

# St. Anthony Village PLANBuilder ADVANCE: Community June 30, 2016



## MINNESOTA

Prepared by: Steph Leonard  
USGBC, Project Manager  
7/8/2016

### **Brief Overview of St. Anthony Village and Comp Planning Process Resources:**

St. Anthony Village is a first-ring suburb positioned between the Twin Cities in MN. Bordered by Minneapolis, St. Paul, New Brighton, Roseville and split between two counties: Hennepin and Ramsey, it is 2.35 square miles and home to 8,500 residents. St. Anthony Village has worked with the University of Minnesota Sust 4004 class for the last 4-years to explore sustainable options in urban planning and have led the metro in areas like innovative stormwater infrastructure. Community members are highly engaged in the comprehensive planning process, including members of the Citizens for Sustainability St. Anthony Village Group. The city is working to serve the community and fulfill the city mission: to be a progressive and livable community, a walkable village which is sustainable, safe, and secure, by setting the standard and leading by example in the areas of sustainability, health and wellness, and resiliency.

The city has contracted with WSB & Associates to lead the comprehensive planning process. Community members account of the process noted that it has been engaging and transparent, more information including summaries of the complete process to date can be found on St. Anthony Village's [website](#).

### **[Appendix A, City Representatives and Community Member Roster](#)**

### **Brief Description of Workshop and Resulting Plan:**

On June 30, after a period of working with leaders in St. Anthony Village to determine goals and needs, U.S. Green Building Council Minnesota with assistance from facilitator Brian Ross led community leaders and green community industry experts through a strategic planning process to determine goals and aspirations that will support St. Anthony Village's comp planning process. The comp plan will address: land use, transportation, water resources, parks and trails, housing, resilience, economic competitiveness, implementation. The following report is an account of the discussion on June 30<sup>th</sup> which covered: Transportation and Location, Sustainable Sites and Water, Energy and Atmosphere, with links to further resources and next steps that will help weave sustainable goals throughout the completed comprehensive plan.

### **[Appendix B, Facilitator Biography and Industry Expert Roster](#)**

### **Overarching Goals:**

- Set a new standard of community sustainability within the comprehensive planning process and lead that standard by example.
- Focus efforts in equity allowing all community members to lead healthier, more sustainable lives through community education and access to resources.
- Explore funding to hire full-time sustainability education coordinator within City of St. Anthony Village administrative office. Position would work to engage and educate residents in areas of sustainability the city employs and explores.

### **Overarching Resources:**

- [Metropolitan Council \(Met Council\)- Plant](#)
- [GreenStep Cities 29 Best Practices](#)
- [LEED ND Checklist](#)

## **Transportation and Location:**

- **GOAL:** Create a Comprehensive Transit Plan encompassing sustainability and alternative transportation within comp plan
  - Strategies:
    - Take a holistic view of transportation that includes an inventory analysis and engages a variety of stakeholders
    - Transit route audit
    - Leverage SAV proximity to lobby for connectivity to St. Paul and Minneapolis public transit
    - Propose pilot city status for enhanced transit options and exploration
    - Highlight existing infrastructure and cultural uses
  - **GOALS** to be explored and set within Comprehensive Transit Plan:
    - Position Stinson Blvd and McKenzie Terrace as Strong Multi-Transit Corridor
      - Next steps to explore:
        - Identify stakeholders
        - Develop shared vision throughout stakeholders
        - Connect assets throughout stakeholders
    - Bike, Walk, Pedestrian Plan that focuses on safety and access
      - Next Steps to explore:
        - Apply for funding to explore and pursue pedestrian transit goals
        - Lower speed limits
        - Introduce roundabouts
        - Clear signage
        - Better lanes
        - Gap analysis of bike/walk gaps – particularly to schools
        - Connect McKenzie Terrace Corridor to Grand Rounds and Diagonal Trail
        - Better pedestrian routes to Silverwood Park and Nature Center
    - Position Saint Anthony Village as a sustainable transportation hub
      - Next Steps to explore:
        - Use proximity to increase public transit routes
        - Use proximity to increase visibility and use of: Smart Cars, Car to Go, and Nice Ride

## **Transportation and Location Resources and areas for more research:**

- Complete streets concept
  - [MnDOT](#)
  - [Met Council](#)

## Sustainable Sites and Water:

- **GOAL:** Grow robust urban tree canopy
  - Note: SAV is a [tree city](#).
  - Next Steps to explore:
    - Complete a tree inventory
    - Create a phased plan for planting and care of trees
    - Identify the right tree for the right area
    - Create an Emerald Ash Borer Inventory to ensure areas aren't just clear cut
  
- **GOAL:** Reduce chemical use on public grounds & within city limits and education community as to why
  - Next Steps to explore:
    - Create expectations and agreement among stakeholders: public works, school district, parks and rec
    - Pass policy around reduced/no chemical use
    - Regulate residential chemicals through city ordinances and educate public as to why the regulation and what alternative options are
  
- **GOAL:** Grow Urban Agriculture
  - Next Steps to explore:
    - Promote and educate on edible landscapes
    - Continue Kristen's work on pollinator pathways and pockets
    - Organize plant sharing
    - Create, promote, and educate on natural landscapes and environments within parks
    - Create an incentive program for private businesses to participate in urban agriculture and/or invite community to support plots on their land
  
- **GOAL:** Invest in continued infrastructure to support stormwater run-off
  - Next Steps to explore:
    - Educate public on what's been done and why to gain buy-in
    - Research real-time automation controllers
  
- **GOAL:** Promote and reward native and sustainable landscapes
  - Next Steps to explore:
    - Series of education for residents
    - Awards for residents excelling in native or edible landscapes
    - Carve out native landscapes in public areas
    - Series of intergovernmental education to explain and create buy-in (to reduce chances of native areas being mowed over and promote proper maintenance)
  
- **GOAL:** Integrate sustainability into existing ordinances
  - Next Steps to explore:

- Ordinance audit
- Research sustainable addendums to similar city ordinances across the country

**Sustainable Sites and Water Resources:**

- Workshop: [Edible Landscapes Workshop](#)
- Local: [Zoning Examples](#), [Urban Agriculture Resources](#)
- Urban Farm Example: [Frogtown Farm](#)
- [Rice Creek Watershed](#)
- [Tree Trust](#)

## **Energy and Atmosphere:**

- **GOAL:** Set a leading-edge community energy reduction goal
  - Next Steps to explore:
    - Analyze energy use data to identify attainable goal within specific timeline
    - Announce and publicize goal
    - Educate residents on how to reach the goal
    - Examine current code and identify ways St. Anthony Village can and should go above and beyond, recognizing the influence local government can have in moving the state forward
    - Pass joint powers agreement for PACE
    - Assess community buildings for solar panels
    - Further incentivize solar and utility design assisted programs
    - Host series of education around solar readiness and energy options
  
- **GOAL:** Focus on performance now that measurement is established and position city to be a GreenStep leader by achieving level 5 ASAP
  - Next steps to explore:
    - Find ways to publicize B3 data to show SAV is leading by example
  
- **GOAL:** Implement No-Idle Zones in public gathering spaces
  - Next Steps to explore:
    - Signage at schools, community centers, churches, parks
    - Educate residents
    - Explore enforcement measures of ordinance
  
- **GOAL:** Host Fix-it Clinics for Residents to bring the appliances

## **Energy and Atmosphere Resources:**

- City of Maplewood: [Renewable Energy](#), [Green Building Program](#)
- [Partners in Energy, Xcel](#)
- [CERTs](#)
- [Great Plains Institute](#)

This plan was drafted from notes taken during discussion at the June 30<sup>th</sup> workshop.

[Appendix C, Discussion Notes from June 30<sup>th</sup>](#)

## Appendix A, City Representative and Community Member Roster

### City Representatives:

- Mark Casey, City Manager
- Kristin Seaman, GreenCorps Member
- Breanne Rothstein, WSB & Associates Planner on Contract
- Jeremy Gumke, Public Works Superintendent

### City Councilmembers:

- Bonnie Brever
- Randy Stille

### Comprehensive Plan Community Committee:

- Jim Gondorchin
- Dominic Papatola
- Mark Kalar
- Marshall Lichty

### Village Parks Commission:

- Therese Bellinger
- Erin Jordahl Redlin

### Citizens for Sustainability:

- Dan Kunitz
- Mary Jackson
- Lona Doolan

## Appendix B, Facilitator Biography and Industry Expert Roster

### Facilitator:

[Brian Ross](#) joined the Great Plains Institute in 2015. He leads the Institute's work to accelerate the development of solar energy as a self-sustaining energy industry, managing technical and policy programs to help local governments, institutions, and businesses implement sustainable practices for renewable energy. Brian currently works in four Midwestern states to transform local government policies and regulatory standards to accommodate solar energy development. Previous to joining the Great Plains Institute, he was a Principal at CR Planning, facilitating local decision-making and implementation efforts for sustainable development outcomes. He managed the Minneapolis Saint Paul Solar Cities Program and helped cities across the State incorporate sustainable energy practices into zoning and local programs through the Minnesota Solar Challenge program. Brian has also worked extensively in energy and utility regulation, serving as an expert witness in cost of service and rate design, energy efficiency and renewables, fuel cost reconciliations, and integrated resource planning.

### Industry Experts:

Jerome Benner (table 1)

- Title: DSI Inspector I
- Organization: Department of Safety and Inspections, City of St. Paul
- Expertise: Urban Farming/Community Gardens/Beekeeping/Chicken Coops

Reuben Collins (table 4)

- Transportation Planner/Engineer, City of St. Paul
- Expertise: Bikeability, walkability, alternative transportation

Peter Lindstrom (table 2)

- Mayor, Falcon Heights
- Local Government Outreach Coordinator, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) at the University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships and Extension.
- Expertise: local governance, financing local and renewable energy, Guaranteed Energy Savings Program

Nick Minderman (table 1)

- Policy & Strategy Consultant, Xcel Energy
- Expertise: Energy policy and economics, focus on energy efficiency program planning and cost effectiveness analysis, and environmental engineering & planning

Angie Smith (table 4)

- Director of Natural Resources, Three Rivers Park District
- Expertise: strategic planning and system connections, natural resources background has focused on water resources and watershed management

Kacey Strandemo (table 2)

- Intern Architect
- Recent Graduate of U of M, Capstone & Resilient Communities Project: developed a Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Mitigation plan for the city of Rosemount, MN

David Wanberg (table 3)

- City Planner – AICP, City of Faribault
- Licensed Architect and Licensed Landscape Architect
- Adjunct Professor University of Minnesota
- Expertise: Sustainability in planning

## Appendix C, Discussion Notes from June 30<sup>th</sup>

NOTES TAKEN BY STEPH LEONARD (USGBC project manager) DURING WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:

Transportation and Location:

Table Three

- **Stinson Blvd and McKenzie Terrace Strong Multi-Transit Corridors**
  - Identify stakeholders
  - Develop shared vision
  - Connect Assets
- Holistic View of Transportation
  - Inventory Analysis
  - Engage variety of stakeholders

Table Two

- **Bike and Walk Plan that addresses Safety**
  - Apply for funding
  - Incorporate into Comp Plan
  - Lower speed limits
  - Roundabouts
- Comprehensive Transit Plan
  - Transit route audit
  - Smart cars, nice ride
  - Transportation hub
  - Leverage SAV proximity to lobby for connectivity
  - Propose pilot city status

Table One

- Better pedestrian routes to Silverwood
- Explore variety of bicycle infrastructure
  - Signage
  - Lanes

Table Four

- Fill in gaps in connectivity of walkability/bikeability – particularly schools
- McKenzie Terrace Corridor to connect to Grand Rounds and Diagonal Trail
- Highlight existing infrastructure and cultural uses

COMPLETE STREETS CONCEPT – MnDOT Endorsed, MetCouncil Endorsed – streets should be integrated for all levels of transit – cars, buses, walkers, bikers, disabled, all modes

Rethink current designing process for redoing streets...

## Sustainable Sites

### Table Three

- Strong awareness and smart sustainable sites (example bee issue)
  - Remove barriers
  - Encourage education and implementation
  - Recognize residents that are doing sustainable sites in their home
  - Sustainable Citizen Award
- Integrate Sustainability into existing ordinances
- Stormwater management – improve community education around what they are doing

### Table One

- Urban Tree Canopy
  - The Village is a tree city – need to time phases
  - Develop goals for tree planting
    - Identifying the right tree for the right area
    - Establish EAB inventory and making sure things aren't just clear cut
  - Reduce chemical use
    - Create expectations and agreement for stakeholders – public works, school district
    - Contributing to policy formation
  - Develop Strategy for access to urban ag
    - Edible landscapes
    - Pollinator pathways
    - Plant share
    - Natural environment into parks
    - Incentive program for private businesses to participate in urban ag

### Table Two

- Educate community on sustainability – create platform
  - Paid position within city
  - Maintain classes and newsletters
- Stormwater retention pond – real time opticon controller
- Tree inventory
  - Percentage of canopy and natives
- Regulate residential chemicals (neonictinoids)

### Table Four

- Hire Kirsten

NOTES TAKEN BY DAN KUNITZ (community member) DURING WORKSHOP:

Steph Leonard (US Green Building Council)

- First time USGBC has applied process to a city level rather than a facility or group of facilities
- Sustainability is in all parts of our lives
  - A GHG initiative might also improve transportation safety

Brian Ross (Great Plains Institute)

- Note: has experience integrating solar into comp planning
- Mark Casey suggested incorporating sustainability across the comp plan, rather than a chapter.
- Breanne discussed the topics built in so far
- LEED for rating system as an example framework
- Aspects of Comp Plan
  - Location & Transportation (don't forget about commuters, telecommuting, etc.; SAV has at least 12 units per acre; )
    - Locate near existing infrastructure
    - Conduct a transp audit
    - Encourage bike/walk
    - Encourage multi-modal transportation
    - Support access to sustainable food
    - Opposition to bicycle infrastructure:
      - cyclists don't spend money
      - cyclists aren't there, bus riders aren't there.
    - Small group Goals:
      - Stinson Blvd and Kenzie Terrace multi-modal routes (diagonal trail)
      - Bike/walk to school safety (Wilshire Park, SAVMS/HS)
      - Comprehensive transit plan (functional classification of our roads)
      - Improve non-motorized routes to Silverwood Park
      - Improve existing cycling infrastructure where it meets SAV borders
      - Complete Streets, GreenStep Cities Green Streets
      - Electric vehicle infrastructure
  - Sustainable Sites (integration of built-environment with nature)
    - Minimize hardscape
    - Control storm water
    - Use native landscaping
    - Prevent light pollution & heat islands
    - Preserve open space
    - Protect & restore habitat
    - Reduce landscape chemicals

- Corridors (coyotes on railways, pollinators)
    - City lead by example: Native plantings WITH herbicide use
    - Integrated pest management to reduce pesticide use
    - Reuse vacant land as urban farms (chickens, veggies)
    - Adapt bee-friendly policy
    - Small-scale farms (edible landscape, pollinators, plant shares)
    - Parks native plantings
    - Emerald Ash Borer, etc. - replacement plants?
    - Education (on city projects as well as encouraging private projects--city staff member)
    - Recognize residents (Sustainable citizen award)
    - Cross-fund projects (get grants for private citizens)
    - Removing barriers/ordinance restrictions
    - Tree canopy (Tree City) - plan right tree for right area (tree inventory)
    - Educate those who might mow native plantings
    - Utilize portion of golf course, cemetery lands for prairie plantings
- Energy & Atmosphere
  - Assess your energy use
  - Establish energy goals
  - Take advantage of incentives and rebates
  - Determine local and renewable
  - Engage building users
  - Goals (Now: GreenStep cities step 4, 25% municipal electricity will come from solar garden)
    - Energy efficiency--new/retrofits (triple bottom line, but hit people when a resident is there in a project, for new construction energy efficiency always makes sense, a device/home will use)
    - B3 benchmarking for municipal buildings (electricity, gas, water) - publicize it
    - Xcel multi-family -tenant to energy star portfolio manager
    - Regional Indicators Initiative benchmarks
    - Greenhouse gas inventory
    - SAV pass a Joint Powers? Agreement for PACE: Property-assessed clean energy - energy efficiency/renewables for financing through property assessment
    - Education
    - City-run group buy of solar, conservation services
    - SAV incentivizing renewables/conservation through utilities
    - "No-idle zones" schools/churches/city hall
    - Community-wide energy audit challenge (set a community goal)
    - Fix-it clinics

- Partners in Energy with Xcel
- Set aside the energy savings so that it can be separately invested in the city
- City building codes for land use to allow people to go above and beyond state (need a variance for 5% more...) -- rezone for denser living, but include energy efficiency so the strain on the infrastructure is zero-sum (PUD)

Equity: we're only as resilient as our most vulnerable/least able population. Income, health, floodplain location, etc.

Review GreenStep Cities 29 practices

Review "waste" water -- gray water