

# A Permanent Home for the Midtown Farmers Market

## Project Program Brief (current as of April 29, 2010)

Find designer resources, precedent study, & background at [corcoranneighborhood.org/market](http://corcoranneighborhood.org/market)

### Project Contact

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### Project History and Summary

Since 2003, the Midtown Farmers Market (MFM) has connected locally produced food and goods with 40,000 customers per season at 2225 East Lake Street on a surface parking lot owned by Minneapolis Public Schools. The MFM was conceived by local residents and is operated by the Corcoran Neighborhood Organization (CNO). The MFM currently operates one day a week from May to June, and two days a week from June through October.

The Midtown Farmers Market is one of 5,000 urban farmers markets currently operating in city neighborhoods and towns across the country. Farmers markets function as a vital economic and social link between urban families and the farmers and craftspeople of the surrounding agricultural region. Accordingly, the MFM was a keystone element of the *Corcoran Midtown Revival Plan* (Plan), which calls for a mix of housing, retail/office, structured/underground parking, and public open space. This citizen generated Plan was adopted by the City Council as part of the Minneapolis Plan in 2002 (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/corcoran.asp>).

Given development pressures and the pending sale of the 6-1/2 acre site by the school district, residents look forward to the opportunity to realize the Plan and create a permanent home for the Midtown Farmers Market at 2225 East Lake on a public square, plaza, or mall shared within a larger mixed-use, transit oriented development adjacent to the Lake Street LRT station, with nearby connections to the Midtown Greenway bikeway, bus transit, and a proposed Midtown Greenway trolley line. To remain successful, the MFM needs a permanent, no-cost lease agreement and assurance of uninterrupted operation during construction.

### Project Physical Requirements

35,000 – 39,000 square feet (0.8 – 0.9 acres) of mostly outdoor or semi-enclosed space, to include:

19,200 sf	Paved surface for 70 stalls (45 parked stalls at 12' x 30' plus 25 stalls at 12' x 10')
10,000 sf	Public circulation aisles between stalls (20' wide)
400 sf	Stage/Demonstration area with a permanent overhead canopy or roof structure
600 sf	Audience/seating area to accommodate chairs and tables near the stage
600 sf	Secured storage space for market operations
200 sf	Garbage and recycling corral
200 sf	Restrooms, including two unisex units and drinking fountain
200 sf	Bicycle parking
7,000 sf	Vegetative landscape to support a tree canopy that covers 50% of site within 10 years

### Utility Requirements

- 120V Electrical service for at least 20 stalls, with additional 240V power at 6 stalls (for food preparation vendors).
- 120V and 240V service for the stage.
- Potable water outlets at 6 locations distributed across the site.
- Site lighting.

### Additional Site Amenities

- Parking within 1 block, provided in coordination with the larger redevelopment project.
- Permanent signage and way-finding system that creates an on-site presence and public identity visible from Lake Street and the Hiawatha LRT line.
- A community garden that demonstrates urban agriculture and restorative landscape methods.
- On-site storm water management system (may include a rain garden or rain water harvesting cistern).