



Audubon Neighborhood Association

Proposed Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP)

Background

The mission of the Audubon Neighborhood Association (ANA) is to encourage interaction and involvement among the people in our neighborhood and its organizations; to foster the continuing improvement of property and businesses within its boundaries; to increase security and safety within the neighborhood; and to convey to other organizations, including government and business, the concerns of the neighbors represented.

The Audubon Neighborhood Association was established in 1986 as a 501(c)3 nonprofit to strengthen and support the residents and businesses in Audubon Park neighborhood. Audubon Park neighborhood is bounded by Central Avenue, Lowry Avenue, Stinson Boulevard, and St. Anthony Parkway.

Proposed Neighborhood Priority Plan: NEMS Green Campus Initiative

Northeast Middle School (NEMS) is located on the north side of 29th Avenue between Hayes Street and St. Anthony Parkway in Northeast Minneapolis. A significant portion of the site is currently a large, underused parking lot to the south of the school building. The Audubon Neighborhood Association (ANA) developed an initiative to identify key areas that could be improved aesthetically, and this site became a neighborhood priority. ANA approached NEMS officials who were supportive of the initiative. The partners quickly realized that great environmental benefits could be accomplished as part of this effort, given the runoff from the parking lot.

The southern-most part of the parking lot—which we anticipate would be the location of the rain garden or other installation—is adjacent to the heavily traveled 29th Avenue. This street sees considerable car, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic and is near the neighborhood's primary business district. In addition to the site's visibility, signs would provide information about the installation and how it protects the environment. The design and installation of stormwater best management practices (BMP's) on the site would be of tremendous educational value to the NEMS students and community as a whole. Students would be exposed to or even directly involved in all project activities, from conceptualization through planning and installation. Students would continue to study the project and be responsible for maintenance for years to come.

Project activities will include:

- hiring a consultant to design a plan which includes stormwater best management practices
- coordinating with NEMS teachers and staff to involve students in plan development
- presenting workshops to NEMS staff and students
- developing at least three draft designs with the help of NEMS students
- broad community outreach to engage NEMS parents and residents in choosing the final design

To pay for this project, ANA will contract \$15,330, which is currently allocated to the NPP fund. ANA will, along with partner organizations, source out and apply for any monetary or in-kind support that is available to augment the neighborhood's funds.

Timeline

The contract for this project will run from September 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017. The reason for the timeline is so that funds can be used for both the planning process and the implementation process, if needed. In lieu of a contract extension, any funds that are not used by December 31, 2015, will be placed back in the NPP strategy to be used on a future project to be determined by the community at large.

Development

The draft Neighborhood Priority Plan was developed through data gathered from ANA's strategic planning process in the Spring of 2015. The plan has since been refined by volunteers and board members, and subsequently approved by the ANA board on September 14, 2015. To be sure the project follows the vision of the greater community, the proposed plan was presented at the Annual Meeting and approved on October 5, 2015.