



Northfield, Minnesota

Northfield Community Resource Center

Project funding

\$2,500,000 in CIP costs

Benefits

- Enhances efficiency, accessibility, and long-term sustainability of public services
- Maximizes public benefit
- Supports community well-being
- Provides a safe, accessible and functional space for regional community and social service providers

Safety and security updates

- Improve point of contact safety barriers
- Increase in card access control system
- Install critical incident alert buttons Install privacy fencing where appropriate

Aesthetic updates

- Replace and refurbish flooring throughout facility
- Replace acoustic ceiling tiles throughout facility
- Update, patch and paint walls throughout facility Paint exterior Replace pool deck

Mechanical updates

- Replace HVAC equipment throughout facility
- Replace all pool mechanical equipment
- Refurbish restrooms

Tenants & regional services

The Northfield Community Resource Center houses critical government and nonprofit service providers.

- Community Action Center
- Health Community Initiative (HCI)
- FiftyNorth
- Northfield Community College Collaborative
- United Way
- Three Rivers Head Start
- Workforce Development
- Rice County Social Services
- Northfield Public Library satellite location

Northfield Community Resource Center Highlights

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Three Rivers Community Action

Operates more than 40 programs

- Housing development
- Early childhood
- Homeless assistance and prevention
- Transportation
- Older adult services

Work in 2024

- Prevented 33 households from experiencing homelessness with \$137,422 of support
- Served 86 older adults with 21,027 nutritious, home delivered meals
- Hired local contractors for 36 emergency repairs



FiftyNorth

- Keeping adults 50 and above active, engaged, and connected.
- Serves more than 2,200 members from 9 counties.
- Provides classes in fitness, arts, and lifelong learning.

Rice County United Way

Brings together families, businesses, schools and partner agencies to tackle: financial security and basic needs, healthy community, youth opportunity, and literacy.

Working with partners

- 42,738 free after-school and summer meals served to kids
- 7,004 individuals accessed clothing



- 3,500 attendances at recovery support group meetings
- 1,484 clients received safety, services and care

Community College Collaborative

- Partners with community colleges to offer accredited courses and career pathway programs in Northfield.
- Provides 1-on-1 individualized supports, from math tutoring to free childcare.
- Provides in-person and online courses at a variety of times that work for students' schedules.



Community Action Center

Promotes a healthy, caring, and just community for all people through resources, advocacy, and volunteer effort throughout the Rice County area

Regional resource hub:

CAC provides over 1,000,000 pounds of food per year to more than 9,000 individuals across Rice and southern Dakota County. 80-100 households access food, housing, or other essential needs at CAC each day.



Northfield Public Library Site Renewal

Project funding

\$2,500,000 in CIP costs

Project goals

Accessibility

- Install accessible walkway from Division St doors to patio and from patio to Washington St
- Improve access to entry from bus stop, ADA parking
- Improve condition of ramp access

Stewardship

- Decrease costs associated with snow removal, landscaping
- Replace high maintenance landscaping
- Improve site aesthetics and enhance Library's role as a destination for visitors
- Address significant erosion on west slope

Safety

- Remove and repair trip and slip hazards
- Safer egress from west entrance, Bunday Room emergency exit
- Replace damaged Division St stairs

Sustainability

- Replace fallen trees with combination of shade structures and planting for shade
- Reduce hardscaping around building to preserve structure from damage due to water pooling and chloride use
- Reduce heat accumulation around atrium
- Improve storm water handling
- Install rain garden with interpretive signage

Community

- Expand access to space for natural play and rest
- Increase utility of community spaces
- Maximize site capacity for regional library programming
- restore and enhance spaces and seating for workforce, meeting, community gathering



Data source: Minnesota Public Library Annual Report, collected and maintained by State Library Services in the Minnesota Department of Education.

Northfield Public Library

Site Renewal for Accessibility and Safety

Regional Benefits

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Site traffic

- Visits to the library exceeded 200,000 in 2025 reflecting the library as a resource far beyond the population of Northfield
- Nearly 17,000 library cards in use, a 10% increase over 2024
- 667 documents notarized in 2025

Circulation

- More than 240,000 physical items checked out in 2025
- More than 53,000 digital checkouts in 2025
- E-resources accessed over 167,000 times in 2025
- Participate in regional and statewide resource sharing

Recognition

- 2016 voted best library in Minnesota
- 2024 Best Small Library in America Award (honorable mention) from Library Journal
- 2025 Library Journal Mover and Shaker Awards to Library Director and Outreach Manager
- Awarded 2025 federal community Facility grant through MDE to support improvements for workforce, education, and health

Programs

- More than 400 free and inclusive programs offered in 2025 with more than 15,000 attending from across the region

Meeting room traffic

- Large capacity meeting room booked more than 700 times in 2025
- Frequent use of library meeting spaces by state government, regional and statewide nonprofits, community organizations, and area businesses
- Two small meeting rooms added in 2025

Service area

- Service area including home delivery reaches populations of Northfield, Dundas, Nerstrand and surrounding townships

Passport services

- More than 1,500 passport applications and photos taken in 2025



Annual regional celebrations hosted by the Library

Celebrate Asia Pacifica

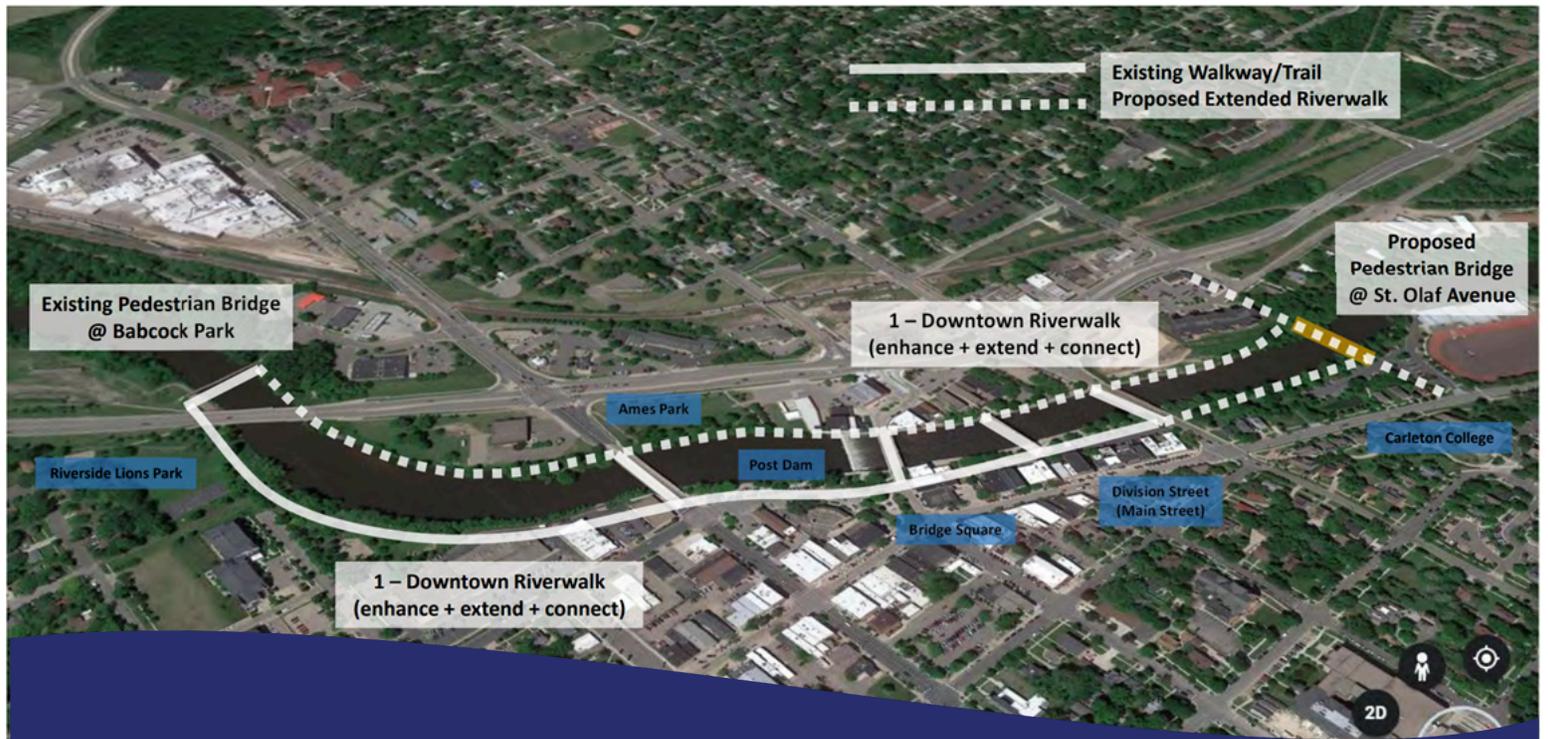
- Celebrating 3rd year in 2026
- Strong partnership with colleges
- Growing regional attendance

Hispanic Heritage Festival

- Celebrating 9th year in 2026
- Thousands attend from all over region
- Dozens of regional and local partners, global performers

Celebration of Somali Culture

- Hundreds from region attended 1st celebration in November 2025
- Regional partners from Rice County and beyond



Northfield, Minnesota

Riverfront Park Improvements

Project funding

\$6,400,000 in CIP costs

Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan

- The Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan, adopted in 2021, is a framework to guide improvements along the River and future design of park spaces. It is intended to create enthusiasm, and identify actions necessary to further enhance Northfield's riverfront parks as an exciting regional experience.

Key improvements

- Safety and Accessibility
- Aesthetic improvements and river access
- ADA-accessible bathroom improvements
- Repair/replace damaged steps, railings and walkways
- Age-friendly site furnishings
- Wayfinding

Connectivity and economic impact

- Enhance connections to the River by improving public spaces that connect to the commercial district
- Connect sidewalks and trails
- Create a series of pedestrian loops that extend to both sides of the River and connect to the urban historic core of the community

Riverfront Parks and amenities:

- Riverside Park
- Lions Park
- Sechler Park
- East Riverwalk stairs and railing
- Riverwalk "loop" trail
- Ames Park

Northfield Riverfront Parks

Regional significance

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Regional Assets

The City of Northfield Streets & Parks Division maintains publicly-owned places that offer many ways to enjoy an active life in Northfield, year-round. This includes over 35 parks and open spaces, pedestrian and bicycle paths, an arena, and outdoor pool.

Defeat of Jesse James Days

More than 200,000 people visit downtown Northfield and the riverfront each September to experience the Defeat of Jesse James Days Celebration, an annual commemoration of the historic bank raid of 1876

Historic features on the riverfront

- Ames Mill and Ames Mill dam
- Bridge Square
- The Northfield History Center
- Historic Downtown Northfield
- Northfield Arts Guild
- Carleton College's Cowling Arboretum

Fine Arts Festival

The Northfield Arts Guild hosts the Fine Arts Festival on the Riverwalk drawing more than 5,000 visitors from across the region to support local and visiting artists and craftspeople

Riverwalk Market Fair

Bridge Square is home to a seasonal weekly farmer's market and art fair which attracts thousands of visitors from all over to Northfield's historic riverfront every Saturday from May-October, supporting artisans and farmers from Rice County and the wider region

Winter Walk

Each December thousands visit Northfield's riverfront to attend Winter Walk, supporting local businesses

Recreation

The Cannon River is a scenic regional destination for river recreation and fishing

