



2013 Best Neighborhood for Young Families in Minneapolis: Kingfield

by [Sam Newberg](#) on December 23, 2013 in [Best of Neighborhoods](#)

Are young parents attracted to schools first or other amenities? Does having one lead to the other or vice-versa? Let's just say it is nice when both exist, which is not only why the [Kingfield neighborhood](#) wins this year's Streets.mn 2013 Best Neighborhood for Young Families but also why the competition from other neighborhoods is so good in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Think about it. Nokomis, Longfellow (home of the Riverview Café), Kingfield, Linden Hills, Hamline/Midway, Mac-Groveland (St. Paul's winner) and Highland all have some combination of schools, open space, coffee shops, restaurants, farmers markets, walkability, bikeability, transit access and proximity to downtown that draw parents seeking a good urban life. I live in [Standish/Ericsson](#), and while I'm quite biased (and demand a recount!), I also understand the attraction to all of these wonderful neighborhoods (note: our very own [Lake Hiawatha Playground was voted best playground](#)) for many different reasons. Visit restaurants in any of these neighborhoods and you'll find a shortage of high chairs. This is a very healthy competition, and one not just restricted to the neighborhoods I've mentioned. So Kingfield.

What better way to better understand why Kingfield attracts young families than do a little exploring. I started with a wonderful burger and beer at the [Lowbrow](#) – show up early, evidence of a high chair shortage. I have not yet been to the [Kingfield Farmers Market](#), but it's on the list. My seven-year-old son is taking a day-long class at [Leonardo's Basement](#) where he'll learn how to build more things out of Legos (is there any better contributor to his quality of life? No.). [Anodyne](#) and [Butter](#) rival the Riverview Café and many other city coffee shops/cafes for family-friendly urban gathering spots. Don't forget longstanding restaurant favorite [Curran's](#). You see, the list is too long – just visit Kingfield and see for yourself.

A city without children is dying. The excellent news in all of this is the city of Minneapolis (and its twin, St. Paul) has plenty of neighborhoods that are great for young families. But we must keep our eye on the ball. Ideally, schools in popular neighborhoods will stay open and continue to provide a great education for urbanites. Even with good school choices, not all parents will stay. Let's hope most do, and continue to bring their kids to farmers markets, coffee shops, out drinkin', to the playground and do so not entirely dependent on an upgrade to a minivan. Here's to Kingfield and all the other great neighborhoods in our city.

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