

PATHWAYS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION

Volume 13, Issue 4 ♥ October, November, December 2008



WEST CALHOUN
CEDAR ISLES DEAN
EAST ISLES
EAST CALHOUN
CARAG
LOWRY HILL EAST

PROSPECT PARK
LONGFELLOW
SEWARD
EAST PHILLIPS

COALITION COMPLETES FIRST GREEN WAY TO GO BIKING PROGRAM

By Nate Kerr, Lutheran Volunteer Corps Community Organizer

As the leaves are beginning to fall in the Twin Cities, the Coalition is wrapping up its first ever Green Way to Go Biking Program! Having two successful summers running a walking program under its belt, the Go Program expanded to biking this past summer, partnering with local youth serving organizations to get kids on bikes and out on the Greenway, usually riding to the Chain of Lakes. The Go Program is for low-income youth who otherwise would not be able to have access to such bike rides.

As of mid-September, 71 kids rode bikes as part of the Green Way to Go Program this year on 13 different rides, with ages ranging from nine all the way up to 19 on our fleet of 15 bikes. The Coalition hopes to expand the program next year, hopefully adding bike maintenance and commuting courses.

The Coalition partnered with the following organizations (and more are in the works):

- Andersen Elementary School
- Bolder Options
- Division of Indian Work
- Holy Rosary Church
- Skills For Tomorrow School
- Youth Care

Special thanks go to Freewheel Bike for helping us to purchase and maintain our bikes. Also, this program was made possible with funding from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. We would especially like to thank the staff and volunteers involved in leading the rides this summer: Simon Blenski, Kim Reed, Tim Springer and me, plus all the youth serving organizations and their staff that accompanied the kids on each ride.

If you are interested in helping plan the program or volunteering to be a ride leader for next year, please contact Nate Kerr at nate@midtowngreenway.org or (612) 879-0106.

LA COALICIÓN COMPLETA EL PRIMER PROGRAMA "GREEN WAY TO GO" DE CICLISMO

Por Nate Kerr, Organizador comunitario de Lutheran Volunteer Corps

A medida que comienzan a caer las hojas de los árboles en las ciudades de Minneapolis y Saint Paul, la Coalición está llegando al fin del programa Green Way to Go de ciclismo. El program Green Way to Go de caminatas ya tuvo dos temporadas estivales exitosas, y este verano pasado se expandió a ciclismo, colaborando con una organización local que ofrece servicios a jóvenes para animarlos a andar en bicicleta en el sendero Greenway,

generalmente en el circuito de la Cadena de Lagos (Chain of Lakes). El programa Green Way to Go es para jóvenes de bajos recursos, que de otra forma no hubieran podido tener acceso a estas excursiones en bicicleta. Hasta mediados de septiembre de este año, 71 jóvenes, de 9 a 19 años de edad, realizaron 13 excursiones en bicicleta como parte del programa Green Way to Go haciendo uso de nuestra flota de 15 bicicletas. El año próximo, la Coalición espera expandir este programa ofreciendo cursos de mantenimiento de bicicletas y de ir a trabajar en bicicleta.

La Coalicion se asoció con las siguientes organizaciones (y muchas más en el futuro):

- Andersen Elementary School
- Bolder Options
- Division of Indian Work
- Holy Rosary Church
- Skills For Tomorrow School
- Youth Care

(continuado en la página 5)

Traducción: Franklin Curbelo, Acentos
Translation by Acentos

More Greenways?
Phillips West Improvements
Spin-A-Thon
Urban Ventures Urban Paradise
Patagonia Grant
Make the Greenway Safer
The Coalition Would Like To Thank . . .



A group of youth and their adult leaders from the Division of Indian Work getting ready to set out on their ride.

PHILLIPS WEST
MIDTOWN PHILLIPS
POWDERHORN
CORCORAN

MORE GREENWAYS?

By Todd Sample, Coalition Board Treasurer

Midtown Greenway usage is at an all time high. One need only step onto the Greenway itself to see this in action. Every day, cyclists, walkers, roller bladers and runners use the Greenway to commute, recreate and connect to their neighborhoods.

Because of the Midtown Greenway's success, some have asked, "What's next?" An active group of advocates has been working to answer this question. We call ourselves the Twin Cities Greenways Initiative (TCGI). The idea behind TCGI is simple—let's build more Greenways in the Twin Cities. Our vision is to promote several new Greenways as listed below. Building these new Greenways will add important connections to the existing pathway system.

- A north-south Greenway running through North Minneapolis
- A north-south Greenway running through South Minneapolis
- A Greenway in Northeast Minneapolis connecting the Northeast Diagonal Trail to Downtown Minneapolis
- An extension of the Midtown Greenway across the river to Ayd Mill Road

- An east-west route across St. Paul near University Avenue, which would directly connect the Gateway Trail and Downtown St. Paul to the Midtown Greenway and the Minneapolis U of M campus

There are synergies between the Midtown Greenway Coalition (MGC) and TCGI. Several MGC board members have provided advice and volunteer time to help get TCGI rolling. Some elements of TCGI's vision include trail segments that the MGC is already pursuing, such as the north-south connection to Powderhorn Park and a Midtown Greenway bridge across the Mississippi. It is possible that these organizations will become more closely aligned. For example the MGC may act as a fiscal agent for TCGI's initial grant applications or TCGI could even become a program of the MGC rather than a separate group.

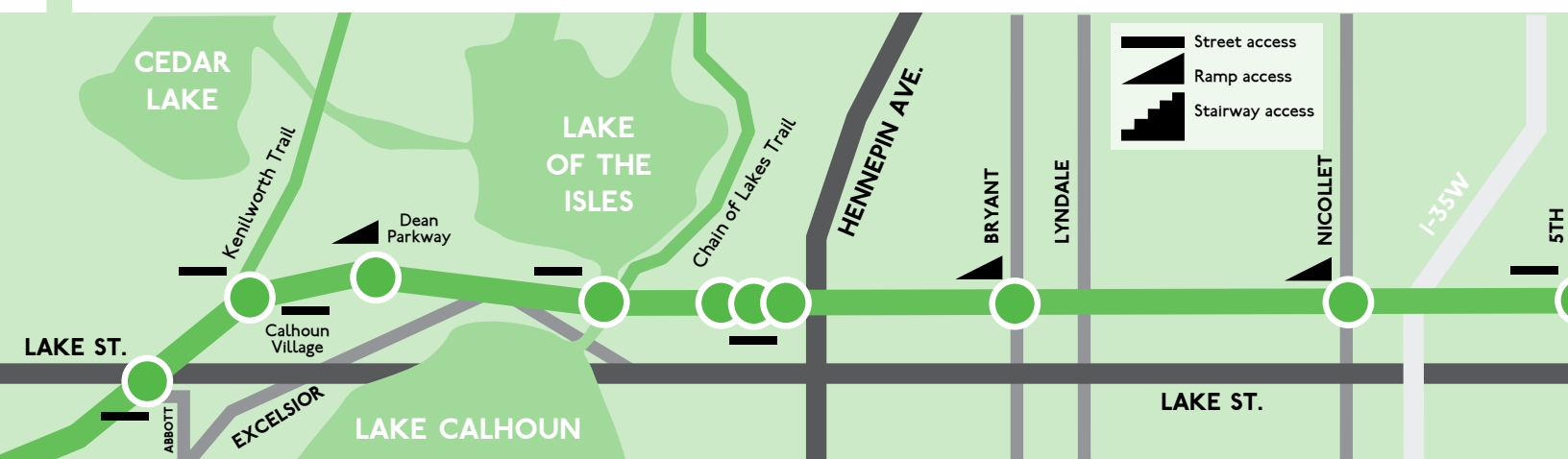
For now, the TCGI is a group of volunteers in its early stages that has reached out to stakeholders for feedback. So far, the responses have been very positive and we hope to maintain this momentum by reaching out to as many people as possible. If you would like to learn more about the proposed greenway routes and designs or help with TCGI, please visit our Web site: www.tcgreenways.org.



By Joseph Kennedy, Greening Intern

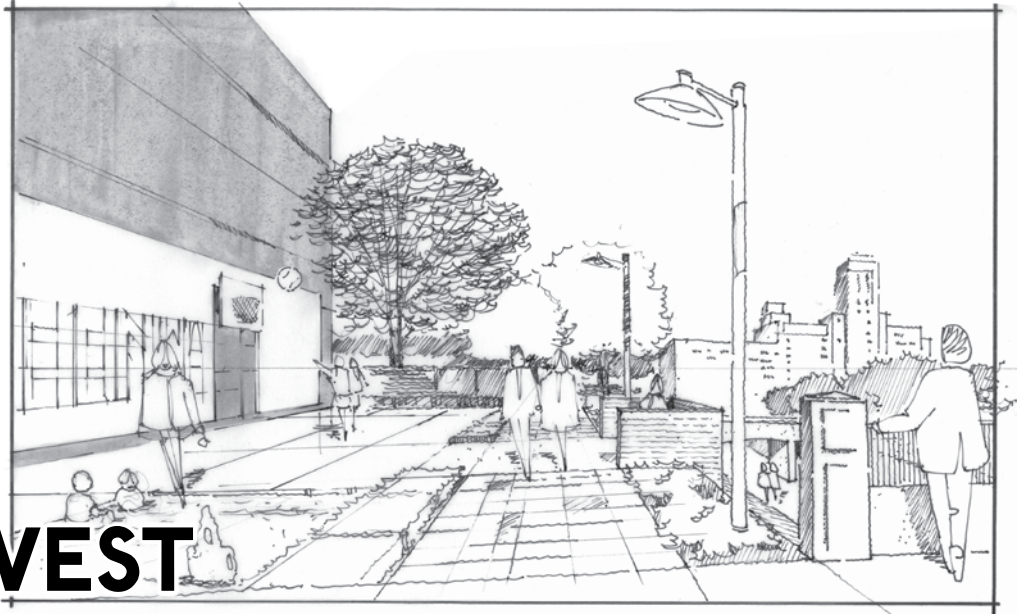
For many of us who use the Midtown Greenway, it is easy to zoom by on our bikes for recreation or to get from point A to B. Yet, as important as the Greenway is for exercise and transit, it is far more important as a social gathering node and a source for civic involvement. As you may or may not know, the Midtown Greenway is divided into numerous sections and each section is taken care of by adopters. In some places along the Greenway, there are gardens, murals and other works of art. One block west from the intersection of 5th Avenue and the Greenway, Urban Ventures has a beautiful garden full of an assortment of flowers, vegetables and fruit trees. Accompanying these natural works of art are some that are man-made. Some things to look for are a fountain and two murals. The children from Cristo Rey Jesuit School put in the fountain (please do not drink the water as its quality is uncertain) and the mural in honor of Will Gove. The mural along the bridge was painted by local artist, Jimmy Lingouri. Urban Ventures does some great things for the neighborhood and the local community. Please refer to their Web site listed below for more information on volunteering and learning about their civic programs.

Urban Ventures www.urbanventures.org





PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED GREENWAY IMPROVEMENTS IN PHILLIPS WEST



PERKINS
+ WILL

Phillips West Neighborhood Organization
Midtown Greenway Coalition
Portland Avenue Rim Walkway

View East at Columbus Avenue

By Dawn Wangen, Midtown Greenway Coalition board member from Phillips West

If you like the new trail entrance ramp between 10th and 11th Avenues, you'll also like what the Midtown Greenway Coalition and the Phillips West Neighborhood Organization (PWNO) are dreaming up. You can help shape it too. The idea is to install a street-level pathway along the Greenway's north rim between Chicago and Portland Avenues. We want to create a vibrant, well-traveled pathway to connect the community above with the Greenway trench below. This will increase access to the Greenway and other vital, nearby destinations, and increase the safety, aesthetics, and enjoyment of the Greenway corridor. Perkins+Will, an architectural firm downtown, has volunteered to create concept drawings to guide public discussion. These drawings will then be used to encourage public and private parties to install and maintain the walkway.

One drawing is shown above. The rest of the concept drawings will be available for comment from:

- October 1 through 24, 2008
- In the Coalition office (inside the Freewheel Midtown Bike Center) and on line at midtowngreenway.org.

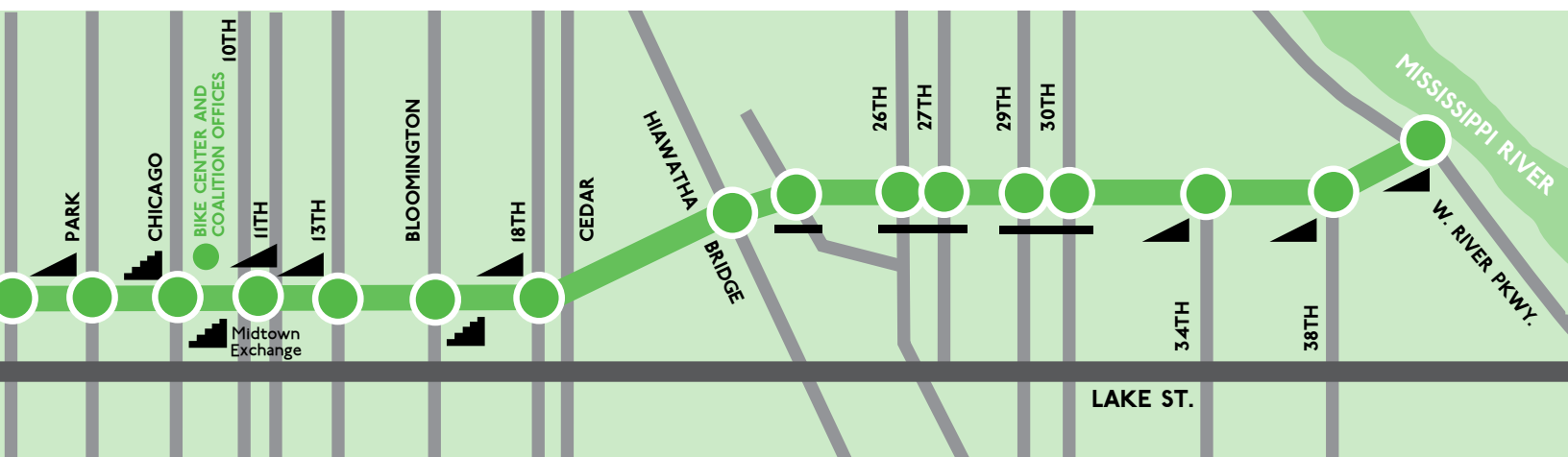
To create the drawings, on August 27 the Midtown Greenway Coalition hosted a BBQ in Phillips West for people to eat great

food and share ideas for design elements of the future walkway. We had an interesting selection of people who attended including about three guys from Ebenezer Tower, 40 Somali boys, a few other residents, Mad Dads, the staff of MGC, and several Lutheran Volunteer Corps helpers. All came for the food, but only those that V.J. Smith kindly put his heavy hand on stayed to share ideas. People split into two groups and walked the proposed route. One group encountered a well-established homeless encampment.

Ideas from the groups included: make the walkway wheelchair accessible, install things to sit on and integrate those with public art. Other suggestions were to make strong connections between the walkway and the lower Greenway trail by adding stairways and terraces, and installing bike racks and a water fountain.

SPIN-A-THON TO BENEFIT THE COALITION

Please Join us for a Spin-A-Thon benefitting the Midtown Greenway Coalition at Inner Strength Fitness Studios on Sun., Nov. 23rd, now at their new location on the corner of 28th & Lyndale. Also ask about their "green package" with a discount on their regularly priced classes. Call them at 612-644-1953 or visit them on the web at www.innerstrengthstudio.com.



MISSION

We empower communities to develop, improve, protect, and enjoy the Midtown Greenway as a green urban pathway to improve people's lives.

MISIÓN

Nosotros habilitamos a las comunidades a desarrollar, mejorar, proteger y disfrutar del sendero urbano Midtown Greenway para mejorar la vida de la gente.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING 2008 DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS! (Please call if we have missed you!)

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 Pilgrim Lutheran Church of St. Paul
 Pizza Luce Uptown
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 Shari Seifert & Neil Hailstone
 Sheraton Mpls. Midtown Hotel
 Smiley's Clinic
 Smith Foundry
 Spirit of the Lakes UCC
 The Chicago Lofts Homeowners Assn.
 The Muggle Group
 Transition Plus REACH Team
 Twin Cities Bicycling Club
 U of M Students' Co-op
 Wedge Community Co-op
 West Calhoun Neighborhood Council
 WFDL Redeems
 Whole Foods Market

MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION BOARD MEMBERS

The Coalition board of directors consists of one seat for each of the 17 neighborhoods along the Lake Street-Midtown Greenway Corridor, and four at-large seats.

Greg Benz
WEST CALHOUN NEIGHBORHOOD

Matthew Dahlquist
CEDAR ISLES DEAN

John DeWitt
PROSPECT PARK

Eric Hart
LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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(VICE PRESIDENT)
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Gabriel Hoffman
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Brendan Jordan
CARAG

Margaret Kirkpatrick
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EAST ISLES RESIDENTS ASSOC.

Leslie Modrack
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LYNDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.

George Puzak
AT LARGE

Todd Sample
(TREASURER)
AT LARGE

Karl Stoerzinger
CORCORAN NEIGHBORHOOD ORG.

Dawn Wangen
PHILLIPS WEST

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to our Progressive Dinner Sponsors and hosts. Together they helped us raise \$3,443.00 for the Midtown Greenway Coalition!

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 The Craftsman Restaurant
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 Izzy's Ice Cream
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 Lunds Uptown
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 Produce Exchange
 Zipp's Liquors



HOSTS
 Jeff & Melissa Blumenshine
 Bob Corrick
 Ilana & Mike Favero
 Jeff Gundvaldson
 Peggy Olson
 Victoria Potts
 Jessica Treat & Matthew Lang
 Tom Von Sternberg & Eve Parker
 Steven Warren

For a list of board members' roles and responsibilities, visit www.midtowngreenway.org. Follow the links to Board of Directors, or call 612-879-0103

Tim Springer, Executive Director
612-879-0105 • tim@midtowngreenway.org

Theresa Nelson, Greenspace & Art Programs Mgr
612-879-0103 • theresa@midtowngreenway.org

Nate Kerr, Lutheran Vol. Corps Comm. Organizer
612-879-0106 • nate@midtowngreenway.org

HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE THE MIDTOWN GREENWAY SAFER

By Tim Springer, Executive Director

I would like to update you on the Midtown Greenway Coalition's work to make the Midtown Greenway safer, and request your financial and volunteer support to expand this effort. The Coalition has learned of one or two assaults in the Greenway each year and a handful of thwarted attacks, which suggests that it is pretty safe given that there are thousands of trail users daily. However, if you have been on the trails late at night, you will know from experience that there are fewer other trail users and the trench segment in particular feels a bit scary. Here's what we've been doing about Greenway safety:

- ♥ Secured funding for limited patrolling by police on bikes.
- ♥ Renewed police commitments for patrolling in cars when bikes cannot be used.
- ♥ Added a safety page to our Web site where incidents are reported.
- ♥ Organized volunteers to sweep up broken glass daily and report this to the police.
- ♥ Secured additional entrance ramps and stairways, for example at 10th Avenue where there are long sight lines in and out of the trench.
- ♥ Modified new building designs to provide more windows, doors and walkways along the Greenway edge.
- ♥ Worked with neighbors to control children who throw things from bridges onto the trail.
- ♥ Started a bike program to engage local youth in positive activities.



We would like to keep up all this work. We are also considering adding a citizen's patrol, although the cost for insurance could be prohibitive. Here's what you can do to help:

- ♥ Support the Coalition financially (see membership/donation form on back page or visit midtowngreenway.org).
- ♥ Volunteer to become a glass sweeper-upper.
- ♥ Contact me at 612-879-0105 or tim@midtowngreenway.org if you would be willing to bike with others on citizen patrols in the event that we can get such a program started.
- ♥ Continue using the Greenway regularly to keep it well-populated, and share suggestions with us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

LA COALICIÓN COMPLETA EL PRIMER PROGRAMA "GREEN WAY TO GO" DE CICLISMO

(continuado de la página 1)

Un agradecimiento especial a Freewheel Bike por ayudarnos a comprar y mantener nuestra flota de bicicletas. Además, gracias a Blue Cross and Blues Shield de Minnesota, una empresa licenciada de Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, por el subsidio otorgado para hacer realidad nuestro programa. Nos complacemos en agradecer a nuestro personal y voluntarios que estuvieron a cargo de las excursiones de este verano: Simon Blenski, Kim Reed, Tim Springer, y yo, además de las organizaciones para jóvenes, y a su personal que acompañó a los jóvenes en sus excursiones.

Si estuviera interesado en ayudar a planificar el programa para el próximo verano o servir de voluntario como líder de excursiones en bicicleta, sírvase ponerse en contacto con Nate Kerr a nate@midtowngreenway.org o llamando al (612) 879-0106.



Photo by William Palmieri

COALITION WINS PATAGONIA GRANT

In the last issue of Pathways, we requested your help visiting the Patagonia store at 1648 Grand Avenue in St. Paul to "vote" for the Coalition as your favorite local environmental organization. Collectively we were successful. The Coalition received more votes than the four other groups we were competing with for a \$4,000 grant. Thank you to those who visited the store, and thank you Patagonia for supporting the environment through corporate practices and philanthropy.



2834 10th Avenue South
Greenway Level, Suite 2
Minneapolis, MN 55407

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 612-879-0103
info@midtowngreenway.org
www.midtowngreenway.org

HELP US MAKE THE GREENWAY SAFER

(See Page 5)



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Clip and post on fridge



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GREENSPACE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Third Mondays 6:00-7:30 p.m.
October 20, November 17, and December 15

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Third Wednesday 6:00-7:30 p.m.
October 15, November 19, and December 17

LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Second Monday of December, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
December 8

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

4th Thursday of October and first Wednesday
of December, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
October 23 and December 3

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, are at the
Coalition office (2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level,
Suite 2, Minneapolis, MN 55407).



MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone, E-mail _____

- \$250 - Greenway Angel
- \$100 - Greenway Patron
- \$50 - Greenway Advocate
- \$25 - Greenway Sponsor
- \$12 - Greenway Friend (Low income)
- Business \$ _____
- Other \$ _____
- Yes, I want to volunteer

My main interest is: _____

Please make your check payable to:
"Midtown Greenway Coalition"
and mail to: Midtown Greenway Coalition
2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level, Suite 2
Minneapolis, MN 55407