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February 2020 Newsletter

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Stillwater Now an Audubon Bird City

Persistence pays! The City Council of Stillwater unanimously approved a resolution to make Stillwater an Audubon Bird City on Feb. 4, 2020.

Stillwater and the St. Croix River Valley are critical areas for bird migration. We have an opportunity to restore bird habitat, green up our city at the same time, and attract birdwatchers and conservationists to visit us. Over the next couple of years, the city and Sustainable Stillwater MN will be protecting and managing our green spaces, building and erecting nesting structures, landscaping with native plants, reducing threats to birds like window collisions and outdoor cats, and generally making our urban spaces friendlier for birds and people.

Where birds thrive, people prosper!

Mark your calendars! A kickoff celebration marking Migratory Bird Day will be held May 23 at Washington Square Park. Expect a guest raptor, educational exhibits, children's projects, bird walks, and lots more.

Volunteers Needed!

We need bird experts, people to help with setup of tables, artists, educators, bird walk guides, and more.

The next meeting of the Bird City volunteer team is

Tuesday, February 11, 6:30pm at

Sally Manzara Nature Interpretive Center

[Click here for directions.](#)

For more information contact Sheila Maybanks at doher4@comcast.net.

(Photo by Carl Wegener)

Volunteer Your Skills For Migratory Bird Day



Join Us to Plant Trees on Arbor Day Weekend

Planting more trees is the easiest way to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. No need for fancy technology or government bureaucracy. It's been going on for millions of years. We will join hundreds of thousands of others this year in an international effort to fight climate change with tree-planting parties. A reduction of two-thirds of all the excess CO₂ in the atmosphere is theoretically possible if we plant one billion trees this year, a potential result scientists describe as **“mind-blowing.”**

Join us on Saturday, April 25, Arbor Day weekend, to plant a forest full of trees at Pine Point Regional Park. RSVP to be in the loop on details and the exact meeting place. Once we get a headcount, the County will order enough saplings.

Washington County expects our handiwork will become an oak savanna ecosystem, which is native to our area, to be enjoyed by future generations. Sustainable Stillwater MN has also requested that the County include a variety of native species that are bird-friendly.

Sign up for our tree-planting party here:

RSVP to Plant Trees With Us

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SPONSORED BY SUSTAINABLE STILLWATER MN

Drive Electric Earth Day

WHEN: April 22, 2020 2PM-8PM**WHERE:** The Water Street Inn,
101 Water St S, Stillwater, MN

EV Car and Carbon-Free Transportation Fair

We are lining up exhibitors and groups for tables for this exciting event in Downtown Stillwater on Earth Day, April 22nd from 2 PM to 8 PM at the Water Street Inn. EV dealers and owners will be on hand to answer questions about the newest electric cars and electric bikes and more! Also, visit the Indoor Carbon-Free Transportation Fair which features EV enthusiasts, EV products, electric bike dealers, and more! Can you help?

Saturday, February 15 at 11-am at the Stillwater Public Library Conference Room on the Upper Level, we'll be detailing our plans and signing up volunteers.

For a chance to win \$100, register to attend or participate and complete a short survey. Must be at least 18 years old to win. Limit one entry per person.

Sustainable Stillwater MN is sponsoring the event and Water Street Inn is hosting it.



Did you see 16-year-old Mia Vaughan's editorial in The Gazette?

We are thrilled to have Mia, a student at St. Croix Preparatory Academy, joining with us and very grateful to Gazette Editor Alicia Lebens for providing us with space each month. To read what Mia has to say, visit [The Gazette](#) or our [Facebook page](#). Support your hometown newspaper. Local journalism preserves a sustainable democracy that works for everyone.

[Gazette Column: Join Me on Climate Corner](#)



Sustainability Spotlight

Did you know that the [First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater](#) is leading the way on energy efficiency, use of green space, and conservation? Read our feature story on the fantastic efforts of our local First Presbyterian congregation, an inspiration and a how-to for becoming green, sustainable, and resilient written, by Melissa May and Kelsey Depew.

Is your Stillwater business or organization taking action to be more

Criteria for the spotlight:

- Business/Organization name and description.
- 300-500 word essay of what your business or organization is doing to be sustainable.
- 1 to 3 pictures depicting your efforts.
- Simple bulleted list of all your big and small projects (can vary in detail).
- Send your information to social@sustainablestillwatermn.org

Sustainable Stillwater MN is working on creating a Green Business Directory for the Greater Stillwater Area. We will be regularly spotlighting local businesses and organizations that are working toward being more sustainable and lowering their carbon footprint.

Spotlight: First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater

Meeting Calendar

>>> Our Board of Directors meetings take place every first Wednesday of the month from 6.30-8.00 pm and are open to the public at Community Thread, 2300 Orleans St. W. For updated details or to get on the agenda contact Roger Tomten, chair, at sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com.

>>> The GreenStep team meets the third Wednesday of the month 6:30pm – 8:00pm Stillwater Public Library, third floor. For updated details contact us at sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com.

>>> The Active Transportation Workgroup meets on the fourth Monday of the month from 6:30pm-8pm at the Stillwater Public Library. This team is helping to reduce our region's transportation carbon footprint and make our city a more walkable, bikeable, livable city for all of us without the tyranny of fossil-fueled vehicles. For information contact ssmn.wendyg@gmail.com.

For all our events, see our [Facebook page](#).

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Like What We Do? Consider a Donation to Sustainable Stillwater MN



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Soon to be in our [Sustainable Stillwater store](#).

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