

Resilient Communities Project–City of Ramsey 2017–2018 Partnership

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



During the 2017–2018 academic year, RCP collaborated with the City of Ramsey on **21 community-identified projects**. These projects were matched with **47 courses** spanning **16 academic departments** at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campuses, providing **275 students** with opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills to real community problems and opportunities, and providing Ramsey with a wealth of information, ideas, and new perspectives on local sustainability and resilience issues.

Community Identity and Engagement

Every Voice Matters: Resident Engagement and Volunteerism	Develop strategies and policies to expand the City's resident engagement efforts beyond land use policy to include other types of community issues and decisions; and facilitate volunteer opportunities that can cultivate future community leaders.
A Gathering Place for Community: Community Center Plan	Assess community need for and explore options to develop a recreation, performing arts, or other community center in the heart of The COR, a nearly 400-acre transit-oriented, mixed-use development along the Northstar Commuter Rail line.
Sustaining Our Legacy: Historic Town Hall Restoration and Reuse	Help the City develop a plan for the Historic Ramsey Town Hall, including opportunities for adaptive reuse or shared use at the current or other locations; and engagement strategies to involve the public in planning for the future of the facility.
Creating Community Identity: Branding and Marketing Ramsey	Help the City develop a branding and marketing plan, and identify potential strategies to increase the City's visibility and profile in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Housing and Economic Development

Encouraging Small Business Growth and Expansion: Developing a Business Incubator	Build on the City's successful business retention and expansion program by exploring new and emerging models for business incubators and other public or private business development initiatives.
Creating Housing Opportunities for All	Help the City update its housing plan by assessing current housing stock and housing gaps, identifying policies and financial tools to create a diverse housing stock, and designing an outreach strategy to garner public support for the City's housing goals.
Creating Destination: Retail Marketing Analysis	Assist the City in attracting destination retail by identifying the types of retail likely to locate in Ramsey, and recommending marketing approaches, incentives, and other tools/strategies to attract retail development.
Paying for Future Infrastructure Needs: Development Fee Study	Help the City revise its approach to funding infrastructure by comparing Ramsey's current development fees to those in peer communities, investigating other mechanism to locally fund infrastructure improvements, and identifying cost-reduction strategies for infrastructure improvements and maintenance.

Land Use and Transportation

Highway 10: A Community and Regional Focal Point	Assist with development of the U.S. Highway 10 Corridor Plan by assessing potential future land uses, investigating incentives to encourage building and site improvements, and identifying existing and emerging models for multimodal highway corridor planning.
Connecting Ramsey: The Circle of Ramsey Greenway Concept	Assist with development of a city-wide greenway plan by identifying strategies for communicating the value of greenway protection; and innovative storm water management design and policy solutions that leverage greenway investments.
A Gathering Within, an Attraction Beyond: The COR Development Plan Update	Assist with update of The COR Development Plan for the City's transit-oriented town center by outlining an engagement strategy, assessing the sustainability of proposed land uses and opportunities to maximize development potential, and recommending implementation approaches to accommodate short- and long-term investments.



Administration

Protecting Our Investments: Piloting an Asset Management System	Assess the utility of asset management systems to manage City assets such as streets and trails, storm water infrastructure, and boulevard trees and ensure safety, maximum value, and return on investment.
Sustaining Our Team: Employee Development Plan	Assist with the creation of an employee development plan that includes training, professional development, career advancement, and volunteer opportunities.
Protecting the Public: Police and Fire Services Evaluation	Create a survey for business owners in Ramsey to assess satisfaction with Ramsey Police and Fire services.

Environmental Stewardship

Integrating Resources into Our Future: Natural Resources Management and Outreach	Develop outreach and education strategies to communicate to residents the value of natural resource protection, and identify incentives and other non-regulatory strategies to protect and manage natural resources.
Preventing Flood Damage and Disaster: Floodplain Communications Plan	Identify communication strategies, as well as practical tools and resources, to encourage and assist business owners and homeowners to preserve natural floodplains and protect structures from flood damage.
Reduce Waste, Reuse Resources: Expanding an Organics Recycling Program	Assess the feasibility of creating an organic waste recycling program by investigating local examples of successful organic waste diversion programs, identifying barriers to implementation, and documenting strategies to encourage public participation in such a program.
Clean Water, Clean Soil: Communicating Septic System Maintenance Best Practices	Identify best practices for private well and septic system maintenance, and outline a strategy for communicating to homeowners and businesses the importance of proper septic system maintenance.
Will the Faucet Turn On? Developing a Water Conservation Toolkit	Help the City develop a citywide water conservation approach by investigating regulatory, financial, and incentive-based approaches to reduce potable water usage; and outline a public engagement strategy to gather resident input on proposed policy changes.
Restoring Our Edge: Mississippi Shoreline Restoration	Identify strategies and best practices for reducing soil loss and erosion along the Mississippi River, including public or private partnerships and financial assistance available to help impacted shoreline owners.
When It Rains, It Pours: Storm Water Management Strategies	Identify strategies and best practices for managing storm water to reduce flooding and improve surface water quality.

For more information, contact:

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Resilient Communities Project

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