

# 2026-2027 Sustainability Events

Items in various colored text generally means some details are still being finalized and/or the event is tentative.

This event schedule and linked posters are all also accessible in this [Event Schedules & Posters Google Folder](#).

## September

| Date & Time:                                  | Event Name & Description:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Location:                                                   | Notes:                                                                                       |
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| Monday, September 7<br>9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | <b>Volunteering at Grow To Share Community Gardens</b><br>Join the Sustainability Office and volunteer at the Grow To Share community gardens! Grow To Share is a local non-profit with a mission to facilitate a volunteer-based collaborative garden, promote experiential learning, foster healthy & sustainable community, and share the harvest. Wear close toed shoes and comfortable clothing appropriate for working in a garden and for the weather – layers are good! Bring a water bottle. Transportation will be provided from campus to and from Grow To Share or you can meet us at the gardens located to the north of the ball field at Hoffman Park. Address is 547 Hanson Drive, River Falls. Contact <a href="mailto:sustainability@uwrf.edu">sustainability@uwrf.edu</a> with questions. | Grow to Share Community Gardens                             | Event Poster - <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a><br><br><a href="#">Sign up here</a> |
| Tuesday, September 8<br>4:00-6:00 p.m.        | <b>Sustainability Kickoff</b><br>Join us for a fun, informal event to connect with sustainability on campus! Enjoy free food, paint a pot, and pick a plant to take home while supplies last. Meet the Sustainability Office, student organizations, employee, and community groups working to make our campus more sustainable. There will be yard games, conversation, and fun!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Amphitheater<br>(222 North Hall is the backup weather site) | Event Poster - <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a>                                     |
| Tuesday, Sept. 15<br>3:00-6:00 p.m.           | <b>Documentary filmmaker to discuss regenerative grazing at UW-River Falls</b><br>Documentary filmmaker Peter Byck will discuss his documentary series, <a href="#">“Roots So Deep,”</a> and present an abridged screening The event is free and open to the public. Byck will be joined by Jason Rowntree, a professor in Michigan State University’s Department of Animal Science and co-director of the Center for Regenerative Agriculture, one of the key researchers featured in the series.<br>Byck describes “Roots So Deep” as “a four-part documentary series all about inventive farmers and maverick scientists building a path to solving climate                                                                                                                                               | University Center<br>Kinnickinnic Theater                   |                                                                                              |

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|                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>change with hooves, heart and soil.” The series investigates adaptive multi-paddock grazing, which mimics the way bison once roamed the land, as a way to restore depleted soils, rebuild wildlife habitat and draw down large amounts of carbon in the atmosphere, all while improving farmers’ financial bottom lines.</p> <p>Coordinated through CAFES, not the Sustainability Office.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                        |                                                          |
| <p>Thursdays from<br/>1:00-2:00 p.m. on:<br/>September 17<br/>September 24<br/>October 1<br/>October 8<br/>October 29<br/>November 5<br/>November 12<br/>November 19</p> | <p><b>Eco-Anxiety Group</b><br/>Sign up required. Open to all students. This group aims to unite students with a passion for the Earth and concerns about climate change, fostering mindfulness, joy, and the exploration of radical imagination. Together, we will transform anxiety into resilience and build a supportive community. This group will include 8 sessions, one hour per week. Limit of 8 participants and it is expected that people participate in ALL 8 sessions. Contact Jennifer Herink (<a href="mailto:jennifer.herink@uwrf.edu">jennifer.herink@uwrf.edu</a>) to sign up.</p>     | Student Health & Counseling                                                                            | Event Poster - <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a> |
| <p>Friday, September 18<br/>10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.</p>                                                                                                                     | <p><b>Park(ing) Day</b><br/>The Green Team and Falcon Outdoor Adventures is hosting Park(ing) Day! They will be turning a parking space into a micro-park highlighting how space used to store cars can be used in more productive ways, like recreation! Stop by as you are able from 10 am – 2pm, in B Lot by South Hall for some popcorn, parking trivia, yard games, &amp; to just chill out in the newest, and most temporary, park on campus.</p>                                                                                                                                                   | South Hall Parking Lot                                                                                 | Event Poster - <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a> |
| <p>Monday, September 21 - Friday, September 25</p>                                                                                                                       | <p><b>Watershed Week!</b><br/>Watershed Week is a week-long celebration of the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River featuring one event each day. Participants can choose from a variety of hands-on volunteer activities, demonstrations, and field experiences that explore water quality, habitat restoration, native plants, and other watershed topics while making a positive impact on the river corridor. Watershed Week is funded in part by an Environmental Grant from the St. Croix Valley Foundation, awarded to UWRF for the South Fork Living Laboratory &amp; Stewardship Initiative.</p> | Varies Each Day - See below for details!                                                               | Event Poster - <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a> |
| <p>Monday, September 21<br/>10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</p>                                                                                                                  | <p><b>Bee &amp; Tree Campus Efforts</b><br/>Part of the Sustainability &amp; Snacks Series (formerly the Sustainability Brown Bag Series)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | University Center St. Croix River Room, #321, or virtual via <a href="#">this Microsoft Teams link</a> |                                                          |

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|                                           | Learn how UWRF earned recognition as both a Bee Campus USA and Tree Campus Higher Education institution and what these designations mean for our campus. We'll explore the history behind these efforts, share results from our recent campus survey, highlight current initiatives, and discuss how students, employees, and community members can help support a healthier, more resilient campus landscape. Light snacks provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                         |
| Tuesday, September 22<br>3:30-5:30 p.m.   | <b>Water Monitoring &amp; Habitat Assessment Volunteer Opportunity</b><br>Join us for a hands-on service activity along the river and its surrounding grounds. Together we'll monitor water quality, assess habitat conditions, and document the plants, wildlife, and other features that contribute to a healthy ecosystem. No experience needed. Training and supplies provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Bridge by Amphitheater                                                                                                    | Fall Semester Sustainability Volunteer Opportunities Poster - <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a><br><a href="#">Sign Up here</a> |
| Wednesday, September 23<br>2:00-4:00 p.m. | <b>Watershed Discussion and Tours</b><br>Stop by anytime between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. to explore interactive watershed models and chat with watershed experts. Guided campus watershed tours will depart from the amphitheater shortly after 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Each tour lasts approximately 30–45 minutes, includes a short walk, and provides plenty of time for questions and discussion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Bridge by Amphitheater                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                         |
| Thursday, September 24<br>6:30 p.m.       | <b>Sustainable Landscapes; Back Yard to Back Forty</b><br>Part of the Sustainability Speakers Series<br><b>Presenters: Margaret Smith, Master Gardeners; and Aleisha Miller, Kinnickinnic River Land Trust</b><br>Want a beautiful landscape filled with birds and butterflies, less lawn to mow and water, and healthier waterways? Learn how you can support biodiversity and create more sustainable spaces wherever you are, from the back forty along the river to your back yard, porch, or balcony. These ideas can also be applied to the green spaces around churches, businesses, and schools. Come learn why these choices matter and how you can put them into practice wherever you live, work, learn, or gather. | In-Person at the River Falls Public Library or virtual through the River Falls Public Library Facebook and YouTube pages. | Event Poster <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a> & <a href="#">Digital Display</a>                                                |
| Friday, September 25,<br>8:30 a.m.        | <b>Birding Walk</b><br>Sponsored by the St. Croix Valley Bird Club & the UWRF Sustainability Office. Explore the sights and sounds of campus on a guided birding walk! We'll look for a variety of local species while enjoying the natural beauty around us. No experience needed. Please wear weather-appropriate clothing and shoes, and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Bridge by Amphitheater                                                                                                    | Event Poster - <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a>                                                                                |

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|                                                   | bring binoculars if you have them - 10 pairs of binoculars will be available to share.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                |                                                           |
| Saturday, September 26<br>10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | <b>Presentation: Sparrows: Identifying &amp; Appreciating the Underappreciated</b><br>Hosted by the St. Croix Valley Bird Club<br>Presented by Alyssa DeRubeis who has worked and volunteered in Alaska, Alberta, Belize, New Mexico, Ontario, Quebec, Texas, and most recently, Long Island, collecting data on two imperiled sparrow species. Alyssa is thrilled to share some pointers on how to find and identify 20 species of the Sparrow Family in our area. | North Hall Auditorium,<br>#222 | Event Poster - <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">JPEG</a> |

## October

| Date & Time:                                                  | Event Name & Description:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Location:                           | Notes:                                                                                                                                      |
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| October 1 – 31                                                | <b>50% Off Deal for Students With Their Student ID at The Closet</b><br>In celebration of Campus Sustainability Month, The Closet is offering 50% off for students presenting their UWRF ID through the end of the month!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | The Closet at Our Neighbors Place   |                                                                                                                                             |
| Tuesday, October 6<br>3:30-5:00 p.m.<br>Pizza Party to Follow | <b>Nature Walk &amp; Seed Collection Volunteer Event</b><br>Volunteers needed to help collect native plant seeds from around campus while enjoying a guided nature walk! Learn about the plants and their role in supporting a healthy ecosystem. No experience needed. Training and supplies provided. Pizza party to follow sponsored by the Bee Club.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | UC Firepit (South side of building) | Fall Semester Sustainability Volunteer Opportunities Poster - <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a><br><br><a href="#">Sign Up here</a> |
| Wednesday, October 7<br>4:30 - 6:30 p.m.                      | <b>River Falls Energy &amp; Housing Resource Expo: Save Energy, Save Money!</b><br><i>Featuring a special presentation on residential rebates and resources from Focus on Energy, brought to you by RFMU.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Light snacks and refreshments provided</li> <li>● Kid-friendly activity (coloring page and pencils)</li> <li>● Raffle to win a <a href="#">Home Energy Monitor</a></li> <li>● 4:30 – 5:30 pm – Trade Ally and energy org booths open</li> <li>● 5:30 – 6:30 pm – Presentation by RFMU and Focus on Energy</li> </ul> | River Falls Public Library          |                                                                                                                                             |
| Saturday, October 10<br>10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.                  | <b>Grow To Share Fall Fest Volunteer Opportunity</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Grow to Share Community Gardens     | Fall Semester Sustainability                                                                                                                |

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|                                                 | Join the Sustainability Office and volunteer at the Grow To Share community gardens! Grow To Share is a local non-profit with a mission to facilitate a volunteer-based collaborative garden, promote experiential learning, foster healthy & sustainable community, and share the harvest. This volunteer opportunity is also during the Grow To Share Fall Fest so there will be food, drinks, and entertainment! Transportation will be provided from campus to and from Grow To Share or you can meet us at the gardens located to the north of the ball field at Hoffman Park. Address is 547 Hanson Drive, River Falls. Contact <a href="mailto:sustainability@uwrf.edu">sustainability@uwrf.edu</a> with questions. |                                                                                                              | Volunteer Opportunities Poster - <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a><br><br><a href="#">Sign Up here</a>                              |
| Monday, October 12<br>12:00-1:00 p.m.           | <b>Sustainability Efforts In Facilities Management</b><br>Part of the Sustainability & Snacks Series (formerly the Sustainability Brown Bag Series)<br>What does it take to keep a university campus running, and where does sustainability fit in? Hear from UWRF Facilities Management about energy-saving projects, waste diversion, surplus property and reuse, stormwater management, and sustainable features of the Sci Tech building. Learn how these projects and practices contribute to sustainability at UWRF and how choices related to buildings, energy, water, and waste can make a difference on campus. Light snacks provided.                                                                           | University Center St.<br>Croix River Room, #321,<br>or virtual via <a href="#">this Microsoft Teams link</a> |                                                                                                                                             |
| Tuesday, October 13<br>3:30-5:30 p.m.           | <b>Rain Garden Maintenance Volunteer Event</b><br>Join the Sustainability Office for a hands-on volunteer event maintaining a rain garden. Activities may include weeding, dividing plants, trimming vegetation, and other seasonal tasks. No experience is necessary, and all tools and supplies will be provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Meet in 215 North Hall                                                                                       | Fall Semester Sustainability Volunteer Opportunities Poster - <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a><br><br><a href="#">Sign Up here</a> |
| Saturday, October 17<br>10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | <b>Bird Club Presentation by Richard Doll, a Purple Martin expert with the Purple Martin Working Group</b><br>Hosted by the St. Croix Valley Bird Club.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | North Hall Auditorium,<br>#222                                                                               |                                                                                                                                             |
| Monday, October 19<br>6:30 p.m.                 | <b>Environmental and Health Harms of AI Data Centers in Wisconsin</b> - Part of the Sustainability Speakers Series<br>A look at the impacts of current AI data center projects in Wisconsin on our air, water, land and energy systems.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>VIRTUAL ONLY</b> through the River Falls Public Library Facebook and YouTube pages.                       | Event Poster <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a> & <a href="#">Digital Display</a>                                                    |

## November

| Date & Time:                                  | Event Name & Description:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Location:                                                                                              | Notes:                                                                                                                                      |
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| Monday, November 2<br>3:30-5:30 p.m.          | <b>Rain Garden Maintenance Volunteer Event</b><br>Join the Sustainability Office for a hands-on volunteer event maintaining a rain garden. Activities may include weeding, dividing plants, trimming vegetation, and other seasonal tasks. No experience is necessary, & all tools and supplies will be provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Meet in 215 North Hall                                                                                 | Fall Semester Sustainability Volunteer Opportunities Poster - <a href="#">PDF</a> & <a href="#">PNG</a><br><br><a href="#">Sign Up here</a> |
| Friday, November 13<br>12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | <b>What If We Get It Right Book Discussion</b><br>All UWRF employees and students are invited to participate in a campus Common Read of <a href="#">What If We Get It Right?</a> by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, a hopeful and inspiring exploration of climate solutions that invites readers to imagine and help create a more just, resilient, and sustainable future. Participants will receive a complimentary copy of the book and are encouraged to attend at least one of three discussion sessions offered throughout the academic year. <a href="#">Register for the What If We Get It Right? Common Read</a> . Attendees will receive a voucher to get lunch in Riverside Commons.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | University Center Falls Room, #004                                                                     | <a href="#">Register for the What If We Get It Right? Common Read</a>                                                                       |
| Monday, November 16,<br>1:00-2:00 p.m         | <b>Forever Chemicals (PFAS), Advocacy, And the Power of One Voice</b><br>Part of the Sustainability & Snacks Series (formerly the Sustainability Brown Bag Series)<br>What happens when a deeply personal experience becomes a catalyst for change? Join Michael and Dana Strande for a conversation about their daughter Amara, the impact PFAS had on her life, and the advocacy inspired by her story. Michael and Dana will share their family's experience, the journey that led to the passage of Amara's Law in Minnesota, and the work that continues today. More than a presentation, this event will be an opportunity for conversation about advocacy, awareness, and how individuals and communities can help create meaningful change. Please note - this event will include discussion of serious illness, the loss of a loved one, and other potentially emotional aspects of Amara's story.<br>Light snacks provided | University Center St. Croix River Room, #321, or virtual via <a href="#">this Microsoft Teams link</a> |                                                                                                                                             |

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| Saturday, November 21<br>10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | <b>Bird Club Presentation: Topic TBD</b><br>Hosted by the St. Croix Valley Bird Club | North Hall Auditorium,<br>#222 |  |
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## December

| Date & Time:                                   | Event Name & Description:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Location:                                                                                                                 | Notes: |
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| Tuesday, December 1<br>4:00-6:30 p.m.          | <b>URSCA Fall Gala</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | University Center<br>Ballroom                                                                                             |        |
| Thursday, December 3<br>6:30 p.m.              | <b>Intentional Development - from Data Centers to Local Foods: How communities can prepare for, engage with, and interact with development to direct it towards their values</b><br>Part of the Sustainability Speakers Series<br>A presentation on how rural communities are being impacted by corporate development such as data centers and how they can try to prepare for and leverage proposed development to meet their needs with an emphasis on resilient local food systems. Presented by Tara Greiman, Wisconsin Farmers Union Director of Conservation and Stewardship | In-Person at the River Falls Public Library or virtual through the River Falls Public Library Facebook and YouTube pages. |        |
| Tuesday, December 8<br>2:00-3:00 p.m.          | <b>Climate Action &amp; Resiliency Student Presentations</b><br>Part of the Sustainability & Snacks Series (formerly the Sustainability Brown Bag Series)<br>Students from the Environmental Sustainability 220 course will be presenting the results of their semester-long projects identifying climate action and resiliency opportunities on campus in the sectors of energy, waste, and water.                                                                                                                                                                                | University Center<br>Kinnickinnic Theater<br>*in-person only                                                              |        |
| Tuesday, December 15<br>9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | <b>Biochar Demo &amp; Volunteer Opportunity</b><br>Join us for a hands-on volunteer opportunity to help move and load brush and wood into a biochar kiln, then watch the biochar production process in action. Along the way, learn about biochar and UWRF's forest management efforts. S'mores and hot cocoa will be provided. This event will take place outdoors, so please dress for the weather. You'll be able to warm up around the fire, but winter clothing and sturdy footwear are recommended.                                                                          | Between School Forest 1<br>and Campus Lab Farm                                                                            |        |

**\*\*\*More events will be added as additional events and details are finalized\*\*\***