The Resilient Communities Project (RCP) is a direct response to the growing need to find sustainability solutions to pressing issues facing our communities. RCP does this by connecting the wide-ranging expertise of University of Minnesota faculty and students with communities in Minnesota.

Each academic year, RCP chooses one partner community through a competitive request-for-proposal process. Cities, counties, and clusters of communities along a transportation corridor, around a regional center, or within a watershed are eligible. Working with a broad range of local government staff and community stakeholders, RCP helps to identify potential projects based on community-identified sustainability issues and needs. RCP then serves as a centralized “matchmaker,” connecting the city’s project needs with existing graduate and professional courses and independent graduate student projects at the U of MN. The partner community supports the effort through dedicated staff time and a local funding contribution. At the conclusion of the partnership, RCP can assist project partners to create a strategy to implement, evaluate, and monitor their ongoing sustainability efforts.

For communities, RCP provides access to hundreds of students and faculty members across a range of disciplines—from architecture, planning, and engineering to business, environmental sciences, and the humanities. Expertise is available related to all aspects of sustainability (e.g. environmental health, economic opportunity, social equity, and community livability) and all stages of sustainability efforts (analysis, planning, design, implementation, and evaluation).

For students and faculty, RCP facilitates meaningful opportunities to gain experience in analyzing and advancing community sustainability. RCP offers faculty efficient access to community projects, and students benefit from real-world opportunities to apply their knowledge and training. They also bring energy, enthusiasm, and innovative approaches to address difficult, persistent problems.

RCP provides a comprehensive communication and outreach effort, drawing on traditional and social media platforms to publicize the year-long partnership, its impact on the community, and its value to students and faculty. RCP’s website will highlight projects and best practices generated through work in each partner city, to benefit the broader set of communities interested in advancing sustainability and resilience.

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Resilient Communities Project

University of Minnesota
Driven to Discover™

RCP is an initiative of the Sustainability Faculty Network at the University of Minnesota, with funding and administrative support provided by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) and the Institute on the Environment (IonE)
2012–2013 RCP Partner:  
City of Minnetonka

City-Defined Projects
Storm water Management  
Water and Energy Conservation  
Mid-Priced Housing Options  
Transit-Oriented Development  
Conservation Development  
Rooftop Gardens  
Parking Regulations  
Travel Demand Management  
Water Resources Planning  
Neighborhood Identities  
Post-Development Impacts  
Density and Housing Options  
Housing Program Evaluation

U of MN Departments
Urban and Regional Planning  
Geography  
Public Policy  
Environmental Science, Policy & Management  
Housing Studies  
Civil Engineering  
Law School  
Communication Studies  
Liberal Studies  
Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering  
Organizational Leadership, Policy & Development  
Agronomy  
Landscape Architecture

The Resilient Communities Project is accepting proposals from cities and counties to be the community partner for 2014–2015.

The partner community must support the effort through dedicated staff time and a local funding contribution. The selection process is competitive.

The deadline for applications is 4:30 PM on February 14, 2014. The community partner for the 2014–2015 partnership year will be announced in March 2014.

For more information, visit www.rcp.umn.edu

2013–2014 RCP Partner:  
City of North St. Paul

City-Defined Projects
Housing Conservation and Aging in Place  
Live/Work Housing  
Living Streets and Capital Improvements  
Green Energy Initiative  
Neighborhood Identities  
Fiber Optic Network Development  
Community Identity and Branding  
Downtown Revitalization Strategies  
Civic Engagement and Communication  
Environmental Education  
Redevelopment-Ready Community  
Public Art and Public History  
Master Redevelopment Plan  
Silver Lake Trail Connection  
Community Gardens and Local Food  
Staff Development and Retention  
Development of Underutilized Parcels  
Energy Conservation Initiative  
Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan  
Bulk Waste Pick-Up Program Evaluation  
Documenting the RCP–North St. Paul Partnership

U of MN Departments
Housing Studies  
Civil Engineering  
Law School  
Landscape Architecture  
Communication Studies  
Sociology  
Liberal Studies  
Graphic Design  
Gerontology  
Journalism  
Architecture  
Organizational Leadership, Policy & Development  
Urban and Regional Planning  
Public Policy  
Environmental Education (UMD)  
Environmental Science, Policy & Management  
Forestry  
Agronomy  
Social Work  
Recreation Resources Management