

Greening Vermillion Newsletter

Issue 1

Summer 2017

Dear Friends and Fellow Vermillionaires:



Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Greening Vermillion newsletter! With this bi-annual newsletter, we aim to bring you the latest news and updates from your local sustainability group.

Who are we? Greening Vermillion is a nonprofit organization established in 2014 by several community members with the goals of encouraging social and economic growth in Vermillion while conserving our wealth of natural resources. We are currently working with the Vermillion and USD communities to make Vermillion the greenest town in South Dakota.

Want to know more? View the [Visioning Vermillion booklet](#) on [our website](#) to see what residents dream about for their future Vermillion.

Earth Days 2017

Our annual Earth Days celebration kicked off April 22 and ran through April 29 and featured a variety of events for the whole community. From hikes and movies to community service, this year we offered more events than ever before and we were excited to see hundreds of people participate!

Highlights:



Volunteers worked with the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River to begin building the anticipated Frost Trail. This eventual 2.2 mile public-access trail along the Missouri River will wander through relatively undisturbed river land and will be open to the public later this summer.



Volunteers clearing the new Frost Trail during the 2017 Earth Days.

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Earth Days Highlights Continued...



Dr. Sandra Steingraber, an internationally known biologist and author, presented the Earth Days keynote speech entitled ‘Toward an Unfractured Future: Science and Resistance in the Age of Fossil Fuels.’ The well-attended talk was sponsored by the USD Sustainability Program and accompanied by the art exhibition *Gradual Death* by Leila Ghasempor, which called attention to water use and plastic bottles.



The traditional Thursdays on the Platz turned green during Earth Days. Attendees connected with local green organizations and businesses all while enjoying music, food, and a beautiful evening with friends and neighbors

Earth Days 2017 exceeded our expectations and we’re already looking forward to next year. We hope you are, too. You can see a [complete list of Earth Days 2017](#) events at our website.



Adopt-a-Drain Campaign

HOW DO I BECOME A DRAIN SPONSOR?

- ◇ STENCILED DRAINS ARE \$25
- ◇ PAINTED DRAINS ARE \$100.
- ◇ EMAIL MORGAN CARNES (MORGANLCARNES@GMAIL.COM) OR CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

If you’ve been out and about in Vermillion and looked down at your feet, you may have noticed artwork adorning some of our storm drains. This is part of our Adopt-a-Drain campaign, an initiative bringing attention to pollution that finds its way to our rivers and streams through storm drains. Unlike the water that goes down your drain to the sewer, water that flows into storm drains is not treated and filtered for pollutants. Sponsors ‘adopt a drain’ and then we work with local artists to paint colorful, eye-catching designs. Check out our website for an [interactive map](#) showing the location of the drains, the artwork, and the names of our generous drain sponsors.



A painted drain at Austin Elementary School.

Green Alerts!

Have you seen any greening lately in your community? Maybe you’ve started composting, your neighbor is using a rain barrel, or you notice new solar panels on a building. Whatever you may see, let us know about it! E-mail or message us photos and information on Facebook and we may feature them on our Facebook page and website.

Bring Your Bag Campaign

Plastic bags are a problem. Often used only once before they are discarded, these environmental menaces can have a lifespan of up to 1,000 years. In speaking with our local landfill manager, plastic bags are one of the biggest problems for the landfill. To combat this, we started the Bring Your Bag Campaign. Greening Vermillion purchased reusable shopping bags and we are providing them to the community at no cost. We hope to encourage citizens, businesses, and government organizations to use reusable shopping bags instead of plastics.



Board Chair Meghann Jarchow and family with their reusable bag from the Bring Your Bag campaign.

Where can I get a bag? You can pick up one of our distinctive green bags FREE from the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce. While there, don't forget to pick up a Bring Your Bag sticker, too!

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE!

Last year, Vermillion saved 111,388 plastic bags from the landfill by using reusable bags at our local Hy-Vee, where you get 5 cents back for every reusable bag they fill with groceries. We're challenging the community to increase the number of bags saved by 10% by 2018!

The Art of Sustainability

On October 21 and 22, Greening Vermillion will host the 6th annual Art of Sustainability celebration. This event helps to bridge sustainability and the arts by demonstrating the ways in which artists sustain communities as well as how sustainability is, in itself, an art.

This year, the event will be focused on the Missouri River and the ways that we protect, enjoy, and respect this precious resource. The celebration will begin on Saturday with a walk on the new Frost Trail, which ends at the river. Artists and non-artists alike can walk the new trail with cameras and sketchpads in hand to explore the river through an artistic lens.

The following day, Saturday's hikers and other community artists will showcase their river-themed art to the public at the Washington Street Arts Center, where we will enjoy a potluck and hear talks by local speakers about the Missouri River. We will then have a community planning session to begin collecting ideas for murals and storm drains featuring images of our magnificent river to place around town.

More detailed information about this event will be available on our website in the coming months. We hope you're able to join us for this wonderful annual event!



GREENING VERMILLION

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Your Greening Vermillion Board of Directors

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Maggie Pettersen - Vice Chair
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We're on the Web!

www.greeningvermillion.org

Facebook.com/greeningvermillion



FRIENDS OF GREENING VERMILLION

Like what you see? Want to help? Consider becoming a Friend of Greening Vermillion! With your \$25 donation, you'll receive one of our reusable bags and a window cling for your vehicle or business to show your support. In addition, we'll add you to our mailing list so you can receive Greening Vermillion updates and opportunities to volunteer. For more information or to become a Friend, please visit [our website](#) or fill out the form below.

Yes! I want to become a Friend!

Please enclose this form + \$25 and mail to: Greening Vermillion, PO Box 146 Vermillion, SD 57069



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____