

Bossen Area Profile

The Bossen Terrace area is part of the Wenonah neighborhood and comprises about 26% of the total population. It is a cultural microcosm of Minneapolis. The 1,247 Bossen residents are diverse, with a mix of Latino, East African, African American and white community members. The area consists of more than 50 apartment complexes and more than 400 units of affordable housing. The Metropolitan Council has identified this area as a “Priority Area for Investment,” And a “racially concentrated area of poverty.”

Below is demographic area for the Bossen area from the Minnesota Compass Report – Neighborhood Profiles:

Demographics	Bossen Area
Total Population	1,247
Race and Identity – Of Color - Total	88.3%
Race and Identity – Black or African American alone	36.2%
Race and Identity – American Indian alone	4.4%
Race and Identity – Asian or Pacific Islander alone	3.6%
Race and Identity – Two or more races	2.8%
Race and Identity – Hispanic or Latino	41.2%
Renter Occupied Housing	93%
Workers by Earnings - \$15k or less	28.3%
Workers by Earnings - \$15k - \$40k	33.2%
Workers by Industry – Accommodation/food services	10.2%
Workers by Industry – Healthcare and social assistance	23%
Workers by Distance to Employment – Less than 10 miles	80.7%

*Minnesota Compass Report – Neighborhood Profiles

By the Numbers

4,590 Total Population of Wenonah Neighborhood

1,247 Residents of Bossen Area (26% of neighborhood)

Demographics	Wenonah Neighborhood
Cost-Burdened Renter Households	60.3%
Households with Income Below Poverty	20.8%

*Minnesota Compass Report – Neighborhood Profiles

NENA History in the Bossen Area

2009 – NENA and the Ward 11 Office found the **Benefitting Bossen Work Group** to include the police department, regulatory services, schools, landlords, etc.

2010 – Adds NRP funding to the Benefitting Bossen Work Group

2011 – Hires first bilingual community organizer
2011 – Organizes neighborhood clean ups and National Night Out events
2013 – Maribel Osorio, Bossen resident, joins the NENA Board of Directors
2013 – Hosts the first Dia de la Madre (Mother's Day) cultural celebration
2014 – Recruits Bossen residents to serve on the Park Board's Community Advisory Council for the Bossen Field Master Plan. Community wins and a multi-use field is included in plans.
2014 – Hosts first Dia del Ninos (Children's Day) cultural celebration
2015 – Conducts Bossen area resident survey

2016

- Marcia Torres Ramos, Bossen resident joins the NENA Board of Directors
- Karla Arredondo hired as community organizer
- Awarded the Metro Transit Better Bus Stop outreach grant. Conducts outreach events, door knocking and 150 surveys
- Starts its renters rights outreach work and joins the Minneapolis Renters Coalition. Directly supported 75 households to ensure city regulations are followed. Forms partnership with city housing inspector
- Benefitting Bossen Work Group reconvenes again after 1.5 years
- Metro Transit changes bus route on 58th Street to accommodate Bossen residents due to NENA's advocacy
- Minneapolis extends the 34th Avenue reconstruction to 58th Street due to NENA's advocacy
- NENA hosts new MPD Third Precinct Inspector to tour the Bossen area
- Annual Bossen Community Survey, build projects and seek funding based on community input

2017

- Awarded the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership Energy Efficiency outreach grant. 105 resident surveys and 13 landlord surveys
- Awarded the Blue Cross Blue Shield Active Places outreach grant. 10+ free activities at Bossen Field to determine community's interests in park programming\
- Advocates with Park Board to increase programming at Bossen Field in following year to meet needs such as soccer, family and teen programs
- Awarded grant from the Minneapolis Health Department for a community mural on 58th Street
- Hosts the first Bossen Renters Party and Back to School Boogie
- Raises funds from area churches to support Bossen work
- Forms the Nokomis East Organization Work Group comprised of NENA, the library, schools and recreation centers
- Conducts Bossen area resident survey to determine new projects
- Networking with social service agencies to provide services to Bossen area residents

- Metro Transit builds new bus shelter at 58th Street due to NENA's outreach findings
- Annual Bossen Community Survey, build projects and seek funding based on community input

2018

- Awarded grant from the Minneapolis Health Department for 12 Twin Cities Mobile Market stops at Bossen, free Cooking Matters Classes and forms a health advisory group
- Awarded grant from the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) for community organizer to provide board training and recruit Bossen residents into leadership positions
- Jessica and Jose begin participating in Board meetings
- Park Board offers free lunch and snack program at Bossen Field, in addition to summer playground staffing and free sports clinics
- Coordinates with Bossen Latino Families to launch a free soccer league from May - September for boys and girls
- Installs two speed humps on 31st Avenue to slow down traffic and allow safer pedestrian crossings to Bossen Field
- Bossen Renters Party grows. Back to School back-pack give-away.
- MPD steps up patrol cars in Bossen Area, NENA works with MPD about cultural concerns with policing among residents
- Ward 11 organizing landlords to pool resources to purchase camera equipment
- Hosts quarterly meetings with Ward 11 for Bossen landlords to connect with city resources
- Benefitting Bossen Work Group in transition
- Increases support from local churches for Bossen work
- Annual Bossen Community Survey, build projects and seek funding based on community input

2019

- Awarded grant from Headwaters Foundation to hire a second community organizer (Somali-Speaker)
- Awarded grant from BCBS Center for Prevention to organize free culturally-appropriate active living activities at the Keewaydin Rec Center for Bossen youth, adults, and seniors
- Awarded a grant from the Minneapolis Health Department for the Twin Cities Mobile Market stops at Bossen, free Cooking Matters Classes, and Bossen Team Youth Leadership Group
- Bossen Renters Party grows. Back to School back-pack give-away.
- Awarded a grant from the Minneapolis Health Department for the Re-Think Your Drink campaign to ask about community thoughts on drinking water
- NENA staff goes to court on behalf of tenants
- Immigration Rights Forum and resource sharing

- Somali-Independence Day celebration and meal
- Bossen apartment resident joins the NENA Board
- Community Input Session for Metro Transit for its upcoming master planning
- The Park Board continued to provide staff and activities at Bossen Field throughout the summer season
- NENA Board members attend Neighborhoods Now! training from the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota
- NENA staff participates in training and cohorts for energy and environment racism and rights, advocacy at the state capitol, etc
- Repaired Bossen Community Mural
- Ward 11 organizing landlords to pool resources to purchase camera equipment
- Hosts quarterly meetings with Ward 11 for Bossen landlords to connect with city resources
- Benefitting Bossen Work Group in transition
- Increases support from local churches for Bossen work
- Annual Bossen Community Survey, build projects and seek funding based on community input

2020 - COVID-Pandemic

- Regular mailings (as opposed to biweekly flyer) with COVID-19 resources, in three languages
- Nokomis East Food Distribution Pop-Up Site
- NENA raised over \$10,000 for the Minnehaha Food Shelf and launched the \$5,000 for Families fundraising campaign to fund the new site
- Interviews for the Re-Think Your Drink Campaign
- Bossen Youth Leadership Group
- Community input for placement of new benches at Bossen Field
- Annual Bossen Community Survey
- Grants from the Headwaters Foundation and Minneapolis Health Department for COVID-19 outreach work
- Offer rides to the Minnehaha Food Shelf or will pick up food for residents with disabilities, homebound, and/or self-quarantined