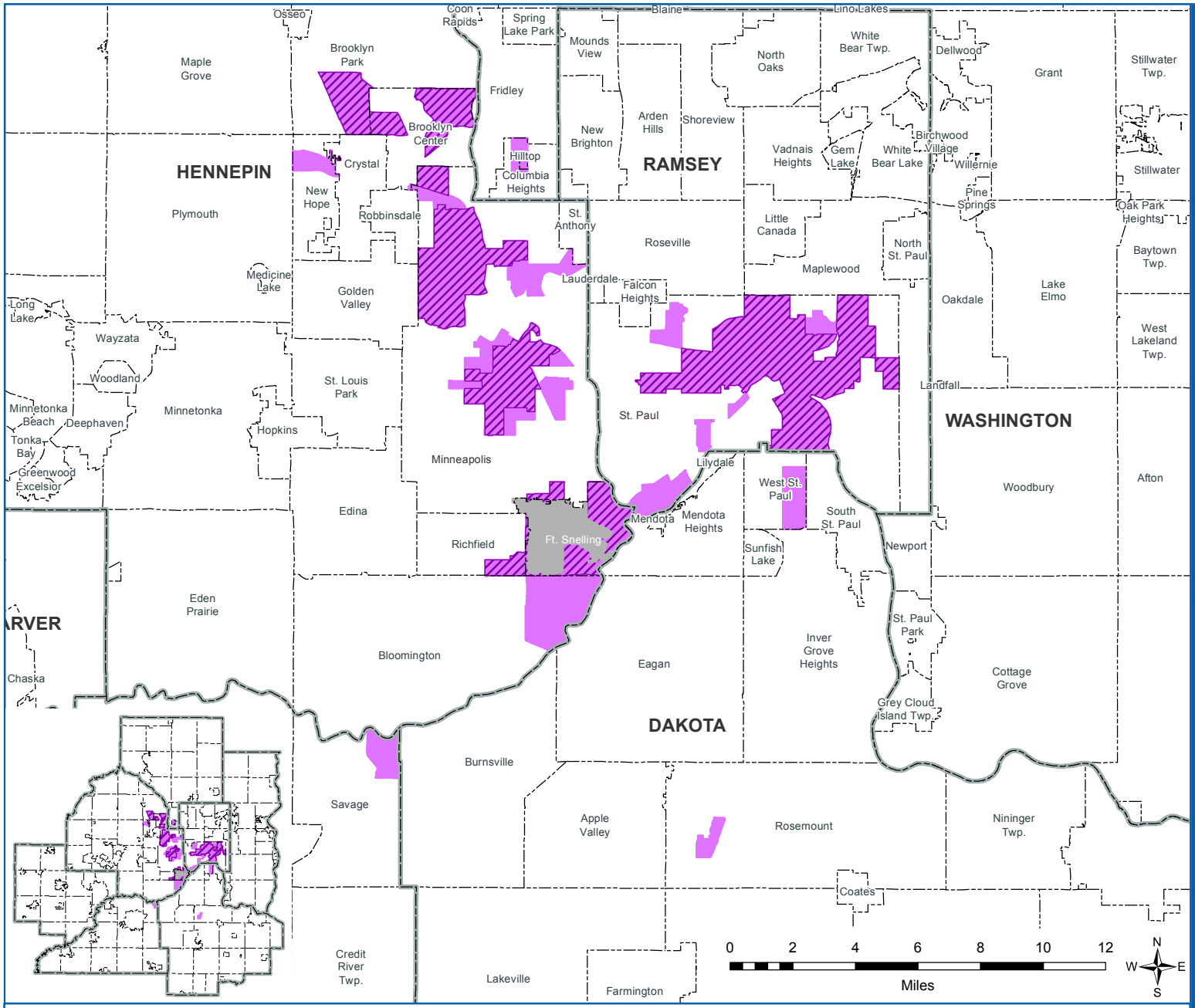

Areas of Concentrated Poverty by Census Tract, 2007-2011

- Area of Concentrated Poverty (40% or more in poverty)
- Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (40% or more in poverty and 50% or more people of color)
- County Boundaries
- City and Township Boundaries
- Minneapolis-Saint Paul Int'l Airport

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey five-year data, 2007-2011. ACPs and RCAPS as defined by Metropolitan Council on March 6, 2013.

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Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs) are census tracts where more than 40% of the residents live at or below 185% of the federal poverty line. (As context, 185% of the poverty threshold for a typical family of four in 2012 was $43,460.) In 2007-2011, over 336,000 people (about 12% of the region's population) lived in the 106 census tracts identified as Areas of Concentrated Poverty.

Living in Areas of Concentrated Poverty hurts people in many ways. Areas of Concentrated Poverty usually suffer from high crime and tend to have schools with lower test scores and graduation rates. Living in Areas of Concentrated Poverty undermines people's physical and mental health. It reduces the cognitive abilities of children, making them more likely to have lower incomes as adults than their parents. Together, these characteristics lower the economic mobility of residents who live in Areas of Concentrated Poverty, making them more likely to stay poor across generations.

Seventy-five percent of the census tracts identified as Areas of Concentrated Poverty are also Racially Concentrated Areas of Poverty (RCAPs). In 2007-2011, over 261,000 people (about 9% of the region's population) lived in RCAPs. Households of color are more likely to live in Areas of Concentrated Poverty than white households at rates beyond what income alone can explain.

Metropolitan Council's report, Choice, Place and Opportunity: An Equity Assessment of the Twin Cities Region identifies race-based barriers to housing choice that limit the ability of people of color to move away from Areas of Concentrated Poverty.