Biography

Allison McGinnis is the lead coordinator for Bird City Stillwater MN, which is a workgroup within Sustainable Stillwater MN. Allison has a Bachelor's degree in Biology with an emphasis on Ornithology and Environmental Education and graduate studies in Secondary Education. She has worked with the Trumpeter Swan reintroduction program, Bald Eagle telemetry studies, raptors and wolf project. She is the founder of St. Croix Valley Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Org. and also worked at various nature centers as a naturalist and wildlife technician. In addition, Allison also authored a paper on a technique on rehabilitating White Tailed Deer fawns. Allison recently retired from the Stillwater Area High School as a science and special education paraprofessional.



What is a Bird City?

Bird City provides highly visible public recognition to municipalities that understand that healthy communities are the sum of many parts, including birds. They support communities in their efforts to protect and manage green space, educate citizens, build and erect nesting structures, landscape with native plants, reduce threats to birds like collisions and outdoor cats, and generally make urban areas both friendlier for birds and places where people want to live and work... *Where birds thrive, people prosper.*

In partnership with the City of Stillwater, Sustainable Stillwater MN's Bird City Workgroup, is dedicated to implementing the requirements of the Minnesota Audubon Society's award to Stillwater as a "Minnesota Bird City" in 2021. Bird City Stillwater goals are to:

- Educate and engage people in birding and conservation
- Protect, restore and enhance bird habitat.
- Reduce threats to birds.

Join us on Facebook: <u>Bird City Facebook</u> For volunteer opportunities: <u>SustainableStillwaterMN.org</u> Contact: <u>Allison@sustainablestillwatermn.org</u>

Bird City Stillwater Initiatives as of 4/2023

- Became a Minnesota Bird City in June 2021
- Bird Festival 2021
- Received Tropical Wings habitat grant to plant native shrubs at Lily Lake forest.
- Promoted the "Lights Out" program and worked with the city of Stillwater to make a city-wide proclamation.
- Audubon presentation on light pollution and birds Stillwater Rotary Club.
- Bluebird Recovery Program
- Bird Tours (Browns Creek Trail, Belwin Trails).
- Glass/window collisions prevention.
- Birds and Climate change (climate fair 4/29)





TER Excess Lights Out, Stillwater! MIN Saves Birds - Saves Energy - Saves Money

March 2023

As part of Stillwater's Bird City initiative and its commitment to GreenStep City Best Practices, Sustainable Stillwater MN is urging Stillwater to adopt measures that address light pollution and its impact on the environment. In September of 2022, The City made a city wide proclamation of "lights" out".

Over 250 species of birds migrate through Stillwater, up the St. Croix River Valley through Minnesota, each spring and fall. Birds migrate at night and can be drawn off their flight path by lit structures, according to the Audubon Society. Mortality at lighted structures has been documented across a wide geographic area and a broad range of species. Many birds have been known to collide or drop from exhaustion after circling brightly lit buildings, reluctant to fly out of the light. The "Lights Out" program, which includes dimming, shielding, or eliminating excess lighting, has already been adopted by many cities nationwide and can dramatically reduce these collisions.

How Does Lights Out Work?

Lights Out is a voluntary program developed by the National Audubon Society, in which building owners, managers, tenants, and residents work together to ensure that unnecessary lighting is turned off at certain times of the year. A blackout is not required. This also saves electricity and cuts costs.

Midnight until dawn:

- March 15 to May 31 for spring migration
- August 15 to October 31 for fall migration

Some examples are:

- Turn off exterior lighting (leave security lights on as needed for safety)
- Dim lobby and atrium lighting
- Turn off interior lighting especially upper floors

To sign up, use/click on the following link: https://mn.audubon.org/conservation/lights-out-program

SustainableStillwaterMN.org

Contact: Allison@sustainablestillwatermn.org