



**BRYN MAWR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**452 Newton Avenue South**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55405**  
**[www.bmna.org](http://www.bmna.org)**

Redistricting Group  
c/o City Clerk's Office; Attn: Peggy Menshek  
Room 304, City Hall  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

February 10, 2012

Dear Members:

The Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association (BMNA) requests that the Minneapolis Charter Commission's Redistricting Group respect the boundaries of the Bryn Mawr neighborhood and re-affirm its inclusion in Ward 7. Keeping this long-established and successful neighborhood intact will help the Redistricting Group to fulfill local, state and federal redistricting requirements, including keeping established neighborhoods together and maintaining cohesiveness of communities of interest.

Bryn Mawr is located at the western edge of the City of Minneapolis and sits astride I-394. The neighborhood's boundaries are:

On the west	Minneapolis City limits
On the south	Cedar Shore Drive
On the east	Lyndale Avenue
On the north	East along Glenwood Avenue from the City of Golden Valley border to the Canadian Pacific Line. South along the Canadian Pacific line until the railroad intersects Bassett's Creek. East down the center of Bassett's Creek, until the creek enters the underground tunnel. Then on a straight line east to Lyndale Avenue

When Bryn Mawr was formed as a neighborhood at the turn of the last century, it was a unified neighborhood. Since then, the neighborhood has been divided by the building of Highway 12 and its upgrade to I-394. Many neighborhood homes and residents were lost to the expansion of the I-394 corridor. When Bryn Mawr Meadows was upgraded to a Regional Park, the neighborhood lost still more homes and residents. And lastly, when the neighborhood's northern boundary was realigned in 2000, the neighborhood lost a large section of land. These neighborhood sacrifices were made for the greater good – a more efficient highway into the City from the west; a large regional park in the middle of the City, one that has become the center of multi-cultural sports activities. Despite these changes and diverse housing and population, Bryn Mawr has remained a unified neighborhood.

Neighborhoods rely on consistency and stability to maintain their integrity. To date, Bryn Mawr has embodied these qualities.

Over the years and since the creation of the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association in 1976, the neighborhood has been vigilant in informing government entities that the neighborhood is a unified neighborhood and that the neighborhood has historically been oriented to and grouped with communities of interest to the south. Traditionally, government entities have honored this neighborhood identity, as well as the solidarity of Bryn Mawr's seven areas.

Bryn Mawr is part of a larger community of interest and has been within the following Minneapolis southern political districts for many years and through many cycles of redistricting:

- City of Minneapolis City Council Ward 7, ranging from Uptown to Downtown
- State House of Representatives District 60A, ranging from Uptown to Downtown
- State Senate District 60, ranging from Lake Harriet to the Downtown Area
- Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board District 4 which includes, among many more neighborhoods, Bryn Mawr, Kenwood, East Isles, East Calhoun and Cedar, Isles, Dean neighborhoods – all south neighborhoods, and neighborhoods which are tied together with a long-established system of parks and trails.
  - The Kenwood Recreational Center is Bryn Mawr's designated Park Board Center.
  - Bryn Mawr children participate on sports teams in south Minneapolis Parks and Rec teams

Bryn Mawr has insisted on its established boundaries and south orientation when addressing recent Minneapolis Public Schools Changing Schools Options. Over many, many decades, Bryn Mawr's children have excelled academically, musically and athletically in predominantly Zone 3 schools (south and southwest public schools). In the years since the last redistricting in 2000, the Bryn Mawr neighborhood has resisted efforts by the Minneapolis Public Schools to change the long-standing and successful attendance patterns.

We strongly urge the Redistricting Group to affirm Bryn Mawr's current neighborhood boundaries, its inclusion in Ward 7, and its orientation to similar communities of interest to its south. We hope the Redistricting Group will recognize the efforts made by the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association to keep the neighborhood united, stable and desirable.

Thank You,

*Marlin Possehl*

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