

*Bird Friendly City*

# Nature Canada's Bird Friendly City Companion Guide: Steps to Certification



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**BIRD FRIENDLY CITY**

[NatureCanada.ca/BFC](http://NatureCanada.ca/BFC)

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## General Guidance:

1. Bird Friendly City Booklet ([ENG](#)) | ([FR](#))
2. Bird Friendly City Standard ([ENG](#)) | ([FR](#))
3. Bird Friendly Town Standard ([ENG](#)) | ([FR](#))
4. The Warblers by Birds Canada - [The Bird Friendly City](#)
5. Coalition Structure Template ([ENG](#))
6. Calvert, A. M., C. A. Bishop, R. D. Elliot, E. A. Krebs, T. M. Kydd, C. S. Machtans, and G. J. Robertson. 2013. A synthesis of human-related avian mortality in Canada. Avian Conservation and Ecology 8(2): 11. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ACE-00581-080211> (ENG & FR)

## MANDATORY CRITERIA

### Indigenous Nations & Reconciliation

All of what we now know of as Canada today is either Treaty lands or unceded territories occupied without the consent or agreement of local Indigenous Peoples, First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. Canada and many Indigenous Nations and organizations representing Indigenous Peoples have begun a path towards truth and reconciliation that includes recognizing the fundamental rights of the Indigenous peoples as stated in The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ([UNDRIP](#)). This includes acknowledging that the lands on which we live are traditional, Indigenous territories, Treaty lands or unceded and unsurrendered lands on Turtle Island.

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The *Bird Friendly City and Town Certification* Program requires applicants to determine which traditional lands their municipality lies in, to recognize this fact, and to seek to engage the Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities in this collaborative project.

Nature Canada is [committed to anti-racism](#) and the promotion of racial justice and equity for Indigenous, Black and People of Colour (BIPOC). Achieving racial justice and equality rights is an ethical imperative and critical for the well-being of nature.

To find out whose traditional lands or what Treaty applies to where you live and are doing your work, click [here](#).

**Formation of a Bird Friendly Team/Coalition** | Please see our [Coalition Structure Template](#) for more information (including a sample mandate and membership requirements)

- Municipal and community -level efforts to become Bird Friendly Certified are led by a local coalition (*Bird Team*) working to make their city or town more Bird Friendly!
  - *Bird Team* coalitions can consist of: naturalist and birding groups, environmental organizations, municipal representatives (councillors or staff), Indigenous communities, gardening/horticultural clubs, businesses and educational institutions, community groups and individual residents.
- Nature Canada's Urban Nature Organizer provides support through the application process, providing relevant resources, and application templates as well as providing the opportunity for small grants, collaboration on funding applications, publicity, and campaign development.

## Annual Reports & Review Process

Once your municipality has been awarded *Bird Friendly City or Town Certification*, the Bird Team [must provide an annual report](#) on activities related to your Bird Friendly City or Town status and local campaign efforts.

Nature Canada staff and our expert National Advisory Panel [members](#) will review all applications in a timely manner based on the Fall and Winter applicant deadlines.

During this process, the evidence provided by the applicants will be reviewed to ensure the proper status is awarded to each applicant. **In the event that a particular municipality is not eligible for any reason**, Nature Canada will inform the applicants of this decision, and discuss strategies on the steps they can take to attain a potential *Bird Friendly City or Town Certification* at a later date.

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## Canadian Laws & Powers That Protect Birds & Biodiversity

### Migratory Bird Convention Act (MBCA):

The oldest “nature” law from 1917, which passed one year after the Migratory Bird Convention Act with the United States of America. This act protects migratory birds, their nests and eggs, as well as providing regulations for hunting, and the establishment of [Migratory Bird Sanctuaries](#).

### Species at Risk Act (SARA):

This law provides a legal framework to recognize, protect and recover species at risk in Canada. Once a species is assessed to be “At Risk” by an independent scientific advisory body called the [Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada \(COSEWIC\)](#), the Federal Government must act within a certain time period to add the species to the Act’s schedule, and initiate actions for recovery, contingent on the status given to the species.

## Provincial & Territorial Powers

Provinces and territories want municipalities to be in-line with their policies. To do that, they will release periodic policy statements that municipalities will need to align with. In Ontario, for example, Provincial Policy Statements were released in 2005, 2014 and again in 2020. The [Provincial Policy statement](#) *“is a consolidated statement of the government’s policies on land use planning. It gives provincial policy direction on key land use planning issues that affect communities, such as:*

1. *Efficient use and management of land and infrastructure*
2. *The provision of sufficient housing to meet changing needs, including affordable housing*
3. *The protection of the environment and resources including farmland, natural resources (for example, **wetlands and woodlands**) and water*
4. *Opportunities for economic development and job creation*
5. *The appropriate transportation, water, sewer and other infrastructure needed to accommodate current and future needs*
6. *The protection of people, property and community resources by directing development away from natural or human-made hazards, such as flood prone areas*

## Municipal Powers

Municipalities have the power to determine land use within their boundaries through measures granted to an elected Council by the Province or Territory. In most provinces, municipalities are required to develop a plan, which, depending on the province, can be called an Official Plan, an Official Community Plan, a Development Plan, a Planning strategy, or a *plan d’urbanisme*.

These pathway documents must be updated on a regular basis. All municipalities, whether they are required to develop a plan or not, control land use and develop through a tool known as a ‘Zoning Bylaw’, which provides the municipality with the ability to direct and determine, to some

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extent, how the land is used, and where and when development can occur. The municipality also issues development permits, a tool used to manage development at a finer scale than the Zoning Bylaw.

Municipalities are governed by democratically elected bodies in Canada, usually called Councils. The head of the Council is usually called a Mayor, who is elected the same time as other Councillors. Decisions on land use planning, zoning bylaw changes, and protection of nature for example, can be influenced politically by electing a Council or councillors who support your views, but also by communicating your concerns to your councillor, who is expected to respond to and represent the views of their constituents.

Municipalities also have powers to manage people's behaviours to an extent, through bylaw regulations, which it enforces through fines, policing, taxes, and other measures. Municipalities manage infrastructure including road systems, waterways, sewage treatment, drinking water, parks and public transit. The **municipality has a key role to play to mitigate threats bird populations face**, and to protect, and restore their habitat because of their range of powers to influence development, land use and resident behaviour.

Many of the elements, and even the overall concept of a Bird Friendly City or Town would benefit from, if not require, support of Council.

## Other Acts:

- [Yukon Land Use Planning Council](#)
- [Alberta Land Stewardship Act](#); [Municipal Government Act](#); [Alberta's Land Use Framework and Municipal Governance in Rural Communities](#)
- [British Columbia Local Government Legislative Framework](#)
- [Manitoba's Municipal Act](#)
- [Saskatchewan - The Municipalities Act](#)
- Quebec - [Municipal Powers Act](#), [Cities and Towns Act](#)
- Northwest Territories - [Cities, Towns and Villages Act](#), [Hamlets Act](#), [Tłıchǫ](#)
- [Community Government Act](#); [Charter Communities Act](#)
- Nunavut - [Cities, Towns and Villages Act](#)
- PEI - [Planning Act](#), [Municipal Government Act & Regulations](#)
- New Brunswick - [Local Governance Act](#)
- Nova Scotia - [Municipal Government Act](#)
- Newfoundland and Labrador - [Municipal and Provincial Affairs](#)

## SECTION 1: THREAT REDUCTION

### 1.1 Regulatory and Educational Measures Taken to Help Control, and Humanely Reduce Populations of Free-Roaming Cats

Unowned cats kill more birds per cat than owned cats, but since there are five times as many pet cats as feral ones, pet cats still kill a huge number of birds — somewhere between [40 and](#)

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140 million a year in Canada alone. **For the sake of cats, birds and nature, not to mention our own well-being, we need to change how we take care of our cats.**

The introduction of no-roam bylaws, which place the responsibility for pet cats precisely where it belongs - on cat owners. No-roam cat control bylaws can serve to improve the welfare of pet cats, help to decrease the influx of pets into the homeless cat population, and provide a safer environment for birds. Our recommendations include not only bylaws and public education, but also collaborating with local stakeholders (such as animal shelters and veterinary clinics) to develop strategy and messaging, mandatory identification and/or licensing, accessible spay/neuter and feral cat-care programs. We urge municipalities to create a local cat strategy with the below examples of both cat and bird-positive communication strategies to encourage their citizens to participate in a local effort to improve cat and bird welfare.

In order for your municipality to receive High Level Bird Friendly Certification Status, your municipality **must have** a bylaw that addresses free-roaming outdoor cats.

## Bird and Cat Welfare Strategies & Resources:

- [An Integrated Approach to Bird Conservation and Cat Welfare: A Guide for Canadian Municipalities](#) (ENG)
- QuébecOiseaux - [Les chat](#) (FR)
- Québec Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs - Le chat domestique ([Felis silvestris catus](#)) (FR)
- Bird Friendly London Cat Owner Education Brochure ([ENG](#))
- QuébecOiseaux - Bote chat est à risque ([FR](#)); QuébecOiseaux ([FR](#))

## Bylaw Examples:

- [City of London, ON Animal Control Bylaw PH-3](#)
- [City of Calgary, AB Responsible pet Ownership Bylaw](#)
- Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC Feral Cats Program ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Windsor, ON: Hand, Alexis. [Estimating feral cat densities using distance sampling in an urban environment](#). *Ecol Evol.* 2019; 9: 2699– 2705. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.4938>
- Montreal, QC: Programme CSRM (TNRM) ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))

## Reading Resources:

- Blancher, P., 2013. Estimated number of birds killed by house cats (*Felis catus*) in Canada. *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 8(2): 3  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ACE-00557-080203> (ENG & FR)
- Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative - Wildlife and Cats ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- CFHS/FSCAA Cats in Canada 2017: A Five-Year Review of Cat Overpopulation ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))



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## 1.2 Demonstrate that your Municipality is Taking Measures to Reduce Bird Window Collisions

Window collisions are the second-highest direct human cause of bird deaths in Canada (about 25 million annually) according to [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#).

Ninety-percent of these collisions are with windows in individual houses! Approximately ~9% from low-rise buildings, and <1% from high rises and skyscrapers. In North America alone it is [estimated that around 1 billion birds die due to window collisions](#).

### How Can We Collectively Strategize Together to Help Mitigate Bird-Building Collisions?

1. Develop and implementing Bird Friendly Design Standards and incorporating CSA Bird Friendly Building Design Standard for **ALL** new construction
2. Assessing and mitigating risk to birds **from existing and proposed** municipal buildings
  - [Nature Regina's Bird Safe Initiative](#)
  - [Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Bird Strike Exhibit](#)
  - [FLAP Canada's Global Bird Rescue Week](#)
3. Informing and **educating property owners and tenants of existing buildings** (including home owners) of measures they can take to mitigate bird collision risk
  - [FeatherFriendly](#) - For the Prevention of Bird Collisions ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
4. **Establishing a baseline and maintaining a database** of the number of residences or buildings with treated windows in the city to demonstrate progress over time.

Our [Survey123](#) tool is designed to help your community start to gather data on the important issues of bird-window collisions through time! If you'd like to track buildings that are already retrofitting their windows to prevent bird-window collisions, you can log their addresses [here in our Bird-Friendly Building Survey](#) in partnership with FLAP Canada and their [Global Bird Collision Mapper](#).

### A Few Examples of Bird Safe Design Guidelines:

- City of Ottawa: Bird Safe Design Guidelines ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Safe Wings Ottawa: Small Scale Window Solutions / Applications des mesures de mitigation pour des bâtiments/immeubles existants ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- City of Winnipeg, Bird Friendly Resources ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Machtans, C. S., C. H. R. Wedeles, and E. M. Bayne. 2013. A first estimate for Canada of the number of birds killed by colliding with building windows. Avian Conservation and Ecology 8(2): 6. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ACE-00568-080206> (ENG & FR)



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- Government of Canada - Frequently asked questions on Bird collisions with glass windows ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Birds Canada - Make an Impact by Preventing Collisions ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- FLAP Canada's [Solutions for Commercial and Institutional Buildings](#)
- [Cat, Collisions & Windows](#) - Nature Canada
- [Bird Safe Campus](#) - FLAP Canada

## 1.3 Light Pollution Reduction Strategies

[The International Dark-Sky Association](#) defines light pollution as the “inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light that is emitted from private and public buildings, street lamps and sporting venues.”

Over 80% of the world's population lives under light-polluted skies and may never get the chance to experience a truly dark sky. Light pollution is not only a waste of electricity when buildings are not in use but it also impacts the navigation ability of many species such as birds, turtles, seals and bats.

One of the biggest consequences of light pollution is its [impact on birds due to reflective light and how birds perceive glass](#). Together municipalities can take action in a variety of ways such as:

- ❖ **Municipal light pollution reduction strategy**
  - Standard BNQ 4930-100 Exterior Lighting - Control of Light Pollution ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
  - Megantic Dark Sky - Recommended Light Fixtures ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
  - Four Principles for Good Outdoor Lighting ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
  - [Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Dark Sky Lightning Bylaws](#)
- ❖ **Light mitigation standards for all new developments and/or retrofit programs**
  - [District of Saanich, Schedule B - Municipal Outdoor Lighting Standards](#)
    - [District of Saanich LED Streetlight Conversion Program](#)
  - [City of London Bird Friendly Skies](#); [City of London Retrofit Program](#)
- **Outreach campaigns to promote light control practices within municipality**
  - Virtual Museum (VMC) (MVC) ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
  - Guide e'eclariage ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
  - [Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Victoria Sky Quality Mapper & Educational Campaign](#)

### Reading Resources:

- [Pollution...from lights?](#) - Nature Canada
- [FLAP Canada Lights Out Program](#)

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## 1.4 Reduction and/or Elimination of Pesticide Use

Increased pesticide use across the globe has had a negative impact on insect populations, which are many bird species' main source of food, particularly aerial insectivores such as swallows, swifts and martins. Many pesticides can remain and accumulate in a variety of ecosystems and have both direct and indirect impacts on bird populations.

There are a variety of different pesticides on the market; however, two of the most commonly used include: neonicotinoids or 'neonics', which have been linked to [massive bee-decline and also threaten bird populations](#) and BTI or *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* is used to kill mosquito larvae. This biocide also kills a wide range of long-bodied flies including midges, which are important food sources for aerial insectivorous birds such as swallows, swifts and nightjars and bats of course.

Nature Canada has fact sheets on neonics and BTI. Use this information to inform your elected officials and protect your aerial insectivore populations. [Watch our webinar here!](#)

Pesticide use in Canada is regulated by the [Pest Management Regulatory Agency \(PMRA\)](#) of Health Canada. The following [Pesticide Regulations across Canada and Urban Landscapes](#) article describes all the different ways in which pesticide use is controlled across the country.

Provincial and territorial governments, as well as municipalities, can create and maintain bylaws to create more regulations on the use of pesticides.

### Bylaw Examples:

1. [District of Saanich, Pesticide Bylaw \(2010\), NO. 9050 & Rodenticide Ban](#) (ENG)
2. [Ville De Saint-Anne-De-Bellevue, Pesticide Ban Numéro 790](#) (FR)
3. City of Laval ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))

### Reading Resources:

- [The birds and the bees: A conversation about neonicotinoids](#) by Aly Hyder Ali - Nature Canada
- Les pesticides et les oiseaux sauvages / Pesticides and Wild Birds ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Government of Canada Pest control products (pesticides) acts and regulations ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Liste des municipalités au Québec qui réglementent l'usage des pesticides ([FR](#) | [ENG](#))

## 1.5 Single Use Plastic Municipal Regulations

Single use plastic can cause harm to birds in a multitude of ways. Whether they are unfortunately ingesting plastic (directly or indirectly through contaminated prey) or if their habitats become contaminated by it.

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[A recent 2021 study published in Avian Research](#) describes the multitude of ways that both macro and microplastics accumulate throughout terrestrial and aquatic environments and the impact that plastics have globally on bird populations. The researchers note that **plastics have been observed in bird embryos, feathers, and gastrointestinal tracts and that raptors and other birds-of-prey** tend to have higher amounts of plastic contamination due to bioaccumulation of plastics up the food web.

## Bylaw Examples:

1. District of Saanich *Check-Out Bag Bylaw (2021)* ([ENG](#))
2. City of Guelph Single-use Plastic Ban ([ENG](#))

## Reading Resources:

- Wildlife Ingestion of Microplastics ([ENG](#)) | ([FR](#))
- Guidance for Selecting Alternatives to Single-Use Plastics ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Single Use Plastics - Roadmap for Sustainability ([ENG](#) | [FR](#)) \*Download only

## 1.6 Vehicle Collision Reduction Measures within Municipality

Not only do windows and light pollution create collision threats for birds, so do the cars we drive. It is important to slow down on rural roads, especially sections that are near wetlands or open water, and especially during breeding and fledgling season (May to August).

## How Can Your Municipality Take Action to Reduce Bird-Vehicle Collisions?

1. Are there lower speed limits around important wildlife habitats in your community?
2. Is there specific wildlife crossing in your area with appropriate signage?
3. Development of active transportation programs within your community

## Municipal Examples:

- [Strathcona County's Wildlife Connectivity Policy and Procedures & Wildlife Crossing policy research](#)
- Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative: How you can Reduce the Risk of Wildlife Vehicle Collisions ([ENG](#))

## Reading Resources: [How You Can Reduce the Risk of Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions](#)

- Bishop, Christine & Brogan, Jason. (2013). [Estimates of Avian Mortality Attributed to Vehicle Collisions in Canada](#). *Avian Conservation and Ecology*. 8. 10.5751/ACE-00604-080202.
- [8 Tips to Help Birds](#) - Nature Canada

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## 1.7 Municipal Policies to Prohibit Disturbance around Natural Areas & Important Bird Habitat

**Protecting habitat in a municipality requires a coordinated, well thought-out approach.**

Some examples of human-caused disturbances to birds include: dog running, kite gliding during breeding season, and disc golf sites among many others. We have compiled a few strategies below that have been developed to protect habitat for you to review and adapt for your own city.

### Resources:

1. Government of Canada - Guidelines to avoid harm to migratory birds ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
2. Dog-leashing bylaws (Radio-Canada) ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
3. To Leash or not to leash - should that even be a question? ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
4. Saint-Anne-de-Bellevue - Dog Leash Bylaw ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
5. Ottawa Protocol of Wildlife Protection during Construction \ Protocole de protection de la faune pendant les chantiers de construction ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
6. Good habits to adopt in large parks ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))

## SECTION 2: HABITAT RESTORATION, PROTECTION & CLIMATE RESILIENCY

### 2.1 Natural areas within The Municipal Boundaries are Protected within The Municipal Plan with a commitment to increase this area

Below are a few resources that may be of use to you and municipal decision makers to protect declining species of birds found in protected areas. These resources include key metrics and goals to protect birds and biodiversity into the future **using a similar approach as described in Section 1.7** (Municipal Policies to Prohibit Disturbance around Natural Areas & Important Bird Habitat).

#### ❖ Consider developing a municipal strategy which identifies the following:

- The habitat in question
- The threats it faces
- The opportunities to protect it
- The roles and responsibilities of those that would be involved with the projects duration

### Biodiversity Protection Examples:

1. Ecological Design Lab: Bylaws for Biodiversity ([ENG](#))
2. City of Guelph: Natural Heritage Action Plan ([ENG](#))
3. City of Montreal: Preserving biodiversity: a collective approach ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))

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4. Town of Devon: Habitat Protection & Climate Resiliency ([ENG](#))
5. National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))

## Reading Resources:

- Forest Birds in Urban Areas: Habitat Needs of Area Sensitive Species ([ENG](#))
- [Municipal Contributions to Canada's Protected Areas Target](#)
- [Land Conservation with Public Benefits: Incentives, Funding, & Process Supports in Canada](#)
- [Best Practices Guide to Natural Heritage Systems Planning](#) - Ontario Nature
- [Township of Langley Wildlife Habitat Conservation Strategy](#)
- [Charlottetown Natural Assets Inventory](#)

## 2.2 Municipality has an Official Strategy to Protect Biological Diversity within its Parks & Natural Areas

- a) Official Biodiversity Strategy **adopted by council** (can be in a Protected Areas plan **and/or** Official Plan)
- b) Clear **targets and metrics for successful strategy implementation** within strategy, Official Plan and/or Protected Areas Plan
- c) **Monitoring to track biodiversity changes** to propel adaptive management strategies forward

## Municipal Examples:

1. [Toronto's Biodiversity Strategy](#)
2. [Edmonton's Biodiversity Action Plan](#)
3. [Vancouver's Biodiversity Strategy](#)
4. [Hamilton's Biodiversity Action Plan \(BAP\)](#)
5. [The London Plan Monitoring Report 2020](#)
6. [Stormwater Quality Monitoring Program - Strathcona County](#)
7. [City of Surrey](#)
8. [Ville de Granby](#)

## 2.3 Municipality has an **Adopted** Climate Change Adaptation Strategy that Includes **Nature-Based Climate Solutions**

Below is a compilation of climate strategies that may provide some guidance if you are looking towards **climate mitigation action** in your community that includes: clear targets and metrics of success **AND** evidence of ongoing measures and action.

## Municipal Examples:

1. [Vancouver's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#) (ENG)
2. [Ottawa's Climate Change Master Plan](#) (ENG | FR)

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3. [Toronto's Resilience Strategy](#) (ENG)
4. [Calgary's Climate Resiliency Strategy Action Plan](#) (ENG)
5. [Corridors écologiques](#)
6. [Solutions dans la nature](#)
7. [Répertoire métropolitain des initiatives municipales de conservation](#)

## Reading Resources:

- Government of Canada - Climate change adaptation plans and actions ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Working Toward Nature-Based Climate Solutions ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- [How Climate Change is Affecting Birds](#)
- [Best Land & Water Management Strategies for Municipalities & Concerned Citizens](#)

## 2.4 Municipality has an Official Habitat Management Strategy Based on Ecological and Climate Considerations such as:

- a) **increasing the number of trees** and area of the urban forest canopy;
- b) **leaving snags** standing in cases where public safety is not jeopardised;
- c) **protecting trees on private and public lands;**
- d) **protecting trees on private and public lands;**
- e) **prohibiting active vegetation management during breeding season on municipal lands**, including forests, storm-water management facilities, and easements.

## Municipal Examples:

1. National Greening Program / Programme National de Verdissement (Canada) ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
2. Canadian Urban Forest Strategy 2019-2024 ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
3. City of Ottawa Tree Protection By-law ([ENG](#) | [FR](#)) + Tree and Urban Forests ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
4. City of Calgary: Alberta's [Wildlife Act](#) and their [Environmental Responsibility Policy](#)
5. City of Toronto [Street Tree Bylaw](#), [Parks Tree Protection Bylaw](#)

## 2.5 Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) within or adjacent to Municipal Boundaries & A Local Partnership Promotes the Protection and Stewardship of this Area

Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas represent the most important sites for birds on the globe. There are approximately [600 IBAs in Canada](#) that meet at least one of the criteria at the global, continental or national scale. The IBA program is gradually being replaced by KBAs (Key Biodiversity Areas) program, but with a similar intent of recognizing the most important sites for any biodiversity.

Find nearby IBAs and KBAs [here](#)

What makes an area an IBA or KBA? [Find the criteria here](#).

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- **Reading Resources:** KBA Canada: National Key Biodiversity Area Standards ([ENG](#))

2.6 Municipality promotes the use of site-appropriate native flora in landscaping for its own properties and for development landscaping standards for subdivision permits

## Municipal Examples:

1. City of Toronto: A Property Owner's Guide to Healthy Ravines ([ENG](#))
2. District of Saanich: Recommended Native Plants for Riparian Area ([ENG](#))
3. Granby: Politique de Conservation Des Milieux Naturels ([FR](#))
4. Ecological Design Lab, FLAP Canada & Nature Canada: Naturalization Guides ([ENG](#))

## Reading Resources:

- The Green Pages: Native Plants for your Garden ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Bird Garden Certification ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Birds Canada: Gardening for Birds ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- How do I protect pollinators and biodiversity at home? ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))

2.7 **Community Participation** in at least ONE of the following Initiative That Encourages Increasing Wildlife Habitat on Private Land:

## National

- Currently enrolled in Bee City Canada program ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Official Butterflyway Designation by The David Suzuki Foundation ([ENG](#))
- Communities in Bloom ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))

## International

- Pollinator Partnership programs ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
  - Bee Friendly Farming ([ENG](#))
  - Bird Friendly Hay ([ENG](#))

## Local

- City of Toronto: [PollinateTO](#) (ENG)
- [Les oiseaux à la maison](#) (FR)
- Other Community-led native planting projects

## Reading Resources:

- Native Gardening 101 ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))

2.8 Stewardship Initiatives within the Municipality that Focus on Stopover and Nesting Habitat Protection



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## Municipal Examples:

- Halton Hills: [Credit Valley \(CVC\) Bird Friendly Hay Program](#) (ENG)
- City of London: [Eastern MeadowLark Protection Commitment](#) (ENG)

## Reading Resources:

- Community Science Map ([ENG](#)) ([FR](#)) - *Birds Canada*
- [Guide for Grassland Birds Stewardship in Ontario](#)
- [Native Plant Guide for Swallows in Ontario](#)
- Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))

## SECTION 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

### Mandatory #5: Hold (and officially proclaim) a World Migratory Bird Day Event Annually to Celebrate Birds in Your Municipality

Every year, Nature Canada and its partners; [Environment for the Americas](#) and QuebecOiseaux, work alongside nature organizations across the country to celebrate [World Migratory Bird Day](#), which is now a mandatory component for all Bird Friendly City and Town applicants.

World Migratory Bird Day is a great opportunity to bring your community together to celebrate the return of migratory birds to our skies. It is a day to raise awareness of the many threats that face our birds, and work towards mitigating those threats. Each year a new Conservation Theme is chosen and reflected in Nature Canada's resources for Bird Day hosts.

Nature organisations, Bird Teams and municipalities across the country take advantage of this moment to engage the public, in physical or virtual events to help protect our birds.

To learn more about how organisations have celebrated and raised awareness of migratory birds, and how you can do the same, click [here](#).

### Steps to Success:

- ❖ Local Bird Team Coalition registers their *Bird Day* event with Nature Canada's [Bird Day Mapper](#) to demonstrate their commitment to welcoming migratory birds back into their communities
- ❖ Council official proclaims an Official World Migratory Bird Day each year; **AND/OR**
- ❖ Endorses/supports Local Bird Team Coalition *Bird Day* event each year
  - Contact Bird Friendly City Organizer for draft proclamation templates

# Bird Friendly City

## 3.1 Schools, Groups & Communities

Local elementary and grade schools as well as youth educational organizations (e.g. Scouts Canada, Earth Rangers, 4-H) provide students with opportunities to **connect with nature, enjoy birds and learn how to help them**. Local school boards, conservation authorities, and/or municipalities, have facilities and staffing to support outdoor/environmental education, including opportunities to observe birds.

Educational programs **must include** specific elements designed to engage members of the public who are underserved, low income and/or self-identify as BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, and new arrivals to Canada.

### Municipal Examples & Readings for Youth Engagement:

- [Group Nature Programs for Children and Youth](#) - City of Calgary (ENG)
- Christmas Bird Count for Kids ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Bird Friendly Schools ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: [Programs for New Canadians](#)
- Nature Canada's **NatureHood Program** ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- [Ontariogreen](#): Environmental Education in Classrooms and Communities
- FLAP Canada: Birds in Your Hood ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))

## 3.2 College & University Campuses

College and University campuses have [adopted practices that actively reduce threats](#) to birds or establish habitat that benefits birds. Implementation of practices should include or be driven by student committees or groups.

### Examples:

- City of Vancouver: University of British Columbia - [Bird Collisions Program](#)
- City of Toronto: York University - [Feather Friendly Installation](#)
- City of Calgary: [University of Calgary's Bee Campus Initiative](#)

### Reading Resources:

- [Bird Safe Campus](#) enrollment - FLAP Canada; [Making The University of Ottawa a Bird Safe Campus](#) (ENG)
- [Campus Biodiversity Network](#) (ENG)
- [Bird Safe Campus Summit](#) (ENG)

# Bird Friendly City

## 3.3 Communicating Best Practices to Help Birds

Bird Team partners (**including municipality**) provide public access to resources (web links, brochures etc.) that encourage and inform the public about the benefit to birds from native plant gardening **OR** the establishment of natural habitat patches on their property in support of birds and/or pollinators.

### Municipal Examples:

1. [Bird-window Collision Guide](#)
2. [Town of Devon, AB](#) (ENG)
3. [Lions Bay, BC Bird Friendly](#) (ENG)
4. [City of Vaughan, ON](#) (ENG)
5. [City of Kawartha Lakes, ON](#) (ENG)
6. [City of Regina, SK](#) (ENG)
7. [Ecoregional Planting Guides](#) - P2C

## 3.4 Public Installations and/or Demonstrations on Bird-Friendly Practices

Municipality and Bird Friendly City partners install demonstrations or displays in public areas that educate citizens on the benefits of bird friendly actions and encourage engagement.

### Municipal Examples:

1. City of [Vancouver](#) - Bird Celebration
2. City of Ottawa - [Crow Public Art](#)
3. City of Calgary - [The Nest: Public Art](#)
4. City of Toronto - [Colonel Sam Smith and East Point Park Installations](#)
5. Trail signage of local birds and their habitat
6. Brochures available about bird friendly actions

### Reading Resources:

- CPAWS / SNAP Municipality Fund for Biodiversity ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))
- [Halton Hills Nature: Art for the Birds](#)

## 3.5 Accessible Birding Locations within your Municipality

There is at least one birding location within your city or town that has infrastructure to facilitate the observation and appreciation of birds (e.g. signs, panels, observation tower, and trails). This facility is publicly accessible for people without a car and for folks who use mobility devices (served by public transit and/or bicycle and pedestrian trails).

What is Accessible Birding? [Birdability](#): Because Birding is for Everybody!

**Examples:** [Birdwatching Programs: Calgary](#); [TRCA Birding Locations](#); [OFNC Birding Locations](#)

# Bird Friendly City

## 3.6 Local Bird Friendly Businesses

Local businesses sell and/or promote products that are bird-friendly; a variety of products and business types will be accepted (see below). Franchise and box-stores such as *Canadian Tire*, *Wholefoods* or others will not be accepted.

### Bird Friendly Products:

- [What is Bird Friendly Coffee exactly?](#)
  - [All about Bird Friendly Coffee](#)
  - [Totem Roasters](#)
- [Zero Waste Directory](#)
- [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) and other [Feather Friendly Retailers](#)

## 3.7 City Bird Poll

1. **First decide on what species you want to be possible options** within the City Bird poll (either internally with Bird Team coalition members or through public engagement; both options work great but may be dependent on capacity)
2. **Set dates and time** for when you want voting period to end
3. **City engagement** - we want the municipality to be supportive and endorse the winner of the poll; reach out to them early to get up to speed on City Bird campaign plans
4. **Create an online voting format** (JotForm, Google Forms, SurveyMonkey etc)
5. Promote and publicize City Bird Poll (social media, radio, newspaper, emails)
6. Announce winner after voting period ends
7. Celebrate your accomplishment!

### Municipal Examples:

- City of [London](#): Northern Cardinal
- City of [Vancouver](#): Anna's Hummingbird
- City of [Calgary](#): Black-capped Chickadee
- Cities of: [Hamilton and Burlington](#): Peregrine Falcon & Trumpeter Swan

## 3.8 Active Community Science Programs within your Municipality

**Birds Canada Community Science Mapper** ([ENG](#) | [FR](#))

### Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

Started in 1900, the Christmas Bird Count is North America's longest-running Citizen Science project—and it could use your Bird Team's help. All over Canada (and the Western Hemisphere

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in general) nature-lovers count birds together to form one of the largest sets of wildlife survey data in the world! This event is annually ran by [Birds Canada](#) and [National Audubon](#).

Find your local CBC group [here](#).

## Backyard Bird Count

The Cornell Lab, Audubon Society and Bird's Canada will be holding the Great Backyard Bird Count from February 18 to 21, 2022. This could be a great opportunity for a birding outing in your community and amongst Bird Team members.

Find more about the event [here](#).

Learn how to participate [here](#).

## SwiftWatch

This community science initiative is run and organized by [Birds Canada](#) typically in May and June, which are the peak migration times for Chimney swifts. To learn more about SwiftWatch and how to get involved visit the Birds Canada website [here](#).

## Project FeederWatch

Help count feeder birds for science in partnership [Birds Canada](#) and The Cornell Lab's [Project FeederWatch](#)!

## FUNDING INFORMATION

### National

[The Habitat Stewardship Program \(HSP\)](#) was established in 2000. It provides funding for projects submitted by Canadians that contribute directly to the recovery objectives and population goals of species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

HSP also prevents other species from becoming a conservation concern. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) administers HSP funds that support terrestrial stewardship projects while Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for administering the HSP for aquatic stewardship projects.

[The Environmental Damages Fund \(EDF\)](#) is a specified purpose account administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to direct funds received from fines, court orders and voluntary payments to priority projects that will benefit Canada's natural environment. The purpose of any contribution to the EDF is to restore the environment and

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conserve wildlife and habitats in a scientifically sound, cost-effective, and technically feasible way. Fines directed to the EDF are used to fund projects that focus on the following four categories in order of priority:

- restoration
- environmental quality improvement
- research and development
- education and awareness

[The Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#) offers grants for municipal environmental projects. Loans are also available to municipalities at competitive rates, and most recipients receive an additional grant of up to 15 percent of their loan amount. Municipal partners may apply for competitive, long-term financing.

[EcoAction Community Funding Program \(EcoAction\)](#) is a national program that funds local action-based projects that produce measurable, positive effects on the environment. The maximum EcoAction funding is \$100,000 per project; the minimum funding amount is \$25,000 per project for a maximum duration of 36 months. A minimum of 50% of total project value must come from sources other than the Government of Canada.

[The Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk \(AFSAR\)](#) was established in 2004 and supports the development of Indigenous capacity to participate actively in the implementation of the Species at Risk Act (SARA). The Act recognizes the important role that Indigenous Peoples play in wildlife conservation and the need to consider Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) in the assessment of which species may be at risk, as well as in the development and implementation of protection and recovery measures. Additionally, AFSAR supports projects that will proactively prevent species, other than species at risk, from becoming a conservation concern.

[TD Friends of the Environment Foundation](#) is a national charity founded by TD Bank Group in 1990. It supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education and green space programs. Eligible projects include schoolyard greening, park revitalization, community gardens, park programming and citizen science initiatives.

[The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation](#) supports programs around the world that protect communities and the ecosystems upon which they depend. For more than three decades, the Mott Foundation's Environment program has supported stewardship of the world's natural resources.

[The Gosling Foundation's](#) primary focus is supporting projects that enhance and expand the capacity of nature organisations.

[The McConnell Foundation](#) supports cultural, economic and social systems innovation in Canada. They seek to advance community wellbeing and environmental sustainability at a generational scale.

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[Indigenous Guardians Pilot](#) - Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECC)

## Provincial/Territorial

### British Columbia (BC)

- [Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network \(CBEEN\)](#) has an online database for funding opportunities for environmental education initiatives. The database has nearly 100 funding opportunities searchable by region, project type, applicant type, and project theme. Please note that to access this database, you have to be a CBEEN member, which has an annual cost of \$25.
- [The Kootenay Conservation Program](#) in partnership with the Regional District of East Kootenay provides funding for projects that benefit conservation in the area from Spillimacheen to Canal Flats through the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund (CVLCF). The purpose of the CVLCF is to provide local financial support for important projects that will contribute to the conservation of our valuable natural areas; one step towards restoring and preserving a healthy environment. The intent is to provide funding for conservation projects that are not the existing responsibility of the federal, provincial or local governments.
- [Columbia Basin Trust's Trail Enhancement Grants](#) provide funding for organisations looking to enhance or develop new recreational trails.

### Alberta (AB)

- [The Community Initiatives Program \(CIP\)](#) provides funding for organisations that create opportunities for Albertans to engage with and help develop their communities. CIP outcomes are to:
  - Strengthen leadership and organisational capacity of community organisations
  - Support community-driven goals that have a public benefit
- [Alberta Ecotrust](#) funds the people and projects working on Alberta's most pressing environmental issues. Alberta Ecotrust invests in Alberta's environmental non-governmental organisations to more effectively deliver programs, projects, and results that advance their environmental missions.

### Manitoba (MB)

- [Wildlife Enhancement Initiatives Grant](#) helps applicants complete projects, programs and studies that protect and increase wildlife habitats and populations in Manitoba. Eligible projects include activities that:
  - conserve or increase wildlife populations



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- protect, manage or restore wildlife habitats
- study wildlife populations or habitats
- provide education programs for hunters and trappers
- acquire, by purchase, lease or other means, property or an interest in property, to protect a critical wildlife habitat
- [Assiniboine Credit Union's Sustainable Community Grants](#) provides funding to groups or organisations working to create positive solutions to environmental concerns.

## Saskatchewan (SK)

- [EcoFriendly Sask](#) provides small grants to support local projects that directly or indirectly protect, preserve or repair the natural environment.

## Ontario (ON)

- [The Species At Risk Stewardship Program](#) encourages people to get involved in helping to protect and recover Ontario's species at risk in a proactive and collaborative way. The program provides support to communities, organisations, landowners, Indigenous communities/groups, industry and academics across Ontario to implement on-the-ground activities that benefit species at risk and/or their habitats.

## Quebec (QC)

- The [Fonds d'action québécois pour le développement durable](#) supports practical actions and behaviour changes that uphold sustainable development.

## Nova Scotia (NS)

- The provincial government funds a variety of trail programs, including recreational trail expansion grants, trail maintenance program, community trails leadership fund and engineering assistance grant program.

## New Brunswick (NB)

- The New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund's Biodiversity Conservation Program encourages conservation of wildlife species as functioning components of ecosystems and as a contribution toward the biological diversity of native species and habitats in New Brunswick. It also facilitates identification, conservation and recovery actions of native species at risk as a consequence of human activities.

## Nunavut (NU)

# Bird Friendly City

- [Nauttiguqtiit Inuit Stewards Wildlife Compensation Fund](#) established in 2018 by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. Available for communities impacted by the Mary River mine and other [Cultural and Community-Based programs](#)
- [Nunavut Climate Change Secretariat](#).

## Yukon (YK)

- [Environmental Awareness Funding \(EAF\)](#) - Government of Yukon
- [Nature Smart Climate Solutions Climate Solutions Fund](#)

## Northwest Territories (NWT)

- [Climate Change Preparedness in The North](#)
- [Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring Program](#)

### CITIES REPRESENTED:

Barrie, ON  
 Burlington, ON  
 Calgary, AB  
 City of Kawartha Lakes, ON  
 Devon, AB  
 Drummondville, QC  
 Edmonton, AB  
 Granby, QC  
 Guelph, ON  
 Halton Hills, ON  
 Halifax, NS  
 Hamilton, ON  
 Laval, QC  
 Lions Bay, BC

London, ON  
 Montreal, QC  
 Ottawa, ON  
 Peterborough, ON  
 Regina, SK  
 Saanich, BC  
 Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC  
 Strathcona County, AB  
 Surrey, BC  
 Toronto, ON  
 Vancouver, BC  
 Victoriaville, QC  
 Windsor, ON