

**Nicollet Island East Bank**  
**NRP Phase 1 Review**  
2001

**Overview**

Nicollet Island East Bank received \$240,780 total NRP funds. Six strategies were funded: \$155,780 for matching grants for storefront facade improvements emphasizing historic restoration, \$62,000 to complete a historic brick street paving project on Nicollet Island, \$10,000 for the multi-neighborhood Cops on Bikes program, \$7,000 for signs identifying the business district, \$5,000 for park beautification projects at "Central Park" on Nicollet Island, and \$1,000 for nests to attract Raptors (birds of prey) to make Nicollet Island their home.

This review was completed through use of a questionnaire to obtain results (attached) from both the residential and business communities. 30+ residents attending the NIEBPAC Annual Meeting in January responded to the questionnaire and held a discussion about the results of Phase 1 NRP. In a neighborhood with less than 1,000 residents this is a significant response.

15+ businesspeople at the February meeting of the Old St. Anthony Association (OSAA) also discussed the questionnaire and gave their responses. Both OSAA and NIEBPAC were actively involved in the implementation of Phase 1 NRP programs.

**Impacts**

The most significant achievement of NRP dollars was as seed money through the storefront matching grant program. 15 properties received matching grants totaling \$136,000, resulting in a crucial turnaround for several of these properties which had been vacant or blighted for years and are now cornerstones of the incredible renaissance of this area which is Minneapolis' birthplace.

In terms of leveraging, figures are unavailable for how much the 15 grant recipients invested in their buildings. Suffice it to say that the grants' matching requirement were met many times over.

In addition, millions of dollars in public and private funds are now being invested in substantial commercial and housing projects in the East Bank area. It has now become an important metro-wide destination as an entertainment district. This was not happening before NRP. NRP was an important catalyst of this activity along with another publicly-supported redevelopment project.

The \$62,000 historic brick paving project was part of \$820,000 of Park Board improvements made to the historic district on Nicollet Island. Without the NRP funds the street paving project would have been incomplete.

The Cops on Bikes allocation of \$10,000 was part of a \$50,500 10 year commitment made by Northeast neighborhoods to the \$178,000 overall cost of this program. The business district signs, Central Park improvements, and Raptor project were funded solely by NRP funds.

**Conclusion**

The #1 priority identified in the survey in Phase 1 planning was to improve the business district. This has been substantially accomplished. A key centrally-located area remains to be addressed. This is the Eastgate Shopping Center and the Old East High School, which was identified by both OSAA and NIEBPAC as a high priority. The immediately adjacent neighborhoods - Marcy Holmes, St. Anthony West, and St. Anthony East - have also identified it as a high priority. It seems like a clear priority for use of Phase 2 NRP funds given that business district improvements were the top priority in the original survey and that Eastgate continues to be a priority for so many key stakeholders in the immediate area. Nicollet Island East Bank's Phase 2 allocation is \$97,000.