

Farview Park to the Overlook

1.5 mile round-trip walk on city streets with a slight incline on the return. Option to walk up the large grassy hill at Farview Park.

The Overlook at 26th Ave N is a vital first step in reconnecting Minneapolis's Northside to the Mississippi River. Stemming from the only off-street walking and biking trail over I-94 in North Minneapolis, the Overlook created the first opportunity in nearly a generation for this neighborhood to connect with one of our state's most important natural resources.

★ **Start: Farview Recreation Center, 621 29th Ave N**

Farview Park provides 21 acres of parkland within the Hawthorne neighborhood in North Minneapolis. Farview Park was one of the first parks acquired by the Board of Park Commissioners in 1883. Shortly after a stone observation tower was erected in 1890, the park was named Farview Park because one could see "far" from the hill at the center of the park.



A. Farview Park Overview – Walk through the park and up the hill to see the “far view.” The view from here looking south captures downtown Minneapolis, which is about 2.5 miles away, as the crow flies. Sitting atop the hill facing east is the Jimmy Carter Bench, so named because President Carter participated in a Habitat for Humanity project in the area, and he would often eat his lunch at the top of the hill admiring the view.

B. Walk down the hill to the corner of 26th Ave N & Lyndale – You’ll see the famous “Purple Raindrop” (2018) by Esther Osayande, commemorating the musician Prince who grew up nearby. When you reach 26th Ave N, you’ll notice the off-street bike and pedestrian paths completed by the city in 2018. These run for two miles, connecting Theodore Wirth Parkway to the Mississippi River along 26th Ave N.

C. Head east toward I-94 and the Mississippi River – As you walk east towards the river, take note of a unique set of houses on the left side of the street (300-314 26th Ave N) which were built in 1885 in the early cement industry and are made distinctly from cement bricks. The original company closed, but you can still find lingering examples of their cement brick structures around the city.

D. Cross over I-94 – The 1970s construction of Interstate 94 created an additional barrier for Northside residents to access the river. It is a clear divide between the residential area and the scenic river, with 26th Ave offering the only protected off-street walking and biking trail across I-94 in North Minneapolis.

E. Cross Washington Ave, 2nd Ave N, train tracks, and Pacific St – Between I-94 and the Mississippi River, a narrow stretch of factories, warehouses, wholesalers, manufacturing facilities fill this predominantly industrial and inaccessible area of North Minneapolis. Next to the Overlook, you’ll find Cemstone Products and Continental Cement Company.

F. The Overlook at 26th Ave N – The site includes an oval loop trail perched on the river’s edge, offering inspiring views and a sense of connection to the water; an original youth-designed interpretive railing by Juxtaposition Arts depicting a history of the Upper Riverfront, from pre-settlement to its imagined future; hammock netting (yes, you can climb on it!); and a mast with a beacon that makes the site visible from the surrounding neighborhood.

G. Future Connections – A planned trail funded by the MPRB will connect the Overlook to existing trails at Ole Olson Park and West River Road leading to the North Loop and downtown Minneapolis, the Stone Arch Bridge, and farther south. Increased lighting, benches, greenery, and clear signage along 26th Ave to the Overlook are greatly needed to improve pedestrian and bike safety to reach the river, and activating the space through community events and programs will be an important next step. The Overlook offers a beautiful destination to come together, collaborate, and celebrate.

Return to Farview Park



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