NORTH ST. PAUL, MN - LIVING STREETS PLAN

Fred Rozumalski, PLA Barr Engineering Company

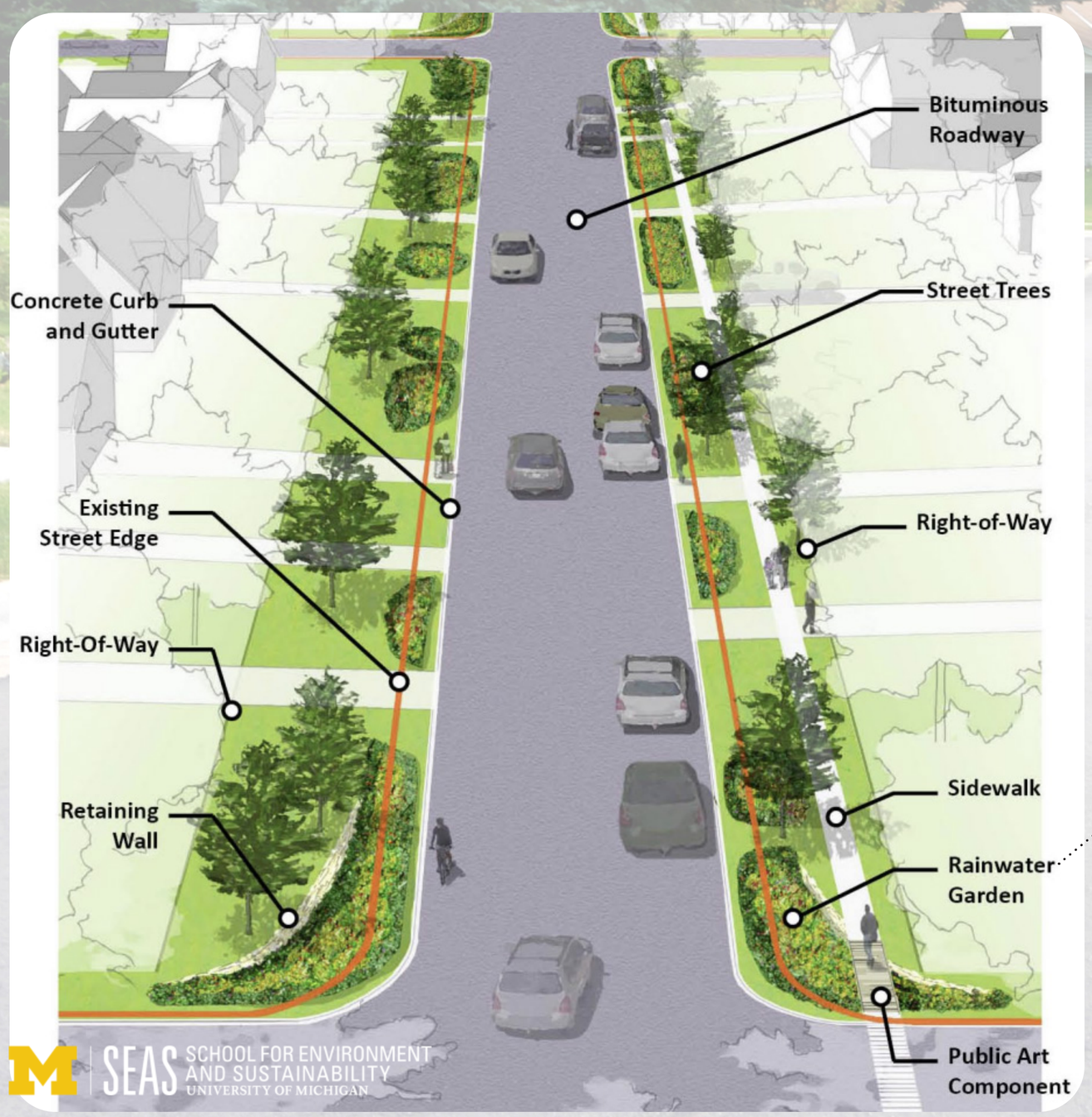
The Living Streets Plan lead by Fred Rozumalski of Barr Engineering for the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) and the City of North St. Paul demonstrates many of the landscape perception and stewardship concepts advanced by professor Joan Nassauer. As project manager and lead landscape architect, Fred intentionally structured the plan around the idea that ecological function alone is not enough to create lasting environmental change. Instead, landscapes must visibly communicate care, purpose, and stewardship if they are to gain public acceptance and long-term support.

A central concept in Nassauer's scholarship is "cues to care". The Living Streets framework incorporated this principle by emphasizing organized rain gardens, defined edges, street trees, sidewalks, public art, and cohesive planting designs. Rather than presenting stormwater infrastructure as technical facilities, the plan framed rain gardens as beautiful neighborhood features that provide seasonal interest while performing an environmental function.

A key aspect of the Living Streets Plan, consistent with Joan Nassauer's work, was the recognition that environmental stewardship is a social process as much as an ecological one. The project engaged residents that helped shape the vision, design objectives, and priorities. Rather than focusing solely on water-quality outcomes, the plan connected environmental improvements to benefit residents value, including safer streets, greater walk-ability, neighborhood beauty, property values, and stronger community connections, helping build long-term public support for watershed stewardship.



Rainwater garden cutaway encourages environmental stewardship



The Living Streets plan benefits residents with safer streets and increased walk-ability



The Rainwater garden cutaway filters and cleans polluted runoff

Design With Care: Joan Nassauer and the Importance of Ecological Design, Aesthetics and Management

The 2026 Whittemore Lecture in Landscape Architecture