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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY



# SustainVU

*Growing Responsibly*



June 2017

Summer is here with much warmer days, so keep an eye out for [Air Quality Alerts](#) as the temperature rises. We are giving a sustainability tour of campus for Team Green this month – [RSVP](#) if you would like to join us! Summer means the return of the Vanderbilt Farmers' Market on June 1<sup>st</sup> and other farmers' markets around the city, so go out and get your veggie fix! Do you like super cute animals? Then check out the video below showing Nashville Zoo inhabitants chowing down on strawberries from Vanderbilt's Commencement. And a hearty congratulations to our fabulous Nashville Predators for making it to the Stanley Cup finals! Did you know... the [NHL](#) was the first sports league to counterbalance their carbon emissions and is the 26<sup>th</sup> largest green power purchaser in the U.S.? Go Preds! We hope you have a beautifully green June!

Andrea George, Director

### **Urban Green Lab's Emerald Evening – June 1**

[Urban Green Lab](#) invites you to An Emerald Evening from 6:30-9:30pm at the Green Door Gourmet for their largest fundraiser of the year! Read more [here](#).

### **Skyline Social Kick-off for Park(ing) Day – June 2**

[Nashville Civic Design Center](#) will host the annual kick off to PARK(ing) Day with a Skyline Social at the

Sustainability and Environmental Management  
Office  
Vanderbilt University (615) 322-4551 | [e-mail](#) | [Web  
site](#)



## Commencement Strawberries Donated



Animals at the Nashville Zoo and Walden's Puddle recently enjoyed taking part in a bit of Vanderbilt tradition, thanks to the [Office of the Chancellor](#) and the [Commencement Office](#).

The university donated strawberries left over from the Strawberries and Champagne

celebration during Commencement to the two Nashville organizations once again. Because fresh produce cannot be re-served or repackaged, the donation prevented the uneaten food from being sent to a landfill. Staff from Vanderbilt's [Sustainability and Environmental Management Office](#) organized the donation and delivery when Commencement events concluded on Friday, May 12.

The [Nashville Zoo](#) shared the strawberries with their clouded leopard, hyacinth macaw, lorikeets, red footed tortoise, and ring tailed lemur. The strawberries also were enjoyed by native species at [Walden's Puddle](#), a wildlife rehabilitation and education facility that provides care and treatment to sick, injured and orphaned wildlife native to Tennessee. See a [movie](#) of the animals enjoying their special treat!



## Drug Collection Program Protects Water Quality

rooftop of 1201  
Demonbreun from 6-  
8pm! Begin hatching  
plans to create the most  
creative and engaging  
pocket parks and  
parklets. Read more  
[here](#).

### Walk Bike Nashville City Cycling 101 – June 3

Safe City Riding is a  
classroom course  
designed to help you  
brush up on your bike  
riding knowledge and  
skills. The class is held  
at Edmondson Pike  
Branch Library from  
2:00pm-3:30pm. This  
class is free and open  
to the public. Read  
more [here](#).

### National Trails Day Volunteer Project – June 3

This month's Team  
Green Engage Green  
event is a tour of  
Vanderbilt highlighting  
green buildings and  
sustainable practices at  
the University, including  
a tour of the VU Power  
Plant! The tour is free to  
the public and will be  
held from 6-7:30pm.  
Read more and RSVP  
[here](#).

### Engage Green: Vanderbilt Sustainability Tour – June 7

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation ([TDEC](#)) continues to expand its efforts to protect water quality in Tennessee by working with statewide partners to provide more options for the disposal of unwanted medications. Collection programs reduce the amount of pharmaceutical products being flushed, poured down drains or sent to landfills.



Through TDEC's Unwanted Household Pharmaceutical Collection Program, there are now [224 permanent collection bins](#) for expired, unused or unwanted household medications across all of Tennessee's 95 counties. In 2016, more than 80,000 lbs. of medication was collected – almost five times more than during the program's first year in 2012. In 2017, more than 11,000 lbs. of unwanted pharmaceuticals has already been recovered and prevented from entering Tennessee's waterways. Flushing or washing drugs down the sink allows chemicals to enter the watershed or groundwater, where they can affect drinking water and stream ecosystems. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to adequately remove chemicals found in drugs and drugs that end up landfilled as trash also end up in the watershed. Learn more [here](#).



## Vanderbilt Farmers' Market Beginning in June



The Nashville Farmers' Market at Vanderbilt University Medical Center returns to campus Thursday, June 1, and will be held every Thursday from 2:00-5:30 p.m.

through October 26. The market is located on the Medical Center plaza near Eskind Library.

This month's Team Green Engage Green event is a tour of Vanderbilt highlighting green buildings and sustainable practices at the University, including a tour of the VU Power Plant! The tour is free to the public and will be held from 6-7:30pm. Read more and RSVP [here](#).

### Urban Design Forum: "Grow, Eat, Repeat" – June 21

[Nashville Civic Design Center's](#) June Urban Design Forum from 5:30-7:30pm will focus on food systems throughout Nashville, and what types of services are offered to support healthy farming, improve food access, and diminish food waste. Read more [here](#).

### Nutritious & Delicious: Juices & Smoothies – June 21

The best way to promote better health and nutrition is to eat in-season with local ingredients. In this workshop you'll learn the difference between juices and smoothies, what you'll need to make them, and the nutritional benefits of juices and smoothies

Stop by and shop for local fruits and vegetables; dairy products such as goat cheese, milk and yogurt; grass-fed beef; free-range chicken; flowers; and more! Read more [here](#).



## Sign up for Air Quality Alerts

Summer is right around the corner and that means it is air alert season! The best way to stay informed is to [sign up](#) for air alerts.



An air alert, or “[Air Quality Action Day](#),” is issued when the Air Quality Index (AQI) gets into the unhealthy range. When the AQI is forecast to be Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, or Code Orange, groups that are sensitive to the pollutant should reduce exposure by reducing prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors. For ozone this includes: children and adults who are active outside, people with lung diseases such as asthma, and elderly. On air quality alert days, think about steps like carpooling, taking the bus, combining errands, and avoiding yard work that uses gas-powered tools to lessen your impact! Read more about air quality alerts and how you can make a difference [here](#).

into your life. Join the workshop from 6-7pm at the Nashville Farmers’ Market. Read more and RSVP [here](#).

### Cumberland River Compact Waterfest at Cumberland Park – June 24

Waterfest is a free, one-day family festival at Cumberland Park that focuses on celebrating and connecting children to local waters. The goal is to raise awareness about the importance of water quality through fun and engaging environmental-based activities suitable for the entire family. More information can be found [here](#).

For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit the SustainVU website at [www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu) or contact the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office at [sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu) or (615) 322-2057.

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