

Notable State Documents 2007

Minnesota state offices produce high-quality documents and informational websites for citizens and researchers. This annual list, nominated by librarians from the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library and other government documents librarians, recognizes only a few of many interesting publications published in the last year. This document is online at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/webcontent/lrl/mndocs/best2007.pdf>

In the News

Interstate 35W Bridge Collapse, a website from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/i35wbridge/index.html>

From the nomination: “MNDOT rose to the occasion by posting what appears to be the complete documentation associated with the bridge, very high quality images of the collapse site, the video of the collapse itself, content specific to the new bridge and enabled online participation by state citizens with respect to the new bridge.”



Related information: The Legislative Reference Library publishes an online guide to reports, websites, and legislative activity relating to the bridge collapse (*Minneapolis Interstate 35W Bridge Collapse*; <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/issues/bridges.asp>). The Minnesota Historical Society published a site with historical materials, including video of the bridge being built (*Bridge Resources*; <http://www.mnhs.org/library/bridge/>).

In the News: Veterans and Military Information

- ***County Reference Guide***. Minnesota Department of Health, 2007. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/comm/military/countyguide.pdf> This guide includes county contact information for programs and services for Minnesota’s military members, veterans and family members.
- ***Information for Students: Veterans Services***. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. <http://www.mnscu.edu/students/veterans/index.html> A website for student veterans and their families.
- ***Minnesota Veteran***. <http://www.minnesotaveteran.org/> This website from the Department of Veterans Affairs is a portal to agency resources and many outside resources.
- ***Veterans and Service Members: A Guide for Military Service Personnel and Veterans***. Office of the Minnesota Attorney General, 2007. <https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Brochures/pubVeteranAndServiceMemberAssistance.pdf>

In the news: Health Information in the News

- ***Adverse Health Events in Minnesota: Third Annual Public Report.*** Minnesota Department of Health, 2007. <http://www.premierinc.com/all/safety/safety-share/03-07-downloads/04-mn-report-2007.pdf> Since 2003, Minnesota hospitals, surgical centers, and regional treatment centers have been required to report adverse health events, including falls associated with a death, foreign objects left in the body after surgery, or surgery or other invasive procedure on the wrong person or body part. The report includes adverse events by facility, and discussion of work underway to improve patient safety.
- ***Health Risk Limits for Perfluorochemicals: Report to the Minnesota Legislature 2007.*** Interim Report. Minnesota Department of Health, 2007. The Minnesota Legislature directed the Health Department to report on its progress toward determining the health effects of perfluorochemicals, which have been found in the drinking water in Washington and Dakota Counties.
Related report: ***Cancer Incidence in Dakota and Washington Counties.*** Minnesota Department of Health. MCSS Epidemiology Report 2007:1, 2007. This report was done after citizens, elected officials, and public health officials expressed concerns about whether community cancer rates are unusually high in communities where perfluorochemicals have been detected.

Public Safety and the Courts

Background Check Statutes: An Overview. Revised. Research Department, Minnesota House of Representatives, 2007.

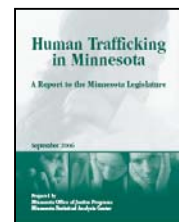
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/bkgdchck.pdf> This detailed report has charts comparing background check laws governing occupations and activities serving children (like school bus drivers for foreign student host families), health and human services occupations (such as social workers), public safety activities (such as fire protection agencies or permits to carry a pistol), and miscellaneous occupations (such as gubernatorial appointees).

Related report: ***Report of the Background Checks and Expungements Delivery Team.*** Criminal and Juvenile Justice Information Task Force. CriMNet, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, 2006.

<http://www.crimnet.state.mn.us/GovOrg/DataPracticesDeliveryTeam/FinalReport.pdf> Background checks for non-criminal justice purposes have become complex and confusing, leading to a need for a more consistent and understandable system. This task force report includes recommendations for change.

Human Trafficking in Minnesota: a Report to the Minnesota Legislature. Minnesota Office of Justice Programs, 2007.

http://www.ojp.state.mn.us/cj/publications/Reports/2007_Human_Trafficking.pdf



I'll See You in Court: A Consumer Guide to the Minnesota Judicial Branch.

Minnesota Judicial Branch, 2006.

http://www.mncourts.gov/documents/0/Public/Court_Information_Office/III_See_You_in_Court_92206_Letter_size.pdf

An elementary and very clear description of the Minnesota court system, including how a trial operates, how sentencing is determined, and how the appeals process works.

Sex Offender Recidivism in Minnesota. Minnesota Department of Corrections, 2007.

<http://www.corr.state.mn.us/documents/04-07SexOffenderReport-Recidivism.pdf> What are the factors associated with sex offender recidivism? After three years, seven percent of the 3,166 offenders studied had been rearrested for a sex offense, six percent reconvicted, and seven percent incarcerated.

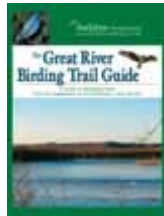
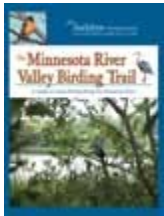
Related report: ***Residential Proximity & Sex Offense Redicivism in Minnesota.***

Minnesota Department of Corrections, 2007.

<http://www.corr.state.mn.us/documents/04-07SexOffenderReport-Proximity.pdf>

From the report: "Not one of the 224 sex offenses would likely have been deterred by a residency restrictions law."

Natural Resources and Recreation



The Great River Birding Trail Guide, The Minnesota River Valley Birding Trail, and the North Shore Birding Trail.

Audubon Minnesota, 2007. Three colorful guides were funded with money from Minnesota's Environmental Trust Fund, through the Minnesota Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources. They are available for purchase from Adventure Publications, <http://www.adventurepublications.net/>.

Regional Parks for Minnesota's Outstate Urban Complexes. Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), 2007.

http://archive.leg.state.mn.us/docs/2007/mandated/070550/full_report.pdf Planning and investment for open space must be made before a region is fully developed. The authors estimate that Minnesota would have to invest \$250 million to acquire and develop a high-quality park system to adequately serve the fastest-growing areas outside the metropolitan area.

Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Trails and Waterways, 2007. Available for purchase from the Minnesota Bookstore (<http://www.minnesotasbookstore.com/>). This comprehensive 'how-to guidebook' for developing all types of recreational trails is intended to aid Minnesota land managers in applying innovative and environmentally sustainable approaches to trail planning, design and construction.

Notable State Document Contributor: A special commendation to John Helland on his extensive contribution to state government information in the area of natural resources and the environment during his years as a researcher in the Minnesota House Research Department. Notable reports include ***Conservation Easements, State Environmental Trust Funds,*** and ***Environmental Review: Proposals on Process and Thresholds.***

Business and Economic Development

Compare Minnesota. Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. <http://www.compareminnesota.com/> This interactive site provides the groundwork for business decisions with information on corporate taxes and other business costs, energy prices, education statistics, capital resources, quality of life indicators, and employment and labor data.

A Guide to Starting a Business in Minnesota. Minnesota Small Business Assistance Office, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, 2007. http://www.mnsbao.com/PDFs/A_Guide_To_STARTING_A_BUSINESS_IN_MINNESOTA_25th_Ed.pdf This frequently-updated guide, dauntingly comprehensive, is also available in print by request, or on CD-ROM.

Related reports: The Small Business Assistance Office has many other useful publications covering topics such as employment law, raising capital, loan documentation, and employee benefits. <http://www.mnsbao.com/publications.htm>

Minnesotium! A remarkably entertaining economic development video from the Department of Employment and Economic Development. If we didn't already live and work here, we would want to make the move!
<http://www.deed.state.mn.us/whymn/Minnesotium.htm>

Students and Youth

Go Places: A Guide to All 32 of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, 2007-2008. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, 2007. This is a great local college directory that helps readers compare Minnesota public colleges. A detailed table lists the majors and programs offered by each college, and the brief descriptions of each campus include lists of unique programs and student activities.



<http://www.mnscu.edu/media/publications/pdf/goplaces07-08.pdf>

Snapshots on Minnesota Youth. Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Public Safety, 2007-
<http://www.ojp.state.mn.us/newsletters/Snapshots/2007-09.htm#FLASHBULBS> This new topic-based quarterly e-newsletter will highlight information, statistics and data from numerous sources to create a comprehensive picture of the experiences of young people aged 10 to 18.

Web Portals to MN State Government

Two new web portals gather important cross-agency information by topic.

- **Disability Minnesota** <http://www.disability.state.mn.us/>
- **License Minnesota**
<http://www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=LicenseMN>

Thanks for nominations and editing help to Carol Blackburn, David Schmidke, Betsy Haugen, Paul VanCura, Amy West, Paul Dahl, JoAnn Musumeci, Karla Gedell, Barb Golden, Pat Fenton, and Kathryn Otto. Comments to Robbie LaFleur at rlafleur@lrl.leg.mn