

Community Publications: *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, 651-222-5011, www.twincities.com; *St. Paul Villager and Avenues*, 757 Snelling Ave S, 651-699-1462, www.villagercomm.com; *Sun Newspapers*, www.mn.sun.com; *The Bugle*, P.O. Box 8126, 651-646-5369; *Minnesota Women's Press*, 771 Raymond Ave, 651-646-3968

Public Transportation: Information about all public transportation can be accessed at 612-373-3333, www.MetroTransit.org. Buses generally run along main thoroughfares, but routes and schedules do change, so be sure to check the web site or call.

DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

DOWNTOWN/LOWERTOWN

Boundaries: **North:** University Ave; **West:** Marion St, Irvine Ave; **South:** Kellogg Blvd, Mississippi River; **East:** I-94, Lafayette Rd

The beauty of living downtown is that most everything is within walking distance—although, since St. Paul is built on hills, people sometimes opt to take the bus up and then walk down. Bus service is convenient; you can take the bus anywhere within downtown for fifty cents, or, use it to get to downtown Minneapolis, the Mall of America, or the Rosedale Shopping Mall. In fact, immediate amenities are so accessible by public transportation that many residents don't even own a car. However, since downtown shopping is limited, residents who otherwise live blissfully car-free recommend joining "HourCar" (www.hourcar.org), a nonprofit pay-as-you-go car sharing service managed by the St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium (www.spnec.org). HourCars are conveniently stashed in a couple of Downtown and Lowertown parking ramps and near the University of Minnesota. (See the **Transportation** chapter in this book.)

The other beauty of living in **Downtown** is all the new housing. While Downtown has long been dotted with high-rise apartment buildings containing both moderate-rent and luxury apartments, at the time of the writing of this book, many of the old corniced and dentiled office buildings are being converted into condos. They include the 1908 Shubert Theater building adjacent to the Fitzgerald Theater, home stage of the Prairie Home Companion radio show. All in all, there are over 2500 condos either in the works or planned for this district, where units are generally described as "cozy" (as small as 370 square feet) and often equipped with space-saving Murphy beds. Though the units are decked out with the same high-end appliances and trendy finishes, prices tend to be lower than in similar units in Minneapolis, the smallest starting at \$85,000 in 2006. Most of these units are being targeted at first-time homebuyers or those who work downtown. The State Capitol building and state offices are here, as are headquarters for a few large companies. Many of these offices are connected by skyways (enclosed breezeways that connect building to building on the level of the second or third floors). On weekdays these skyways bustle with restaurants and food-courts, coffee shops, grocery

stores, a fresh fruit and vegetable stand, video rentals, a branch library, and branch post office. Most of the shops are closed in the evenings, however, and stay shuttered on weekends and holidays. Three hotels, the Central Library, Children's Museum, RiverCentre, and Xcel Energy Center can also be reached through the skyways, and the Science Museum is just a short jog across Kellogg Boulevard from the system. Download a map of the skyway system from the City of St. Paul's web site at www.stpaul.gov/maps.

Despite the weekday buzz in the skyways, Downtown is not a world-class shopping destination, though with more people living in the district, that may change. Already, Downtown has a full-service small grocery, drug store, fruit market, discount bookstore, and Macy's. (For more specialized shopping, see the Shopping Districts section of the **Shopping for the Home** chapter.)

What the district does have is nightlife. The Ordway Theater (www.ordway.org), with its concerts and Broadway musicals, is in the center of downtown on Rice Park, and there's a wellspring of nearby restaurants, clubs, and coffee shops to go to before and after performances. In Lowertown, Fourth Street, between Sibley and Wall streets, is turning into a Midwest "Tin Pan Alley," with venues that showcase live music, from touring bands to local artists' jam sessions. The Minnesota Museum of American Art at Kellogg and Market Street (www.mmaa.org) draws a crowd all year for its "ArtHere First Fridays" that feature local artists and live bands. (For more information, see the **Cultural Life** chapter.) To stay on top of the St. Paul scene, be sure to check out www.stpaulafterhours.com or sign up for their e-mailed newsletters.

In the 1970s, developers completed several high-rise apartments and renovations, including an overhaul of **Lowertown**, the city's unique warehouse district and artists' colony, located near the river, between Robert Street and Broadway, on the east side of downtown. Lowertown takes its name from a nearby steamboat stop called Lower Landing. With over 500 sculptors, potters, painters, and performance artists living in the district, it's one of the largest concentrations of working artists in any city in the Midwest. Each April and October, the members of the Art Collective open their studio doors for the St. Paul Art Crawl. Check www.lowertown.org or www.stpaulartcrawl.org for more information. Site of one of St. Paul's two early river landings, this neighborhood contains large, old brick buildings that have been converted into offices, artists' lofts, and apartments. New construction is going up here as well, including 44 condo units being built above the new year-round indoor farmers' market at 5th and Wall Streets.

Open space, while not as plentiful as elsewhere in the Twin Cities, is available in five small city parks tucked in amid the tall buildings, and in a regional park on Harriet Island. Rice Park is a formal square bordered by the Ordway Music Theatre, Landmark Center, the Central Library/James J. Hill Library, and the grand old St. Paul Hotel. More of a plaza than a park, the ice sculpture contest is held here during the St. Paul Winter Carnival. Kellogg Park is a narrow strip of greenspace that runs between the edge of the river bluff and Kellogg Boulevard, from the Robert Street Bridge to the Wabasha Street Bridge. A popular setting for weddings, it includes sculptures depicting St. Paul's history. Mears Park is a beautifully landscaped square at 5th and Sibley that features a

bandshell, and is home to popular summer concerts. Visit in the spring for a stunning display of thousands of tulips. The newest downtown parks are Landmark Plaza located along Market Street, where there is an ice rink in winter, and Wacouta Commons, a neighborhood greenspace in the new North Quadrant development. Harriet Island Regional Park is just a short walk from downtown across the Wabasha Bridge. The region's leading venue for outdoor festivals, the St. Paul Yacht Club, is located here, as is the University of Minnesota Showboat and the Padelford tourist boats.

Historic and cultural sites and annual events abound in downtown, making it easy to entertain out-of-town visitors. People flock to events at the RiverCentre auditorium and convention center (www.xcelenergycenter.com), the Ordway (www.Ordway.org) and Fitzgerald theaters (www.fitzgeraldtheaterpublicradio.org), the Science Museum of Minnesota (www.smm.org), the Children's Museum (www.MCM.org), and the Minnesota History Museum (www.mnhs.org), and to numerous festivals throughout the year. During the summer, on Friday and Saturday evenings, Kellogg Boulevard is closed off between Robert Street and Wabasha for antique car shows, complete with food vendors and live music. The car shows are an intimate tête-à-tête compared to the serious food-fest, the Taste of Minnesota, which is held over the Fourth of July weekend. Then restaurants from all over the Twin Cities set up booths in front of the Capitol, live bands play throughout the park, and each evening ends in fireworks. There are more fireworks in January during the 120-year-old St. Paul Winter Carnival, a major event that includes an ice castle, sled dog races, parades, and a treasure hunt. The ice castles have always been the highlights of the Winter Carnivals, and throughout the event's history, palaces of all sizes and designs have been constructed. The 1888 ice castle, at 14 stories, was the tallest building in the city at the time; the 1992 ice palace, at 15 stories, was the tallest ice palace on record in the world at the time. (For pictures of some of the more notable ice castles, check out the Winter Carnival web page, www.winter-carnival.com/history/icepalaces.html.) Those who enjoy a wee bit of rowdiness will love St. Paul's raucous St. Patrick's Day street party. Rooted in the city's Irish heritage, the festivities kick off at noon with a parade down Fourth Street to Rice Park (www.stpatsassoc.org), and continue into the night with (it seems) nearly everyone in town wearing a "Kiss Me I'm Irish" button and partaking of green beer.

Web Site: Capitol River District Council (District 17), 445 Minnesota St, Suite 524, 651-221-0488, www.capitolrivercouncil.org

Zip Codes: 55101, 55102, 55107

Post Offices: Main Office, 180 E Kellogg Blvd; Pioneer Station, 141 E 4th St; Uptown-Skyway, 415 W Wabasha St; Riverview Station, 292 Eva St

Police: Central District Patrol Team, 651-291-1111 (non-emergency), www.stpaul.gov/depts/police

Emergency Hospitals: Regions Hospital, 640 Jackson St, 651-254-2191, www.RegionsHospital.com; HealthEast St. Joseph's Hospital, 69 W Exchange St, 651-232-3000, www.healtheast.org

Library: www.stpaul.lib.mn.us; Central, 90 W 4th St, 651-266-7000

Community Resources: Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, 345 Washington St, 651-224-4222, www.ordway.org; Landmark Center, 75 W 5th St, 651-292-3233, www.landmarkcenter.org; Minnesota Children's Museum, 10 W 7th St, 651-225-6000, www.MCM.org; Minnesota History Center and Minnesota Historical Society, 345 W Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, 651-296-6126, 651-282-6073 (TTY) or 800-657-3773 (toll free), www.mnhs.org; Minnesota Museum of American Art, 50 W Kellogg Blvd, 651-266-1030, www.mmaa.org; Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W Kellogg Blvd, 651-221-9444, www.smm.org

Parks: www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks; Harriet Island Regional Park

Public Transportation: 612-373-3333, www.MetroTransit.org; numerous city bus lines run through downtown, and you can get around downtown by bus on most major streets. Pick up a free transit map at the MCTO store in the American National Bank building at 5th and Minnesota sts.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICTS

SUMMIT HILL DISTRICT

CROCUS HILL
SUMMIT AVENUE
SUMMIT HILL

Boundaries: North: Summit Ave; **West:** Ayd Mill Rd; **East:** Ramsey St; **South/East:** I-35E; **South:** Summit Hill is separated from W 7th by the bluffs

St. Paul's counterpart to Kenwood in Minneapolis, the neighborhoods of the Southwest district have the ambiance of a library filled with leather-bound books: old, hefty, and rich with historical detail. Variations include the more trendy east end of Summit, and the more academic west end, but all the people who live here have access to the restaurants and shops of Grand Avenue, one of St. Paul's great pleasures. The one surprise is the number of rental units contained within the huge old houses.

The mansions and historic buildings poised high on **Summit Hill** epitomize the grandeur and wealth of boom-era St. Paul. The traditional home of the city's aristocracy, this broad boulevard is lined with superior examples of many styles of turn-of-the-century architecture and ornamentation, including a possible decorative coffin on the roof of Number 456 (on the north side of the street, just west of the University Club). Summit's first mansion, erected in 1862 at 432, also created quite a stir when it was built because it incorporated those new-fangled features—steam heating, hot and cold water, and gas lighting.

In the 1880s and 1890s the Crocus Hill and Grand Hill neighborhoods also became fashionable locations for wealthy families. **Crocus Hill** (south of Summit) is still one of the Twin Cities' most desirable and eccentric neighborhoods. If you buy a house in this maze of cobblestone streets, it may come with a ghost, but your garage could be four blocks away. Crocus Hill, the street, is

only half a block long, which is long enough for most deliverymen, because house numbering is not consecutive. One is the first house built on the street, but the second house, built at the opposite end of the street, is Four. In between are Twelve, Two, Eleven, and Sixteen—and Five is around the corner. Only two of the early 1880s houses remain; the rest were built between the 1920s and '40s. Crocus Hill, the neighborhood, extends to St. Clair, and, mercifully, its streets do employ sequential numbering.

All five miles of **Summit Avenue**, in the Summit Hill District, are protected, either as a national or local Historic District. Out of 440 original homes built along this avenue in the late 1800s, an amazing 373 have survived. Summit Avenue has also survived as St. Paul's power address. The Minnesota governor's official residence is at 1006, although recent governors have chosen not to live there. Railroad baron James J. Hill's 45-room red sandstone mansion, a few blocks away at 240 Summit, was the largest house in the Midwest when it was built in 1891. Across the street is the Renaissance-style Catholic Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, which looks across at the other domed building in town, the Minnesota State Capitol. The cathedral is host to many concerts, the most popular of which is the annual Christmas performance of Handel's *Messiah*. F. Scott Fitzgerald was born in the neighborhood, and returned to write *This Side of Paradise* in a shabby-genteel red stone row house on the corner of Summit and Dale. You can learn about these and many of the other historic buildings and gardens by joining one of the Minnesota Historical Society's guided walking tours, held every Saturday from May through September. Another tour called "These Old Houses" is held every other year on the first Sunday after Mother's Day, and is popular with locals and tourists alike. Contact the Minnesota Historical Society for information, 651-296-6126, www.mhs.org.

Step away from Summit Avenue and you'll find more than a museum that pays homage to the lavish excesses of the late 19th century. Residential opportunities abound in Summit Hill, and not everyone living here is a millionaire. The neighborhood's last housing boomlet, in the 1920s, included the building of many apartments, particularly along the streetcar lines on major thoroughfares like Grand Avenue. In addition, during the Depression of the 1930s a lot of families found they could no longer afford to live in their expensive homes, and subsequently many single-family houses were converted into duplexes or rooming houses, which remain today, making up much of the housing that's available in Summit Hill. While vacancy rates are low, it is possible to find an apartment with refinished hardwood floors, tall windows, and fireplaces. The least expensive apartments generally are found on Cathedral Hill. Also try the area south of Grand Avenue for more modest housing. People from all walks of life live here, including faculty, staff, and students from nearby colleges.

Proximity to Grand Avenue, one of the Twin Cities' most attractive commercial districts, is another perk to living in Summit Hill. Grand Avenue is loaded with interesting restaurants, specialty stores, taverns and bookstores. The southwest districts' principal summer festival, Grand Old Days, attracts crowds from all over the Twin Cities. Then the street is closed off and its entire length becomes one long party, with live bands, food, beer, games, a parade, and great people watching.

However, the area's popular shopping, coupled with the presence of so many apartments, has created three problems: burglaries, traffic, and parking. Be assured the St. Paul police department is working on these issues. A word to the wise, don't park your car even for a minute in a space that requires a resident's sticker. For more information about shopping in this district, see the **Shopping for the Home** chapter.

Web Sites: Summit Hill Association (District 16), 860 St. Clair Ave, 651-222-1222, www.summithillassociation.org

Zip Codes: 55102, 55105

Post Offices: Main Office, 180 E Kellogg Blvd; Elway Station, 1715 W 7th

Police Non-Emergency: Western District Patrol Team, North: 651-266-5512, South: 651-266-5549; General Information, 651-291-1111; www.stpaul.gov/depts/police

Emergency Hospitals: Regions Hospital, 640 Jackson St, 651-254-2191, www.RegionsHospital.com; HealthEast St. Joseph's Hospital, 69 W Exchange St, 651-232-3000, www.healtheast.org

Libraries: www.stpaul.lib.mn.us; Central, 90 W 4th St, 651-266-7000; Rondo Outreach Community Library, University and Dale

Community Resources: James J. Hill House and Library (www.mnhs.org/places/sites/jjhh); F. Scott Fitzgerald sites at 481 Laurel, 240 Summit, 260 Summit, University Club at 420 Summit, 475 Summit, 501 Grand Hill, 626 Goodrich (www.stpaulcvb.org); Cathedral of St. Paul (www.cathedral.saintpaul.org); St. Paul Curling Club, 470 Selby Ave, 651-224-7408

Parks: www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks; Linwood Park and Recreation Center
Public Transportation: 612-373-3333, www.MetroTransit.org; buses travel along Selby, Grand, St. Clair, Dale and Snelling

SUMMIT-UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

SELBY-DALE

CATHEDRAL HILL/RAMSEY HILL (SOUTH OF SUMMIT)

Boundaries: North: University Ave; **West:** Lexington Pkwy; **South:** Summit Ave; **East:** Irvine Ave, Marion St (also includes buildings on the north side of Irvine St located immediately below Summit Ave, east of Ramsey St)

Much like Summit Hill to the south, the streets of Summit-University contain many of the city's oldest buildings, including stone row houses, fortress-like Victorian wood frames, and elegant 19th-century brick storefronts and row houses.

"Before there was Interstate 94 . . . there was Rondo," said Mary Sanders in a 1992 book that details the destruction of this district's legendary Rondo neighborhood by the construction of I-94. The book, *In Voices: A Collection of Writings and Stories for a Diverse Community*, compiled by Mark Clark and available from the Minnesota Historical Society, tells the story of Rondo Avenue, which was the heart of St. Paul's largest black neighborhood. When the freeway went through, the Cedar-Riverside community, to the west, was able to rally

and find a way to remain more or less intact—Rondo was not. The construction erased it, displacing thousands of African Americans and leaving a legacy of poverty and crime that continues today, especially in the half of this district that is north of I-94.

More like two distinct neighborhoods than one, “Summit-U” straddles the freeway. The north side is heavily commercial and crime-ridden, though currently the subject of much transit-oriented development, including one of the nation’s most unusual mixed-use projects, the Rondo Community Outreach Library and Apartments at University and Dale. With three floors of apartments above the library, it will be a home for almost 100 renters and a home base for many small businesses as well as reading literacy and education programs. It is one of a handful of such projects in the nation in which a library shares a facility with a housing development.

The south of I-94 side of the district, at least once you get a few blocks away from the freeway, is the part we think of as trendy. Stretching out from the St. Paul Cathedral to Lexington, it, too, was a hotbed of porno shops and crime as recently as the early 1990s. At one point, someone even bombed the Selby-Dale police station and blew out all the windows in the neighborhood. Today, those times are past, and the corner of Selby and Dale has become the center of one of St. Paul’s most charming residential and entertainment quarters. Houses and brownstone apartments have been restored to the glory of their golden days, and pricey restaurants like The Vintage are always full.

Selby and Dale streets create a clear-cut crossroad through this neighborhood. Selby, a main thoroughfare, has been lined with businesses and apartments since the 1880s. Dale acts as the dividing line between modest homes on the west, many of which were built in the 1960s or ’70s, and grand houses on the east in the area known as **Ramsey Hill** or **Cathedral Hill**.

The Ramsey Hill neighborhood (www.ramseyhill.org), east of Dale to the Cathedral, between Summit and I-94, is one of the largest, best preserved contiguous Victorian districts in North America and the largest and oldest Registered National Historic District in Minnesota. Every other year the Ramsey Hill Association sponsors the Gables Gardens and Ghosts House & Garden Tour to showcase this neighborhood’s beauty and rich history. While most of these properties are single-family homes, in some of them you can find huge apartments with “character” (sometimes even fireplaces) at rents that are lower than in Uptown in Minneapolis.

If you’re in the market to buy, **Selby-Dale** used to be a great place to find a fixer-upper, especially for those looking for two-story frame houses with front porches and picture windows. That isn’t so much the case anymore, though with some homes as small as 700 square feet, this can still be a good neighborhood for first-time homebuyers. In the blocks adjacent to Summit, truly large Italianate and Queen Anne houses can also be found. Thanks to urban renewal, some houses now sit on a lot-and-a-half, with owners having purchased land when next-door derelict houses were torn down. Still, lots are small in proportion to the houses, and it’s hard to garden because there’s so much shade. Pocket gardens and boulevard gardens are popular, and they have the addi-

tional advantage of bringing people out onto the streets where they can keep an eye on what’s going on.

Like the other neighborhoods surrounding Summit, shopping on Grand Avenue is within easy walking range, but some of the best local dining is to be found right on Cathedral Hill. Sweeney’s (www.sweeneyssaloon.com) at Dale and Ashland has an old Irish pub atmosphere, and The Vintage serves excellent food accompanied by even better wine. Mississippi Market natural food co-op, at the corner of Selby and Dale, offers a fine selection of food in its deli and is known for its coffee.

The lack of a large open space in the area may be problematic for some. While people walk, run, and bike the city streets—and the Twin Cities Marathon comes right down Summit—there is no place to play ball; in fact, the closest open area is along the Mississippi River. However, there are playgrounds every few blocks and an unofficial off-leash dog area at Marshall-Webster Park.

Prospective residents will want to be aware of the concentration of lower income housing in a section of Summit-University, north of Selby, though numerous community initiatives and revitalization projects have been accomplished or are in the works there. The area is now home to the Hallie Q. Brown/Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center, which provides daycare services and other activities, and to the well-known Penumra Theater, 270 Kent Street, 651-224-3180, which features plays with African-American themes.

Web Sites: Summit-University Planning Council (District 8), 627 Selby Ave, 651-228-1855, www.district8stpaul.org; Ramsey Hill Association, www.ramseyhill.org

Zip Codes: 55102, 55103, 55104

Post Office: Industrial Station, 1430 Concordia Ave

Police Non-Emergency: Western District Patrol Team, North: 651-266-5512, South: 651-266-5549; General Information, 651-291-1111; www.stpaul.gov/depts/police

Emergency Hospitals: Regions Hospital, 640 Jackson St, 651-254-2191, www.RegionsHospital.com; HealthEast St. Joseph’s Hospital, 69 W Exchange St, 651-232-3000, www.healtheast.org

Library: www.stpaul.lib.mn.us: Rondo Community Outreach Library at University and Dale, 651-266-7000

Community Resources: Ramsey Hill Historic District, www.ramseyhill.org; Cass Gilbert Society (historical architecture), www.cassgilbertsociety.org/; Saint Paul’s Cathedral, 239 Selby Ave, 651-228-1766, www.cathedralsaintpaul.org; Hallie Q. Brown/Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center, 270 Kent St, 651-224-4601; Farm in the City operates a summer produce market in the Great Harvest Bread Company parking lot, 534 Selby Ave, www.farminthecity.org; Mississippi Market (www.msmarket.coop) and St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium (www.spnec.org), 622 Selby Ave, 651-310-9499; Penumra Theatre Company, 270 N Kent St, 651-224-3180, www.penumratheatre.org; Rondo Avenue Inc. (sponsors of Rondo days), www.rondodays.org

Parks: www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks; Marshall/Webster Park at Laurel and St. Albans

Public Transportation: 612-373-3333, www.MetroTransit.org; buses travel along University, Selby, and Dale

MACALESTER-GROVELAND DISTRICT

Boundaries: **North:** Summit Ave; **West:** Mississippi River; **South:** Randolph Ave; **East:** Ayd Mill Rd

Universities and colleges located in or near the Mac-Groveland district (Macalester College, the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul Seminary, The College of St. Catherine, and William Mitchell College of Law) give this district a friendly, college-town feel.

Created in the 1880s when a group of Macalester College trustees bought a farm west of St. Paul and divided it into a campus and lots for houses, Mac-Groveland has become one of St. Paul's epicenters, bustling with academic and commercial energy. Grand Avenue, the main east-west thoroughfare, includes specialty retail shops, restaurants, and scores of places to eat, drink, and argue politics and religion—but there is very little parking.

Once a farm, then a commuter suburb, the history of Mac-Groveland has resulted in an interesting mixture of housing sizes, prices, and designs, with rents and house prices among the highest in St. Paul. Because of high student demand, the best time to look for an apartment is in late spring to early summer when students move out and sublets and leases become available.

More than three-fourths of Mac-Groveland's homes were built before 1940, and range from two- and three-bedroom homes on the east end to luxurious Mississippi River-front residences. On and near Grand Avenue, two- to four-story brick apartments from the 1920s are interspersed with the cafés and retail businesses that make Grand Avenue St. Paul's most lively commercial district. Architectural styles range from 19th-century Tudor-style cottages and meticulous Arts-and-Crafts bungalows to contemporary designs from the 1960s. Roomy homes with front porches line the curvy streets skirting Macalester College. Bordering the neighborhood to the north are the impressive houses of Summit Avenue (read more about this elegant boulevard in the description of Summit Hill). Residential streets in Mac-Groveland are attractive and tranquil, lined with mature oaks and maples.

The bluffs and the Mississippi River gorge lie at the western end of the neighborhood. Land adjacent to the St. Paul Seminary is relatively wild and picturesque, and miles of river walking or bike riding are accessible from Mac-Groveland via the river parkway.

Web Sites: Macalester-Groveland Community Council (District 14), 320 Griggs St S, 651-695-4000, www.macgrove.org

Zip Code: 55105

Post Office: Elway Station, 1715 W 7th St

Police Non-Emergency: Western District Patrol Team, North: 651-266-5512,

South: 651-266-5549; General Information, 651-291-1111; www.stpaul.gov/depts/police

Emergency Hospitals: Regions Hospital, 640 Jackson St, 651-254-2191, www.RegionsHospital.com; HealthEast St. Joseph's Hospital, 69 W Exchange St, 651-232-3000, www.healtheast.org

Library: www.stpaul.lib.mn.us; Merriam Park, 1831 Marshall Ave, 651-642-0385

Community Resources: Macalester College, the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul Seminary, The College of St. Catherine, and William Mitchell College of Law

Parks: www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks; Mississippi Riverfront

Public Transportation: 612-373-3333, www.MetroTransit.org; buses travel along Grand Ave, Snelling, Smith Ave, and Randolph

MERRIAM PARK, SNELLING-HAMLIN, LEXINGTON-HAMLIN

Boundaries: **North:** I-94, Cleveland Ave, University Ave; **West:** City limits at 33rd Ave, Mississippi River; **South:** Summit Ave; **East:** Lexington Pkwy

Merriam Park's identity derives not only from the atmosphere of its scenic riverfront and well-kept homes, but also from the interesting people who live here. From the long-distance racer who trains by running a marathon every day to the president of the University of Minnesota, Merriam Parkers treasure their neighbors as well as their neighborhood's aura of urbane wilderness.

Bordered by the magnificent gorge of the Mississippi to the west and by the mansions of Summit Avenue to the south, Merriam Park is conveniently located midway between downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul, with Minneapolis and the Hiawatha LRT just a short hop away, across the Lake Street/Marshall Avenue bridge. It includes the residential areas of Desnoyer Park, Iris Park, Merriam Park, and Shadow Falls located on or near the Mississippi River, and the business areas of Snelling Crossing (Snelling at Marshall Avenue and Selby), Cleveland and Marshall, Cretin and Marshall, Grand Avenue west of Snelling, and University Avenue.

Although it is in the center of urban activity today, Merriam Park was actually one of the Twin Cities' first suburbs, located a couple of trolley stops outside of early St. Paul. Colonel John Merriam, who in the 1880s owned much of the neighborhood's bluff land, envisioned the creation of a rural village built on large estates separated by abundant parkland. He built himself a luxurious house and sold lots to those who would agree to his requirement that homes built on this land cost at least \$1,500—a sizable amount at the time.

Traces of Merriam Park's exclusive beginnings are still apparent along the Mississippi, where turn-of-the-century Tudor and Arts-and-Crafts style houses line streets shaded by mature, graceful trees. The green and fittingly groomed land surrounding the Town and Country Club, located along the river north of Marshall Avenue, adds to the neighborhood's air of grandeur. During winter, the country club's gates are left open for cross-country skiers.