



Welcome to Our Neighborhood



WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

This guide is intended to help orient you to the services and resources available in the community surrounding Becketwood. We hope it will be particularly helpful for those of you who might not be familiar with our part of South Minneapolis.

THE LONGFELLOW COMMUNITY: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Community Overview

Becketwood is situated at the eastern edge of Minneapolis's Longfellow Community, a corner of the city bounded by Minnehaha Park on the South, the Mississippi River on the East, the Midtown Greenway on the North and Hiawatha Avenue on the West.

The community is named for the 19th century American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who located his "Song of Hiawatha" at the waterfalls in Minnehaha Park.

Much of Longfellow was developed during the teens and twenties of the last century. Today the area still has a large stock of modest but well-built story and half bungalows from that era. Street signs marking Longfellow's boundaries identify the area as a "traditional bungalow community."

Initially, Longfellow was a working class district with a heavily Scandinavian cast. Today, the community is home to young families from diverse backgrounds who are attracted to the area's natural amenities, its convenient inner-city location and its affordable Craftsman-style housing stock.

The western edge of Longfellow is primarily industrial, with a string of flour mills lining the railroad tracks just to the east of Hiawatha Avenue. The Light Rail Transit line (LRT) to the west of Hiawatha is changing the character of that corridor as new high density residential developments are built adjacent to the LRT stations.

Natural Amenities

The Mississippi River Gorge

Becketwood's 12-acre campus overlooks a unique section of the Mississippi River, a steeply wooded gorge created during the prehistoric era, as giant waterfalls, the precursor to today's St. Anthony Falls, receded to its current downtown Minneapolis location. Today, the gorge provides a habitat for a rich and diverse collection of plants and wildlife, including raccoons, beavers, rabbits, red fox and an occasional white-tail deer. The gorge also serves as a migration flyway for approximately 150 bird species.



North of Becketwood, near 36th Street, a small native prairie area, set in a bowl between West River Parkway and the river bluff, has remained pretty much intact since the pre-development era.

While the river gorge's ecosystem has been degraded over the last 150 years, several local environmental and community groups are working in partnership to restore and enhance this unique natural resource.

West River Parkway

City leaders began planning for a parkway along the Mississippi River as far back as 1883, when the noted American landscape architect Horace Cleveland proposed a system of roadways known as the Grand Rounds that would link Minneapolis's lakes and parks.

The first road along the river, little more than a two-lane gravel path, was built in 1904 along the route of the present-day West River Parkway, which passes in front of Becketwood's main entrance.

In the 1930s, funding from the Roosevelt Administration's Works Progress Administration (WPA) enabled the Minneapolis Park Board to expand and enhance the Parkway. Today, a WPA plaque is still in place on the stone stairway across from Becketwood's entrance.

Just below the present-day bike and walking trail, a narrow footpath winds along the top of the river bluff. The pathway, known as the Winchell Trail, is named for Horace Winchell, an avid environmentalist and geologist who studied the history of the falls as it receded through the river gorge during the prehistoric era.

In 2009, the Park Board rebuilt the popular West River Parkway bike and hiking trail that connects to a network of more than 50 miles of off-road trails extending throughout the Twin Cities metro area.



Minnehaha Park

One of Minnesota's oldest and most popular natural sites, Minnehaha Park, is located just a short walk south of Becketwood. The focal point of this sprawling city park is the 53 foot tall Minnehaha Falls, known nationally as the location of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's famous 19th century poem, the Song of Hiawatha.

The yellow-clad Longfellow House, a two-thirds size replica of the poet's Cambridge Massachusetts home, is situated at the west end of the Park. The house was built in 1906 by Robert "Fish" Jones, a Minneapolis entrepreneur who operated a zoo and public garden at the site during the early decades of the last century. On top of the berm behind the Longfellow House, the Park Board has installed a planting area, filled with colorful annual and perennial flowers, known as the Longfellow Garden. This park site is intended to evoke the formal gardens of the Fish Jones era, just after the turn of the last century.

At the Park's south end, its bike and walking paths connect to Fort Snelling State Park, the site of the army fort built in the 1820s as the first white settlement in what would later become the State of Minnesota. The restored Fort Snelling is now operated as an historic site by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Becketwood's Neighbors

Minnehaha Academy

The south campus of Minnehaha Academy, a private school affiliated with the Evangelical Covenant Church, directly adjoins Becketwood. The campus houses the Academy's pre-school through 8th-grade program, with an enrollment of more than 500 students. The 9th through 12th-grade program is housed a mile away at the Academy's north campus, its original location on West River Parkway between 31st and 32nd Streets.

The south campus was originally built for Breck School, an Episcopal-affiliated private school. Breck had purchased its site from Sheltering Arms, the orphanage and social agency that initially occupied the Becketwood site. When Breck relocated to Golden Valley in 1980, Minnehaha Academy purchased the Breck property. In 2007 and 2008, Minnehaha rebuilt the 1950s-era campus to give it a traditional look, more in keeping with its older north campus.



Becketwood residents are able to access the Academy's running track and tennis courts when they are not being used by the school's students.

Luella Anderson Addition

The small residential neighborhood directly north of Minnehaha Academy is criss-crossed with curving streets named for past presidents of the University of Minnesota. In the 1920s, the University received the 38 acre site as a gift from William Eustis, a wealthy real estate developer and former mayor of Minneapolis. Eustis, who had been disabled as a young boy, had hoped that the University would use the site as a rehabilitation center for children suf-



fering from polio. But the University opted to sell the property in 1958 to a local builder, Marvin H. Anderson, who developed a suburban-style subdivision on the site. Anderson named the subdivision for his wife, Luella.

Today, several architecturally unique homes are located in the Luella Anderson Addition. They include 4736 Coffey Lane designed by Herb Fritz, a disciple of Frank Lloyd Wright, and the adjoining

home at 4730 Coffey Lane, designed by Ralph Rapson. Rapson was Minnesota's leading 20th century architect. He is best known for his original Guthrie Theater on Vinland Place, demolished in 2006 to make room for an expansion of the Walker Art Center.

Dowling School

This elementary school at 3900 West River Parkway dates back to 1924 when it was built on a site donated to the Minneapolis Board of Education by William Eustis, who also donated the adjoining property, now the Luella Anderson Addition, to the University of Minnesota. Originally known as the Michael Dowling School for Crippled Children, the citywide school provided educational services for boys and girls with physical disabilities.

While Dowling still offers programs for disabled students, the school is now known as an Environmental Learning Center. It offers a Grade K-5 program for children with a wide range of abilities.

In 1936, President Franklin Roosevelt and his wife, Eleanor, visited Dowling to dedicate the school's therapeutic swimming pool. The pool is still in use today and is open to the public through the school's community education program.

Dowling Community Gardens

This privately operated garden site, the second oldest community garden in the nation, backs up to the Dowling School along 46th Avenue. Dowling Gardens contains more than 150 individual garden plots for local families, some of whom have passed on their prized plots from one generation to the next. Each year, Dowling Gardens sponsors an Heirloom Fest which enables visitors to sample its heirloom vegetables and admire its heirloom plants and flowers.



St. Peders Lutheran Church

This affiliate of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) traces its origins back to the 1880s, when the original congregation was formed by a group of Danish seminary students. St. Peders relocated to its current location at 42nd Street and 46th Avenue in 1961.

RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Where to find it

Becketwood is located in a mainly residential area, so most neighborhood shopping is located a short drive away. Below is a list of places within five minutes of our campus that provide the services you are likely to need on a regular basis.

Many of the businesses and organizations listed in this guide are located in Minneapolis's Longfellow Community. Their contact information is available in the **Longfellow Business Directory** published by the Longfellow Business Association. You can get a free copy of the business directory by contacting the Longfellow Community Council at **612-722-4529**.

Groceries

You will need to drive over the Ford Bridge into St. Paul's Highland Park neighborhood to find the closest large, fully-stocked supermarket. But there is a small neighborhood grocery store, **Reidy's Market**, not far away, at the corner of 42nd Avenue and 39th Street. If you keep up a brisk pace, you can walk to Reidy's from Becketwood in about 15 minutes.

Gas

There are several gas stations along 46th Street, just a few blocks south of our campus. **Geller Automotive** is at 46th and Minnehaha, and a **Holiday Station** is a block away at 46th and Hiawatha.

Drug Stores

The **Walgreens Drug Store** and its pharmacy at 4547 Hiawatha, across from the Holiday Station, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. On foot, it takes about 15 minutes to get to Walgreens from Becketwood. The **Fairview Hiawatha Pharmacy** at 3809 42nd Avenue is open from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday. The Fairview Pharmacy can make same-day deliveries.

Hardware

The **Falls Hardware** at 4008 Minnehaha has been at the same location for more than 100 years. It is one of those old-fashioned stores, packed tight from floor to ceiling with all those hardware supplies that you will need to make small household repairs.

Dry Cleaning

Elite Cleaners at 3101 Minnehaha, **U.S. Cleaners** at 4729 Hiawatha and Nokomis Cleaners at 4135 Hiawatha provides full service dry cleaning services

Auto Repair

Nearby auto repair shops include **R&R Automotive** at 4056 42nd Avenue, **Greg's Automotive Service** at 4737 Minnehaha, and **Geller Automotive** at 4601 Minnehaha.

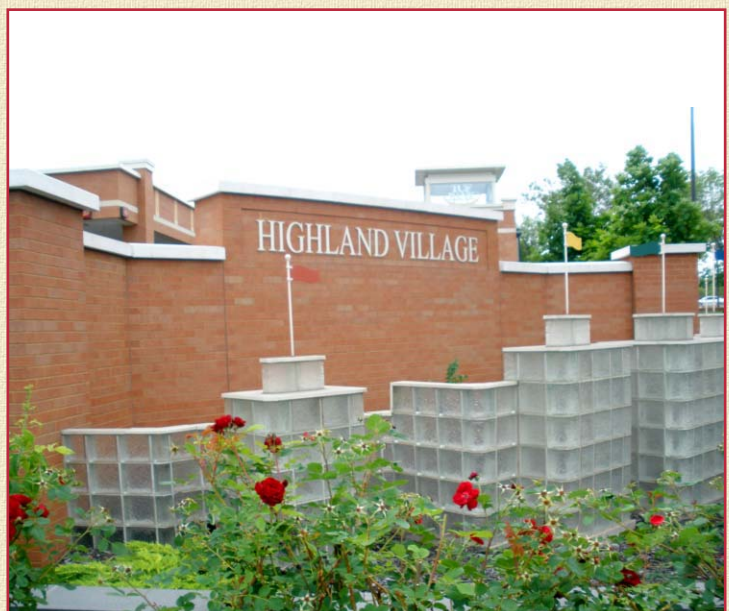
Area Shopping Districts

A number of community and neighborhood shopping districts are located within about a ten minute drive of Becketwood. They include:

Highland Village

St. Paul's largest retail district outside of its downtown is located just a short drive from Becketwood over the Ford Bridge. Contact information for many of the businesses in Highland Village is available on-line at the **Highland Business Association** website: www.highlandba.com.

Highland Village is anchored by a large **Lunds Supermarket** whose parking lot is often crowded, particularly on busy weekend afternoons.



This St. Paul shopping area, which extends along Ford Parkway for more than a half mile, includes two banks, a number of restaurants, a **Barnes and Noble** book store, an upscale women's clothing shop, a jewelry store a health clinic, a public library and the Art Deco-era **Highland Theater**, which shows first run movies.

The Becketwood van transports Becketwood residents to and from Highland Village for shopping trips on a regular basis. Metro Transit's Number 23 bus, which stops at Becketwood, behind the building on 46th Avenue, also goes to Highland Village.

Nokomis Village

This small neighborhood shopping district, centered at the intersection of 50th Street and 34th Avenue, is tucked away in Nokomis, the community west and south of Longfellow.

The compact Nokomis Village district includes **Nokomis Shoes**, one of the city's largest shoe stores, the popular **Al Vento** Italian restaurant, the **3 Tiers Pastry Shop**, two banks, a dental clinic, a barber shop, a grocery store and a bowling alley. The **Nokomis Library**, a branch of the Hennepin County library system, is located at the south end of the district at 5100 34th Avenue.

38th Street and 42nd Avenue

Just a 15 minute walk from Becketwood, 38th and 42nd is best known as the home of the popular **Riverview Theater**, which shows second run films with a ticket price of only \$2. The district also includes the **Fairview Hiawatha Clinic and Pharmacy**, the **Mother Earth Garden Center** and the **Riverview Coffee Shop and Wine Bar. Turtle Bread**, at 34th Street and 42nd Avenue, provides soups, salads, and sandwiches along with its signature baked goods. The Number 23 bus also goes to 38th and 42nd Avenue. The **Fireroast Mountain Café** is at 37th Avenue, just a few blocks west of 42nd. It is a small, cozy coffee shop known for its homemade pastries.

Lake Street

Lake Street is South Minneapolis' major commercial thoroughfare. It runs straight across town from the Mississippi River on the east to the city limits just beyond Lake Calhoun on the west. The Longfellow segment extends from the river, west to Hiawatha Avenue. Just to the east of Hiawatha, at 27th Avenue, a "big box" retail district includes a **Target Store** and **Rainbow** and **Cub** supermarkets. The **East Lake Library**, a branch of the Hennepin County Library system, is also located in the 27th and Lake district. Several popular restaurants and coffee shops are



located on Lake Street. They include the upscale **Craftsman** at 4300 East Lake, and the more moderately-priced **Longfellow Grill**, whose outdoor patio overlooks the West River Parkway at the northwest corner of the Parkway and East Lake Street. Longfellow's only chain coffee shop, **Dunn Brothers**, is located next door to the Longfellow Grill. Down the street is the funkier **Blue Moon Coffee Café** at 3822 East Lake.

East Lake is also home to several ethnic restaurants including **El Norteño**, **Midori's Floating World** and **Gandhi Mahal**. **Merlin's Rest**, at 3601 East Lake, is a traditional British pub that celebrates its English, Irish, Welsh and Scottish heritage.

Minnehaha-Hiawatha Corridor

A number of retail shops are scattered along the mile and half section of Minnehaha Avenue between Lake Street and 46th Street. They includes the **Elite Cleaners**, the **Falls Hardware**, and the **Minnehaha Falls Nursery**. The non-profit **Tapestry Folk Dance Center** is at 3748 Minnehaha Avenue.

Several national fast foods chains are located on Longfellow's fast food strip, the section of Hiawatha Avenue between 41st and 48th Streets. The popular **Bridgeman's Restaurant** and ice cream shop is at 4737 Hiawatha.

Other Community Resources

Health Care

Fairview Health Services operates the **Fairview Hiawatha Clinic** at 3809 42nd Avenue. Fairview's **Highland Clinic** and **Urgent Care Clinic** in Highland Village are also part of the Fairview system. Both Highland Village clinics are co-located at 2155 Ford Parkway in St. Paul. The Urgent Care Clinic is open from 6 PM to 10 PM, Monday-Friday, 8AM-10 PM on Saturdays and 10 AM to 8 PM on Sundays. The clinic is closed on holidays.

The Fairview system operates the **University of Minnesota Medical Center**, which has two hospitals, one on the University campus, at 500 Harvard Street SE and the second at 2450 Riverside Avenue. The **Fairview Riverside Hospital** has the closest hospital emergency room to Becketwood.

Abbott Northwestern Hospital at 800 East 28th Street and the **Hennepin County Medical Center** at 701 Park Avenue are both within about a 20 minute drive of Becketwood.

Several nearby dental clinics are listed in the Longfellow Business Directory.

Public Facilities

Post Offices

Becketwood's zip code, 55406, is served by the **U.S. Postal Service's Minnehaha Station** at 31st and Minnehaha. People who live within this zip code can have their mail held at the Minnehaha Station while they are out of town. (Becketwood residents can also opt to have their mail held here in the building if they will be away for 30 days or less.)

Libraries

Hennepin County's **East Lake Library** (pictured on page 8) is at 2727 East Lake. St. Paul's **Highland Park Library** is at 1974 Ford Parkway. Hennepin County and St. Paul library cards are interchangeable and can each be used at both systems.

Parks, Recreation Centers and Public Golf Courses

Minnehaha Park, one of Minnesota's major tourist attractions, is described in the earlier section of this guide. **Sea Salt**, the popular seafood restaurant in the park pavilion, has outdoor seating within hearing distance of the falls. The restaurant is open every day for lunch and dinner from April through October. Tennis courts and children's playgrounds are located at the **Hiawatha School Park** at 4305 East 43rd Street and at the **Longfellow Community Center** at 3435 36th Avenue South. The Minneapolis Park Board operates the **Hiawatha Golf Club**, a regulation par 73 course at 4553 Longfellow Avenue. St. Paul's Parks and Recreation Department operates the **Highland National Golf Course**, a par 72 course at 1403 Montreal Avenue.

Religious Places

More than twenty churches, representing a broad range of religious faiths, are located in Longfellow and are listed in the Longfellow Business Directory. **Christ Church Lutheran**, one of Minnesota's most important architectural landmarks, is located in at 3244 34th Avenue South. The Christ Church sanctuary, one of the Twin Cities' first modernist church buildings, was built by the famed Finnish architect, Eliel Saarinen in 1949. His son, Eero Saarinen, designed the church addition, built in 1962.



Becketwood is in the parish served by **St. Helena Catholic Church** at 3201 East 43rd Street. **St. James AME Church**, at 3600 Snelling Avenue, traces its origins to the first African American church congregation established in Minnesota. **Temple of Aaron Congregation**, at 616 South Mississippi River Parkway in St. Paul, is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Public Transportation

Metro Transit's Number 23 bus stops at Becketwood's back entrance on 46th Avenue. The north and west bound bus travels across Minneapolis to the city's Uptown district, with a stop at the 38th Street Hiawatha LRT station. The south and east bound bus goes to St. Paul's Highland Village. The Hiawatha LRT connects the Mall of America, with an intermediate stop at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, to the new Minnesota Twins stadium in the Minneapolis's warehouse district. At the stadium, the LRT line connects with the Northstar Commuter rail line through the Twin Cities' northern suburbs to the town of Big Lake.

For more information on public transportation services in the Twin Cities call **612-373-3333**. Online at www.metrotransit.org.

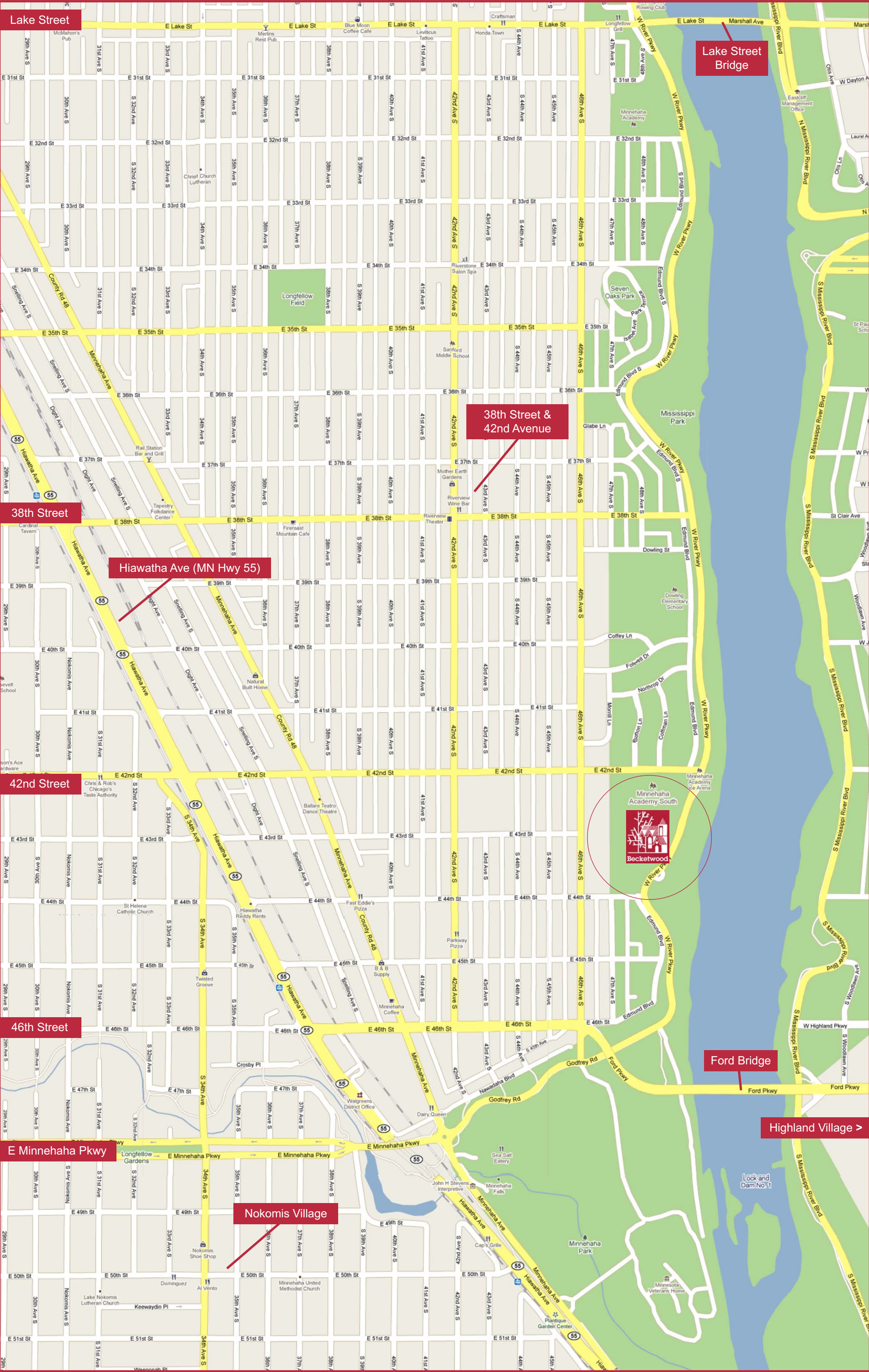
MORE INFORMATION

For more information, consult the **Longfellow Business Directory**. It provides postal addresses, phone numbers, Email addresses and Web sites for more than 400 businesses, agencies and organizations located in Longfellow. The directory also provides a listing of the elected officials who represent the Longfellow area.

The listings in this guide are provided for information only. Becketwood Cooperative does not endorse any of the businesses or organizations listed here.



So much so close to home!



Lake Street

Lake Street Bridge

38th Street & 42nd Avenue

38th Street

Hiawatha Ave (MN Hwy 55)

42nd Street



46th Street

Ford Bridge

Highland Village >

E Minnehaha Pkwy

Nokomis Village



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