City of Saint Paul Parks, Bikeways and Trail System
Department of Parks and Recreation

Park Regulations
Park hours: Sunrise to 11:00 p.m.
Pavement for park visitors only.
After hours parking prohibited—violators subject to tag and tow.
Vehicles are restricted to paved lots.
Do not leave valuables in vehicles.
Unauthorized vending on park property is prohibited.
Fire allowed only in shelter fireplace.
Dog ordinance is in effect.
Loud music is prohibited.

Alcohol possession and consumption is prohibited.
Skateboarding is prohibited.
Please help keep park clean. Place litter and refuse in trash receptacles.
Park Watch 651-646-3535
Comments or suggestions 651-643-3473
Thank you, and enjoy your visit.

LEGEND

Off-Street Bikeways
Paved Trails
Bike Lane
Shared Use
Stair Trails
Ferry Trails

On-Street Bikeways
Recreation Center
Bike Center
Major Facilities
Bike Routes
Major Highways
Bicycles
River and Lakes
Parks and Pathways
Riverway County Parks
City Boundary

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**Thank you, and enjoy your visit.**
If you stopped by this place in 1800, you would have been standing among trees and wildflowers next to a stream later named Phalen Creek.

During the “boom” era after World War II, you would have been in the midst of a busy center of industry, with grain silos towering above you and railroad tracks packed with trains moving raw materials and goods to and from the Eastside.

Decades later, in the 1980s, you would have found this area to be much quieter. Times had changed; many industries were gone leaving behind their building shells — but change was coming.

The rebirth of this place was fully underway by the late 1990s, when you would have seen the removal of blight, the construction of a new roadway, and the opening of businesses as part of the Phalen Corridor Initiative.

Today, you can again enjoy the outdoors here — and celebrate the rich, diverse history of Saint Paul’s Eastside.
Rediscovering A Historic Creek Valley

You are standing in the Phalen Creek valley, carved more than 30,000 years ago by the rush of water from a melting glacier. Between 100 and 300 AD, Native Americans built burial mounds on the tall Mississippi River bluffs about one mile from here. By the mid-1750s, Dakota Indians lived at the village of Kaposia, just downstream.

As recently as 1850, Phalen Creek still flowed through this site on its journey from Lake Phalen to the Mississippi River. A marshy, tree-lined waterway, the Phalen Creek valley was home to abundant wildlife, including bear, fox, beaver, and an array of bird species.

As Saint Paul grew, the Dakota were forced away from their land along the Mississippi River. Phalen Creek was diverted into an underground storm sewer to make way for railroads and industry. Trees were cut down and wetlands were filled.

Since the 1970s, community members have worked to bring back some of the natural features that once defined this place. Now, native plants and wildlife are returning.
They Came From the Eastside

Herb Brooks (1937-2003) was an ice hockey legend. He was on the 1955 state championship team from the Eastside’s Jefferson High School. He coached the University of Minnesota team to three championships and led the U.S. hockey team to a stunning gold at the 1980 Winter Olympics, known as the "Miracle on Ice."

Three Justices

Three prominent attorneys grew up in Dayton’s Bluff, and all attended Ken Burn Elementary School. Warren Burger (1907-96) became the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Harry Blackmun (1908-98) was also on the U.S. Supreme Court. And Edward Devitt (1911-92) was a longtime U.S. District judge.

Ken Haag (1912-96) was a talented and prolific sports and wildlife artist, writer, and magazine and newspaper illustrator. He was a frequent volunteer for Eastside projects. The presentation of Minnesota wildlife, especially birds and their habitat, was an important focus in his adult life.

Herbert Keller (1875-1935) was an Eastside attorney and politician who grew up in Dayton’s Bluff. He represented the area on the Saint Paul City Council and was Mayor from 1910 to 1914, and was elected to several terms as a Hennepin County Commissioner. Keller Lake and Golf Course are named in his honor.

J.A.A. Burroughs (1879-1966) was a Swedish-American attorney, politician, and writer. Among other offices, he represented the Eastside in the Legislature, was Governor from 1915 to 1921, and later served several terms as Minnesota Attorney General. He wrote a five-volume history of Minnesota.

Mike Sanchelli (1915-2003) lived in Sibley Subdivision and Reddup Island with his family when the areas were strongly Italian. He was a talented musician and later, while teaching in Haynes Heights, wrote many stories about local landmarks and everyday life on the eastside.

Magdalena Ray (1887-1965) was a trained nurse who came to Saint Paul from a small town. She was hired as the first Superintendent of Saint John’s Hospital when it opened in 1911. A well-known performer, she remained on the job for forty-two years.

Kitt Clun (about 1867-1939) was a teacher who lived in the Hilltop Hills neighborhood. She was active in the Saint Paul Teachers’ Union and various civic and educational organizations and helped at the Capreol for the protection of women and children.

Dr. Eva Jane Ostergren (1916-2007), daughter of a local physician, practiced medicine on the Eastside for forty years. Among her accomplishments, she was the first woman chief of staff at Mounds Park Hospital.

William L. Ames (1846-1910) was a Saint Paul territorial politician who had a lumber mill along Phalen Creek. He lived in the Hard Plank area, where he had a 7,300-acre farm. He was a prominent pen and helped develop his neighborhood, Ames Elementary School is named after him.

Clara Bergmoer (1862-1934) was an active member of the Dayton’s Bluff community, belonging to many local fraternal societies. After her husband died, she took over his newspaper, publishing the Saint Paul German-language daily newspaper Die Volkszeitung for many years.

Catherine Piccolo (1910-2003) headed the Women’s Army Corps for the Manhattan Project during World War II. While living in Dayton’s Bluff, she was very active in community and city functions. She had a strong focus on educational matters and served on the Saint Paul School Board.

Intersections With History

The roads and trails that come together near Eastside Heritage Park carry a history of their own.

Agnes Avenue was dedicated in 1946 to the memory of the Eastside family who served in our nation’s armed services. The sons of Mexican immigrants who settled on the Eastside in the 1930s, ten Aquino brothers went off to serve their country during World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War. All tied home with jobs at nearby 3M and Northern Malleable Iron.

Neil Lane was named to honor Saint Paul City Council member Neil Dittrich, who died in 1962 after being stricken by cancer. Neil was an Eastside community leader who focused on improvements in Saint Paul neighborhoods. He was a member of the City Planning Commission, served on the effort to redevelop the former Sigma/Whortland plant, now Seward Square Shopping Center.

The Brave Vento Trail stretches from downtown Saint Paul to Interstate 94, passing through Congressman Vento’s family neighborhood and legislative district. A native Eastsider, Vento worked as a Holocaust victim. He started his teaching and political career. His membership in the D.C. Congress over national parks. He was the first to publicly raise the issue of the protection of the hundreds of thousands of acres across the nation and the environment of more than 300,000 preserving the environment.

Bush Avenue is named for former 3M executive Archie Bush. "G.C. Bush, a significant force in the company’s existence. Bush was instrumental in relocating the firm to its Eastside location in 1910 and developed 3M sales and manufacturing operations on this site. His name lives on through the Bush Foundation."
EASTSIDE HERITAGE PARK

Eastside Icons - 3M & Seeger

3M, founded in 1902 on Lake Superior's North Shore as Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing, moved to the Eastside in 1910. The company quickly made its name in sandpaper and abrasives, ultimately building the world's largest abrasives manufacturing plant. 3M established a small lab here where products that would one day become ubiquitous were invented, including Scotch Tape and masking tape. During World War II, their Eastside facilities produced Scotchlite reflective sheeting and nearly 100 types of tape used in many wartime applications.

Seeger Refrigeration Company began in the early 20th century as a manufacturer of wooden ice boxes, selling them to retailers like Marshall Field's and Sears Roebuck & Co. In the 1920s, when electric refrigerators became the norm, Seeger was prepared to fill the need. By 1937, the company had built more than 300,000 refrigerators and was employing more than 2,000 workers. During World War II, the plant was dedicated to the war effort, making bomb racks for B-29 bombers, parachute flares, and other defense products. After the war, Seeger merged with Whirlpool, ultimately taking the latter's name.

Changing Times - New Opportunities

As times changed, many manufacturers closed their doors or relocated. In turn, old factory sites and polluted properties gave birth to new businesses providing different services and products to reflect the needs of a different time. With these new businesses came new jobs. Williams Hill exemplifies this rebirth. Since the 1990s, this formerly polluted site near Phalen Boulevard and Interstate 35E has given way to a collection of 21st-century manufacturers and assembly businesses, employing hundreds of people. The Eastside legacy, as a regional economic engine and creator of jobs, will continue long into the future.
The Eastside has long been an industrial hub. Generations of workers raised their families within walking distance of the manufacturing plants, and the Saint Paul economy was long bolstered by the economic engine of Eastside manufacturing.

From where you are standing you would have seen U.S. manufacturing icons 3M and Whirlpool (formerly Seeger Refrigeration Company). Immediately to the south, the Theodore Hamm Brewing Company, another major employer, brewed beer before and after Prohibition and soda pop during the constitutionally imposed liquor ban (1919-33). The Hamm’s Bear became a nationally known symbol that established Minnesota’s reputation as the “Land of Sky Blue Waters.” Towering grain elevators and a malting facility employed in the beer-making process once stood on this very site.

Other large employers included Northern Malleable Iron, still in operation today; Saint Paul Harvester Works, later giving way to Griffin Wheel Company, which manufactured wheels for trains; and United States Gypsum Company, which later became Globe Manufacturing, a producer of roofing materials. Dozens of smaller manufacturers sprang up to support these larger companies while countless retailers and service businesses arose to serve the laborers and their families.
Eastside Heritage

The Eastside, which makes up a third of Saint Paul, is comprised of many diverse neighborhoods. The earliest were developed as part of a walking city; the later ones came with the streetcars and automobiles. The oldest homes date to the 1850s and the newer sections are filled with bungalows and ranch-style houses. Apartments abound on main thoroughfares and near the two freeways.

From the outset, the Eastside has always been home to a mix of wealthy, middle-class, and low-income residents. Along the railroad tracks, there were numerous industries that attracted working people. As transportation became easier, many of those with more resources moved into the newer homes in neighborhoods near the city limits.

Waves of immigration have flowed into the community. The original Native Americans and early French settlers were joined by Yankees, Scandinavians, Germans, Irish, Italians, Poles, and others. Starting in the 1980s, many Hmong, Latinos, and African Americans became Eastside residents. Over the years, all of them made contributions to the community through their businesses, cultural institutions, and places of worship.

In the early days of the Eastside, there were often specialty stores for food. The Quincy Point Meat Market, shown at 700 Margaret Street in the 1950s, was one of the most popular spots for German-Americans.

From the streetcar era until the roads are sealed, the cowboys in these photographs are cutting and trimming animals. The cowboys are herding cattle, and the man in the foreground is using a rope to capture them.