

District 17
Capital River/Downtown

Boundary:

North: University Avenue
East: Lafayette Road
South: Mississippi River
West: Kellogg Boulevard

Description:

Tree planting conditions within the central business district vary widely depending on land use and activity levels associated with commercial development. Solar access and microclimates are determined by the density and height of commercial buildings as well as the amount of impervious surface that is able to capture and radiate heat while blocking rainwater infiltration.

Land use in district 17 is primarily commercial. Residential and mixed use development is increasing in the downtown area improving livability and the pedestrian environment by increasing the number of street trees and connected green spaces.

A number of open spaces exist within downtown including Mears Park, Rice Park, Landmark Plaza, and Kellogg Park which overlooks the Mississippi River. Plazas associated with private development and public facilities increase the overall open space and provide additional opportunities to increase the urban canopy in the central business district.

Tree Species:

The tree inventory has not been completed for district 17.

Urban Forest Management:

Maintenance and tree planting are done on an as needed basis

The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit line being developed along University Avenue will have a terminus in district 17. The project includes right of way design and will inform street tree planting and maintenance operations along the rail corridor.

The 2005 Downtown Development Strategy outlines a vision for downtown Saint Paul that includes increased tree canopy cover and creates a network of green streets that link the parks and built amenities of the central business district. The goal of this document is to increase the livability of downtown and improve the pedestrian environment for those living and working in Saint Paul.



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