

The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program

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Building Community

by Building Partnerships

Founded in 1990, the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) is an innovative effort to change the future of the City's 81 neighborhoods and make them better places to live, work, learn and play. Through collaboration with government and others, neighborhoods organize residents, gather information, prioritize needs, identify resources and develop and implement solutions that improve neighborhood and city livability.

The NRP is governed by a joint-powers agreement between five government jurisdictions that serve the residents of Minneapolis: The City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation, and Minneapolis Public Libraries.



Program Accomplishments

As of December, 1996:

- Every neighborhood in the city has become a voluntary NRP participant.
- Sixty-six separate neighborhood organizations are developing plans for Minneapolis' 81 neighborhoods.
- Thirty-two Neighborhood Action Plans have been approved.
- More than 100 training sessions have been conducted by NRP. Nearly 3,000 residents have attended these sessions.
- Capital project partnerships have been initiated with a variety of major community institutions such as Honeywell, Boys & Girls Club, Urban Ventures, the Minneapolis Foundation, the Bush Foundation and the McKnight Foundation.
- Twenty-three First Step Plans have been approved.

Housing

- NRP neighborhoods have established a pool to match City dollars designated for the demolition of boarded and vacant properties.
- In 1996 alone, \$6.5 million has been spent for home improvement and home-buyer assistance programs in 25 neighborhoods. These dollars leveraged an additional private investment of at least \$10 million.
- Fourteen neighborhoods conducted the second Southside Housing Fair. More than 85 local businesses participated in the Fair and over 2,000 residents attended.
- More than \$22 million has been committed through 1998 to home improvement and home-buyer assistance programs in the plans approved to date, including funds for deferred loan and revolving home improvement loan programs.
- At least 2,600 single family homes and 139 rental buildings have been improved with funds from NRP loan and grant programs.
- The North East Home Ownership Center was established in cooperation with GMMHC to serve the housing needs of Northeast Minneapolis.

- Gala Foods, a full-service grocery store, has opened in the Bancroft neighborhood.
- NRP has served as the catalyst for the development of improvement plans for eight major commercial/retail corridors that cross neighborhood boundaries.
- Implementation of the Lake Street Corridor plan and the Nicollet Avenue Streetscape project has begun.
- After much-needed rehabilitation, the Plymouth Penn Shopping Center has reopened.*
- \$3.7 million has been set aside to help finance economic development projects.*
- Ground has been broken for The Quarry, a shopping center in Windom Park.*
- The Northside Economic Development Council has been created to coordinate economic development activity in Minneapolis' Near North neighborhoods.

- Construction began on the new Whittier School and early learning center which will share a campus with the recently opened Whittier Gym.
- Several new computer facilities have been partially funded by neighborhood NRP dollars, including the Waite Park and recently-opened Luxton Park computer labs.
- A computer resource center is being constructed as part of the renovation of the Hosmer Library.
- Inactive for nearly a decade, the Minneapolis Bookmobile has resumed operations with the assistance of Whittier and Prospect Park neighborhood NRP funds.
- A computer center is being added to the Franklin Library in Phillips to provide computer access and training to neighborhood residents.

* Denotes Transition Project. In 1991, the NRP Policy Board and the City Council dedicated a total of \$14,978,005 to fund "Transition Projects"--critical projects initiated to help meet physical revitalization needs in neighborhoods not yet selected for planning workshops. As of December 31, 1996, 90 percent (or \$13,431,814) of Transition Project funds had been expended and 58 percent of the 71 Transition Projects approved between 1991 and 1993 were completed.

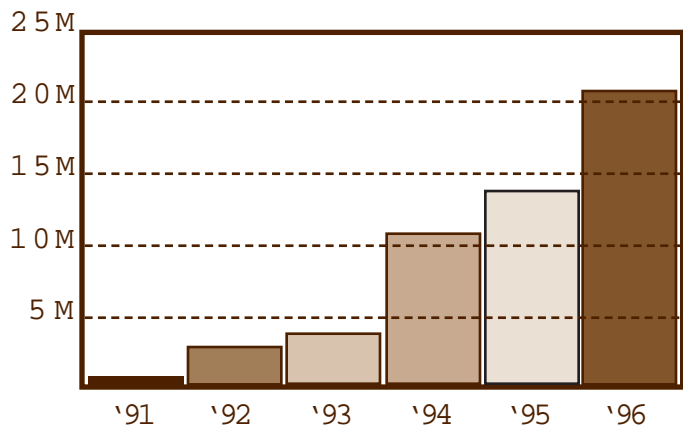


- The new Phelps Park Community Center expansion, which houses the Southside Boys & Girls Club, was opened in November 1996.
- A gymnasium, new fields and playgrounds have been completed at Pearl Park.
- Site improvements have been completed at nine parks and nearly 6,500 new trees have been planted.
- Ground was broken for the Standish-Ericsson Wetlands Project.
- Pratt Community Center is now handicap accessible. As renovation continues, a new park and community space, “The Village Green,” will be added.
- NRP has funded several youth programs, including a series of sports camps offered at Luxton Park and Winter Splash, a seasonal expansion of the Summer Splash youth activities program.
- The East Sand Flats are now publicly accessible and a river walkway has been constructed in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Transportation from the Franklin Avenue Bridge to the University of Minnesota East Bank campus.
- Through pollution control efforts in the Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhood, restoration of the Park Siding Park natural wetlands has begun.
- NRP funds designated for the Rec Plus children’s recreation program have helped to leverage additional funds for necessary park facility improvements in the Waite Park neighborhood.

NRP

Investment

(in Millions)



- NRP spent a total of \$53 million in Minneapolis neighborhoods between 1991 and 1996. Nearly 90 percent of that investment occurred after 1994 in response to the priorities defined by neighborhood First Step and Action Plans.
- End-of-year obligations for neighborhoods increased from \$6.3 million at the end of 1991 to \$117.2 million at the end of 1996.
- Expenditures for neighborhood-based activities increased from an annual figure of \$2.9 million in 1992 to \$21.6 million in 1996.