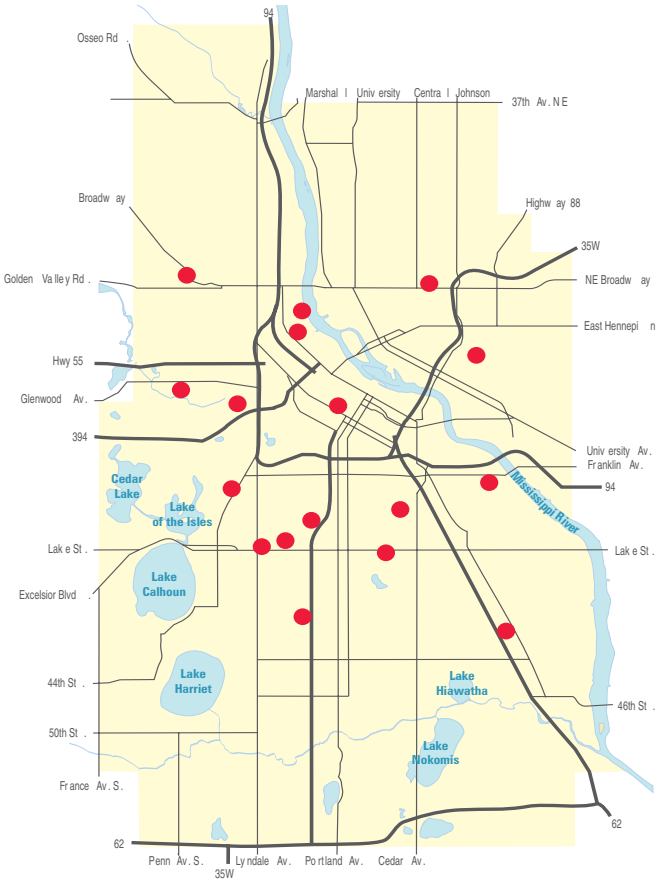
Minneapolis continues its strong brownfield redevelopment program. Property owners and developers increasingly turn to grantors such as the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County for the type of financial assistance that is needed to reduce the cost of reusing urban brownfield sites. Since 2004, projects located in Minneapolis have been awarded grants to clean up 56 sites totaling 178 acres.

Minneapolis brownfields grants summary

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004 - 2007	Target
Number of sites	11	11	17	17	56	100
Total acres	46.5	36	39.1	56.1	177.7	N/A
Total funds awarded (in millions)	$4.3	$4.3	$4.1	$5.7	$18.4	N/A

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

2007 remediation grant recipient locations



The remediation grant recipients are Corson's Corner, Franklin-Steele Commons, Harrison Commons, Lyn-Lake Artist Lofts, Nicollet Youth Housing, NWIP Plymouth & 2nd, Open Arms of MN, Soo Line Building, Van Cleve, Coloplast Campus Redevelopment, Crown Iron/Electric Machinery, Delisi Building, Longfellow Station, Midwest Machinery, Riverside Market (Seward Coop expansion), Spirit on Lake Cooperative and Van White Memorial Blvd.

Recent City & Community Activities

- The City facilitated a record-setting $5.72 million in grants to clean up 17 different brownfield sites covering more than 56 acres. When cleaned, these sites will accommodate at least 896 new housing units (at least 475 projected affordable), more than 1,100 new or retained jobs, and several hundred thousand square feet of new or renovated commercial and industrial space.
- The post-cleanup development projects anticipated for the 17 remediated brownfield sites above will result in an estimated $130 million in new construction activity.
- City staff worked proactively to prevent commercial and industrial operations from becoming "future brownfield sites" by developing a major facility inspection program to ensure proper storage and handling of all regulated materials, review spill prevention plans and provide training as needed. Inspections were initiated at 51 of 147 major facilities in 2007.

Web Links & Resources

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

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's Contamination Investigation and Cleanup Program
www.deed.state.mn.us/Community/contam/index.htm

Metropolitan Council's Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA)
www.metrocouncil.org/services/livcomm/LCAresources.htm

Hennepin County's Environmental Response Fund (ERF)
www.co.hennepin.mn.us/portal/site/HCInternet/menuitem.3f94db53874f9b6f68ce1e10b1466498/?vgnextoid=dcd4c95fa29fc010VgnVCM1000000f094689RCRD

Homicide

Reduce the Homicide Rate

Violent crime is tragic and is one of the most critical ways a community assesses its public safety. To address violent crime, 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 violence prevention programs and initiatives that expand cultural understanding and focus on our youth and communities.

Target

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

Trend Analysis

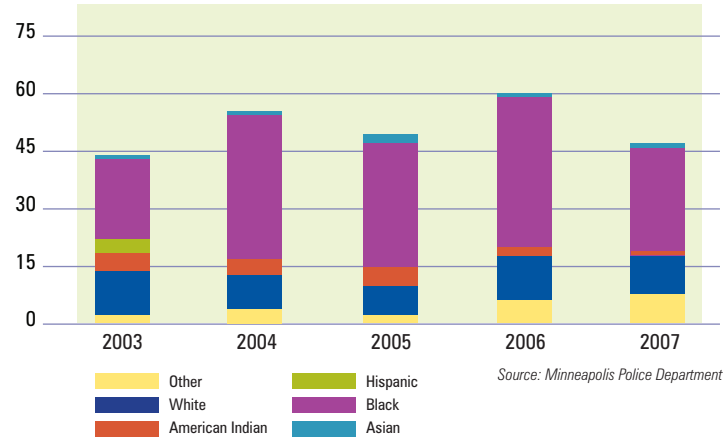
Minneapolis' homicide rate declined from 15 per 100,000 residents in 2001 to 12.3 per 100,000 residents in 2007. There were 47 homicides in 2007, the lowest number since 2003. Investigators solved 70 percent of the 2007 Minneapolis homicide cases, which is above the national average. Violent crime with juvenile suspects was down 27 percent, and overall juvenile crime was down 15 percent since 2006.

2007 homicides by neighborhood

Cedar-Riverside	1	Nicollet Island/East Bank	1
Central	2	East Phillips	3
Downtown West	1	Powderhorn Park	2
Elliot Park	2	Seward	1
Folwell	7	St. Anthony West	1
Hawthorne	9	University	1
Jordan	4	Ventura Village	1
Lind-Bohanon	3	Whittier	1
Lyndale	3	Willard-Hay	1
Near North	3		

Source: Minneapolis Police Department

Homicide victims in Minneapolis[1]



Source: Minneapolis Police Department

[1] Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

Recent City & Community Activities

- Implemented Blueprint for Action to prevent youth violence. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/YouthViolencePrevention_home.asp
- Focused the Juvenile Criminal Apprehension Team's resources on juveniles with a history of violent behaviors and misdemeanor assaults. The goal is to hold youths accountable at the first sign of risk for violence.
- Opened the Juvenile Supervision Center in City Hall to intervene earlier and more intensively with young low-level offenders.
- Issued 15 Youth Violence Prevention Grants focused on youth development programming.
- Expanded the public safety camera system to the 4th Precinct.
- Installed the Shot Spotter system in the 4th Precinct. It can detect gunfire within a certain range.
- Continued to target repeat violent offenders with the Violent Offender Task Force. This task force led to 86 federal criminal indictments of repeat violent criminal offenders.
- Entered the 10th year of Computer Optimized Deployment–Focus On Results (CODEFOR) strategy used by every unit of the Police Department. www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/codefor.asp
- Engaged grocery stores with the highest number of police calls in crime reduction strategies by requiring them to eliminate the sale of drug paraphernalia, improve lighting, increase staff and install cameras. Police calls to the top 15 problem stores dropped 84 percent from 1,856 calls in 2006 to 303 calls.

Web Links & Resources

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

Minneapolis Police Department
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police

Students in the Arts

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 students, the community and the larger society. Arts education is shown to be especially beneficial to low-income students and English language learners.

Target

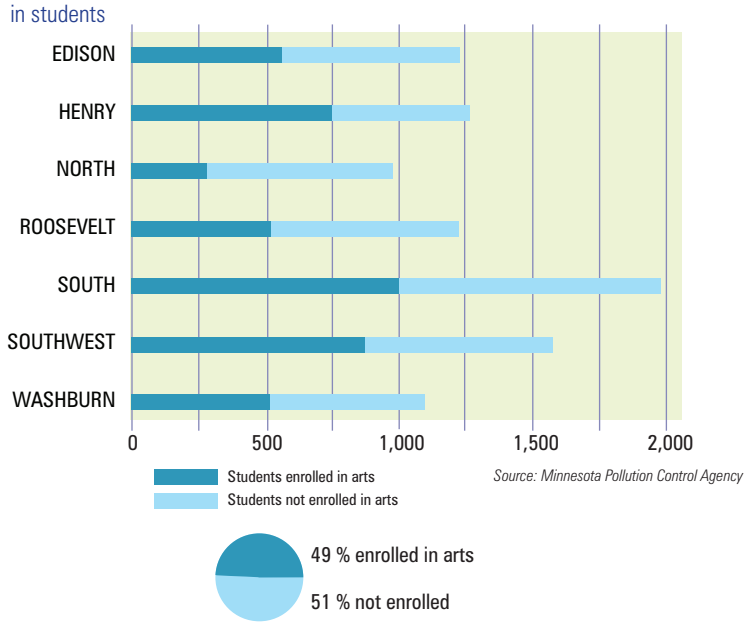
Ensure that 95 percent of Minneapolis Public High School students take at least one arts class in high school by 2014. Art classes include the visual arts such as painting, the performing arts such as theater, dance and music or media arts such as graphic design.

Trend Analysis

Beginning in 2008, the state of Minnesota requires all graduating seniors to have completed one credit in an arts course (one full year) during their four years in high school. Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) is beginning to evaluate and propose a new target that will track numbers of students enrolled in arts classes at each grade (9 through 12).

Of the students enrolled at the seven Minneapolis public high schools, 49 percent were enrolled in an arts class during the 2006-2007 school year, a decrease from 65 percent during 2005-2006 and from 61 percent during 2004-2005.

Minneapolis Public Schools arts class enrollments, 2006-2007 school year



Minnesota high school students participate in the arts in the 2007 Viva City Arts Festival.

Recent City & Community Activities

- The MPS Board of Education and Administration with VH1 Save The Music Foundation supported the rebuilding of district instrumental music programs. In 2007, 89 percent of schools provided instrumental music, up from 64 percent in 2005.
- The MPS has encouraged students to interact directly with arts and cultural institutions such as the Guthrie Theater, the Children's Theatre Company, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Minnesota Orchestra.
- The MPS sponsored the Viva City Arts Festival at the Central Library and Orchestra Hall to celebrate the artistic achievements of its high school students. Partnership support of student achievements was established with the Family Housing Fund and Museum Louvre It or Leave It each providing scholarships to institutions of higher learning.
- The MPS Arts for Academic Achievement celebrated its 10th year of service to students with its mission to increase student achievement and to improve teacher practice by making arts-based and arts-integrated learning an integral part of classroom instruction. Community partnerships with artists and arts organizations continue to provide students with learning experiences that make natural and significant connections between the arts and other academic subjects.
- Plymouth Christian Youth Center engaged more than 40 high-risk youths in cultural arts and youth development programming over the summer and school year.
- The Art in Public Places program collaborated with an art class at Edison High School and a local artist to develop public art for Jackson Square Park.

Web Links & Resources

Minneapolis Public Schools Fine Arts
finearts.mpls.k12.mn.us/

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

Graduation Rate

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 overall high school graduation rate of the seven high schools exceeded the target with an average of 86 percent. The graduation rates for individual schools ranged from 76.6 percent to 94.4 percent. Despite improvements, racial and ethnic disparities persist.[1]

1 The graduation rate is computed by dividing the number of graduates in a given year by the number of graduates plus the number of dropouts during the four years of high school.

Graduation rate of Minneapolis public high schools[2]

in percent

	Overall	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	79.6	60.9	74.5	79.5	71.7	94.1	85.8	86.1
2007	86.0	76.6	89.1	78.5	80.6	94.4	87.7	89.9
Target	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0

Source: Minneapolis Public Schools

2 The graduation rate is computed by dividing the number of graduates in a given year by the number of graduates plus the number of dropouts during the four years of high school.

Target reached

Graduation rate of Minneapolis public high school students [3]

in percent

	Overall	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Black	White
2004	76.1	62.8	78.6	60.2	68.2	87.7
2005	78.4	58.1	84.7	57.4	71.1	88.8
2006	79.6	72.7	82.0	60.0	71.7	91.5
2007	86.0	71.0	90.0	59.0	83.0	95.0

Source: Minneapolis Public Schools

3 Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive

Recent City & Community Activities

- Expanded STEP-UP, a summer employment program, and employed 632 youths. www.achieveminneapolis.org/programs/StepUp.html
- Hired 12 teenage students in Minneapolis Public Schools for the tobacco compliance program and created a program to refer these students to the alcohol compliance program with the Minneapolis Police Department after they graduate.
- At Broadway High School, 47 youths participated in peer mediation and restorative justice programming to reduce in-school and out-of-school suspension and administrative transfers for violent or aggressive behaviors.
- During the 2006-2007 school year the Minneapolis Public Schools provided comprehensive services to 546 of the approximately 1,200 pregnant or parenting teens in the city to help them stay in school. These students are from 14 to 20 years old, and many are returning to school after having previously dropped out. In 2007, 91 of these students graduated or received their GEDs (General Education Diploma).
- The Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency served 526 pregnant or parenting Minneapolis teens to meet their health needs and to improve their long-term self-sufficiency, including staying in high school. Of the 366 teens that had three or more nurse visits, 71 percent were in school or had graduated.
- Student success is related to student health – see more activities under HIV and Gonorrhea, Asthma, Healthy Weight, Lead Poisoning and Teen Pregnancy.

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. Various City programs and policies are designed to increase the number of households earning a livable wage. Job training and placement programs are designed to increase the skills and earning capacity of city residents. The Job Linkage program encourages city employers receiving City financial assistance to hire city residents. The Minneapolis Living Wage Ordinance and Minnesota Business Subsidy Act require business subsidy recipients and City vendors to create living wage jobs if the value of assistance or contract achieves a certain dollar threshold.

Target

The City has not yet established a target for this indicator because the definition of "living wage" was revised in 2007. Data from this year will form a baseline, and next year a target will be set.

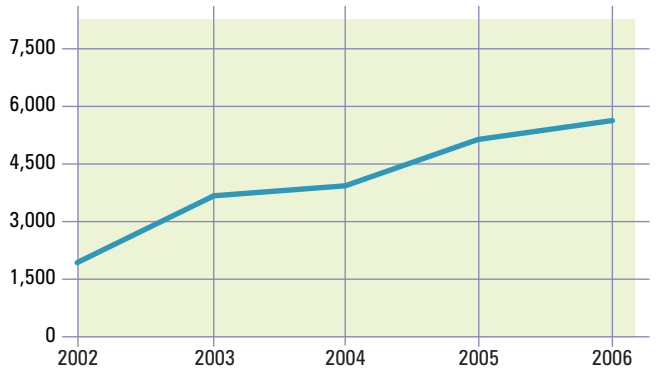
Trend Analysis

Census data for 2006 indicate that approximately 129,000 city residents[1] earned at least $22,000 that year for full-time work, which met the City's 2006 living wage rate of at least $10.58 per hour. This was 56 percent of the 231,000 residents who reported that they worked at all during the previous 12 months and 81 percent of the 159,500 residents who reported working an average of 35 or more hours per week. No trend is indicated because only one year of census data is available.

1 The margin of error is plus or minus 3,341 residents.

New hires at or above living wage via City job-linkage agreements

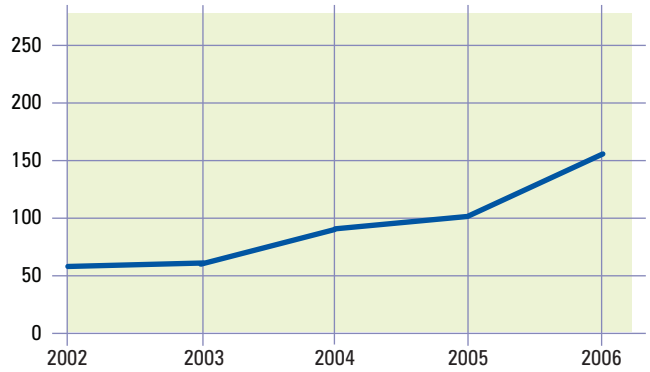
in number of workers



Source: Minneapolis Community Planning & Economic Development

Businesses participating in City job-linkage agreements

in number of businesses participating



Source: Minneapolis Community Planning & Economic Development

Recent City & Community Activities

- Placed 2,982 people into full-time jobs through the City's job placement programs. The Close the Gap campaign to bring the city's unemployment rate down to the metro area's rate continues. By the end of 2007, this gap had virtually disappeared.
- Executed six new Job Linkage agreements with Minneapolis companies that received assistance from the City. These agreements set five-year hiring goals for the companies and connected 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 160 Job Linkage companies that reported hiring 6,725 people during 2006. Of those, 81 percent made the area's living wage of $10.58 per hour. Of those hired, 2,433 lived in Minneapolis and 74 percent of those earned at least the area's living wage.
- Visited 51 Minneapolis businesses with Job Linkage agreements to promote living-wage hiring and training.

Web Links & Resources

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

Minneapolis Employment and Training Program annual report
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/metp-reports-home.asp

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

Minneapolis
City of Lakes