

North Minneapolis Greenway

Possible Greenway Types and Examples of Greenways in Minneapolis

The City of Minneapolis is developing plans to convert low-traffic streets in north Minneapolis to a greenway that would provide a safe, accessible route for bicyclists and pedestrians. The City has identified a proposed route and designs. The final route, designs, and timing of the project will depend on local support, funding availability, and other factors. This document provides more information about how the greenway could look. Residents can read this information to learn more about these greenway types, which can help them provide input about how they would like the greenway to look. More information can be found on the project website at www.minneapolismn.gov/health/living/northminneapolisgreenway.

Typical Residential Street (without a greenway)



The image to the left shows a typical residential street before a greenway would be built. The next three pages of this document show what the same street would look like after different greenway types are installed on the street. These greenway types include: a full linear park greenway, a half-and-half greenway and a bike boulevard. The last page shows examples of existing greenways and linear parks in Minneapolis.



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The greenway graphics in this document were developed by SRF Consulting Group, Inc.

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Attention: If you have any questions regarding this material please call Minneapolis Health Department at 612-673-2301.

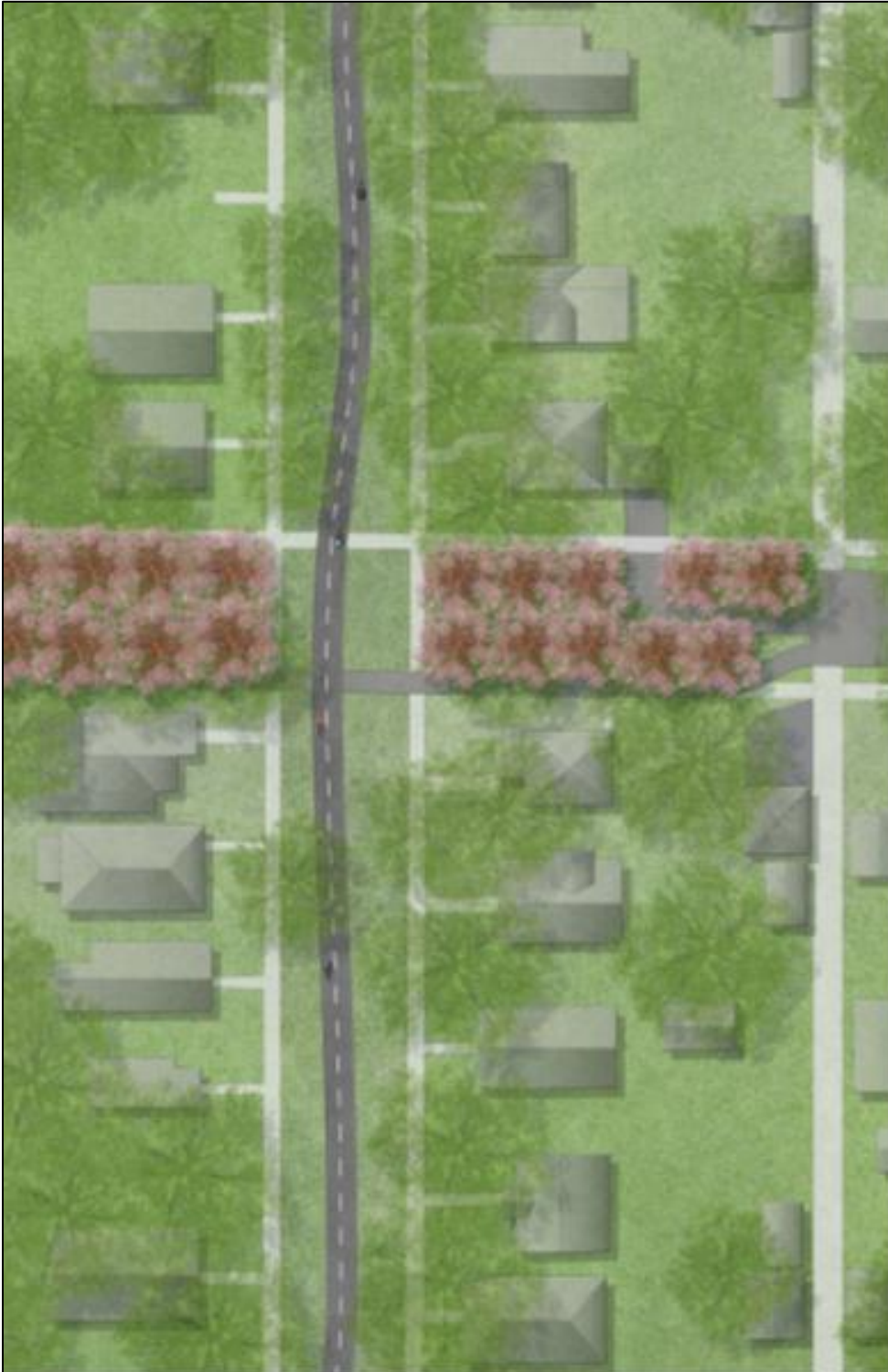
Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800.

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Greenway Type: Full Linear-Park Greenway

A full linear-park greenway eliminates car traffic from a street and replaces it with a trail and green space for bikes and pedestrians. Many intersecting streets are blocked off, providing more green space. A full greenway provides room for amenities like BBQs, community gardens, playgrounds, and art.



Possible Advantages

- Walkers and bicyclists are completely separated from vehicle traffic
- Provides a comfortable space for bicyclists of all skill levels and ages
- More green space
- Creates a park that families can use to be active
- No traffic noise or speeding cars on streets
- Lots of room for amenities like community gardens, trees, pocket parks, public art, or other things
- Potential for better stormwater management

Possible Disadvantages

- Homeowners on the street cannot park in front of homes (nor can visitors); they must access their homes via alleyways or park in lots at the end of their street
- Accommodations would need to be made so that people with disabilities can maintain access to their homes
- Expensive to build (but a lot of potential funding options are available)

Greenway Type: Half-and-Half Greenway

A half-and-half greenway has a trail on one half of the street and car traffic on the other side. The street is either one-way with parking or two-way without parking. The trail crosses some intersections diagonally so that bikes do not have to stop, and car traffic is minimal on the street next to the trail.



Possible Advantages

- Walkers and bicyclists are separated from vehicle traffic (although cars still travel down the street)
- Provides a comfortable space for bicyclists of all skill levels and ages
- Street would likely have less traffic than a typical residential street
- Homeowners would be able to park in front of their homes in a half-and-half greenway with one-way traffic

Possible Disadvantages

- Improvements are mostly for bicyclists (although reductions in traffic also benefit pedestrians)
- Only small increases in green space
- Little room for extra amenities such as gardens or art
- Expensive to build

Greenway Type: Bike Boulevard

A bike boulevard is a lower-traffic, lower-speed street that has been designated as a bike route and is marked with large bicycle symbols with the text "BLVD." Some intersections feature traffic-calming measures to encourage slower traffic speeds, such as speed bumps, traffic diverters and traffic circles.



Possible Advantages

- Street would likely have less traffic than a typical residential street
- Provides a more comfortable space for some bicyclists
- Homeowners' ability to park and drive on their streets would not change
- Least expensive option to build

Possible Disadvantages

- Improvements are mostly for bicyclists (although reductions in traffic and automobile speed also benefit pedestrians)
- Bicyclists are not separated from car traffic, and some bicyclists will not be comfortable biking on the street
- Only a small increase in green space
- Very little space for extra amenities like gardens or art

Examples of Other Greenways in Minneapolis

Milwaukee Ave in South Minneapolis

Milwaukee Avenue is located in south Minneapolis between Franklin Avenue East and 24th Avenue East. It was converted into a bicycle- and pedestrian-only mall in the 1970s as part of an effort to restore the homes on the street. Milwaukee Avenue is most similar to the proposed north Minneapolis greenway in that the homes face a “greenway,” which is a linear park without any vehicle traffic. Residents and visitors park in lots near the ends of their blocks and walk to their homes. These photos show a row of homes on Milwaukee Avenue and a pocket park with benches located on the street. More information about Milwaukee Avenue can be found at <http://milwaukeeavenue.net/history/>.



37th Avenue North Greenway in North Minneapolis

The 37th Avenue North Greenway is located adjacent to Folwell Park between Knox Avenue North and Penn Avenue North. On most of the blocks, typical residential streets were converted into a full linear-park greenway, including sidewalks, a trail, new green space, and no car traffic (see first photo). Two blocks of the greenway allow one-way car traffic with a one-way bike lane (see second photo). It was built to manage stormwater, and the greenway includes several rain gardens and new infrastructure under the street. This greenway is an east-west road, so homes do not face this greenway.

Midtown Greenway in South Minneapolis

The Midtown Greenway is located in south Minneapolis in an old railroad corridor just north of Lake Street. It is a 5.5 mile trail that connects the Chain of Lakes to the west and the Mississippi river to the east. This is a linear park for pedestrians and bicyclists. No homes are located directly on the greenway; however, many new apartments and condos have been built next to the greenway. The Midtown Greenway was recently named the best urban bike trail in the nation in USA Today. More information about the Midtown Greenway can be found at <http://midtowntgreenway.org/>.

