

Saint Paul Audubon Society Grant Applicant Guidelines

People or organizations requesting funding must complete the brief grant application.

Priority is given to projects or activities that work on SPA's priority focus areas (Education, Conservation, Policy/Advocacy)

Priority is given to projects or activities within SPA's geographic area (Ramsey and Washington Counties)

The Board will review applications at the March and November Board meetings. Applications must be received by January 15 and September 15. Email this document to: general@saintpaulaudubon.org. In a genuine emergency, appeals outside the application window may be considered.

The Committee or Board may approve total funding, partial funding, decline, defer, or request more information on an application.

Grant recipients are requested to provide a short article about the project (with pictures if possible) for Chapter publications and be available for a 5-minute presentation at a member meeting.

Grants typically are for \$500-\$2000 and are awarded to projects or activities in areas such as

- Environmental Education
- Habitat restoration, preservation, or expansion
- Supporting opportunities for birders and birding trip leaders
- Diversifying participation in birding and nature activities
- Providing nesting support or native plants
- 501(c) (3) organizations

Preference is given to activities and efforts in Ramsey and Washington Counties that further our focus areas of education, conservation, and policy/advocacy.

**Saint Paul Audubon Society
Grant Application**

Please complete all fields. Use N/A if not applicable.

Organization: Sustainable Stillwater MN Bird City Group

Tax ID#:

Fiscal Agent (optional): **Tax ID# (optional):** 82-3255331

The person making the request: Wendy Gorski and Allison McGinnis

Email: wendy@sustainablestillwatermn.org,

allison@sustainablestillwatermn.org

Phone: 612-244-1560

Project name: William Street Bird Park

Amount requested: \$2,000 of an estimated \$10,000 total project over the next two years

Date of request: 9/13/24

Date funds needed: Fall, 2024

A brief overview of the organization, including its mission statement (links to information are acceptable): Sustainable Stillwater MN is a local umbrella organization supporting various initiatives.

<https://www.sustainablestillwatermn.org/> and

<https://www.sustainablestillwatermn.org/birdcity>

Sustainable Stillwater MN's Bird City volunteer group is dedicated to helping migrating and native bird species thrive and prosper in the St. Croix Valley.

A description of the project, including location, activities, goals, timeline, and expected completion date (or is it for operational expenses?):

The William Street Bird Park is envisioned as a 5,000-square-foot lot donated to Sustainable Stillwater MN's (501c3) Bird City Stillwater group for educational purposes and ecosystem restoration. This area is directly under a flyway between the St. Croix River and McKusick Lake, where birds nest in the warmer months before flying south.

The site's uses will include educational programs and small group-engaging activities for all ages, rain gardening, citizen science projects, such as bird counts and school/youth projects, the setup of various feeding stations for different species, and the setup of birdcall listening devices and cameras from Cornell University with data collecting/citizen science projects. (The first such device has been installed here.)

Native trees/shrubs/perennials that are bird-friendly and pollinator-friendly will be planted in the spring since this space attracts many birds and is adjacent to the Laurel Street ravine, which is also one of the birding trails featured in our Sustainable Stillwater MN Birding Guide.

As part of a demonstration area, invasive plants like buckthorn, garlic mustard, and burdock root will be removed by SSMN volunteers in Phase 1 of a project starting this fall. Phase 2 will be installation of bird-friendly flora and paths. In alignment with the city code, no permanent structures would be built on the site.

The Washington County Watershed District has done the initial landscape plan for the site (see attached).

If approved, will these dollars be the sole funding mechanism for this project? If not, please list other partners and funders.

Sustainable Stillwater MN, with additional funds sought from The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union -- Savaloja Grants Program, Lawns to Legumes, and other sources to be determined.

Which of SPAS's priority focus areas does this project address?

This supports all of SPAS's priority focus areas.

- Environmental Education

- Habitat restoration, preservation, or expansion
- Supporting opportunities for birders and birding trip leaders
- Diversifying participation in birding and nature activities
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Is this a one-time request, or are future requests anticipated? (Include frequency):

Future annual requests are anticipated.

How will you determine whether the project is successful?

The habitat will be restored, individuals who participate will learn about protecting bird habitat, and the site will generate enthusiasm in the neighborhood for bird conservation.

Who will benefit from this project, and how will you measure these benefits?

Of course, migrating and native birds will benefit, but so will school children, volunteers, native plant landscaping educators, bird and pollinator educators, and the general public.

How can Saint Paul Audubon assist in the success of your project/organization?

Once the site is underway, we will ask for input, publicity, and ongoing financial support.

Approved by ___ Board ___ Committee Name _____ Amount: