

# **Harrison Neighborhood Environmental Assessment**

June 2003

*A project of the  
Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS)  
at the  
Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA)  
University of Minnesota*

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The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS) is a collaborative capacity-building effort intended to meet the needs of community-based organizations by providing access to property data that can inform community revitalization efforts and housing intervention and investment strategies. Partners in this project include the City of Minneapolis, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, select Minneapolis neighborhood organizations, and CURA. Participating neighborhood groups receive training, project assistance, GIS expertise, and access to property information, as well as opportunities to share ideas about GIS projects and housing strategies with other neighborhoods.

**Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS)**

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**Neighborhood:** Harrison

**Project Completion Date:** June 2003

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**Project Description:** Harrison Neighborhood Association's (HNA) environmental committee has been very concerned about the Superfund sites in the neighborhood, and has recently started working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) on an emissions permit for another polluter in the neighborhood--Leef Bros. Once HNA began investigating these issues, other potential pollution problems began to surface. One concern was gas stations and vacant lots that once contained gas tanks. Redevelopment of these lots is very expensive as they must be cleaned up to meet certain environmental specifications. As a result, Harrison decided to map all of the pollution sites to better get an understanding of pollution issues in Harrison.

**Process:** Data was collected from the EPA through the City of Minneapolis' Environmental Services office. Both the EPA and MPCA keep lists of possible or actual polluted sites, as well as information regarding the type of pollution and any previous permits or information given by the industry. A list of City-provided addresses of polluted sites and industrial polluters were geocoded against the City parcel basemap. The neighborhood developed a classification of pollution/polluter types based on their understanding of each site and tried to reflect this in the final map.

**Outcomes:** A map was created along with data summaries of the known polluted sites.

**Use:** Future plans include working on some of the other polluted sites and we also plan to gather more information on what exactly is in or on these sites, as well as who is responsible for the pollution.

**Data Sources:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, City of Minneapolis.

# Harrison Sources of Pollution

