

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

Green Zones Initiative

Green Zones website:
minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/policies/green-zones



November 28, 2017

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Minneapolis Background (2013-2016)



2013: Climate Action Plan

2016: Workgroup established

2017: Two Green Zones designated



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What is a Green Zone?

- **Place-based** policy initiative aimed at improving **health** and supporting **economic development** using **environmentally conscious** efforts in communities that face the **cumulative effects** of environmental pollution, as well as social, political and economic vulnerability.



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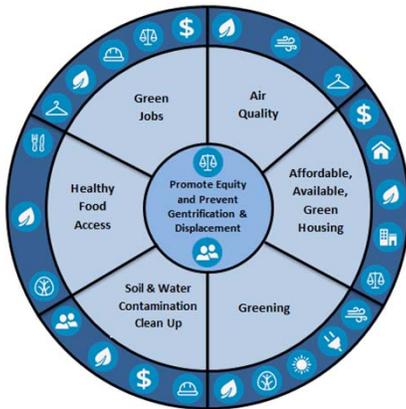
Green Zones Workgroup: April 2016- March 2017



1. Criteria for Green Zone designation
2. Goals and metrics
3. Strategies to achieve the environmental, health and economic development goals

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Goals



Advance equity and prevent displacement and gentrification

Critical Considerations:

- Focus on most vulnerable (low-wealth, over-burdened, people of color, indigenous people, youth, disabled, older adults)
- Community-led planning
- Homegrown development & community ownership
- Be innovative, creative, courageous, flexible and adaptive



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Clean Up Soil & Water Contamination & Redevelop Brownfields

Core Components:

- Identify contamination and potential health impacts
- Clean up even if no immediate redevelopment project
- Access to funding for speculative clean-up

Critical Considerations:

- Community-identified sites
- Living-wage jobs for local residents on brownfield redevelopment sites
- Purposeful, compatible, appropriate new development



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Improve air quality, livability and pollinator habitat through vegetation, clean energy and energy efficiency (“greening”)

Core Components:

- Tree and pollinator-friendly planting to reduce stormwater runoff, water pollution, air pollution
- Clean energy and energy efficiency
- Green building standards

Critical Considerations:

- Community climate resilience
- Community-owned energy
- Training opportunities



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Improve air and environmental quality in business and transport

Core Components:

- Reduce use of harmful chemicals & increase energy efficiency in business operations
- Address contribution of transportation and non-point source pollution

Critical Considerations:

- Assess cumulative impact of pollution sources
- Balance supporting businesses and meeting community health needs; prioritize people, esp. most disadvantaged



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Increase green job/ career opportunities for residents through Green Zones activities

Core Components:

- Work with partners to...
 - Connect Green Zone employers with local workers
 - Promote awareness of green jobs/careers, training and certification

Critical Considerations:

- Incentivize local hiring
- Reduce barriers to green jobs/training (background check, exam)
- Support entrepreneurs, small business ownership and jobs, especially for disadvantaged populations and youth



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Improve affordability, availability and environmental quality of housing

Core Components:

- Remove lead, asthma triggers, radon, mold and energy issues
- Green standards for new structures and renovation

Critical Considerations:

- Improve environmental quality of rental properties
- Preserve affordability/availability – overcome barriers such as eviction record, UD's, credit core, etc.
- Promote homeownership or cooperative housing
- Support Universal/Inclusive Design



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Create healthy, affordable food access by supporting a local system of growing, production, distribution

Core Components:

- Partner with active organizations in local food
- Identify opportunities for renters to garden

Critical Considerations:

- Reduce barriers to grow produce and create and sell value-added products in the community
- Explore new models of ownership/membership for co-ops, markets, gardens, etc.



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Proposed Designation Criteria

Environmental Evaluation

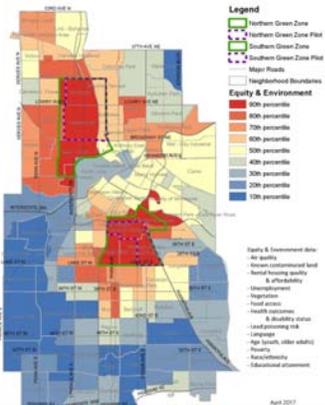
- + Air quality (MPCA modeled data)
- + Brownfields (brownfields & permitted sources)
- + Housing (rental tiers, affordability gap, cost burden)
- + Jobs (unemployment, proximity of jobs)
- + Greening (vegetation)
- + Food access (farmers' markets, grocery stores, food shelves, corners stores)
- [Water Quality & Access]

Equity Evaluation

- + Health Outcomes (asthma, heart attack hospitalizations)
- + Lead risk
- + English proficiency
- + Disability status
- + Older adults (age 65+, nursing homes)
- + Youth (children <5, child care centers, schools)
- + Concentrated Poverty with majority People of Color and Indigenous People
- + Educational Attainment

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Minneapolis Green Zone Designations



Equity + Environment

Equity category has equal weight as all the environmental variables combined (Equity = 1, Environment = 1)

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