

The Diary of a Happy Mom

The Trials and Tribulations of a Stay-at-home Mom

A ride to Target Field Twins Stadium

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Yesterday, the kids and I joined 43 other parents and children on a 20-mile bike ride across the amazing city bike trails to the year-and-a-half old *Target Field* located in downtown Minneapolis. We had been gearing up for the bike ride all summer, doing practice rides around the chain of lakes and a previous ride with the group, *The Mill City Cyclomaniacs*, a few weeks ago (circling all four city lakes for a total of 15 miles).

The weather forecast was looking sketchy as there was a 40% chance of afternoon thunderstorms starting at 2 pm. The sky was gray with heavy, water-laden storm clouds and a cool breeze pushed the temperature to a perfect 64 degrees. I was relieved that the sun was not scorching hot yet concerned that we could possibly get stuck miles away from home in pouring rain and even worse thunder.

By 9:30 am, we were off with sandwiches packed in a mini cooler, water, snacks and sunscreen. I was already tired just thinking about the long ride that lay ahead yet the kids were ready to go with their endless energy and enthusiasm.

Here is a photo of my son Max (6 1/2) and daughter Sophia (4 1/2) getting ready to take off for the ride. Notice my huge new wire basket on the front of my bike—a must-have to carry our supplies!



We began our ride in Southwest Minneapolis first heading around Lake Harriet and then meeting up with the group at Lake Calhoun. Here is Max testing out his new gear bike!



Max on his new gear bike! Look at him go!



The view from Lake Calhoun of our destination, Minneapolis, in the distance. The sky looked threatening.



The group Mill City Cyclomaniacs, waiting at our meeting point for the big ride. There were 46 riders in all —Moms, Dads and kids of all ages (with the youngest being my daughter Sophia).



Max and Sophia having a little fun on one of the “older” playgrounds around the lakes.



We headed for the Midtown Greenery, starting in lovely urban Uptown.



Passing through Uptown, I was delighted by all the gorgeous small gardens along the path, created by residents for the bikers to enjoy. I wish I could have stopped to take better pictures (all my pictures along the way are taken while riding) but I had to keep up with the group.



Plus there were plenty of pretty murals painted along the greenway as well.



What was so cool about the ride was that we biked through so many different Minneapolis neighborhoods. From Uptown we entered Midtown. Here is a picture of the Midtown Center which has markets selling food from all over the world. I wish we had time to stop! The smells were making me hungry. There is outdoor seating along the Greenway too.



Here is a cafe and bike shop, only accessible along the Greenway trail.



We went under many, many city street bridges.



And even passed some factories like this one.



The sky still looked menacing yet the sights along the way continued to get even more interesting such as this bridge (which I have never seen before) that looks like a ship.



The city of Minneapolis was getting closer...



So it was time for Max and Sophia to have a treat...a delicious, well-deserved M&M cookie.



And watch the Light Rail go by....Max was thrilled at this sight!



The trail became more urban as we approached downtown. We only had a short distance left to our destination.



These crazy buildings are supposed to be an example of French modernist architecture and were recently granted over \$50 million for renovation—now why can't we tear them down? They are an eye sore!



Then we were delighted again with a prettier view of another mural.



We passed the infamous Metrodome, where the Twins used to play indoors.



Then circled around the Mississippi River passing the Guthrie Theater and other cool landmarks.





The serene Stone Arch Bridge right over the falls of the Mississippi River.



Passing the new, retro Guthrie Theater (in dark blue).



Remnants of the Old Mill City.



Finally, after over two hours of biking, Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins, is in sight!



As we approached the stadium, we saw the new Northstar Train. The Target Field has the smallest footprint of any stadium in the world. It literally is shaped like a muffin and had to be made around highways, railways and even the bike path (we rode underneath it!).



Finally, we are here!



The crew, parking our bikes.



The Mill City Cyclomaniacs entering Target Field for our tour.



First sight of Target Field (only a year and a half old) and costing over 545 million dollars to build:





The Twins Stadium is the greenest stadium in the country. It recycles over 65% of everything used including water, garbage and food (which is either donated or recycled). The field itself is made over sand thus all the water that runs off is drained and recycled. The game board is so large that it can fit an entire NBA Basketball court inside it.



Famous logo of the two city teams of Minneapolis and St. Paul, shaking hands over the Mississippi River that divides them. The Minnesota Twins started in 1961 and was the first team named after a state and not a city (since it did not want to alienate the already existing St. Paul team).



Target Field has over 20 rooms that can be rented out for private events (even wedding receptions). The views of the city are stunning.



We even got to be like a Twin and sit in the dug out.



The kids especially enjoyed the tour.



Especially the giant baseball glove!



By 1:30 PM, four hours since we left our house, it was time to head back home, exhausted.



With only a mile to go of our ride, we stopped at our neighborhood favorite, Bread and Pickle for rootbeer floats with our friends.



It was our last ride of the session with The Mill City Cyclomaniacs. We were completely exhausted but had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the great company, the tour and most of all, the splendors of this great city! We are so lucky!

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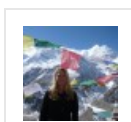
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About thirdeyemom

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