

St. Paul Planning Commission  
15 Kellogg Blvd. West  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

January 17, 2023

**Re: Support of proposed Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) ordinance**

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on St. Paul's proposed Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) ordinance. Local communities have great power to incorporate bird-friendly designs and practices intended to keep birds safer while flying, particularly during migration.

Audubon Minnesota is a regional office of the National Audubon Society, a nonprofit conservation organization. Approximately 10,000 of our members live in Saint Paul. Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. Audubon Minnesota believes that what is good for birds is good for people, including healthy habitats and clean water and air. We deliver conservation results by focusing on three program areas supported by science, education, and advocacy:

- [Urban Conservation](#). Audubon Minnesota engages people to improve the habitat where they live and work and to advocate for bird-friendly practices in their communities.
- [River and Forest Conservation](#). Audubon Minnesota reduces wetland degradation, agricultural runoff, and loss of native forest habitat to invasive species.
- [Prairie & Grassland Conservation](#). Audubon Minnesota's work ensures that our state continues to be a stronghold for birds.

[The Saint Paul Audubon Society](#), founded in 1945, is an independent chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Every year, billions of birds set out on their migration paths, usually navigating with the stars and night sky. However, they can become disoriented by bright artificial lights and skyglow from big cities they pass along their way. These lights often cause birds to collide with buildings or windows, while others drawn to the glow are left confused, exhausted, and therefore exposed to other urban threats. Incorporating bird-friendly design such as glass treatments in addition to turning off bright lights helps birds return to their flight routes and drastically reduces the number of unnecessary bird fatalities.

The National Audubon Society's recently released [Survival by Degrees report](#) paints a dire picture for the future of birds: More than 150 species in Minnesota are threatened by impacts of changes to Minnesota's weather patterns. A recent [study from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) also found a staggering loss of birds. **North American bird populations have declined by 29% since 1970.** These population declines are tied to reductions in habitat quality associated with the conversion of native habitats to agriculture or human-dominated landscapes and to increased mortality from collisions with human structures, especially in urban environments. In response to these declines, it is critical that we take every action possible to support Minnesota's bird populations. We are fortunate to live in a flyway, utilized by 60% of all North American migratory bird species, where birds are naturally concentrated as they follow the river. Unfortunately, the Twin Cities is among the ten most dangerous cities for migratory birds (6<sup>th</sup> in spring migration and 7<sup>th</sup> during fall migration). Saint Paul's location along the Mississippi River migratory flyway offers both great opportunity and responsibility.

Bird-safe building practices, including lighting, siting, and glass guidelines, are proven to decrease impacts on migratory birds. By including bird-friendly practices in local ordinances, particularly in critical areas such as the Mississippi River flyway, we can help birds in the face of climate change, urban development, and other threats. Thank you for being a leader in supporting a flyway that serves both people and wildlife.

Sincerely,



Rob Schultz  
Vice President of Audubon MN IA MN  
[Audubon Minnesota](#)

Greg Burnes  
President  
[St. Paul Audubon Society](#)

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Amy <amyljacky@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 1:06 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Mississippi as a bird corridor

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

Good afternoon. I work during the day and can't attend the Jan 20th meeting to offer my support including bird safe glass in new construction but I'm thrilled!!

I emailed with a new RC climate specialist already hired (Abi) and hear RC or STP might hire a soil specialist and a fellow to protect urban trees?!!

I'm delighted and thrilled that leadership is taking steps to protect our wildlife. We live on a major flyway in the Cities. We are collectively increasing our stewardship, together!

Many thanks,  
Amy Jacky  
214 Kennard St N, St Paul, MN 55106

## **Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Anne Kaplan <anne5kaplan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 1:40 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

Planning Commissioners:

I write to heartily support the proposed critical area ordinance. Enacting the ordinance will score a win-win-win for developers, the river, and our birds.

Requiring non-reflective, bird-safe glass in structures along the river is of critical importance. Throughout migratory bird season 2022, I was one of a group of volunteers that shared the daily task of walking the perimeter of the beautiful and majestic Minnesota State Senate building. The task was to tally and remove the corpses of birds that had died from colliding with the large, beautiful, and highly reflective windows. Even on overcast, rainy days, those windows reflected trees and bushes that looked absolutely real.

In this and other matters of the natural world, it makes so much more sense to mandate protections beforehand than to remediate problems afterward.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Anne Kaplan  
St. Paul



## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Anne Kaplan <anne5kaplan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 12:20 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Thank you for the speedy acknowledgement.

My address:  
1494 Chatsworth St. N.  
St. Paul 55117

On Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 10:49 AM Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Ms. Kaplan:

Thank you for your comment regarding the upcoming public hearing on the MRCCA zoning amendments. Community input is an important part of the process. In order for your written testimony to be included in the public record we will need your address. Please respond to this email if you would like your testimony included in the public record.

Thank you,

Karoline.

Karoline Finlay

Planning Secretary

Planning and Economic Development

25 4<sup>th</sup> St. W., 1400 City Hall Annex

Saint Paul, MN 55102

651-266-6641

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Anne Lowe <lowe0009@umn.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:17 AM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** In support of the proposed Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

To: St. Paul Planning Commission  
From: Anne Lowe, resident of St. Paul  
Re: the proposed Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance  
Date: January 17, 2023

**I am writing in support of the proposed Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance.** The rules in this ordinance will help protect the millions of birds that use this flyway to migrate each spring and fall. The ordinance will require bird-safe glass for new construction which will reduce the number of bird collisions and bird death that occur each year. At the same time, development along the river can continue, but in a bird-friendly way. By adding these development guideline changes, St. Paul is looking forward to a future where development and birds can co-exist. This is helping not only birds in St. Paul, but all birds who migrate from the northern parts of Canada to areas in Central America and many places in between.

Thank you for your time reading this and for all you do for the people of St. Paul and the birds of North America.

Sincerely,

Anne Lowe  
412 Hamline Avenue South  
St. Paul, MN 55105  
651-285-3558

[lowe0009@umn.edu](mailto:lowe0009@umn.edu)

**Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Arta Cheney <artachokes@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 1:13 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Mississippi River Corridor

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Karoline,

I would love to see the Mississippi River Corridor protected for migration of birds. We need to protect our beautiful resources for future generations to enjoy!

Sincerely,  
Arta Cheney

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Arta Cheney <artachokes@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 9:46 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Mississippi River Corridor

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Arta Cheney  
4316 Lakepoint Court  
Shoreview, MN 55126

On Jan 18, 2023, at 10:51 AM, Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Ms. Cheney:

Thank you for your comment regarding the upcoming public hearing on the MRCCA zoning amendments. Community input is an important part of the process. In order for your written testimony to be included in the public record we will need your address. Please respond to this email if you would like your testimony included in the public record.

Thank you,

Karoline.

Karoline Finlay  
Planning Secretary  
Planning and Economic Development  
25 4<sup>th</sup> St. W., 1400 City Hall Annex  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
651-266-6641  
[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)  
[www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov)  
<image001.png>

-----Original Message-----

From: Arta Cheney <[artachokes@comcast.net](mailto:artachokes@comcast.net)>  
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 1:13 PM  
To: Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
Subject: Mississippi River Corridor

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Karoline,

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Barb Thoman <thomwell@bitstream.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 3:50 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** In favor of Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Dear Saint Paul Planning Commission:

Congratulations on development of a strong new ordinance to protect the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area. I am especially encouraged by the language regarding bird safe glass and lighting. So many bird species are in decline, and this ordinance will be a good step toward reducing bird strikes and supporting safe migration and successful breeding.

I hope Saint Paul will consider future city-wide ordinances changes to protect birds including:

- Requiring bird safe glass more widely in the city.
- Enacting a leash law for cats.
- Requiring that a portion of required plantings in new development be native species.

Thank you,

Barb Thoman  
2157 Roblyn Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55104  
Phone 651-500-5958

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** zenllc@usfamily.net  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 2:47 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** MRCCA ordinance

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

Dear Ms. Finlay,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Mississippi River Critical Area ordinance. As an environmental health scientist, St. Paul property and business owner who recognizes the importance of protecting and restoring natural areas for both human and wildlife health, the significance of a healthy Mississippi River cannot be overstated. Humans need Nature for our mental and physical health, humans also need Nature for the ecosystem services Nature provides such as cleaning the air and water, potable water, providing flood protection and cooling the urban heat island, particularly in the face of the climate crisis.

The proposed ordinance is valuable due to the language requiring the use of bird-safe glass and bird-safe lighting along the River. Millions of birds die each year due to building and window strikes. Birds are also disoriented and possibly killed due to night lighting that throws them off their migratory paths. Given that 40% of North American birds migrate along the River and, we are facing an extinction crisis, the bird safe glass and bird safe lighting are crucial components of the ordinance.

Lastly, while I would like to see further protections and minimizing development along the River, I do appreciate the measures to minimize building height and, stress the City of St. Paul must NOT grant variances to the building heights. This occurs far too often and the major eyesore of the Mississippi River View apartments at East River Parkway and Ford Parkway are a glaring example.

The health of the River and associated watershed is essential to humans and non-humans alike. I support the passage of this ordinance and request the City support further protections for the Mississippi.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Zimmer, MS, BSMT  
Principal, Zimmer Environmental Improvement LLC  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
Improving processes, reducing waste and minimizing costs  
Ph: 651.645.7509

1790 Hague Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55104

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** zenllc@usfamily.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 10:54 AM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** RE: MRCCA ordinance

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Hi Karoline,

My address is:

1790 Hague Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55104.

Very truly yours,

Catherine Zimmer, MS, BSMT  
Executive Director, [HEARRT Midwest](#)  
Principal, Zimmer Environmental Improvement LLC  
**Improving processes, reducing waste and minimizing costs**  
Ph: 651.645.7509

**From:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 10:49 AM  
**To:** zenllc@usfamily.net  
**Subject:** RE: MRCCA ordinance

Ms. Zimmer:

Thank you for your comment regarding the upcoming public hearing on the MRCCA zoning amendments. Community input is an important part of the process. In order for your written testimony to be included in the public record we will need your address. Please respond to this email if you would like your testimony included in the public record.

Thank you,

Karoline.

Karoline Finlay  
Planning Secretary  
Planning and Economic Development  
25 4<sup>th</sup> St. W., 1400 City Hall Annex  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
651-266-6641  
[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)  
[www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov)



## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Christopher Ryba-Tures <mistertures@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2023 12:43 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Hello,

I am a lifelong Minnesota/Saint Paul resident and have lived within a few miles of the Mississippi river my whole life. One of the most wonderful and ecologically important aspects of our river is the wildlife, birds in particular. Although I do oppose development along the river, if it has to happen, I would rather it be done conscientiously and from what I understand, the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance is a step in that direction: especially in regards to the requirement of Bird-Safe Glass in all new developments. If we have to put obstacles in the local and migratory flight paths of birds (developers are wont to do) Bird Safe Glass at least levels the playing field a bit.

Thank you,

CRT

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**Christopher Ryba-Tures** (he/they)

Death-positive. Ink slinger. Struggling optimist.

*You've got a story. I'll help you tell it.*



## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Christopher Ryba-Tures <mistertures@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2023 3:10 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Sure.

Christopher Ryba-Tures  
543 Hall Ave  
Saint Paul, MN 55107

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 3:03 PM Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Thank you. We need **your address** in order to do so.

**From:** Christopher Ryba-Tures <[mistertures@gmail.com](mailto:mistertures@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2023 2:58 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

You can include it.

On Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 2:44 PM Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Mr. Ryba-Tures:

Thank you for your comment regarding the upcoming public hearing on the MRCCA zoning amendments. Community input is an important part of the process. In order for your written testimony to be included in the public record we will need your address. Please respond to this email if you would like your testimony included in the public record.

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Constantine Koutsouvas <guskoutsouvas@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2023 9:24 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Mississippi River Critical Area ordinance

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Dear Ms. Finlay,

I write to express my support for the ordinance that will be considered concerning the Mississippi River Critical Area. The Mississippi River is a vital flyway for migratory birds and one of the world's richest ecosystems.

I live about a mile from the river and frequently walk my dog, hike, cycle, and go birding along the river at various location in and around the twin cities.

Passage of the ordinance will help protect and enhance this wonderful natural resource that we are so privileged to have in our backyard.

I'm especially pleased to see the mandate for bird-safe glass for buildings along the flyway. The number of birds killed by building/window strikes is shocking and heartbreaking. And this ordinance is certainly a step in the right direction to bring that number down.

Please pass the ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Constantine Koutsouvas  
1597 Niles Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55116

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Cynthia Hill <chrdh@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2023 12:25 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Resending comments

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

To the Planning Commission:

I am writing to add my support for the proposed guidelines to protect the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance, which will help protect the river and birds in our area. The requirement for bird-safe glass for new construction is an especially important part of this as it will help reduce bird deaths due to window collisions.

Adding protection for birds has never been more important. I look forward to passage of this important ordinance.

Thank you.

Cynthia Hill  
161 Amherst Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55105  
612-810-6150

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Erica Perl <erica@sochaconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 1:22 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Ms. Finlay,

I wanted to express my support for the proposed changes set forth in the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance. In particular, I support the changes to development guidelines to require bird safe glass in new buildings. Given the critical importance of the Mississippi River flyway for 325 species of migratory birds, I applaud the City of Saint Paul for taking steps to ensure their safe passage through our area.

Best regards,

Erica Perl  
1374 Lincoln Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN. 55105  
651-336-5947 (mobile)

**Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Gail Buhl <gailbuhl@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 5:02 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Cc:** Gail Buhl  
**Subject:** Re: support of the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Ordinance

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

Dear Secretary Finlay

I am writing this email in support of the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance. I appreciate that this is a thinking forward ordinance but also addresses past/current threats to the birds that reside and/or pass through Minnesota on their migration. One of those threats is windows.

It is estimated between 365-1 billion birds/year are killed annually by windows in the United States alone (Birds Flying Into Windows? Truths About Birds & Glass Collisions from ABC Experts [abcbirds.org](http://abcbirds.org) )

We are currently experiencing what is called the 6th wave extinction. Many species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction mostly due to anthropogenic causes. Windows are one of those causes.

I am a permitted **wildlife** Rehabilitator in the State of Minnesota. I see many birds that have hit windows as a cause of admission. The vast majority of these birds do not survive.

I support this ordinance because anything we can do collectively to assist the birds surviving the Urban Landscape is an important conservation step.

Thank you,  
Gail Buhl  
1987 Beacon St  
Roseville, MN 55113  
651-788-3868

**From:** GRETCHEN CORKREAN <jgcorkrean@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2023 10:20 AM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Ordinance

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Dear Ms. Finlay,

I write to you in support of the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance. I urge you and the Planning Commission to pass this important measure.

The Mississippi River Corridor is critical to the survival of over 300 species of birds (nearly forty percent of all shorebirds and waterfowl), and we should do what we can to protect their safe passage. Building strikes are a major cause of death among these birds, along with light pollution and other human activities. This ordinance would be a start in minimizing future needless deaths from building strikes.

Many Minnesotans, myself included, are proud of and enjoy the diversity of fowl found in Minnesota. Please allow the birds to have a fighting chance at survival by passing this ordinance.

Best Regards,

Gretchen Corkrean  
Woodbury, MN

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** GRETCHEN CORKREAN <jgcorkrean@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2023 10:39 AM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Ordinance

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

I wondered about that. My address is

1273 Schooner Way  
Woodbury, MN 55125

Best Regards,

Gretchen Corkrean

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**From:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2023 4:27 PM  
**To:** GRETCHEN CORKREAN <jgcorkrean@msn.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Ordinance

Ms. Corkrean:

Thank you for your comment regarding the upcoming public hearing on the MRCCA zoning amendments. Community input is an important part of the process. In order for your written testimony to be included in the public record we will need your address. Please respond to this email if you would like your testimony included in the public record.

Thank you,

Karoline.

Karoline Finlay  
Planning Secretary  
Planning and Economic Development  
25 4<sup>th</sup> St. W., 1400 City Hall Annex  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
651-266-6641  
[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)  
[www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov)



**SAINT PAUL  
MINNESOTA**

**Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Jim Stoker <jwsvc76@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 12:53 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Cc:** jwsvc76@aol.com  
**Subject:** Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Ordinance

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

I support development guidelines that will protect the Mississippi River Corridor and the migratory and resident birds in our area.

**James W. Stoker**  
  
**6995 80th Street South**  
**Norris Square Apt. 111**  
**Cottage Grove, MN 55016**  
**651-769-9050**  
**jwsvc76@aol.com**



**Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Kathleen Weflen <kathleen.weflen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 12:27 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Mississippi Corridor Critical Area ordinance

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

16 January 2023

Secretary for the St. Paul Planning Commission

Dear Ms. Finlay:

Because bird populations are declining drastically throughout the world, we all need to do whatever we can to protect them and their habitats, which include the places they breed, spend winter, and rely on as they migrate. The Mississippi River serves all of these critical habitat needs across its entire length. Within the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, the Mississippi is the most important area for migrating birds as well as numerous resident species. For all of these reasons, I urge you to give your full support to the Mississippi Corridor Critical Area ordinance.

Thank you!

On behalf of birds,

Kathleen Weflen  
1245 Fairmount Avenue  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105  
[kathleenweflen@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenweflen@gmail.com)  
651-600-9583

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Kris Tromiczak <krtromiczak@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 7:26 AM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Hello,

We are writing to support measures to ensure the safety of migratory birds and maintain a healthy environment for birds that live here year round. As South St. Paul residents, we enjoy the avian life that is unique to our area and we are awed by the migratory birds that pass through. The dynamic interplay of all parts of the ecosystem of the Mississippi are key to the health of our species, both physical and mental.

St. Paul is a lovely city, and it is possible to improve the manmade environment while protecting our natural environment. I encourage the adoption of the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Care ordinance as a way of realizing this.

Respectfully,  
Kris and Joe Tromiczak  
1600 Willis Ave.  
South St. Paul MN 55075

**Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Larry Hollar <lahollar51@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 2:31 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Corridor

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Ms. Finlay,

This letter is to strongly support measures to protect birds in the river corridor.

We birders are not kooks. Nature photographers and bird watchers are a serious group of folks that vote and pay taxes.

I moved from Colorado two years ago. I've been quite impressed with the bird attractions along the river. If the birds don't stay, neither will we.

Sincerely,

Larry Hollar

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Larry Hollar <lahollar51@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 11:26 AM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Corridor

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Yes, please include it:

Larry Hollar  
6900 Alverno Ct  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

Lar

On Jan 18, 2023, at 10:49 AM, Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Mr. Hollar:

Thank you for your comment regarding the upcoming public hearing on the MRCCA zoning amendments. Community input is an important part of the process. In order for your written testimony to be included in the public record we will need your address. Please respond to this email if you would like your testimony included in the public record.

Thank you,

Karoline.

Karoline Finlay  
Planning Secretary  
Planning and Economic Development  
25 4<sup>th</sup> St. W., 1400 City Hall Annex  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
651-266-6641  
[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)  
[www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov)  
<image001.png>

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry Hollar <lahollar51@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 2:31 PM  
To: Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
Subject: Corridor

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

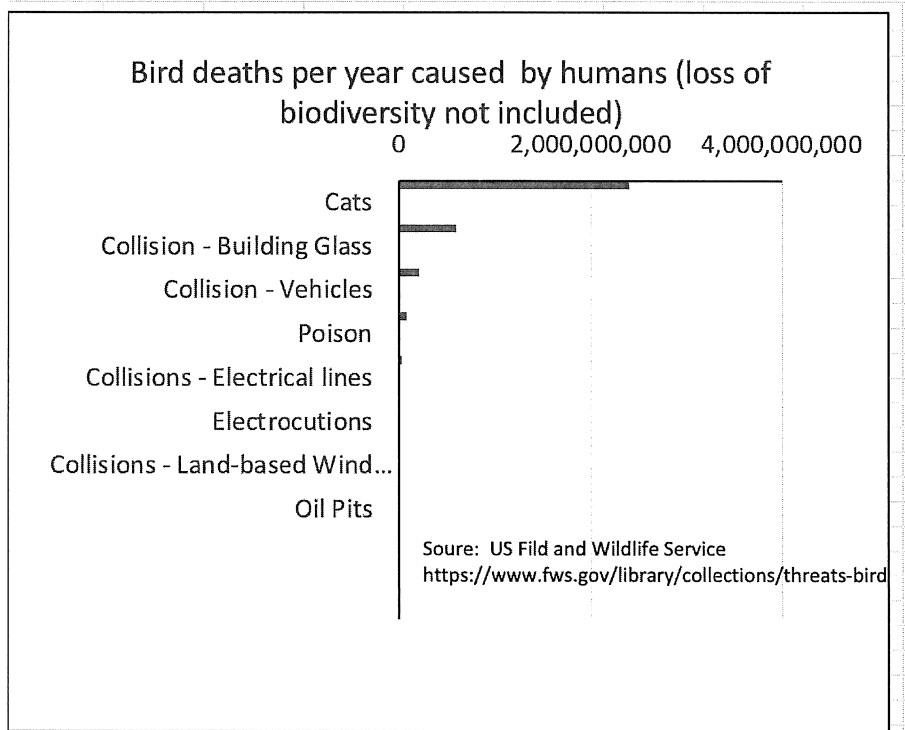
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**From:** Lawrence Baker <baker127@umn.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 12:39 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

I would like to voice my support for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Areas ordinance. The Mississippi River Corridor is a major recreational site. My wife and I go hiking there at least 4-5 times per week during the warm weather, and 2-3 times/week in the winter, except during the coldest days. Newly retired, I am also re-starting bird watching, and the Corridor is a fabulous place for bird diversity.

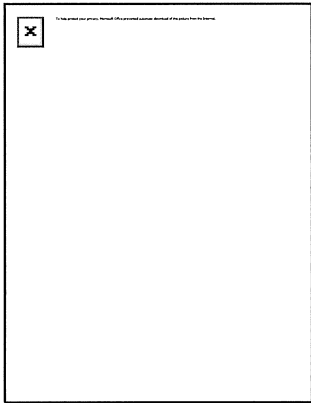
Building windows are a big source of human-caused bird deaths, exceeded only by cat death, so regulation to improve window glass design would likely be effective, especially since St. Paul is on a major flyway;



--  
Lawrence A. Baker, Ph.D., Research Professor  
Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems EngineeringEmail: [baker127@umn.edu](mailto:baker127@umn.edu)  
Phone: 763-370-1796  
Skype: water.think  
Twitter: @waterthinker  
**at <https://www.wrc.umn.edu/stormwaterroadmap>**

Main website: <https://larrybakerlab.cfans.umn.edu>  
Research Gate:

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Lawrence\\_Baker](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Lawrence_Baker)



Poster by Ricardo Levins Morales

***Think like an ancestor.***

Mailing address:  
224C Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Bldg  
1390 Eckles Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55108-1038

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** lydwine sisson <lydwinesisson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 4:46 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Bird-safe glass for new construction

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

Greetings!

I'm writing today to let you know that I support the new additions to the Mississippi River corridor proposal. Most notably the proposed bird-safe glass that is required for all new construction. Bird collisions with glass kills thousands of birds each year. Even if a bird is stunned and still able to fly off, it may usually die later.

Thank you for your support!

Best regards,  
Lydwine T Sisson  
[Lydwinesisson@gmail.com](mailto:Lydwinesisson@gmail.com)

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** lydwine sisson <lydwinesisson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 2:31 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Bird-safe glass for new construction

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Thank you Ms. Finlay,

Yes! I would like my written testimony to be included in the public record. Thank you for this opportunity. Here is my address:

Lydwine T. Sisson  
476 Brimhall Street Apt. #21  
Saint Paul, MN 55105

On Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 10:47 AM Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Ms. Sisson:

Thank you for your comment regarding the upcoming public hearing on the MRCCA zoning amendments. Community input is an important part of the process. In order for your written testimony to be included in the public record we will need your address. Please respond to this email if you would like your testimony included in the public record.

Thank you,

Karoline.

Karoline Finlay

Planning Secretary

Planning and Economic Development

25 4<sup>th</sup> St. W., 1400 City Hall Annex



## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** lynntread <lynntread@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 5:02 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Protecting our environment

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

I support action that  
will protect the Mississippi River Corridor and the migratory and resident birds in our area.  
Thank you.  
Lynn Treadwell  
857 Bidwell Street  
West St. Paul

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** Vaillancourt, Michele <MVaillancourt@winthrop.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 1:36 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Ordinance

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

Dear Ms. Finlay:

I am writing to you to express my support for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance, which I understand is being considered by the St. Paul Planning Commission at its meeting on Friday, January 20, 2023.

The ordinance will protect birds and the River while allowing for responsible development. As the flyway for 325 bird species, including 40% of all shorebirds and waterfowl, the River is most deserving of protection. The ordinance will require bird-safe glass in all new construction, which is critically important to protecting all birds. Glass collisions kill or injure millions of birds every year, and requiring bird-safe glass is an inexpensive method of saving their lives.

Please inform the St. Paul Planning Commission of my support for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance.

Thank you.

Michele D. Vaillancourt  
244 Stonebridge Boulevard  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105  
651.398.6600

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** Sheila Flynn <sflynn01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 10:19 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Bird safe glass in construction

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

Please consider requiring this for new construction. How can we not do our best to help birds survive?

Thank you

Sheila Flynn MD

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Sheila Flynn <sflynn01@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 3:36 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Bird safe glass in construction

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Thanks  
2197 W Highland Pkwy, St Paul, MN 55116

On Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 10:46 AM Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Dr. Flynn:

Thank you for your comment regarding the upcoming public hearing on the MRCCA zoning amendments. Community input is an important part of the process. In order for your written testimony to be included in the public record we will need your address. Please respond to this email if you would like your testimony included in the public record.

Thank you,

Karoline.

Karoline Finlay

Planning Secretary

Planning and Economic Development

25 4<sup>th</sup> St. W., 1400 City Hall Annex

Saint Paul, MN 55102

651-266-6641

[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

[www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov)

**Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)**

---

**From:** Terry Doerr <doerrterry@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2023 3:46 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Ordinance

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

Good afternoon,

The proposed rules will help protect the river and the birds best thing about the new changes to the Mississippi River Corridor. One of the best things about the ordinance is that it requires bird-safe glass for new construction 👍

Thank you,  
Terry Doerr

## Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** Terry Doerr <doerrterry@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 12:11 PM  
**To:** Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Ordinance

**Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.**

Good afternoon,

Please include my comments in the upcoming hearing/public record.

Terry Doerr  
1028 Carmel Court  
Shoreview, MN 55126

Thank you!

On Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 10:48 AM Finlay, Karoline (CI-StPaul) <[karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:karoline.finlay@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Dear Terry:

Thank you for your comment regarding the upcoming public hearing on the MRCCA zoning amendments. Community input is an important part of the process. In order for your written testimony to be included in the public record we will need your address. Please respond to this email if you would like your testimony included in the public record.

Thank you,

Karoline.

Karoline Finlay

Planning Secretary

Planning and Economic Development

25 4<sup>th</sup> St. W., 1400 City Hall Annex

**From:** Colleen O'Connor Toberman <ctoberman@fmr.org>  
**Sent on:** Monday, January 23, 2023 10:42:20 PM  
**To:** Torstenson, Allan (CI-StPaul) <allan.torstenson@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Fwd: St. Paul MRCCA ordinance amendments

**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

Good afternoon Allan,

As I mentioned in my comments to the Planning Commission on Friday, some bird-safe advocates have brought to my attention some improved standards for bird-safe glass that St. Paul consider incorporating into the MRCCA ordinance. I'm forwarding specific recommendations below from Ann Laughlin with the Minneapolis Audubon chapter.

Thank you!

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**Colleen O'Connor Toberman** / Land Use & Planning Program Director  
[ctoberman@fmr.org](mailto:ctoberman@fmr.org) / 651.222.2193 x29  
(she/her)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Ann Laughlin <[annlaughlin1@gmail.com](mailto:annlaughlin1@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Wed, Jan 18, 2023 at 3:32 PM  
**Subject:** St. Paul MRCCA ordinance amendments  
**To:** Colleen O'Connor Toberman <[ctoberman@fmr.org](mailto:ctoberman@fmr.org)>, <[kikisonnen@gmail.com](mailto:kikisonnen@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Constance Pepin <[cpepin@bitstream.net](mailto:cpepin@bitstream.net)>

Hi Colleen and Kiki,

As you know, on January 20 the St. Paul Planning Commission will consider amendments to the MRCCA ordinance relating to bird safety. I'm reaching out on behalf of the coalition of local bird conservation organizations that proposed amendments to the Minneapolis MRCCA ordinance.

In our work with Community Planning and Economic Development on the Minneapolis ordinance, we've advocated for additional bird safety provisions. Several of CPED's draft amendments address bird safety, including several that CPED adopted from a Madison, Wisconsin, bird safety ordinance,

which we consider inadequate based on more recent research and on more recent ordinances in other cities, especially New York City.

The American Bird Conservancy's [ranked list](#) of existing bird-friendly legislation and ordinances from around the country ranks the Madison ordinance as "Recommended with Reservations," due primarily to the ordinance's provision that "façades with <50% glass in the first 60 ft. above grade must treat >85% of glass areas >50 ft.<sup>2</sup> along with all glazed corners." ABC's summary states "Ideally this would be adopted without the 50 ft.<sup>2</sup> exemption ... ."

We share ABC's concern regarding the exemption for such large areas of glass and have asked CPED to strengthen their proposed standards. Research has shown that both the proportion and absolute amount of glass on a building façade best predict mortality rates. [One study](#) calculated that every increase of 10% in the expanse of glass correlates to a 19% increase in bird mortality in spring and 32% in fall.

The draft St. Paul bird-safe amendments appear to contain the same exemptions for glass areas less than 50 square feet as the Madison ordinance. We believe these exemptions should be either eliminated or greatly reduced. We also recommend adding language to subsection (b) to specify surface one (1) applications, which are the most effective in deterring bird-glass collisions. Our recommended changes are shown in red below.

We appreciate St. Paul Audubon giving us the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me if you want to discuss these suggested changes further.

Thanks!

Ann Laughlin  
[annlaughlin1@gmail.com](mailto:annlaughlin1@gmail.com)

612-709-2783

#### **Sec. 68.248. Bird-safe glass.**

(a) Bird-safe glass, with treatments to reduce bird collisions with the glass, must be used on the first 70 feet above grade of new buildings and building additions as follows.

(1) For all building elevations ~~comprised of 50% or more glass on any floor,~~ at least 85% of the glass must be treated.

~~(2) For building elevations comprised of less than 50% glass on any floor, at least 85% of glass areas of more than 50 square feet must be treated.~~



(3) (2) For all glass areas ~~of more than 50 square feet~~, any glass within 15 feet of a building corner must be treated.

(4) (3) All glass railings and glass on enclosed building connections must be treated.

(b) Bird-safe glass treatments may include the following:

(1) Full surface one glass treatment such as frosted glass or stained glass to make it visible;

(2) Physical structures on the exterior of the glass such as grills and screens; and

(3) Glass patterns applied to surface one and visible from the outside such as white to medium gray permanent stencils, ceramic frit, and UV patterns visible to birds.

### **Friends of the Mississippi River**

101 East 5th Street, Suite 2000

Saint Paul, MN 55101

[FMR.org](http://FMR.org)

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