

Recommendations for Northfield for Sustainable Development  
Carleton College ENTS 248

- 1) Rain Barrels
  - a) Public Outreach
    - i) Emails, social media, etc.
  - b) Public Events
    - i) Workshops
  - c) Volunteers
    - i) Help install rain barrels in homes
  - d) Establish a goal
- 2) Rain Gardens
  - a) Strongly encourage/require every road reconstruction project to ask every affected resident/business owner if they would be interested in having a rain garden installed in their boulevard during the construction process
  - b) Increase public awareness of rain gardens
    - i) Contact Knecht's/landscaping companies about promoting rain garden plants or installation services
    - ii) Update Northfield website to include information on rain garden maintenance, places where residents can get technical assistance
    - iii) Partner with Dakota County, advertise their classes to Northfield residents
  - c) Increase the Stormwater Utility Fee and waive it for residents who install a rain garden
  - d) Provide more maintenance options to residents:
    - i) Take advantage of the Master Gardener program, Northfield Gardening Club, other volunteer groups, to perform maintenance checks on private and public rain gardens
- 3) Native Planting
  - a) Increase native planting along roadsides
  - b) Implement native planting along shorelines of waterways
  - c) Establish native planting/tree replacement programs in each Northfield park
  - d) Create a demonstrative native garden
  - e) Increasing public awareness:
    - i) Advertising the rebate
    - ii) Children's educational programs
    - iii) Educating/promoting residential planting- flyers, emails
    - iv) Garden certification program- official signage for residential planting

- 4) Tiny Homes
  - a) Community model
  - b) Rent to own model
  - c) Nonprofit finance model
  - d) Sustainable design
  - e) Removing legal obstacles
- 5) Water Conservation
  - a) Water billing system revision:
    - i) Increase the price of water and divide into more tiers
    - ii) Charge seasonally
    - iii) Add conversion of units in the bill, and use the bills (online and on paper) as informational means
    - iv) Add an environmental fee to outdoor water bills
  - b) Sprinkling restrictions:
- 6) Green Building Practices
  - a) Evaluate current Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code
    - i) Hire an outside consultant
    - ii) Attempt to maneuver legality of State's building regulations
  - b) Adopt a hybrid zoning code ('green zoning')
    - i) Designate more areas to be NC-F or ED-F districts
  - c) Incentivize green building features for developers
- 7) Flood Prevention
  - a) Public outreach and awareness
    - i) Flood resilient building codes - monetary incentives if possible
    - ii) Website dedicated to flooding
    - iii) Public workshops, fliers
  - b) Wetland restoration
  - c) Floodplain management