Executive Summary

- North St. Paul has many unique, natural features and amenities that offer opportunities to educate residents about environmental and natural resource issues.
- This project is a collaboration between the city of North St. Paul, the Resilient Communities Project (RCP), and three University of Minnesota graduate students enrolled in OLPD 5204, Designing the Adult Education Program, for Spring 2014.
- Recommendation includes offering four educational sessions this summer.

Project Goals

- The primary goal of this project is to provide North St. Paul with recommendations for educational opportunities related to Southwood Nature Preserve, which currently has minimal programming.
- Increase awareness & appreciation of SNP
- Increase usage by the public
- Encourage support and stewardship of SNP

Invasive/Native Species

- Identify Invasive/Native species
- Remove Invasive species
- Plant Native species

Birding

- Avian inhabitants of preserve
- Identify birds and their habitat, nests

Turtles/Frogs

- Identify species in marsh and lake
- Turtle habits (crossing road between marshes)
- Relationship between the two

Trees

- Define deciduous forest and identify its trees
- Discuss trees as habitat for birds, mammals, insects

About North St. Paul

North St. Paul is a town of 3.1 square miles, with a six block-long main street. In recent decades, this small industrial village turned into a first-ring suburb. With 125 years of history, North St. Paul is a tight-knit community with bonds to the town atmosphere and a town that looks to the future, embracing technology and seeking new ways to capture the next wave of innovation and ingenuity to propel the community forward.

With an abundance of city parks, schools, churches, a quaint downtown district, and peaceful neighborhoods, North St. Paul is a town with a great quality of life. It is connected to a thriving metropolitan region, and appreciates how this enhances residents’ access to a diversity of jobs, cultural and recreational opportunities, quality health care, and higher education opportunities.

About RCP

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 and the Institute on the Environment.

RCP provides the community with access to hundreds of students and faculty across a range of academic disciplines, from design, planning, and engineering to business, environmental sciences, and the humanities.

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Twohig
Course: OLPD 5204: Designing the Adult Education Program
City Staff Lead: Jon Fure

Deliverables

In order to support a low cost and easy-to-coordinate program, students will provide North St. Paul with the following products:

- Directory of Experts
- Program Coordinator Checklist
- Consultation for pilot session
- Final Report with recommendations for evaluating and sustaining program

Conclusion

Through a free environmental education series at Southwood Nature Preserve, residents of North St. Paul will learn about environmental habitats, native creatures and plants of their city and thereby gain knowledge and appreciation for their natural environment.