

The Arsenic Triangle

NW Corner of E 28th St & Hiawatha Ave. during 2004 to 2005 EPA excavation for Arsenic Removal.



This is the North-West corner of the intersection of 28th Street and Hiawatha Avenue in the East Phillips Neighborhood of South Minneapolis. It is next door to the Roof Depot site and is called the “Arsenic Triangle”. Reade Manufacturing Company leased the site between 1938 and 1963. “...The company used the site to process technical arsenic into sodium arsenate, which they then sold as a biocide. US Borax subsequently used the site to store arsenic pesticides from 1963 to 1968.” The extent of the arsenic contamination was not clear until the construction of the Hiawatha Light Rail corridor began in 1994.

The EPA also excavated the topsoil of more than 600 arsenic contaminated residential properties in the Phillips, Seward, Longfellow, Corcoran and Powderhorn neighborhoods of South Minneapolis between 2004 and 2011.

The “Arsenic Triangle” is now the site of M Health Fairview’s SMILEY’s CLINIC. Its design was limited in height due to contaminated ground water beneath which was over 18,000 mg/kg. The arsenic Soil Reference Value (not the Safe Value) as determined by the MN Department of Agriculture is 9 mg/kg. Arsenic contamination under the Roof Depot warehouse is as high as 174 mg/kg as measured in test wells dug throughout the contaminated area.

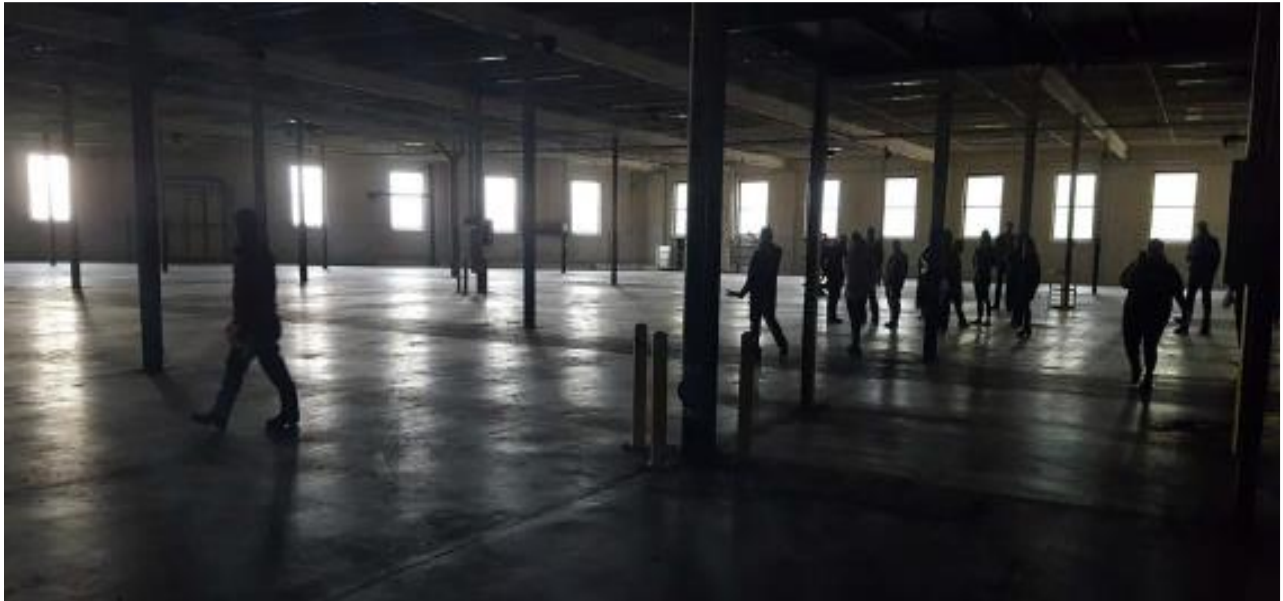
The 230,000 Sq. Ft. Roof Depot Building

The following pictures were taken shortly after discovering that the site was for sale during the only tour of the building allowed us. Before its sale, the Owners completely renovated the warehouse spending over a million dollars on a new roof, new double and triple pane windows throughout, new insulation and an updated heating plant.



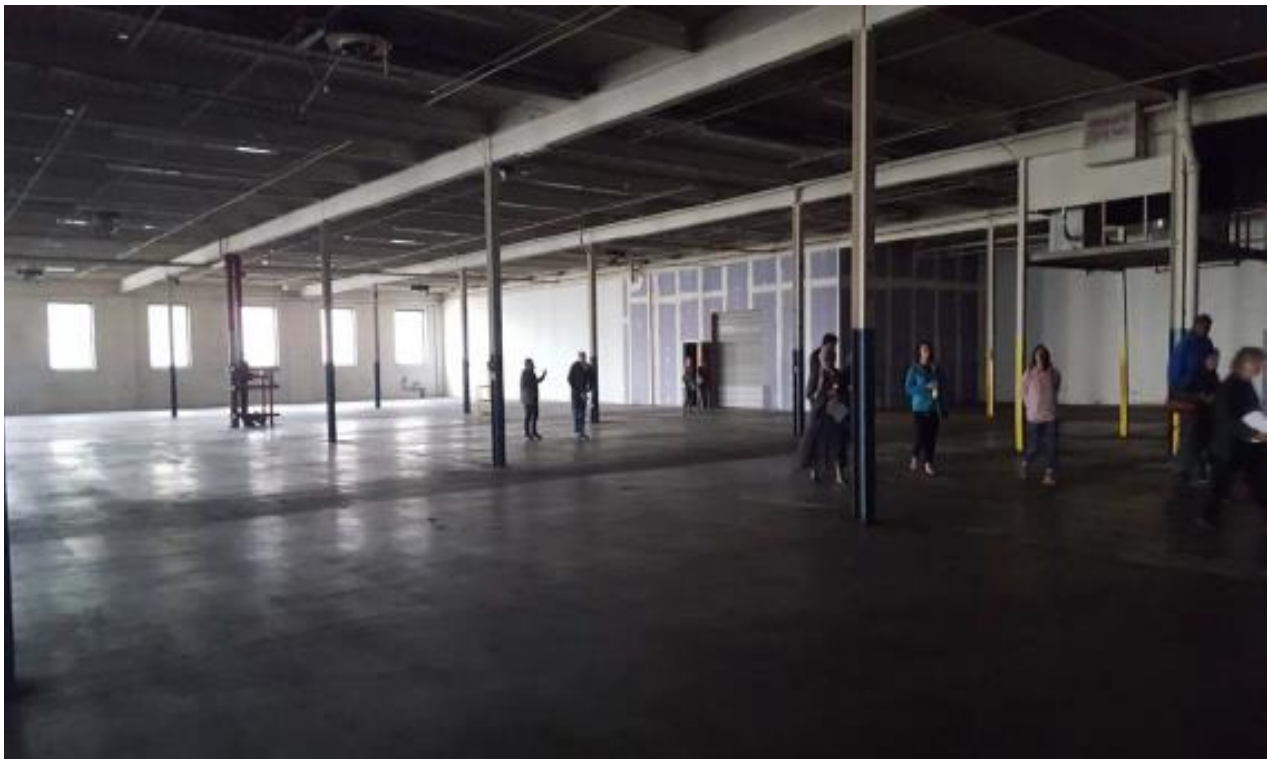
Interior office and retail space





The concrete and steel warehouse space is perfect for the many green eco-friendly uses envisioned by the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm

The City wants to demolish this incredible building and build parking areas for its hundreds of commercial vehicles, many diesel and hundreds of employee vehicles, install a fueling station for all city vehicles, and build sheds in which to store their fire hydrants, man-hole covers and sewer pipes.



Help us stop the City from demolishing this building and spreading its pollution over East Phillips and the entire area. Enlist the support of your neighborhood organization. Write the Mayor, City Council members, State Representatives and insist on the -
Urban Farm NOT Toxic Harm