

Our Name and Logo

District Council 13 Chooses the Name Union Park for its Newly Formed Council

By Glen McCluskey, published in the Summer 2008 POST

District Council 13 has chosen "Union Park District Council" as its new name. The name Union Park is meant to suggest the union between the various neighborhoods. That is why material with the Union Park name will also state: Many Neighborhoods - One Community.

"A new name for anything, usually seems strange at first," said Glen McCluskey, a vice president of the Union Park District Council. "We wanted a name that was unique, but also has some historical roots. I think that over time people will come to think of the name Union Park as natural and familiar as are the current names of the individual neighborhoods."

The name Union Park also has historical roots, said Jim Szevich, architectural historian. "I am very familiar with old Union Park, later changed to Iris Park - with little artificial Lake Iris. Union Park was an early amusement park, which lasted for a few years, and then was platted into city lots for building purposes in the late 1880," said Szevich. He did some of the earliest research on the neighborhood back in the early 1970s. "I love (the name) Union Park. I think it sounds natural, feels right for Saint Paul, has a historic connection and a valuable meaning: a union of many neighborhoods," said Szevich.

The individual names of the neighborhoods within Union Park are not going away. They remain to represent parts of the community. Those include Desnoyer Park, Shadow Falls, Iris Park, Snelling Park, Snelling Hamline, Lexington-Hamline and Merriam Park. Lexington-Hamline Community Council still operates as an independent organization.

One of 17 District Planning Councils in St. Paul, District 13 includes the neighborhoods of Lexington-Hamline, Snelling Hamline, and Merriam Park. As a District Council, the Union Park District Council (UPDC) represents all three neighborhoods to the City of St. Paul. District 13 is bounded on the west by the city limits and the Mississippi River, on the south by Summit Avenue, on the east by Lexington Avenue and on the north by University Avenue, over to Cleveland and south to the railroad right-of-way and west back to the river.



A special thank you to Little and Co. for the logo and support in the naming process.