Resilient Communities Project

Building Community-University Partnerships for Sustainability

2013–2014 Prospective Partner Information Session
What is RCP?

Connects **UMN + communities** to advance sustainability and resilience

One-year partnership – RCP as **matchmaker**

- Match community-identified projects with UMN graduate courses
- 2012–2013 pilot with City of Minnetonka
- Modeled after U of Oregon program
What is RCP?

**sustainability**
connecting across environmental, economic, and social systems

**resilience**
adaptive + responsive to changing circumstances; requires collaboration, interconnectedness, long-term perspective
What is RCP?

Initial support from Institute on the Environment (IonE) + Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA)

Ready supply of faculty from UMN Sustainability Faculty Network

Wide range of disciplines + expertise
How does it work?

RFP for community proposals – committee reviews applications and selects one “community”

Application identifies potential projects, stakeholders/partners, + resources

2011–2012 pilot partnership with City of Minnetonka
How does it work?

Most simply – in five steps

1. Community identifies 15-30 projects
   RCP + community collaborate to clarify, scope, coordinate

2. RCP matches with existing (mostly) graduate courses

3. Students complete the work in courses – RCP + community staff advise, troubleshoot, support

4. Final presentations + work products to community

5. Communications + outreach

5. Implementation, monitoring, + evaluation strategies *(optional)*
What is different?

Multiple projects over a sustained period

Efficient access to full range of experts across the UMN

Potential to engage (internal + external) partners for expertise, data, implementation, funding

RCP staff expertise in community sustainability – ongoing coordination + follow up
What does the community get?

Potential to make **significant progress** + **infuse energy** in move toward sustainability and resilience

- **Fall 2013**
  - complete 15–30 locally-relevant projects
  - advance internal conversations
  - engage relevant external partners
  - promote cross-departmental + cross-disciplinary participation
  - distinguish community as a leader in sustainability + resilience

- **Summer 2014**
RCP nuts + bolts

1. Community identifies 15–30 projects
2. RCP + community meet to clarify, scope, and coordinate
RCP nuts + bolts

Minnetonka projects
- Stormwater management and training
- Water + energy conservation
- Transit-oriented development zoning district
- Light-imprint streets
- Conservation development standards
- Rooftop gardens
- Parking regulations
- Village center business associations
- Transportation demand management policy
- Water resources prioritization planning
- Creating neighborhood identities
- Post-development impact assessment
- Tree inventory
- Density + housing options
- Village center connections
RCP nuts + bolts

1 Sample project

Storm water and Illicit Discharge Management

Examines local storm water management and illicit discharge issues, regulations, and management practices.

**Goals** include identifying and mitigating storm water and illicit discharge impacts, strengthening and integrating local storm water management regulations, and streamlining storm water permitting process.

**Resource partners** include local watershed districts and MPCA.
Density and Housing Options Study

Examines existing housing density and housing types in Minnetonka in light of changing demographics and housing preferences.

Goals include identifying strategies for providing a diverse range of housing types, sizes, price points, and densities; analyzing residential “market leakage” into neighboring communities; and identifying alternatives to smaller-lot development that increase housing density and diversity.

Stakeholders include local realtors and MHFA
RCP nuts + bolts

What assistance does RCP provide?

1. Brainstorming project ideas
2. Identifying student + faculty capacity
3. Clarifying project scope, goals, + deliverables
4. Identifying and coordinating with local partners + stakeholders
RCP nuts + bolts

RCP matches projects with existing (mostly) graduate courses

Students complete the work in courses – RCP + community staff advise, troubleshoot, support
RCP nuts + bolts

Minnetonka projects
- Stormwater management
- Water + energy conservation
- Transit-oriented development
- Conservation development
- Rooftop gardens
- Parking regulations
- Village center business association
- Traffic demand management
- Water resources planning
- Neighborhood identities
- Post-development impacts
- Tree inventory
- Density + housing options
- Village center connections

U of MN courses
- Neighborhood Revitalization
- Building & Site Integration in Sustainable Design
- Housing Assessment & Analysis
- Land, Environment, & Energy Law Clinic
- Principles & Methods of Evaluation
- Urban Hydrology & Land Development
- Pollution Prevention
- Methods for Natural Resource & Environmental Policy
- GIS in Environmental Science & Management
- Design Thinking for Action
- Urban GIS
- Housing Policy
- Land Use & Transportation Capstone
- Environmental Communication
- Ecology of Agricultural Systems
- Environmental Planning, Policy, & Decision Making
2 Sample projects + courses (fall 2012)

Stormwater and Illicit Discharge Management
ARCH 8567 Building and Site Integration in Sustainable Design

Approach: Analysis of existing stormwater management practices and issues on the Ridgedale Mall property.

Outcomes: Five detailed design concepts that incorporate anticipated future redevelopment of the property and identify management strategies to return stormwater infiltration and runoff rates to predevelopment levels.
RCP nuts + bolts

2 Sample projects + courses (fall 2012–spring 2013)

Stormwater and Illicit Discharge Management

LAW 7102 Environmental Sustainability Law Clinic: Land Use & Water Policy

Approach: Audit of City of Minnetonka ordinances related to stormwater discharge in the context of local watershed, State of Minnesota, and federal regulations

Outcomes: Recommended changes to streamline City’s regulations and coordinate permitting with watershed district requirements.
RCP nuts + bolts

Sample projects + courses (fall 2012)

Density and Housing Options Study

PA 8203 Neighborhood Revitalization

Approach: Research local and national case studies of similar suburban communities with an aging and homogenous housing stock, large-lot development, and changing demographics.

Outcomes: Documented strategies to provide a more diverse range of housing for aging residents, young families, and recent immigrants; documented approaches to increase housing density through innovative zoning and subdivision.
RCP nuts + bolts

Sample projects + courses (spring 2013)

Density and Housing Options Study

HSG 5464 Understanding Housing: Assessment and Analysis—Market analysis comparing Minnetonka with case-study communities from fall PA 8203 course and with neighboring communities (Plymouth, Eden Prairie)

PA 5261 Housing Policy—Policy memo proposing strategies to facilitate aging in place.

GEOG 5564 Urban GIS—Analysis of jobs-housing match using Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) data
RCP nuts + bolts

What assistance does RCP provide?

- Identifying + coordinating with faculty
- Facilitating scoping meeting + detailed scope of work
- Coordinating site visits, project check-ins, presentations
- Ensuring project timelines + expectations met
- General troubleshooting (e.g. data, communication)
RCP nuts + bolts

3 Final presentations + work products to community
Sample Outcomes: City of Minnetonka

Water Resource Prioritization Plan

Goal: Help Minnetonka determine how financial resources should best be allocated to preserve high-quality water resources and restore impaired water resources.

ESPM 5295 GIS in Environmental Science and Management (fall 2012) GIS model to estimate salt and nutrient loadings from leaf litter for a set of priority watersheds in Minnetonka.

CE 5511 Urban Hydrology and Land Development (spring 2013) Water resource prioritization plan document, including recommendations for allocating financial resources to water resource priorities.
RCP nuts + bolts

3 Sample Outcomes: City of Minnetonka

Post-Development Critique

Goal: Assess post-development public perceptions of three controversial development projects, as well as the City’s public engagement processes for review of development proposals.

OLDP 5501 Principles and Methods of Evaluation (fall 2012)
Evaluation plan, interview questions, and an interview protocol to determine if community goals for the three developments were met, neighborhood concerns were addressed, and the developments remain controversial with the public.

OLDP 8595 Evaluation Problems (spring 2013)
Conduct interviews with residents who opposed development projects and provide a final report with recommendations regarding the City’s project review and public input processes.
Sample Outcomes: City of Minnetonka

Rooftop Gardens

Goal: Identify policies, best practices, and potential regulatory and other barriers to green roofs and rooftop gardens based on the experiences of other communities, and assess the potential for green roofs in Minnetonka.

PA 5242 Planning Policy and Decision-Making (spring 2013)
Identify and document in a final report best practices for implementing green roofs and rooftop gardens, focused on examples from communities in northern climates.

AGRI 5321 Ecology of Agricultural Systems (spring 2013)
Interview potential stakeholders in Minnetonka (businesses, school district personnel, city facilities management) to assess interest in and opportunities for green roofs and rooftop gardens, and identify possible barriers to implementation. Final report will assess the potential for green roofs in Minnetonka and offer recommendations for moving forward.
RCP nuts + bolts

Sample Outcomes—Deliverables

- Reports
- White papers
- Policy memos
- Case studies
- Design concepts
- Site plans
- Posters
- Maps/map series
- Toolkits
- Data (survey data, focus group transcripts, GIS layers)
- Other...
RCP nuts + bolts

3

What assistance does RCP provide?

Scheduling final presentations to community

Reviewing student deliverables

Supervising production of aggregated final reports, as needed
RCP nuts + bolts

Communications and Outreach

4

Kickoff event (September)

End-of-Year Celebration (May)
RCP nuts + bolts

Communications and Outreach

Website (rcp.umn.edu)
Blog
Twitter (@RCPumn)
E-newsletter
RCP nuts + bolts

Communications and Outreach

Local + regional media contacts and coverage

COMMUNICATIONS

Star Tribune

U offering cities a new partnership to solve problems

Article by: KELLY SMITH
Star Tribune

September 14, 2012 - 9:44 AM

It's a dilemma that cities grapple with statewide and nationwide: an aging population and other significant demographic changes, but also tighter budgets and smaller staffs to tackle "to do" lists.

Cue the next generation.

This year, dozens of graduate students at the University of Minnesota are trading classrooms for City Hall, working alongside the city staff in Minnetonka to dig up new solutions to issues -- from conserving water to attracting more mid-priced housing for younger families.

It's part of a program the university is testing in Minnetonka this year before expanding it statewide. The program, which officially starts Friday, is designed to help cities better respond to changes and sustainability problems and also to give students real-world experience.

While the university often collaborates with cities and counties, the yearlong project takes that to a new level, giving about 130 students the rare task of working together across multiple departments from law to civil engineering.

"It's really at a scope and scale we don't typically see at a university," said program manager Mike Greco, who works for the U's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs.

"It was a way to scale up the work the university does. And that benefits both sides [the city and school]."

It's one of a few programs in the country modeled after one started at the University of Oregon in 2009. In October, other Minnesota cities can apply to be in the program for next year.
RCP nuts + bolts

Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation strategies related to sustainability + resilience *(optional)*

Fee-based opportunity
Capacity building + organizational transformation
Further positioning for ongoing engagement + leadership on sustainability
RCP Funding Model

**Oregon/SCYP model**
Entirely community-funded
($250,000/year)

**RCP model**
University funding – $175k
Local funding contribution
Partner funding sources
## RCP Funding Model: Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City general fund/department budgets</th>
<th>Metropolitan Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Redevelopment agencies</td>
<td>State agencies (MnDOT, DNR, MPCA, DEED)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing authorities</td>
<td>Federal agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park districts</td>
<td>Neighborhood organizations/HOAs</td>
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<tr>
<td>School districts</td>
<td>Businesses/business associations</td>
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<td>Watershed districts</td>
<td>Chambers of commerce</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
<td>Private partners/developers</td>
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<td>Transit districts</td>
<td>Philanthropic organizations</td>
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<td>Neighboring cities</td>
<td>Nonprofit organizations</td>
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<td>County government</td>
<td>Higher education institutions</td>
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Application Timeline

November 15, 2012: RFP issued

November 2012–February 2013: RCP staff available for:
   - Informational presentations to staff, elected officials, prospective partners
   - Phone or in-person meetings to discuss project ideas

February 15, 2013: Applications due to RCP by 4:30 pm

March 2013: 2013–2014 community partner selected
   - RCP + community begin formal project scoping and course matching
Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Top-Level Support
Clear Sustainability/Resilience Focus
Project Relevance + Impact
Academic Calendar + Project Logistics
Likelihood of Match with University Courses
Local Financial Contribution
External Partnerships
Program Timeline

April 2013: Final draft of project list and course matches completed

Summer 2013:
  - Develop scope-of-work documents for each project + participating fall semester course
  - Identify + collect project background info, reports, and data

Fall 2013:
  - RCP kick-off event in partner community (September)
  - Fall-semester classes work on RCP projects
  - Final scoping of spring semester courses (November)
Program Timeline

Spring 2014:
Spring-semester classes work on RCP projects
Fall-semester aggregated final reports delivered to community

May 2014: RCP 2013–2014 end-of-year celebration

Summer 2014:
Spring-semester aggregated final reports delivered to community
Work with RCP staff on strategy to implement, monitor, + evaluate sustainability efforts
Partner Community
Enhance local capacity + collaboration
Access to faculty, courses, + 1000s of hours of student time
Energy + creativity
Long-term relationship with University Visibility

Faculty + Students
Efficient + meaningful access to community-based projects
Long term capacity for community-based work
Critical “real world” education opportunities
What does the community get?

Potential to make significant progress + infuse energy in move toward sustainability and resilience

Fall 2013 – Summer 2014

complete 15–30 locally-relevant projects
Website: rcp.umn.edu

Twitter: @RCPumn

Questions? rcp@umn.edu