



## Midtown Greenway

**Media contacts:** Dean Michalko, Hennepin Community Works: 612-348-6286  
Cara Lee, Public Affairs: 612-348-6883

### Fast facts

- ▲ The Adopt-a-Greenway program provides an opportunity for community groups, schools, businesses and individuals to contribute to the beautification and maintenance of the Midtown Greenway by “adopting” a segment of the corridor and cleaning it up at least three times a year.
- ▲ The program is a collaborative effort of the HCRRA, the community-based Midtown Greenway Coalition and the City of Minneapolis.

The Midtown Greenway, a Hennepin Community Works project, converted an existing below-grade railroad corridor extending across South Minneapolis into a public facility for transportation and recreational uses.

The Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) currently owns the 29th Street railroad corridor, which runs across South Minneapolis for 5.5 miles. The property was acquired in 1993 for future transit use.

### Neighborhood involvement

A public planning process involving Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis, the Midtown Greenway Coalition, the Midtown Community Works Partnership and 14 neighborhoods along the corridor led to a master plan for development of bicycle and pedestrian trails along the northern half of the railroad right-of-way. The southern half is reserved for transit.

The trail facilities connect existing park and trail systems from the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes to the Mississippi River, 5.5 miles to the east.

### ‘Missing link’

The Midtown Greenway provides the “missing link” in the century-old concept of connecting the city’s lakes to the river. The primary goal is to provide an alternative to automobile transportation by transforming the 29th Street Corridor into safe, barrier-free biking, skating and walking trails, while keeping space available for future light rail transit or buses.

The bicycle path provides an important east-west connection, previously lacking in the Twin Cities’ extensive regional bikeway system.

### Development stages

Phase I of the Midtown Greenway – from France Avenue on the west, between Lake Calhoun and Lake of the Isles, to Fifth Avenue – was constructed in 2000.

Phase II – from Fifth Avenue to Hiawatha Avenue – was constructed in 2003.

Phase III – from Hiawatha Avenue to the Mississippi River – was constructed in 2006.

Phase IV – the Midtown Greenway bridge – connects Phase II and Phase III, providing Midtown Greenway travelers safe passage over Hiawatha Avenue and the Hiawatha light rail line; was constructed in 2007.

The City of Minneapolis Public Works Department is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the bicycle facility and bridge.