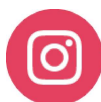


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## 2021 2Q Newsletter

### April-June 2021

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## We Share Your Values

If a more resilient local economy, a healthier community, and a cleaner environment are important to you, join us! See our Zoom meeting schedule at the bottom of this newsletter!

In this issue:

**Green Business Directory and Awards Launched** - *Migratory Bird Festival details* - **ADU Zoning Changes for Stillwater** - Complete Streets Resolution Passed - **Bike Rack Funding \$\$** - *Solar for the City* - **Earth Day Cleanup Parties** - Protecting our Waterways - **Clean Car Decision Due**

Support Us

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## Stillwater Area Green Business Directory Online!

Apply Today at [GreenStillwater.org](https://GreenStillwater.org)

The [Greater Stillwater Area Green Business Directory and Awards at GreenStillwater.org](https://GreenStillwater.org) recognizes that businesses are the change agents for healthy growth and revitalization, so our mission is to seek out these businesses and help them reach YOU. [The Green Business Directory](https://GreenStillwater.org) gives local green businesses public recognition and a marketing boost -- and is also a first-ever shopping guide for Stillwater/Washington County consumers who wish to support ethical, sustainable businesses with their hard-earned dollars. *(Pictured above (top) Wendy Gorski presents an award to Chuck Dougherty, the Water Street Inn; Award winners Madeline Esterl of Cimarron Community Farm; Eric Siskow and staff of Lakeview Hospital; and Tracy Maki of Valley Outreach.)*

[GreenStillwater.org](https://GreenStillwater.org) businesses are vetted and certified for their green and sustainable products and practices so you can make informed choices. Businesses qualify using criteria created by our partner organization, a nationally recognized certification nonprofit, [GreenAmerica.org](https://GreenAmerica.org). Business that apply are eligible for bronze, silver, or gold awards, or if they fall short, their application information is kept private. Suggestions are provided for improvement. They can reapply! There is no downside for businesses to try!

The project is **supported by** grants and donations from Washington County BizRecycling, the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, Lakeview Hospital, IPS-Solar, the Stillwater Sunrise Rotary, and Stillwater Noon Rotary



**Our partners**, Washington County BizRecycling, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce's Energy Smart, MNTAP, RETAP, CERTS, and others [listed on our resource page](#) provide waste and energy reduction help.

[View Full Article](#)



## Stillwater Migratory Bird Festival May 15, 2021 9am-1pm at Pioneer Park

Living on a flyway (St. Croix River) is one of Stillwater's charms. A wide variety of migratory bird visitors pass through our fair city twice each year,

North America. **A flock of them is wondrous to behold.**

Sustainable Stillwater MN is hosting a celebration of migratory birds at **Stillwater's first Migratory Bird Day Festival** on May 15 at Pioneer Park. This family-friendly event features a raptor "guest" from Carpenter Nature Center and tables sponsored by organizations devoted to wild birds including **Master Gardeners**, **Wild Ones**, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the **Sally Manzara Nature Interpretive Center** in Lake Elmo. Bird hikes are scheduled for 7 am at Sunfish Lake and 10 am at Brown's Creek Park Reserve (meet at the parking area on Neal Ave), led by Linda Radimecky, interpretive naturalist. This birding festival is the prelude to Stillwater's becoming an official Audubon Bird City, which the City Council endorsed last year. Hope to see you there! Confirm details with us [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com) a day or so before the walks.



**Progress with Carbon-Free, Safer  
Transportation: Bikes!**

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Stillwater MN's Bicycle Friendly Community workgroup. **The Stillwater City Council has passed a Complete Streets Resolution** that shows their intention to take bicyclists and pedestrians into design consideration for all future road and street improvements and additions. Details are to be worked out in a July city planning meeting, but this is a good start. A "Complete Streets" policy meets **GreenStep Best Practices Step 11.1--Transportation category**, moving us up another rung in the state GreenStep Cities ladder. The City has **also** received a SHIP grant for **new bike rack systems downtown** — the Stillwater Public Works Department plans to install these by summer. And the City is finalizing the **Chestnut Street Plaza design**, which will create a very pleasing "mall" for pedestrians and bicyclists from the Lift Bridge and trails to Main Street. Kudos to the city for the progress on Chestnut Plaza to date, and for considering our suggestions for new bike racks and trail connections.

### Bike-Friendly Community Designation Sought

Our BFC workgroup is also working on an application by July to get Stillwater certified and listed nationally as a "Bicycle Friendly Community" from the **League of American Bicyclists**. Such a designation comes with more tourism and economic benefits!

**REGISTER TODAY**

**BRIDGE THE VALLEY BIKE RALLY**

**#BRIDGETHEVALLEY**

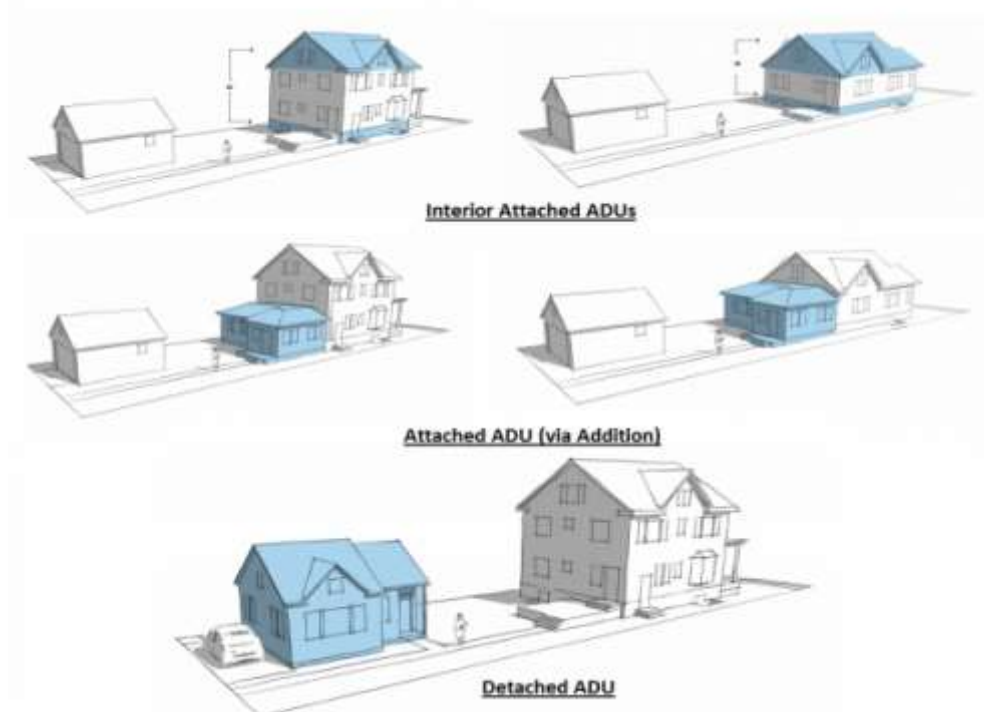
- 2 BRIDGES (OLD & NEW)
- MULTIPLE ROUTE LENGTHS
- TOWN CELEBRATION
- LIVE MUSIC

**AUGUST 15TH, 2021  
STILLWATER, MN**

Mark your calendar for August 15, 2021. Sustainable Stillwater MN and Stillwater Sunrise Rotary are teaming up for an exciting charity **bicycle rally on August 15th** that will start and end in downtown Stillwater. There are plans to make this an annual cycling event, but this year the event will be tied to Stillwater's grand opening celebration of the Lift Bridge renovation and the Loop Trail. Register for Bridge the Valley Bike Rally [here](#).

## SSMN Pushing City To Upgrade Solar

Sustainable Stillwater MN continues to urge city officials to get more of their power from solar. Meetings held over the last few months between **Buff Grace of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light**, Sustainable Stillwater MN's Don Schuld, IPS-Solar, and City Zoning Director Graham Tait are part of an effort to encourage the city to invest in more solar rooftop technology or solar farm subscriptions. At the July planning meeting, according to Graham, staff will discuss increasing their use of solar with City Administrator Tom McCarty.





## in Stillwater with ADUs

Towns throughout the country are looking for alternatives to existing zoning laws that will allow more "Accessory Dwelling Units" (ADUs) to be built, increasing housing options and walkability and decreasing urban sprawl. Roger Tomten, Sustainable Stillwater MN chairman, and Todd Moss, a Stillwater resident, have drafted a Zoning Text Amendment to extend the construction of ADUs into other zoning districts in Stillwater. Language is also proposed to allow ADUs on smaller lots and to modify off-street parking requirements to make the ADU option more accessible to residents. The proposed amendments will be presented on Zoom to the [City Planning Commission on Thursday, April 28th](#).

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Stillwater Area High School's Environmental Club has scheduled two Earth Day trash cleanups: Bridgeview Park and Lily Lake Park in Stillwater. Student leaders Addie and Claire need volunteers. Can you help? Both events are on April 22 at 1:30 pm. Bring your own water and gloves. Collection bags will be provided. Call 612-666-2689 for more information. The Earth thanks you!



## Clean Cars Decision Due May 7-ish

The “Clean Cars” initiative proposed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to establish low- or no-emission standards for car sales in Minnesota hinges on the decision of an administrative law judge. The decision is due around May 7, according to Keely Cervantes, Conservation Minnesota, which has been active on this issue. [We published an article in The Gazette to inform readers about the issue](#) since there are a lot of misconceptions out there. The Clean Cars Minnesota standards have two goals — to reduce carbon emissions and increase choices Minnesotans have when shopping for new vehicles. We should know what the judge rules in early May.

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## Waterway Protection Underway

Sustainable Stillwater MN's Natural Resources team's ongoing projects protect our river and lakes in three ways. Please consider helping!

**Cigarette Disposal Units:** Thanks to a grant to Sustainable Stillwater MN from the Keep America Beautiful Foundation, cigarette butt disposal boxes mounted on city light poles downtown are regularly being used by smokers and emptied by volunteers and store owners. Cigarette butts are unsightly litter but even worse -- the butts contain toxic ingredients that fall into the drains leading to the St. Croix River. Look for those cigarette containers if you are a smoker. Thanks to Bob Barratt for maintaining those containers! If you could use a container at your Stillwater business location, contact Louise at [ssmn.nrwg@gmail.com](mailto:ssmn.nrwg@gmail.com)

**Storm Drain Adoption:** Just grab a broom and sweep your curb gutter whenever you see dirt, leaves, or pine needles collecting. Then compost or bag it for Waste Management. Otherwise, it will wash into the nearest storm drain. Case in point: McKusick Lake's north end is getting dredged this spring due to the accumulation of debris over the years coming in from storm drains at a budgeted cost of over \$500,000. Save waterways and tax dollars by adopting your local storm drain. Orphan drains in need of adoption are everywhere; choose one closest to you at [Adopt a drain here.](#)

**Rain Garden Adoption:** Rain gardens installed along streets are an asset to both the landscape and the water bodies that receive storm water

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...not consistent with the long-term goals of the Rain Garden.  
maintenance volunteers are busy during the growing season. More volunteers are needed -- especially in the newer residential developments of Stillwater. Sign up through Washington Conservation District [HERE](#) and email Louise with Sustainable Stillwater MN for additional volunteer support at [ssmn.nrwg@gmail.com](mailto:ssmn.nrwg@gmail.com). Hop onto our [Stillwater Rain Garden Facebook Page](#) for more.

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## Coming Events

**What's That Plant? is back!** Events along the Gateway and Browns Creek Trails at Browns Creek Park and east along the bike trail for 1/4 mile are scheduled for May 1-7, June 1-7, July 1-7 and September 1-7. Dozens of signs will be posted to identify plants. Caitlin Bergh is leading this event. Volunteers are needed! [More info is here.](#)

**Garlic Mustard Pull – Late May.** Introduced from Europe originally as a food plant, this species is now a serious concern in forests across North America. Garlic mustard is an invasive non-native biennial herb that spreads by seed. But some people [find it delicious!](#) We'll be pulling up garlic mustard plants on the Gateway Browns Creek Trail, 1/4 mile east of Neal Ave. Stay tuned for exact dates. Can you volunteer? Email us at [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com)

**One-Day household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. [May 15th is the date, Lily Lake Ice Arena is the place](#)** Sponsored by the Washington County Environment Center.

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Sustainable Stillwater MN's dedicated volunteers are local citizens working to achieve a greener, more sustainable city, and region. Cities with advocacy groups like Sustainable Stillwater MN are the most successful in achieving their goals. A sustainable community takes funding, volunteering, and advocacy all year long.

We welcome and appreciate your time and your generous donations and gifts all year long. Please consider a gift to Sustainable Stillwater MN for our ongoing needs.

On May 1-11, donate to our campaign at GiveMN

<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Ssmn>

[Click Here to Sustain Us With a Tax-Deductible Donation](#)



## Zoom Meeting Calendar

>>> Our Board of Directors virtual online Zoom meetings take place every first



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>>> The GreenStep team meets in virtual online Zoom meetings on the first Monday of the month 6:30pm – 8:00pm. For updated details contact [sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestillwatermn@gmail.com).

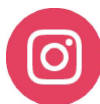
>>> The Bike-Friendly Community team meets on Zoom every two weeks on Thursday mornings at 8am. To get in on the action, contact [rick@sustainablestillwatermn.org](mailto:rick@sustainablestillwatermn.org)

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

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## Support The Gazette

Once a month we are now contributing editorials to the [Stillwater Gazette](#). Support The Stillwater Gazette -- local journalism is essential for a sustainable community. If you miss an issue of The Stillwater Gazette, you can also find our editorials in the [archive online](#).

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