

INSTITUTE ON THE
ENVIRONMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

MINI GRANT PROJECT SUMMARY

Please complete the project summary and return the completed form to April Snyder, Associate Administrator for the Institute on the Environment at aprilsnyder@umn.edu. Paper copies will not be accepted. Please also attach any photos, publications, brochures, event agendas or other materials that were a result of the mini grant summary.

Date of Report Submission:	06/19/2015
Project PI & Dept/School	Nick Jordan
Project Title:	Green Roofs in Stevens Square
Grant Amount \$:	\$1,500

Project Context & Purpose

Please include the original project purpose statement and revise for any changes that occurred in the project after the start date with a short explanation of the changes.

The original project purpose was to examine the feasibility of a green roof atop the Nicollet building in the Stevens Square neighborhood before engaging additional property owners and residents about green roof systems. Although the Nicollet was initially identified as an appropriate building with a willing property owner to examine the feasibility of different green roof systems, the Stevens Square Community Organization (SSCO) decided to work with another building further west along Franklin Avenue. The Minnesota Council of Churches was interested in a green roof and rooftop café model and received a much larger grant from another organization to work with the SSCO organizer on a similar endeavor. The team decided to focus on developing outreach and educational materials for members of the neighborhood with a committed green roof feasibility study being conducted by another organization.

Work Completed

Please provide a summary of the work that was completed for the mini grant project.

Team members researched other green roof systems in the Midwest and other geographic areas with similar climate and demographics to the Twin Cities metropolitan region. Team members identified and contacted local organizations that either advocate for or have already installed green roof systems to set up in-person, phone, or email interviews. Team members also hoped to organize site visits to some of these local organizations. The purpose of the interviews was to gather information on the success, challenges, and barriers that local organizations encountered when seeking support for their green roof systems and how we may better understand different educational and outreach techniques to engage with members of the Stevens Square neighborhood. After several attempts, none of the local organizations we contacted replied to our requests for interviews and/or site visits.

Team members continued to compile information independently through their Capstone studies as the topics were closely aligned with local sustainable food systems in the Twin Cities region in the hopes of bringing materials back to create an informational pamphlet to engage Stevens Square residents and other stakeholders. Team members were also awaiting the progress of the feasibility study being conducted by another organization for the Minnesota Council of Churches building, but that information was not available until after the end date of this grant. Work effectively ceased due to the misalignment of grant timelines and difficulty encountered in reaching out to other green roof organizations or organizations with green roof systems installed. No funds from the grant were used, but would have been used for the printing of educational pamphlets tailored to different stakeholders, including renters, homeowners, landlords, and businesses in the Stevens Square neighborhood.

Partnerships & Collaborations

Please provide a summary of the project personnel, partnerships and collaborations that worked directly on the project or were started as a direct result of the mini grant project.

Three Humphrey School students worked on the project, including Kadence Hampton, Matthew Prorok, and Samuel Johnson in collaboration with John Louis from the SSCO. Matthew and Samuel continued to research local food systems for their separate Capstone projects conducted as part of their Humphrey degree programs. John Louis was an intermediary for information between the separate feasibility study being conducted by another organization for the Minnesota Council of Churches building, but that work was postponed until late fall which did not interface well with the timeline of this mini grant.

Project Outcomes & Impacts

Please provide a summary of the outcomes and /or impacts of the mini grant project including future plans for the project.

Outcomes of the project, had the timeframe of the grant been extended or aligned better with the work completed by other organizations, were expected to have been the publication of educational materials tailored to different stakeholders in the Stevens Square neighborhood. However, work effectively ceased once different organization timelines became misaligned and due to the difficulty the team encountered when attempting to engage other local organizations about their experiences installing green roofs in their communities across the Twin Cities region. Two of the team members were able to use much of the research conducted as a part of this process for their individual Capstone projects. The research being conducted by the other grant organization that is funding the feasibility study for the Minnesota Council of Churches building is ongoing.