

Powderhorn Park At-Risk Property Locator

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*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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Powderhorn Park At-Risk Property Locator

Neighborhood: Powderhorn Park

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Process: Properties were assigned a risk score based upon how many indicators were present. For example, a property that had a below average building condition and was tax delinquent, received a score of 2 (low risk). Using ArcView, the results were mapped, showing risk levels of high, moderate, low and monitor.

Progress: Working with MNIS, the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association developed a set of criteria to identify properties in the neighborhood that were at-risk of abandonment. Indicators included building condition, estimated market value, tax delinquency and intent to condemn notice. GIS was used to map the properties and create a list of contact information.

Project Outcomes: A map of Powderhorn Park was produced, illustrating the location of at-risk properties. In addition, a list of contact information, including owner name, address and homestead status was compiled. The list was used for outreach, including both face to face and phone contact, as well as targeted mailing. Thus far, the high-risk property has received assistance through a local Community Development Corporation and one of the 5 moderate risk properties has received advocacy through the neighborhood association.

Challenges/Limitations: Despite the promise of the initial assessment, access to additional data would increase our ability to more accurately identify properties at-risk. Utility billing information, housing code violation data, and police reports have been shown to also be useful indicators of housing abandonment.

Data Sources: City of Minneapolis parcel data