

## Resilient Communities Project–Brooklyn Park 2016–2017 Partnership

*The mission of the Resilient Communities Project is to connect communities in Minnesota with University of Minnesota faculty and students to advance local sustainability and resilience through collaborative, course-based projects.*



During the 2016–2017 academic year, RCP collaborated with the City of Brooklyn Park and its partner organizations and agencies on 24 community-identified projects. These projects were matched with 47 courses spanning 21 academic departments at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and Duluth campuses, engaging more than 250 students in meaningful real-world projects, and providing Brooklyn Park with information, ideas, and new perspectives on local sustainability and resilience issues.

### Environmental Stewardship

Long-Term Sustainability of Natural Resources	Developed a framework for a natural resource management plan to ensure long-term stewardship of natural resources in the city
Potable Water: Supply, Use, and Conservation	Assessed current water usage patterns, and identified best practices for conservation education and sustainable development to reduce potable water use
Restaurants & Food Waste: Reuse & Disposal	Evaluated the potential for creating a city-wide food waste recycling program, and identified best practices for food waste reduction and recycling

### Public Safety

Pedestrian Safety in the Zane Avenue Corridor and Village Creek Neighborhood	Identified opportunities for making the Zane Avenue Corridor and Village Creek neighborhood more walkable, increasing access to transit and other neighborhood amenities, and improving public spaces
Diversifying the Brooklyn Park Police Department	Developed strategies to attract applicants of color to the City's Police Department in an effort to make the police force more representative of the community

### Music and the Arts

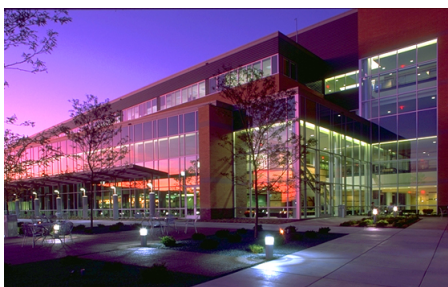
Music and Arts Community Survey and Asset/Need Mapping	Identified opportunities for youth music and arts programming by assessing existing programs, barriers to participation, and prospects for new programming
North Hennepin Community College Performing Arts Center	Investigated design and programming options for a proposed Performing and Fine Arts Center on the North Hennepin Community College campus

### Neighborhood Stability

Stable Neighborhood Action Plan Update	Updated the City's Stable Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) to evaluate the impact of neighborhood improvements since the original SNAP was developed in 2005
Foreclosure Recovery Impact in Brooklyn Park Neighborhoods	Assessed the impacts of Brooklyn Park's Foreclosure Recovery Program on housing values and neighborhood stability since the program was instituted in 2010
Creating Thriving Neighborhoods through Greater Renter Engagement	Developed strategies to improve outreach to renters and create more equitable access to community information and resources

### Workforce Development and Employment

Measuring Youth Employment in the Brooklyns	Investigated youth unemployment in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center to inform programs that will increase youth access to employment opportunities
Workforce Development Strategies	Identified gaps in current workforce delivery models, as well as targeted workforce development strategies in areas with high unemployment and a diverse workforce



**Brooklyn  
Park**





### Community Identity and Engagement

Challenging Conceptions of Brooklyn Park: Branding & Public Art	Created a branding strategy for Brooklyn Park City Hall to promote and foster a positive community image
Community Engagement Plan for Comprehensive Plan Update	Developed a community engagement plan to broaden outreach and improve the engagement process around the City's 2018 comprehensive plan update
Creation of a Community-Oriented PAFR	Developed a popular annual finance report (PAFR) to improve transparency within city government and broaden understanding of government finances
Evaluation of Brooklyn Park Community Engagement Initiative	Assessed the impacts of Brooklyn Park's 2010 Community Engagement Initiative to inform future outreach and engagement efforts

### Senior and Youth Services Projects

Senior/50+ Civic Engagement: An Age-Friendly Initiative	Identified barriers to senior civic participation and volunteering, and developed outreach strategies to engage both new and return senior volunteers
Shared-Use Mobility Possibilities in Brooklyn Park	Identified strategies to improve mobility among senior and low-income residents through access to shared forms of transportation, such as bike and car sharing
North Hennepin Community College Site Concepts: Supportive Off-Campus Services	Provided recommendations for future development on the NHCC campus, including private off-campus housing and student support services

### Parks and Recreation Projects

Community Change and Sustainability of Athletic Fields	Conducted a needs assessment of athletic field use, and developed recommendations for field surface materials and scheduling to ensure equitable access
Nature-Based Recreation: A Recipe for Community Health	Developed site recommendations and designs for new nature-based recreation areas, and identified strategies for integrating nature play into existing parks programming
Master Planning for Historic Eidem Farm and Homestead	Identified strategies for engaging the public in master planning for the farmstead, and recommended adult education programming to appeal to new visitors from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds

### Food Access

Evaluation of a Potential Community Kitchen	Determined community goals for a shared commercial kitchen space, and assessed obstacles to and opportunities for creation of a new community kitchen or food hub
Assessing Access to Healthy Food	Assessed barriers to accessing healthy, fresh, and culturally foods, and identified strategies to increase consumption of healthy foods

### For more information, contact:

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Resilient Communities Project

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