outside the home and workplace) protecting “third places” (social spaces about the importance of creating and Mehta also participated in a conversation making as an international movement. to consolidate and strengthen place- peers new and old to form the council for Public Spaces is reaching out to decades of working in this field, Project for Public Spaces is reaching out to doers and deep thinkers at the fore- front of the placemaking movement, creating a community of practice around this important work. After almost four decades of working in this field, Project for Public Spaces is reaching out to peers new and old to form the council to consolidate and strengthen place- making as an international movement. Mehta also participated in a conversation about the importance of creating and protecting “third places” (social spaces outside the home and workplace) in low-income communities. An article summa- rizing this conversation was published in a recent issue of Shelterforce and can be found at www.shelterforce.org/article/3057/where_community_is_at_work_making_itself/.

Resilient Communities Project Program Manager Mike Greco was recently appointed to the Vermillion River Watershed’s Wetland Engagement Team, a steering committee that will guide civic engagement and outreach activities for the Vermillion River Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan. The Vermillion River is a DNR-designated trout stream, and the only world-class trout stream in the United States within a major metropolitan area. Greco was also reappointed to a third term on the Dakota County Planning Commission, representing the cities of Farmington and Hastings, as well as the rural townships in southern Dakota County.

Community Programs Assistant Jeff Corn will present a session on “Merging Community and Academic Knowledge: Neighborhoods and Community-Based Research” at the National Neighborhoods and Community-Based Research “Merging Community and Academic Knowledge: Neighborhoods and Community-Based Research” at the National Neighborhoods USA Conference, which is being held May 22–25 in Minneapolis. The session will discuss community-based

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Resilient Communities Project Selects North St. Paul as 2013–2014 Community Partner

The Resilient Communities Project (RCP) is pleased to announce that it has selected the City of North St. Paul as its partner community for the 2013–2014 academic year. The partnership will bring the expertise of hundreds of graduate students and the University of Minnesota to sustainability-related projects identified by North St. Paul.

RCP organizes year-long partnerships between the University of Minnesota and Minnesota communities. Each academic year, RCP chooses a city partner through a competitive request-for-proposal process, helps identify potential projects based on community-identified sustainability issues and needs, and then matches the city’s project needs with University of Minnesota courses. The partnership provides the community with access to students from a wide range of programs and disciplines—from architecture, planning, and engineering to business, environmental sciences, and the humanities. Through work with RCP, the community is able to enhance its own capacity to advance sustainability. Students who participate in RCP projects benefit from real-world opportunities to apply their knowledge and training and bring energy, enthusiasm, and innovative approaches to address local issues.

RCP selected North St. Paul’s winning proposal from among seven submitted. The proposal identified 18 projects for which the City would like assistance, including developing live/ work housing, revitalizing the city’s downtown, investigating green energy alternatives, creating “living streets,” planning community gardens, identifying economic-development strategies, designing civic-engagement initiatives, crafting an environmental-education program, and creating a public-art plan. Staff from RCP and North St. Paul will begin working this spring to define the scope of the projects and match them with courses offered at the University in fall 2013 and spring 2014. RCP Program Manager Mike Greco will administer the partnership on behalf of the University, and North St. Paul Community Development Director Nate Ehalt will coordinate the City’s participation in the program.

RCP is an initiative of the Sustainability Faculty Network at the University of Minnesota, with funding and administrative support provided by CURA and the Institute on the Environment. To learn more about North St. Paul’s selection, visit rcp.umn.edu/2013/03/18/nsp-2013-partner/.