

# SUPPORTING YOUTH IN THE BROOKLYNS

## Building a sustainable system for positive youth development

### Brooklyn Bridge Alliance members

Hennepin County  
City of  
Brooklyn Center  
City of  
Brooklyn Park  
ISD11  
Anoka Hennepin Schools  
ISD 279  
Osseo Area Schools  
ISD 281  
Robbinsdale Schools  
ISD 286  
Brooklyn Center Schools  
Hennepin Technical College  
North Hennepin  
Community College

In every city, many stakeholders share responsibility for the safety, well being and healthy development of young people. Schools take the lead on education. City parks and recreation departments and non-profit organizations provide non-formal learning opportunities during out of school time. Police and health departments play roles in keeping youth healthy and safe. County and state agencies are in charge of juvenile justice systems and higher education.

A host of community groups – faith communities, businesses and youth-serving organizations also respond in important ways to the needs of young people.

*“It is my hope that all partners work toward ensuring that all youth in our communities are engaged in positive opportunities that will keep them safe and help them learn and grow.”*

—Councilmember Rich Gates, 2008

### Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth – Governance

Amidst growing concerns in juvenile crime, the mayors of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center created the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth, a governing board of top level decision-makers, bound together as one group, to address regional youth issues and create a vision and action plan for positive youth development in the Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park areas. By effectively coordinating together, resources can be maximized and systems can be strengthened.



### Youth Council - Youth Voice

The Alliance utilizes the leadership and input from the Brooklyns Youth Council, a 16-member group of high school students to ensure youth perspectives are included.



### Coalitions – Engagement, Coordination, Partnerships

The Brooklyn Bridge Alliance interfaces with Brooklyn Park’s Youth Opportunities Coalition and Brooklyn Center’s Youth Collaborative that engage residents, parents, and youth serving organizations to coordinate services and form program partnerships.



### The potential for this newly formed Alliance is significant.

Already considered a state model for improving services for youth, funding is needed to assist the Alliance in building organizational capacity, master planning and mission alignment. Creating a master plan will help facilitate the development of sustained and coordinated strategies that yield long-lasting dividends and ensures that opportunities to improve outcomes for youth are not wasted.

For additional information, contact: Brooklyn Park Mayor Jeff Lunde, [jeff.lunde@brooklynpark.org](mailto:jeff.lunde@brooklynpark.org) or Brooklyn Center Mayor Tim Willson, [twillson@ci.brooklyn-center](mailto:twillson@ci.brooklyn-center)