

= Minneapolis =

Minneapolis (/ ˈmɪniˈæpəlɪs /) is the county seat of Hennepin County , and larger of the Twin Cities , the 16th @-@ largest metropolitan area in the United States , containing about 3 @.@ 5 million residents . As of 2015 , Minneapolis is the largest city in the state of Minnesota and 46th @-@ largest in the United States with a population of 410 @,@ 939 . Minneapolis and Saint Paul anchor the second @-@ largest economic center in the Midwest , after Chicago .

Minneapolis lies on both banks of the Mississippi River , just north of the river 's confluence with the Minnesota River , and adjoins Saint Paul , the state 's capital . The city is abundantly rich in water , with twenty lakes and wetlands , the Mississippi River , creeks and waterfalls , many connected by parkways in the Chain of Lakes and the Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway . It was once the world 's flour milling capital and a hub for timber . In the 21st century , it is the primary business center between Chicago and Seattle , with Minneapolis proper containing America 's fifth @-@ highest concentration of Fortune 500 companies . As an integral link to the global economy , Minneapolis is categorized as a global city . Noted for its strong music and performing arts scenes , Minneapolis is home to both the award @-@ winning Guthrie Theater and the historic First Avenue nightclub , the latter of which helped launch the career of musical icon Prince .

Minneapolis ' name is attributed to Charles Hoag , the city 's first schoolteacher , who combined mni , a Dakota Sioux word for water , and polis , the Greek word for city .

= = History = =

= = = Sioux natives , city founded = = =

Dakota Sioux had long been the region 's sole residents when French explorers arrived around 1680 . For a time relations were based on fur trading . Gradually more European @-@ American settlers arrived , competing for game and other resources with the Dakota .

In the early 19th century , the United States acquired this territory from France . It gradually established posts here . Fort Snelling was built in 1819 by the United States Army , and it attracted traders , settlers and merchants , spurring growth in the area . The United States government pressed the Mdewakanton band of the Dakota to sell their land , allowing people arriving from the East to settle here . The Minnesota Territorial Legislature authorized present @-@ day Minneapolis as a town in 1856 on the Mississippi 's west bank . Minneapolis incorporated as a city in 1867 , the year rail service began between Minneapolis and Chicago . It later joined with the east @-@ bank city of St. Anthony in 1872 .

= = = Waterpower ; lumber and flour milling = = =

Minneapolis developed around Saint Anthony Falls , the highest waterfall on the Mississippi River and a source of power for its early industry . Forests in northern Minnesota were exploited by the lumber industry , which operated seventeen sawmills on power from the waterfall . By 1871 , the west river bank had twenty @-@ three businesses , including flour mills , woolen mills , iron works , a railroad machine shop , and mills for cotton , paper , sashes , and planing wood . Due to the occupational hazards of milling , six local sources of artificial limbs were competing in the prosthetics business by the 1890s . The farmers of the Great Plains grew grain that was shipped by rail to the city 's thirty @-@ four flour mills . Millers have used hydropower elsewhere since the 1st century B.C. , but the results in Minneapolis between 1880 and 1930 were so remarkable the city has been described as " the greatest direct @-@ drive waterpower center the world has ever seen . "

A father of modern milling in America and founder of what became General Mills , Cadwallader C. Washburn converted his business from gristmills to truly revolutionary technology , including " gradual reduction " processing by steel and porcelain roller mills that were capable of producing premium @-@ quality pure white flour very quickly . Some ideas were developed by William Dixon

Gray and some acquired through industrial espionage from the Hungarians by William de la Barre . Charles A. Pillsbury and C.A. Pillsbury Company across the river were barely a step behind , hiring Washburn employees to immediately use the new methods . The hard red spring wheat that grows in Minnesota became valuable (\$.50 profit per barrel in 1871 increased to \$ 4 @. @ 50 in 1874 ,) and Minnesota " patent " flour was recognized at the time as the best in the world .

Not until later did consumers discover the value in the bran (which contains wheat 's vitamins , minerals and fiber) that " Minneapolis ... millers routinely dumped " into the Mississippi . Millers cultivated relationships with academic scientists especially at the University of Minnesota . Those scientists backed them politically on many issues , for example during the early 20th century , when health advocates in the nascent field of nutrition criticized the flour " bleaching " process . At peak production , a single mill at Washburn @-@ Crosby made enough flour for 12 million loaves of bread each day , and by 1900 , 14 @. @ 1 percent of America 's grain was milled in Minneapolis . Further , by 1895 through the efforts of silent partner William Hood Dunwoody , Washburn @-@ Crosby exported four million barrels of flour a year to the United Kingdom , and when exports reached their peak in 1900 , about one third of all flour milled in Minneapolis was shipped overseas .

= = = Corruption , social movements , urban renewal = = =

Known initially as a kindly physician , Doc Ames led the city into corruption during four terms as mayor just before 1900 . The gangster Kid Cann was famous for bribery and intimidation during the 1930s and 1940s . The city made dramatic changes to rectify discrimination as early as 1886 when Martha Ripley founded Maternity Hospital for both married and unmarried mothers .

When the country 's fortunes turned during the Great Depression , the violent Teamsters Strike of 1934 resulted in laws acknowledging workers ' rights . A lifelong civil rights activist and union supporter , mayor Hubert Humphrey helped the city establish fair employment practices and a human relations council that interceded on behalf of minorities by 1946 . In the 1950s , about 1 @. @ 6 % of the population of Minneapolis was nonwhite . Minneapolis contended with white supremacy , participated in desegregation and the African @-@ American civil rights movement , and in 1968 was the birthplace of the American Indian Movement .

Minneapolis was a " particularly virulent " site of anti @-@ semitism until 1950 . A hate group recruited members in the city and held meetings there around 1936 to 1938 . The Jewish Free Employment Bureau tried to help victims of economic discrimination , with limited success . Formed in 1948 , the nonsectarian Mount Sinai Hospital was a place where Jewish physicians and health professionals could practice .

During the 1950s and 1960s , as part of urban renewal , the city razed about 200 buildings across 25 city blocks (roughly 40 % of downtown) , destroying the Gateway District and many buildings with notable architecture , including the Metropolitan Building . Efforts to save the building failed but are credited with sparking interest in (but not always succeeding in) historic preservation in the state .

= = Geography and climate = =

The history and economic growth of Minneapolis are tied to water , the city 's defining physical characteristic , which was brought to the region during the last ice age ten thousand years ago . Ice blocks deposited in valleys by retreating glaciers created the lakes of Minneapolis . Fed by a receding glacier and Lake Agassiz , torrents of water from a glacial river cut the Mississippi riverbed and created the river 's only waterfall , Saint Anthony Falls , important to the early settlers of Minneapolis .

Lying on an artesian aquifer and flat terrain , Minneapolis has a total area of 58 @. @ 4 square miles (151 @. @ 3 km²) and of this 6 % is water . Water supply is managed by four watershed districts that correspond to the Mississippi and the city 's three creeks . Twelve lakes , three large ponds , and five unnamed wetlands are within Minneapolis .

The city center is located at 45 ° N latitude . The city 's lowest elevation of 686 feet (209 m) is near where Minnehaha Creek meets the Mississippi River . The site of the Prospect Park Water Tower is often cited as the city 's highest point and a placard in Deming Heights Park denotes the highest elevation . A spot at 974 feet (297 m) in or near Waite Park in Northeast Minneapolis , however , is corroborated by Google Earth as the highest ground .

= = = Cityscape = = =

= = = Climate = = =

Minneapolis has a humid continental climate typical of the Upper Midwest . According to NOAA , Minneapolis 's annual average for sunshine is 58 % . On the Köppen climate classification , Minneapolis falls in the humid continental climate zone (Dfa) and is situated in USDA plant hardiness zone 4b borderline 5a . As is typical in a continental climate , the difference between average temperatures in the coldest winter month and the warmest summer month is great : 60 @. @ 1 ° F (33 @. @ 4 ° C) .

The city experiences a full range of precipitation and related weather events , including snow , sleet , ice , rain , thunderstorms , and fog . The highest recorded temperature was 108 ° F (42 ° C) in July 1936 while the lowest was ? 41 ° F (? 41 ° C) in January 1888 . The snowiest winter of record was 1983 ? 84 , when 8 @. @ 2 feet or 98 @. @ 4 inches (250 cm) of snow fell .

= = Demographics = =

As of the 2010 U.S. census , the racial composition was as follows :

White : 63 @. @ 8 %

Black or African American : 18 @. @ 6 %

American Indian : 2 @. @ 0 %

Asian : 5 @. @ 6 % (1 @. @ 9 % Hmong , 0 @. @ 9 % Chinese , 0 @. @ 7 % Indian , 0 @. @ 6 % Korean , 0 @. @ 4 % Vietnamese , 0 @. @ 3 % Thai , 0 @. @ 3 % Laotian , 0 @. @ 2 % Filipino , 0 @. @ 1 % Japanese , 0 @. @ 2 % Other Asian)

Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander : 0 @. @ 1 %

Other : 5 @. @ 6 %

Multiracial : 4 @. @ 4 %

Hispanic or Latino (of any race) : 10 @. @ 5 % (7 @. @ 0 % Mexican , 1 @. @ 3 % Ecuadorian , 0 @. @ 4 % Puerto Rican , 0 @. @ 3 % Guatemalan , 0 @. @ 2 % Salvadoran , 1 @. @ 3 % Other Latino)

White Americans make up about three @-@ fifths of Minneapolis 's population . This community is predominantly of German and Scandinavian descent . There are 82 @, @ 870 German Americans in the city , making up over one @-@ fifth (23 @. @ 1 %) of the population . The Scandinavian @-@ American population is primarily Norwegian and Swedish . There are 39 @, @ 103 Norwegian Americans , making up 10 @. @ 9 % of the population ; there are 30 @, @ 349 Swedish Americans , making up 8 @. @ 5 % of the city 's population . Danish Americans are not nearly as numerous ; there are 4 @, @ 434 Danish Americans , making up only 1 @. @ 3 % of the population . Norwegian , Swedish , and Danish Americans together make up 20 @. @ 7 % of the population . This means that ethnic Germans and Scandinavians together make up 43 @. @ 8 % of Minneapolis 's population , and make up the majority of Minneapolis 's non @-@ Hispanic white population . Other significant European groups in the city include those of Irish (11 @. @ 3 %) , English (7 @. @ 0 %) , Polish (3 @. @ 9 %) , French (3 @. @ 5 %) and Italian (2 @. @ 3 %) descent .