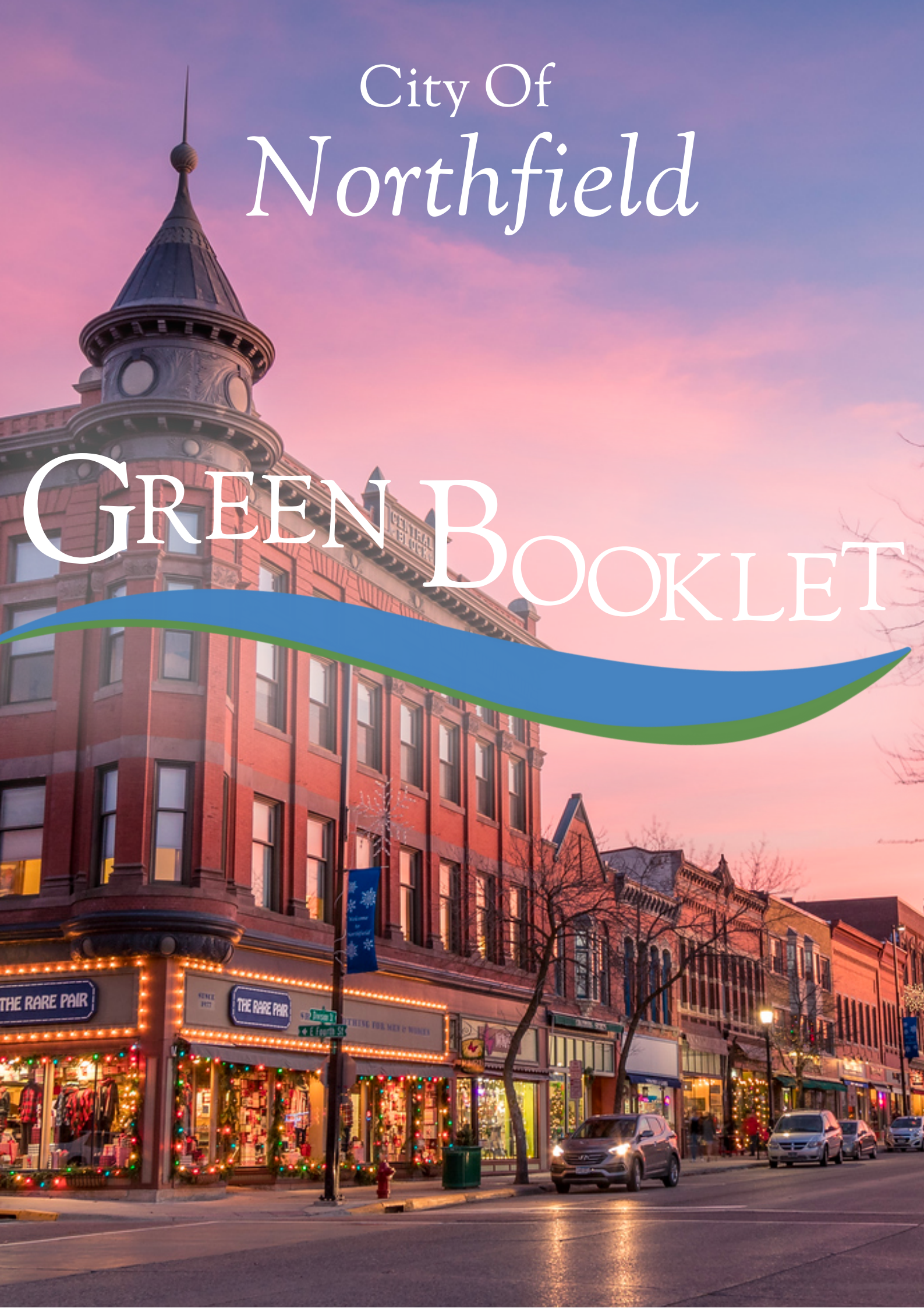


City Of  
*Northfield*

GREEN BOOKLET



# Welcome to Northfield's Green Welcome Booklet!

Our planet is facing a critical time, where the impact of human activities on the environment is becoming increasingly evident. Climate change, habitat loss, extinction, deforestation, air pollution, and plastic waste represents some of the major challenges that our world is facing. It's important for us to understand the impact of our actions on the environment and take steps towards a more sustainable future.

This booklet provides you with an overview of some of the most pressing environmental issues, as well as practical tips and solutions that can help us reduce our environmental footprint. We hope that this information will inspire you to take action and make a positive impact on the planet.

By educating ourselves and taking small steps towards a more sustainable lifestyle, we all play a role in protecting our planet and preserving it for future generations. So let's dive in and learn more about how we can make a difference!

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# Recyclable Items



Paper



Metal



Plastic



Glass

remove any lids or caps before recycling

Making sure you recycle the right materials ensures that your recycling doesn't end up as garbage, as contaminated recycling can no longer be recycled.

This includes any food waste or residue, so make sure you

**empty and clean any containers that were used for food.**

This also means you cannot recycle greasy pizza boxes; those can go into the compost or garbage.

Any plastic with this symbol



labeled 1-7 can be recycled. You can also leave the lids or caps on plastic containers.



Plastic Bags



Shredded Paper



Styrofoam



Clothing or Linens

# Unacceptable Items



Bottle Caps



Batteries



Hoses, Wires, or Chains



Pizza Boxes



Oil and Oil Filters



# Composting



## Curbside

A subscription-based composting program is offered to the residents of Northfield. You pay what you can afford and they will bring you a bucket to put your compost in. Once a week you can leave it on the curb and Curbside Compost Co-op will pick it up.

### Can Compost:



Food Waste



Food-Soiled Paper



Plant Trimmings

### Can NOT Compost:



Pet Waste



Recyclable items like plastic, glass, or metal



Diapers



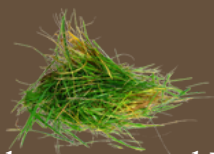
Styrofoam

## Composting Site

At the City's composting site, you can drop off your yard waste, or you can sign up for a service that will pick it up from your house (this service runs from spring to fall).



Sticks and Branches



Grass Clippings and Weeds



Leaves



Mulch



Plants and Flowers

### Hours

Monday, closed  
Tuesday - Friday, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. (or sunset)  
Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or sunset)  
Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. (or sunset)  
Holidays, closed

### Address

Northfield Compost Site  
1801 Armstrong Road  
Northfield, MN 55057

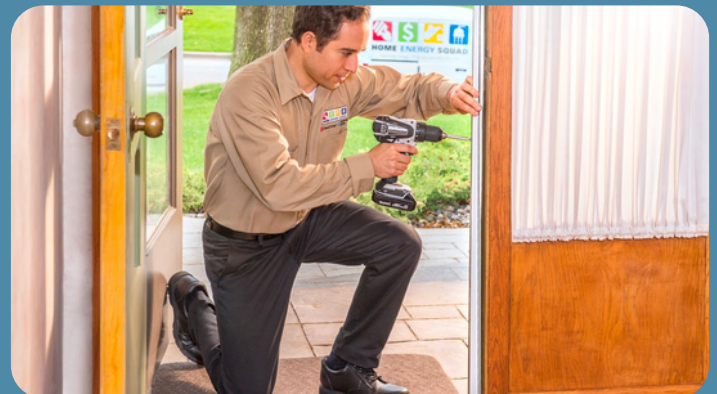
# Home Energy Audits

## Energy Conservation Tips



- Turn off lights when leaving a room
- Switch to energy efficient appliances as able
- Use LED lights
- Unplug devices when not in use
- Cook with a lid on
- Do laundry at a cold temperature
- Use solar powered devices
- Use sunlight to your advantage

Home Energy Audits are a great tool to reduce your home's energy use and discover how to conserve energy in your household. The purpose of a home energy audit is to identify energy-saving opportunities in your household. An audit will provide a report with specific energy efficiency assessments and recommendations for your household. Whether you own or rent a home, there are ways to change your behavior to save energy and money.



Home Energy Squad, a program with Xcel Energy, offers free virtual visits to find energy saving opportunities for your home. In addition, they offer \$70 Energy Saver Visits for newer homes (built in 2000 and after), mobile homes, condos, and renters. For older homes, they offer \$100 Energy Planner Visits, recommended for homes built before 2000.



# Reducing Plastic Usage



Reducing the use of plastic bags is a significant concern in Northfield, as the majority of these bags typically end up in landfills, with only a small percentage being recycled. While plastic is undoubtedly detrimental, a ban on plastic bags may not be the optimal solution for curbing pollution and reducing carbon emissions. Therefore, a more appropriate approach would be to decrease our daily reliance on plastic.

## How can we reduce our plastic bag usage?

Discovering the history of plastic and gaining a broader understanding of its impact can motivate us to make individual changes. By becoming familiar with the origins of plastic, we can develop a greater awareness of the various environmental and health concerns associated with its use, making us less inclined to rely on it.



By using reusable shopping bags, you can reduce the number of plastic bags you bring home and potentially dissuade stores from producing them.

Certain grocery stores in the city, such as ALDI, have discontinued offering bags to shoppers and instead promote the use of reusable bags.

Performing a routine assessment of the plastic products in your household is crucial because it allows you to determine the amount of plastic you consume before reducing it.

To monitor your plastic usage, consider documenting all the plastic materials present in your home, followed by verifying which ones are recyclable with your local recycling program. You can then continue using the recyclable ones and seek eco-friendly substitutes for those that cannot be recycled

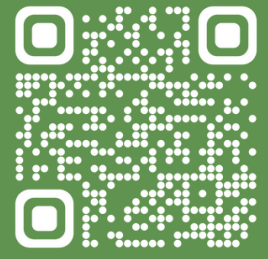


Take up the challenge to adopt a sustainable lifestyle this year by cooking meals at home more often. In the event that you need to order food or eat out, plan ahead to bring your own reusable containers and inform the establishment that you do not require any plastic cutlery.

Opting to shop for second-hand items can significantly reduce the demand for plastic as most new products come wrapped in plastic packaging. In contrast, pre-owned items are typically already unpackaged, resulting in a reduction of plastic waste. Purchasing second-hand clothing can also help curb the trend of fast fashion. Thrifty Parrot and Clothes Closet are popular places to shop for second-hand clothes in Northfield. Try other vintage boutiques for additional options.



# Earn Money By Going Green



The City of Northfield and its partners offer multiple incentives to make your home more efficient (both for the earth and your wallet). There are some rebates available for everyone such as Water Conservation Rebates, which you can get by installing high efficiency appliances in your home and filling out a form on the city website.

Consider ways to save water and beautify your yard with the Outdoor Water Use Rebate, which will give a \$20 credit on your utility bill after verification of the rain barrel installation. Similarly, the Landscaping Rebate can provide a rebate of up to \$250 for creating a garden that is good for allowing rainwater to infiltrate the soil rather than running off into the Cannon River system.



Family Size	80% of AMI Income Limits
1	\$62,600
2	\$71,550
3	\$80,500
4	\$89,400
5	\$96,600
6	\$103,750
7	\$110,900
8	\$118,050

In combination, you can utilize the statewide Native Plant Rebate Program, where you can get a utility credit bill for up to \$75.

The City of Northfield has committed to making Northfield carbon neutral by 2040.

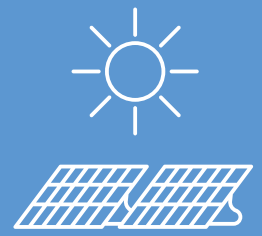
Xcel Energy provides primary funding for the program to all residential customers, and the City will match up to 50% of the Xcel rebates for households with incomes below 80% of the area median income (see table to the left). You can find available Xcel rebates for upgrading areas in your home on their website. It has a store locator with a price comparison tool. To apply for the rebate you only need a W-9 tax form and a form from the City website.

Business owners may be interested in the EDA Grants & Loans site on the City of Northfield Website, which has loan options for businesses that help save energy. In addition, there is the Inflation Reduction Act calculator which gets household rebates dependent on the zip code you live in.





# Wind & Solar Subscriptions



Wind and solar subscriptions refer to an energy service where customers can sign up to receive electricity from renewable sources, such as solar or wind power, rather than traditional fossil fuels.

Typically, customers pay a monthly subscription fee to their energy provider, Xcel Energy, who then purchases renewable energy credits (RECs) from wind or solar power plants on their behalf. These RECs represent the environmental attributes of the renewable energy produced, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions compared to traditional fossil fuels. By purchasing RECs, customers can support the growth of renewable energy while also receiving the benefits of clean energy in their homes or businesses.



## To get a solar or wind energy subscription with Xcel Energy, follow these general steps:

1. Visit the Xcel Energy website and navigate to the Clean Energy Programs section under the residential or business tab.
2. Review the different energy subscription options available to you. Xcel Energy may offer different levels of clean energy subscriptions or allow you to choose a specific clean energy project to support.
3. Determine the percentage of your energy usage that you would like to be powered by clean energy. This may depend on your budget and your commitment to renewable energy.  
A typical home using 750 kWh of electricity per month could be 100% Windsourced-powered for about \$4.50 more monthly. This cost is in addition to your current electric charges.
4. Fill out an online application.

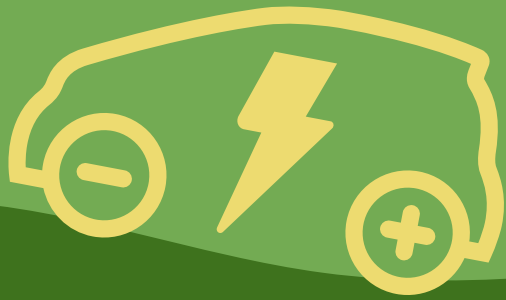
Install solar energy at your home or business: A performance-based incentive is offered for all Solar\*Rewards programs. Different incentive levels exist for residential, commercial, school, and income-qualified customers. Residential Systems have a performance incentive of \$0.02 per kWh.

# Electric Vehicles

## Benefits

Electric cars are more sustainable than traditional gasoline-powered cars because they have a much lower carbon footprint.

They emit significantly less greenhouse gases than gasoline cars, even when taking into account the indirect emissions from the production of electricity.



In addition to being better for the environment, electric cars also offer several economic benefits.

- Recharging an electric car cost less than refueling a gas vehicle
- The cost to maintain an EV is less as they don't need oil changes and have fewer moving parts
- There are often tax incentives for buying an EV

## Community Charging Locations

The St. Olaf College charging station is positioned at the far corner of the parking lot, adjacent to Kildahl Hall, at Buntrock Commons.

- Charge Point Station
- Dual Port
- Type 2 chargers
- Parking is free

### Fairfield Inn & Suites

114 2nd St W, Northfield

This charging station is located in their underground parking lot and is only available to guests of the hotel

- Parking is free
- Available 24/7

### Northfield Ford

1201 MN-3, Northfield

- One station with 1 plug
- Parking is free
- Available 24/7



Northfield Downtown Lot  
105 5th St E, Northfield

- Charge Point Station
- Dual Port
- Type 2 chargers
- Parking is free
- Available 24/7



Northfield 5th St Station  
50 Water St S, Northfield

- Charge Point Station
- Dual Port
- Type 2 chargers
- Parking is free
- Available 24/7

Carleton College  
40 Nevada St, Northfield  
Between James Hall and the  
Music and Drama Center

- Charge Point Station
- Dual Port
- Type 2 chargers
- Parking is free
- Available 24/7



Northfield Hospital  
2000 North Ave, Northfield  
On the emergency room side of the hospital

- Charge Point Station
- Dual Port
- Type 2 chargers
- Parking is free
- Available 24/7



# Getting Around

Northfield has many biking and walking paths that are great for both recreation and getting around town without a vehicle.

It's possible to walk or bike safely to any destination in town using trails, walking on sidewalks, or biking on designated on-street bike routes and other quiet residential streets.

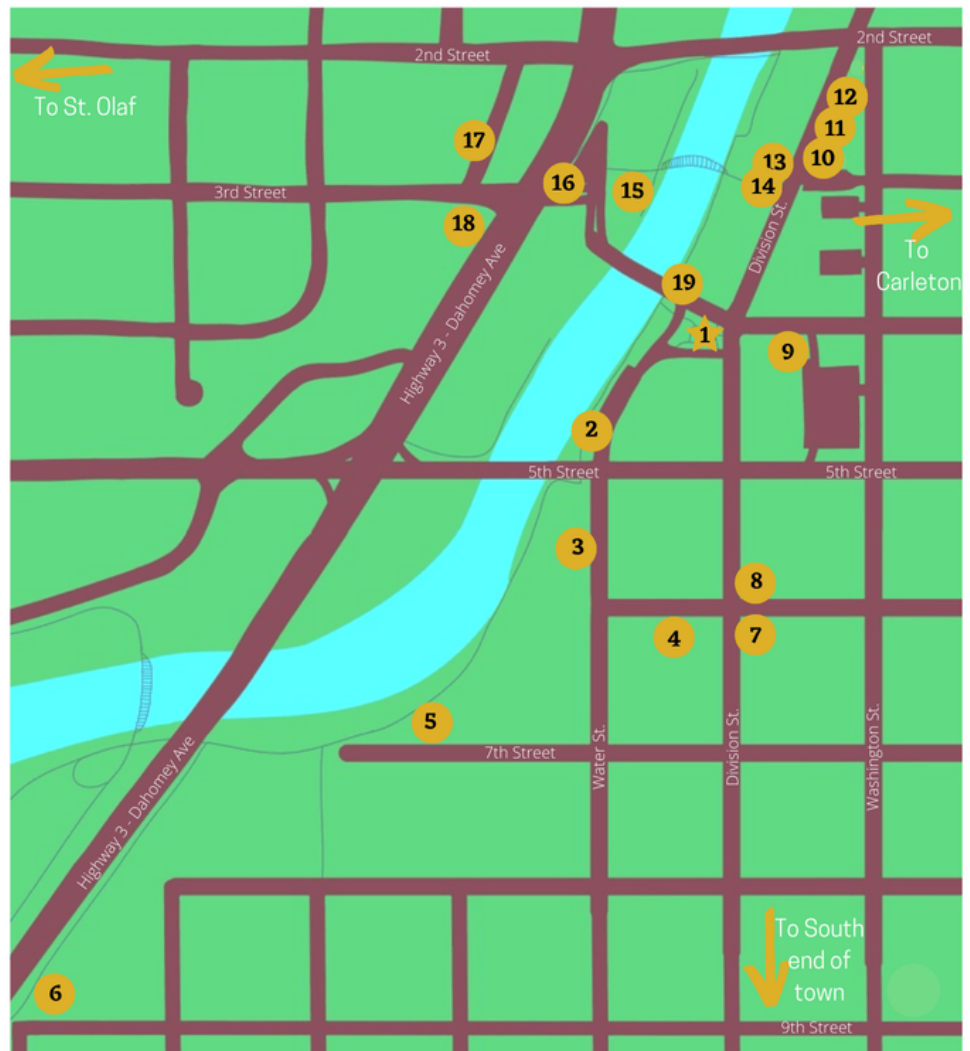
Members of the public enjoy free access to the great trails in the natural areas around both Carleton and St. Olaf Colleges. One can see many different native plants and animals throughout the seasons.



Take the downtown art walk to discover places that can connect you with local creators.

**This map provides a route to see Northfield's community artworks. The walking tour will take about one to two hours.**

1. **Anniversary Fountain**, Sculpture, Raymond Jacobson, 1980 **AND Civil War Monument**, Sculpture, 1921
2. **Harvest**, Sculpture, Raymond Jacobson, 2005
3. **Just Food Mural**, Rafael Estrella and Student Artists, 2021
4. **Key Mural**, members of the Key.
5. **Riverside Lions Park**, Garden Club Installation.
6. **Northfield Area Veterans Memorial**, Sculpture, Jeff Anderson, 2005
7. **Art Information Kiosk**, Sculpture, Rick Swearer and Howie Holt, 2019
8. **Spreading the Love**, Sculpture, Dale Lewis and Geralyn Thelan, 2020
9. **Love**, Mural, Brett Whitacre, 2019
10. **Young Sculptors Project (YSP)**, 2021
11. **Bookhead Dancers**, Sculpture, Jen Wolcott, 2008
12. **Literary Stairs**, Mural, Kathy Ness and Kate Woodstrup, 2021
13. **2nd St. Bridge**, Sculpture, Spencer Jones and Wade Kolbe, 2007
14. **5th St. Bridge Sculpture**, Sculpture, Spencer Jones and Wade Kolbe, 2007
15. **Threshold**, Sculpture, Kris Swanson, 2018
16. **Wanbil Mitakue Oyasin/We are all Related**, Sculpture, John Sterner, 2022
17. **Wind Piece**, Sculpture, John Maakestad **AND Tree**, Sculpture, by Nick Swearer, 1970
18. **Flame**, Sculpture, Nick Swearer, 1970
19. **Poetry Steps**, Mural, Collective effort, 2021



# Community Supported Agriculture



Community supported agriculture (CSA) programs connects the community directly with local farmers. These farms distribute fresh, healthy, and sustainably grown produce to consumers, while the public support the local farmers and promote community involvement in agriculture. By participating in a CSA, members have the opportunity to learn about the growing practices and challenges of local farmers and develop a deeper connection to the land and their community.

Members can buy a portion (or share) of a local farm's harvest by joining a CSA. You pay an initial fee in exchange for a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly box of fresh and seasonal items. Some CSA programs offer members the chance to work off their share by helping out on the farm. You might pick up your goods at the farm, a designated pick-up spot, or some CSAs even offer home delivery.

What you get in your share will vary depending on the farm and the season, and offerings typically include fruit and vegetables as well as baked goods, dairy, and eggs. Honey and flowers may be available too. Joining a CSA is a wonderful way to support local agriculture and buy fresh and affordable produce, but it is a big commitment. If you're new to purchasing local foods, you may want to start by shopping at the local farmers' market or farm stand weekly before signing up for a CSA. You'll still reap all the benefits of local (and fresh!) foods and help support the community

VISIT CANNON VALLEY GROWN TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT YOUR ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL  
FARMERS.





# Benefits of Participating in a CSA



Access to fresh, locally grown produce. Your produce is harvested at its peak ripeness, resulting in better flavor and nutritional value.



You're supporting your local farmers. CSAs provide local farmers with a stable income source and help build robust and sustainable food systems. By purchasing a share of the farm's harvest in advance, CSA members provide farmers with the financial resources they need to invest in their farms and grow their businesses.

It builds community. CSA programs promote community involvement in agriculture by connecting consumers directly with farmers. By participating in a CSA, you can learn about the growing practices and challenges of local farmers and develop a deep connection to the land and your community.

CSAs promote environmentally sustainable agriculture practices by reducing the distance food travels from farm to plate. By eating locally grown produce, you reduce the carbon footprint associated with transportation and support farmers who use environmentally sustainable growing practices.

# Farmers Markets

Farmers markets are an excellent way to directly support local agriculture in the community and try new things!

Northfield has two local farmers markets offering fresh, seasonal produce, flowers, and art.



The Northfield Farmers Market can be found in Riverside Park.

Open seasonally from mid-May to October  
Tuesdays and Fridays, 11:45 am to 1:00 pm  
Saturdays, 9-11 am

The Riverwalk market in Bridge Square

Available mid-May to mid-October  
Saturdays, 9 am to 1 pm

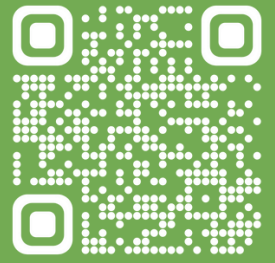


In the winter months, Northfield offers a Riverwalk Winter Market with locally grown produce, fine arts, and various entertainment.

Available on the first Saturday of the month,  
from November to April  
with a special market during Winter  
Walk



# No Mow May



”No Mow May” encourages people to refrain from mowing their lawns for the entire month of May.

This campaign aims to create a habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects and raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and the role that individual actions can play in supporting it.



By letting the grass grow and allowing wildflowers to bloom, we can provide a food source and habitat for bees, butterflies, and other important pollinators.

These insects are critical to the health of our ecosystems and play a crucial role in pollinating the plants that provide us with food, fiber, and medicine.

So if you want to do your part to support pollinators and other important insects, consider participating in No Mow May this year!





# Earth Day



Earth Day is an annual event held on a Saturday in April, which aims to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainable actions to protect our planet. Northfield communities and organizations organize events and activities to celebrate Earth Day, such as educational workshops, environmental cleanups, tree plantings, a local market, and an eco fair. For more information, visit Northfield's Earth Day Website.



Northfield's Earth Day serves as a chance for community-building activities and a way to inspire neighbors to make environmentally conscious choices. Earth Day is also a celebration of how far Northfield has come in sustainability efforts.

Previous events include candle making, yoga, arts and crafts as well as a host of workshops such as composting workshops, tree planting, and sustainable farming practices.



# Shred Right Event

The Shred Right event offers secure document shredding services. The Shred Right event is typically organized by a local organization in partnership with Shred Right, a Minnesota-based document shredding company. The event allows people to bring their confidential documents to a designated location to watch as the records are securely shredded on-site to protect sensitive information and prevent identity theft.



The Shred Right event may also offer other services, such as electronic waste recycling, where people can safely dispose of their old electronics and prevent harmful materials from entering the environment. The Shred Right event is an important initiative that helps protect personal and sensitive information while promoting environmental sustainability by ensuring that paper and electronic waste are properly disposed of and recycled.

# Fun Facts



The two colleges in Northfield are making great efforts to be carbon neutral.

St. Olaf College's solar subscriptions and energy produced by its wind turbine, Big Ole, have allowed it to achieve 100% carbon-free electrical power.

Carleton College has set a goal to be completely carbon-free by 2050. However, they are well ahead of this goal and have reduced its emissions by 58% since 2008.

Northfield has 35 city parks consisting of over 400 acres.

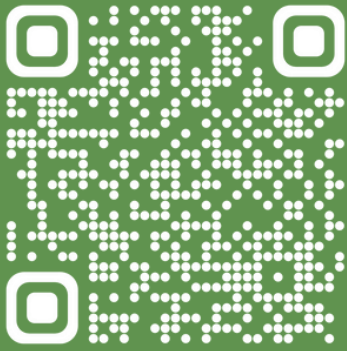
There's also the adopt a park program so you can get more involved

Northfield is a part of the native habitat of the rare Rusty Patched Bumble Bee

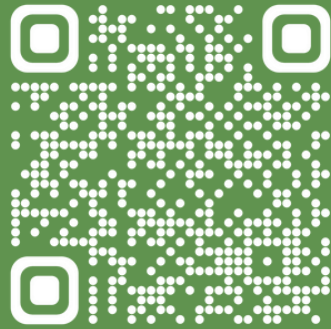


The only native trout stream in the county, Heath Creek, is located in Northfield

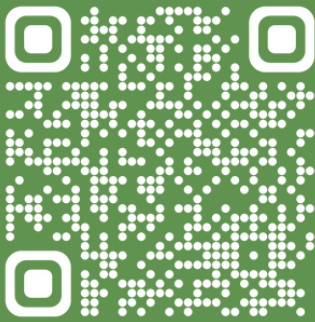




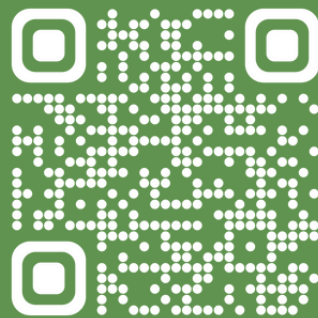
Page 6  
Water Conservation  
Rebate



Page 6  
Rain Barrel Rebate



Page 6  
Energy Efficiency  
Rebate



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EDA Grants & Loans



