



The Next Generation of Parks

Minneapolis Riverfront

minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com

A competition sponsored by The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and The Minneapolis Parks Foundation, with creative partners The University of Minnesota College of Design and Walker Art Center

15 December 2010

How do parks impact the civic and economic health of Minneapolis?



Minneapolis values our parks. In a 2009 study of Minneapolis residents, 99 percent see our parks as “a unique and valuable asset for city.”

The same number think the Park System plays an important role in serving the public by offering free or low-cost recreational facilities and activities, and 96 percent think our parks and lakes play a key role in the physical health and wellness of city residents.

Beyond health and recreational opportunities, parks provide additional benefits to businesses. According to the Trust for Public Land, **small businesses rank access to open space, parks and recreation number one when choosing a new business location.** Little wonder then that public investment in Minneapolis' Central Riverfront yielded such dramatic results.



MINNEAPOLIS PARKS FOUNDATION

COLLEGE OF
DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WALKER ART CENTER

CASE STUDY SNAPSHOT | Minneapolis Central Riverfront

Guiding Goals and Principles

- Remove barriers to revitalization and add infrastructure necessary to support public access and new development.
- Remove incompatible land uses, rail lines, blighting influences and pollution.
- Install or renovate roads, bridges and utilities needed for access and service.

Accomplishments

- **Created over 120 acres of new riverfront parkland** from 1977-2002.
- Connected both banks to the 52-mile Minneapolis Grand Rounds parkway system.
- Created the **St. Anthony Falls Historic District**, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Preserved and appropriately reused historic structures; over 80 buildings rehabilitated over the past 30 years.

Economic Impact

- Created a **vibrant new mixed-use community** with enough housing to be a true neighborhood:
 - **Over 4,000 new housing units** completed or in construction
- Created an **economic powerhouse** generating jobs, taxes & economic activity:
 - **8,300 jobs preserved** and **1,400 jobs created**
 - 4.2 million square feet of new office, commercial & industrial space
- **Increased Real Estate Taxes** (Estimated Market Value) from **\$25 M in 1994 to \$232 M in 2005**.

Strategic Public Investment (multiple sources)

\$289 million public investment
**leveraged private investment
of \$1.382 billion**

