

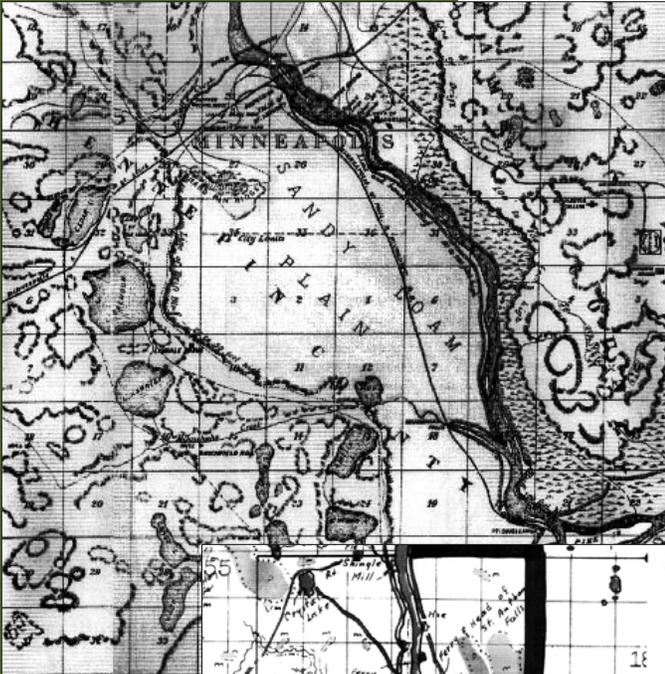


Elliot **Park**

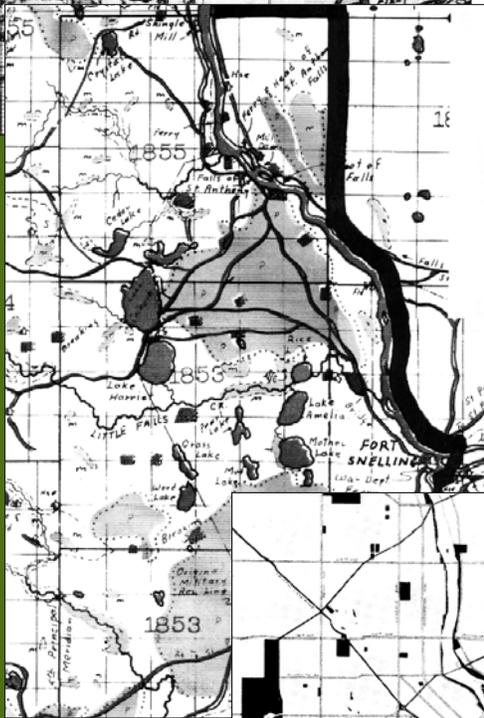
2 Neighborhood Master **Plan**
Historical Perspective

August 2002

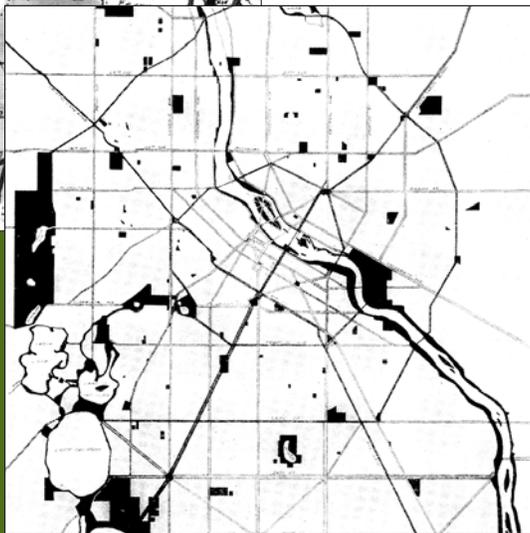
Early History



Map A



Map B



Map C

Development patterns and the growth of Minneapolis largely grew out of the city's historical response to its geography.

Map A shows how the Mississippi River has shaped the city's form and structure. The river carved a beautiful canyon surrounded by highland bluffs to the east. On the western boundary lay the sprawling area of drift hills, the Chain of Lakes and Minnehaha Creek. Between the hills and the canyon, the once meandering Mississippi River left behind a broad flat sandy loam plain of prairie grassland.

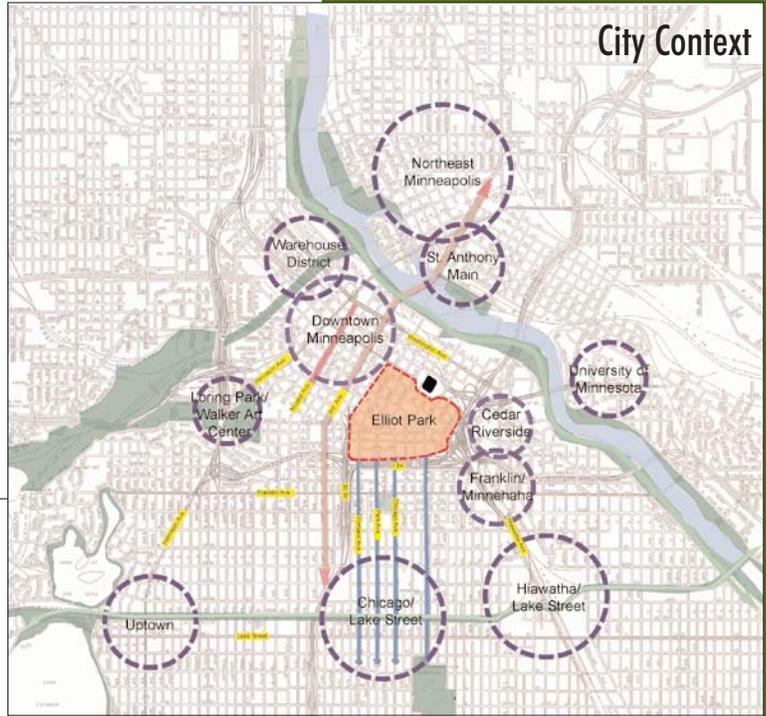
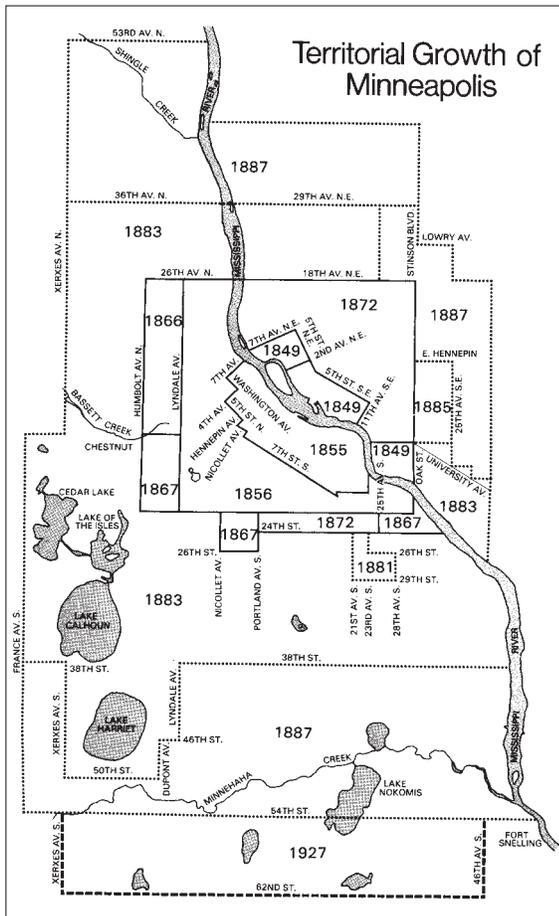
Native American and early settlers created a network of connections uniting the resources on the eastern and western edges of the city with elements located in the middle of the plain. The Trygg map of 1853 (Map B) illustrates a diagram of early trails crossing the triangular shaped grassland prairie marked on the map.

In 1917, the 'Bennett Plan' for Minneapolis sought to formalize this pattern into a system of interlacing parkways, avenues and boulevards. (Map C) This system formed the basis for uniting the many neighborhoods and parks of the interior section of Minneapolis with the resources on the edge. Though this plan was never fully implemented, this concept became the guide for creating development along the riverfront and our world-renowned system of community parkways, known as The Grand Rounds.

Maps provided by: Design Center for American Urban Landscape

Settlement and Cultural Diversity

The Minneapolis city boundary continued to expand throughout the late 1800's and early 1900's. Additional housing and goods and services developed close to available jobs, primarily with the railroad and the various mills along the river. New immigrant families began to settle in these close-in neighborhoods representing a broad mix of cultural backgrounds including German, Polish, Czech and Scandinavian. More recent demographic information indicates that new populations of Somali, Russian, African American, Native American, Southeast Asian and Hispanic people now live in Elliot Park.



1960's downtown skyline characterized by Foshay Tower landmark.



Although evolving urban neighborhoods continually face social/cultural challenges, new housing, new commercial uses and new parks will improve the economic vitality and overall quality of life for everyone in Elliot Park.

Decades of Change . . . Major Impacts

1960

- Active rail and yards
- Foshay Tower - a downtown landmark
- Minneapolis Central Library on 10th & Hennepin
- Continuous street grid - from neighborhood into downtown
- Urban forest - street trees and neighborhood greenspace



1973

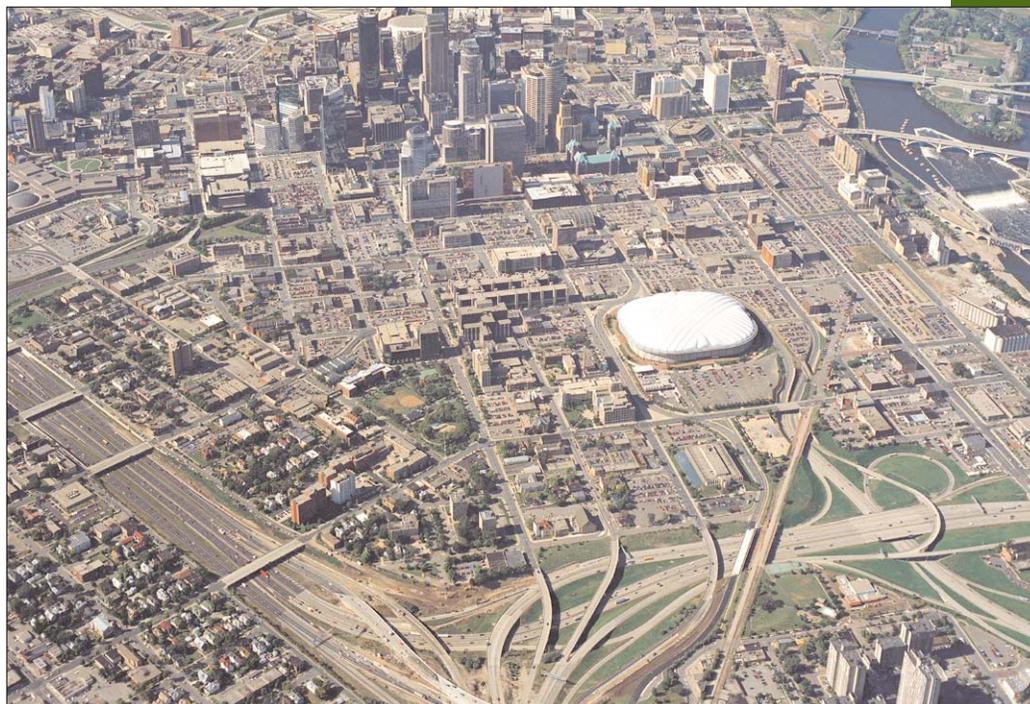
- IDS tower under construction
- Interstate 94 completed
- Interstate 35W under construction





1983

- Metrodome
- Hennepin County Medical Center
- Hennepin County Government Center
- Westbound I-94 completed



1999

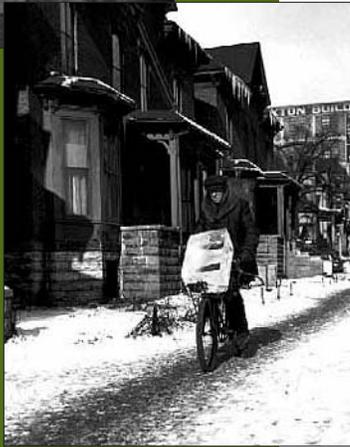
- Convention Center - with expansion
- Riverfront housing
- Target Center
- Public parking ramps at the edge of downtown

What Happens Next?

Explore opportunities for appropriate redevelopment that will:

- Enhance economic health
- Enhance character and function
- Enhance livability

Studies, Studies, Studies ...



Resource Library Overview

At the outset of this Master Plan study, EPNI provided an extensive library of resources and information. Some of these documents date back to the 1970s and suggest an interesting chronology of issues, goals and progress (or lack of progress) for specific community initiatives over the last several decades.

A quick evaluation of this material led to the following questions:

- Which ideas/recommendations have already gained broad neighborhood acceptance and support?
- Which ideas/recommendations have already been discarded or have little neighborhood support?
- Which ideas/recommendations have been published, but have not been evaluated within a broader neighborhood discussion?
- Which ideas/recommendations are being implemented or have been completed?
- Do some of the ideas/recommendations have a higher priority than others based on current neighborhood objectives?

Why is this Information Important?

Ongoing discussion and critique of this information by the Elliot Park Neighborhood Master Plan Steering Committee, Study Teams and other participants will:

- further clarify and define neighborhood objectives
- outline priority projects and key issues
- identify successes and challenges from the past that may inform future recommendations.

Resource Library Contents

- 1975 - Proposal for a Comprehensive Plan
- 1978 - Analysis of Stadium Impacts
- 1978 - Proposal to HUD
- 1980 - Eastern Downtown Minneapolis Parking Study
- 1981 - Report of the Stadium Operations Committee
- 1981 - Retail Market Analysis
- 1986 - Elliot Park Neighborhood Improvement Plan
- 1992 - Proposal for Streetscape and Facade Improvements
- 1992 - Downtown East and the New Courthouse
- 1994 - An Eastern Gateway to the Downtown
- 1995 - Neighborhood Home Improvement Loan Fund Handbook
- 1995 - Commercial Planning and Community Greening Opportunities
- 1996 - Transit Redesign
- 1997 - Elliot Park NRP Strategic Plan
- 1998 - Building Better Futures Initiative
- 1998 - Elliot Park Neighborhood Jobs Project
- 1999 - Avenue of the Arts - Project Summary
- 1999 - Hiawatha LRT Corridor Transit-Oriented Development Market Study
- 2000 - Downtown Minneapolis Transportation Study

In addition, the following information should be considered mandatory reading for anyone interested in neighborhood-based planning:

- **The Minneapolis Plan**
- **Vision 2010**
- **The Minneapolis Zoning Code of Ordinances and Land Subdivision Regulations (November 1999)**

Recurring Issues and Recommendations

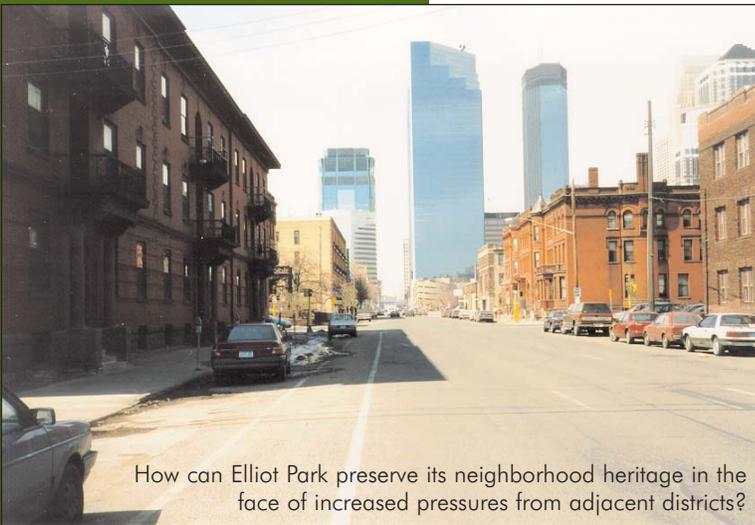
- Promote additional market-rate housing
- Reclaim surface parking lots for infill development
- Slow traffic - promote shared streets (cars, bikes, transit, pedestrians)
- Protect historic buildings and districts
- Explore opportunities for commercial/retail/restaurant uses
- Promote neighborhood greening and streetscape improvement



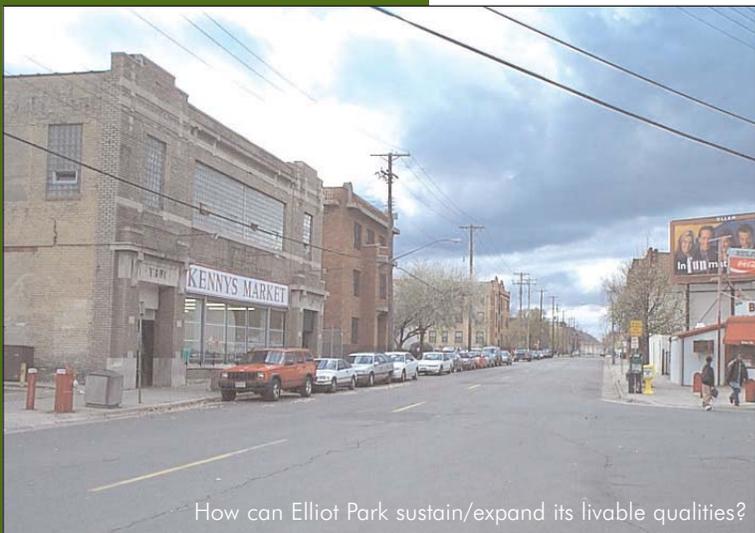
What does this mean today?

Elliot Park is a pioneer downtown Minneapolis neighborhood. Like so many neighborhoods at the edge of the urban core, it has experienced a roller-coaster ride—quickly falling from sophisticated elegance to significant disinvestment, and then rising again to become attractive for redevelopment, all in a matter of decades. Now, with growing interest in urban revitalization and the coincident financial strength of public and private partners supporting reinvestment, it is important that Elliot Park guide the location, type and character of new development within and adjacent to its borders.

Increased pressures on close-in neighborhoods, such as Elliot Park, demand bold vision and thoughtful preparation of the necessary tools to invite appropriate development while insuring that incremental improvements support broader neighborhood goals.



Revitalization of the Elliot Park neighborhood is based on innate strengths, unique character and a will to succeed. These distinctive qualities are defined by the people who live, work, shop and play here - the best experts who can speak to these values because they experience them every day.



Elliot Park has identified two critical goals that signify the most basic underpinnings for this Master Plan:

To preserve neighborhood heritage and to sustain a truly livable community!

With careful consideration of existing assets and challenges, joined with creative exploration of redevelopment opportunities, Elliot Park has taken a big first step in defining its future.