



## Connecting Ramsey (Ramsey Greenway Plan)

University of Minnesota–City of Ramsey  
Scope of Work Agreement  
#RCP 2017-8d

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Project Lead:** Mark Riverblood, Parks and Assistant Public Works Superintendent, City of Ramsey, [mriverblood@ci.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:mriverblood@ci.ramsey.mn.us), 763.433.9853 (o), 763.238.1733 (c)

**RCP Contact:** Dan Herrera, RCP Program Associate, [dherrera@umn.edu](mailto:dherrera@umn.edu), 612.624.9397 (o), 630.485.1937 (c)

**U of MN Faculty Contact:** Ying Song, Assistant Professor, Geography Environment and Society, College of Liberal Arts, [yingsong@umn.edu](mailto:yingsong@umn.edu), 612.625.2056 (o), 715.808.5029 (c)

#### Participating U of MN Course:

- GEOG 5564: Urban Geographic Information Science and Analysis
- Class Meeting Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-3:45 pm
- Class Meeting Location: 330 & 455 [Blegen Hall](#) (UMN West Bank Campus, Minneapolis)

**U of MN Student Contacts:** *To encourage efficient communication between the project lead and student groups, please identify one key contact per student team/group. Include name, U of MN email, and phone.*

*Group 1 (Marsh Gap Region): TBD once student teams are formed*

*Group 2 (School Gap Region): TBD once student teams are formed*

*Group 3 (Greenway Accessibility): TBD once student teams are formed*

*Group 4 (Storymap): TBD once student teams are formed*

**RCP Dropbox Access:** *RCP has set up a Dropbox folder with background information on the project for students and faculty. The site is password protected to prevent unauthorized use. Instructors should feel free to include this information in their course syllabus.*

- URL:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nu1tvdyn9npj6g6/AAAnkh2hz4RAUI8tbsSsYJFda?dl=0>
- password: rcpRMY2017

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Background:** Provide the context for the project, including the specific problem or opportunity to be addressed and why it is being addressed now.

The City of Ramsey has numerous public parks for residents to use, but their location precludes some residents from being able to reach them without an auto. The City's broader vision, referred to as the "Circle of Ramsey," employs a strategy to connect key ecological areas with larger community parks, neighborhoods and other destinations—using greenways and trail corridors. The Circle of Ramsey concept has utility to focus discussion about Park Dedication for new developments, and to identify priority trails for construction within the city.

One of the key planned connections is represented by the Lake Itasca Greenway, which connects Lake Itasca and the adjacent community park with The COR, the city's "Center of Ramsey" mixed-use commercial-residential-recreation destination. Several gaps still exist within the larger greenway that encircles the city, and may require acquiring private land to fill. The city requests guidance on potential route planning for the greenway, and a geographically based method of communicating the value of a greenway to residents, policy makers and developers.

**Project Description:** Provide a general description of what students will do and how they will do it.

Using Ramsey's geospatial data, in conjunction with publicly available data, teams of students in GEOG 5564 will investigate the questions and topics listed below.

### Group 1 (Marsh Gap Region)

1. How can Ramsey connect segments of trail that already exist, through this area?
  - How can land cover, ownership, safety concerns, etc. be considered when planning a greenway?
  - How can potential routes be proposed to residents in a non-confrontational manner?
  - What are the premiere and alternative routes between already existing sections of trail?

### Group 2 (School Gap Region)

1. How can Ramsey connect segments of trail that already exist, through this area?
  - How can land cover, ownership, safety concerns, etc. be considered when planning a greenway?
  - How can potential routes be proposed to residents in a non-confrontational manner?
  - What are the premiere and alternative routes between already existing sections of trail?

### **Group 3 (Greenway Accessibility)**

1. How accessible is the greenway?
  - As the greenway stands now, what is the average distance between Ramsey homes and a trail connection?
  - What areas of Ramsey must travel disproportionately longer distances to enter the greenway system?
2. How can the greenway become more accessible?
  - If the routes suggested by groups 1 and 2 are installed, how does the accessibility change for residents
  - In what general direction and areas should the city focus on constructing greenways to make the park system more accessible to all?

### **Group 4 (Story map)**

1. How can the value of a greenway be shown to residents in a geographical context?
  - How have other cities used story maps to build support for a public cause?
  - How can a story map be used to help build support for the greenway?
  - How can potential routes be shown to residents in a way that avoids confrontation with land use planning, or mistrust in the city?
  - What aspects of the greenway would be best represented in a story map?
  - How can the findings of groups 1, 2, and 3 be depicted in a story map?

**Project Goals/Objectives:** *List the intended goals, objectives, or outcomes of the project as they relate to the community's needs and interests. (Note: faculty may also ask students as part of the project to do additional work that does not explicitly meet—or goes beyond—the community's stated objectives, but those objectives do not need to be included here.)*

### **Group 1 (Marsh Gap Region)**

1. Use geospatial data to create a premier route that traverses marsh area gaps in the Circle of Ramsey plan that considers factors such as land cover, land ownership, etc.
2. Use geospatial data to create three alternative routes to bridge the same gap and consider the same variables as goal 1.

### **Group 2 (School Gap Region)**

1. Use geospatial data to create a premier route that traverses elementary school area gaps in the Circle of Ramsey plan that considers factors such as land cover, land ownership, etc.
2. Use geospatial data to create three alternative routes to bridge the same gap and consider the same variables as goal 1.

### **Group 3 (Greenway Accessibility)**

1. Determine the accessibility of the greenway system as it stands now.
2. Identify what the improved accessibility of the greenway would be if the recommendations of groups 1 and 2 are used.

**Group 4 (Story map)**

1. Communicate the potential value and benefits of a greenway to residents by creating a story map that highlights specific aspects (photos, elevation views and simulations) around the Circle of Ramsey.
2. Include aspects of Groups 1, 2, and 3's findings in the story map gap areas to be used by the City of Ramsey.

Student deliverables created through the RCP partnership will be used to help plan the route of the greenway gaps, as well as communicate the value and benefits of greenways to residents and stake-holders.

**Final Deliverables/Work Products:** *identify specific deliverables/work product (this may include presentations, survey data, reports, video, or other deliverables from the course). Provide as much detail as possible about expected content.*

- Final written report with appended maps (or reference to online maps)
- Classroom presentation

**Background Information and Data Needs:** *Include all data or other information needed from the City or community partners for students to complete the class project. **The project lead** is responsible for ensuring all data listed here are available to students through Dropbox at the beginning of the semester.*

- Natural Resources Inventory
- Conceptual Greenway Plan (Circle of Ramsey)
- Park and Trail Map
- Recreation Districts Map
- Comprehensive Plan – Parks and Recreation Chapter
- [Minnesota Land Cover Data](#)
- [Minnesota LiDAR Data](#)
- [Ramsey Geodatabase](#)
- [Example Storymaps](#)

**Project Timeline:** *The purpose is to identify dates when the project lead would need to be available, either on campus or in Ramsey, to interact with students. Add or remove items from this list as needed; where possible, include specific date, time, and location.*

- City and RCP staff visit to class: January 16, 23, 2:30-3:45 pm, 330 [Blegen Hall](#) (UMN West Bank Campus)
- Class field trip(s) or site visit(s): TBD with project lead and students
- Mid-project check-in: February 8
- Classroom presentation dates: April 24, April 26, May 1 & May 3
- Community presentation (optional): TBD with students if desired
- Course deliverables/work products: June/July 2018

## **PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Ramsey and Community Partner Responsibilities:**

- Convene all staff necessary to facilitate project development and completion.
- Engage external community partners and stakeholders as needed to support project development and completion.
- Provide in a timely fashion any data, reports, or other documents that are relevant to the project and scope of work.
- Respond in a timely manner (ideally 48 hours) to project-related inquiries from faculty, students, and RCP staff.
- Help to facilitate student field trips and site visits, as needed.
- Participate in initial project scoping meeting and mid-project check-in meeting.
- Have at least one staff member present at the final student presentation on the U of MN campus (if applicable) to comment on student work.
- Schedule and coordinate final presentation to community (if applicable).
- Communicate to Ramsey RCP Program Coordinator Tim Gladhill in a timely manner any issues or concerns regarding the project that cannot be directly resolved with the faculty contact for the course.

### **U of MN Faculty/Instructor Responsibilities:**

- Supervise student coursework to ensure high-quality project deliverables/work products that meet the project goals/objectives.
- Communicate to RCP staff early in the semester the names and email addresses of all students in your course working on RCP projects so that RCP can communicate with them directly.
- Maintain regular communication with students, project lead, and RCP staff as needed throughout the project to ensure collaborative working relationship.
- Respond in a timely manner (ideally 48 hours) to project-related inquiries from the project lead or RCP staff.
- If student teams will be in direct communication with the project lead, identify one primary student contact for the project from each student team.
- Communicate to RCP Director Mike Greco in a timely manner any issues or concerns regarding the project that cannot be directly resolved with the project lead.

**Expense Reimbursement:** RCP will reimburse reasonable project-related expenses incurred by faculty or students, including travel to and from the City of Ramsey, printing, and supplies.

**Lodging, meals, computer hardware or software, and parking at the University of Minnesota are NOT eligible expenses.** To request reimbursement, you must submit a completed and signed U of MN Reimbursement Form, as well as itemized receipts for any eligible expenses, to: Dan Herrera, dherrera@umn.edu, 330 HHHSPA, Fax: 612-626-0273. A copy of the form is available

upon request.

**Approved by:**

---

Tim Gladhill, RCP Program Coordinator, City of Ramsey

---

Mark Riverblood, Project Lead, City of Ramsey

---

Ying Song, Course Instructor, University of Minnesota

---

Mike Greco, Director, Resilient Communities Project

*University of Minnesota Policy on "Copyright Ownership" ([policy.umn.edu/Policies/Research/COPYRIGHT.html](http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Research/COPYRIGHT.html)) states that students own the copyright in works created in or as part of a University course. However, the University may require students—as a condition of enrolling in a course—to permit reproduction or other use of the work. By choosing to remain enrolled in a University of Minnesota course and to work on an RCP-supported project, students grant a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial \(CC BY-NC\) license](#) for all work product and deliverables created under this scope of work. This allows others to reproduce, build upon, modify, and distribute the work for noncommercial uses, as long as they credit the copyright holder.*