

All-In for Saint Paul

Partnering with the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance, the City of Saint Paul helped launch a bold Downtown Investment Strategy in March 2024—marking a significant step forward in reimagining and revitalizing our city's core. Developed through deep collaboration between public agencies, private sector leaders, and community stakeholders, the strategy reflects a shared commitment to building a safer, more vibrant downtown that works for everyone. **This public-private framework outlines targeted investments in housing, public spaces, streetscapes, and key redevelopment and under-utilized sites, with the goal of attracting more residents, visitors, and businesses to downtown.** By aligning resources and efforts, the City of Saint Paul and the Downtown Alliance are delivering on a clear, coordinated vision for recovery and long-term growth in the heart of the capital city.

Public-Private Partnership in Action for a Stronger Downtown

The expanded **Downtown Improvement District (DID)** now encompasses the entirety of downtown as of January 1, which is funded by property owners and supported by the city to enhance safety, beautification, and activations. This strategic action plan builds on our primary goals of supporting vibrancy, occupancy, and investment.

The DID operates with “street team ambassadors” and a Safety Communications Center that coordinate with Saint Paul Police, private security, and social service to best serve all who come downtown. The mission is simple but powerful: fund enhanced services like trash and graffiti removal, pedestrian assistance, wellness checks, and public safety coverage. The 2025 expansion broadened coverage to Lowertown and key parks, including Pedro Park and Wacouta Commons, and extended services to seven days a week.

GOAL #1

A Safe, Welcoming, Vibrant Downtown Experience

STRATEGY – ADDRESS CRIME AND QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES

Reduce crime and improve the overall quality of life in downtown through a combination of targeted interventions, enhanced support services, and increasing community engagement and visible security, with the goal of creating a safer, more welcoming environment for all.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Police calls for quality of life crimes and concerns fell by 40% within DID boundaries.
- Saint Paul police added officers to the downtown beat, making them more visible.
- Joined Metro Transit on “Safe and Strong” initiative, providing proactive policing, resource connection, and community partnership to improve rideability on Green Line.
- 2026 Budget includes \$10 million for downtown revitalization.

ACTIONS

- Fixing and maintaining existing light poles to keep lights on and prevent copper wire theft
- Modernizing downtown security

- camera infrastructure
- Implementing coordinated shoplifting deterrence and enforcement
- Deploy and partner with on-the-ground engagement teams who connect vulnerable individuals to support

STRATEGY – INVEST IN, MAINTAIN, AND IMPROVE THE PUBLIC SPACES

Revitalize the public spaces by enhancing the quality of life for current residents and making the area more appealing to potential residents, workers, visitors, and developers, ultimately increasing investment in housing, retail, and commercial spaces.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed Pedro Park in August 2025, re-envisioning two empty lots into a one-acre oasis in the heart of downtown.
- Installed new colorful wraps on light poles along the Shepherd Road pedestrian path.
- Completed the three-year reconstruction of Minnesota Street.
- Robert Street reconstruction project under way, addressing eight blocks of roadway and sidewalk.
- Completed new two-way separated

- bikeway along Kellogg Blvd, from St. Peter Street to Washington Street, as part of the ongoing Capital City Bikeway plan.
- Replaced broken brick along Fifth Street with concrete.
- Kellogg Blvd/3rd Street bridge replacement is 40% done.

ACTIONS

- Beautifying downtown spaces and parks by trimming trees, potting flowers, and managing vegetation
- Installing new garbage receptacles
- Fixing and maintaining existing light poles to properly light spaces and prevent copper wire theft
- Installing new signage and wayfinding markers to ensure safe and confident navigation
- Increased routine cleaning
- Major road reconstruction projects that improve safety of streets and bridges

ONGOING EXPERIENCE STRATEGIES

- Improve skyways security and maintenance
- Minimize disruption and impacts of construction projects
- Address the transit experience
- Retain and attract businesses and services

GOAL #2

Maximized Use Of City Assets and People

STRATEGY – COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF PUBLIC ASSETS

Unlock full potential of city-owned properties through strategic, effective usage and integrating city employees into downtown spaces

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Utilizing office space in Osborn 370 for city staff
- Conducted vacant building study with Downtown Alliance and identified 10 suitable for conversion into housing, potentially adding 4,000 new units

ACTIONS

- Continued evaluation of city-owned properties and office spaces through a space utilization and needs assessment.
- Exploring repurposing underutilized city-owned office buildings into residential units.
- Reintegrating city employees into spaces downtown to help catalyze downtown revitalization.



GOAL #3

A Busy, People-focused Urban Core Where Residents, Visitors, Workers, and Students Want To Be

To do this, we are creating more housing and density at all price ranges. Increased population in the downtown area will boost and stimulate the local economy by creating demand for services, retail, and housing, as well as generating new jobs in education, retail, technology, and other industries.

STRATEGY – INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF HOUSING DOWNTOWN

- Saint Paul has a bold goal of attracting 20,000 new residents to downtown. Increase the stock of housing across the entire spectrum, from deeply affordable to market-rate, through new construction and reuse of vacant buildings.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Landmark Tower (4th and St. Peter streets) – 187 units, approx. 400 new market-rate tenants
- Balsam on Broadway (540 Broadway Street) – 128 units, approx. 250 new tenants earning 30-80% AMI

FUTURE DOWNTOWN HOUSING

- Eco Lab University/The Stella (386 Wabasha Street) – 174 units, approx. 400 new market-rate tenants; additional 2,800 square feet of retail space (spring 2026)
- Central Station Block (5th and Minnesota streets) – 130 units, approx. 250 new market-rate tenants; additional 10,000 square feet of ground floor retail space (planning under way)

STRATEGY – PROMOTE VIBRANT DOWNTOWN SPACES AND AMENITIES

- Investing in public spaces, activating storefronts, and supporting arts, culture, and nightlife, to create a dynamic downtown that reflects the energy and diversity of Minnesota's capital city.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Three-day Minnesota Yacht Club Music Festival attracted over 95,000 people to Harriet Island.
- Rice Park and Mears Park hosted community events almost every night of week during the summer.
- Collaborated with Visit Saint Paul, Saint Paul Downtown Alliance, and downtown business partners to activate downtown spaces (Food Truck Wednesday and Thursday, Downtown Block Party, Kick it at Kellogg, Lowertown Sounds).
- Osborn Plaza is gathering public input on its redesign
- Construction of a reimagined Ecolab Plaza is under way

ACTIONS

- Continued activation of parks and public art
- Support projects that maintain and improve public spaces (Grand Casino Arena and RiverCentre Complex, downtown plazas, Central Library, etc.)
- Support arts, culture, and entertainment initiatives
- Lift up downtown as a social and cultural hub



**SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA**

stpaul.gov/enterprise

