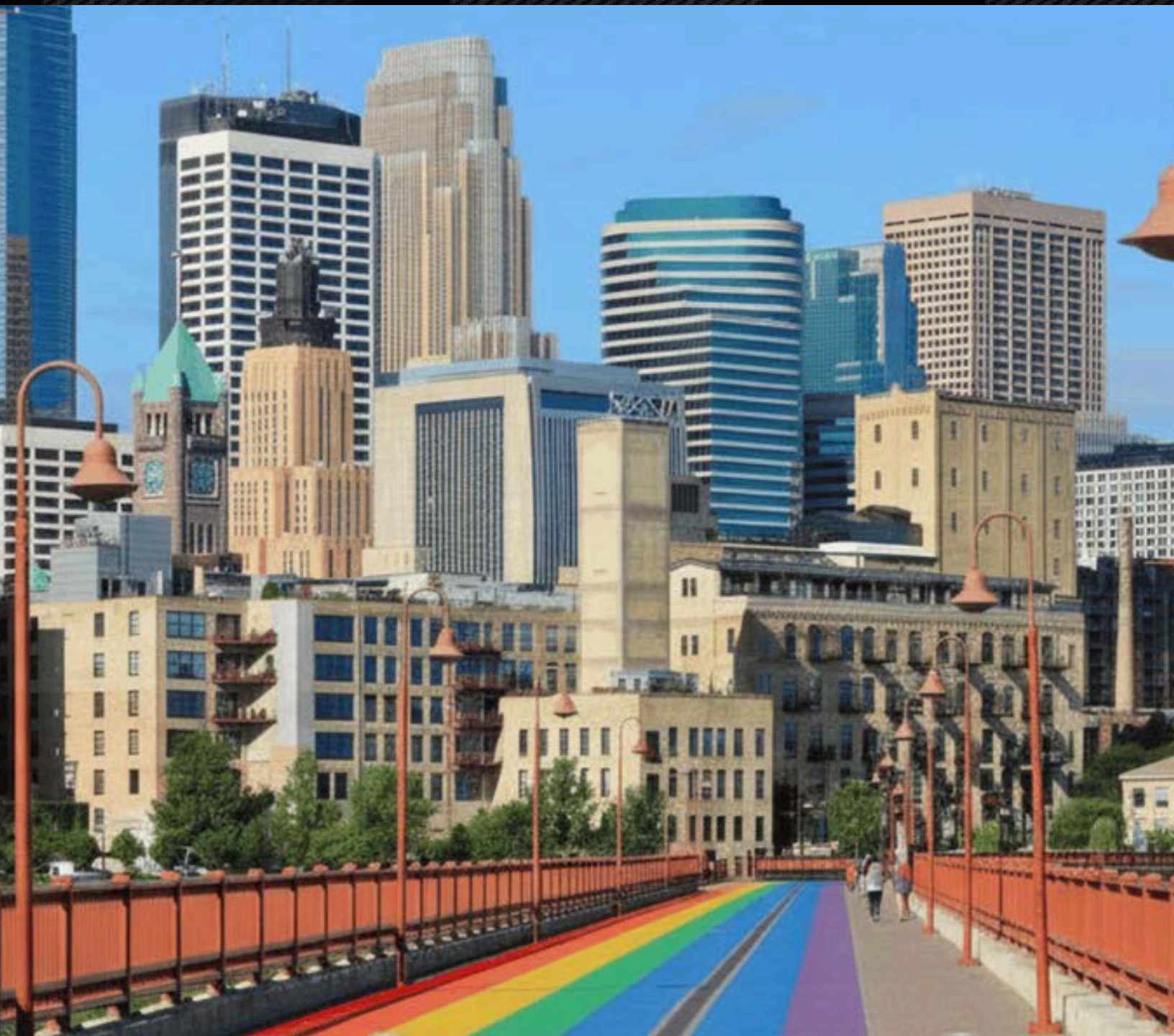


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Moving to the Twin Cities

# LGBTQ+ RELOCATION GUIDE



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# WHY MINNESOTA?

## **Thinking About Moving to Minnesota?**

For a lot of people, moving is about a new job, a new home, or a change of pace.

But if you're LGBTQ, it can be about something deeper.

It can be about finding a place where you feel safe being yourself. Where you don't have to think twice about how you show up in public. Where you can build a life without constantly weighing what's accepted and what's not.

That's the reality for a lot of people reaching out to us right now.

Some are coming from places where laws are changing. Others are just tired of feeling like they don't fully belong. And a lot of them are asking the same question:



## **"Is Minnesota actually different?"**

The short answer is yes. But it's also more nuanced than that.

Minnesota, and especially the Twin Cities, has built a reputation as one of the more LGBTQ-friendly places in the country. There are strong protections in housing, employment, and public spaces. But what really matters is how that shows up in everyday life.

## **It's the ability to feel comfortable in your neighborhood.**

To walk into a business and not feel out of place.

To see people like you living openly, without it feeling like a statement. That doesn't mean everything is perfect. No place is. But for a lot of people, Minnesota offers something that's getting harder to find:

## **A sense of stability, community, and the ability to just exist without overthinking it.**

# DECIDING IF MINNESOTA IS RIGHT FOR YOU

## Why we put together this guide:

We created this because we kept hearing the same questions over and over again from people considering a move.

- Where should I live?
- Is it affordable compared to where I am now?
- Should I rent first or buy right away?
- What does the process actually look like if I'm moving from out of state?

## And more importantly:

- Will I actually feel comfortable there?

This guide is here to answer those questions in a way that's straightforward, honest, and actually useful.

## A Quick Note Before You Dive In

Everyone's situation is different.

Some people are ready to move in the next few months. Others are just starting to explore the idea. Wherever you're at, this guide is meant to meet you there.

And if you get to a point where you want help figuring out where you'd fit, what you can afford, or what your next step should be, we're always happy to help.

## What you'll find inside:

Over the next several pages, We'll walk you through:

- The most LGBTQ-friendly neighborhoods in Minneapolis and St. Paul
- LGBTQ+ social and community life in the Twin Cities
- What it actually costs to live here
- Whether renting or buying makes more sense for your situation
- What to expect when relocating from out of state
- And how to start putting a plan together if you decide to move forward



# BEST LGBTQ+ FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOODS



## Loring Park

**Best for: Urban living + LGBTQ community**

Located just outside downtown, Loring Park has long been the cultural heart of the LGBTQ community in Minneapolis and is home to the annual Twin Cities Pride Festival. You'll find a mix of condos, apartments, and walkable access to parks, restaurants, and nightlife.

Great fit if you want to be in the center of it all.

## Powderhorn Park

**Best for: Community, diversity, and creativity**

Powderhorn is one of the most expressive and community-driven neighborhoods in Minneapolis, known for its arts scene and strong local identity.

Housing ranges from single-family homes to duplexes, often at more approachable price points.

Ideal if you value culture, connection, and character.





## Northeast Minneapolis

**Best for: Social lifestyle + energy**

Northeast is one of the most popular areas for younger buyers and creatives, with breweries, restaurants, and art spaces throughout. It's a lively, walkable area with a mix of historic homes and updated condos.

Perfect if you want an active, social environment.

## Tangletown

**Best for: Quiet, residential living**

Tangletown offers a slower pace with tree-lined streets, unique layouts, and a strong neighborhood feel. You're close to Minnehaha Parkway and still connected to the rest of the city.

A great option if you want calm without leaving the city.



## Hale/Page/Diamond Lake

**Best for: Value + long-term living**

These South Minneapolis neighborhoods offer more space, relative affordability, and a stable, residential feel. They're often overlooked, but great for buyers looking to put down roots.

Smart choice for buyers thinking long-term.

## COST OF LIVING

# WHAT IT ACTUALLY COSTS TO LIVE HERE

### Home Prices

- Median home price (Twin Cities): ~\$350K–\$400K
- Entry-level homes: \$275K–\$350K
- Move-up homes: \$400K–\$600K+

Compared to cities like Austin, Denver, or Seattle, your money typically goes further here.

### Monthly Cost of Owning

- Mortgage (depending on price): \$1,800–\$3,000+
- Property taxes: ~1.1%–1.3% annually
- Insurance + utilities: \$300–\$600/month

Overall, monthly ownership costs are often comparable to renting, depending on your situation.

### Bottom Line

For a lot of people relocating, the biggest surprise is this:

You can still find a place that feels like home without stretching yourself financially.

And in many cases, you're trading higher costs elsewhere for more space, more stability, and a better overall quality of life.

### Rent Prices

- 1-bedroom apartment: \$1,200–\$1,800/month
- 2-bedroom apartment: \$1,600–\$2,400/month

Many people choose to rent short-term before buying, especially when relocating from out of state.

### What People Don't Factor In

Minnesota can be more affordable overall, but there are a few things to plan for:

- Winter utilities can be higher
- You'll want a reliable car (in most cases)
- Seasonal lifestyle changes (winter vs summer)

For most people, these don't outweigh the overall cost advantages, but they're worth knowing upfront.

## RENTING VS. BUYING

# WHAT ACTUALLY MAKES SENSE

*There's no one-size-fits-all answer here. It really comes down to your timeline, budget, and how familiar you are with the area.*

### Renting can be helpful when:

- You're new to Minneapolis
- You're unsure about neighborhoods
- You want flexibility for the first 6–12 months

Gives you time to explore before committing

### Buy Right Away If:

- You plan to stay 3+ years
- You already know where you want to live
- You're ready to start building equity

Lower costs comparable to renting long-term

## The Trade-off

**Renting = flexibility**

**Buying = Stability**

## RENT VS. BUY

### What Most People End Up Doing

If you're moving to Minnesota, the goal for most people isn't to rent long-term. It's to get settled and buy once they know where they want to be.

## THE REALITY

# WHAT'S IT ACTUALLY LIKE LIVING HERE?

### What to Expect Day-to-Day

Minnesota offers a balance that a lot of people are looking for right now: stability, affordability, and a strong sense of community.

The Twin Cities are known for their parks, lakes, and walkability, along with a mix of neighborhoods that each offer something a little different depending on your lifestyle.

### The Reality

- **Summers** are active, social, and centered around being outside
- **Winters** are colder, but manageable with the right setup
- People tend to be friendly, but it can take time to build your circle

**For most people, the lifestyle here ends up being a big upgrade.**



**“The biggest shift isn’t just the cost of living or the neighborhoods.**

**It’s the feeling of being able to settle in, build routines, and actually feel comfortable where you live.”**

### THE BOTTOM LINE

If you’re thinking about making a move, Minnesota gives you the opportunity to:

- Find a neighborhood that fits your lifestyle
- Buy a home that makes sense financially
- And build a life that feels more stable long-term

# LGBTQ+ LIFE IN THE TWIN CITIES

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*Where to Go, What to Do, and Who You'll Meet*

## More Than Just a Place to Live

One of the biggest reasons people choose Minnesota isn't just affordability or neighborhoods. It's the ability to actually build a life here. The Twin Cities have a strong, visible LGBTQ+ community with a mix of social spaces, local businesses, and organizations that make it easier to get connected.

## Nightlife & Social Spots



Dance Club



Drag/Theatre



Leather/Fetish



Brunch/Drag



Mega Club



Soccer/Community Hub



Chill Social



Basement Dance



Goth/Alt Scene



Comedy/Events

The Twin Cities offer a wide range of nightlife & social spots. From high energy to laid back, there's *something for everyone*.

## Get Active



Wildly popular in the Twin Cities is Stonewall Sports, a queer sports organization hosting leagues for Kickball, Pickleball, Boccee, Cornhole, Bowling, Dodgeball, and Tennis! Most sports have varying skill levels from social to competitive. Our own Director of Operations, Josh Pennington, plays on several of these leagues. As a transplant himself, he credits Stonewall with finding friends and a sense of community very quickly after moving here.

## Performing Arts & Creative Community



Queer Film Festival

## Casual Meetup, Clubs, and Hobbies



Queermunity is a cafe and events space that hosts regular events like knitting nights, book clubs, and casual hangouts designed for connection without pressure.



Quatrefoil Library host readings, discussions, and events centered around LGBTQ+ history and culture.



Provides mentorship, programming, and a dedicated youth center for LGBTQ+ youth in Minneapolis

## Twin Cities Pride



Certainly not the least of these mentions, we have one of the largest LGBTQ+ Pride Celebrations in the country, bringing hundreds of thousands of people together each year in Loring Park and downtown Minneapolis. Festival, Block Parties, Concerts, and more!



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# RELOCATION CHECKLIST

## How to get started

If you're thinking about making the move, here's a simple way to break it down step by step.

### 1. Get Clear on Your Timeline

- Just exploring
- 3–6 months
- 6–12+ months

Your timeline will shape everything else

### 2. Decide Your Plan (Rent vs Buy)

- Short-term rent to explore
- Or move forward with buying

Most people planning to stay long-term focus on buying

### 3. Understand Your Budget

- Monthly comfort range
- Estimated purchase price
- Upfront costs (down payment, closing)

### 4. Narrow Down Neighborhoods

- Urban vs residential
- Walkability vs space
- Lifestyle fit

### 5. Get Pre-Approved (If Buying)

- Talk to a lender
- Understand your true buying power

### 6. Plan a Visit

- Tour neighborhoods
- See homes in person
- Get a feel for the area
- Stay!

*Welcome*  
to Minnesota

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## Ready to make your move?

We'd love to talk with you about what you've read here and help you on the path to relocating.

Email us at [assist@mkt-msp.com](mailto:assist@mkt-msp.com) or call **612-444-8049**