

BIRD FRIENDLY

APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION

Scoring and Evaluation Rubric Version 2.0 June, 2023



BIRD FRIENDLY
CITY

CITY REPRESENTED: Halifax NS

DATE OF SUBMISSION: February 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mandatory Criteria_____	1
Section 1: Threat Reduction_____	9
Section 2: Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency_____	26
Section 3: Community Outreach/Education_____	39

MANDATORY CRITERIA

Who can apply? The Bird Friendly City Canada Standard generally applies to cities with populations over 30,000. Cities (municipalities) that have populations between 15,000 and 30,000 have the option of applying for this standard or for the small municipality standard. The applicant municipality must have its own elected Council with typical municipal powers.

To obtain Bird Friendly status, a certain number of points must be obtained in each category of criteria. The level that an applicant is awarded is equivalent to the lowest level achieved in each of the three categories of criteria (threat reduction, habitat protection, restoration and climate resilience, and community outreach/education). Many of the criteria include evidence of a policy and evidence of implementation of the policy. In many cases, actions to meet a criterion are community-based (not government). It is a good exercise for Bird Teams during the application process to identify those actions that can be implemented by community members and those that require implementation by the municipality or some other level of government.

Generally all of the points are awarded contingent on evidence in support of the action. However, points can be rewarded even if the action has not been completed, as long as there is strong evidence that a process to implement or complete the action is underway.

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-1 – ESTABLISHMENT OF BIRD TEAM

DESCRIPTION

Establish a Bird City Team (standing committee) to drive the project forward. Try to ensure that your team represents different perspectives and has a liaison with the municipality.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide a list of the bird team members, affiliations and contact information.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Coalition members:

Karen McKendry, karenmckendry@ecologyaction.ca, Ecology Action Center
Amy Mui, amy.mui@dal.ca, Dalhousie University Professor
Brodie Badcock-Parks, brodiebp@dal.ca, Nova Scotia Bird Society
Cindy Staicer, cindy.staicer@dal.ca, Dalhousie University Professor
Hope Swinimer, hope@hopeforwildlife.net, Hope For Wildlife
Kathryn Morse, kathryn.morse@halifax.ca, Halifax Regional Municipality Councillor
Katie Scott, k_scott@ducks.ca, Ducks Unlimited
Rielle Hoeg, Rhoeg@birdscanada.org, Birds Canada (Atlantic Canada)
Wendy McDonald, wendyathome27@gmail.com, Volunteer
Chris Kennedy, chris.kennedy@halifax.ca, Halifax Regional Municipality Employee
Sasha Chilibeck, sasha.chilibeck@dal.ca, Dalhousie University (Dal Birding Society)
Steven Morris, sfmorris111@gmail.com, Nova Scotia Bird Society
Shauna Doll, Shauna.Doll@halifax.ca, Halifax Regional Municipality
Tracy Jessen, jessent@halifax.ca, Halifax Regional Municipality Naturalization Coordinator
Marina McBride, education.outreach@naturens.ca, Young Naturalist Club and Nature Nova Scotia
Cassie Kent, purcell.kent@gmail.com, Design and Architecture
Jess Lewis, jess.lewis@naturens.ca, Nature Nova Scotia and Chair of Bird Friendly Halifax
Wesley petite, wpetite@gmail.com, Friends of The Public Gardens

Criteria Complete: Yes
Confirmed by Scoring: Yes

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	Choose an item.
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	Choose an item.

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-2: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LAND AND INCLUSION

DESCRIPTION

We recognize that all of Canada is still within the traditional territory or unceded territory of Indigenous Peoples. Through respect of this fact, and the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples, an Indigenous perspective should be included in this program if possible.

We encourage prospective applicant bird teams to seek this perspective as is possible. Bird teams must identify the Indigenous traditional territory (ies) of the municipality and invite it/them to participate in the initiative.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide the name of the relevant Indigenous Nation(s) and report on the outcome of an invitation to participate in the initiative.

Reporting on progress of having an Indigenous perspective on the Bird Team is an annual requirement.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Bird Friendly Halifax operates in the district of Sipekne'katik, the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. In 2022, an invitation was sent to The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM) to participate in the project. While CMM received the invitation, they declined due to limited capacity, as they were overwhelmed with requests for representation. The member who initially sent the invitation is no longer with the coalition, and we no longer have access to the correspondence. More information about CMM can be found on their website: www.cmmns.com.

Bird Friendly Halifax maintains an open-door policy, welcoming anyone who wishes to join without restriction. There is no formal voting system, and no one has ever been denied participation in the coalition. We remain committed to fostering relationships with Mi'kmaq communities and will continue to seek representation in a respectful and meaningful way.

Criteria Complete: Yes
Confirmed by Scoring: Yes

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	Choose an item.
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	Choose an item.

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-3: FORMAL MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

DESCRIPTION

Pass a council resolution nominating or supporting your municipality's efforts to be a Bird Friendly City OR a letter of support from a high-ranking city official (latter only applies to entry level).

SCORING INDICATORS

Willingness to pass council resolution within the first year of certification OR a letter of support for the certification program from a high-ranking city official (mayor, CEO, etc.). Intermediate and High status require a Council resolution.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

On May 31 2022, Halifax Regional Council passed a motion approving city staff involvement and committed to preparing a report on how Bird Friendly Activities could be incorporated into current city works the motions stated: "*The Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report evaluating the application from Halifax to Nature Canada for certification as a bird friendly City.*" and can be found in section 15.2 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDING COMMITTEE at this link:

<https://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/regional-council/may-31-2022-halifax-regional-council>. For the full presentation and council report visit this link:

[15.2.1 Application for Halifax as a Bird Friendly City* \[PDF\]](#)

Criteria Complete: Yes
Confirmed by Scoring: Yes

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	Choose an item.
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	Choose an item.

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-4: ANNUAL REPORT

DESCRIPTION

Once your municipality has been accorded Bird Friendly City status, the Bird Team must provide an annual report card on activities related to your Bird Friendly City status. Download Report cards from the Bird Friendly City website or request from Nature Canada staff.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide an Annual Report card by your municipality’s one-year certification anniversary.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Done

Criteria Complete: Yes
Confirmed by Scoring: Yes

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	Choose an item.
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	Choose an item.

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-5: WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

DESCRIPTION

Hold a World Migratory Bird Day event annually to celebrate birds in your municipality. Municipalities applying for the first time must hold a Bird Day within the year of application and continue the event to maintain status.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the event and Mayor's or Council proclamation in support of Bird Day.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

In 2023, Halifax Migratory Bird Day and Bird Week occurred from May 13th to May 20th. We hosted 13 beginner bird walks connecting councillors with constituents across the city. We reached approximately 100 individuals and 12 councillors.

- Proclamation HRM bird week <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/230509rci07.pdf>
- Link to Facebook post here: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=630130889157294&set=a.482869567216761>
- Link to Eventbrite post see here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/halifax-bird-week-tickets-619815463737>

In 2024 Bird Friendly Halifax and Halifax Regional Municipality celebrated World Migratory Bird Day on May 11th, 2024 with an aerial insectivore talk and walk with 50 participants. We then celebrated Halifax Bird Week from May 24 to May 30th and conducted 10 beginner bird walks connecting councillors with constituents across the city.

- aerial insectivores Walk and talk, May 11th from 1030-1230 [link here](#)
- Halifax Bird Week, [Link here](#)

Criteria Complete: Yes
Confirmed by Scoring: Yes

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	Choose an item.
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	Choose an item.

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-6: PROGRAM VISIBILITY

DESCRIPTION

Include information about Bird Friendly City on the City website where it can be easily found, once certification is accorded.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide a link and proof of posting. This is expected to happen during the annual report or when as city re-applies for certification.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

- NatureNS-hosted Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/birdfriendlyhalifax>
- NatureNS intro blog and webpage <https://naturens.ca/join-bird-friendly-halifax/> and <https://naturens.ca/actions/birdfriendlyhalifax/>
- Link to HRM website: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/environment-climate-change/lakes-rivers/nature-biodiversity>

Criteria Complete: Yes
Confirmed by Scoring: Yes

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	Choose an item.
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	Choose an item.

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-7: RENEWAL

DESCRIPTION

Bird Friendly City status will last two years, after which you must reapply. Each application can use and build on past applications, but must show some evidence of progress over time. No evidence of progress will result in rejecting the application or dropping a certification level.

SCORING INDICATORS

Submit an application for renewal. Applications for renewal are due by the September or February application window that follows the two year anniversary of their most recent application's acceptance and their recognition as a bird friendly city.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Done

Criteria Complete: Yes
Confirmed by Scoring: Yes

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	Choose an item.
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	Choose an item.

SECTION 1: THREAT REDUCTION

THREAT REDUCTION

1.1 (A) OWNED CATS

DESCRIPTION

Regulatory and educational measures taken to help control and reduce populations of cats roaming at large

(A) Coordinated efforts directed at cat owners to reduce the number of owned cats outside such as educational campaigns, licensing and no-roam bylaws.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for a no-roam bylaw (i.e. owned cats not allowed to roam at large), one point for evidence of enforcement of the bylaw, and one point for an educational campaign targeting residents to make them aware of the bylaw. High-level certification requires proof of a no-roam bylaw all three indicators.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Halifax does not have a no-roaming bylaw. We do however have a Municipal bylaw for cat ownership: <https://www.halifax.ca/home-property/animal-services/cat-ownership>, which states that “You must: keep your cat(s) from damaging public or private property pick up after your cats if they defecate on any property other than yours (where they defecate on your property is your business) prevent your cats from attacking any person or other animal”

Halifax also has Cat owner education, spay day HRM and NS movements <https://halifax.citynews.ca/local-news/education-campaign-urges-owners-to-keep-cats-inside-1748191>. Spay Day HRM also supports education surrounding keeping cats indoors: <https://spaydaynovascotia.wpcomstaging.com/indoor-cats-good-for-everyone/>. In addition to the spay day HRM Bird Friendly Halifax posts Educational content regarding cats yearly see here: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=631458665691183&set=pcb.631458759024507> And here: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=619930990177284&set=a.482869567216761> We also have the threat of cats linked on our BFH landing page here: <https://naturens.ca/actions/birdfriendlyhalifax/>

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choose

THREAT REDUCTION

1.1 (B) UNOWNED CATS

DESCRIPTION

Within the municipality, there is an active strategy to reduce populations of unowned (feral) cats and mitigate their threat to birds (e.g. removing feral colonies from areas of high bird importance);

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for evidence of active, municipal-wide strategies and actions that demonstrate progress on reducing the population of unowned cats. A second point for proof of efforts to remove feral cats from important bird habitats where they present increased risk to birds. An example would include relocating feral cats to areas such as a cat sanctuary, where they do not pose risks to wildlife.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Halifax currently has a trap and spay/neuter funding program. May locations offer low-cost spay and neutering services to low-income families and/or students. These agencies include the Metro SPCA, Bide Awhile, Spay Day HRM Society and various Veterinary Clinics. Halifax provides funding of \$50,000 annually to charitable organizations for the purpose of spay and neutering cats. You can read the staff report at this link:

<https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/170124rc1415.pdf>. Halifax will continue to fund this program for at least 5 more years. See the report here: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/221025rc1513.pdf>

Funding includes the Trap Neuter and Return program <https://www.novascotiaspca.ca/services-care/trapneuterreturn/>. “Young kittens and friendly cats are taken to SPCA shelters where they will be cared for until they’re ready to find a forever home. Feral cats, who would be happier living outside, are humanely trapped, spayed/neutered, ear-tipped and returned to their local colony or a barn home. Over time, colonies reduce through natural attrition.”

There are feral cat sanctuaries which take cats and provide them with food and water:

<https://www.pierresalleycats.org/our-mission#:~:text=The%20feral%20cat%20colonies%20at,can%20find%20food%20and%20shelter.>

Spay Day HRM also has a barn cat program, barn cats are spayed/neutered and there is no adoption fee for these cats, and they are relocated from high-risk areas to barns where they can target rodent problems. To learn more about the barn cat program view this link: <https://spaydaynovascotia.wpcomstaging.com/barn-cat-program/>

Note: The Majority of Important bird areas in Halifax regional municipality are marine areas, including beaches and islands, they are not at risk by cat colonies that we know of. We do not know of any cats removed from these areas but we do know in general Spay Day HRM will relocate feral cats to known colonies or barns.

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choose

THREAT REDUCTION

1.1 (C) MONITORING OF ROAMING CATS

DESCRIPTION

(C)The Bird Team and/ municipality either has, or is a partner in programs/ projects to estimate the number and/or distribution of cats outdoors so that progress on reducing the populations of outdoor cats can be tracked over time.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for proof of implementation of a cat counting / estimating protocol to establish baseline numbers or to compare with baseline numbers. Data collected from shelters that demonstrate trends showing fewer cats over time is acceptable.

*** Note that this criterion does not apply to municipalities in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories or the Yukon.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The Outdoor Cats of Halifax Nova Scotia is a project of the Bird Friendly Halifax coalition. This project is designed to monitor the outdoor and feral cat population in Nova Scotia's largest city and to draw attention to the threat outdoor and stray cats pose to wild bird populations. Link here:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/outdoor-cats-of-halifax-nova-scotia>

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choose

THREAT REDUCTION

12 (A) WINDOW COLLISIONS – NEW CONSTRUCTION

DESCRIPTION

Demonstrate that your municipality is taking measures to reduce window collisions by:
(A) Developing and implementing bird friendly design standards/CSA Bird Friendly Building Design standard for new construction

SCORING INDICATORS

Proof of each action required.

(A) One point if a municipality has a bird-friendly building design standard that is a guideline, and two points if the standard is a requirement. *Note High-level status requires that a municipality have, at least, a guideline.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

In 2024 after a presentation from Bird Friendly Halifax representatives to the Environmental and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC), BFH member and councillor Kathreryn Morse proposed a motion to develop a staff report on voluntary and mandatory bird-friendly design standards.

The motion was passed, see the video of the Committee meeting here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/RdJTTjvpNg> Presentation starting at 44:03 And motion Proposed by Kathryn Morse at 1:11:40 See the PDF of the motion here and the motion passed in section 10.3.2 Jess Lewis – Bird Friendly Halifax <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/standing-committees/240801esscmns.pdf>

The municipality has assigned urban planners to develop the staff report and our coalition remains involved in the process through Chris Kennedy, (HRM staff). We expect this to be a process over the coming years with our continued feedback on the staff report. Our coalition will continue to push for mandatory bird friendly building designs.

Additional information:

- Presentation pdf slides here: https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/standing-committees/240801essc1032pres_0.pdf
- Article here in the Halifax Examiner: <https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/government/city-hall/halifax-council-committee-wants-bird-friendly-building-design/>
- Article here on Halifax skyline from a news station called The Signal: <https://signalhfx.ca/halifaxs-growing-skyline-poses-threat-to-birds/>
- Article here on the Nature Nova Scotia website, written by Dalhousie University student Julia Mcfarlan: <https://naturens.ca/advancing-bird-friendly-building-design-for-a-safer-future/>

Points Awarded: 0

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

THREAT REDUCTION

1.2 (B) WINDOW COLLISIONS – EXISTING AND PROPOSED MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

DESCRIPTION

(B) Assessing and mitigating risk to birds from existing and proposed municipal buildings.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if individuals or a group monitors window collisions, and/or assess risk by using [BirdSafe](#), or a similar program.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

Hope for Wildlife monitors bird deaths and incidents which include window collisions and road mortality, some of the data is available here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fd87ab1af51a4e17b61d794a72d050c3> *NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION awaiting permission from student*

HRM individuals and members of the bird team Report collisions to GMBCM, <https://www.birdmapper.org/pages/explore-the-map> Search Halifax, NS.

We also created a survey that people were required to fill out for Operation Window Strike Part 1 and Part 2. It includes information on We asked them to tell us a bit about their neighbourhoods, the birds near them, and how the kits worked out. See this link for results from 2022: <https://naturens.ca/results-from-2022-operation-window-strike/>

Points Awarded: 0

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

THREAT REDUCTION

1.2 (C) WINDOW COLLISIONS - EDUCATION OF PROPERTY OWNERS

DESCRIPTION

(C) Informing and educating property owners and tenants of existing buildings (including home owners) of measures they can take to mitigate bird collision risk.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for evidence of educational campaigns focused on the broad public or specific neighbourhoods.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

In 2022-2023 we began Operation Window Strike Part One, we gave out 50 window strike kits by mailing them to interested participants. Kits included window markers, window tape and other decals. We then prompted individuals to fill out our survey. View this link to learn more: <https://naturens.ca/haligonians-protecting-birds-from-window-strikes/#:~:text=As%20part%20of%20Operation%20Window,area%20>

In 2023- 2024 BFH launched Operation Window Strike Part 2, and we distributed an estimated 200 packages of feather-friendly tape. The coalitions Distributed the tape at 3 different booth events, 3 libraries, the Museum of Natural History, during our “bird week walks” and at Dalhousie University. Each kit contained a QR code which people could scan to respond to a survey giving information on window strikes. See a link to the feather-friendly tape here: <https://featherfriendly.com/>

See the image here for the birds and wildlife event at Fisherman's Cove:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=857509786419402&set=a.482869563883428>

Moving into 2025 we plan on continuing this project and focusing on more survey responses and more demonstration sites.

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

THREAT REDUCTION

1.2 (D) TREATED WINDOWS - BASELINE DATA

DESCRIPTION

(D) 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.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide evidence of an active database on treated windows.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

- Bird-friendly Halifax has completed the survey for collision mapping and has entered buildings onto the website <https://www.birdmapper.org/>. The coalition is interested in tracking and monitoring locations that are already bird friendly and we will be entering bird friendly building design solutions as we find them. Such as the Halifax Public Library see building design here: <https://halifaxcentrallibrary.ca/building-design/green-features.html>

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

THREAT REDUCTION

13 (A) LIGHT POLLUTION – REDUCTION STRATEGY (MIGRATION)

DESCRIPTION

(A) Municipality has a light pollution reduction strategy for existing and planned neighbourhoods.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point upon evidence of a municipal strategy or policy (including guidance or standards) to reduce light pollution.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

BFH representatives met with HRM staff to discuss HRM's Park Lighting Strategy beginning in 2023. The Park Lighting Strategy, which our coalition had input into, was passed at the Regional Council. There will be a supplemental staff report about the criteria for applying the strategy to existing parks. See the link to the official city strategy on light pollution in HRM parks here: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/standing-committees/241212cped1311.pdf> The meeting is available here on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/live/hOqFJHZzgD0> or You can watch the presentation, and discussion (quite lengthy) here (click on agenda item 15.3.1): <https://pub-halifax.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=8e1d3ae8-e394-44dd-ac5c-cc670fcfdd5b&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=32&Tab=attachments>

On page 8 of the above document, you can find statements such as "Concerns have been raised over sky glow and the impacts on the navigability of birds and other wildlife and the inability for people to adequately observe the night sky. In Figure B2 of the Appendix page 6, you can see ineffective lighting which takes into consideration skyglow and glare.

See the link to the official city strategy on light pollution in HRM parks here: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/standing-committees/241212cped1311.pdf> also available here on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/live/hOqFJHZzgD0>

We do not know when this municipal parks lighting strategy will be implemented but councillor Sam Austin sheds some light on the situation: <https://samaustin.ca/council-update-parks-lighting-strategy/> "So I moved a motion for a supplemental report on a retrofit program. Council approved my supplemental report request and I'm hoping that work around implementing the Strategy will come back in time for consideration in the 2026 budget. Council will then be able to decide how aggressive we want to be about adding lighting to existing parks rather than just letting implementation drift."

BFH coalition members plan to meet with HRM staff that are working on the supplemental report to add further comments on consideration for birds and wildlife in the coming months.

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

THREAT REDUCTION

1.3 (B) LIGHT POLLUTION – NEW DEVELOPMENTS / RETROFIT

DESCRIPTION

(B) Municipality actively implements light pollution reduction strategy from point sources, such as retrofitting standard streetlights with downward directional, wildlife-friendly LED lighting that is 3000K or less, or make communication tower lighting and other facility lighting wildlife-friendly.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for proof of implementation of a program to reduce light pollution from point sources

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

The city has gradually transitioned to LEDs over time (see [spreadsheet with wattage data](#)) and in 2021 [started an initiative](#) to replace all street lights, indirectly resulting in more [smart LEDs](#) which point downward or *can* be pointed downward. Birds were not a factor in the decision to initiate the project, but they likely benefit in areas where the lights are in place (at least from a sky-light perspective, protecting migrating birds, though admittedly birds nesting under the lights will not experience any benefits to this project)

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

THREAT REDUCTION

1.3 (C) LIGHT POLLUTION - OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

DESCRIPTION

(C) Outreach campaign for residents and businesses to reduce external lighting that attracts nocturnal migrants such as “Lights out Toronto.”

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for proof of educational and outreach campaigns to reduce light attraction during migration periods.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

- Royal Astronomical Society promotes light pollution mitigation through their events and social media: <https://halifax.rasc.ca/index.php/responsible-lighting>
- CityNews Halifax 2024 article on the effects of light pollution on birds [Outside lights are deadly to birds, especially this time of year](#)
- Bird Friendly Halifax Social media campaign using our mascot the common nighthawk. Link here: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=968992101937836&set=pb.100064811643662.-2207520000&type=3>
- Halifax’s growing skyline poses a threat to birds <https://signalhfx.ca/halifaxes-growing-skyline-poses-threat-to-birds/>

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

THREAT REDUCTION

14 (A) PESTICIDE USE - COSMETIC PESTICIDES

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has a policy and bylaw to reduce or eliminate use of pesticides known to directly or indirectly harm birds on public and private lands including:

(A) Restricting or banning use of cosmetic pesticides (e.g. broad-leaf plant control);

SCORING INDICATORS

One point with proof of a municipal policy and bylaw that bans cosmetic use of pesticides (including herbicides), and evidence of its enforcement.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Non-essential Pesticides Control Act

https://nslegislature.ca/legc/bills/61st_2nd/3rd_read/b061.htm

Halifax Pesticide Bylaw (1), Banned 2,4-D products.

<https://novascotia.ca/nse/pests/hrmbylaw.asp>

Halifax's Pesticide By-law originally regulated pesticide use within the municipality, including a permit program and an awareness campaign that significantly reduced applications from 3,500 in 2001 to just 47 by 2010. However, with the introduction of the Provincial Non-Essential Pesticides Control Act in 2010, which banned 2,4-D products, and subsequent changes in industry practices, the By-law became redundant and is no longer enforced. Pesticide regulation now falls under provincial jurisdiction, limiting Halifax's authority in this area. Efforts toward Integrated Pest Management strategies are ongoing. More details can be found here: By-law Overview and [Council Motion](#)

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

THREAT REDUCTION

1.4 (B) PESTICIDE USE - INSECT PESTICIDES

DESCRIPTION

(B) Restricting or banning use pesticides to control insects or rodents that are important food sources for birds (e.g. neonicotinoids, Bti for mosquito or midge control, rodenticides).

SCORING INDICATORS

One point with proof of a policy and bylaw that specifically bans or severely restricts uses of neonicotinoids, Bti and rodenticides.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE Integrated Pest Management strategies in the works see motion here:: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/220531rc1514.pdf> We will be working on developing a policy to ban neonictides in the coming years, however halifax doesnt have many farmlands in it's vicinity so neonictides may not even be in use.

Points Awarded: 0

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

THREAT REDUCTION

15 PLASTICS

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has effective regulatory or non-regulatory measures that result in a reduction of plastic waste generated and the elimination of plastic pollution in local ecosystems such as shorelines and riversides.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of regulatory (e.g. a municipal bylaw) and voluntary measures such as banning single use plastics, shopping bags, plastic straws, or actions to remove plastic pollution from local ecosystems.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

- Nova Scotia wide Plastic Bag Ban (1) <https://novascotia.ca/single-use-plastic-bag-ban/>
- HRM page and video on plastic waste reduction [Wasteless | Waste Reduction | Halifax](#)
- Ocean Friendly Nova Scotia, a voluntary program that recognizes the efforts businesses take to reduce single-use plastics in daily operations.
- Link here: <https://www.coastalaction.org/ocean-friendly-nova-scotia.html#:~:text=Ocean%20Friendly%20Nova%20Scotia%20is,differing%20efforts%20towards%20sustainable%20practices>.

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

THREAT REDUCTION

1.6 COLLISIONS WITH VEHICLES

DESCRIPTION

Measures in place to reduce bird collisions or disturbances associated with terrestrial and aquatic vehicles such as lower speed limits when passing through important bird habitat, and measures to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads (such as a good public transit system and cycling infrastructure).

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of measures to protect birds from vehicle collisions. For example, at locations where a busy road cuts through a wildlife corridor, evidence of mitigation would include lower speed limits, signage about wildlife crossing, or proof of engineered solutions such as wildlife underpasses or overpasses.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

HRM Integrated Mobility Plan includes emphasis on active transportation growth, including bike lanes <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/transportation-planning>

HRM Rapid Transit Strategy builds on IMP (above) with the goal to support city growth with more effective transportation options, including bussing and ferries <https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/rapid-transit>

The majority of IBAs in HRM are marine, including island and coastal locations. Roads near areas with high bird density are difficult to identify. One campaign currently taking place across Nova Scotia is Birds Canada's Piping Plover protection initiative, which educates people on how to avoid disturbing the species on beaches. This includes preventing ATV use in nesting areas. See an example of one sign here: <https://www.donenright.com/portfolio/piping-plover-sign-redesign/>

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

THREAT REDUCTION

1.7 HABITAT DISTURBANCE

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has policy and practices to prohibit or mitigate disturbance of birds from humans or their pets at natural areas or important bird habitat (e.g., leash bylaw, no-go zones certain times of year).

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of policy and examples of implementation such as signage at important bird habitat (e.g. a natural area, wetland or known migratory stopover site) or evidence of a bylaw in place.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

Halifax Animal bylaw, controls off-leash dogs on lands under city jurisdiction (1) <https://www.halifax.ca/home-property/animal-services/dog-ownership>

The province also has legislation specific to human- and pet-wildlife interactions for provincial lands, including parks system <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes>

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

THREAT REDUCTION

SCORING

ENTRY

10 points from at least 3 categories.

→ Choose an item. for Entry level with Choose an item. points from Choose an item. categories

INTERMEDIATE

13 points from at least 5 categories including at least 2 categories worth 3 or more.

→ Choose an item. for Intermediate level with points from Choose an item. categories. At least one point in each category of 1.1 and 1.2 Choose an item..

HIGH

16 points or more. Must include at least 3 points in each category of 1.1 and 1.2.

Must have no roam bylaw (cats), and bird friendly building guidelines for high level.

→ Choose an item. for High level. Choose an item. a no roam bylaw for cats. Choose an item. Bird friendly building guidelines. This application has earned Choose an item. points Choose an item. 3 points in both categories 1.1 and 1.2.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

12

SECTION 2: HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.1 NATURAL AREAS PROTECTION

DESCRIPTION

Natural areas within the municipal boundaries are protected within the Municipal Official Plan and there is a commitment to increase this area. Plan distinguishes between natural areas and other types of municipal space such as recreational parks.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the policy. To maintain this criterion, the municipality must document the size of the area protected, and demonstrate a commitment to increase in this area over time. Any municipal plan that includes protection of natural area spaces will receive one point. Additional points are based on:

- a) evidence of implementation, and
- b), whether there are ambitious targets to increase the number and size of the protected areas.

One point is deducted if there are current or recent (within last year) examples of large-scale habitat destruction, or clear examples of “urban sprawl.” “Urban sprawl” in this sense is when natural areas on the city’s periphery are converted to urban uses such as residential, institutional or commercial areas.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

Halifax Green Network Plan, identifies priority “open” spaces and provides management and design to maintain and promote ecological integrity and sustainability.

[Halifax Green Network Plan](#)

Implementation and metrics of the Halifax Green Network Plan for 2021-2022 can be found in the 2021-2022 progress report **(PG 7)**:

[Halifax Green Network Plan 2021 Progress Report, November 3, 2022 ESSC | Halifax.ca](#)

HRMs [Park Naturalization | Halifax](#) pilot project success has led to the HRM’s Naturalization Strategy to receive \$150,000 for continuing its work: [Naturalization Strategy - Sep 13/22 Regional Council | Halifax.ca](#)

Naturalization Initiatives such as [Shubie Park Naturalization Project](#) and [Birch Cove Naturalization Project with HRM](#)

While speaking about the [Lake Banook Naturalization Project](#), HRM Environmental Specialists noted that 32 potential naturalization sites have been identified in HRM.

The Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes area in Halifax is progressing toward designation as a National Urban Park:

[Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes | Regional Plan | Halifax](#)

The [Halifax Green Network Plan \(PG 54\)](#) and [Halifax Regional Plan 2023 Draft \(PG 86\)](#) - highlight the intention to designate and protect Blue Mountain-Birch Coves Lakes, Sandy Lake-Sackville River Regional Park, and the Halifax Backlands.

The [Regional Municipal Planning Strategy for Halifax \(PG 21\)](#) defines Regional Parks (one type of municipal park) as: “The primary objective of a Regional Park is to preserve and protect significant natural or cultural resources. The essential feature of a Regional Park may include, but not be limited to, open space, wilderness, scenic beauty, flora, fauna, and recreational, archaeological, historical, cultural and/or geological resources.” As stated on **(PG 23)**: HRM shall, through the Subdivision By-law, establish a requirement for a minimum of **10% park dedication** for new subdivisions except that the dedication shall be reduced to 5% for: (a) existing

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

residential subdivisions outside of the Interim Growth Management Area; (b) Classic Conservation Design Developments as provided for under Section 3.4.1 of this Plan; and (c) the first three lots subdivided from any parcel of land in existence on June 16, 2007.

The size of Regional Parks is available using the [HRM Parks layer](#) of HRM Open Data portal. There are 30 Regional Parks, all of which conserve natural areas to some degree.

The [Themes and Directions report](#), created in the lead-up to revising the Municipal Planning Strategy, now classifies 5 Regional Parks as “Wilderness Parks.” This new category will lead to these parks being “largely retained in a natural state, offering passive access to nature.”

New: The [Regional Municipal Planning Strategy](#) (2014 version containing all amendments up to June 13th, 2024) **(PG 18-26)** states that HRM intends to achieve an interconnected system of open space that acts as vital natural corridors through the development of its Greenbelting and Public Open Space Priorities Plan.

Points Awarded: 3

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

2.2 BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has an official strategy to protect and restore the biological diversity in its parks and natural areas. The strategy can include measures such as promoting connectivity between natural areas, buffering core biodiversity hotspots from harmful human activities, increasing the number of protected areas, and bird monitoring within municipal limits to assess the success of the strategy.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the strategy and its implementation. The strategy to protect and restore biological diversity can be part of the protected areas plan, or vice versa, but must specifically identify protection of biological diversity as a goal. One point for having an official biodiversity conservation strategy or goal (adopted by Council). Two points if the strategy or goal has targets and metrics for success and evidence of implementation. Three points for municipalities that meet the previous two tests as well as using monitoring to track changes to biodiversity and use results for adaptive management (e.g. bird monitoring in city owned natural areas).

One point is deducted upon evidence of current or very recent (within one year) activities that damage biodiversity such as loss or degradation of important habitat for wildlife, or contamination of wildlife habitat by toxic chemicals.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

New: The [Regional Municipal Planning Strategy](#) (2014 version containing all amendments up to June 13th, 2024) (**PG 18-26**) states that HRM intends to achieve an interconnected system of open space that acts as vital natural corridors through the development of its Greenbelting and Public Open Space Priorities Plan and notes that the connection between natural areas, parks, and communities helps to conserve biodiversity.

The processes involves a combination of ecological classification and suitability mapping, public values and objectives, and GIS and technical analysis. Additionally, HRM will determine which open spaces are most important for long-term protection for public service deliver, conservation and community shaping ([An Open Space & Greenbelting Priorities Plan](#)).

The goal of the [Halifax Integrated Pest Management Strategy](#) is to protect natural spaces and biodiversity by addressing invasive species, pests, and other threats like pesticide use. It emphasizes the need for coordinated efforts among municipal operations, private landowners, and external organizations to manage invasive species effectively and prevent the spread, while promoting naturalization and growth of native species.

Management Plans for species including Emerald Ash Borer, Japanese Knotweed, and Giant Hogweed are either in progress or completed. [Halifax Integrated Pest Management Plan](#)

HRM is also working on educational initiatives and public knowledge surveys on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid [Hemlock woolly adelgid in the Halifax Regional Municipality | Halifax](#), an important step in conserving biodiversity in the city

2.3 CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has a climate change adaptation strategy that includes specific measures including nature-based climate solutions. Examples of this include wetland creation to absorb and retain floodwater, or planting trees to create shade and lower the surface air temperature.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the strategy and its implementation. One point if the City has an official strategy to address the impacts of climate change and reduce the municipality's climate impact. A second point if nature-based climate solutions are an important part of the strategy. A third point if there are active examples of wetland restoration projects and/or large-scale projects to mitigate the urban heat island through planting of trees and other vegetation that favour use by birds.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

HalifACT - Municipal Climate Action Plan: [HalifACT | Adapt | Climate | Emissions | Energy | Community | Halifax](#)

HalifACT commits to continuing the naturalization program on HRM and private land started in 2019:

(PG 41) “Action 21: Continue the naturalization program through pilot projects, public education and awareness to support the development of a region-wide naturalization program.” The program includes removing sections of grass on select HRM parks and right-of-ways (and some voluntary private land) and replacing them with more diversity of plants including native species. 3 pilot sites have been completed and involved community participation.

HalifACT commits to increased tree planting in HRM:

(PG 41) “Action 22: Develop and implement a region-wide tree planting and re-greening program.”

The [HalifACT 2023/24 Annual Progress Report](#) highlights numerous projects/actions that have been implemented, including:

- Nature-Based Climate Solution: [Shore Road: Building with Nature | Halifax](#)
- 2678 Trees were planted in HRM
- Action 21 - Region-wide naturalization program: “A Naturalization Coordinator was hired and there are plans to develop a pollinator garden and naturalized sites in Tantallon, Woodside, and Halifax.”
- Action 22 - Implement region-wide tree planting program: “In summer 2023, tree giveaway events were held in Lower Sackville and North End Halifax, providing 1,200 trees to interested residents.”
- Action 26 - Preservation of natural areas and green space planning: “Following the natural assets inventory project, a pilot to evaluate the benefits that natural assets provide in stormwater management was conducted. Additional co-benefits were evaluated, including carbon sequestration, recreation, mental and physical health, and cultural values.”

Wetland restoration is provincially managed it is difficult to get a permit and is often conducted by environmental firms. In Halifax an example of wetland/salt marsh restoration can be found in Lawrence town:

<https://www.transcoastaladaptations.com/ecological-restoration>

In addition to this the city specifically is working on “daylighting” rivers in Dartmouth.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/downtown-dartmouth-sawmill-river-halifax-water-hrm-nova-scotia-government-1.7255636> The plan, over the next two years, is to complete the project by removing the remaining metal culvert and **uncovering the river** to the intersection where Prince Albert Road turns into Alderney Drive at Portland Street.

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

The naturalization coordinator has confirmed that six sites have or will soon be naturalized.

- Fairview Elementary School (planting and pollinator garden)
- Brookline Drive Park x 2 (planted)
- Woodside Area (Planted)
- Lacewood Terminal Park (Will be naturalized in the coming year)
- Wentworth St. Park (Pollinator Garden installed)
- Friesan Court Park (Seeds)
- Birch Cove Park (Naturalization Garden)

Points Awarded: 3

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

2.4 (A) HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has a habitat management strategy based on ecological and climate considerations. These include: (A) increasing the number of trees and area of the urban forest canopy.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of implementation of the strategy and each action. One point per action. Evidence for a. includes inventories of trees and plans for increasing their numbers.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

New: The [Halifax Urban Forest Management Plan 2024 Draft](#)

- “1000 street trees planted per year.” - **(PG 4)**
- “Expand and connect tree canopy and green spaces to provide critical habitat for wildlife, support urban biodiversity and provide opportunities for residents to connect with nature.” - **(PG 12)**

New: The [Halifax Urban Forest Management Plan 2024 Draft](#)

Link here: <https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/urban-forest-management-plan>

highlights its goals in understanding, measuring, managing, and protecting forest canopy. Under the 1. Planning and Protecting **(PG 90-93)**: several strategies to increase and protect forest canopy are addressed.

Points Awarded: 1

2.4 (B) SNAG PROTECTION

DESCRIPTION

Leaving snags standing in cases where public safety is not jeopardized;

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for snag retention based on evidence such as policy statements or evidence within management plans for natural areas.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

The Urban forest management plan <https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/urban-forest-management-plan> (PG 75) notes that during public consultation, survey respondents advocated for the protection of dead trees.

HRM has what’s called the [Cyclical Pruning Program](#), which regularly assesses trees for damage and only removes them if necessary, resulting in some dead habitat trees being left and ensuring that pruning happens outside the breeding season.

On page 117 of this document: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/pppcpchapter3.pdf> “Preserve Snags and Fallen Trees Snags and downed trees will be left alone so long as they do not create a safety hazard. In addition to increasing organic matter on the forest floor, the decaying wood provides a habitat for moss and lichens, insects, birds and young trees. Plant debris on the forest floor helps retain surface water, thus reducing nutrient leaching, soil erosion and fire hazard.”

On page 117 of this document: <https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/pppcpchapter3.pdf> “Preserve Snags and Fallen Trees Snags and downed trees will be left alone so long as they do not create a safety hazard. In addition to increasing organic matter on the forest floor, the decaying wood provides a habitat for moss and lichens, insects, birds and young trees. Plant debris on the forest floor helps retain surface water, thus reducing nutrient leaching, soil erosion and fire hazard.”

Points Awarded: 1

2.4 (C) PROTECTION OF TREES

DESCRIPTION (C) Protecting trees on private and public lands;	SCORING INDICATORS Refers to a tree bylaw that protects trees as a public value from private landowners cutting them down without permits.
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HOW CRITERIA IS MET

What we have

In HRM, public trees are protected by the [Public Tree Bylaw](#) which requires permits for any activities by private entities that involve the removal of public trees.

New: Action 1.1. A, under Strategy 1.1 of the [Halifax Urban Forest Management Plan 2024 Draft \(PG 92\)](#), states to “Explore a private tree by-law establishing watercourse buffer zones, within which existing trees or vegetation must be retained or removed only pursuant a municipal permit”.

New: In the Appendix 1. Sustainable Urban Forest Management Criteria and Indicators table **(PG 129)**, one of the objectives includes to: “Secure the benefits derived from trees on public and private land by enforcement of municipality-wide policies and practices including tree protection” of the [Halifax Urban Forest Management Plan 2024 Draft](#)

Points Awarded: 0

Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	Choo
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2.4 (D) RESPONSIBLE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

DESCRIPTION

(D) Prohibiting active vegetation management during breeding season on municipal lands, including forests, storm-water management facilities, and easements.

SCORING INDICATORS

A point by demonstrating that municipal employees involved in active habitat management do not harm breeding birds or their habitat.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

WHAT WE HAVE

The report [Protecting Migratory Birds in the Urban Core of Halifax Regional Municipality: Best Management Practice for Tree Work](#), written by Cunn Niesink and Peter Duinker from Dalhousie University, was submitted to HRM Urban Forestry in 2022. The report contains voluntary guidelines for arborists in the HRM to minimize risks to migratory birds, particularly during breeding and destiny time.

New: "Pruning primarily takes place during winter for several reasons. It's easier to assess trees during winter and spot dead, diseased and structurally compromised limbs when leaves aren't present. Additionally, the trees are dormant (not actively growing) during the winter, so this is an ideal time for pruning from a biological perspective. Lastly, winter pruning avoids bird nesting season. While we still prune during the summer months, this is mostly limited to high priority and emergency work." <https://www.halifax.ca/transportation/streets-sidewalks/urban-forestry/tree-pruning-program>

Points Awarded: 1

2.5 IMPORTANT BIRD AREA NEARBY (IBA)

DESCRIPTION	SCORING INDICATORS
Municipality has an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) within or adjacent to its boundaries. A local partnership promotes the protection and stewardship of this area.	One point if there is one or more nearby IBAs and the Bird Team can provide the names of the IBAs and at least one IBA caretaker group or individual. Note that in the case of a village or small municipality, this criteria can be satisfied if there is an IBA within the county or region, within 20 km of the municipality, and there is digital information on the IBA on the municipal website.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

There are 3 official IBA’s in HRM : Musquodoboit IBA, Eastern Shore Islands IBA, and now Grassy Island Complex IBA (due to an additionally protected island that falls in HRM boundaries). While the current caretakers are not listed online, the Nature Conservancy of Canada protects a portion of the Musquodoboit IBA; the Nova Scotia Bird Society plays a key role in the Eastern Shore IBA and provides two caretakers to oversee the islands; and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust has been actively involved in conserving areas in the Grassy Island Complex IBA.

New: In Nov. 2024, Nova Scotia Nature Trust announced a newly protected island in St. Margarets Bay, part of HRM. The newly protected island is now a part of the Grassy Island Complex IBA bringing nearby IBA up to 3.

Local stewardship groups/programs include Birds Canada’s plover monitoring volunteers <https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/piping-plover/> and NS Nature Trust’s property Guardians program [Nova Scotia Nature Trust – Property Guardians](#)

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

2.6 NATIVE FLORA - MUNICIPAL LANDS

DESCRIPTION

Municipality promotes the importance of planting native flora appropriate for the ecoregion on municipal lands, especially where new development is occurring through development and landscaping guidelines and standards in areas near natural features. Subdivision permits should include conditions protecting existing natural habitat and promote use of native vegetation, and include measures to discourage illegal disposal of yard waste (a source of invasive exotic plants) in natural areas.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for evidence that the municipality promotes the use of site-appropriate native flora in landscaping for its own properties and for development landscaping standards for subdivision permits.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

- New: [Halifax Urban Forest Management Plan 2024 Draft](#) (PG 99) Action 2.1 H: “Prioritize use of native planting stock in ornamental plantings interfacing with natural areas (e.g., parks, interface subdivisions) to support native biodiversity, including birds.”
- New: The ecological land classification (PG 26 - 27) in the [Halifax Urban Forest Management Plan 2024 Draft](#) recognizes the diversity and site-specific characteristics and properties of land identified in HRM.
- New: The HalifACT has a [Resource Booklet](#) for [Boulevard Gardening | Halifax](#) initiative, encouraging the community to plant native species suitable to their boulevard landscape.
- 2 student-run bee-friendly gardens on the Dalhousie University campus, they are a designated bee-friendly campus: <https://www.dal.ca/news/2023/12/13/dalhousie-canada-bee-campus-pollinator-protection.html>.

Points Awarded: 1

2.7 NATIVE FLORA – PRIVATE PROPERTY

DESCRIPTION

Demonstrate widespread community participation in initiatives to encourage native plant habitat that supports native birds and pollinators on private property, to increase the urban tree canopy on private land, and to support other “green infrastructure” initiatives to address climate change.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if you provide evidence supporting “wide-spread community participation” in at least one initiative or program that encourages increasing wildlife habitat on private land. This could include membership in a program like Bee City for example.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Downtown Dartmouth Milkweed Project [Downtown Dartmouth Monarch Project | Facebook](#)

New: The Halifax Regional Municipality hosts an annual [Tree Giveaway | Halifax](#), allowing community residents of HRM to pick up a free tree to plant on their land. In 2024, 1000 trees were given away. HRM Advertising the giveaway events: [Tree Giveaway/Facebook](#)

Public Native Plant and Pollinator Gardens in HRM:

- 1. [Birdland Community Garden](#)
- 2. [City Kidds Escape Society](#)
- 3. <https://www.dal.ca/news/2021/06/14/indigenous-pollinator-garden-honours-community-figure-while-addi.html>

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

2.8 STOPOVER & NESTING HABITAT

DESCRIPTION

Implementation of stewardship projects to increase or improve breeding or stopover habitat for bird species that are of high conservation priority species from your Bird Conservation Region Plan. Example species include Species at Risk (e.g. Chimney Swift) and other aerial insectivores, Eastern Meadowlark and other grassland birds, shorebirds, and birds requiring old growth forest conditions. Example actions include providing housing (e.g., maintained Purple Martin housing), and maintaining bird-friendly hay production, and managing municipal forests to promote old growth conditions.

SCORING INDICATORS

A point is awarded if there are active stewardship recovery projects (can be led by individuals or groups in the community) such as those suggested in the criterion description. Two points if there are more than two active projects for different species or groups of species. For information on Bird Conservation Regions and their priority species, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-conservation/regions-strategies.html>

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

NatureNS member clubs stewardship projects, like the youth-led YNC Nature Guardians chapter have focused on native plantings and nesting boxes [Young Naturalists Club - Nature Guardians \(Dartmouth\)](#)

Birds Canada coordinates chimney swift habitat restoration program across the province <https://www.birdscanada.org/birds-canada-and-partners-launch-major-new-fund-to-help-protect-the-chimney-swift/>

Birds Canada coordinates a plover monitoring program in HRM <https://www.birdscanada.org/download/NSPloverbackgrounder.pdf>

New: In collaboration with the Staicer Lab, Worm Lab, and the Backlands Coalition, Dalhousie students researched the distribution of Common Nighthawks and their critical habitat, which may help inform development decisions in the area. [Nature NSTalks: The Common Nighthawk, on Thus Oct 3, 2024 | The Backlands Coalition](#)

Points Awarded: 2

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

SCORING

ENTRY

9 points from at least 3 categories.

→ Choose an item. for Entry level with Choose an item. points from Choose an item. categories

INTERMEDIATE

12 points from at least 4 categories.

→ Choose an item. for Intermediate level with Choose an item. points from Choose an item. categories

HIGH

15 points from at least 6 categories including at least 1 point from categories 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4.

→ Choose an item. for High level with Choose an item. points. At least 1 point Choose an item. in each category of from 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4.

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

15

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.1(A) CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

There are educational programs and activities for children and youth about birds and nature in the municipality.

(A) A significant percentage of local schools and other 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 authority, or municipality, has facilities/staffing to support outdoor/environmental education, including opportunities to observe birds

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide a description of the programs and the names of the organizations or institutions that offer them.

One point if there are local education facilities and institutions that offer children or youth programming on nature appreciation and bird observation.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

- NatureNS member clubs coordinate CBC and CBC4Kids events every year, for a public audience, including BIPOC-focused birding events <https://www.yncns.ca/home/resources/xmasbirdcount4kids>
- CBC Halifax Map <https://naturecounts.ca/apps/cbc/maps/NSHD.pdf>
- <https://www.birdscanada.org/discover-birds/bird-friendly-schools/citizen-science-at-school> (protect the privacy of schools that participate)
- <https://www.birdscanada.org/students-at-30-schools-count-their-local-birds-for-science> bird bioblitz at a NS school
- Birds and Babies Walks in HRM hosted by Young Naturalists Club: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15s6HXL36U/>
- New: Dalhousie Birding Society typically runs Great Backyard Bird Counts: [Great Backyard Bird Count - Frog Pond Park Tickets, Eventbrite](#) NSBS, YNC, HFN run and participate in Christmas Bird Counts every year, across HRM, the adult and kids versions, both of which are very popular and engage hundreds of residents every year https://fb.watch/bs_QWGRsVv/

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.1 (B) CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

Educational programs include specific elements designed to engage children and youth who could be considered underprivileged, racialized or recent arrivals to Canada.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if there are specific bird-related nature programs for recent arrivals to Canada, underprivileged, marginalized or racialized children, youth or families.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

- New: NatureNS Naturalists as Nature Advocates BIPOC and new Canadian youth in natural history skills development, including birding: <https://naturens.ca/education/>
- New: Young Naturalists Club hosts birding for beginner walks for new Canadian families: [Young Naturalists Club Facebook Event](#)

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.1 (C) CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

At least one school does a specific bird-related program such as [Christmas bird count for kids](#), [School Yard Bird Blitz](#), [Global Bird Rescue](#), or curriculum from [Keep cats safe and save bird lives](#).

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if at least one school or organization does a specific bird-related programs for children and youth, such as [Christmas bird count for kids](#), [Global Bird Rescue](#), or curriculum from [Keep cats safe and save bird lives](#).

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

- NatureNS member clubs coordinate CBC and CBC4Kids events every year, for a public audience, including BIPOC-focused birding events <https://www.yncns.ca/home/resources/xmasbirdcount4kids>
- CBC Halifax Map <https://naturecounts.ca/apps/cbc/maps/NSHD.pdf>
- <https://www.birdscanada.org/discover-birds/bird-friendly-schools/citizen-science-at-school> (protect the privacy of schools that participate)
- <https://www.birdscanada.org/students-at-30-schools-count-their-local-birds-for-science> bird bioblitz at a NS school (looks like it could be in HRM)

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.2 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

DESCRIPTION

College, CEGEP, 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.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point is awarded based on evidence that institutions that have policies and practices to benefit birds including names of institutions, the programs that they participate in (e.g. BirdSafe, Bee City), as well as an example of a recent action and evidence of student involvement.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Dalhousie Birding Society Has joined our coalition. See this link for their profile: <https://www.instagram.com/dalhousiebirdingsociety/>. They are a student-run birding group at Dalhousie University.

The University students have surveyed the campus to find hotspots for window collisions.

They have 2 student-run bee-friendly gardens on campus, they are a designated bee-friendly campus: <https://www.dal.ca/news/2023/12/13/dalhousie-canada-bee-campus-pollinator-protection.html>.

In Collaboration with Bird Friendly Halifax recently conducted an event for placing window stickers see here: https://www.instagram.com/p/DDPtZ7pEie/?img_index=1

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.3 COMMUNICATING BEST PRACTICES TO HELP BIRD

DESCRIPTION

Bird Team partners (including Municipality) provide public access to resources (web links, brochures etc.) that encourage and inform the public of ways to help birds. For example: 1) the benefit to birds from native plant gardening or establishment of natural habitat patches on their property in support of birds and/or pollinators (e.g. backyard habitat program), 2) best practices in feeding birds that mitigate risks from feeding (e.g. predation at feeder, contamination from pathogens, etc).

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if you can provide evidence of the digital or paper resources, as well as evidence of public interest and knowledge of them (e.g. social media activity).

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

- We currently have a digital brochure available here: <https://www.canva.com/design/DAGXHyXpuL8/bp4swTNftKUrKEDbvq1ueQ/edit> (We are waiting to receive printing funding), the brochure details how to join the coalition and how to protect birds from window collisions
- In the process of creating stickers see the example here: https://www.canva.com/design/DAGeK59ITgl/dNS7WxhsRgujeXUvaGcs0Q/view?utm_content=DAGeK59ITgl&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniqueLinks&utlId=h0a15f602b0
- Bird Friendly Halifax Volunteers have attended several market booths including, Wetlands Week at Shubunacadie Wildlife Center, Eastern Passage Birds and Wildlife Event, and Annapolis Clean River event We educated at least 300 individuals and most likely more
- YNC has a Public naturalization garden at Shubie Park with educational signage
- Hope for Wildlife offers a variety of physical resources (often picked up at their annual open house) on planting wildflowers for birds and pollinators, window collision prevention and fledging best practices [brochure - Hope For Wildlife](#)
- The [Nova Scotia Bird Society Facebook Page](#) actively shares and encourages best bird-friendly practices, from window collision prevention and planting to keeping feeders clean, for their “Tuesday Tip” series.

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.4 PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS FOR EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

Municipality and Bird City partners install demonstrations or displays in public areas that educate citizens on the benefits of bird friendly actions and encourage engagement (benefits of dark sky lighting, window modifications etc.)

SCORING INDICATORS

One point based on proof of installations (e.g. photographic evidence, or news stories.)

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

- We have installed bird-friendly window solutions on windows at Dalhousie University See the photo attached.
- This company <https://maritimewindowfilm.com/3-bird-strike-prevention-techniques-keep-your-windows-and-wildlife-safe/> sells glass, has a page dedicated to bird friendly solutions and operates in Halifax.
- We also have the Halifax public library: <https://atlanticbooks.ca/stories/halifax-central-library#:~:text=%E2%80%9CTo%20have%20this%20internationally%20renowned,meets%20community%20needs%20visually%20too.> “Special window glazing allows for solar heating, while the distinctive pattern helps birds in flight avoid injury.” a small plaque is available on the upper floor.
- Halifax Water facility in Burnside plans to incorporate bird-friendly design. On Page 14 of 22 in this document: https://halifaxwater.ca/sites/default/files/2023-10/Board_Package_October_20_2023.pdf “Bird Glazing - Bird Safe glazing designed to CSA A460 Bird-Friendly Building Design will be used in the office portion of building. The glazing design includes visual markers in the form of small dots on the outside of the glass and incorporates bird-safe lighting”

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.5 ACCESSIBLE BIRD-WATCHING LOCATION(S)

DESCRIPTION

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 (served by public transit and/or bicycle and pedestrian trails) and is accessible to people with disabilities or who are mobility impaired. Information on birding areas should be easily available.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point based on evidence of a local birding area that is publicly accessible, a brief description of the infrastructures (e.g. trails, observation tower), and how the area can be accessed by someone without a car or with disabilities.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

- Frog Pond trails and signage <https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/parks-trails-gardens/trails/frog-pond>
- Belchers Marsh trails, signage, map & brochure, and viewing tower. This trail is accessible by bus but would be difficult in a wheelchair, or with a stroller. <https://www.novascotia.com/see-do/trails/belchers-marsh-park-trails/6154>. You can learn more at this URL <https://www.halifaxnorthwesttrails.ca/trails/belchers-marsh-park-trails>
- NS Power and Museum of Natural History collaboration monitors and live-streams an osprey nest on top of a power line <https://naturalhistory.novascotia.ca/ospreycam>
- YNC/NSBS online birding guide to Point Pleasant <https://yncns.ca/halifax-xmas-bird-count-4-kids-virtual-tour-of-point-pleasant-park/> Point Pleasant Park park is public transit accessible and bus route: Much of the park is wheelchair-accessible. View the interactive map, which you'll find at this link. <https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/parks-trails-gardens/parks-outdoor-spaces/point-pleasant-park#:~:text=Request%20repairs-.Point%20Pleasant%20Park,the%20park%20is%20wheelchair%2Daccessible.>

Points Awarded: 1

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.6 LOCAL BIRD FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

DESCRIPTION

Businesses in your area promote bird friendly practices (e.g. sell or offer bird friendly coffee, no single use plastics, treat their windows with feather-friendly markers, etc.), and reflect these values in their supply chains. These businesses are recognized on partner websites.

SCORING INDICATORS

To receive a point, you must name the businesses and describe what bird-friendly practices they have. These practices must include the sale of bird-friendly products, and demonstrated bird-friendly business practices (e.g. window treatments, low carbon footprint, plastic bag policy, etc.). For one point, for cities under 100,000 residents, there must be at least 2 businesses. For cities from 100,000 to 500,000 there must be at least 3 businesses. For cities between 500,000 and 1,000,000, there must be at least 4 businesses. For cities over 1 million, there must be 5 or more businesses. For two points there needs to be double the previous numbers of bird-friendly businesses, based on population size.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

- Hope for Wildlife sells window solutions **NEW link:** <https://www.hopeforwildlife.net/gift-shop>
- NEW: Nova Scotia Bird Society sells bird friendly coffee link here: <https://www.cafebirdfriendly.org/products/in-support-of-the-nova-scotia-bird-society>
- Halifax Seed has bird friendly planting recommendations: <https://www.halifaxseed.ca/a-bird-friendly-garden-is-as-easy-as-these-four-steps> . they also sell window decals: <https://www.halifaxseed.ca/protective-window-decals>
- Noted above but this business sells special glass for window strike prevention: <https://maritimewindowfilm.com/bird-collision-prevention/>
- The Plastic Bags Reduction Act is now in effect. That means businesses will no longer be able to provide single-use plastic shopping bags at the checkout. See here: <https://novascotia.ca/single-use-plastic-bag-ban/>

Points Awarded: 2

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.7 CITY BIRD

DESCRIPTION

You have a “City Bird” species that was selected through a public engagement process.

SCORING INDICATORS

You must provide proof that a campaign to select a “City Bird” is underway or has been successfully completed, evidence of community engagement, the name of the “City Bird” species, and proof that it is officially the “City Bird” through Council support/recognition.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

- We run a yearly vote for Halifax City Bird see the google document where people can vote here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc2byXZ7kGCauDmeURJie_tRwVaU_COOoniu9n4MYqXqQDmyA/viewform
- All votes occur online and are advertised on social media and during our “bird week walks” and our mailing list. Our Bird week walks had a total of 13 walks one in each district and with each councillor, some walks had more individuals attend averaging 100 participants. We had approximately 200 votes in 2024 and 2023. The nighthawk was nominated by a city worker and city workers on our coalition supported the vote.
- You can also listen to the radio announcement here: <https://amp.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-37-mainstreet-ns/clip/16078090-what-halifaxes-2024-bird-year?share=true>

Points Awarded: 2

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

Choo

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.8 PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE TO MONITOR BIRDS

DESCRIPTION

There are active participatory science programs to monitor birds in your municipality including [Christmas Bird Count](#), [Great Backyard Bird Count](#), [Project Feederwatch](#), [Marsh Monitoring](#), [Swiftwatch](#), or [Global Bird Rescue](#), which monitor birds on areas that include public land. Public participation in these programs is promoted on local media. Demonstrate efforts to engage members of the public could be considered underprivileged, racialized or recent arrivals to Canada.

SCORING INDICATORS

To receive one point, provide a list of bird-related participatory science programs in your city and describe the level of public interest and engagement of target audiences. A second point for communities in which more than three of these programs are practiced. You must demonstrate widespread community involvement.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

- Waterbird Surveys: <https://naturens.ca/projects/water-bird-surveys-port-of-halifax-port-of-sydney/> 15 citizen science volunteers in halifax . The survey is ongoing with hundreds of species identified, including the American Crow, Herring Gull, Mallard, eider, guillemot, and harlequin duck. The data set will be available on the SLGO website by March
- New: Dalhousie Birding Society typically runs Great Backyard Bird Counts: [Great Backyard Bird Count - Frog Pond Park Tickets](#), [Eventbrite](#) NSBS, YNC, HFN run and participate in Christmas Bird Counts every year, across HRM, the adult and kids versions, both of which are very popular and engage hundreds of residents every year https://fb.watch/bs_QWGRsVv/
- Birds Canada manages Marsh Monitoring and Swift Watch programs. <https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/where-we-work/>

Points Awarded: 2

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

SCORING

ALL LEVELS MUST DO 3.1 - Choose an item.

ENTRY

7 points from at least 3 categories.

→ Choose an item. for Entry level with Choose an item. points from Choose an item. categories

INTERMEDIATE

9 points from at least 5 categories.

→ Choose an item. for Intermediate level with Choose an item. points from Choose an item. categories

HIGH

11 points from at least 7 categories.

→ Choose an item. for High level with Choose an item. points from Choose an item. categories

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

13

Total Points Awarded: 40

BIRD FRIENDLY TEAM LIST OF MEMBERS, AFFILIATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION (M-1)

CURRENT AS OF:

Click or tap here to enter text.



BIRD FRIENDLY
CITY