

PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
FOR THE RIVERVIEW ROAD AND EAST 54TH
STREET REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
MINNEAPOLIS, HENNEPIN COUNTY,
MINNESOTA

Submitted to:
CommonBond Communities

Submitted by:
The 106 Group Ltd.

June 2008

**PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE
RIVERVIEW ROAD AND EAST 54th STREET
REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
MINNEAPOLIS, HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**SHPO File No. 2007-2886
The 106 Group Project No. 08-08**

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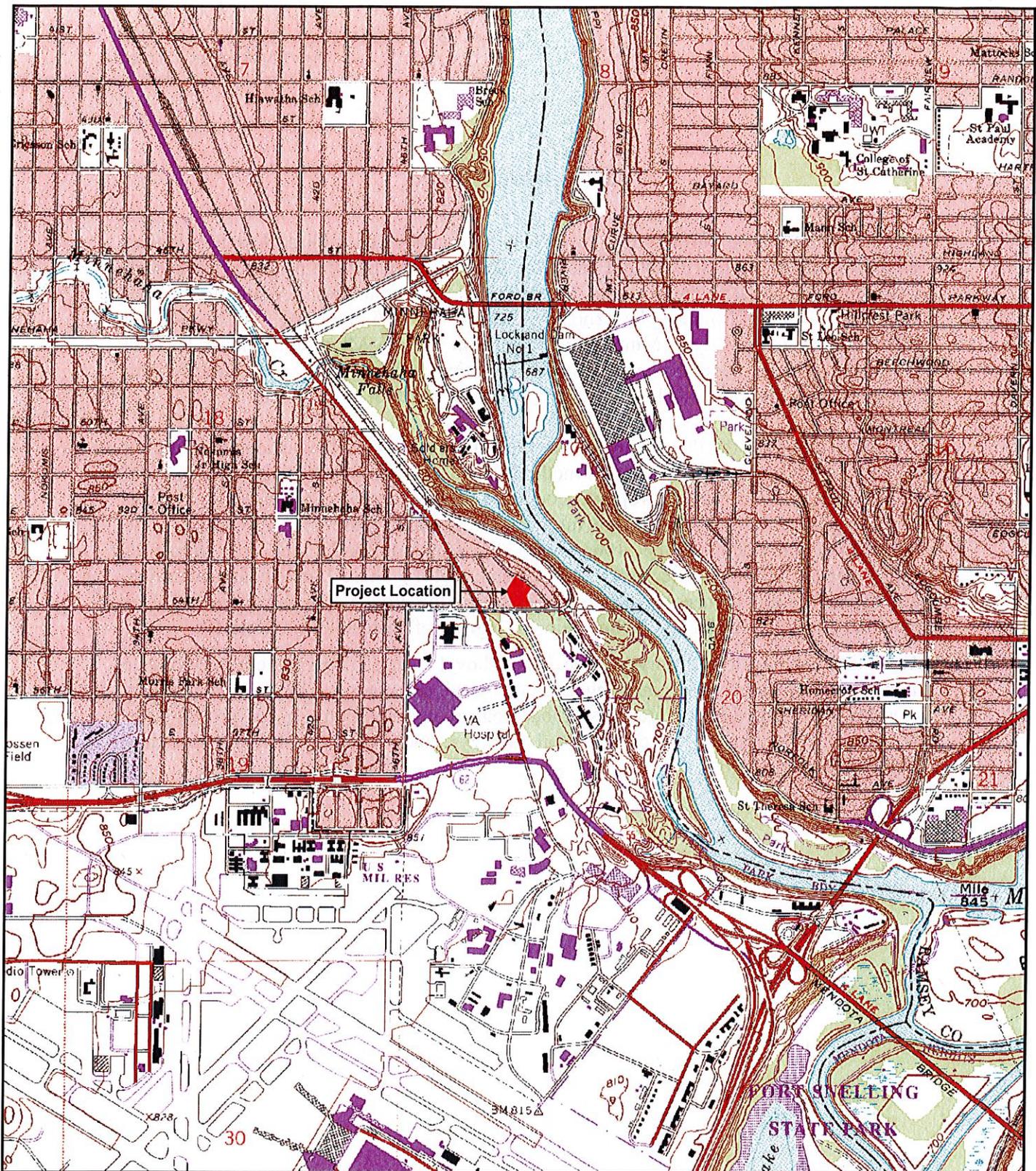
June 2008

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In June of 2008, The 106 Group Ltd. (106 Group) conducted a Phase I archaeological survey for the Riverview Road and East 54th Street Redevelopment project. The survey was conducted under contract with CommonBond Communities (CommonBond) on behalf of the City of Minneapolis. The project area is located in the SW ¼ of Section 17, T28N, R23W, in the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota (Figure 1). The project is receiving federal funding and/or permitting and, therefore, must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

The project area for the Phase I archaeological survey includes all areas identified during a Phase IA investigation that possess moderate probability for containing archaeological resources within the area of proposed construction activities or other potential ground-disturbing activities associated with future development (Figure 2). According to the information provided to the 106 Group by CommonBond, this area measures approximately 1 acre (0.4 hectares). The objective of the Phase I archaeological survey was to identify any archaeological properties within the project area and determine their potential eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The Phase I archaeological survey consisted of shovel testing in areas determined to have a moderate potential for containing archaeological resources. The following report presents the methodology, previous archaeological investigations in the project area, results of the Phase I archaeological survey, and recommendations regarding archaeological resources.



Source: USGS Quadrangle, St. Paul West (1993); 106 Group

Map Produced by the 106 Group - 05/29/2008

**Riverview Road and E 54th Street Redevelopment
Phase I Archaeological Survey
City of Minneapolis
Hennepin County, Minnesota**

Project Location

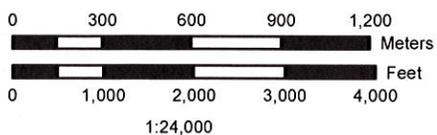


Figure 1

2.0 METHODS

2.1 OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the Phase I archaeological survey were to determine whether the area affected by the proposed project contains any archaeological resources, and if those resources are potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP. All work was conducted in accordance with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO's) *Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota* (Anfinson 2005) and *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* [48 Federal Register 44716-44740] (National Park Service [NPS] 1983).

2.2 FIELD METHODS

The areas determined to possess moderate potential for containing archaeological resources were shovel tested according to recommendations in a 2007 report on the property (ARCH³ LLC 2007). Shovel tests were small, circular excavations, measuring approximately 35 to 45 centimeters (cm) in diameter. All excavated soil matrices were passed through ¼-inch hardware mesh to ensure the consistent recovery of artifacts. Tests were excavated down to the C horizon, the level of culturally sterile subsoil.

Survey data were recorded through standardized forms and the field supervisor's daily log. Recorded information included: test locations and methods of testing; the numbers, types, and locations of recovered cultural materials; the depth of shovel tests and the thickness of excavated soil layers; soil textures and inclusions (both natural and cultural); and soil color according to Munsell® color charts.

3.0 LITERATURE SEARCH

3.1 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

In 2007, ARCH³ completed a literature search and sensitivity evaluation for the project area (ARCH³ LLC 2007). This report stated that the SHPO database search indicated that no archaeological sites have been reported (i.e., not field checked) or recorded (i.e., confirmed in the field) within the project area. ARCH³ also determined areas of moderate and low potential and recommended testing in areas of moderate potential. SHPO concurred with these recommendations.

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OVERVIEW

The project area is located in the SW ¼ of Section 17, T28N, R23W, in the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. The project area consists of houses with manicured lawns and an overgrown vacant lot with a gravel parking area. The topography is relatively flat with a very gentle slope to the east.

Geologically, the project area lies within the Mississippi Valley Outwash geomorphic region. The project area lies within the SSWD soil landscape unit, described as: alluvial soils undifferentiated; loamy over sandy, well drained, light colored soils; organic soils over sandy; and sandy over sandy, well drained, dark colored soils. The SSWD soil landscape units make up approximately 20 percent of the Mississippi Valley Outwash geomorphic region (Agricultural Experiment Station 1973).

The soil associations mapped for the project area include Urban Land-Hubbard association. The Urban Land association consists mainly of residential areas and is covered by impervious surfaces. Most areas have been disturbed to some degree by construction activity (Hennepin County 2008).

4.0 RESULTS

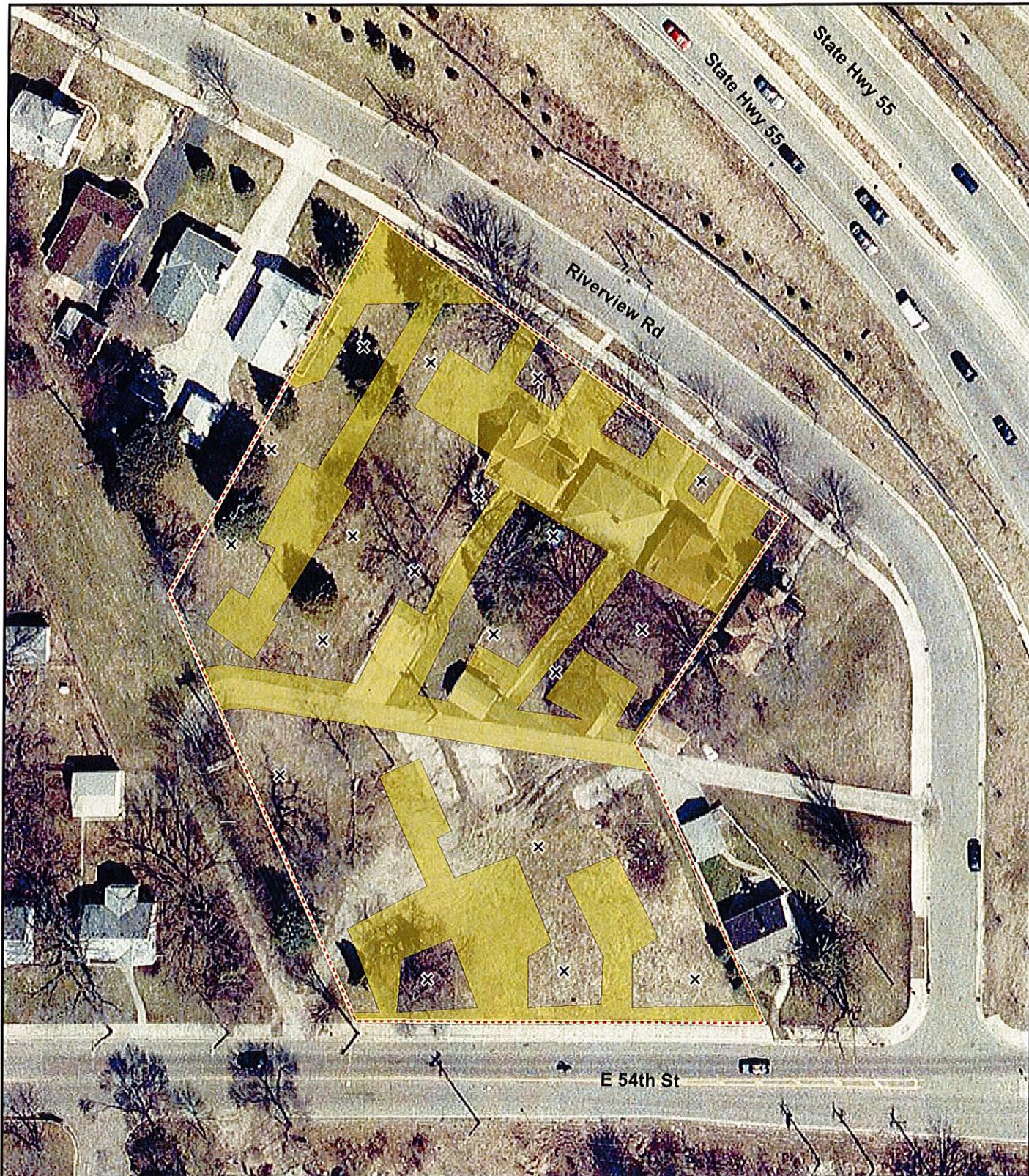
4.1 ARCHAEOLOGY

Staff from the 106 Group conducted a Phase I archaeological survey of the project area on June 3, 2008. Anne Ketz, M.A., RPA, served as principal investigator. Fieldwork was conducted by Kristen J. Bastis, M.A., RPA, and Mark Doperalski, B.A. (Appendix A).

Field conditions presented manicured lawns on the north side of the project area and an overgrown vacant lot with a gravel parking area to the south. The area was relatively flat with a gentle slope to the east. The areas within the project area designated as possessing moderate probability to contain archaeological resources were shovel tested (Figure 2).

Nineteen shovel tests were excavated, to an average depth of 66 centimeters below surface (cmbs), and revealed a somewhat consistent basic three-stratum soil profile. The basic profile consisted of a black (10YR2/1) silt loam to a depth of 15 to 26 cmbs. The following stratum consisted of a very dark grayish (10YR3/2) silt clay. The C horizon consisted of a brown (10YR 4/3) to brown (10YR5/3) silty to sandy clay encountered between 22 cmbs to 47 cmbs. Seven of the shovel tests contained modern construction fill ranging from a lens of mortar, to layers of construction sand, to a shovel test filled with modern debris including plastic, glass, metal, and fragments of rubber tires.

No archaeological materials beyond modern trash of no historical significance were encountered during the Phase I archaeological survey of the project area.



Source: Ramsey County 2006 Aerial Photography; 106 Group

Map Produced by the 106 Group - 05/29/2008

**Riverview Road and E 54th Street Redevelopment
Phase I Archaeological Survey
City of Minneapolis
Hennepin County, Minnesota**

Archaeological Survey Results

	Project Area
	Low Potential Area
	Negative Shovel Test

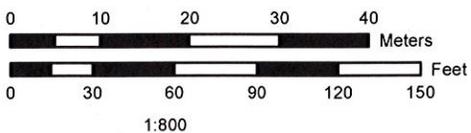


Figure 2

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 ARCHAEOLOGY

No archaeological features or sites were located during the Phase I archaeological survey within the project area. The majority of the project area consisted of residences with manicured lawns and an overgrown vacant lot with a gravel parking area.

Although no archaeological features or sites were located during the Phase I archaeological survey within the project area, the recommendations in the 2007 ARCH³ report did include “construction monitoring at the initial stages of ground-breaking.” However, SHPO’s comments on the ARCH³ report recommendations noted that construction monitoring is difficult and can cause delays in construction, and therefore recommended that all work be completed prior to construction (Letter from Dennis Gimmestad dated September 21, 2007).

The 106 Group recommends that no further archaeological investigations or construction monitoring are necessary in the Riverview Road and East 54th Street Redevelopment project area.

REFERENCES CITED

Agricultural Experiment Station

1973 *Minnesota Soil Atlas: St. Paul Sheet*. Miscellaneous Report 120. Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

Anfinson, S. F.

2005 *SHPO Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota*. State Historic Preservation Office, St. Paul.

ARCH³ LLC

2007 *Phase IA Archaeological Investigation Literature Search and Archaeological Sensitivity Evaluation for the Proposed Nokomis East Station (East 54th Street and Riverview Road) Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota*. ARCH³ LLC Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Hennepin County

2008 Hennepin County Website

<http://www.hennepin.us/portal/site/HCInternet/menuitem.fl7356dbe6a54966710e04b1466498/?vgnextoid=6dbbb70a699fc010VgnVCM1000000f094689RCRD&vgnnextfmt=PrinterFriendlyFmt> accessed May 30, 2008.

National Park Service

1983 Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. *Federal Register* 48(190):44716-44740.

APPENDIX A: PROJECT PERSONNEL

LIST OF PERSONNEL

Project Manager and
Principal Investigator

Anne Ketz, M.A., RPA

Field Supervisor

Kristen J. Bastis, M.A., RPA

Field Archaeologist

Mark Doperalski, B.A.

Graphics and GIS

Nathan Moe, B.A.