Resilient Communities Project–Scott County 2018–2019 Partnership

The mission of the Resilient Communities Project is to connect local government agencies in Minnesota with U of M students and faculty to advance community resilience and student learning through collaborative, course-based projects.

During the 2018–2019 academic year, RCP partnered with Scott County on **14 community-identified projects**. These projects were matched with **18 courses** spanning **13 academic departments** at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campuses—offering **more than 100 students** the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to real community needs and opportunities, and providing Scott County with information, ideas, and new perspectives on local sustainability, livability, and resilience issues.

Housing	
Creating a Community Land Trust	Collected data for, developed selection criteria for, and created a mapping tool to identify land parcels best suited for inclusion in a future community land trust; researched best practices for land trust programs in Minnesota and nationally.
Fostering Employer-Assisted Workforce Housing	Researched case studies to identify program structures, best practices, and implementation strategies for employer-assisted housing (EAH) programs across the nation; assessed current industries in Scott County to identify those best suited for participation in an EAH program.
Increasing Landlord Participation in Rental Assistance Programs	Conducted interviews and surveys with landlords in Scott County to understand perceptions and experiences related to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program; developed web-based educational resources for landlords and tenants; created a film documenting the experiences of tenants in the HCV program.
Transportation and Land Use	
Planning for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles	Researched future implications of connected and autonomous vehicles for pedestrian safety, suburban and rural transportation hubs, master planning for an urban village, and freight delivery and ports.
Improving Mobility through Rideshare/Ownershare Options	Assessed the transportation behaviors and needs of Scott County residents aged 16–24 who do not have regular access to a vehicle; explored policy solutions and design options for how connected and autonomous vehicles could improve mobility.
Administration	
Investigating Alternative Methods for Property Assessment	Interviewed county assessors in Minnesota to understand the benefits and challenges of the in-person property inspection requirement, and provide qualitative evidence supporting the use of alternative methods of property assessment and valuation.
Open Self-Serve Library Feasibility Assessment	Assessed the feasibility of the open self-serve libraries model for implementation in Scott County by interviewing implementation managers at four U.S. libraries to understand current models of open self-serve libraries, conducting a survey of residents regarding their use of libraries, and exploring marketing strategies to effectively communicate the open library model to the public.
Measuring Costs of Services for Rural Land Uses	Reviewed national cost of community services (COCS) studies to understand their methodology; developed a blueprint for conducting a COCS study in Scott County to understand fiscal impacts of various development decisions in rural areas of the county.
Evaluating Eminent Domain Settlements for Highway Projects	Examined legal requirements for just compensation in cases of eminent domain, the legal ramifications of the *Kelo v. City of New London* decision, Minnesota case law on legally compensable partial takings, and the precedent established in other states regarding eminent domain settlements for highway projects.

Environmental Stewardship

Diversifying Agricultural Land with Perennial Crops	Conducted interviews to understand perceptions of native prairie plantings and other perennial crops within local farming culture, as well as opportunities for the Scott County Watershed Management Organization (WMO) to facilitate broader implementation of perennial crops.
Managing Next Generation Household Waste	Conducted a facility study and developed a simulation of material processing to predict capacity at the existing Hazardous Household Waste Facility in Scott County under various future scenarios.

Health and Education

Creating an Edible Landscape	Explored how edible landscapes could help to meet the nutritional needs of the community; identified policies to support an edible landscape, best practices from existing edible landscapes around the world, and recommendations for sustaining the landscape.
Integrating Early Childhood Data	Assessed data integration programs in other jurisdictions in the United States and identified potential legal and ethical considerations to cross-sharing of data among programs.
Promoting Active Living for Scott County	Investigated active transportation opportunities and barriers to park access in Scott County, and the implications for promoting active living among residents.

Visit https://z.umn.edu/rcp-sc to view reports from each project, as well as news items about the RCP–Scott County partnership.

For more information about RCP, contact:

Mike Greco, Director   mgreco@umn.edu
Sarah Tschida, Coordinator   tschi066@umn.edu

Web: www.rcp.umn.edu   Facebook: RCPumn
E-mail: rcp@umn.edu   Twitter: @RCPumn

Resilient Communities Project

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover℠

The Resilient Communities Project (RCP) is a program of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota