

**June 2, 2022  
6:30 PM**

The Planning Commission Meeting will be conducted on **June 2, 2022** at 6:30 p.m. The meeting location is the City Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 2400 Margaret St., North St. Paul.

The Planning Commission will also be meeting by interactive TV under Minn. Stat. 13D.02. Members of the public are permitted to attend the meeting in person, however, it is encouraged to participate in the meeting remotely. Instructions can be found below.

The **June 2, 2022 Zoom meeting can be accessed via:** <https://tinyurl.com/NSPplanning>  
(from a PC, Mac, tablet, iPhone or Android device)

**Meeting ID: 821 4097 2224**

**Password: 362656**

**or by phone at 1-929-205-6099**

Participants accessing the meeting by phone please use the following meeting ID:  
87556902183

**You can also watch the meeting on our YouTube channel here**  
[tinyurl.com/NSPYoutube](https://tinyurl.com/NSPYoutube)

The Planning Commission Zoom meeting will be 'open to the public to listen in, but will be muted from contributing at all times with the exception of a Public Hearing and open to the public forum.

**Please join the meeting early to test your audio and video settings. If you join via a device and your audio is not working, you may need to use the dial-in phone number option in order to be heard.**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

**COMMISSION**

Elaine Barton, Commission Chair

John Monge, Commission Vice-Chair

Patrick Blees, Commissioner

Erik Brenna, Commissioner

Rick Gelbmann, Commissioner

Cameron Muhic, Commissioner

Andrew Wise, Commissioner

Lisa Wong, Commission City Council Liaison

STAFF

Brandy Howe, Planning Consultant

Lisa Ritchie, Planning Secretary

**III. Adopt Agenda**

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

- A. Approval of the May 5th meeting minutes

**V. Meeting Open to the Public**

*This Open Forum is an opportunity for persons to address the Planning Commission on items not on the agenda. A completed public comment form should be presented to the staff liaison prior to the meeting. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes per person. While the Commission may ask clarifying questions of the speaker, no formal action by the Commission or discussion will be held on these items.*

**VI. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations**

- A. Redevelopment Master Plan Review
- B. Sign Ordinance Update

**VII. Reports from Staff**

**VIII. Reports from Council Liaison**

**IX. Reports from Commissioners**

**X. Adjournment**

**The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is July 7, 2022**



**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, May 5, 2022  
6:30 P.M.**

North St. Paul City Hall – Council Chambers  
2400 Margaret Street

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Monge called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

COMMISSION

Elaine Barton, Commission Co-Chair  
John Monge, Commission Co-Chair  
Patrick Bles, Commissioner  
Eric Brenna, Commissioner  
Rick Gelbmann, Commissioner  
Andrew Wise, Commissioner  
Cameron Muchic, Commissioner  
Lisa Wong, City Council Liaison

STAFF

Brandy Howe, City Planner  
Lisa Ritchie, Planning Secretary

**III. ADOPT AGENDA**

Motion to adopt agenda by Commissioner Barton, and seconded by Commissioner Wise/Brenna, with all present voting aye (7-0). Motion carried to adopt the May 5, 2022 Agenda.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Co-Chair Barton requested the correction on page 4, paragraph 2, under Sign Ordinance add e to last name Howe.

Commissioners Gelbmann and Brenna requested the correction on page 5 paragraph 1, under E. Furniture, change to Commission member from Council Member.

Motion to approve minutes by Co-Chair Barton, and seconded by Commissioner Brenna, with all present voting aye (7-0). Motion carried to approve the April 7, 2022 Planning Commission meeting minutes as amended.

**V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments.

## **VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

There were no public hearings.

## **VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **A. Downtown Furniture Guidelines**

City Planner Brandy Howe reviewed the guidelines.

Planning Secretary Lisa Ritchie stated the recommendations and Howe noted she will put together a brief overview for City Council workshop.

### **A. Sign Ordinance**

City Planner Brandy Howe reviewed the Ordinance and updated the changes. Commissioner Monge questioned the wall sign. Howe stated it changed from 25% to one-third of the wall space. Changes, additions, and deletions were made to many of the topics in the sign ordinance.

Chair Barton stated City Attorney recommended changing certain language under the abandoned sign section.

Howe noted she will work with City staff to get these ordinance changes out to residents, on the website, and will look at scheduling a public hearing on June 10, 2022. Howe mentioned she will be ready for the May 10, 2022 joint Planning Commission/EDA meeting with a mostly completed sign ordinance.

## **VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF**

City Planner Brandy Howe provided an update on the redevelopment plan full draft provided to the task force, noting it will go to the Planning Commission in the process, on June 2, and then it will be taken to the business association and the EDA also on June 14. It will go to the City Council during a workshop and then go back to the City Council for final review and adoption. Likely, it will be considered by the City Council in July for approval. How noted at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, they considered the liquor license with a 6-foot fencing requirement.

## **IX. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON**

Council Member Wong stated City Council approved Commissioner Cameron Muchic's seat on the Planning Commission. June 24, 2022 is the grand opening for Mac's Diner and Fallen Angel Tattoo Shop. Council Member Wong provided updates on the Park Improvement Plan, the Ariel

Street sidewalks, banners from the Art and Culture Commission, and developers for the Lily building.

Ritchie stated she will coordinate 3 events at Casey Lake and will partner it will Music in the Park and include the food truck. Registration for volunteers went out this week.

## **X. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Wise provided an update on the Hillcrest Development. He also mentioned the St. Paul Port Authority website contains updates and information.

Commissioner Gelbmann postponed the Silver Lake clean-up to this Saturday.

Co-Chair Barton noted it is garage sale weekend.

Commissioner Blees had nothing to report.

Commissioner Brenna thanked the Public Works Department and the Police Department on the garbage clean-up and welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Cameron Muchic.

Co-Chair Monge updated the progress on the student-built house.

Ritchie questioned if there is a new student-built housing location. Council Liaison Wong will forward it on to City Hall.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Commissioner Barton, and seconded by Commissioner Brenna, with all present voting aye (7-0). Motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

**The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission Meeting is Thursday, June 2, 2022**

Members, please notify any planned absences to: Lisa Ritchie  
Planning Commission Secretary  
651-747-2400  
lisa.ritchie@northstpaul.org



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# Downtown Redevelopment Master Plan

2022 Update

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ..... 3

CHAPTER 1: PROJECT BACKGROUND ..... 5

CHAPTER 2: EXISTING CONDITIONS ..... 12

CHAPTER 3: VISION AND  
GUIDING PRINCIPLES .....26

CHAPTER 4: REDEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN.. 30

CHAPTER 5: IMPLEMENTATION ..... 51

FIGURES

FIGURE 1: STUDY AREA .....7

FIGURE 2: REDEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES  
SINCE 2012 ..... 9

FIGURE 3: EXISTING LAND USE IN THE  
STUDY AREA ..... 12

FIGURE 4: FUTURE LAND USE IN THE  
STUDY AREA ..... 14

FIGURE 5: ZONING IN THE STUDY AREA ..... 15

FIGURE 6: REDEVELOPMENT SITES ..... 16

FIGURE 7: MAJOR LANDOWNERS ..... 19

FIGURE 8: COLLECTION OF DISTRICTS..... 30





# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ROBERT DEW, CHAIR  
TERRY FURLONG, MAYOR  
DONALD JENSEN  
TOM SCHIFSKY  
ARCHIE VICKERMAN  
KEVIN FULLER  
BRETT GARRY

## CITY COUNCIL

TERRY FURLONG, MAYOR & COUNCIL LIASON  
CANDY PETERSEN  
SCOTT THORSEN  
LISA WONG  
TIM COLE

## PLANNING COMMISSION

ELAINE BARTON, CHAIR  
LISA WONG, COUNCIL LIAISON  
PATRICK BLEES  
ERIK BRENN  
JOHN MONGE  
ANDREW WISE  
RICK GELBMANN  
JOHN MONGE

## TASK FORCE

JOHN MONGE – PLANNING COMMISSION  
RICK GELBMANN – PLANNING COMMISSION  
ROBERT DEW – EDA  
DON JENSEN – EDA  
LISA WONG – CITY COUNCIL  
SCOTT THORSEN – CITY COUNCIL  
MORGAN DAWLEY – CITY ENGINEER (WSB)  
BRANDY HOWE – CITY PLANNER (WSB)  
LISA RITCHIE - STAFF





PUBLIC OUTREACH

paragraph about public outreach: placeholder



# CHAPTER 1: PROJECT BACKGROUND



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# CHAPTER 1: PROJECT BACKGROUND

## INTRODUCTION

Originally drafted in 2012, the initial Redevelopment Master Plan was prepared as a joint effort by the City of North St. Paul and the Economic Development Authority (EDA). The project was funded through the Metropolitan Council’s Livable Communities program to identify barriers to redevelopment and position projects within the downtown area for implementation. The 2012 plan focused on the downtown area, which is the traditional commercial hub of North St. Paul. It identified key redevelopment sites and focused on improving connectivity between those sites, the Gateway Trail, and regional transit systems and community facilities. Many projects and initiatives have been completed under the guidance of the 2012 plan; however, many more revitalization opportunities exist. Thus, in summer 2021, the EDA and Planning Commission determined that an update to the Redevelopment Master Plan would be prudent to ensure that previously expressed goals and objectives are still applicable ten years later and to identify areas for continued investment.



## Project Approach

This plan is about revitalizing the traditional commercial hub of North St. Paul. As a fully built out city, the focus of this document is on redevelopment and reuse of land in the city’s core. This plan encourages density, which will require creativity to fit new pieces into the existing fabric of the community. This plan will explore priority areas for reinvestment, both public and private. The planning process for the 10-year update was led by a task force with representatives from City Council, Planning Commission, and the Economic Development Authority. This group evaluated the successes that have occurred since 2012 and noted differences between the 2012 plan and activities that have taken place. The task force took a fresh look at the downtown area and identified potential priority areas for reinvestment, both public and private, considered which land uses are appropriate within the study area, and identified opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian connections. The task force engaged residents, businesses, and property owners to ensure the plan update is in alignment with the local mindset. This plan is intended to demonstrate the vision for the area to residents, businesses, and developers and can assist in catalyzing reinvestment.



# Downtown Redevelopment Study Area

Downtown is the heart of the North St. Paul community. It is a unique resource that other inner-ring Twin Cities suburbs do not have and is a key contributor to the City’s identity. It has also been the subject of much discussion and planning over the past decade, including the initial Redevelopment Master Plan, the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, Living Streets Plan, Downtown Design Manual, and the Strategic Plan, each of which are described on page 10.

The downtown redevelopment study area is bounded by Highway 36 on the north, property adjacent to 7th Avenue E. on the south, Division Street on the east, and generally the Urban Ecology and Environmental Learning Center on the west. The Gateway State Trail passes through the study area which connects downtown to St. Paul and Stillwater. The primary gateways into the community include interchanges at Highway 36 and McKnight Road and Division Street. Additionally, Margaret Street is a prime entrance to the downtown from westbound Highway 36.





# Historical Context

According to the North St. Paul Historical Society, the city was planned by Civil War veteran Henry Castle as a “workingman’s community with industries and housing in a resort atmosphere.” The city was connected to St. Paul and Stillwater by the Twin City Lines streetcar that is now Seppala Boulevard. The Wisconsin Central Railroad also connected the city to the region, and it became a burgeoning manufacturing hub. Some of the city’s first industries included furniture manufacturers, farm implement fabricators, and brick makers. Berwald Roofing was founded in 1936, at which time the company primarily installed shingles and siding. In 1958, T. A. Schifsky and Sons built an asphalt plant along the former rail corridor which spurred investment to the downtown commercial area. Both companies remain in operation today and are among the largest landholders in the study area. Neumann’s Bar is another historic link unique to the city; it was built in 1887 and it claims to be the oldest bar in continuous operation in Minnesota.

One of the benefits and challenges facing the study area is its historical context in the Twin Cities metro. North St. Paul originally developed as a distinct and separate community from Minneapolis/ St. Paul. Dissimilar to other Twin Cities neighbors, when the metropolitan area grew, communities like Maplewood and Oakdale developed as suburbs with auto-oriented character. Retail centers developed around high traffic corridors in high visibility areas, which competed with North St. Paul’s historic downtown. However, development trends and desires have shifted away from cookie-cutter and toward authenticity; the historic character, diagonal streets, and greenway connection with the Gateway State Trail make this downtown a unique destination for those seeking a non-suburban environment.

In 1972, Lloyd Koesling built the iconic snowman that sits along Margaret Street. The sculpture recalls the Snow Frolics celebrations where the North St. Paul Jaycees would build a large snowman downtown. The snowman was adopted as the city logo and the sculpture serves as a welcome to North St. Paul.

A SAMPLING OF LONGTIME NORTH ST. PAUL BUSINESSES



T. A. SCHIFSKY AND SONS



BERWALD ROOFING



NEUMANN'S BAR





# Recent Progress

Significant investment has occurred in the downtown since the 2012 plan was adopted. **Polar Ridge** senior living facility was completed in 2015. The facility has 39 units of senior independent living, 54 units of senior assisted living and 21 units of memory care. The site formerly known as Anchor Block has redeveloped into **Anchor Commons** with Kwik Trip, Extra Space Storage, and Anchor View Apartments. The combined taxable value of these improvements is \$33.5 million. In 2021, M&I Homes completed construction of **Gateway at McKnight**, a 100-unit townhome neighborhood with direct access to the Gateway Trail and walking distance to downtown amenities. Most recently, the three-story **Sentinel Building** has been constructed on the former City Hall site and adjoining parcels. This 89-unit, market-rate apartment building includes a 3,000 square foot mixed-use space at the corner of 7th Avenue and Margaret Street. **Suite Living** senior facility opened in 2020 with 18-units of senior assisted living and 14-units of memory care. The facility is located on the site formally occupied by the ISD 622 bus garage. This project was made possible by a \$700,000 environmental remediation grant through Ramsey County.

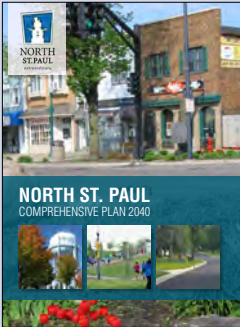
In addition, **Reflex Medical** expanded their facility and countless new tenants have opened on main street (7th Avenue). Streetscape improvements have occurred along 7th Avenue to the southwest of the study area; similar improvements are anticipated to continue to the northeast within the study area. Additionally, the city updated its comprehensive plan in 2019 and overhauled the zoning ordinance in 2014.





# Planning Framework

In addition to being a stand-alone document, this plan builds on the foundation of other local planning efforts and must recognize regulatory constraints. The following are a brief summaries of planning documents that relate to the study area. Goals, priorities, and implementation actions identified later in this document advance each of these earlier plans.



## [NORTH ST. PAUL 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN](#)

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan sets city-wide goals and policies and was developed with community feedback in mind.

During the comprehensive planning process, several community cafés were held to gather feedback on the future of downtown North St. Paul. This is what we heard:

- The downtown area needs a variety of business types, including family-friendly restaurants and activities.
- The car show is a beloved staple of the community and should be continued.
- The downtown should be connected by sidewalks and trails to key destinations within the city, like schools, churches, parks, and especially the Gateway Trail.
- A park or activity space is needed downtown.
- Improve and revitalize the downtown with mixed use development.
- More housing is needed downtown within walking distance of businesses.



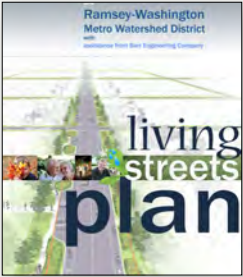
## [NORTH ST. PAUL STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

In 2013, the city engaged in a strategic planning effort that developed organizational goals and a clear and strategic direction for the community.



## [DESIGN MANUAL – DOWNTOWN NORTH ST. PAUL](#)

The downtown design manual was developed to illustrate portions of the North St. Paul city code to depict the desired built environment within the downtown district. The Manual is used by the Design Review Commission to review projects within the Downtown Mixed-Use district.



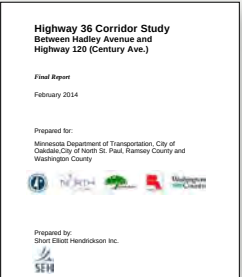
## [LIVING STREETS PLAN](#)

The 2011 Living Streets Plan was a partnership between the City of North St. Paul and the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD). This plan details the water-quality issues facing North St. Paul and how they can be alleviated with implementation of stormwater best management practices that are an integral component of living streets.



## [7TH AVENUE NORTH ST. PAUL URBAN DESIGN: DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN](#)

This plan establishes the visual quality and design preferences for the reconstruction of 7th Avenue, from McKnight Road to Division Street. It also includes a segment of Margret Street, extending from the 7th Avenue intersection to the south edge of the bridge going over Highway 36.



## [MNDOT HIGHWAY 36 CORRIDOR STUDY](#)

This 2014 study was developed to address safety and mobility issues along Highway 36, with a focus on the segment between Highway 120/Century Avenue and Hadley Avenue, which contains the only remaining at-grade intersections west of I-694.

### OTHER PLANS

The 2012 planning effort reviewed the following additional plans, studies, and design guidelines and incorporated into the original redevelopment plan.

- Draft Bicycle and Sidewalk Plan (2011)
- Downtown North Saint Paul Housing Study (2011)
- Commerce Park Redevelopment Plans (2010, 2011, 2011)
- Metropolitan Council 2030 Transportation Policy Plan
- MNDOT Metro District and Statewide 20 Year Highway Investment Plans

# CHAPTER 2: EXISTING CONDITIONS



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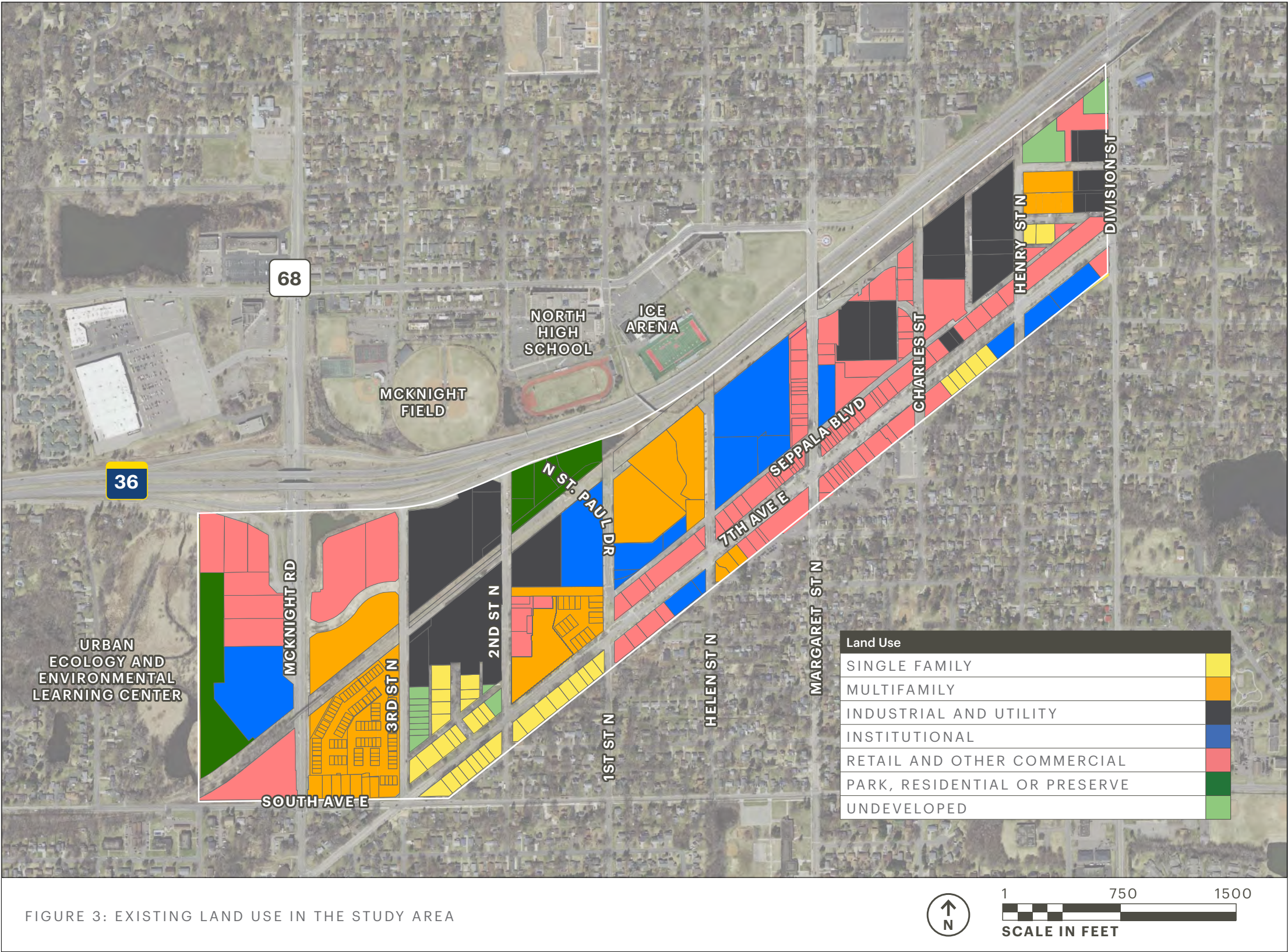
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Land Use

The study area contains a mix of very different land uses, ranging from low to high density residential to a heavy industry asphalt and recycling plant. Some of the mixes work well together, such as offices, retail, and residential, while the combinations of others create significant conflict.

The North St. Paul Urban Ecology Center anchors the west end of the study area. Institutional uses in the area include the school district bus garage, churches, City Hall, the Public Works building, North St. Paul Historical Society, North Star Museum of Boy and Girl Scouting, and the American Legion. Much of the residential is on the south and west end of the study area. Single family home line the east and west ends of 7th Avenue and extends into the neighborhoods to the south. The mix of retail and services in the downtown are a draw for residents in these neighborhoods, particularly.







CIVIC/INSTITUTIONAL



The downtown is the civic center for the City of North St. Paul. Over the past 20+ years, many significant public investments have occurred within the downtown, including a new City Hall and fire and police station along Margaret Street. Other civic uses include a community center at Seppala and North St. Paul Drive, the U.S. Post Office, the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting, American Legion, and the North St. Paul Historical Society Museum. North High School lies just north of the study area across Highway 36 and the school district operates bussing from a new facility next to the North St. Paul Urban Ecology Center.

COMMERCIAL



The majority of commercial uses in the study area are situated downtown on 7th Avenue between 1st Street and Division Street as well as Margaret Street between 7th Avenue and Highway 36. Most of the stores are independent retailers, providing a mix of services ranging from restaurant and bars to auto parts and services to antiques. The district has also built up a base of health care providers including medical doctors, physical therapy, dentistry, psychology, and chiropractic professionals. Other professional offices exist throughout the neighborhood, including the newer three-story Gervais Court Building on the south side of 7th Ave at Charles Street. It is also worth noting that Target anchors a retail area northwest of Highway 36 and McKnight interchange.

INDUSTRIAL



Light and heavy industrial uses are situated between Highway 36 and Seppala Boulevard. This area still retains some of the industrial character established by the railroad focused businesses in the late 19th century. The uses vary greatly and include high tech light industrial such as Aetrium semiconductor manufacturing, T.A. Schifsky & Sons’ asphalt and recycling plant, Sheltertech Corporation, Anderson Cabinet, Inc., to Berwald Roofing & Sheet Metal.

RESIDENTIAL



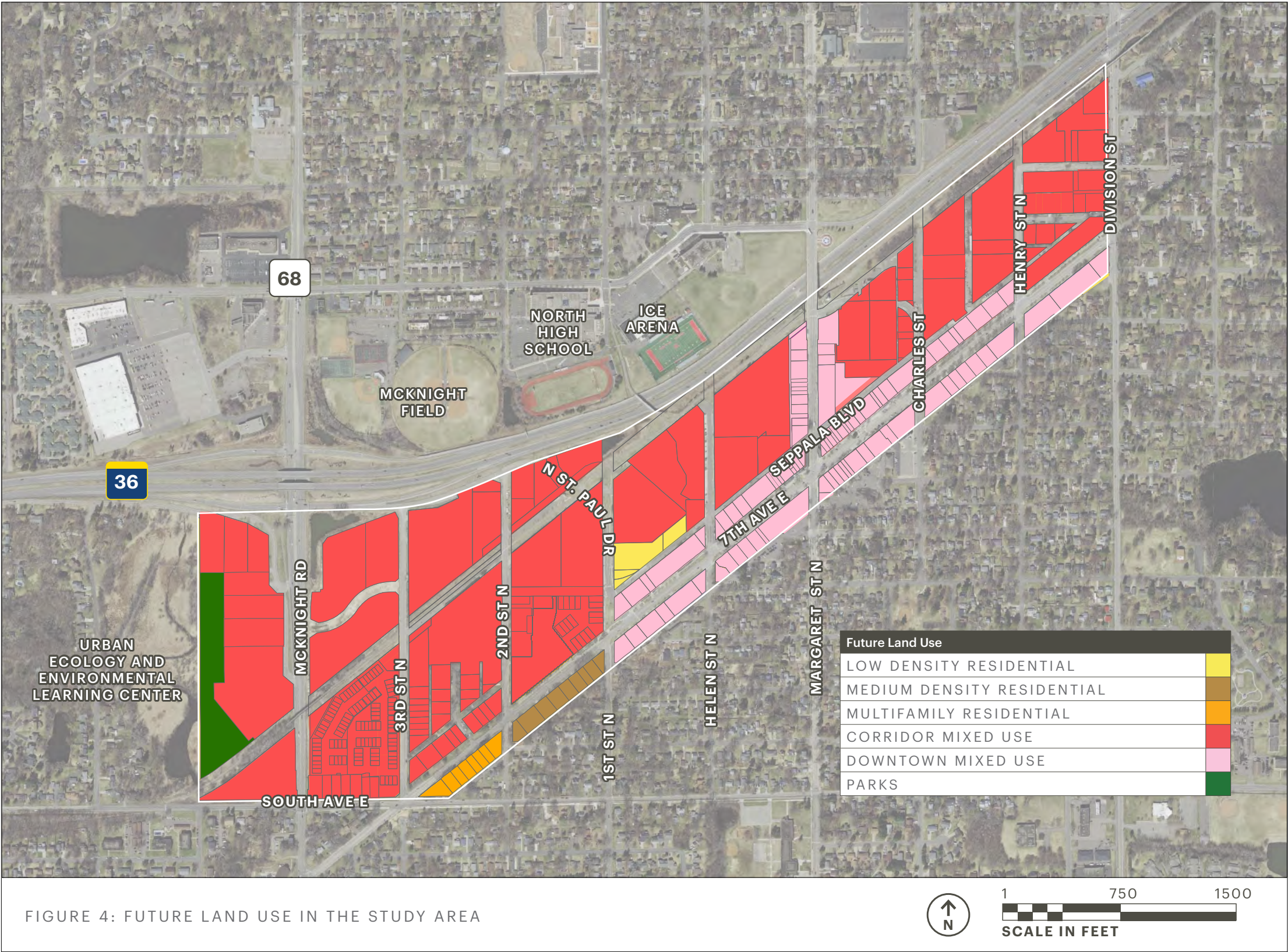
Residential uses are located throughout the study area at a mix of densities and conditions. Older single-family homes exist along South Avenue, portions of 7th Avenue, and in the Commerce Park area. This is also the land use that defines the area immediately south of the study area. As mentioned previously, many new higher density housing developments have been built in the past ten years including Polar Ridge Senior Housing, Anchor View apartments, Gateway at McKnight townhomes, Suite Living senior and memory care, and Sentinel Apartments.



# Future Land Use

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan future land use designations in the study area are depicted, right. The intent of each is described as follows.

- Low Density Residential:** Detached single-family, duplexes, and townhomes with a density range of 3 to 5.5 dwelling units per acre.
- Medium Density Residential:** Small-scale attached dwellings with a density range of 6-12 dwelling units per acre.
- Multifamily Residential:** Apartment buildings, condominiums, and other multistory structures with densities ranging from 13-20 dwelling units per acre.
- Corridor Mixed Use:** A combination of retail, housing, offices, live-work spaces, employment activities, and other complementary uses. This district will develop with a minimum of 30 percent residential component throughout the district.
- Downtown Mixed Use:** Development that reflects a small-town, pedestrian-friendly atmosphere. Redevelopment should be consistent with the historic character. Vertical and horizontal mixed use is encouraged and high density residential is appropriate.
- Park:** North St. Paul Urban Ecology Center





# Zoning

Zoning in the study area is depicted in Figure 5.

**R-1 Single Family Residential** is intended for lower-density residential development.

**R-2 Mixed Residential** is intended for a variety of residential housing types and development.

**R-3 Multiple Family Residential** is intended for higher density residential development.

**MU-1 Downtown Mixed Use** is the traditional downtown area. Development in this district shall give due regard to the standards in the Downtown Design Manual. The primary differentiator between the MU-1 and the MU-3 districts is that the MU-3 requires a minimum front yard setback of 25 feet, which creates a more suburban environment than the downtown area where buildings are not required to be setback from the property line.

**MU-3 Corridor Mixed Use** is intended for retail, housing, offices, studios, live-work space, civic, employment, research, limited industrial and other complementary uses which combine to create a lively environment.

**The Downtown Overlay District** was established to preserve cultural aspects of the historic commercial area, encourage the harmonious development and appearance of structures and property within the district, and maintain and improve property values of the district and throughout the city.



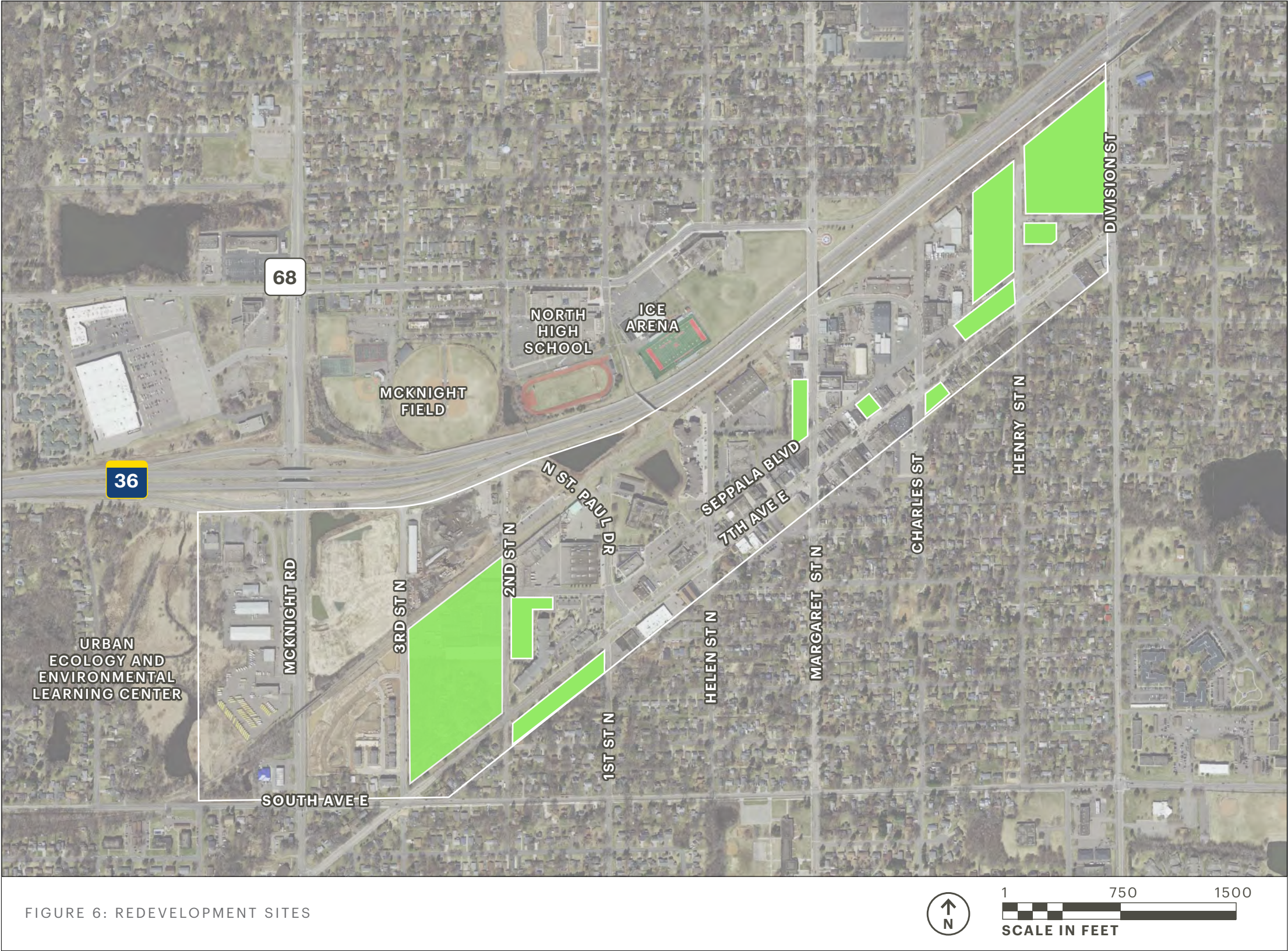


# Redevelopment Sites

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan identified numerous sites in the study area as “likely to redevelop” based on the following three criteria:

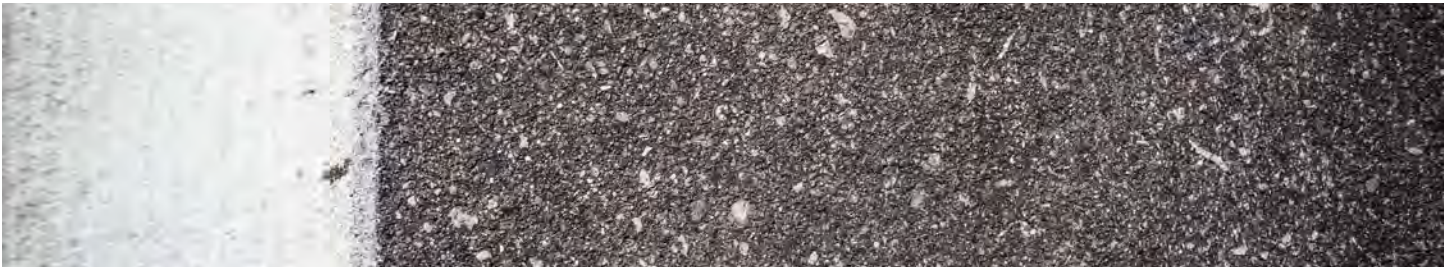
- **Vacant land:** These areas were highlighted by participants in public engagement efforts as needing attention, revitalization, change, or intensification of uses.
- **Underutilized sites:** Some sites were identified as “under-utilized”, meaning that they have an excessive amount of parking that could be used for other uses, or there are vacant portions of a site that could be built out.
- **Areas with redevelopment potential:** These areas were highlighted by participants in public engagement efforts as needing attention, revitalization, change, or intensification of uses.

The redevelopment sites are depicted in **Figure 6**.





# Transportation



## STREETS AND HIGHWAYS

Highway 36, the northern boundary of the study area, is a regional transportation facility that connects North St. Paul to the northeast metro as well as other suburbs such as Mahtomedi and Stillwater. Most of Highway 36 has been converted to a freeway; however, the eastern portion an expressway where there is an at-grade signalized intersection at Century Avenue.

McKnight Road and Century Avenue are north-south roads that connect the city to Maplewood and Oakdale. Century Avenue is a 2-lane road and McKnight is a minor arterial that transitions from a 4-lane divided roadway in the vicinity of its overpass at Highway 36 down to a 4-lane undivided roadway.

The secondary east-west artery of North St. Paul is 7th Avenue E., which functions as a traditional “Main Street.” Rather than follow the traditional grid along the cardinal directions, 7th Avenue mirrors the old railroad line that used to run through town at a diagonal, which creates some access and connectivity challenges for the area, such as a 3-legged intersection at 7th Avenue/South Avenue E/3rd Street. Seppala Boulevard also runs on a diagonal and is a unique street in that it provides loading and access to many of the buildings that front on 7th Avenue like an alley, but it also functions as a street. Streets continue to follow the north/south grid that defines much of the city, while many of the east/west avenues are halted before reaching 7th Avenue.

In 2020, 7th Avenue underwent reconstruction from 3rd Street N to 1st Street N. Improvements included street reconstruction, concrete curb and gutter, sidewalks, medians, sanitary sewer rehabilitation, water main replacement, storm sewer improvements, street lighting, and street trees and landscaping. Improvements to the Margaret Street and 7th Avenue area were completed in 2021 that included installation of new utilities (sanitary sewer, water main and storm sewer), concrete street surfacing, sidewalks, and a new traffic signal. Landscaping and streetscape amenities (i.e., street lighting, benches, street trees and a variety of plantings) will be installed in 2022.



## PUBLIC TRANSIT

Metro Transit serves as the main form of public transit in North St. Paul. Route 64 is an east-west route that connects the study area to downtown St. Paul and the Maplewood Transit Center. Route 219 runs north-south along Division Street. While no direct express options exist from the area, the Metropolitan Council 2030 Transportation Policy Plan anticipates Highway 36 will be a transitway with potential BRT/LRT/Commuter Rail service.



## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

The pedestrian network within the study area is incomplete. Sidewalks are located along both sides of the street on 7th Avenue from 1st Street N. to Henry Street and along Margaret Street. Sidewalk in is recommended in the Living Streets plan to improve pedestrian connectivity in the downtown as well as communitywide.

Limited multiuse trail is located near and connecting to the Gateway State Trail, an 18-mile multiuse trail that begins in St. Paul, connecting Maplewood, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Washington County, and Stillwater. The Gateway Trail follows a former Soo Railroad, as such, it has a generally level grade which makes it an excellent recreational trail as well commuter route for cyclists. The North St. Paul trailhead located on 2nd Street and provides interpretive signage, temporary restrooms, and parking.



# Stormwater System

There are issues and opportunities for stormwater management in the study area. There are some areas of historic flooding in the study area. Some of these problems have been partially alleviated through the construction of the Helen Street Pond; however, some localized flood issues remain within the study area.

As the study area redevelops, projects will be required to adhere to Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) rules. Any site that is one acre or larger shall implement stormwater infiltration, or filtration where infiltration is infeasible, best management practices (BMPs) with treatment volumes equivalent to 1.1” of runoff from new or reconstructed impervious surfaces. This requirement is not unique to the study area and is like other watershed district rules throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Soil conditions and high groundwater tables in the study area make infiltration generally infeasible. For this reason, both surface and subsurface filtration BMPs have typically been favored. In fact, there are several successful installations of both on redeveloped parcels throughout the study area.

To put this in a numeric perspective, redevelopment sites can expect to dedicate at most 15% of the site to a surface filtration BMP, which can cost \$5 to \$7 per cubic foot of BMP volume required. If subsurface filtration BMPs are selected, total construction costs can be expected to range from \$10 to \$15 per cubic foot of BMP volume required and require an underground footprint of 5 to 10%. In industrial, commercial, or multifamily residential projects, there is typically sufficient footprint beneath the parking lot and green space to accommodate subsurface systems.

In the decision to select either a surface or subsurface BMP, maintenance costs must also be considered as, like other watershed districts, RWMWD requires operations and maintenance agreements. Surface filtration BMPs are generally more expensive to maintain but require much less frequent maintenance than do subsurface BMPs.

Where storm sewer tie-in grades and the other limiting factors listed previously do not allow for either surface or subsurface infiltration or filtration BMPs, RWMWD provides for an alternative means of compliance through payment into its Stormwater Impact Fund. The current cost is \$75,000 per acre of impervious acre.

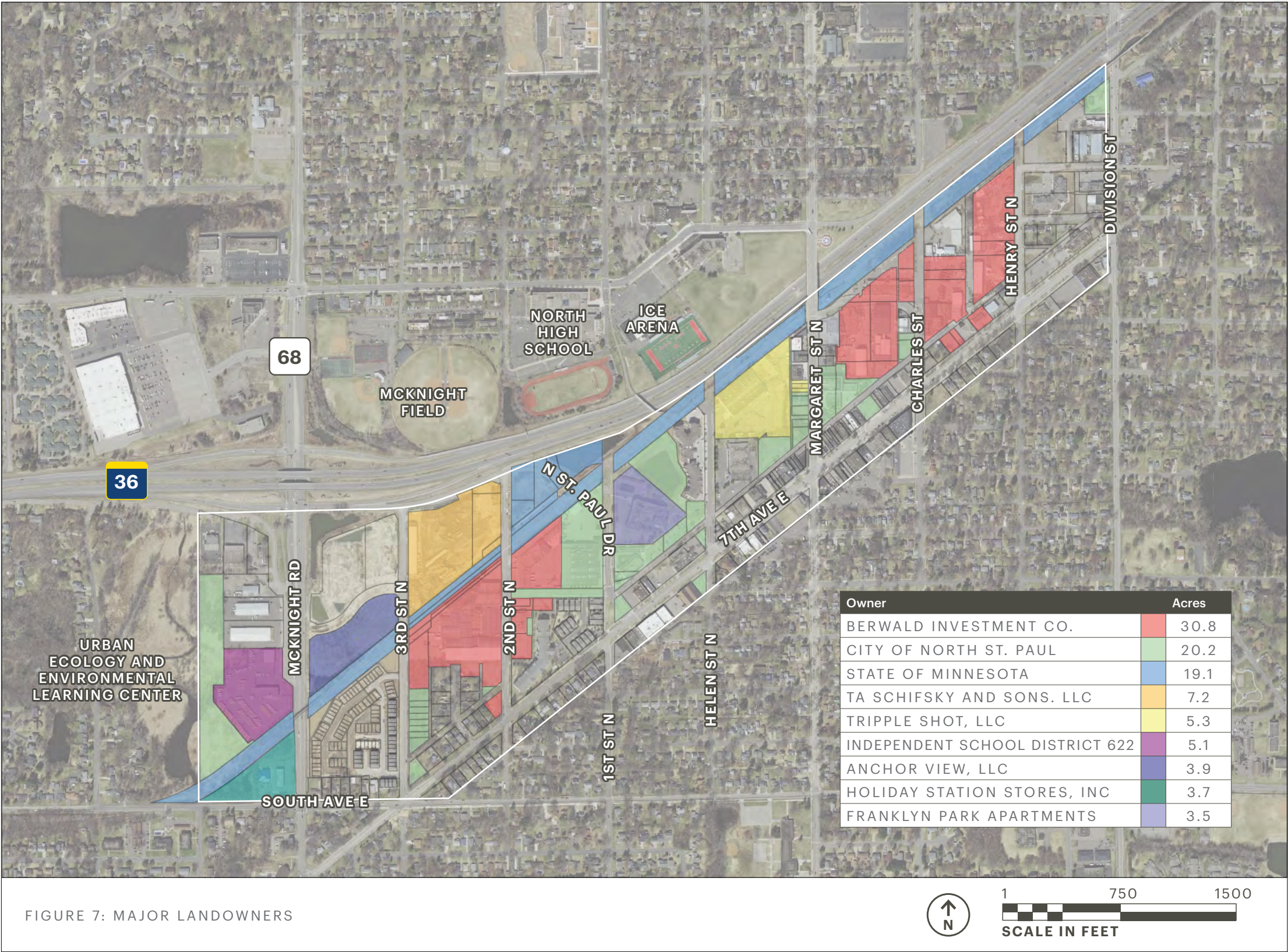




# Study Area

## Landowners

Major landowners are depicted in **Figure 7**, to the right. Berwald Investment Company owns the largest share of property within the study area at 30.83 acres. The City of North St. Paul presently holds 20.26 acres, and the State of Minnesota holds 19 acres primarily related to the Gateway State Trail. Most of the larger vacant parcels have been redeveloped since the 2012 plan; those that remain are of a smaller scale (1.5 to less than 1-acre) and scattered throughout the study area.





# Market Summary

## Demographic Profile

As of 2021, the city’s population was reported to be 11,779 with a median age of 40. The median household income in North St. Paul is \$70,687 and the median home value is \$240,543.

ESRI’s Tapestry market segmentation is a geodemographic system that identifies distinctive markets in the U.S. based on socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. Reflecting the diversity among American neighborhoods, Tapestry includes 67 distinct market segments that are further summarized by 14 life mode groups that share similar demographic characteristics and consumer behavior patterns.

According to ESRI’s Tapestry data, nearly 83 percent of the city’s residents fall within the GenXurban life mode, which is the second-largest tapestry group composed of Gen X married couples and a growing population of retirees. Individuals in this group tend to own their own homes, own 1-2 vehicles, and live and work in the same county.

However, nearly 9 percent of the city’s population falls within the Senior Styles life mode. This group tends to be married empty nesters or singles living alone in single family homes, retirement communities, or apartments. The more affluent of this group travel or relocate to warmer climates while the less affluent are settled and may still be working toward retirement. This group can provide a significant workforce opportunity for the community’s service-based industries that have traditionally been filled by a younger demographic.

The remaining 8 percent of the population are in the Middle Ground life mode. These are the millennials in the middle; they are both married and unmarried, renters and homeowners, and middle/working class. The majority of this group, as with the community, has attended college or attained a college degree.







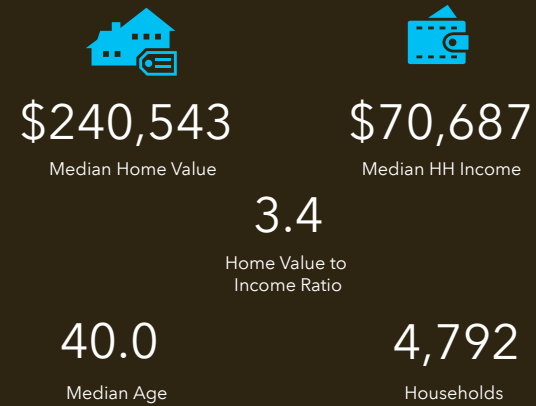
# TAPESTRY SEGMENTATION

The Fabric of America's Neighborhoods

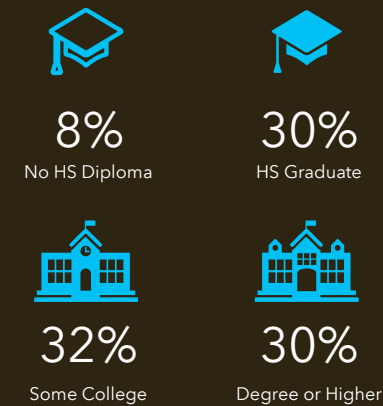
## Tapestry LifeMode

|                               | Households | HHs %  | % US HHs | Index |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------|----------|-------|
| <a href="#">learn more...</a> |            |        |          |       |
| Affluent Estates (L1)         | 0          | 0.00%  | 10.00%   | 0     |
| Upscale Avenues (L2)          | 0          | 0.00%  | 5.55%    | 0     |
| Uptown Individuals (L3)       | 0          | 0.00%  | 3.58%    | 0     |
| Family Landscapes (L4)        | 0          | 0.00%  | 7.63%    | 0     |
| GenXurban (L5)                | 3,955      | 82.53% | 11.26%   | 733   |
| Cozy Country Living (L6)      | 0          | 0.00%  | 12.06%   | 0     |
| Sprouting Explorers (L7)      | 0          | 0.00%  | 7.20%    | 0     |
| Middle Ground (L8)            | 404        | 8.43%  | 10.79%   | 78    |
| Senior Styles (L9)            | 433        | 9.04%  | 5.80%    | 156   |
| Rustic Outposts (L10)         | 0          | 0.00%  | 8.30%    | 0     |
| Midtown Singles (L11)         | 0          | 0.00%  | 6.16%    | 0     |
| Hometown (L12)                | 0          | 0.00%  | 6.01%    | 0     |
| Next Wave (L13)               | 0          | 0.00%  | 3.78%    | 0     |
| Scholars and Patriots (L14)   | 0          | 0.00%  | 1.61%    | 0     |

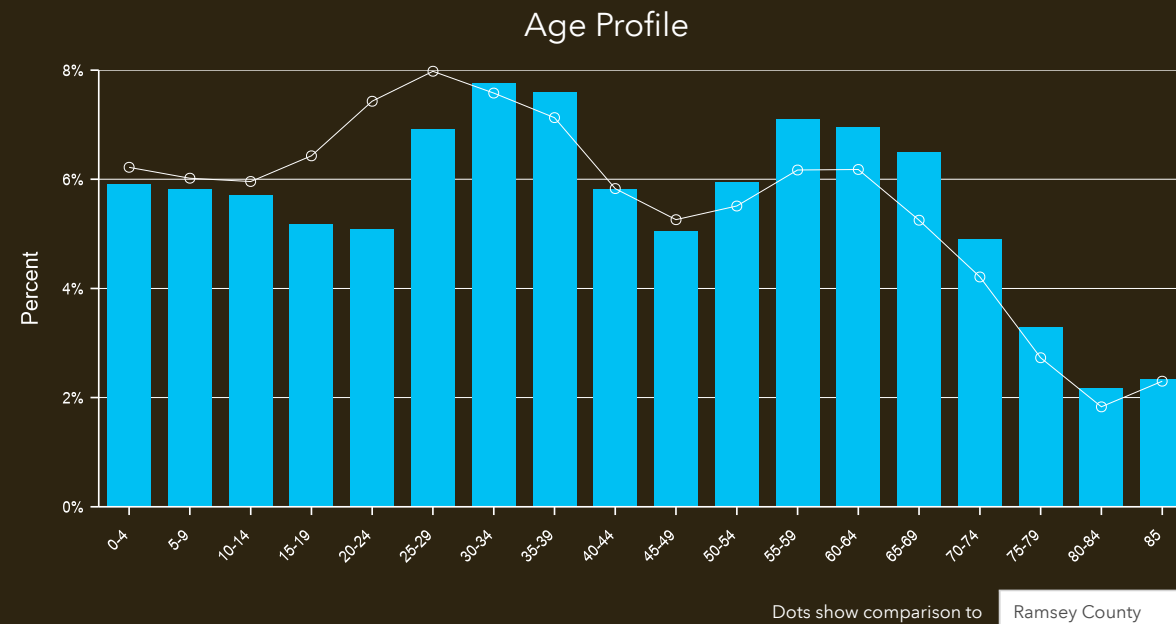
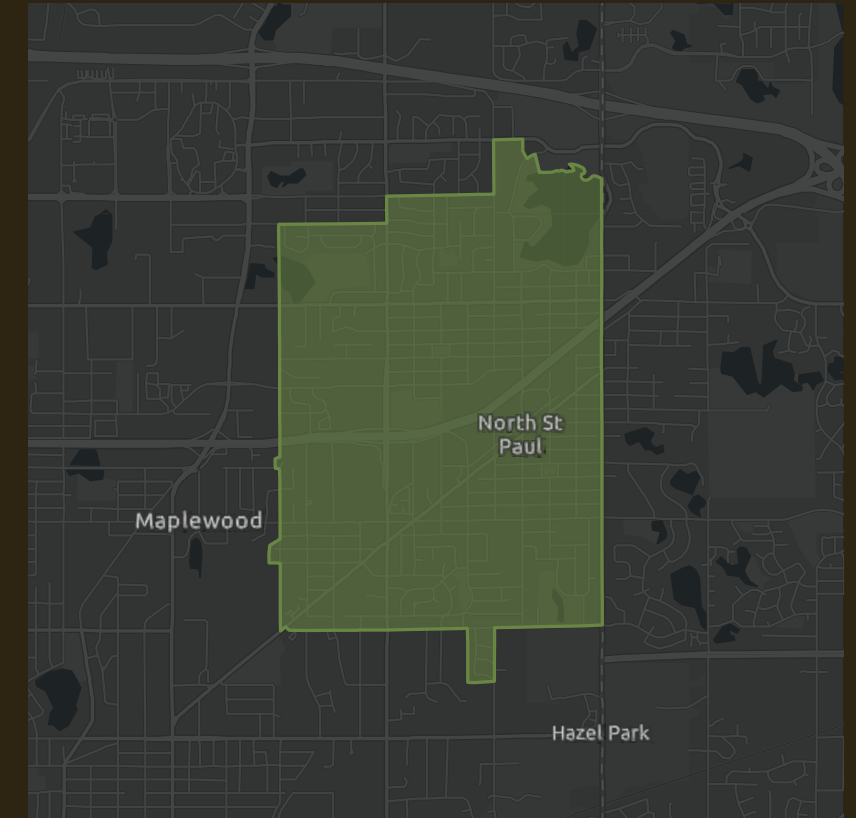
## Key Facts



## Education



## North St. Paul City, MN 3

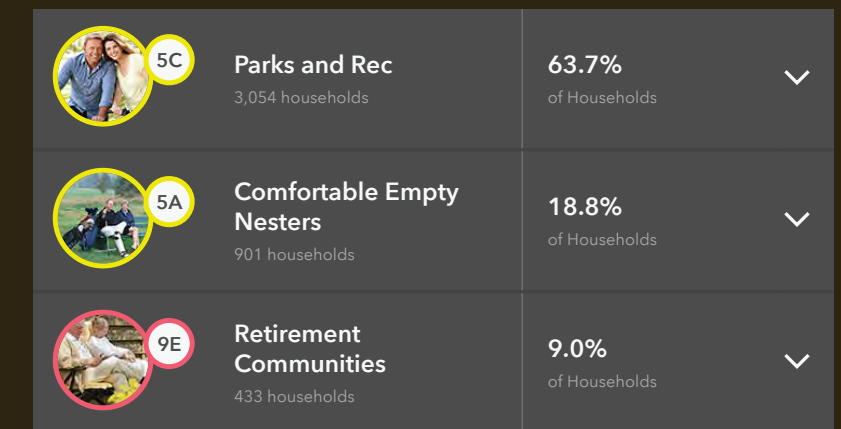


## Households By Income

The largest group: \$100,000 - \$149,999 (22.2%)  
The smallest group: \$200,000+ (4.8%)

| Indicator ▲           | Value | Diff  |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| <\$15,000             | 7.0%  | -1.9% |
| \$15,000 - \$24,999   | 6.2%  | -0.7% |
| \$25,000 - \$34,999   | 6.9%  | -0.6% |
| \$35,000 - \$49,999   | 13.4% | +1.0% |
| \$50,000 - \$74,999   | 18.9% | +1.4% |
| \$75,000 - \$99,999   | 15.1% | +1.1% |
| \$100,000 - \$149,999 | 22.2% | +3.5% |
| \$150,000 - \$199,999 | 5.5%  | -1.9% |
| \$200,000+            | 4.8%  | -2.0% |

## Tapestry Segments



This infographic contains data provided by Esri.  
The vintage of the data is 2021.

© 2021 Esri





Economic Conditions

In 2021, there were a total of 305 businesses employing 4,423 individuals identified in North St. Paul. These businesses are spread across the following industries with service and retail representing a majority of the businesses in the city.

- Services 43.6%
- Retail 15.1%
- Finance, insurance, real estate 9.8%
- Construction 8.9%
- Unclassified 8.2%
- Government 3.3%
- Agriculture and mining 2.3%
- Manufacturing 3.9%
- Transportation 2.0%
- Communication 0.7%
- Utility 0.7%
- Wholesale trade 1.6%

When considering the economic strength of a community, one tool that is often used is “pull factors.” Pull factors are used to measure the demand of a particular industry within a given area. This demand is determined by dividing gross sales data by population to derive the per-capita sales in the area. This ratio is then divided by the per-capita sales in a broader area, such as the county or state. A pull factor of 1.00 is a perfect balance of trade. Pull factor values greater than 1.00 indicate that local businesses are pulling in trade from beyond the border. A pull factor value less than 1.00 indicates that more trade is being lost than pulled in.

The industry pull factors for North St. Paul are depicted in Table 1. As indicated, North St. Paul is pulling in sales from outside of the city is miscellaneous retail, gas stations, and construction–special trades. These industries coincide with the primary retail businesses in the city being specialty boutique, antique, and booksellers, and key industries in the city have historically been construction-related (i.e., roofing, windows, cabinetry, asphalt, etc.).

| North St. Paul Market Pull Factors | 2018 Gross Sales |                 |                | NSP Pull Factor |        |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------|
|                                    | MN               | Ramsey Co       | North St. Paul | State           | County |
| SIC Industry                       |                  |                 |                |                 |        |
| Retail (Misc. Store Retailer)      | \$4,824,688,069  | \$849,215,980   | \$61,999,881   | 0.44            | 3.21   |
| Retail (Gas Stations)              | \$10,379,984,701 | \$673,458,524   | \$25,736,754   | 0.08            | 1.68   |
| Construction (Special Trades)      | \$10,684,742,702 | \$1,459,023,642 | \$40,795,471   | 0.13            | 1.23   |
| Manufacturing (Misc.)              | \$8,934,658,086  | \$284,872,741   | \$5,685,744    | 0.02            | 0.88   |
| Repair, Maintenance                | \$3,943,432,089  | \$302,929,754   | \$4,876,378    | 0.04            | 0.71   |
| Food Service, Drinking Places      | \$10,342,987,720 | \$1,184,432,494 | \$8,550,507    | 0.03            | 0.32   |
| Wholesale (Durable)                | \$33,312,971,872 | \$1,804,533,423 | \$11,276,357   | 0.01            | 0.27   |
| Construction (Buildings)           | \$6,284,874,959  | \$787,622,114   | \$4,236,042    | 0.02            | 0.24   |
| Religious, Civic, Prof. Organ.     | \$905,473,343    | \$153,467,422   | \$700,288      | 0.03            | 0.20   |
| Admin, Support Services            | \$7,515,012,415  | \$710,439,357   | \$3,018,645    | 0.01            | 0.19   |
| Professional, Scient, Tech Ser.    | \$17,827,032,789 | \$1,437,461,140 | \$4,250,534    | 0.01            | 0.13   |
| Performance Art, Sports            | \$668,247,257    | \$172,255,740   | \$501,800      | 0.03            | 0.13   |
| Real Estate                        | \$1,440,626,878  | \$140,443,845   | \$279,635      | 0.01            | 0.09   |
| Retail (Leisure Goods)             | \$2,246,996,581  | \$175,370,092   | \$316,117      | 0.00            | 0.08   |
| Health (Ambulatory Care)           | \$9,481,578,709  | \$1,262,957,963 | \$2,002,249    | 0.01            | 0.07   |
| Retail (Nonstore Retailers)        | \$7,738,311,175  | \$95,066,131    | \$143,618      | 0.00            | 0.07   |
| Info (Other Services)              | \$3,448,922,934  | \$608,969,681   | \$714,434      | 0.01            | 0.05   |
| Personal, Laundry Service          | \$2,199,486,190  | \$284,522,366   | \$133,536      | 0.00            | 0.02   |
| Amusement, Gambling                | \$2,256,753,940  | \$754,315,840   | \$210,436      | 0.00            | 0.01   |

Source: MN Department of Revenue

TABLE 1: INDUSTRY PULL FACTORS





Retail Market Potential

Another tool in understanding an area’s economy is the market potential index (MPI). An MPI compares the demand for a specific product or service in an area with the national demand for that product or service. An MPI of 100 represents the US average. An MPI value greater than 100 represents higher demand, and a value of less than 100 represents lower demand.

Table 2 presents a compilation of North St. Paul’s retail market potential. It measures the relative likelihood of the adults or households within 1-mile of downtown to exhibit certain consumer behavior or purchasing patterns compared to the general population in the country. As indicated by MPI, adults within 1-mile of the study area spend more than the average American on the following:

- Apparel
- Books and newspapers
- New and leased vehicles
- Gasoline
- Digital cameras/photos
- Home computers
- Convenience store shopping
- Dining out
- Bars/clubs
- Insurance

The analyzing of the data further indicates that while the residents of North St. Paul are cost conscious, they are also keenly aware of place of manufacture and how it affects purchasing decisions. Presently, eating and drinking establishments make up 5.6 percent of the businesses in North St. Paul. As with retail, there is some market potential for sit-down restaurants in North St. Paul, as indicated in Table 2.

| Product/Consumer Behavior                              | Expected # of Adults | Percentage | MPI |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|-----|
| Went to fast food/drive-in restaurant in last 6 months | 8,362                | 89.3       | 99  |
| Went to family restaurant/steak house in last 6 months | 6,879                | 73.5%      | 101 |
| Spent \$1-30                                           | 663                  | 7.1%       | 95  |
| Spent \$31-50                                          | 895                  | 9.6%       | 108 |
| Spent \$51-100                                         | 1,396                | 14.9%      | 103 |
| Spent \$101-200                                        | 813                  | 8.7%       | 97  |
| Spent \$201+                                           | 335                  | 3.6%       | 84  |
| Went to fine dining restaurant last month              | 1,030                | 11.0%      | 115 |
| Spent \$1-100 at fine dining                           | 431                  | 4.6%       | 118 |
| Spent \$101+ at fine dining                            | 401                  | 4.3%       | 101 |

Source: These data are based upon national propensities to use various products and services, applied to local demographic composition. Usage data were collected by MRI-Simmons in a nationally representative survey of U.S. households. Esri forecasts for 2021 and 2026.

TABLE 2: PRODUCT/CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated changes to the retail environment and continues to evolve to meet customer purchasing habits. These changing habits, including greater on-line purchasing, will continue as the demand for easy, flexible online shopping is unlikely to weaken. To ensure growth and stability into the future, the city will need to create a downtown that is appealing for businesses and shoppers alike. This may require regulatory changes or infrastructure improvements to attract people.





## OFFICE



As with retail, the COVID-19 has altered the landscape for the market for office space as many workers have shifted to working from home. After growing optimism surrounding the introduction of the COVID vaccine in the spring of 2021, the third quarter was marked with uncertainty as the Delta variant sprouted up in the United States. July 2021 began with fewer than 15,000 new daily cases, but the new surge peaked at over 160,000 cases in September 2021, causing some businesses to delay their return-to-office plans until early 2022. The introduction of the Omicron variant further put these plans in disarray for the return to a more normal environment. However, the percentage of U.S. employees in the office did increase post-Labor Day from 31 to 35 percent by the end of September

The office market is still adjusting to the effects of the pandemic and will see significant changes as companies evaluate their space needs. Some companies have adjusted their work culture to allow or even encourage fulltime work from home schedules, which is decreasing demand for office spaces. This trend is occurring nationwide but can also be observed in North St. Paul.

Some companies are seeking combination manufacturing/warehouse space that includes limited office space. It is anticipated that this type of commercial real estate will see strong growth in the coming years, which may provide a significant opportunity for future tax base growth.

## INDUSTRIAL



The U.S. industrial market ended the third quarter of 2021 with record-setting statistics and demand outpacing supply for the third quarter in a row. The third quarter industrial report shows strong performance of the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan statistical area (MSA). The current market for industrial property is very active with a vacancy rate under 6 percent for the MSA. The northeast region, which includes North St. Paul, has a lower vacancy rate of 4.7 percent. These low vacancy rates for space across the metro area, and specifically in the northeast region, will provide significant opportunities for North St. Paul with the development or redevelopment of new industrial space.

While the northeast region is experiencing a low vacancy rate, it is lagging in the construction of new space which has been led by the northwest quadrant of the MSA. The demand and market focus has been predominately on large sites; however, there will still be the opportunity for smaller projects located on redevelopment sites in North St. Paul.

## HOUSING TRENDS



According to recent housing data from ESRI, the median home value in North St. Paul is \$240,543 and the home value to income ratio is 3.4. The annual average spent on mortgages in North St. Paul is \$10,453 and the annual average income spent on a mortgage is 14.3 percent. The Housing Affordability Index (HAI) in North St. Paul is presently 155. An HAI above 100 signifies that families earning the median income have enough income to qualify for a mortgage loan on a median-priced home without being cost burdened. These figures signify that the City is in a strong position in terms of housing affordability compared to some of its neighboring communities. Additionally, it would suggest that North St. Paul is a great community for first time homebuyers.

In addition to single-family housing, the city seen the construction of several new multifamily developments in the study area resulting in 335 new units of both senior and standard units. As housing affordability continues to impact the larger metropolitan area, North St. Paul may be able to fill some of that need as the downtown continues to densify, which supports downtown businesses.





# CHAPTER 3: VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES



NORTH  
ST. PAUL

*extraordinary*



## CHAPTER 3: VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Master Plan is dynamic. It is not a set of strict “rules” but instead, a flexible framework that guides decisions about redevelopment. The plan addresses both “public” infrastructure and “private” redevelopment initiatives. It supports and shapes regulations; it accommodates dreams and aspirations; it recognizes reality; it prioritizes projects and ideas; it holds the community accountable; it tells the North St. Paul story; and it communicates what is desired. The plan is a valuable tool that is intended to be embraced and actively used by the community.

The vision for this project is drawn from past comprehensive planning and master planning efforts. It defines what the community seeks to become. It provides a basis and a framework from which the plan and supporting strategic actions can be identified. The vision suggests a way of thinking about possible directions for the community while a set of guiding principles helps establish a path that results in a plan that “fits” North St. Paul.

Guiding principles can be used on an ongoing basis as a yardstick - a primary filter for determining what is appropriate. Together with the vision statement, the guiding principles become the critical tools for ongoing measurement and assessment of initiatives and results.

# Vision and Guiding Principles for North St. Paul

### WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

- They orient the community to the future, even to a future that is twenty years distant.
- They require imagination, recognizing that the direction it sets will be the reality of the future.
- They look to current conditions and community traditions for clues to the appropriate future.
- They are based on a shared understanding of what the community desires for itself.
- They will be used as tools for evaluation of proposals, projects, ideas, and future directions.
- They will be an anchor during conflict, a way of finding common ground and shared values.
- They become a basis for coordination and cooperation.
- They are a source of energy and enthusiasm for maintaining a commitment to the future of North St. Paul.







# Vision

We say North St. Paul is “An extraordinary small town in the cities!”



## IDENTITY

We are a town of 3.1 square miles with a six block long Main Street. A small industrial village turned first-ring suburb; we embrace our small-town feel but also recognize we are part of a larger region. With 125 years of history, we are a tight-knit community with bonds to our town, our neighbors, and our shared past. But we are also a town that looks to the future, embracing technology and seeking new ways to capture the next wave of innovation and ingenuity to propel our community forward.



## IMAGE

Our community has the appearance and feel of a small town as evident in the architectural character of our main street, our safe and peaceful neighborhoods, our appreciation for parks and open space, and our thriving community events. Although we seek to become more “urban” by investing in progressive infrastructure improvements and more compact development, we will strive to preserve our small-town atmosphere by ensuring that future projects adhere to our design standards and aesthetic character.



## ENDURING

We are a town in which quality development contributes to a lasting quality environment. The proper density and mix of development helps build and, more importantly, sustain our public infrastructure system, community facilities, and public spaces. Development projects are planned and constructed in a manner that lasts over time, using quality building materials and innovative site design. Our development is not overly dependent on any single economic sector or type of energy resource so that we endure both physical and economic challenges.



## QUALITY OF LIFE

With an abundance of city parks, schools, churches, a quaint downtown district, and peaceful neighborhoods, North St. Paul is a town with a great quality of life. We are connected to a thriving metropolitan region, and we appreciate how this enhances our residents’ access to a diversity of jobs, cultural and recreational opportunities, quality health care, and higher education opportunities. However, looking to the future, it is important for North Saint Paul to offer this same diversity closer to home. We must be forward-thinking about our land use and continue to explore new ways to transform uses that have moved on or that could better contribute to realizing our vision.





## Guiding Principles

- Create coordinated and harmonious development of functionally related uses including high density residential, office, commercial, entertainment / recreation, quality industrial and public facilities.
- Redevelopment should endeavor to be cohesive with quality design and minimize adverse effects to neighboring uses.
- Encourage density and provide adequate provisions for open space.
- Develop a diverse transportation network that supports transit, creates strong pedestrian and bicycle connections.
- Enhance and improve the image of the City in Downtown, along the Highway 36 Corridor and within the residential neighborhoods.
- Possess a progressive image for redevelopment while maintaining a sense of the community heritage.
- Consider new forms of housing such as condominiums, senior housing, townhomes, villas and live / work.
- Grow the community's tax base.
- Integrate public art as appropriate throughout the downtown study area.



# CHAPTER 4: REDEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN



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# CHAPTER 4: REDEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

To create this 2022 Redevelopment Master Plan, the 2009 plan was evaluated and certain policies and directions reaffirmed. This document aims to build on the momentum and success of the earlier plan by articulating a long-term vision and action strategy for areas where redevelopment has not yet occurred. This 2022 plan also builds in flexibility to allow the city to be nimble and responsive in redevelopment projects.

## Redevelopment Districts

This 2022 plan is focused on seven redevelopment districts within the study area: McKnight, Schifsky's, Downtown Core, West End Mixed Use, Core Employment, and Commerce Park. These districts are established based on the existing and proposed character of the area, land uses, urban design relationships, and redevelopment objectives. Broad goals and specific implementation projects and activities for each district are described in the pages that follow. They are intended to build on the momentum garnered from recent redevelopment activities in the downtown and to implement the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and other adopted plans. The following is a summary of each district and the goals, strategies, and projects proposed to achieve the vision and guiding principles over the next 10+ years.





# McKnight District

The McKnight District is located just south of and highly visible from Highway 36. The east side of the district includes the successful Anchor Block redevelopment projects that includes a new Kwik Trip, Extra Space Storage, Anchor View Apartments, and a new connector road, Anchor Drive.

The west side of this district remains ripe for redevelopment. It is presently characterized by aging commercial buildings that are accessed from Castle Avenue, a frontage road that parallels McKnight Road and curves to follow Highway 36 to the west. The North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale school district bus garage was relocated to this area in 2010 and to the north of that is a mix of commercial and construction uses. The existing urban form is heavily paved with limited landscaping; however, a multiuse trail runs north-south along the west side of McKnight Road that connects to the Gateway State Trail.

The Urban Ecology Center (UEC) lies to the immediate west of this district, which is a former sod farm that has been reclaimed as a 24-acre wetland restoration project. It contains walking trails, test plots for native vegetation, an observation mound for bird watching, and a series of butterfly gardens. It serves as an educational resource for area schools and natural and recreational amenity for residents.



## SAMPLE CHARACTER IMAGES





**MCKNIGHT DISTRICT GOAL:**

Continue the momentum of the Anchor Block redevelopment by leveraging the visibility from Highway 36 and adjacency to the UEC and Gateway Trail.

**PROPOSED USES:**

Office, mixed-use, live-work, or educational uses.

**PLANNED CHARACTER AND DESIGN:**

- Buildings 2-5 stories.
- Design sites to be oriented to the street.
- Parking and loading areas located in the rear.
- Underbuilding parking should be encouraged.
- Given visibility and “gateway to the city,” utilize high quality building materials on sites along the perimeter of the district.
- Develop landscaped areas, integrate onsite stormwater, promote depaving where appropriate.

**STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS:**

Leverage access and visibility of Highway 36 and McKnight Road as well as the adjacency and amenities provided by the Urban Ecology Center and Gateway State Trail.



IMAGE SOURCE: WSB, CASCADE MEADOWS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



IMAGE SOURCE: ADOBESTOCK - CHARLESTON, SC

**Leverage McKnight’s Locational Advantage:**

Redevelopment options for this area can be fairly flexible and may include a combination of office, flex, commercial employment uses, though live-work or upper-level residential may be supported if the market demands it. As redevelopment is proposed, sites should be designed to orient the building to the street with parking and loading facilities in the rear and provide underbuilding parking where possible or necessitated. Buildings should be at least two stories in height, though five stories may be permitted under existing regulations. Promote depaving, develop landscaped areas, and integrate onsite stormwater facilities where possible.

Redevelopment in this area can leverage the adjacency of Urban Ecology Center’s wetland complex and the nearby Gateway State Trail. Partnerships with the UEC, school district, and other agencies may yield the potential for a trade, vocational, or satellite campus specializing in urban development issues or sustainable technologies.



# Schifsky's District

The Schifsky's District includes the 7-acre Schifsky site as well as Rotary Park and the main trailhead to the Gateway State Trail to the east. As noted earlier in this report, T.A. Schifsky & Sons is a business with a long history that is deeply rooted in North St. Paul. This business continues to operate at its original location as an industrial use.

Notably, this area is one of the prime redevelopment parcels in the City of North St. Paul given its size and visible location along Highway 36 and adjacency to the downtown. While this plan does not direct this business, or any others in the downtown, to transition or redevelop, this plan considers the potential future for this site.



## SAMPLE CHARACTER IMAGES



IMAGE SOURCE: ODELL BREWING CO. - FORT COLLINS, CO.



SCHIFSKY’S DISTRICT GOAL:

Long-term redevelopment of the Schifsky’s site that captures visibility from Highway 36 and adjacency to the Gateway State Trail and proximity to downtown.

PROPOSED USES:

Light industrial, office, or mixed-uses.

CHARACTER AND DESIGN:

- Buildings 2-5 stories.
- Design sites oriented to the street.
- Parking and loaded in the rear.
- Underbuilding parking should be encouraged.
- Connect to Gateway State Trail.
- Develop landscaped areas, integrate onsite stormwater, promote depaving where appropriate.

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS:

- Work with the property owner on timing of and type of redevelopment activities at the Schifsky’s site.
- Install wayfinding and interpretive maps at Rotary Park.



Long-term Redevelopment

Plan for long-term redevelopment of the Schifsky site but recognize and mitigate any negative impacts on adjacent land uses in the meantime and as surrounding areas redevelop. Depending on the timing and market demand, a variety of reuse opportunities could occur on this site ranging from new light industrial, office, or mixed-use. Any of the “lighter” or “people-focused” uses, such restaurants, retail, or residential would benefit from the adjacent Gateway State Trail. Ultimately, the City will work with the property owner on the timing and type of redevelopment proposals for the Schifsky site.



EXISTING ROTARY PARK PAVILIONS

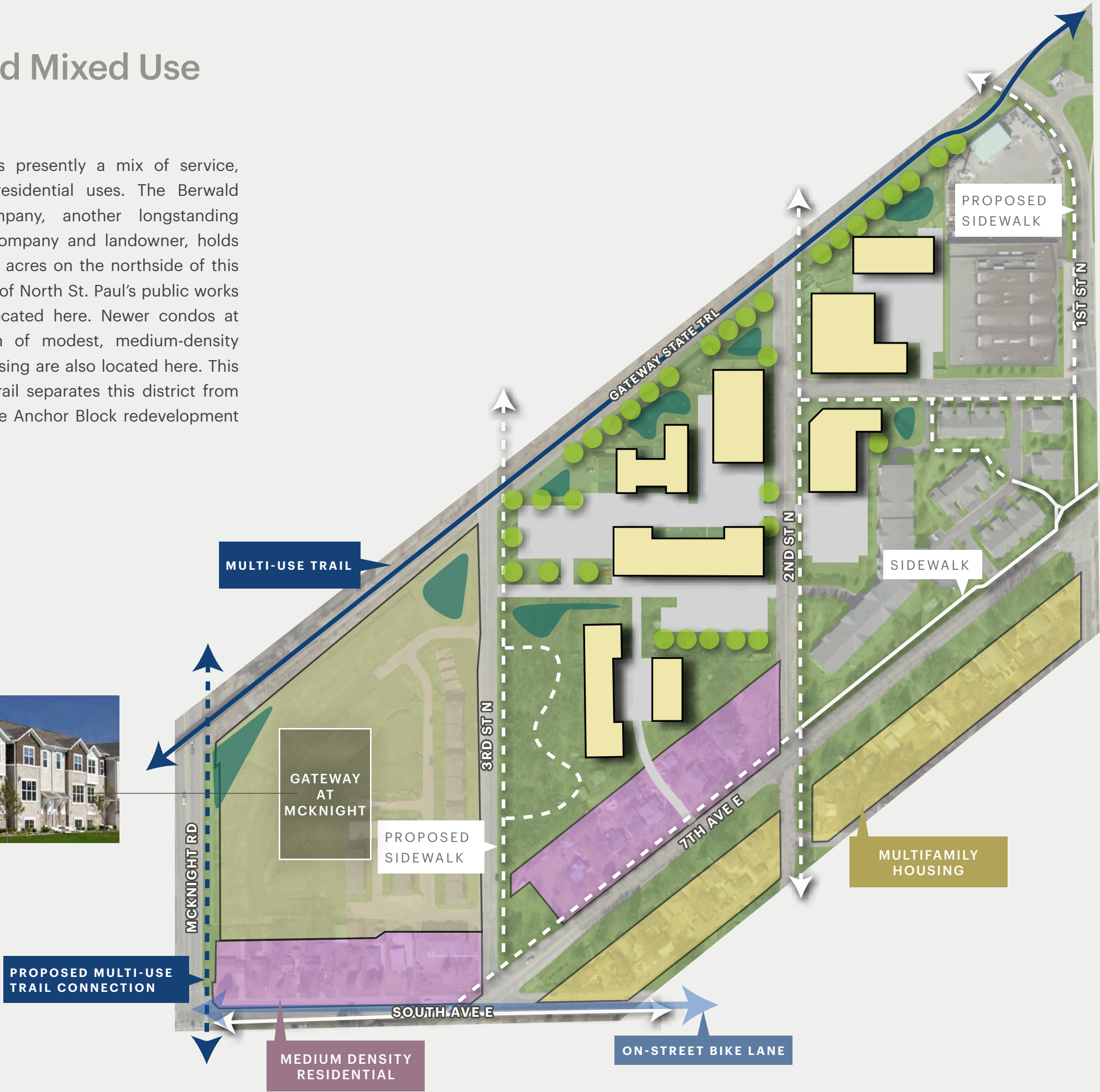
Wayfinding at Rotary Park

This location is a prime portal to the community where increased wayfinding and signage from this facility can direct visitors to the downtown. Recent improvements to Rotary Park have created a more inviting atmosphere, such as construction of open-air shelters, restroom, and bicycle fix-it stations. The addition of art/interpretive signs should be added in the near term as well as wayfinding to direct visitors to the downtown and destination points. (See also wayfinding discussion on page 46).



# West End Mixed Use District

The West End is presently a mix of service, industrial, and residential uses. The Berwald Investment Company, another longstanding North St. Paul company and landowner, holds approximately 10 acres on the northside of this district. The City of North St. Paul's public works facility is also located here. Newer condos at and a collection of modest, medium-density single-family housing are also located here. This Gateway State Trail separates this district from Schifsky's and the Anchor Block redevelopment to the north.



## SAMPLE CHARACTER IMAGES



IMAGE SOURCE: ADOBESTOCK - SUNNYVALE, CA



IMAGE SOURCE: ADOBESTOCK



IMAGE SOURCE: WSB - ROCHESTER, MN



**WEST END MIXED USE DISTRICT  
GOAL:**

Promote the West End as a thriving, mixed-use district with housing focused on the south side (i.e., along 7th Avenue) and mixed-use and/or employment uses on the north side of the district.

**PROPOSED USES:**

Mixed-uses, employment, townhomes, live-work units, and existing single family.

**CHARACTER AND SITE DESIGN:**

- Buildings 2-5 stories.
- Mixed-use housing should have a strong street presence with parking underbuilding or in the rear.
- Connect to Gateway State Trail.
- Develop landscaped areas, integrate onsite stormwater, promote depaving where feasible.

**STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS:**

- Focus redevelopment in two “zones” – one mixed-use or employment focused on the north side, and housing/live-work opportunities on the south end.
- Establish a West End passive open space for area residents.



**Employment Zone**

The Berwald holdings in this district are proposed for employment-focused and/or mixed-use. Presently, impervious surfaces cover nearly 100 percent of the non-residential areas of this District. As this area redevelops, de-paving should be promoted where feasible to support a healthy stormwater system and increase landscaped areas. In the interim, screening incompatible but adjacent uses should be a prime focus if necessary.



**Urban Townhomes and Mixed Housing**

Per the Comprehensive Plan, the existing single family along 7th Avenue and up Oak Hill Place is pegged for future mixed-use redevelopment. This could occur fully as residential or as a combination of at least 30 percent residential with a commercial uses mixed in.

While the character of existing housing near downtown is in keeping with North St. Paul’s historic, small-town charm, there are opportunities additional townhouses and upscale apartments that may cater to younger demographics and/or those looking for a more “urban” feel. New townhomes could be rental in the early stages of development but could transition to owner occupied units over time; these types of units work well for either rental or owner-occupied units.



**Live/Work Housing**

Another residential type is the live/work unit, where individual owner-occupied units also function as independent storefronts or shop spaces for start-up businesses. These uses were envisioned in the 2009 plan but have yet to be developed. The zoning within the downtown area is flexible enough for this type of housing unit to occur where the market drives it.



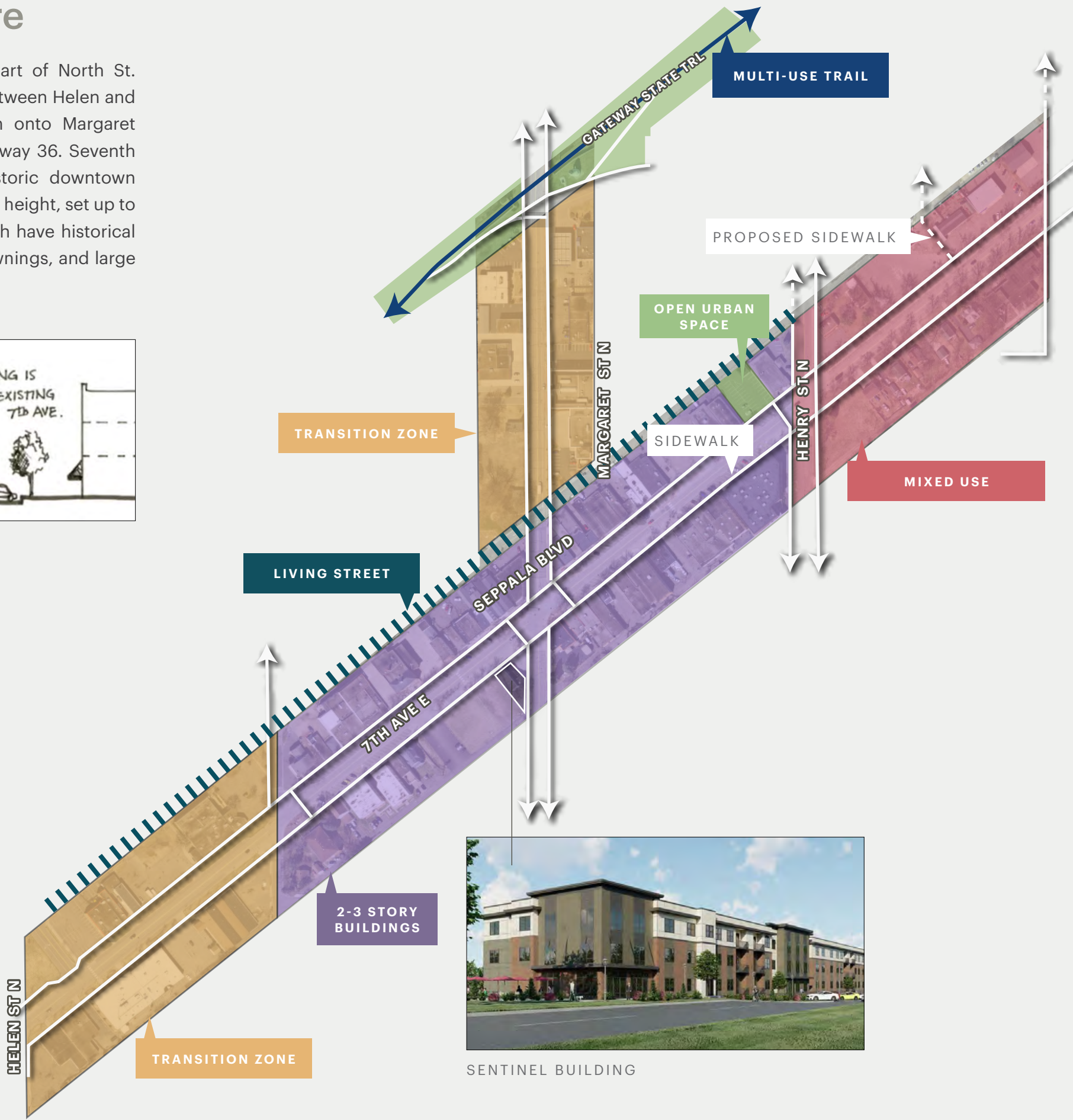
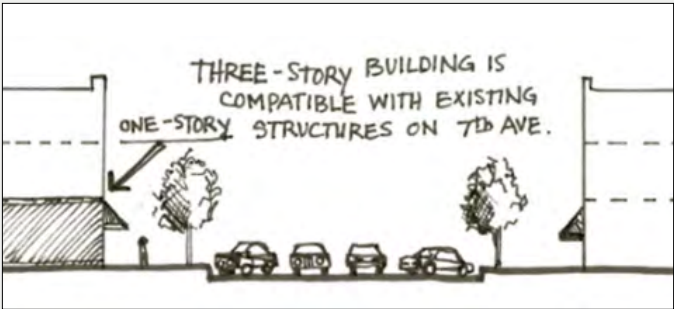
**Passive Open Space for Area Residents**

Lastly, an approximately 2-acre strip of land abuts 3rd Street on the west side of this district. The site is narrow, sloped, and wooded, which make redevelopment less feasible. A small, minimally developed natural area is proposed that could include walking path connectivity to the townhome residences to the west and the neighborhood to the east. A small, nature-focused playground might be included to provide safe and convenient play place for nearby residents.



# Downtown Core

The Downtown Core is the heart of North St. Paul. It lies along 7th Avenue between Helen and Henry Streets and turns north onto Margaret Street from 7th Avenue to Highway 36. Seventh Avenue is North St. Paul's historic downtown where buildings are 1-2 stories in height, set up to the property line, many of which have historical character with brick facades, awnings, and large display windows.



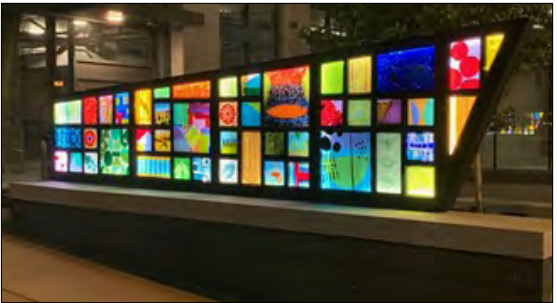
## SAMPLE CHARACTER IMAGES



IMAGE SOURCE: YUZHU ZHENG PHOTOGRAPHY



IMAGE SOURCE: OHM ADVISORS, WOOSTER DOWNTOWN PLAN





DOWNTOWN CORE DISTRICT GOAL:

Enhance the historic character and create an inviting, pedestrian-friendly environment where visitors and residents feel encouraged and welcome to linger on the sidewalk, in gathering spaces, or wander in and out of shops.

PROPOSED USES:

- Vertically mixed-use development.
- Residential, commercial, service, civic, community gathering spaces, and potential future parking garage.

CHARACTER AND SITE DESIGN:

- Apply the Downtown Design Manual to facades and streetscape improvements.
- Buildings 2-3 stories.
- Design sites oriented to the street.
- Underbuilding parking is strongly encouraged and may be required based on site specifications.
- Connect to Gateway State Trail.
- Develop landscaped areas, integrate onsite stormwater, promote depaving where appropriate.
- Integrate public art, open spaces, and gathering areas.



EXISTING  
CONDITITIONS

Downtown Infill and Built Form

Downtown businesses maintain a competitive advantage by having workers and residents in the immediate surroundings. North St. Paul’s residential population has increased in the past ten years, which will soon reach a critical mass to generate new demand for services, such as restaurants, retail, and personal services. Recent additions to the downtown indicate such demand is already occurring, such as Brother’s Bistro and Mac’s Diner. As the downtown continues to see public and private investment, the city can anticipate developers will jockey for opportunities to create more housing followed by more retail and services.

To capture this growth, the incremental upward expansion of buildings along 7th Avenue is encouraged. New construction should, where feasible, provide housing and offices in upper floors and retail and service spaces reserved for street level. The vertical and horizontal mix of uses in downtown buildings provides for vibrancy that attracts visitors day and night.

To maintain the character and historic image of the downtown, new development should adhere to design standards in the Downtown Design Manual, which may be reviewed and amended. Presently, up to four stories is permitted for new mixed-use buildings per zoning; however, the Downtown Design Manual suggests that three story structures are optimal for downtown North St. Paul when considering the height of existing structures and street and sidewalk widths.

Several vacant sites within the downtown present opportunities for infill development on 7th Avenue and Margaret Street. The City and Economic Development Authority should work with property owners to actively market these sites for redevelopment in addition to vacant buildings and underutilized sites. New construction, infill, and façade renovations should be designed to support a small-town and pedestrian-friendly character while facilitating retail and service business functions. Development of a façade improvement incentive program could be established.

SAMPLE CHARACTER IMAGES



IIMAGE SOURCE: ADOBESTOCK - CASTRO ST.,  
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA



IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE STREETVIEW - S. DUBQUE ST.,  
IOWA CITY





STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS:

- Redevelopment activities should focus on creating and retaining retail, restaurants, and services that will serve the growing downtown population.
- Encourage incrementally taller buildings to increase residential density and maintain businesses at street level.
- Support infill development that enhances the historic character to ensure it remains the symbolic heart of Downtown North St. Paul.
- Convert Seppala Boulevard to a pedestrian-friendly, multi-functional corridor while maintaining alley and service functions for 7th Avenue businesses.
- Strengthen the connection from the Gateway State Trail to the Downtown Core by improving trailheads.
- Residential developments must have adequate parking to support residents; under building parking is strongly encouraged and may be required based on site specifications.
- Evaluate public parking options and plan for the future development of a public parking garage.



Convert Seppala Boulevard to a Living Street

Buildings on the north side of 7th Avenue back up to Seppala Boulevard, the former Twin City Lines streetcar. The streetscape of Seppala is narrow with a 28-foot right-of-way, as such, it presently has the function and feel of an alleyway. Some businesses have taken advantage of the dual frontage and have opened store fronts on both streets Seppala and 7th Avenue. Additional public and private improvements could be implemented to further activate the street and transform Seppala Boulevard to a pedestrian-friendly, multi-functional and aesthetically pleasing street.

For example:

- Install features that make people feel welcome such as streetlights, special paving, furnishings, bike racks, planters, and murals.
- Encourage businesses to activate outdoor space with patio seating and sidewalk sales.
- Consolidate trash pick-up so businesses do not have individual dumpsters.
- Encourage other building owners to create rear entrances with façade enhancements such as awnings, display windows.
- Incorporate green infrastructure to handle stormwater.
- Create a picnic park on the ¼-acre city-owned property at the northwest corner of Seppala Boulevard and Margaret Street.



IMAGE SOURCE: RJM DESIGN GROUP, FOXFIELD PARK

Downtown Plaza / Urban Open Space

The City owns a vacant property on 7th Avenue (2577-2579 7th Avenue) that is conveniently situated for conversion as a downtown plaza or urban open space. The site is presently utilized as a parking lot, but the area has the potential for greater use, such as a focal point for gatherings. Local art and urban landscaping would create a more welcoming presence to the downtown area. The existing hardscape could be removed to create the feel of a greenway bridging 7th Avenue and Seppala Boulevard.

Three on-street parking spaces presently exist on 7th Avenue facing side of the south side of the property. The vision for the future design of this site would remove the on-street parking and extend the wider sidewalk onto the south side of the street for a pedestrian-friendly and walkable streetscape. The space would further integrate 7th Avenue and Seppala Boulevard by providing another way for pedestrians to move through the downtown.





### Gateway Trail Enhancements

Margaret Street provides the most direct connection from the Gateway State Trail to the downtown; however, the existing access to the trail from Margaret Street is lackluster visually and difficult to navigate due to lack of pedestrian connections. Recognizing the significance of the trail as an amenity and connector for the community, functional and aesthetic improvements to the trail access are suggested. A thematic gateway should welcome trail users to North St. Paul and direct them to the restaurants and shops along 7th Avenue and Margaret Street. Entry monimentation or artwork combined with an enhanced streetscape along Margaret Street with broad sidewalks and pedestrian features could lead people directly to the downtown.



### Future Garage Parking

As residential density increases and intensification of the Downtown Core occurs, additional parking will be needed. Today, multiple, small surface lots and on-street angled parking on 7th Avenue provide adequate visitor parking for downtown businesses. New residential development is required to provide off-street parking for its residents at a rate of two spaces per dwelling. Adhering to this requirement will be necessary to ensure adequate public parking for those who work and visit the downtown. As a future, long-term solution, a public parking structure with ground floor mixed uses could provide a centralized location for public parking at the core of downtown.

In the short term, existing city-owned surface parking should be reconfigured to improve pedestrian access and safety and to accommodate electric vehicles.



# Core Employment Reinvestment District

The core employment reinvestment district is divided into an east and west side that sandwich the Margaret Street. The west side has an office park or campus-feel with the two large structures that are used for academic purposes: Lionsgate Academy and North Metro Flex Academy. At present, the building uses are mismatched to the amount of surface parking on the site. Reevaluation of the building and parking capacities may yield redevelopment or reuse opportunities, or potential shared parking with neighboring uses. The east side of the core employment reinvestment area is presently characterized by industrial buildings and uses, some of which have been expanded over time to create structures that may be challenging for reuse should existing businesses ever decide to relocate. Berwald’s historic brick manufacturing building is also located on the site and has been converted to a multi-tenant office building. Additionally, Berwald’s large outdoor storage area occupies about half of a city block, which presents a prime opportunity for reinvestment.



SAMPLE CHARACTER IMAGES





CORE EMPLOYMENT  
REINVESTMENT GOAL:

Leverage North St. Paul’s increasingly rare ability to offer light industrial land that is relatively central to the regional work force and highly visible and accessible to Highway 36.

PROPOSED USES:

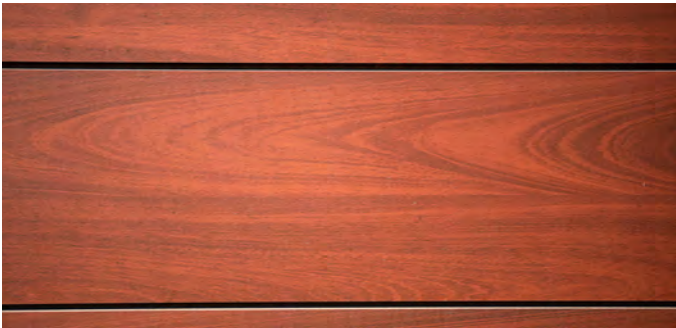
- Light assembly, medical office, professional office, or live-work uses.

CHARACTER AND SITE DESIGN:

- Buildings 2-5 stories.
- Parking and loaded in the rear; underground or building parking should be encouraged.
- Connect to Gateway State Trail.
- Develop landscaped areas, integrate onsite stormwater, promote depaving.

STRATEGIES:

- Reinvigorate this district as Nort St. Paul’s premiere employment district.
- Reinvest and adaptively reuse Berwald Roofing land holdings while working with the property owner on timing and type of redevelopment activities.



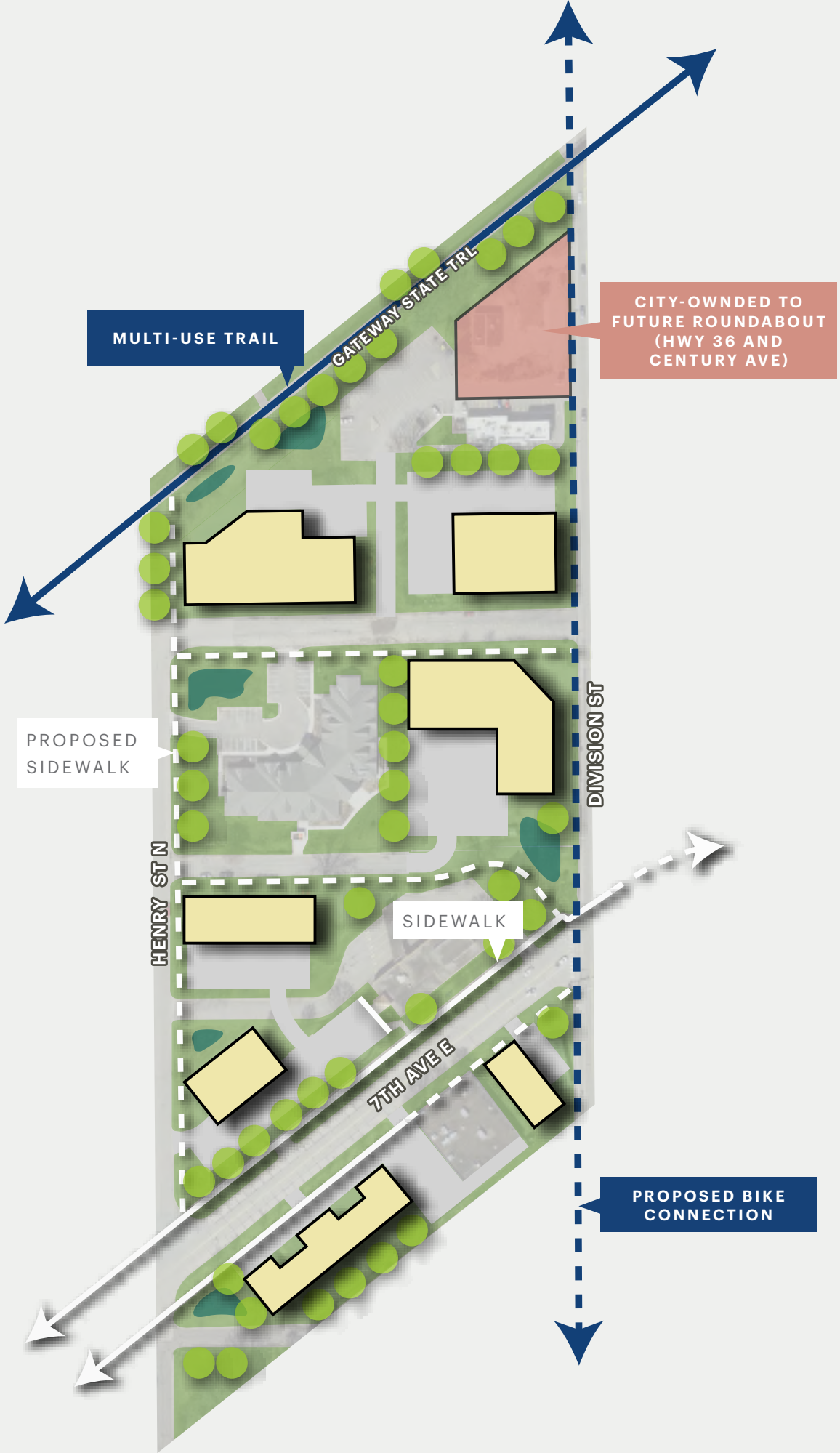
Employment-Focused Reinvestment and Adaptive Reuse

Office, manufacturing spaces, and household-serving businesses are anticipated for the Core Employment District. Office showroom buildings offer relatively small spaces (e.g., 2,000-5,000 sq. ft.) for tenants seeking inexpensive office space. These spaces represent a “higher-end” industrial property with higher levels of finish than other types and would face ample competition from locations in communities such as Oakdale, Shoreview, and Woodbury. Nonetheless, this type of development could be feasible in North St. Paul. Household-serving business that engage in a broad range of industries encompassing legal services, financial services, insurance, real estate, design, and physical and mental health providers, but serve individual consumers rather than corporate clientele. Medical office could also be a focus developed in concert with existing medical offices/clinics in the vicinity.



# Commerce Park District

Commerce Park represents both the terminus of the downtown as well as an entry to the City of North St. Paul. As a major gateway for visitors entering from Highway 36, it is essential that this area impart a welcoming entry to the downtown business district. This area is currently characterized by a mix of suburban development, auto-oriented businesses, new multifamily residential, vacant parcels, and two single family homes. This is an area in transition. In addition to the recent construction of senior housing, investments have been made in several businesses, and two sites have been cleared to make way for redevelopment opportunities. Some of the parcels in this district are presently vacant or underutilized.



## SAMPLE CHARACTER IMAGES



IMAGE SOURCE: MIOPPORTUNITYZONES.COM



IMAGE SOURCE:



IMAGE SOURCE: FINANCE & COMMERCE



COMMERCE PARK DISTRICT GOAL:

Reposition this district as a contemporary retail and service node.

PROPOSED USES:

- A mix of restaurants, service, office, civic, and multifamily uses.

CHARACTER AND SITE DESIGN:

- Buildings 2-5 stories.
- Design sites oriented to the street.
- Parking and loaded in the rear; underbuilding parking should be encouraged.
- Connect to Gateway State Trail.
- Develop landscaped areas, integrate onsite stormwater, promote depaving.

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS:

- Redevelop the Commerce Park area with a mix of community-serving commercial, office, multifamily uses.
- Given visibility and “gateway to the city,” utilize high quality building materials on sites along the perimeter of the district.
- Position buildings and sites to take advantage of cycling and pedestrian traffic from the Gateway Trail.
- Work with overlapping and neighboring jurisdictions on projects of shared interest.



Century Avenue as Community Gateway

The functional and aesthetic design Century Avenue are important aspects for redevelopment planning and directing patrons to downtown North St. Paul. Combining multi-modal transportation and transit facilities such as park and rides, bus shelters, and trails should be integral to the future planning for this important corridor.

Aesthetically, these corridors should provide appropriately scaled lighting and pedestrian amenities, balanced with the heavy traffic volumes on the roadway. Intersection crossings must be designed safely with controlled, signalized intersections or round-a-bouts.



Gateway State Trail Connections

The existing owners of the Burger King have expressed interest in repositioning their building to better take advantage of cycling trac along the Gateway Trail, and it should be a priority to integrate all stakeholders in this area as redevelopment occurs. Increased connectivity with the trail at the terminus of Henry Street is also suggested where a potential “lunch-time” park or plaza space could be integrated with redevelopment projects near the trail.



# Area-Wide Recommendations

The foundation of this Redevelopment Master Plan lies with creating a downtown and economic environment that realizes the vision: **Identity, Image, Enduring,** and **Quality of Life.**



IMAGE SOURCES: (LEFT) WASHINGTON CLASS STUDIO, RIGHT: WSB, SHAKOPEE MN

## Encourage Public Art

One of the many recommendations from the 2009 redevelopment master plan was to create new landmarks and gateways to better signal the arrival into downtown. This plan supports this general idea but expands on it to encourage the creation of public art in North St. Paul. Presently, the City is known for its iconic snowman that sits in the study area next to the Gateway State Trail at Margaret Street. This plan suggests that the City support the newly formed Arts Commission and encourage the creation of public art, especially at key gateway locations within the study area.

With the goal of establishing public art in the downtown, a program could be developed that encourage art projects in publicly accessible spaces, sponsored by the public and private sectors. Such a program could require a financial contribution from public and private developments (e.g., 1% of the construction budget) to be used for onsite for a public art project or pooled to fund a downtown public art grant program.

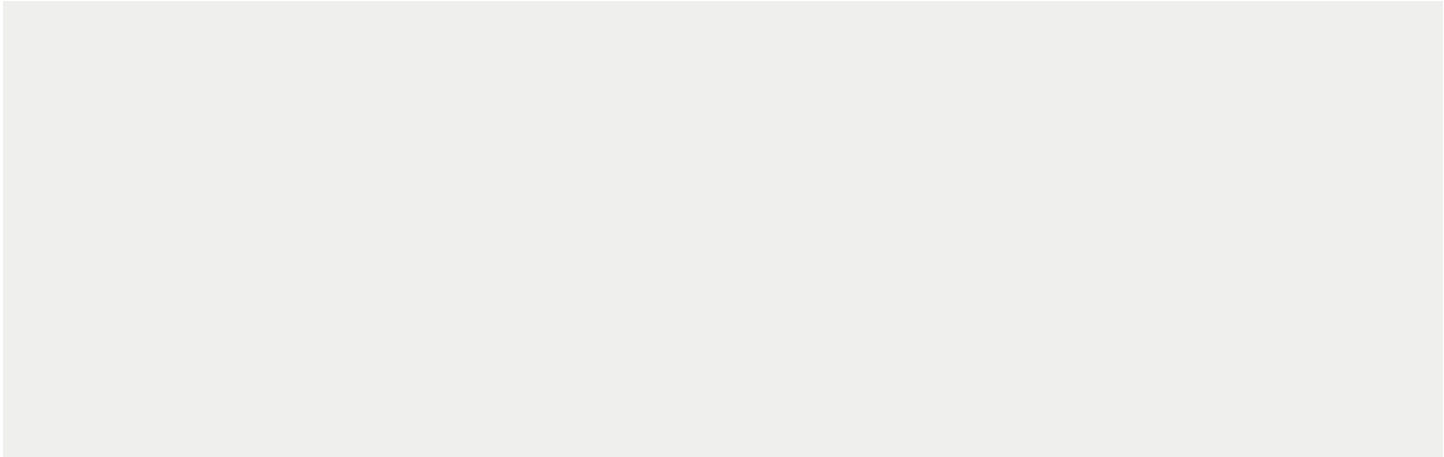


IMAGE SOURCE: WSB, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

## Invest in Outdoor Public Realm Enhancements

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan recommends that the City establish and implement a Downtown Improvement Plan that enhances the character of the downtown as a distinctive place that embodies the heritage of the community. This plan suggests several categories of improvements that could feed into or be completed in lieu of a larger planning document.

- Enhance the appearance of streets through boulevard landscaping, careful placement of necessary signs, underground utilities when improvements are made and by providing decorative streetlights.
- Bury utilities when street reconstruction occurs.
- Create public gathering spaces into new development opportunities as they arise.
- Establish an outdoor seating program or regulations for sidewalk cafes.





### Continue to Implement the City’s Wayfinding Program

A well-designed and executed wayfinding system will not only eliminate directional guesswork, but it can also encourage those walking or on bikes to explore new areas they were not aware of previously. A professionally planned and designed wayfinding system improves navigation for pedestrians, trail users, and vehicles traveling in and through the downtown. In 2016, North St. Paul developed a city-wide wayfinding plan. Implementation of Phase 1 signage has been installed, however, downtown directional signs, kiosks, monument, and gateway signs have yet to be funded and completed.



### Vacate Right-of-Way to Facilitate Parcel Consolidation

Much of the property in the study area was platted before 1900. Property boundaries no longer accurately reflect ownership as land development has occurred over the years which resulted in misalignments of buildings and parcel boundaries. In addition, street patterns have changed which has created dead ends and instances where development encroaches onto former street or alley right-of-way. To assist in land consolidation efforts, the city should consider vacating unused alley and street right-of-way to assist in property consolidation and enhance redevelopment opportunities. Such actions should consider cost and benefits to all parties involved.

### Land Acquisition

Land assembly places control of the property in the hands of the City, which can remove red tape and enhance the potential for redevelopment. The City will consider land acquisition at key locations as opportunities arise, such as through direct purchase or through tax auction.



# Transportation Plan

A key transportation goal for this Redevelopment Master Plan is to increase opportunities for bicycling and walking to and through the downtown and reduce vehicular demand on city streets for local trips. This plan also integrates planned transportation improvements as detailed in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the 7th Avenue Urban Design Plan, Living Streets Plan, MnDOT’s Highway 36 and Highway 120 Corridor Studies.

MAP OF VEHICULAR NETWORK



## Highway 36 and Century Avenue Interchange

MnDOT is studying the transition to an at-grade intersection at Highway 36 and Century Avenue in North St. Paul. The configuration and timing of the future interchange is yet to be determined; however, the City has acquired a 0.6-acre parcel at the southwest corner of the intersection in anticipation of future right-of-way needs.

This City should partner with MnDOT, neighboring City of Oakdale, and the Ramsey and Washington County Transportation Departments on the timing, funding, and preferred configuration of this interchange.

In addition to improvements to Century Avenue/ Highway 120, MnDOT is partnering with Metro Transit on options to establish arterial bus rapid transit (aBRT) on this corridor in the future.

## 7th Avenue and Margaret Reconstruction

North St. Paul has been implementing the 7th Avenue Urban Design Plan in recent years to improve the streetscape and extend the life of the pavement of 7th Avenue. The new construction and design have enhanced the functional and aesthetic character of the road or facility. As part of this project, the City will construct a roundabout at the 7th Avenue, South Avenue, and 3rd Street intersection. Two options have been proposed for the design of which require varying levels of right-of-way acquisition. The City should work to acquire property within the footprint of the proposed roundabouts, where possible.

In addition to improving traffic flow and safety, roundabouts provide an additional opportunity for art and gateway features to announce the arrival to North St. Paul or the downtown.



Sidewalks and Trails

Establishing a walkable downtown with bike-friendly amenities is a high priority for the City. This plan proposes multimodal trails on the east side of McKnight Road and west side of Century Avenue to connect to regional trails and implement the Living Streets and Comprehensive Plans. This plan also promotes that all sidewalks are continuous in the downtown. Sidewalk gaps should be filled where possible when reconstruction occurs. Sidewalk infill is planned as 7th Avenue and Margaret Street is reconstructed through the downtown, sidewalks.



IMAGE SOURCE: WSB, MONTICELLO, MN



IMAGE SOURCE: PINTEREST, LIFFORD, SCOTLAND

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS:

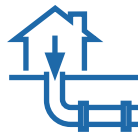
- Improve bike and pedestrian connections to and through the study area.
- Continue 7th Avenue and Margaret Street reconstruction.
- Construct a five-point roundabout at 7th Avenue, South Avenue, and 3rd Street.
- Interchange, streetscape improvements, and trail connections at Highway 36 and Century Avenue.



# Infrastructure

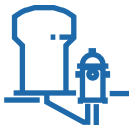
Infrastructure goals for this Redevelopment Master Plan consider recent system plans and studies completed for the city and build on recommendations of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

## SANITARY SEWER



The sanitary sewer system was evaluated during the 2040 Comprehensive Plan process. The downstream 18-inch, 21-inch, and 24-inch trunk sewer mains have sufficient residual capacity to convey wastewater within this Redevelopment Master Plan study area; however, wastewater flows vary annually and seasonally depending on climate conditions and customer water use. To account for such fluctuations, an evaluation of the residual capacity of the sewer trunks should be completed prior to any new development or redevelopment activities. Such evaluations should include flow monitoring or infiltration and inflow (I/I) assessments to verify sewer age and condition.

## WATER SYSTEM



A Water Storage Siting Study was completed in 2020 found that the City has inadequate water storage capacity compared to industry-standard recommended storage volumes. Storage capacity was calculated using the City’s water consumption data and available fire flow of 3,500 gallon per minute for 3 hours (540,000 gallons). Under normal operating conditions, the City’s ample well supply capacity can compensate the minimal storage capacity. However, the existing wells may be unable to meet water demands and maintain adequate storage if an emergency were to occur (large fire, severe drought, large watermain break, etc.). Therefore, it is recommended to increase the City’s water storage capacity as soon as possible to meet industry-standard recommended storage volumes.

Some areas near along 7th Avenue E. have inadequate available fire flow capacity. Fire flow requirements were based on the International Building Code (IBC), upon which the Minnesota State Plumbing Code is based. Water demands can vary significantly depending upon climate conditions and customer water usage patterns. For that reason, a detailed evaluation of the water demands, and condition of existing water mains should be completed prior to any new development or redevelopment activities.

## STORMWATER SYSTEM



There are areas of historic flooding in the study area. Some of these problems have partially been alleviated through the construction of a pond at Helen Street; however, some localized flood issues remain within the study area. As the study area redevelops, projects will be required to adhere to Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) rules. Any site that is one acre or larger is required to implement stormwater infiltration, or filtration where infiltration is infeasible, best management practices (BMPs) with treatment volumes equivalent to 1.1” of runoff from new or reconstructed impervious surfaces. This requirement is not unique to the study area and is like other watershed district rules throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Soil conditions and high groundwater tables in the study area make infiltration generally infeasible. For this reason, both surface and subsurface filtration BMPs have typically been favored. In fact, there are several successful installations of both on redeveloped parcels throughout the study area. To put this in a numeric perspective, redevelopment sites can expect to dedicate at most 15% of the site to a surface filtration BMP,

which can cost \$5 to \$7 per cubic foot of BMP volume required. If subsurface filtration BMPs are selected, total construction costs can be expected to range from \$10 to \$15 per cubic foot of BMP volume required and require an underground footprint of 5 to 10%. In industrial, commercial, or multifamily residential projects, there is typically sufficient footprint beneath the parking lot and green space to accommodate subsurface systems.

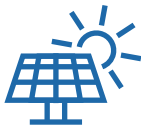
In the decision to select either a surface or subsurface BMP, maintenance costs must also be considered as, like other watershed districts, RWMWD requires operations and maintenance agreements. Surface filtration BMPs are generally more expensive to maintain but require much less frequent maintenance than do subsurface BMPs. Where storm sewer tie-in grades and the other limiting factors listed previously do not allow for either surface or subsurface infiltration or filtration BMPs, RWMWD provides for an alternative means of compliance through payment into its Stormwater Impact Fund. The current cost is \$75,000 per acre of impervious acre.



# Energy

This Redevelopment Master Plan considers how redevelopment actions can minimize energy consumption and maximize efficiency. The following are some options for energy conservation.

## SOLAR POWER



Where possible, new development should orient buildings to take advantage of solar heat gain and look to incorporate solar hot water heating and photovoltaic (PV) panels for additional energy generation. Existing buildings with nearly flat roofs should evaluate installing a rooftop solar array with any roof replacement. If bi-facial PV solar panels are used, roofing material with a high albedo value should be considered. Low heating water accounts for roughly 10 percent of the energy needs for a typical home, and solar energy can satisfy a significant portion of the energy demand in the district. If on-site PV solar is not feasible, off-site solar subscriptions or credits can be considered.



## GEOTHERMAL



An additional opportunity to integrate sustainable energy production in the district comes from the use of geothermal heating and cooling technologies. Geothermal heating and cooling coils could be installed below surface parking lots in a horizontal application and where space is limited, vertical wells could be drilled to achieve the same effects.

## COLD CLIMATE AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS



Cold-climate heat pumps (CCHPs) are the latest evolution in efficient air-source heat pump design. Thanks to an inverter—or variable speed drive—compressor design, these heat pumps achieve high levels of efficiency even during the winter season. And just like other heat pumps, a CCHP doubles as a cooling system during the summer season.

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EV)



Demand for electric vehicles (EV) is increasing as fuel costs rise and the impacts of carbon dioxide emissions on climate change continue to be a grave concern. More and more electric vehicles are on the roads now than ever and the demand is only projected to rise in the coming years. The City has demonstrated leadership and a strong desire to provide public electric vehicle options in the City. For example, in addition to resurfacing, updates to the municipal lot south of 7th Avenue include plans to install EV charging stations. In addition to public options, the City should consider policy or regulatory requirements for the installation of EV charging stations for private development projects.

The City should evaluate three factors to provide effective EV charging opportunities throughout the redevelopment area:

- Funding sources and grant opportunities for the purchase of EV charging stations.
- Determine appropriate standards for EV charging station location and consider regulations that would require the instillation of EV charging stations with redevelopment.
- Consider third-party payment systems to allow for EV charging stations to function likely may urban semi-automated parking meter systems.





# CHAPTER 5: IMPLEMENTATION



NORTH  
ST. PAUL

extraordinary



# CHAPTER 5: IMPLEMENTATION

This Redevelopment Master Plan is not intended to be static, but rather a living document that can evolve as priorities shift based opportunities, private redevelopment projects, and on funding availabilities. The plan should be monitored and updated from time to time to respond to changing conditions.

## Roles and Responsibilities

No one entity has the sole authority or resources to carry out this plan. Implementation will require partnership and action by multiple agencies, each with shared or individual interests in enhancing downtown North St. Paul. The following is a list and brief description of the known actors in North St. Paul. In addition to these groups, other agencies will also have a role in fulfilling the vision of this document.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA)

The EDA will take a prominent role in business recruitment and retention and promoting the downtown to developers. It will work hand in hand with the City on private redevelopment projects.

- Work to ensure that economic development initiatives within North St. Paul are a recognized priority for City Council members.
- Actively pursue critical properties for redevelopment or educating business owners on improvement or reinvestment programs with low interest loans should be continued and expanded roles for the EDA.
- Create an annual redevelopment “action plan” to monitor progress toward implementation. This action plan would outline key steps to occur during the year, including descriptions of actions, responsible parties, and funding resources. It forces the parties to not only

consider what needs to be done in the coming year, but also why identified steps were not taken in the prior year.

- Work with business owners and landlords to promote and help finance the maintenance and revitalization of downtown businesses and buildings in the downtown core.
- Host annual developer roundtables or site tours showcasing the potential of North St. Paul sites to perspective developers.
- Provide guidance to the City to ensure that proposed development projects and public improvements are consistent with the plan.
- Continue to find the appropriate funding options for various redevelopment projects.
- Collaborate with private brokers marketing North St. Paul sites and leverage marketing efforts.







### CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL

The City Council will be a key decision-maker in programs and projects within the study area. The Council is the authority that sets city budgets, prioritizes projects, and approves development projects. In addition, the City of North St. Paul hosts several commissions that shape the community. Each of the following will likely have a role in implementing this Redevelopment Master Plan based on their role and functions: Planning Commission, Environmental Advisory Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Arts & Culture Commission, and Housing & Redevelopment Authority.

In addition to the City’s elected and appointed officials, City staff will play an integral role in advancing projects. Community development, public works, finance, and engineering staff will be responsible for:

- Assist with application of land use controls and redevelopment guidelines to shepherd private development.
- Review of development plans and proposals.
- Coordination of planning for capital improvements needed to facilitate redevelopment.
- Creation of financial plans for public redevelopment investments and continued monitoring.
- Lead the design of public infrastructure improvements needed to support redevelopment including necessary utility and roadway improvements.
- Coordinate with state, county, and other agencies on project coordination and permitting.



### OTHER PARTNERS

Other partners within or involved with the study area can be tapped to finance projects or move them through regulatory processes. For example, state of Minnesota and Ramsey and Washington Counties will be key partners in transportation and other multijurisdictional efforts. Other key partners include businesses and property owners as many of the revitalization priorities described in this plan will occur on private property, thus collaboration with these entities will be paramount to reinvestment in the study area.





## Policy and Regulatory Framework

The City of North St. Paul recently adopted its 2040 Comprehensive Plan and updated its zoning ordinance shortly thereafter. As of early 2022, the sign ordinance was in the process of being updated by the City and is anticipated to be completed later in the year. Thus, the planning and regulatory framework are fairly current and do not require significant modifications to implement this plan. Rather, this plan assists in realizing the policy goals of the Comprehensive Plan and the zoning ordinance offers an appropriate level of regulation and flexibility to implement this Redevelopment Master Plan.

As described previously, the Downtown Design Manual was developed to communicate design ideals for the downtown. While much of the document is still relevant, the zoning and sign ordinance updates do not conform to some provisions of the design manual. To ensure consistency between policy, guidelines, and regulation, an update to the Downtown Design Manual is recommended.

## Programming

### SOLICITATION OF PROPOSALS

The city may establish a request for proposal (RFP) process to identify private development partners for a redevelopment project or site. The RFP allows the city to explain its objectives and to find the developer best suited to bring the segments of the design framework to fruition in this area. The steps in the RFP process include:

- Prepare and distribute RFP
- Select preferred development partner
- Negotiate preliminary development agreement.
- Approve final development agreement by EDA.
- Planning review and approval process





# Funding

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

The capital improvements plan is a fiscal planning tool for public infrastructure projects. North St. Paul’s CIP is a prioritized list of public improvements to be constructed over a seven-year period. Projects such as 7th Avenue reconstruction and Seppala conversion are candidates for the CIP.

## SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICTS

[Chapter 428A, Minn. Stats.](#), authorizes cities to establish Special Service Districts (SSD), which are special taxing districts where revenue may be used to support services and improvements in commercial areas. The general statutory authority contains few limits on the potential uses of SSDs; however, funds cannot be used to finance services that the City provides through the general fund unless the services are provided at a higher level.

## PARKLAND DEDICATION FEE

As authorized by [462.358, Minn. Stats.](#), the City of North St. Paul collects parkland dedication fees for residential and nonresidential developments. The 2022 rate is \$900 per residential lot and \$2,795 per acre for nonresidential development.

## SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT UTILITY FEE

As authorized by [444.075, Minn. Stats.](#), the City of North St. Paul collects a surface water management utility fee for all properties in the city that contribute surface water to the storm sewer system. The 2022 rate is \$10.88 per residential unit and \$10.88 multiplied by the percent of impervious site coverage for multifamily, commercial, and public properties.

## CLEAN WATER, LAND AND LEGACY AMENDMENT

The Legacy Amendment was approved in 2008 by the Minnesota voters. The amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, dedicates funds to help maintain clean water, wildlife habitat, arts and cultural heritage, and parks and trails. Money comes from the state sales tax and is distributed into four funds: 33% to clean water, 33% to outdoor heritage, 19.75% to arts and cultural heritage, and 14.25% to parks and trails.



## GRANTS AND TAX INCENTIVES

The [Metropolitan Council](#) administers grant funding through the Livable Communities Act to help communities achieve development goals that create more housing choice, support living wage job creation, and connect jobs, housing, and regional amenities to create a more equitable region. There are currently seven categories of Livable Communities grants:

- Housing, jobs, efficient growth
- Transit-oriented development
- Pre-development
- Policy development
- Clean-up/investigation
- Affordable housing
- Affordable homeownership

The [Minnesota State Arts Board](#) offers and connects artists and agencies to numerous state and federal grant programs.

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#) provides grants through the [Outdoor Recreation Grant Program](#), provides matching grants for acquisition, development outdoor recreation and natural areas. Eligible projects include park acquisition and development, internal park trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds. All park projects must be maintained for outdoor recreation into perpetuity. The DNR also administers the [Local Trails Connections Program](#) which is intended to complete connections between where people live (e.g., residential areas within cities, entire communities) and significant public resources (e.g., historical areas, open space, parks and/or other trails).

[Minnesota Department of Transportation](#) (MnDOT) distributes funding to cities through its state aid for local transportation (SALT) program. The program funds street and bridge construction and maintenance, active transportation projects, safe routes to school, and flood and disaster relief.

The [Minnesota Employment and Economic Development](#) (DEED) provides financial assistance to communities for infrastructure projects to assist with economic growth to help attract businesses, jobs, and people. DEED's 2021 [Economic Development Resource Guide](#) offers a synopsis of each assistance program currently provided. Specific DEED grant programs that have potential use for the study area include:

- [Redevelopment Grant Program](#) which helps communities with the costs of redeveloping blighted industrial, residential, or commercial sites and putting land back into productive use. Grants pay up to half of the redevelopment costs for a qualifying site, with a 50-percent local match. Grants can assist with the cost of public land acquisition (if public ownership is necessary to facilitate redevelopment), building and site demolition, infrastructure improvements, soil stabilization, ponding or other environmental infrastructure, and costs necessary for the adaptive reuse of buildings, such as asbestos abatement and lead paint mitigation.
- [Small Cities Development Program](#) helps cities with funding for housing, public infrastructure, and commercial rehabilitation projects. Eligible projects fall within three general categories: housing grants, public facility grants, and comprehensive grants, which can include economic development activities.

- [Contamination Cleanup and Investigation Grant](#) for assessing and cleaning up contaminated sites for redevelopment. Grants pay up to 75 percent of the costs to investigate and clean up polluted sites. Both publicly and privately owned sites with known or suspected soil or groundwater contamination qualify. Applications are accepted May 1 and November 1 each year.

Certain sites within North St. Paul may be historically significant and eligible for tax credits through the [Minnesota Historic Preservation Office](#). For example, a 20% state tax credit is available for qualified historic rehabilitations and parallels the existing federal rehabilitation tax credit.

The [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#) (MPCA) offers a variety of grants for brownfields, sustainability, and water, wastewater, and stormwater projects, to name a few. Additionally, funding from Minnesota's [Volkswagen settlement plan](#) will provide \$47 million in cleaner transportation infrastructure; of which \$3.5 million will be available for electric vehicle charging stations.

[Minnesota Public Facilities Authority](#) helps municipalities construct projects to meet their water infrastructure needs through several loan and grant programs. The Water Infrastructure Funding (WIF) program is established in Minnesota Statutes, Section 446A.072. The WIF program provides supplemental grants to municipalities based on affordability criteria established by statute.







# Implementation Matrix

UN-IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS

| Non-Infrastructure Projects<br>(i.e., Program Development or Studies) | Cost Estimate | Priority | Timeframe | Potential Funding           | Responsible Parties |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Market vacant sites and buildings                                     | \$            | High     | Ongoing   | EDA                         | EDA, City, PO       |
| Outdoor dining ordinance                                              | \$            | High     | Short     | TBD                         | City (PC, CC)       |
| Update Downtown Design Guidelines                                     | \$            | High     | Short     | TBD                         | City (PC, CC)       |
| Development story map                                                 | \$            | High     | Short     | TBD                         | City, EDA           |
| Seppala Boulevard conversion design plan                              | \$            | High     | Short     | SSA                         | City, EDA           |
| Off-street parking study                                              | \$            | High     | Short     | TBD                         | City (PC, CC)       |
| Create a façade improvement program                                   | \$            | Low      | Mid       | SSA                         | City, EDA           |
| Assist property owners and developers with grant writing              | \$            | Medium   | As needed | Property owners, developers | City, EDA           |
| Replat and ROW vacation where appropriate                             | \$            | Low      | As needed | TBD                         | City, PO            |
| Establish a sidewalk maintenance district                             | \$            | Low      | Short     | n/a                         |                     |

IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS

| Infrastructure Projects                                                   | Cost Estimate | Priority  | Timing    | Potential Funding               | Responsible Parties          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Seppala Boulevard conversion to Living Street                             | \$\$\$        | *         | Mid       | TBD                             | City                         |
| Central picnic park on Seppala (combined with Seppala conversion project) | \$            | As needed | Mid       | Park dedication fees, ORGP      | City                         |
| Wayfinding kiosk and gateway features at Rotary Park                      | \$            | High      | Short     | CIP                             | City (PR, CC), DNR           |
| Highway 36 interchange / Century Avenue improvements                      | \$\$\$        | High      | ASAP      | TBD                             | City, Counties, Oakdale, DOT |
| Multiuse paths along McKnight and Century Avenue                          | \$\$          | High      | Mid       | DNR LTCP                        | City, Ramsey, DOT            |
| Trail access improvements at Helen, Margaret, Henry, and Century Avenue   | \$            | High      | Short     | CIP, DNR LTCP                   | City (PR, CC)                |
| 5-point roundabout at 3rd Street/South Avenue/7th Avene                   | \$\$\$        | High      | Short-Mid | TBD                             | City                         |
| Roundabout art / gateway feature (combined with 5-point roundabout)       | \$\$          | High      | Short-Mid | CIP, % for art                  | City                         |
| Establish a passive open space area                                       | \$            | Low       | Short     | Park dedication fees, ORGP      | City (PR, CC)                |
| District-wide wayfinding and gateway signs                                | \$\$          | High      | Short-Mid | CIP                             | City                         |
| Establish a downtown plaza/urban open space                               | \$\$\$        | High      | Short-Mid | CIP, SSA                        | City                         |
| Water tower at Tower Park (benefits study area)                           | \$\$\$        | High      | Mid       | CIP, DEED PFG                   | City                         |
| Bury utilities (combined with street reconstruction)                      | \$\$          | High*     | Ongoing   | CIP                             | City                         |
| Sidewalk infill when opportunities arise                                  | \$            | Medium    | Short     | CIP                             | City                         |
| Public EV charging stations, install power infrastucture as needed        | \$ - \$\$     | High      | Short     | MPCA grants                     | City                         |
| Parking ramp                                                              | \$\$\$        | Low       | Long      | TBD                             | TBD                          |
| Stormwater management                                                     | \$            | High      | Ongoing   | MPCA grants                     | City                         |
| Public art                                                                | \$            | High      | Ongoing   | State Legacy grant, % sales tax | City (ACC)                   |

\* When opportunities occur

**Cost Estimate:**

- \$ - \$0 - \$100,000
- \$\$ - \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$\$\$ - \$500,000+

**Priority:**

Low, Medium, High  
(Prioritization is based on Task Force decisions)

**Timeframe:**

Short Term: 1-5 years  
Mid Term: 6-10 years  
Long Tern: 10+ years

**Acronyms:**

- ACC - Arts & Culture Commission
- CC - City Council
- CIP - Capital Improvement Plan
- DEED - Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
- DNR - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- DOT - Minnesota Department of Transportation
- EDA - Economic Development Authority
- LTCP - Local Trail Connections Program
- MPCA - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- ORGP - Outdoor Recreation Grant Program
- PC - Planning Commission
- PFG - Public Facility Grant
- PO - Property owners
- PR - Parks & Recreation Commission
- ROW - Right-of-way
- SSA - Special Service Area
- TBD - To be determined



**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL  
ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 154.011  
NORTH SAINT PAUL CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES  
SIGN ORDINANCE**

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA ORDAINS:**

**SECTION 1.** Section 154.011 “Signs” of the North St. Paul City Code is hereby repealed and replaced as Chapter 157.

Chapter 157: Sign Ordinance

§ 157.001. Introductory Provisions

- A) Purpose. It is not the purpose or intent of this section to regulate the message displayed on any sign; nor is it the purpose or intent of this article to regulate any building design or any display not defined as a sign, or any sign which cannot be viewed from outside a building. The purpose and intent of this article is to:
1. Regulate the number, location, size, type, illumination, and other physical characteristics of signs within the city in order to promote the public health, safety, and welfare.
  2. Maintain, enhance, and improve the aesthetic environment of the city by preventing visual clutter that is harmful to the appearance of the community.
  3. Improve the visual appearance of the city while providing for effective means of communication, consistent with constitutional guarantees and the city's goals of public safety and aesthetics.
  4. Provide for fair and consistent enforcement of the sign regulations set forth herein under the zoning authority of the city.
  5. Ensure adequate means of expression as allowed by the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution and other federal, state, and local laws.
  6. Minimize hazards caused by signs that are structurally unsound, interfere with sightlines or unduly distract drivers, pedestrians, or bicyclists.
- B) Applicability. Any sign visible from a public street erected, altered, or maintained after the effective date of this ordinance shall conform to the regulations in this Chapter.
- C) Interpretation. Any sign type determined by staff not identified by this code may be considered by the Planning Commission at a regular meeting and forwarded to the City Council for review.

§ 157.002. Definitions

AWNING SIGN. A building sign attached to, affixed to, or painted on an awning.

BANNER SIGN. A sign made of fabric or other similar nonrigid material with no enclosing framework or electrical components that is supported or anchored on two or more edges or at all four corners.

BENCH SIGN. A sign attached to a bench located on the street and designed for seating while waiting at a bus stop.

BILLBOARD (Prohibited). An off-premises sign intended by the sign owner to be available for sale, lease, or rental for the purpose of promoting any business or other activity which is not situated on the same property as the billboard or of promoting any product or service which is not primarily available on the same property as the billboard; and incidentally used for the display of public service messages.

BUILDING SIGN. A building sign is attached to or supported by a building whether it is the wall, window, or roof of the building. This sign type includes awning, canopy, marquee, projecting, roof, and wall signs.



CANOPY SIGN. A building sign attached to, affixed to, or painted on a canopy.

DWELLING, MULTIFAMILY. A residential structure containing three or more dwelling units.

DWELLING, SINGLE FAMILY. A detached residential structure that is designed for or occupied by one family only.

DWELLING, TWO FAMILY. A residential structure containing two dwelling units.

ELECTRONIC MESSAGE CENTER (EMC). A sign that can display words, symbols, figures, or images that can be electronically changed by remote or automatic means.

FEATHER SIGN. A nonpermanent sign made of lightweight materials that is prone to move in the wind, and that contains a harpoon-style pole or staff that is driven into the ground or supported by means of an individual stand.

FLAG. Any fabric or flexible material attached to or designed to be flown from a flagpole or other similar structure.

FREESTANDING SIGN. A sign on a frame, pole, or other, support structure not attached to any building. This sign type includes pylon, post and arm, and monument signs.

INFLATABLE (AIR ACTIVATED) SIGN. (Prohibited) A nonpermanent sign typically made of plastic, cloth, canvas, or other light fabric, inflated with air, and held upright, typically by mechanical means.

INTERNAL WAYFINDING. A sign used to aid customers in circulation within parking lots of commercial or other nonresidential uses. These signs could come in the form of monument, pylon, post and arm, or wall sign types.

MARQUEE SIGN. Any building sign attached to a marquee, a permanent roof-like structure projecting beyond a building or extending along and projecting beyond the wall of the building, generally designed and constructed to provide protection from the weather.

MONUMENT SIGN. A freestanding sign supported primarily by an internal structural framework or integrated into landscaping or other solid structural features other than support poles.

NONPERMANENT SIGN. A sign structure or device that is easily installed and removed and is not intended or suitable for permanent display due to the construction, materials, placement, or installation.

NONRESIDENTIAL USE. Any land use that is not a residential use.

OFF-PREMISES SIGN. (Prohibited) A sign whose message is unrelated to the premises or the activity and use occurring on the premises on which the sign is located.

ON-PREMISES SIGN. A sign whose message is related to the premises or the activity and use occurring on the premises on which the sign is located.

PERMANENT SIGN. A sign structure or device that is intended for permanent display due to the construction, materials, placement, or installation. See also "BUILDING" and "FREESTANDING" sign definitions.

POST AND ARM SIGN. A type of freestanding sign supported by a post and arm.

PROJECTING SIGN. A type of building sign extending outward from the face of the building.

RESIDENTIAL USE. See dwelling, multifamily, dwelling, single family, and dwelling, two family.

ROOF SIGN. Any single or double-faced signs mounted upon the roof of a building. This also includes signs painted or displayed directly upon the roof surface.

ROTATING SIGN (Prohibited). A sign that revolves, rotates, or mechanically moves.

SIGN. A device, structure, or fixture which communicates a message using words, graphics, letters, figures, symbols, trademarks, or other visual representations. Painted wall designs or patterns are not considered signs.

WALL SIGN. A building sign mounted flat against a wall or painted on the wall of a building or structure with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the face of the wall.

WINDOW SIGN. A sign posted, painted, placed, or affixed to the interior or exterior of a window.

#### § 157.003. Sign Permits

A) Applicability. All permanent sign types shall require a sign permit in all districts.



- B) Application.
  - 1. A sign permit application shall be submitted for all signs requiring a permit.
  - 2. All sign permit applications shall be accompanied by a permit fee according to the adopted fee schedule.
  - 3. A sign permit application shall be accompanied by the following items:
    - a. A site plan and/or building elevations showing the position, height, and dimensions of the sign(s) in relation to all nearby existing or proposed buildings, structures, and property lines.
    - b. Written consent of the property owner of the building or site upon which a sign is to be erected, constructed, or maintained.
    - c. Such other information as the zoning administrator requires to show full compliance with this and all other laws and ordinances of the city.
- C) Review. Sign permits are reviewed administratively by the zoning administrator with a determination made within 30 days from the time an application has been deemed complete.
- D) Appeals.
  - 1. Applicants wishing to appeal a determination by the zoning administrator shall do so in writing within 30 days of said determination.
  - 2. Appeals from the zoning administrator's determination shall be heard by the Planning Commission and a recommendation made to City Council.
  - 3. The Planning Commission shall consider the appeal within 45 days of filing of said appeal by the applicant.
- E) Nullification. A sign permit shall become null and void if the work for which the permit was issued has not been completed within a period of six months after the date of the permit. A permit may be renewed and no additional fee shall be collected for the renewal.
- F) Revocation. The city may revoke a permit when a sign is in violation of this chapter or any other ordinance in the City of North Saint Paul. Any signs installed under a revoked permit shall be removed within ten days of written notice of the revocation.

#### § 157.004. General Sign Regulations

- A) Applicability. All permanent and nonpermanent signs, except official traffic and street signs, shall conform to the provisions of this section and any other ordinance or regulations of the city.
- B) Sign Area Measurement.
  - 1. The area within the sign frame shall be used to calculate the square footage.
  - 2. The area without a sign frame shall be determined by drawing a box around the outermost periphery of letters or graphics. The square footage shall be that of the box surrounding the letters or graphics.
  - 3. Each side of a double-faced sign shall be considered in determining the total display surface area. The face shall be that portion of a sign upon which the message, advertisement or similar display is presented, as distinguished from the structural members.
- C) Sign Height Measurement. The height of a sign shall be measured from the existing grade, or, if elevations of the centerline of the nearest frontage street are provided by the sign applicant, this point of elevation may be used rather than the existing grade.
- D) Setbacks. Unless specifically noted otherwise, all permanent freestanding signs shall be set back a minimum of 10 feet from any property line and a minimum of 5 feet from any parking area or driveway. The city may require a greater or lesser setback due to public safety reasons, which may include the following conditions. vehicle sight distance, distance from intersection, designation of adjacent right-of-way.
- E) Placement.
  - 1. No sign shall be placed in such a position as to endanger pedestrians, bicyclists, or traffic on a street by obscuring the view or by interfering with official street signs or signals.
  - 2. No sign may be located within a vision triangle as depicted in Chapter 154, Figure 23.



3. Signs and their supporting structures shall maintain clearance and not interfere with any surface and underground utility or communications lines or equipment.
4. No sign shall be mounted on chimneys, rooftop equipment, towers, cooling towers, elevator penthouses, commercial antennas, communication towers, belfries, church spires and cupolas.
5. No sign shall be pasted or attached to utility poles, trees, fences, or other signs.
6. No sign shall be pasted or attached to city property or equipment without permission from the governing body and shall be subject to all related laws and ordinances.

F) Materials and Construction.

1. All signs shall be constructed of durable materials using noncorrosive fastenings.
2. All signs shall be constructed in such a manner and of such material to be considered safe and substantial.
3. All signs and supporting structures shall be designed and constructed to withstand wind pressure of not less than 40 pounds per square foot of area.
4. Signs which utilize electricity must be:
  - a. Installed in accordance with the current applicable electrical code.
  - b. All necessary electrical and building permits must be obtained prior to placement.
  - c. Electrical service to freestanding signs shall be underground
  - d. Exposed wiring or conduit shall not be allowed.
  - e. All work shall be completed by an electrical contractor licensed by the State of Minnesota.

G) Lighting.

1. Externally sourced lighting must be directed at the sign and must be shielded (not be visible to pedestrians, motorists, or neighboring residents or businesses).
2. Lighted signs shall be no closer than 20 feet from the nearest residential property and shall be illuminated only by white or amber light.

H) Maintenance.

1. All signs and components thereof shall be kept in good repair and in safe, neat, clean, and attractive condition and in compliance with all applicable building code requirements.
2. All permanent signs shall be properly painted including all parts and supports of the sign unless such parts or supports are galvanized or otherwise treated to prevent rust.
3. Any sign which becomes structurally unsafe or endangers the safety of a building or premises, or endangers the public safety, shall be considered a public nuisance and shall repaired or removed by the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial use of the building, structure, or land upon which the sign is located within ten days after written notification from the zoning administrator.

§ 157.005. Sign Area and Location Regulation

A) Applicability. The following district regulations and sign standards are applicable to all permanent and nonpermanent sign types.

B) Acceptable Sign Types by Land Use. See standards for sign types in Section 157.006.

| Sign Types                | Land Uses     |            |             |                |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| Permanent                 | Single-Family | Two-Family | Multifamily | Nonresidential |
| Awning                    | NA            | NA         | Allowed     | Allowed        |
| Canopy                    | NA            | NA         | Allowed     | Allowed        |
| Electronic Message Center | NA            | NA         | NA          | Allowed        |
| Freestanding              | NA            | NA         | Allowed     | Allowed        |
| Internal Wayfinding       | NA            | NA         | Allowed     | Allowed        |



|                                                                                                 |         |         |         |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Marquee                                                                                         | NA      | NA      | NA      | Allowed |
| Projecting                                                                                      | NA      | NA      | NA      | Allowed |
| Roof                                                                                            | NA      | NA      | NA      | Allowed |
| Wall                                                                                            | NA      | NA      | Allowed | Allowed |
| Nonpermanent (all types)*                                                                       | Allowed | Allowed | Allowed | Allowed |
| Notes:<br>NA means “not allowed.”<br>*Refer to § 157.008 for a list of nonpermanent sign types. |         |         |         |         |

C) Sign Dimensional Standards. The dimensions listed below represent the maximum aggregate square footage of all permanent sign faces on a site based on the land use and zoning district.

| Sign Types                | Land Uses     |            |             |                |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| Permanent                 | Single-Family | Two-Family | Multifamily | Nonresidential |
| R-1                       | NA            | NA         | NA          | 60 SF          |
| R-2                       | NA            | NA         | 32 SF       | 60 SF          |
| R-3                       | NA            | NA         | 60 SF       | 60 SF          |
| MU-1                      | NA            | NA         | 60 SF       | 250 SF         |
| MU-2                      | NA            | NA         | 60 SF       | 250 SF         |
| MU-3                      | NA            | NA         | 60 SF       | 300 SF         |
| Nonpermanent (all types)* |               |            |             |                |
| R-1                       | 32 SF         | 32 SF      | NA          | 60 SF          |
| R-2                       | 32 SF         | 32 SF      | 32 SF       | 60 SF          |
| R-3                       | 32 SF         | 32 SF      | 60 SF       | 60 SF          |
| MU-1                      | 32 SF         | 32 SF      | 60 SF       | 250 SF         |
| MU-2                      | 32 SF         | 32 SF      | 60 SF       | 250 SF         |
| MU-3                      | 32 SF         | 32 SF      | 60 SF       | 300 SF         |

#### § 157.006. Standards for Permanent Signs

##### A) Awning Sign.

1. Signs shall not exceed 75 percent of individual awning area or awning width.
2. One awning sign per side of structure.
3. The awning structure shall have a minimum 8-foot vertical clearance above sidewalk or pathway.

##### B) Canopy Sign.

1. Signs shall not exceed 75 percent of individual canopy area or canopy width.
2. One canopy sign per side of structure.
3. The canopy structure shall have a minimum 8-foot vertical clearance above sidewalk or pathway.
4. The sign may be placed on the front, above, or suspended below the canopy.

##### C) Electronic Message Centers (EMC)

1. General.
  - a. EMCs shall only be permitted on freestanding signs.
  - b. Non-conforming signs shall not be eligible for conversion to an electronic message center.
2. One electronic message center sign may be allowed per street frontage, not to exceed two EMCs per site.
3. EMCs shall adhere to the height standards for freestanding signs.
4. EMC Display.
  - a. EMCs shall maintain an 8 second minimum dwell time for any images and messages.



- b. Any change from one static display to another must be instantaneous and shall not include any distracting effects, such as dissolving, spinning, or fading. Animation, motion, or video displays are prohibited.
  - c. The images and messages displayed must be complete in themselves without continuation in content to the next image or message or to any other sign.
  - d. No EMC shall have a brightness level that exceeds 0.3 foot-candles above ambient light.
  - e. All EMC signs shall include certification from the sign's manufacturer that the sign has been preset to conform to the luminance levels noted above and these settings are protected from end users' manipulation by password protected software.
  - f. EMCs may use multiple colors within the display, but the use of color shall not create distraction or a hazard to the public health, safety, or welfare.
5. EMC text size and legibility. The following minimum text sizes shall apply to all EMCs. If a sign is located on a corner with streets having differing speed limits, the minimum text size shall be based on the standard for higher speed limit to ensure legibility.

| Minimum Text Sizes for EMC Signs |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Speed Limit of Adjacent Road     | Minimum Text Size |
| 25 to 34 MPH                     | 7"                |
| 25 to 44 MPH                     | 9"                |
| 45 to 54 MPH                     | 12"               |
| 55 MPH or more                   | 15"               |

- 6. Operation.
    - a. All EMCs shall be equipped with a means to immediately discontinue the display if it malfunctions.
    - b. The owner of an EMC must immediately cease operation of their sign when notified by the city that it fails to comply with the standards of this chapter.
- D) Freestanding (includes monument, pylon, and post and arm sign types).
- 1. The total area of one freestanding sign face shall not exceed 1 square foot of surface area for every one foot of lineal street frontage, not to exceed the maximum aggregate sign area per 157.005(C).
  - 2. One freestanding sign per street frontage.
  - 3. Height.
    - a. Post and arm signs shall not exceed 5 feet above existing grade.
    - b. Monument signs shall not exceed 8 feet above existing grade.
    - c. Pylon signs shall not exceed 25 feet above existing grade.
    - d. Electronic message center signs shall not exceed 8 feet above existing grade.
- E) Internal Wayfinding Sign.
- 1. Appropriate number of signs to provide directional assistance given size of site and circulation pattern as determined by the zoning administrator.
  - 2. Signs shall not exceed 8 feet in height.
  - 3. Internal wayfinding signs may come in the form of monument, pylon, or post and arm sign types.
  - 4. Signs shall be designed in a uniform manner (within individual subdivision or center) using consistent background color and typeface colors.
- F) Marquee.
- 1. Signs shall not exceed 75 percent of the size of the marquee.
  - 2. Placement.
    - a. Marquee structure shall have a minimum 8 feet vertical clearance above sidewalk or pathway.
    - b. May be placed on the front, above, or below the canopy.
- G) Projecting.



1. One projecting sign per façade that is visible from a street, alley, or customer parking lot.
  2. Projection.
    - a. Projecting signs shall not exceed 12 square feet in area.
    - b. Maximum distance between the sign and building face shall be one foot.
    - c. Horizontally oriented signs shall not project more than 8 feet outward from the face of the building.
    - d. Square or vertically oriented signs shall not project more than 3 feet outward from the face of the building.
    - e. Shall not be located directly over windows or in conflict with other signs or architectural features of the building.
    - f. Signs may project into public right-of-way for storefront buildings but shall not extend over the curb into the travel lane.
  3. Height.
    - a. Minimum 8 feet vertical clearance above sidewalk or pathway, and minimum 14 feet minimum vertical clearance when within 5 feet of a roadway.
    - b. Sign shall not extend above the building parapet, soffit, the eave line, or the roof of the building.
- H) Roof.
1. One roof sign per building.
  2. Roof signs shall not exceed 6 feet above the ridge line or parapet.
  3. The separation of the sign from the roofline to the bottom of the sign shall not be greater than one foot.
- I) Wall.
1. A minimum of 10 square feet up to a maximum of 1/3 of the building face.
  2. One sign per tenant per façade visible from an adjacent street, alley, or customer parking lot.
  3. Wall signs shall not stand more than 6 inches away from the wall.
- J) Window. Permanent window signs are limited to one-third of the surface area of the window to which they are affixed.

#### § 157.007. Multitenant Buildings

- A) The property owner shall be responsible for allocating the allowable sign area among the tenants of multi-tenant buildings. If the owner does not allocate the sign area, the city may do so based on the relative floor area or tenant frontage.
- B) The total surface area of all individual signs on the buildings shall not exceed the maximum square footage requirements per Sections 157.005(C).
- C) Master Sign Plan. A master sign plan is required to control total sign area and sign placement to help eliminate incongruities as tenants/occupants change.
  1. No permit shall be issued for an individual sign per Section 157.003 without a submittal of a master sign plan as part of the permit application.
  2. A master signage plan shall contain the following information:
    - a. A scaled site plan showing location of buildings, parking lots, driveways and landscaped areas and an accurate indication on the site plan of the proposed location of present and future signs of any type, whether requiring a permit or not.
    - b. Scaled color drawings clearly showing the location of the sign on the site or building elevation.
    - c. Dimensions of each sign per the plan including a summary table with said dimensions.
    - d. The plan shall be signed by all owners or their authorized agents in such form as required by the city or as a part of applicable and active restrictive covenants.
    - e. A master sign plan may be amended by filing administratively a new master sign plan that conforms to all requirements of this chapter.



- f. After approval of a master signage plan by the zoning administrator, no sign shall be erected, placed, painted, or maintained, except in conformance with approved master signage plan and such plan may be enforced in the same way as provisions of this chapter.

#### § 157.008. Standards for Nonpermanent Signs

- A) Applicability. Nonpermanent signs are not intended for permanent installation. Nonpermanent signs come in a variety of types, each of which are regulated by below. Where not specifically defined, nonpermanent signs shall be regulated per subsection (B), below.
- B) General Regulations.
  1. Location.
    - a. No nonpermanent sign may be placed in the right-of-way. Exception: bus bench and shelter signs, refer to subsections C.2. and C.3., below.
    - b. If attached to a building, sign shall be flat and shall not project above the roof line.
  2. Limit. No more than 4 nonpermanent signs may be placed on a site at any one time.
  3. Area. The maximum aggregate area of nonpermanent signs shall not exceed the area standards per 157.005(C).
  4. Per Minn. Stat. 211B.045, all noncommercial signs of any size may be posted in any number beginning 46 days before the state primary in a state general election year until 10 days following the state general election. The same time limitations shall apply to local elections.
  5. Maintenance. All nonpermanent signs must be maintained and shall be removed if material shows signs of wear such as fraying, fading, chipping, or other physical damage.
- C) Specific Regulations by Type of Nonpermanent Sign.
  1. A-frame (sandwich board).
    - a. Signs must leave a minimum of 6 feet of clear walkway on the sidewalk.
    - b. One sign allowed per business, ten square feet per side, four feet in height.
    - c. Such signs shall not be left on the sidewalk overnight.
  2. Banner Sign.
    - a. Banner signs may extend across a public street only by permission of the governing body and shall be subject to all related laws and ordinances.
    - b. One sign per property.
    - c. Signs may be supported by posts or stakes which are attached to the ground or securely attached to the face of a building.
  3. Bus Bench or Shelter Sign.
    - a. Signs may be installed on bus benches and/or shelters within city right-of-way, pursuant to a franchise authorized by the City Council.
    - b. One sign per bus bench or shelter.
  4. Feather Sign.
    - a. Sign shall be set back no less than 10 feet from the curb or street.
    - b. Two per site, provided there is at least 100 feet of separation between the signs.
  5. Flag.
    - a. Sign shall be set back no less than 10 feet from the curb or street.
    - b. The maximum aggregate area of all flag signs shall not exceed 32 square feet.
    - c. A flagpole shall not exceed a height of 25 feet.
  6. Freestanding.
    - a. The top of the sign shall not extend more than 6 feet above ground level.
    - b. The sign shall be set back no less than ten feet from the curb or street.
  7. Window Signs.
    - a. Location. No limit on the location of the sign except as otherwise specified in this Code.
    - b. Limit. Window signs must not consume more than 1/3 of the window area.

#### § 157.009. Prohibited Signs

- A) Prohibited Sign Types.



1. Billboards.
  2. Flashing lights.
  3. Inflatable signs.
  4. Off-premises signs.
  5. Rotating signs.
  6. Signs on or attached to mobile equipment where the sign is a principal use of the equipment on either a nonpermanent or permanent basis.
  7. Signs which are of a size, location, movement, content, coloring, or manner of illumination which may be confused with or construed as a traffic control device, or which hide from view any traffic or street sign or signal or which obstruct the view in any direction at a street or road intersection.
- B) Prohibited signs are subject to removal by the city at the owner's expense.

#### § 157.010. Exemptions

- A) The following are not regulated by this ordinance.
1. Building addresses.
  2. Historic plaques.
  3. Inflatable children's play equipment.
  4. Murals.
  5. Seasonal decorations, including inflatable seasonal decorations.
  6. Sculptures.
  7. Traffic signs.

#### § 157.011. Nonconforming Signs

- A) A nonconforming sign is any sign that was legally established and maintained in compliance with the provisions of all applicable laws in effect at the time of original installation but that does not now comply with the provisions of this chapter. It is the intent of this chapter to recognize that the eventual elimination of signs that do not comply with the provisions of this chapter is as important as the prohibition of new signs that would violate these standards.
- B) General Requirements. A nonconforming sign may not be:
1. Changed to another nonconforming sign.
  2. Expanded.
  3. Reestablished after a business discontinued for more than one year.
  4. Reestablished after damage or destruction of more than 50 percent of its value, as determined by the building official, and no building permit has been applied for within 180 days of when the damage occurred.
- C) Amortization. After the date of enactment of this chapter, nonconforming signs located within any zoning district shall be brought into compliance with this chapter if said sign is to be expanded.
- D) Maintenance and Repair. Non-conforming signs and sign structures may be maintained and repaired.

#### § 157.012. Abandoned Signs

An abandoned sign is a sign that has been inactive for a period of at least one year. An abandoned sign shall be removed by the owner or lessee of the premises upon which the sign is located when the business that it advertises is no longer conducted on the premises. If the owner or lessee fails to remove the sign, the zoning administrator shall give the owner 30 days written notice to remove it. Upon failure to comply with the notice, the zoning administrator may have the sign removed at the owner's expense.

#### § 157.013. Enforcement

The provisions of this chapter shall be enforced and administered in accordance with the provisions of the Zoning Code.



§ 157.014. Variances

The city may grant a variance to provide relief to a property owner when the strict enforcement of the regulations for sign size, setbacks, height, and the like imposes practical difficulty on the property owner's ability to reasonably display a message. Financial considerations are not justified for variances. The procedure for reviewing a variance shall follow that process outlined for zoning variances in Section 154.004(E).

§ 157.015. Substitution Clause

Any sign allowed under this section may contain, in lieu of any other message or copy, any lawful noncommercial message or copy.

§ 157.016. Severability

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this section or its application to any person or situation should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by a court or competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this section or its application to any other person or situation.

**SECTION 2.** Delete subsection (J) from § 154.001 Intent and Purpose and renumber accordingly.

~~(J) Establish a comprehensive system of sign controls governing the display, design, construction, installation and maintenance of signs and to promote the orderly and effective display of outdoor advertising;~~

**SECTION 3.** Delete the following definitions from § 154.003 Definitions.

~~LUMINANCE. The physical measure of brightness or light emanating from an object with respect to its size. The unit of measurement for luminance is nits, which is the total amount of light emitted from a sign divided by the surface area of the sign (candela per square meter).~~

~~SIGN. A sign which lawfully existed at the adoption of this chapter but does not conform to its requirements.~~

~~SIGN. Any written message, name, identification, description, display, illustration, pictorial presentation, number, decoration, flag, banner or other device which is affixed to or represented directly or indirectly upon a building, structure or land in view of the general public and which directs attention to an object, product, place, activity, person, institution, organization or business. A sign shall be considered as a structure or a part of a structure for the purpose of applying yard and height regulations.~~

~~SIGN (TYPES). (see FIGURE 18)~~

~~ADDRESS. A sign consisting of identification numbers only, either in written or numerical form.~~

~~ANIMATED. A sign with a progression of frames which give the illusion of motion, moving objects, moving patterns or bands of lights and shapes; or that gives the visual impression of movement.~~

~~AUXILIARY. A sign that has a purpose secondary to the use of the lot on which it is located, such as "telephone," "drive through," "cash machine," "air," "entrance," "exit," parking restrictions, security warnings or similar directives.~~

~~AWNING. A sign attached to, affixed to, or painted on an awning~~



—~~BACKLIGHTING. An illuminated sign where the light source which illuminates the wall behind individual sign letters is hidden from view. The sign letters are opaque and appear as a silhouette against the lighted surface.~~

—~~BEACON LIGHT. Any light with one or more beams directed into the atmosphere or directed at one or more points not on the same zone lot as the light source; also, any light with one or more beams that rotate or move.~~

—~~BENCH. A sign attached to a bench located on the street and designed for seating while waiting at a bus stop.~~

—~~BILLBOARD. An off-premises sign which consists of one or more sign faces primarily intended by the sign owner to be available for sale, lease or rental for the purpose of promoting any business or other activity which is not situated on the same property as the billboard or of promoting any product or service which is not primarily available on the same property as the billboard; and incidentally used for the display of public service messages.~~

—~~BUILDING MARKER. Any sign indicating the name of a building and date and incidental information about its construction, which sign is cut into a masonry surface or made of bronze or other permanent material.~~

—~~CANOPY. A sign attached to, affixed to, or painted on a canopy.~~

—~~CHANGEABLE SIGNS—~~

—~~MANUALLY ACTIVATED. Signs whose alphabetic, pictographic, or symbolic informational content can be changed or altered by manual means.~~

—~~ELECTRONICALLY ACTIVATED. Signs whose alphabetic, pictographic, or symbolic informational content can be changed or altered on a fixed display surface composed of electronically illuminated or mechanically driven changeable segments. Includes the following two types:~~

—~~COMPUTER CONTROLLED VARIABLE MESSAGE ELECTRONIC SIGNS. Signs whose informational content can be changed or altered by means of computer-driven electronic impulses.~~

—~~FIXED MESSAGE ELECTRONIC SIGNS. Signs whose basic informational content has been preprogrammed to include only certain types of information projection, such as time, temperature, predictable traffic conditions, or other content subject to prior programming.~~

—~~COMMERCIAL MESSAGE. Any sign wording, logo, or other representation that, directly or indirectly, names, advertises, or calls attention to a business, product, service, or other commercial activity.~~

—~~DIRECT LIGHTING. An illuminated sign where the source of light is visible.~~

—~~DIRECTIONAL. A sign which contains the name and address of a site, directional arrows and possibly the distance to the location of that site.~~

—~~FLAG. Any fabric or flexible material attached to or designed to be flown from a flagpole or other similar structure.~~

—~~FLASHING. Any illuminated sign which emits an intermittent or flashing light, or creates the illusion of intermittent or flashing light by means of animation which is not a "Changeable Sign."~~

—~~FREESTANDING. A sign on a frame, pole, or other, support structure not attached to any building.~~



- ~~IDENTIFICATION. A sign containing principally the name of the individual or establishment occupying the premises, and which also may include the street address, telephone number or other information identifying the use.~~
- ~~ILLUMINATED. Any sign which has characters, letters, figures, designs or outlines which are either internally or externally illuminated by an artificial light source.~~
- ~~MARQUEE. Any permanent roof like structure projecting beyond a building or extending along and projecting beyond the wall of the building, generally designed and constructed to provide protection from the weather.~~
- ~~MARQUEE ATTACHMENT. Any sign attached to, in any manner, or made a part of a marquee.~~
- ~~MONUMENT. A sign supported primarily by an internal structural framework or integrated into landscaping or other solid structural features other than support poles.~~
- ~~MURAL. A work of graphic art painted on a building wall, which contains no commercial advertising or logos, and which does not serve to advertise or promote any business, product, activity, service, interest or entertainment.~~
- ~~NAME PLATE. Any sign which states the name or address or both of the business or occupant of the lot where the sign is placed.~~
- ~~NONCONFORMING SIGN. See 'Non-Conforming Sign'~~
- ~~OFF PREMISE. Any sign that advertises an establishment, merchandise, service, or entertainments which is not sold produced, manufactured, or furnished at the property on which said sign is located.~~
- ~~ON PREMISE. A sign whose message is related to the premises or the activity and use occurring on the premises on which the sign is located.~~
- ~~PORTABLE. A sign that is movable and not permanently attached to a structure or the ground. Portable signs include sandwich board signs, portable reader boards on wheels that display changeable letters, trailer signs, gas-filled balloons, and similar signs.~~
- ~~PROJECTING. A sign attached to and projecting out from a building face or wall, generally at right angles to the building. These signs include signs that are totally in the right of way, partially in the right of way, or fully on private property.~~
- ~~PUBLIC. Any sign defined as a traffic control sign in the Highway Traffic Regulation Act, any identification sign installed in a public park by a public authority or any other identification, regulatory or warning sign approved by the city for installation on public land.~~
- ~~RESIDENTIAL. Any sign located in a district zoned for residential uses that contains no commercial message except advertising for goods or services legally offered on the premises where the sign is located, if offering such service at such location conforms to all requirements of the zoning ordinance.~~
- ~~ROOF. A sign erected on a roof, or signs that project above the highest point of the roofline, parapet, or fascia of the building.~~
- ~~ROTATING. A sign or portion of a sign which in any physical part or in total turns about on an axis, rotates, revolves or is otherwise in motion, including without limitation a multi-vision sign.~~
- ~~TEMPORARY. A sign installed for a limited time and not constructed or intended for long-term use.~~



~~—BALLOON. A sign consisting of a bag or similar device made of lightweight material supported by helium, hot, or pressurized air, which is greater than 18 inches in diameter.~~

~~—BANNER. A sign made of fabric or other similar nonrigid material with no enclosing framework or electrical components that is supported or anchored on two or more edges or at all four corners.~~

~~—CONSTRUCTION. A sign placed at a construction site identifying the project or the name of the architect, engineer, contractor, financier or other involved parties.~~

~~—PENNANT. Any lightweight plastic, fabric, or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, suspended from a rope, wire, or string, usually in series, designed to move in the wind. A pennant for purposes of this chapter is considered part of temporary signage.~~

~~—POLITICAL. A sign which advertises or promotes a candidate for public office, a political party or an issue to be considered in a public election.~~

~~—REAL ESTATE. A sign which advertises the development, sale, lease or rental of land or buildings.~~

~~—STRINGER. A sign that is made of commercial or decorative pennants, flags or streamers which are attached to a string, rope or cable.~~

~~—WALL. A sign mounted flat against a wall, or painted on the wall of a building or structure with the exposed face of the sign in a plane parallel to the face of the wall.~~

~~—WINDOW. A sign posted, painted, placed, or affixed to the interior or exterior of a window. Signs that face a window exposed to public view and located within 12 inches of the window are considered a window sign.~~

~~—SIGN (ELEMENTS)—~~

~~—FACE. That portion of a sign upon which the message, advertisement or similar display is presented, as distinguished from the structural members.~~

~~—HEIGHT. The distance measured perpendicularly from the highest point of the sign structure to the grade level of the ground directly below that point or the grade level of the center line of the nearest adjacent roadbed, whichever grade level is higher.~~

~~—STRUCTURE. A structure including the supports, uprights, bracing and framework which supports or is capable of supporting a sign.~~

**SECTION 4.** Delete Tables 10 and 11 in Section in Appendix A.

**SECTION 5.** Remove Figures 1, 7, 18 in Appendix B and renumber accordingly.

**SECTION 6.** This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, by the City Council of the City of North St. Paul, Minnesota.

**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Furlong, Mayor



ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Stark, City Manager

Summary published in Review: \_\_\_\_\_