PUBLIC INTEREST DESIGN

North Saint Paul Living Streets Project

Design Workshop: ARCH 3250

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CREATE VALUABLE PLACES
WHAT IS IT?
The condensed version that we created highlights the key points covered in the original document in an abbreviated manor that will keep the reader engaged. This version is available in an electronic PDF version or a hard copy.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
- REDUCE THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT
  - Less asphalt and more trees next to roads will reduce the heat build-up in pavement and in the ambient air during hot summer days making outdoor activities more comfortable and reducing air conditioning costs in our homes and businesses.
- SUSTAINABLE STREET CONSTRUCTION
  - Smaller streets require less asphalt, gravel beneath the street and less energy used for their construction than larger conventional streets. The need for less materials reduces levels of greenhouse gases emitted during the manufacturing and transporting of these materials to the site.
- IMPROVE WATER QUALITY
  - Rainwater gardens along roads intercept and filter stormwater runoff. Much of it soaks into the ground to water trees next to the road while excess water during big storms is filtered by plants before making its way to the storm sewer pipe that takes it to Kohlman Lake and ultimately further downstream to the Mississippi River.
- IMPROVE AIR QUALITY
  - By providing space for walking and biking, the decrease in cars on the road and increase in trees planted around neighborhoods will filter the air, trapping dust and reduce CO2 emissions along with other harmful pollutants.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS
- ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
- HELP CHILDREN
  - Streets that provide room for safe walking and biking help children get physical activity and gain independence. More children walk to school where there are sidewalks, and children who have safe walking and bicycling routes have a more positive view of their neighborhood.
- INCREASE SAFETY
  - Traffic-calming elements like curb extensions, bump-outs and narrowed streets improve safety by reducing traffic speeds. Streets are safer for walkers, bicyclists, children, the elderly, as well as for drivers.
- IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH
  - By offering easy opportunities for walking and bicycling, living streets encourage a healthy lifestyle for people of all ages, especially the elderly, and are an important strategy to combat obesity.
- ENHANCE LOCAL BEAUTY
  - By making room for the planting of trees and rainwater gardens, neighborhoods will become more beautiful and attractive to young families that will help make communities thrive.

WHAT IS IT?
Through a door-to-door data collection method, current street conditions and rendered images with Living Streets elements are compared, to both educate community members on the plan, and gain an understanding of their preferences.
**CARRY ON RAINGARDEN**
*Interactive Watershed Education*

**WHAT IS IT?**
The Carry On RainGarden is a portable educational device that allows audiences to learn first hand about both the aesthetic qualities and the stormwater mitigating effects of rainwater gardens.

**LIVING STREETS LAB**
*Innovation Solutions Through Play*

**WHAT IS IT?**
The LivingStreetLab is a toolkit that allows the user to explore and learn the different components that make up Living Streets. The Living Street Box will be displayed in a location where users can build and play on their own, and used in workshops that promote sustainable community development.