

Located in Southeast Minneapolis, the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood has recently completed a Rainwater Resource Recycling Demonstration Project. Low Impact Development (LID) techniques—innovative ways to manage and reduce runoff—were installed throughout the neighborhood, making it more sustainable and attractive at the same time.

The LID approach treats water as if it were a resource, rather than a waste product of urban landscapes. The neighborhood was awarded a grant from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) to fund the project. Kestrel Design Group, Inc. was the design and coordination consultant for the neighborhood. Examples of LID techniques found in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood include:

- Rain Gardens
- Rain Barrels
- Pervious Pavement
- Green Roof Technology

### Andrew-Riverside Peace Park 4th Street SE & 8th Avenue SE



Aerial view of the park under construction.

In late 2003, the Andrew-Riverside Presbyterian Church in southeast Minneapolis had to demolish their historic church due to structural damage. Until reconstruction can take place, they proposed to use the site as a park. The Andrew-Riverside congregation asked the Metropolitan Design Center to develop a design concept that represented international faith communities, provided space for youth programs to display their murals, was an asset to the neighborhood, and would be low-maintenance and affordable to install. Funding came from a separate MWMO grant.

Since the park will only be in existence for a few years, and site grading had been paid for as part of the demolition contract, the design features earth mounds that provide immediate interest. Several of the mounds have been planted with native grasses and flowers to create year round interest. The largest mound has been planted with lawn, allowing people to walk and sit on it during gatherings. Stone from the demolished church was used to edge the gardens, create a fire circle, and build a garden wall.

Rain gardens were placed along the street frontages of this corner parcel to capture stormwater and infiltrate it into the ground. The rain gardens were planted with native plants to help with infiltration and add color and texture to the gardens. A large band of tall, yellow native flowers along the non-street frontage provides a backdrop of seasonal color as well as food for birds and small animals. Informational signage provides area residents with details about the plantings and rain gardens.



View of a newly constructed rain garden.

More information about this project can be found at [http://www.designcenter.umn.edu/projects/direct\\_design\\_asst/2004/andrew\\_riverside.html](http://www.designcenter.umn.edu/projects/direct_design_asst/2004/andrew_riverside.html)



#### 515 Seventh Avenue SE

The image above illustrates the use of pervious pavement on a residential driveway in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood. Pervious paving allows water to drain into the soil below, reducing the amount of runoff that leaves the site. This pavement was installed privately, prior to the MWMO grant.



#### 706 14th Avenue SE

Rain barrels collect and store rain water from a roof downspout, minimizing the amount of runoff that leaves the yard. Rain barrels also provide usable water for activities such as watering gardens, washing cars, and filling ponds.



#### 1205 Seventh Street SE

Rain gardens are shallow depressions, typically only 2"-18" deep, that are planted with native plants suited to wet conditions. Strategically located rain gardens minimize the amount of runoff entering storm sewers.



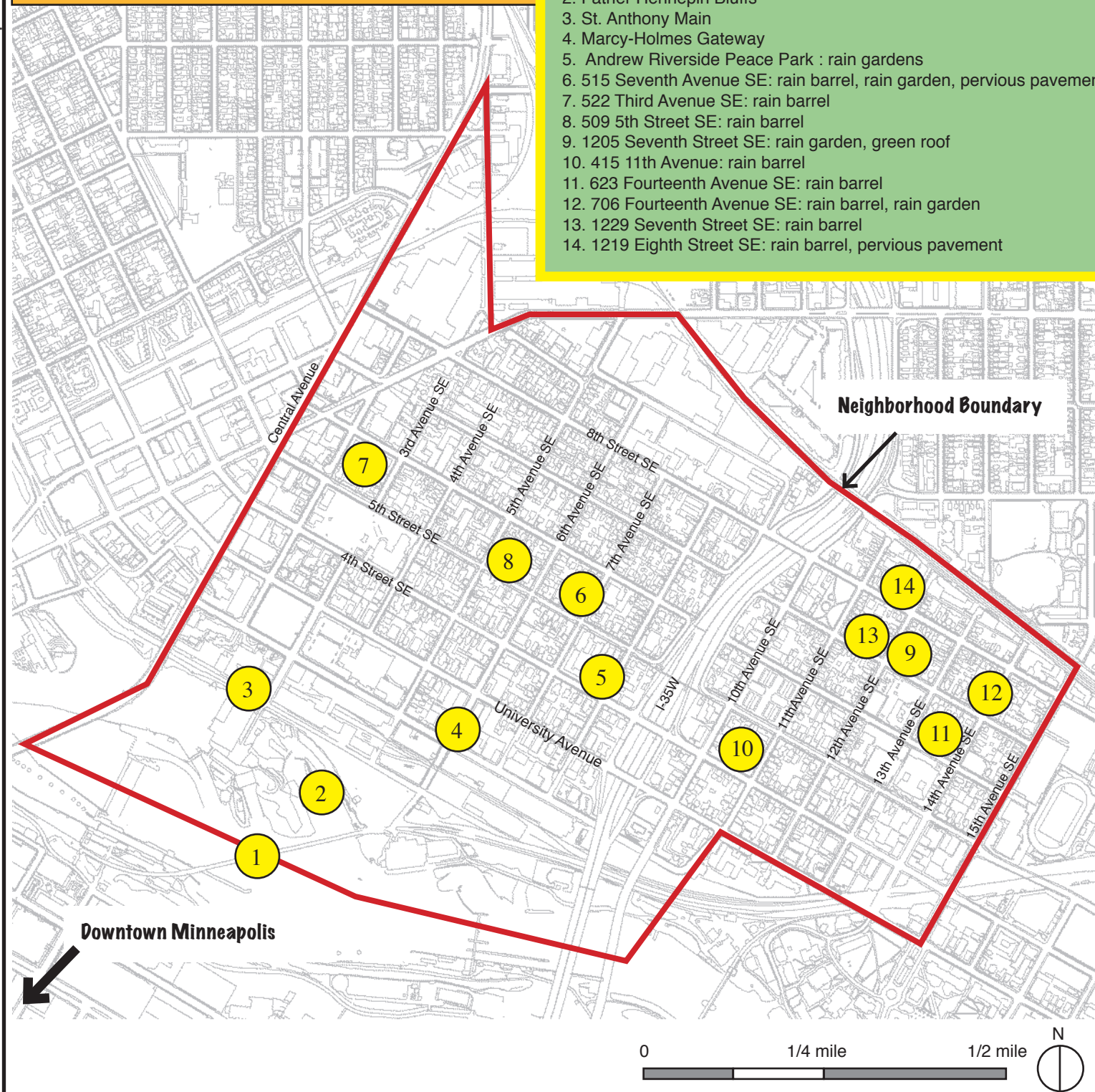
#### 1205 Seventh Street SE

Green roofs are covered with plants that are able to thrive in severe conditions such as drought, high winds, and high sun exposure. The vegetation reduces runoff and insulates the building.

# Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood

## Points of Interest

1. Stone Arch Bridge
2. Father Hennepin Bluffs
3. St. Anthony Main
4. Marcy-Holmes Gateway
5. Andrew Riverside Peace Park : rain gardens
6. 515 Seventh Avenue SE: rain barrel, rain garden, pervious pavement
7. 522 Third Avenue SE: rain barrel
8. 509 5th Street SE: rain barrel
9. 1205 Seventh Street SE: rain garden, green roof
10. 415 11th Avenue: rain barrel
11. 623 Fourteenth Avenue SE: rain barrel
12. 706 Fourteenth Avenue SE: rain barrel, rain garden
13. 1229 Seventh Street SE: rain barrel
14. 1219 Eighth Street SE: rain barrel, pervious pavement



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### 1. Stone Arch Bridge

Built in 1883 by railroad tycoon James J. Hill, the Stone Arch Bridge is the only bridge of its kind over the Mississippi River. It was a working railroad bridge until 1965, and today is part of the Heritage Trail along the Mississippi River. The bridge is a National Historic Engineering Landmark.



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### 2. Father Hennepin Bluffs

Located between the Hennepin Avenue Bridge and the Stone Arch Bridge on the east side of the Mississippi River, Father Hennepin Bluffs are named after Franciscan priest Father Louis Hennepin. The park features paths, stairway to the Mississippi River, and access to the Stone Arch Bridge.



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### 3. St. Anthony Main

This retail and entertainment district along the Mississippi Riverfront consisting of restaurants, bars, and a movie theater was an early attempt to create a Festival Marketplace in Minneapolis. Initially, it was not successful but during the past decade the St. Anthony Village area has experienced significant growth, with thousands of new housing units and additional commercial space in the process of being developed. The annual Stone Arch Festival takes place along this street in June.



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### 4. Marcy-Holmes Gateway: 6th Avenue SE

This two block open-air gallery features twenty-three miniature bronze recreations of historical landmarks throughout the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood. Sculptures include houses, churches, sawmills, industrial buildings, stores and apartments created by sculptor Aldo Moroni. The Gateway was commissioned by the City of Minneapolis Art in Public Places Program in partnership with the Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Revitalization Program and the Department of Public Works.

#### References:

Adams, John S. and Barbara J. VanDrusek. 1993. *Minneapolis-St. Paul: People, Place, and Public Life*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota.  
 Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood: [www.marcy-holmes.org](http://www.marcy-holmes.org)  
 Metropolitan Design Center: [www.designcenter.umn.edu](http://www.designcenter.umn.edu)  
 National Park Service: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

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