



Dear Friend,

In Minneapolis, we keep investing in the common ground that helps everyone succeed. Our most recent investment is in extending the City's wireless network to all 59 square miles of Minneapolis with 117 new "Wireless Minneapolis" hotspots that are now live throughout the city. These hotspots represent our latest effort to close the digital divide and create opportunity for everyone in our city — residents, businesses and visitors — to use the Internet to find good jobs, pursue lifelong learning and stay connected to their community.

Back in 2006, Minneapolis was one of the first large cities in America to go wireless, thanks to our unique public/private partnership with our wireless provider, USI Wireless. This partnership has not only allowed us to deliver City services more efficiently, it has brought benefits like the new hot spots to the entire community. As a result, Minneapolis has become one of the few big cities in the country where citywide wireless Internet is actually succeeding. (We've gotten some great national recognition for this work from the [Atlantic](#).)

Now when you're at a park, school, business or other outdoor common area designated as a "Wireless Minneapolis" hot spot, you'll be able to use your computer or mobile device to visit any website you like for free for one hour. If you need more time after that hour is up, just log back in again. It's that simple. No contracts. No charges. Just a few clicks and you're online with a world of possibilities. For a list and map of locations visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/wirelessminneapolis](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/wirelessminneapolis). Hotspots are clearly marked with signs that say, "Free Wireless Minneapolis Hotspot," and the signal is available up to 600 feet from the sign. In selecting the locations for the 117 "Wireless Minneapolis" hotspots, we put great thought into looking for places where people already gather and use computers, as well as places where free wireless access would encourage people to gather.

The City and USI Wireless offer other community benefits in addition to the 117 hotspots: nonprofit organizations that provide free computer access to the public are eligible for free "Wireless Community" accounts, and an online "Civic Garden" provides a free level of service for anyone who can receive the USI Wireless signal. The Civic Garden offers free access to a wealth of information about government, education, and community services at [www.wirelessminneapolis.org](http://www.wirelessminneapolis.org).

By working together and investing in the common ground, we've found new ways to connect to our community and for our community to connect to the world. So grab your computer or mobile device, head out to one of the hotspots and get connected to Minneapolis' world of opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Mayor R.T. Rybak  
City of Minneapolis

P.S. To learn more about how I'm working to address the issues affecting our city, sign up for my e-mail update at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor).

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