

# CITY OF ST PAUL

When the LRT (Light Rail Transit) Central Corridor is operational in two years, and the AmTrack line in twenty, there will be a greater need for a link between each of these transit hubs, and substantial parking for motorists who will utilize the public transportation system. Once renovations are complete, the Union Depot Station will once again serve as the public transportation hub for St. Paul. These two rail systems will provide citizens with efficient and reliable transportation, reducing the need for personal motor vehicles and minimizing congestion on city streets, highways, and freeways.

District Energy will be able to provide more reliable and efficient heating and cooling to constructs on site for a lower energy rate via the combustion of biomass (renewable) and fossil feuls when those supplies are short. This will require both supply and return lines, in a closed loop system, of steam and chilled water from the Kellog Energy Plant ten blocks away, eliminating the need for boilers, chillers, and cooling towers. Buildings will instead require heat exchangers for central forced air systems and localized fan coil units.

Parks and green space lend uniqueness and identity to a city and its neighborhoods. St. Paul contains 4,123 acres of parks which accounts for 11% of St. Paul's total land area. They provide a strong framework for maintaining and improving every citizen's quality of life, and they form neighborhood focal points for community activity and life. (stpaul.gov) Mears park in particular, and only one block away from the proposed site, is a public space which is maintained as a collaborative effort by local volunteers and citizens of St. Paul.

Lower St. Paul has been home to the local farmers market for over 150 years and is now run by the St. Paul Growers Association. The market, which is only run on weekends, is located one block northwest of the site. It is a place where residents from St. Paul and surrounding areas can come to sell and purchase locally grown food. The embodied energy of locally grown food is significantly less than foods which are out of season and/or found in supermarkets because it does not need to travel great distances before it is purchased and then consumed.

Even though there is a well established farmers market in downtown St. Paul, there is still a great need for corner grocery stores to serve its inhabitants during the winter season. Without corner markets people are forced to become dependent on motor vehicles and supermarkets for their