Minneapolis, Minnesota is situated along both sides of the Mississippi River. Known as the City of Lakes, Minneapolis has more than seven lakes within its boundaries.

Minneapolis Neighborhoods

Located in the center of the city along the Mississippi River, Downtown East contains mainly commercial, industrial, and recreational land. Although a small portion of this part of downtown is currently dedicated to residential housing, new housing is under construction. Riverfront Park is the site of the new Guthrie Theater and the Mill City Museum, which relates the history of the flour milling industry in Minneapolis. The Metrodome and Target Center, home to major sports teams and concerts, are located nearby. In the Downtown West area, buildings are connected by a system of glass-enclosed bridges, the skyways, to protect pedestrians during winter. Nicollet Mall has a concentration of retail and office buildings along the street and is also home to the Minneapolis Orchestra. Although most occupied housing units in Downtown West are rental units, owner-occupied units are rising in both proportion and numbers.

Of the almost 80 neighborhoods in the city, those surrounding the downtown and the University of Minnesota campus, such as Loring Park, Stevens Square-Loring Heights, Elliot Park, North Loop, Marcy-Holmes, and Como, contain primarily rental properties. Old industrial buildings and warehouses in the North Loop have been transformed into residential use. Many of the larger homes in Como have been converted into student housing. The largely owner-occupied neighborhoods near the many lakes on the western and southern sides of the city, such as Cedar-Isles-Dean, Lynnhurst, Kenwood, Fulton, Diamond Lake, Kenny, and East Isles, feature houses that exceed the city’s median value. Kenwood has large Mediterranean, colonial, and arts and crafts homes, many of which face Lake of the Isles. The Linden Hills neighborhood, also in southwest Minneapolis, was developed in the 1880s to entice homebuyers to leave downtown for cottages on Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet, although most of the original cottages have been replaced by large bungalows and Tudors. Houses in Page were built in the late 1920s and 1930s and are primarily two-story structures in the colonial style. Houses in Field, Northrop, and Regina are mostly small single-family houses built before 1940. Most of the houses in the relatively hilly neighborhood of Audubon Park were built in the 1940s.

Parks and Recreation

Among the approximately 160 parks located in Minneapolis, Lyndale Park Rose Garden, the second oldest public rose garden in the United States, displays 100 varieties of roses. The Thomas Sadler Roberts Bird Sanctuary is also located in Lyndale Park. Six skate parks are available for skateboarders. Five parks offer off-leash recreation areas for dogs. The Chain of Lakes, consisting of 5 connected lakes, is attached by a 12-mile system of walking and biking paths. Most of the lakes have other amenities available, including beaches and water sports. In addition to the Chain of Lakes, Minneapolis’s other lakes provide various recreational amenities.

Minneapolis has a variety of museums, including the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Museum of Russian Art, Walker Art Center and Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, American Swedish Institute, Hennepin History Museum, Minneapolis Streetcar Museum, and the Bakken Museum for the study of electricity and magnetism. In addition, the University of Minnesota—Minneapolis campus has the Katherine E. Nash Gallery, Weisman Art Museum, and James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History.

Professional sports teams in Minneapolis include the Minnesota Twins of Major League Baseball, Minnesota Vikings of the National Football League, Minnesota Timberwolves of the National Basketball Association, and Lynx of the Women’s National Basketball Association.

Education

Minneapolis educates 34,000 students in 87 schools, including 43 elementary schools, 7 middle schools, and 7 high schools. Minneapolis offers specialized educational opportunities for students with particular needs. In addition, Minneapolis offers an array of magnet and community school options. The Minnesota Department of Education regulates the 35 charter schools that operate in Minneapolis.

Eleven schools offer advanced degrees in Minneapolis. The University of Minnesota—Minneapolis campus, the largest university in the city, has a medical school as well as schools of nursing, allied health, pharmacy, public health, and dentistry. North Central University, St. Mary’s of Minnesota, Globe University/Minnesota School of Business, Herzing College-Minneapolis, Minneapolis College of Arts, Dunwoody College of Technology, and Augsburg College offer bachelor degrees and some masters programs. Walden University is an online university. Hennepin Technical College and Minneapolis Community and Technical College offer associate degrees.

Minneapolis Stats

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area</td>
<td>3,172,012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per capita personal income, Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington</td>
<td>$44,237</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSA (2006):</td>
<td>$44,237</td>
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Health Care

Minneapolis is served by six acute care hospitals with more than 1,800 staffed acute care beds, including three dedicated to pediatric care and a Veterans Administration medical center. The VA also offers 104 extended care beds. Minneapolis has other specialized health care facilities that offer nine beds for eye care, 54 long-term acute care beds, and 38 adult inpatient rehabilitation beds.