BIRD FRIENDLY

APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION

Scoring and Evaluation Rubric Version 2.0 • June, 2025 • For Small Municipality

BIRD FRIENDLY CITY

CERTIFIED BY NATURE CANADA

TOWN/MUNICIPALITY REPRESENTED: Devon, AB

DATE OF SUBMISSION: September, 2026

RENEWAL #1

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please take a few moments to review the below preamble and Bird Friendly Town criteria.
2. Either copy and paste the information below into your preferred collaborative word-processing document or download the Word document version.
3. Provide relevant information needed for each criteria where indicated.
4. Upon completion, please send your completed document to Autumn Jordan, Senior Organizer - Bird Friendly City by email at: ajordan@naturecanada.ca

PREAMBLE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT EXERCISE OF POWERS IN RELATION TO THE STANDARD

To apply for Bird Friendly status for small municipalities, the municipality must have a small population (roughly less than 15,000 residents) or a very dispersed population that contains multiple villages or small towns.

Municipalities with populations up to 30,000 may apply for certification under this standard, or may apply for the Bird Friendly City Canada Standard. The standard for small municipalities is different from the “Bird Friendly City Canada Standard” mainly to reflect the reality that small municipalities have less capacity, and often, different circumstances than larger and more densely populated cities.

The applicant municipality must have its own elected Council with typical municipal powers that it can exercise alone or in tandem with an upper tier municipality (e.g. a County or a Region). If a lower level municipality applies but does not have powers to implement some of the criteria, those criteria could be addressed by the upper level municipal government through its own policies. For the criteria where you believe this is the case, it is the responsibility of the applying bird team to explain what level of government is responsible for the policy and how the local municipality is implementing it.

While the criteria below are optional, to achieve 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 below.

SECTION 1: THREAT REDUCTION SECTION
SECTION 2: HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY
SECTION 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

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.

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.

Remember that the policy requirement can be met by a higher level of government than the municipality or village, but often implementation is the responsibility of the municipality.

Another important consideration is that 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.



MANDATORY CRITERIA

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M1 -ESTABLISHMENT OF BIRD TEAM

DESCRIPTION
Establish a Bird Team to drive the project forward. Ensure that your team is as diverse as possible and has a liaison with the municipality (municipal staff or a councillor).

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
Welcome to Devon, Alberta - A Bird Lovers Dream!

Located on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River, Devon offers an abundance of beauty with its breath-taking river valley and that indescribable small-town feeling.

Our Bob McDonald Nature Park and Voyageur Park offer superb Natural Bird Habitat within the Town of Devon that borders two complete sides of the Town and comprise about 20% of the total town area. There are several day use areas and picnic sites for visitors to enjoy, and it is a great starting point to the River Valley Alliance's trail network that will soon run all the way from Devon through Edmonton to Fort Saskatchewan.

In 2023, a volunteer group of community members came together to form a team called the Devon Bird Team. We are pleased to submit this application to Nature Canada for formal re-certification of Devon, Alberta as a Bird Friendly City. We celebrate that years of work by community members, organizations, stakeholders and public servants will be acknowledged with this re-certification. This is also a tremendous opportunity for a fresh collaborative approach for continuous improvement. Our goal is to achieve Bird Friendly City re-certification for Devon, and to promote continual improvement of our Bird Threat Reduction, Habitat Protection and Community Education to ensure that Devon is a model town in Bird protection, and consequently, biodiversity and conservation.

We want to prove to you, that Devon is "For the Birds".

The application document pictures have been compressed to make the document small enough to be sent by email. If uncompressed copies of supporting photos and documents referred to in the BFC application are required, please let us know, and we will make them available.

Bird Friendly City Canada Small Town and Municipality Standard

Devon had a population of 6,965 in 2025 (6740 based on the 2011 Statistics Canada Census), and an elected Mayor and Town Council, the Town Of Devon is re-applying for Bird Friendly Status using the Standard for small municipalities.

Don Reynolds, Chair/Nature Canada Liaison
Vice President Devon Nature Club
Allan Macaulay, BSc Ag U of A, Municipal Liaison
President Devon Nature Club; Conservation Award 2002; Provincial Volunteer award; Parks and Rec Volunteer award
Yvonne Reynolds, Secretary
Devon Nature Club Secretary
Karen Hage
BA, UofA; DVM, WCVM
Devon Nature Club Board Member
Jenise Bidulock
BEd, UofA
Devon Nature Club Board Member; Volunteer Bird Studies Canada
Leigha Rind
BA, MLIS, UofA
Citizen of Metis Nation of Alberta; Resident of town of Devon

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. Bird teams must identify the Indigenous traditional territory/territories of the municipality and invite someone from these communities to participate in the initiative.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide evidence you have determined in which Indigenous traditional territory/territories your municipality occurs and that you are encouraging the participation and perspective of the local Indigenous community in the initiative.

Provide the name of the relevant Indigenous Nation(s) and report on the outcome of an invitation to participate in the initiative. In some cases, this may require the support of Nature Canada to coordinate contacting Indigenous communities.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

We Acknowledge

The Town of Devon acknowledges the land we are on, Treaty Six territory and the homeland of the Métis, which encompasses the traditional lands of the Cree (nehiyawak), Blackfoot (niitsitapi), Nakota (isga), Anishinaabe (anishinaabeg), and Métis (michif) Peoples, who are the legal caretakers and protectors of the lands and waters, and who have been here since time immemorial.

We acknowledge that Devon is within the traditional lands and territories of kiskayôs (Bobtail) and maskêkosihk (Enoch Cree) First Nations. We shall continue to uphold our Treaty responsibilities to all Peoples of Treaty Six and continue to work with all Indigenous Peoples towards a better future together.

All Town of Devon citizens are residents within Treaty Six territory and the current townsite sits within the traditional territories of maskêkosihk (Enoch Cree Nation) and kiskayos (Bobtail) First Nations, with the area having been used by many other Nations and Indigenous peoples prior to Treaty and prior to the establishment of Devon.

The Town of Devon will continue to uphold the Truth and Reconciliation commission of Canada Calls to Action and will strive towards developing and maintaining genuine relationships and collaboration between First Nations and Métis people and communities of Treaty Six territory all while acknowledging and upholding Treaty rights, the Duty to consult, and genuine reconciliation.

Reference the attached Link to the Town Web Site:

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Indigenous-Engagement/Commitment-to-Indigenous-Peoples

- Understanding the Territories
- Devon is within Treaty Six Territory as well as the territories of:
- Maskêkosihk - Enoch Cree Nation
- Neyaskweyahk - Erminsekin Cree Nation
- Nipisikopahk - Samson Cree Nation
- Akamihk - Montana First Nation
- Kisipatnahk - Louis Bull Tribe

*Exact territorial boundaries are difficult to establish. Historically, many Nations used the Devon area for travel, hunting, gathering and shelter/camps. Knowledge of territories is current as per information that has been shared.

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Indigenous-Engagement/The-Treaty-Relationship

List of Nations and Contacts and Indigenous traditional territory(ies) on which Devon Lies:

Below is a Town of Devon website link which contains a pull-down menu to the list of Indigenous Nations on which Devon lies, and a list of Contacts, as well as pull-down menu with a contact for the Métis Nation of Alberta.

In addition to the above, the Devon Nature Club and Town of Devon Indigenous Engagement Coordinator, and the Enoch Maskêkosihk Treaty Six Nation gathered together for a Sacred Ceremony performed to bless Battery Creek and Habitat in October 2020

Published in Devon Dispatch Link Below

Oct 30, 2020 • https://www.devondispatch.ca/news/local-news/sacred-ceremony-performed-for-new-trails-at-battery-creek-2

The Enoch Maskekosihk Treaty Six Nation, the Devon Nature Club and Mitch Wincentaylo, gathered together to perform a Sacred Ceremony with Ceremonial Pipe to give thanks for, bless, protect and preserve the waters of Battery Creek, its watershed, surrounding riparian areas and ravine forest.

Sacred Ceremonies are an important part of First Nations spiritual and cultural practices. Since the beginning of time these sacred gatherings are to give thanks and show respect and for gifts of the physical and spiritual world. The land in particular is important as all life comes from the land and keeping the land and environment healthy is a priority. Blessings and praying are part of the Ceremony.

Battery Creek in Devon is an important perennial feeder creek of the North Saskatchewan River. Historically the North Saskatchewan River was a vital transportation route and the basin provided an essential supply of food resources for First Nations inhabitants for more than 10,000 years. It's watershed and the North Saskatchewan River lie in Alberta's Parkland Region. Fishing is part of First Nations culture and identity. It sustains First Nations peoples and economies and is a constitutionally protected inherent and Treaty right.

In 2005 only seven per cent of Alberta's original Parkland Region remained intact and as of 2015 only five per cent of remains – it is constantly diminishing and significantly less remains today. This region has exceptional diversity and is the least protected Natural Region in AB. Urban expansion, and outdoor recreation pursuits have put even more pressure on Battery Creek and its surrounding environment. A Fishery Survey last year performed by Dr. Michael Sullivan, Provincial Fish Science Specialist for Alberta Environment and Parks and the Devon Nature Club proved Battery Creek serves as a vital breeding and hatching area for fish inhabiting the river. Tens of thousands of hair-like fry were found thriving along with many other native fish species living in the North Saskatchewan River. First Nations Treaty Rights state that these important fish habitats must be protected to ensure they remain healthy being an important food source to First Nations and the areas valuable biodiversity.

The Ceremony closed with tying cloth in different colors to Aspen Poplar trees that are historically significant to First Nations culture. These cloths represent the prayers, hopes and aspirations of participants. They and the trees, part of the protective surrounding habitat and watershed of Battery Creek were blessed by First Nations dignitaries and the Devon Nature Club. The four colors we tied; white, blue, red and yellow represent north, south, east, west as well as water, sun, wind and rain.

Although normally the cloths are tied to trees in remote private areas, the First Nations leaders present felt it important to share the meaning of the cloths with the public so cloths were placed beside a public trail. If you see some keep in mind that these trees and cloths are sacred and leave them as found and remain only on Devon's named and numbered trails.

Today's Sacred Ceremonial Pipe blessing will bring light to how important it is to keep these areas natural, healthy and untouched allowing them to endure and hopefully grow.

An Educational Sign was placed to commemorate the event and educate the public on the importance of the event and our history. please refer to M2 in the (Devon -Application-BFC-2023-Supporting-Information-and-Photographs) which accompanies our application.

M-3: FORMAL MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

DESCRIPTION

Pass a Council resolution nominating or supporting your municipality's efforts to be a Bird Friendly Municipality. A resolution from Council ensures that the project is known and has been discussed at Council level and has Council's support.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide a copy of the resolution.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

On May 23, 2023 Don Reynolds of the Devon Nature Club made a 25 minute, in person, Power Point presentation to Devon Town Council, regarding the "Opportunity for Devon to apply for Bird Friendly City Certification".

Autumn Jordan, of Nature Canada also attended the presentation via zoom.

The presentation was well accepted, and the Devon Town Council voted unanimously in favor of "Support in Principal" for Bird Friendly City Certification.

8. Delegations and Presentations

8.1 Scheduled Delegations – Devon Nature Club – Don Reynolds presented to Council about Bird Friendly City Certification and Nature Canada. Seeking support from Council to establish a Bird Team.

11. Disposition of Delegations 217/2023 Carried
Moved By
Mayor Craddock
In Favour
Mayor Craddock
Councillor Hugh
Councillor Dhanoa
Councillor Hanly
Councillor Bowles
Councillor Gronberg
Councillor Fisher
Opposed
None opposed.
That Council accepts the Scheduled Delegation presentations from 8.1.1 Devon Nature Club, Don Reynolds support in principal for the bird friendly city certification was unanimous.

The Complete Minutes of the May 23rd, 2023, Devon Town Council Meeting are contained in the 2023-05-23 Council Meeting Minutes at the link below:

https://devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/CLS/Council-Minutes/2023-06-14-2023-05-23-Council-Meeting-Minutes_v1.pdf

Council also passed a second resolution of support for our application on July 28, 2023.

M-4: ANNUAL REPORT

DESCRIPTION
Once your municipality has been accorded Bird Friendly status, the Bird Team must provide an Annual Report card on activities related to your Bird Friendly 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.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
The Devon Bird Team provided Nature Canada - the required Annual Report cards on activities related to our Bird Friendly status for both years since certification ,via Google Forms.

Bird Friendly City Report Card 2024- Submitted Fri 2024-09-20

Bird Friendly City Report Card 2025-Submitted Sept 16, 2025

Nature Canada should have copies of both of the completed reports. They are quite lengthy to include in this application. Let me know if you wish to have a copies of the completed reports, and I will send them to you.

M-5: RENEWAL OF STATUS

DESCRIPTION
Bird Friendly Town Certification status will last three 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
Applications for renewal are due by the September or February application window that follows the three year anniversary of their most recent application's acceptance and their recognition as a Bird Friendly Town.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION:
Our Bird Friendly Team is hereby applying for renewal of our Certification in conjunction with our three year anniversary of our initial certification.

We believe that Bird Friendly Certification is not an end state, but rather a beginning step in a process of continuous improvement to reduce threats, protect habitat, and community education and awareness.

We believe that during the past three years we have made significant improvements in many areas as documented throughout this application.

M-6: WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

DESCRIPTION
Hold an event celebrating World Migratory Bird Day in your community. An event can be as simple or elaborate as you wish. For ideas and options, visit Nature Canada's World Migratory Bird webpage https://www.birdday.ca

SCORING INDICATORS
Register your event on the World Migratory Bird Day Canada webpage: https://www.birdday.ca/host

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
The The Town of Devon, Devon Public Library, and the Devon Nature Club have partnered to provide a World Migratory Bird Day Celebration twice a year since May, 2023. These events included a guided bird-watching tour with

the Devon Nature Club in the Bob McDonald Nature Park and a film screening of The Messenger documentary at Devon Public Library. All partners have agreed to continue holding a WMBD celebration at least annually.

The events have been well attended with over 30 people at the film screening, and events have been shared widely on Town of Devon & Devon Public Library social media pages and websites, posters on community bulletin boards around town, the Devon Nature Club facebook page and www.WorldMigratoryBirdDay.org, and www.BirdDay.ca/host.

he Town of Devon Mayor has made a proclamation recognizing World Migratory Bird Day in 2026 and previously in 2025. Links attd below:

https://www.facebook.com/TownofDevon/posts/pfbid02MPkt5iowkFnfU9XW4fVFbH17Ftnsptm4fBjvAkv2NgqBsKVjtdV4pR8UXGp2x2AWl

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/CLS/2025-04-25-2025%20-World-Migratory-Bird-Day-and-Celebrating-Shared-Spaces_v1.pdf

Here is a link to sponsored events from spring WMBD last year:

https://www.facebook.com/TownofDevon/posts/-celebrate-world-migratory-bird-day-in-devon-devon-is-proud-to-proclaim-may-10-2/1110251591130169/

Here is a link to our another previously sponsored World Migratory Bird Day Event:

https://www.facebook.com/profile/100064332083864/search/?q=world%20migratory

M-7: PROGRAM VISIBILITY

DESCRIPTION
Include information about Bird Friendly City Program on the municipal website once certification has been accorded.

SCORING INDICATORS
Provide a link and proof of posting.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
The Devon Bird Team and the Town of Devon co-developed and installed Bird Friendly Web pages on their site shortly after Certification in 2023 (link below);

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails/Bird-Friendly-City

The Opening page has info about our initial Certification, as well as links to the Nature Canada Bird Friendly Video, and the Nature Canada Bird Friendly Program pages. We are very proud of our Bird Friendly Web pages, and of the Town of Devon's Communication Coordinator for inputting, and ongoing editing of our Bird Friendly Town Web Pages. The Web Pages have been edited three times since creation.



THREAT REDUCTION

SECTION 1: THREAT REDUCTION

1.1 (A) CAT PREDATION OF BIRDS

DESCRIPTION
Regulatory and educational measures taken to help control and reduce populations of cats roaming at large:
a) No roam bylaw

SCORING INDICATORS
One point for evidence supporting each subcategory. Subcriteria d. can be fulfilled by a survey of residents.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION



The town of Devon requires that all cats be licensed and are not permitted to run at large. Below are excerpts from the bylaw pertaining to cats.

Responsible Animal Ownership
Bylaw 949/2020

“At Large” means any Animal that is present at any place other than the Owner’s Property and which is not being carried by a person or which is not otherwise restrained or under physical control of a person by means of some form of Restraining Device securely holding that Animal;

Requirement to License 4. (1) Every Person who resides within the Town and who is the owner of a dog or cat that is over the age of six (6) months shall apply for a license as set out in the part, by: a. Paying the required license fee as set out in Schedule B of this Bylaw and b. Providing such information as may be required by the Town
(7) An Owner of an unlicensed Dog or Cat is guilty of an offence.

Control and Noise 12. (1) An Owner whose Animal is At Large is guilty of an offence.

Hygiene and Nuisances 13. (1) An Owner, whose Animal defecates on any property other than that of the owner and who fails to remove the feces immediately is guilty of an offence.

Authority for Capture 21. A Peace officer is, in addition to any other powers or authority granted under this Bylaw or any enactment, authorized to: a. capture and impound in an Animal Shelter any Animal that is At Large; b. take any reasonable measures necessary to subdue any Animal that is “At Large” c. enter onto lands surrounding any building in pursuit of an Animal while it is At Large; and d. if an Animal is in Distress, whether or not as a result of enforcement action taken pursuant to this Bylaw, to take the Animal to a Registered Veterinarian for treatment and, once treated, to

transfer the Animal to an Animal Shelter

Continuing Offences 23. In the case of an offence that is of a continuing nature, a contravention constitutes a separate offence in respect of each day, or part of a day, on which it continues and a Person guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine in an amount not less than that established by this Bylaw for each such day

PART 9 - FINES AND PENALTIES 29. (1) A Person who is guilty of an offence is liable upon summary conviction to a fine in an amount: a. not less than the specified penalty established in Schedule “C”; and b. not exceeding S10,000.00

A link to the entire Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw is below:
https://devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Bylaws/2020-10-15-Bylaw-949-2020%20-Responsible-Animal-Ownership_v1.pdf

1.1 (B) CAT PREDATION OF BIRDS

DESCRIPTION
Coordinated non-regulatory efforts directed at cat owners to keep their cats from roaming at large such as educational campaigns.

SCORING INDICATORS
One point for evidence supporting each subcategory. Subcriteria d. can be fulfilled by a survey of residents.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
The town of Devon has published the following brochure to educate the public to help control and reduce the population of cats roaming at large. This brochure is also on the Town of Devon website, and hard copies are freely distributed at the town office.
https://devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Bylaws/2017-07-19-2015-Standards-Brochure-
The Town web site also contains information describing responsible Cat ownership in Devon per the link below:
https://devon.ca/Government/News-Publications/Community-News/responsible-cat-ownership-in-devon

The Town has educated the public about “Responsible Cat |Ownership though an article published in the local newspaper. Refer to the attached link below:

https://www.devondispatch.ca/news/local-news/responsible-cat-ownership-in-devon

The Town of Devon – Bird Friendly Web Pages also include a section within the Threat Reduction Pages to educate the public on the Hazards of Cats-at-Large (attd below):

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails/Bird-Friendly-City/Threat-Reduction

The Devon Bird Team also highlights the threat of Cats-at-Large at WMBD events, community awareness events, Library programs, and at schools through displays, and brochure handouts.

1.1 (C) CAT PREDATION OF BIRDS

DESCRIPTION
An active strategy to reduce populations of unowned (feral) cats such as spay/neuter/re-home programs, or initiatives to deter pet abandonment.

SCORING INDICATORS
One point for evidence supporting each subcategory. Subcriteria d. can be fulfilled by a survey of residents.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Cats “at large” will be apprehended and held for 72 hours. They then become the property of the Town of Devon. If unclaimed they will be sold, adopted or as a last resort euthanized. Refer to Responsible Animal Ownership bylaw:

https://devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Bylaws/2020-10-15-Bylaw-949-2020%20-Responsible-Animal-Ownership_v1.pdf

The Community Standards Brochure also contains a section on Responsible Pet Ownership see page five of the attached link.

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Bylaws/2017-07-19-2015-Standards-Brochure-Layout-FINAL_v1.pdf

Lost or Found Animals (Excerpt Town of Devon Animal Control Web Page)

If you find a lost or stray domestic animal, your first step is to locate any identifiers on the animal (collar tag or tattoo) to see if you can reunite it with the owner.
If you are unable to, or uncomfortable trying to reunite the animal with its owner, please contact our Community Peace Officers by calling the Dispatch Line at 1-825-316-2008 and a CPO will follow up you as quickly as possible and arrange pick up of the animal to transport it to the shelter. Please be advised that after hour calls will be followed up on the next available shift.

https://www.devon.ca/Services/Public-Safety/Animal-Control-Licensing

If a resident has a problem with unowned cats, traps are available from the Community Peace Officer.

Authority for Capture 21. A Peace officer is, in addition to any other powers or authority granted under this Bylaw or any enactment, authorized to: a. capture and impound in an Animal Shelter any Animal that is At Large; b. take any reasonable measures necessary to subdue any Animal that is “At Large” c. enter onto lands surrounding any building in pursuit of an Animal while it is At Large; and d. if an Animal is in Distress, whether or not as a result of enforcement action taken pursuant to this Bylaw, to take the Animal to a Registered Veterinarian for treatment and, once treated, to transfer the Animal to an Animal Shelter.

This process is described in the bylaw per the link below:
https://devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Bylaws/2020-10-15-Bylaw-949-2020%20-Responsible-Animal-Ownership_v1.pdf

Below is are links to Town of Devon facebook page showing cats that have been apprehended and are ready to be rehomed.

https://www.facebook.com/TownofDevon/posts/pfbid034NtLpuLQKZeSBi6M27Nk7Hda1uRHgaPbpt8jeksLB7sJCqjnxHqVhVD6h5Z8UmUZl

https://www.facebook.com/TownofDevon/posts/pfbid0FwYhZvxiJMg7iVymmoZsrn98xzvCBhsaPaRt3ecz8EF3RaTkQQqsQUuoTi3DKnRMl

1.1 (D) CAT PREDATION OF BIRDS

DESCRIPTION

The Bird Team and/or municipality is able to track numbers of outdoor cats in their community so that progress on reducing the populations of outdoor cats can be tracked over time.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for evidence supporting each subcategory. Subcriteria d. can be fulfilled by a survey of residents.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION:

The The Town of Devon Bylaw Enforcement partnered with the Devon Bird Team, tracks the numbers of outdoor cats at large for the purpose of reducing these populations. Attached is a report from bylaw enforcement showing numbers tracked over the past six years by zones. A map of the zones has been is included below.

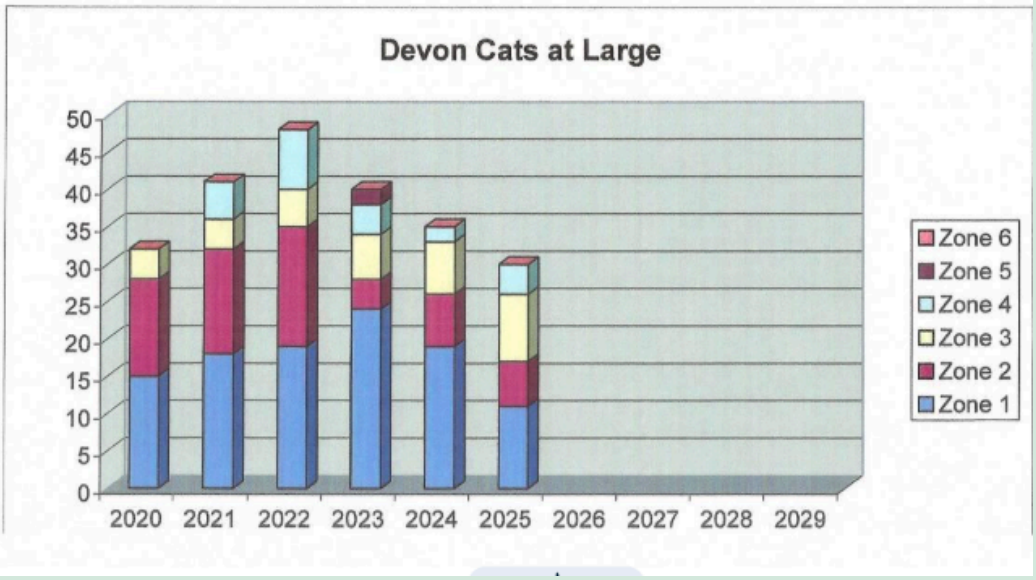
The data provided indicates that our numbers are pretty consistent with previous years, and that the total number of complaints in 2025 are somewhat less than the six year average(refer to attd), and that there is an overall downward trend in Cats-at-Large.

If we see an upward trend, we will start a targeted information program in affected zones, and encourage additional enforcement action, if required.

Town of Devon - Cats at Large Data Provided by Bylaw Enforcement

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Zone 1	15	18	19	24	19	11				
Zone 2	13	14	16	4	7	6				
Zone 3	4	4	5	6	7	9				
Zone 4	0	5	8	4	2	4				
Zone 5	0	0	0	2	0	0				
Zone 6	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Totals	32	41	48	40	35	30	0	0	0	0

Average Complaints per Year = 37.66667



1.2 (A) WINDOW COLLISIONS

DESCRIPTION

Demonstrate that your municipality is taking measures to reduce window collisions by:
a) Treating windows of municipal buildings to mitigate collisions of birds

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for proof that it is mitigating window collision danger in their own buildings.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

In The Town of Devon currently has no buildings that are over four stories in height.

All town buildings have the interior lights turned off when rooms are not in use, with the exception of safety and security lighting, as part of the Town of Devon Green Strategy. This initiative reduces the chance of bird collisions with windows at night.

https://devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2017-05-30-Town-of-Devon-Green-Strategy_v1.pdf

Blinds are also pulled on most municipal building windows when rooms are not in use.

The Town of Devon does not yet have any Bird Safe Coatings on their municipal buildings.

The Devon Nature Club and Town of Devon promoted Window Collision awareness and methods for reducing household window collisions at the Recent World Migratory Bird Day events, by displaying Cityscape Feather Friendly window covering samples, and by handing out Flap "Home Safe for Birds" Brochures and by handing out "Protecting Birds of Alberta" Nature Alberta Brochures.

Copies of these brochures, which include information on how to reduce window collisions, and links to Flap, Nature Canada, and Nature Alberta resources and have been placed on the Devon Nature Club facebook site.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/permalink/2475092765982423

https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/permalink/2475097862648580/

Attached below are links to the original documents:
https://flap.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/FLAP_HouseBrochure_2024_Er.pdf
https://naturealberta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/NA_BirdCards_2018.pdf

These resources and links and further info regarding prevention of window collisions are also on the Town of Devon Bird Threat Reduction web site:

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails/Bird-Friendly-City/Threat-Reduction

The following instructions have also been placed on the Town of Devon Bird Friendly web pages (link above):

Instructions for Residents and Workers if they find and injured Bird

If you find an injured bird

If you find a bird that has hit a building, gently place the bird inside an unwaxed paper bag or small cardboard box with tissue or a paper towel inside to give the bird something to perch on. Do not handle the bird more than necessary. Make sure the bird is sitting upright to aid respiration. If the bird is leaning to one side, make a donut-shape using tissue or a paper towel and place the bird in the centre. Do not give the bird food or water. Call your Wild North rehabilitation centre for further instructions. (Wild North https://wildnorth.ca/ or phone. If you are concerned that a wild animal is injured, or in danger, and requires assistance, please leave a message on our wildlife helpline at 780-914-4118.

If you are looking for advice regarding an animal on your property (e.g., skunk under your porch, porcupine in tree, squirrels in garage, etc): click here
Link to the post on the Devon Nature Club page is below:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/permalink/2475087939316239

1.2 (B) WINDOW COLLISIONS

DESCRIPTION
Promoting and encouraging mitigation of threat from windows to birds in private buildings (including houses).

SCORING INDICATORS
One point for evidence that private residents are mitigating window collisions (treating their windows) and that there are efforts to increase the number of households treating their windows.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
The Devon Nature Club and Town of Devon promoted Window Collision awareness and methods for reducing household window collisions at World Migratory Bird Day events, by displaying Cityscape Feather Friendly window covering samples, and by handing out Flap "Home Safe for Birds" Brochures and by handing out "Protecting Birds of Alberta" Nature Alberta Brochures.

1.3 (A) LIGHT POLLUTION

DESCRIPTION
Within the municipality, there is a policy/ bylaw, or active plans to reduce light pollution and there is evidence within the municipality or village of compliance, such as an active retrofit program for street lamps or sporting facilities (e.g. ball diamonds or tennis courts), or reducing light pollution from private sources through regulation.

SCORING INDICATORS
One point for proof of policy and implementation that includes the municipality (can be higher level, i.e. county or region-wide such as dark sky zone) and one point for evidence of educational and outreach campaigns aimed at the local residents (e.g. Dark Sky initiative).

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
All Town of Devon town lighting including security lighting is downward facing and LED type.

All trail lighting is also Solar Powered LED Dark Sky Compliant lighting with minimal impact outside the boundary of the paved trail and is also downward facing.

There is no trail lighting within the Habitat Sensitive Natural areas of Bob McDonald Nature Park or Voyager Park.

None of the Town's sports fields are lit.

All non-essential Town Building interior lights are turned off when the rooms are not in use, as part of the Town of Devon Green Strategy (link below)

https://devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2017-05-30-Town-of-Devon-Green-Strategy_v1.pdf

Devon Dark Sky Compliant Streetlights

In 2016, Fortis Alberta converted a total of 590 existing High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights to LED technology. Through these conversions, the town will also save approximately 221,700 kWh/year, which is equivalent to taking 30 cars off the road; operating 28 homes; or planting 6,500 trees per year. Refer to page 20 of the Link below:

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/CED/2024-07-15-2024-Devon-Communities-in-Bloom-Profile-Book_v1.pdf

Solar Program

In 2016, the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) recognized the environmental excellence demonstrated by Devon with its solar program by awarding the Town with the 2016 National Municipal Environmental Award.

Devon's solar program began in 2015 with dark sky compliant solar lights installed in the dog park, boat launch pedestrian trails and parking area of Voyageur Park. Soon after, the town installed solar lights for pedestrian walkways and crosswalks. A big part of the program was the installation of 393 solar panels on the roof of the Devon Community Centre.

The efforts reduce the Town's environmental foot print and the amount of public funds spent on electricity for municipal facilities.

Net-Zero Community

Devon Town Council set an ambitious goal to become the first Net-Zero municipality in Canada. In general terms, this means the amount of energy used within the municipality would be offset by the amount of energy produced. This means using innovative planning, technology and best practices to conserve energy and increasing the supply of renewable energy generated in Devon. Sustainable planning plays a key role in reaching this long-term goal.

Partners for Climate Protection

Devon Town Council made a resolution to join the Partners for Climate Protection on April 10, 2017. The program involves a framework of Milestones to be completed that will aid Devon in reaching their sustainability goals. Members also benefit from opportunities to receive funding support through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Regional Partners for Climate Protection members include the City of Edmonton, the City of Leduc, the City of Spruce Grove and the Town of Stony Plain.

1.3 (B) LIGHT POLLUTION

DESCRIPTION

Outreach/educational campaign to reduce light pollution during periods of migration.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for proof of policy and implementation that includes the municipality (can be higher level, i.e. county or region-wide such as dark sky zone) and one point for evidence of educational and outreach campaigns aimed at the local residents (e.g. Dark Sky initiative).

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Light Pollution Education and Community Outreach and Education
a. World Migratory Bird Day Presentations
On May 13, 2023 the Town of Devon, Devon Public Library and Devon Nature Club provided a free public presentation of the Movie "The Messenger". This movie includes a large segment on the disturbing and devastating mortality caused by Light Pollution and Building Collisions and how to reduce this threat. Attached is a link to the trailer for the movie shown.
https://youtu.be/LjQtRr4CKcc
The Devon Nature Club also makes presentations at World Migratory Bird Day events using BirdCast showing that the vast majority of Birds Migrate at night and that dimming of lights is important during this period.

Don Reynolds Demonstrating the Night-time Migration and the effect of Light Pollution using Birdcast.info at World Migratory Bird Presentation in Devon Public Library on May 13, 2023

Light Pollution Information Available
Links to Light Pollution Prevention, Flap.org, Home-Safe-for-Birds and Bird Strike Prevention Information have been posted on the Devon Nature Club facebook page and on the Town of Devon Bird Friendly web page.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/posts/2476356209189412/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/search/?q=Please%20dim%20your%20ightslights
https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/search/?q=bird%20safe%20lighting
https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/search/?q=light%20pollution
https://birdsafe.ca/lighting/
https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails/Bird-Friendly-City/Threat-Reduction

1.4 (A) PESTICIDE USE

DESCRIPTION
Municipality has policies/ bylaws to reduce or eliminate pesticide use that directly or indirectly harms birds on public and/or private lands. Points are awarded for: Restrictions on herbicides for cosmetic purposes (e.g. broad-leafed plant control in yards).

SCORING INDICATORS
Proof of the policies and implementation is provided. One point for ban on cosmetic pesticide/herbicide use, one point for ban on Bti and/or neonics, and one point for evidence of strong organic/ecological farm presence near the municipality.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
The Town of Devon does not use pesticides to control mosquitoes on public land. No pesticides containing BTI or Neonicotinoids are used by the town on public land. Information regarding the use of pesticides can be found on the Town of Devon Bird Friendly City website:

Information on Weed and Pest Control can be found on the Town of Devon Website under Town Services:

https://www.devon.ca/Services/Town-Services/Weed-Pest-Control

The Town of Devon does not use herbicides for cosmetic purposes. Herbicides are used strictly for the control of prohibited and noxious weeds. The town has not blanket-sprayed trees or flowers beds for at least 10 years. The town policy is to use spot-spraying rather than blanket-spraying. For evidence see the letter below from the Town of Devon, Manager of Recreation Parks and Culture:

1.4 (B) PESTICIDE USE

DESCRIPTION
Pesticides to control insect populations that are important food sources for birds (neonics and Bti).

SCORING INDICATORS
Proof of the policies and implementation is provided. One point for ban on cosmetic pesticide/herbicide use, one point for ban on Bti and/or neonics, and one point for evidence of strong organic/ecological farm presence near the municipality.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
The Town of Devon does not use pesticides to control mosquitoes on public land. No pesticides containing BTI or Neonicotinoids are used by the town on public land. Information regarding the use of pesticides can be found on the

Town of Devon Bird Friendly City website:

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails/Bird-Friendly-City/Threat-Reduction

Information on Weed and Pest Control can be found on the Town of Devon Website under Town Services:

https://www.devon.ca/Services/Town-Services/Weed-Pest-Control

The Town of Devon does not use herbicides for cosmetic purposes. Herbicides are used strictly for the control of prohibited and noxious weeds. The town has not blanket-sprayed trees or flowers beds for at least 10 years. The town policy is to use spot-spraying rather than blanket-spraying. For evidence see the letter below from the Town of Devon, Manager of Recreation Parks and Culture:

The Town of Devon also has a “Pest Management Plan” (see link below).

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2018-10-10-Integrated-Pest-Management-Plan_v1.pdf

On the town’s website there is a link to the pest plan as well as the following short summary.

Integrated Pest Management Plan

Did you know the Town of Devon has an Integrated Pest Managment Plan (IPMP)? This plan provides detailed information on how to prevent and manage pests on lands within the Town.
This Integrated Pest Management Plan is intended to have numerous functions such as:

- to ensure public accountability for pesticide use
- to comply with all pertinent laws, regulations, bylaws, and policies regarding the use of pesticides on lands for which the Town is responsible
- to promote ecologically sound pest management principles, concepts, and techniques in the design and implementation of development projects on public lands
- to develop and promote opportunities for public education and information regarding environmentally sound methods of pest management
- to train staff who develop and implement the Town’s IPM Plan
- to promote long-term, cost-effective management of pests

1.4 (C) PESTICIDE USE

DESCRIPTION

Presence of strong organic/ecological habitat management practices in the community.

SCORING INDICATORS

Proof of the policies and implementation is provided. One point for ban on cosmetic pesticide/herbicide use, one point for ban on Bti and/or neonics, and one point for evidence of strong organic/ecological farm presence near the municipality.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The town of Devon has a Community Garden which encourages organic methods of growth and weed control. This is a highly popular program which is fully subscribed.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1565838130343285/posts/2923429111250840/

The Devon Nature Club has naturalized an area in the Highwood Park District of town. Several volunteers from the club planted a wide variety of native pollinator-friendly plants. This project was highly successful and has resulted in the cessation of herbicide spraying in this district. See the Photo Below and note the Icon Logo in the Upper Right Hand Corner showing that this is a "No Spray Zone".

See also link below for pictures of the restored area:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/posts/2472416232916743/

The Devon Town Council has also actively supported naturalization (performed by the Devon Nature Club) of illegal trails in the river valley to help protect our natural places. This Naturalization was completed without the use of pesticides.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/posts/593877437437308/

https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/posts/591185104373208

https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/posts/1624582761033432/

Devon Communities in Bloom's Love Your Yard! (LYY) program is taking on a fresh focus in 2026 this summer — shifting emphasis from aesthetics to environmental impact.

While many people associate Devon Communities in Bloom with colourful gardens and attractive landscaping, the program is about much more. It also celebrates the efforts our community makes in tree management, heritage conservation, tidiness, urban forestry, and environmental stewardship.

This year, Love Your Yard! will highlight residents whose yards demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and positive environmental action, recognizing that beautiful communities can also be healthy, resilient, and environmentally responsible ones.

The goals of LYY 2026 are twofold: To celebrate residents who use one or more eco-friendly practices in their yard, and to encourage sharing of information to increase residents' confidence to try eco-friendly practices.

Eco-friendly practices help protect the environment, reduce waste, and conserve resources. Examples of eco-friendly practices are composting, avoiding harmful chemicals, having a diversity of plant types, installing rain barrels, being bug and bird friendly, xeriscaping, and many more.

Six of Devon's yards will be featured between June 3 and August 26. For each yard, a different eco-friendly practice will be highlighted.

For example, the featured practice in yard one is native plants. As the Macaulay yard is an example of many other good environmental practices, Allan has generously offered to do tours with small groups between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Saturday, June 6. Watch for the article that Devon Communities in Bloom will be publishing about Allan's eco-friendly practices on facebook.com/DevonCIB and in the Dispatch in early June. If you're interested in signing up for a tour with Allan, you will also find those details in early June on our Facebook page.

Communities in Bloom is keen to learn about other yards in Devon where eco-friendly practices are followed.

Devon Communities in Bloom hopes that you will find Eco-Friendly Love Your Yard! an interesting and inspiring addition to your summer.

https://www.devondispatch.ca/news/local-news/love-your-yard-goes-eco-friendly

1.5 PLASTICS

DESCRIPTION

There are actions to reduce and remove plastic pollution within the local ecosystems, led within the community.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide evidence of community actions to reduce and remove plastic pollution from the local ecosystems such as shoreline cleanups.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Town of Devon actively promotes “Pitch-In Devon”, an annual community event where citizens are encouraged to remove plastics and other refuse from and near the town. Below is the link to Pitch-in Devon:.

https://www.devon.ca/Government/News-Publications/Community-News/pitch-in-devon-2025

Individuals, families and community groups all joined in to help clean up the neighbourhoods, trails, and river valley during Pitch-in Devon 2023. Below is the link to Town of Devon facebook page showing some of the hardworking groups and individuals involved in the annual clean-up.

https://www.facebook.com/profile/100064360164731/search/?q=Pitch%20in%20devon

Devon Lions Club assisted by Devon Youth Experience annually cleans up highway 60 by Devon. Below is the link to Devon Dispatch News article:

https://www.devondispatch.ca/news/local-news/lions-club-toughs-out-rain-for-annual-garbage-cleanup

Devon nature club member, Yvonne Reynolds wrote an article for the Devon Dispatch, our local newspaper, to educate the public on how to reduce single use plastic in our environment. Below is a link to that article:

Picture that accompanied the article.

https://www.devondispatch.ca/news/local-news/how-to-reduce-reuse-and-recycle-plastic-waste

The Devon Nature Club participates in the annual Pitch-in Devon event. Below is the link to the Nature Club’s facebook page advertising the event and asking for volunteers:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/search/?q=pitch%20in%20devon

The Town of Devon has an active recycling program. Below is a link to the town’s website with information regarding the sorting and curbside pick-up of recyclables including certain plastics:

https://www.devon.ca/Services/Town-Services/Garbage-Recycling-Organics/Blue-Bag-Recycling

The Town of Devon has a recycling depot where citizens and others can drop off many different types of material including plastics. Below is the link to the Devon Recycle Depot Handbook which indicates which plastics can be recycled here:

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Waste-and-Recycling/2025-03-10-Devon-Recycle-Depot%20-Items-Accepted_v1.pdf

There is a bottle depot in the town which accepts beverage containers including plastic bottles. Below is a link to the Devon Bottle Depot’s facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Devon-Bottle-Depot/245943392103282

1.6 VEHICLES

DESCRIPTION

Measures in place to reduce bird collisions or disturbance associated with terrestrial and aquatic vehicles (including from the wake of boat traffic, agricultural machinery, and recreational vehicles on nesting beaches). For example, posted lower speed limits, signage to encourage vehicles to slow down, and educational campaigns.

SCORING INDICATORS
Provide proof of measures to protect birds and other wildlife from vehicle collisions, and related damage or disturbance.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
Speed limits in the town of Devon range from 20 to 60 kph. Unless otherwise posted, a 50 kph speed limit is to be maintained. There is only 1 kilometre of road within the town of Devon posted at 60 kph. Traffic is slowed to 30 kph entering the two Wildlife Sensitive Areas at Voyageur Park and the Golf Course (which is adjacent to Bob McDonald Nature Park). Photo of the posted signage:

Speed limit sign entering Voyageur Park

Vehicles on the highway are slowed to 70 kph as traffic passes by the Town of Devon. Photo of the posted signage on highway:

Speed limit sign on highway near Devon

Link to Town of Devon "Traffic Safety" bylaw:
https://devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Bylaws/2018-03-21-Traffic-Safety-Bylaw-884-2016_v1.pdf

Anyone using the North Saskatchewan River for boating and other recreational activities must abide by the Canada Shipping Act. Town of Devon information sign at the Saskatchewan River boat launch states that all provincial and federal regulations apply. Note: Point 3 under "USE EXTREME CAUTION"

What are the rules & regulations for boating in Canada?

Boats used on any water body must conform to the Canada Shipping Act and regulations. Know and follow Transport Canada boating regulations and safety. Keep boat speeds under 10km/hour within 30 metres of the shoreline, and follow speed limits. Know and follow the directions provided by navigational and other special buoys.

The link to the Canada Shipping Act is below:

https://www.laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-10.15/

1.7 HABITAT DISTURBANCE

DESCRIPTION
Municipality recognizes and encourages practices that mitigate disturbance from human activities in areas surrounding the municipality, for example, adjusting hay harvest timing to protect nesting grassland birds, keeping public off beaches during moments of shorebird migration, removing abandoned fishing gear from nearby fishing grounds, or limiting the running of dogs off leash in natural areas.

SCORING INDICATORS
One point for evidence of successful efforts to protect birds and bird habitat from the types of disturbances explained.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
River Valley Alliance (RVA)

The River Valley Alliance (RVA) was formed in 1996 by the seven municipalities bordering the Capital Region's North Saskatchewan River: Town of Devon, Parkland County, Leduc County, City of Edmonton, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County and City of Fort Saskatchewan. The River Valley Alliance has a compelling goal – to preserve, protect and enhance the river valley – to create one of the largest river valley parks in the world, and to create a legacy for generations to come. The RVA goal is to connect the many parks, trails and other green spaces along the capital region into one continuous publicly-accessible park. When complete, it will be the longest metropolitan park in North America at 88 km and one of the largest at 18,000 acres. In 2014, the Town of Devon Council approved

moving forward with the preliminary and detailed design of the trails along the river valley adjacent to Devon, followed by construction in 2015 and 2016.

Town of Devon is on the far left of the above picture.

One of the mandates of the RVA and the Town of Devon is to preserve, protect and enhance the river valley. The intent of trail development within the river valley is to minimize disturbance. Most of the trail alignments will remain where they are to reduce impacts. Tree removal will be minimal. Areas that may be compromised by construction, such as eroded or unstable slopes, will be avoided. Animal and bird habitat will be minimally impacted by construction and future use as the existing trail locations are, for the most part, being retained. The wildlife in the area has been acclimatized to the existing trail activity. All environmental studies and assessments, as required by federal regulatory and provincial agencies, are in the process of being completed prior to any construction.
The RVA trail through Town of Devon and adjacent to Devon is part of the Trans-Canada Trail. Voyager Park is located at the end of Saskatchewan Avenue West along the North Saskatchewan River, this beautiful area includes a boat launch, picnic tables, Gazebo, and washroom facilities. Voyageur Park is also the westernmost point for the beginning of the River Valley Alliance parks and trail system that starts here in Devon and runs all the way to the County of Strathcona to Fort Saskatchewan, a full 88km of riverfront integrated park.

Evidence

On the Town of Devon Web Page:

https://devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/CLS/Communications/2017-05-29-River-Valley-Trails-FAQs_v1.pdf

https://www.devon.ca/Government/News-Publications/Community-News/new-trail-at-battery-creek-increases-south-west-trail-connection-in-river-valley-1

The Town of Devon Web page contains a link to the RVA site in the Voyager Park Section and also includes Trail Etiquette instructions at:
https://devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails?udt_407_param_detail=36
Trail Etiquette instructions are also included at the above link.

Preserve the environment by avoiding fragile surfaces and vegetation.
Remember that this is a natural environment and be cautious of wildlife, this is their home.
Some areas of the natural trails can be steep and slippery, so use care when accessing these areas.
Be a responsible pet owner by keeping your pet on a leash and under control
Bag dispensers and garbage receptacles are located throughout the trail system.

Signage at the Town of Devon Boat Ramp and Voyager Park and along the RVA Trail educates, encourages and explain Regulations on the North Saskatchewan River. This area is adjacent to the Town of Devon but contains important Bird Natural Riparian, Aquatic and Woodland Habitat. Town of Devon has taken the initiative to highlight these rules at the Boat launch onto the North Saskatchewan River, at the Devon Boat Launch.

Signage keeps Motor Vehicles out of the Water;
Instructions to Clean and dry boats to prevent the spread of Invasive Species , Zebra Mussels and Whirling Disease;
Instruction regarding the requirement for Upland activities to observe Devon Bylaws including the No Littering Bylaw.
Instruction regarding regulation of On Water and Riparian activity that falls under Federal and Provincial Regulation.

Off Leash, No Vehicle signs entering the RVA Trails which are important Bird Natural Riparian, Aquatic and Woodland Habitat stretching all the way from Devon to Fort Saskatchewan, have been erected by the Town of Devon.

RVA Trailhead with -Trans-Canada Trail Logo Devon closes trails in Bird Nesting Areas

The Town of Devon has also closed several trails to prevent disturbance of bird nesting areas and wildlife habitat (see sign above).

A new sign purchased by Devon Communities in Bloom is to be erected in the spring by the Devon storm water management facility located in the industrial park.
During the summer of 2025 members of the Devon Ecological Collective (DECO) collaborated on the idea of creating an eco reserve at the south end of Devon where the town had created a storm-water management pond. Alberta Transportation had created a second, larger storm-water management pond across the highway to the south. Over a period of three years these two ponds which are linked by the same flow of water were naturally inhabited by a large variety of shorebirds, ducks, geese and frogs.

The wetland bird species nest on the ground around the ponds and are vulnerable due to the many bird watchers. To protect the nests from getting trampled the DECO team approached several jurisdictions with a proposal to post signage identifying the pond areas as an ecologically sensitive area.
The Town supplied 75 trees as part of the 75th anniversary celebration which volunteers helped plant around the Devon pond. The Devon Nature Club staked them and wrapped them when they realized that the rabbits were enjoying them. They also erected 15 bird houses and recently installed a beautiful purple martin house.

THREAT REDUCTION SCORING 12 / 14 - HIGH

ENTRY 7 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE 9 points from at least 4 categories including at least 1 category worth 2 or more.

HIGH 11 points or more from at least 5 categories. Must include points in each of first four categories.



HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE

SECTION 2: HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.1 PROTECTING NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY AND ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

DESCRIPTION

There are government policies and/ or plans to protect nature and/ or biodiversity and also to address climate change within the territory (either local or regional level). In the policy to protect nature, the expansion of natural areas, or protection, maintenance and restoration of regional biodiversity must be explicitly stated as a goal.

An example of such a policy at the county level is Environmentally Sensitive Areas. The climate change policy must include specific measures for mitigation or adaptation including nature-based climate solutions. An example for climate mitigation and adaptation is riparian restoration and wetland expansion.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for protected areas and biodiversity policy or plan and one point for climate change policy or plan.

1 point for evidence of implementation at the local level. Note that these policies may be at a higher level of government than your municipality. However, to score points, you must provide proof of policy with the higher level municipality, and proof of implementation within your own community.

One point is deducted upon evidence for large scale current or very recent (within one year) activities that damage biodiversity such as loss or degradation of important habitat for wildlife, contamination of wildlife habitat by toxic chemicals, or building of energy or communications infrastructure on or near (within 1 km) important areas and habitats for birds.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The The Town of Devon may be a smaller community, but has done a lot of planning. Environmental protection and sustainability are a high priority. Our natural green spaces: river valley and ravines are a huge attraction to residents and visitors.

Devon's Municipal Development Plan (MDP)

https://www.devon.ca/Government/Reports-Studies-Plans/Municipal-Development-Plan

Section 6.5 pages 25 - 30 Deal with Environmental Protection for the Future of Devon and Protection of Natural Areas in Devon

Below is a short Except from the document for more detail please refer to the actual document described and linked above:

6.5 Natural Environment: What we depend on to survive and thrive:

6.5.1 Devon’s location and identity are strongly linked to the provincial environmentally sensitive area of the North Saskatchewan River, valley and ravine system. These environmental assets serve as natural habitat for wildlife and provide opportunities for recreation corridors, trails and viewpoints that are important to protect for the social, health and amenity benefits to Devon residents and visitors. The Town recognizes its role to be a responsible steward of the environment and the importance of these natural areas as part of a much broader ecological network. To this end, Devon is committed to managing its future growth and development through conservation and sustainable planning and design practices.

6.5.2 Objective Natural systems and areas are protected and trade-offs between them and growth are carefully

considered.

6.5.3 Goals Local and regionally significant natural areas, wildlife corridors, and watersheds are identified, protected and retained. Residents are stewards of the natural environment, resources and wildlife; they are informed of and engaged in related decision-making processes. All residents can access the river valley and ravine system, facilitated by direct pedestrian access form their neighbourhoods. Impacts on natural systems are reduced by requiring potential adverse effects be avoided, remediated or mitigated. Hazard lands are identified and protected as Environmental Reserve Lands.

Town of Devon Green Strategy (Climate Change Plan)
The Town of Devon is aiming to become the first net zero-energy community in Alberta. Net zero energy means that the Town's energy use will be offset by renewable energy production. The town is willing to take action for the good of the community and future generations. Below is a link to Devon's Green Strategy document with its embedded Climate Change Policy.

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2017-05-30-Town-of-Devon-Green-Strategy_v1.pdf

Evidence of Implementation Climate Change Policy:

Town of Devon Climate Risk Assessment & Adaptation Plan:

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2024-04-02-2024-Climate-Risk-Assessment-and-Adaptation-Plan-Brochure_v1.pdf?ver=OIEaU7ZQvbzQ9JdNwv7cXA%3d%3d

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2024-02-27-2024-Climate-Risk-Assessment-and-Adaptation-Plan_v1.pdf

Excerpt from above plan:

Action 5:
Description: Develop a comprehensive strategy to transition the Town's landscapes to increase climate resilience. This includes planting more trees to better protect public spaces from extreme heat, and planting a diversity of tree species that are more suitable to the climate of the future[23]. Priority tree planting locations should include high public use spaces such as the downtown area, popular parks and recreation areas.The Town should also commit to transitioning existing landscaped areas by using drought resistant trees, shrubs and grasses, and considering rainwater capture and storage and innovative irrigation systems, where feasible and cost-effective, to increase water use efficiency[24]. Land use and strategic planning are also important tools for climate resilient landscapes, for example by encouraging or requiring low impact development landscaping in the Land Use Bylaw, and the Town's Design and Construction Standards.

Community Support Actions Practice drought tolerant landscaping practices by using plants, trees and grasses that are more tolerant to dry conditions and that require little or no watering. Provide flowering plants in your yard that help bees and other pollinator insects thrive. CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT AND ADAPTATION PLAN / 36 Action 5: Implement a Climate Resilient Landscapes Strategy Related Initiatives The Town of Devon Green Strategy describes priority areas of action relating to protection of the environment, and includes a priority focus on sustaining a healthy natural environment and identifies actions to protect biodiversity, improve landscaping, and conserve water. In the Urban Forest Management Plan, trees planted on public property are selected based on proven hardiness to the local climate and lack of susceptibility to disease. Town staff have completed many ecological restoration projects including wetland restoration in Highwood Park, bioengineering for the river/creek banks, and erosion management projects in Battery Creek ravines. Continue to grow and
maintain the Town's urban forest and seek recognition as a "Tree City of the World".

Devon also has an Urban Forest Management Plan (Link Below) which links to Habitat Protection, and reducing effects of Climate Change.

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2015-03-17-APPROVED-Urban-Forest-Management-Plan_v1.pdf

2018-01-18-Parks-Culture-and-Recreation-Master-Plan http://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2015-11-Final-River-Valley-Trails-Master-Plan-1_v1.pdf
The following are highlights from the plan:
Goal: Connect People and Nature - Help people connect to nature through recreation and make environmental stewardship a priority.

Our Values In Devon, we believe: parks, open spaces, natural areas, and green spaces are essential to our well-being and our environmental sustainability;

1. Ensure all trail building and maintenance equipment is washed and clean prior to beginning of work so as not to bring in seeds or pieces of invasive plants from other locations.
2. If invasive species are encountered, remove as much as possible and vegetate with fast growing, native shrubs and trees. If the infestation is significant, develop an invasive species management plan.
3. Implement ongoing mapping and monitoring of identified locations.
4. Implement annual or biannual invasive species management work, as required.
5. Undertake a detailed environmental assessment of proposed trail alignments to identify wildlife habitats including dens, beaver dams and bird nests. Reroute trails to minimize impacts.
6. Avoid tree and shrub clearing in early spring through mid-summer to minimize impact on breeding birds and wildlife.
7. Avoid the addition of features that could impede wildlife movement along the river corridors or up and down the slopes

Evidence of Implementation - Protecting Nature

The entire north, east and south sides of Devon consist of Natural Habitat Parks and Nature Trails. The Town of Devon has approximately 240 hectares of natural area including three wetlands, three ravines and borders on the North Saskatchewan River. There are about 200 hectares of parks and green spaces.

2.2 (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 each action. One point per action. Note that these policies could occur at the Regional level but often require implementation at local level.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
The The Town of Devon recently developed a CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT AND ADAPTATION PLAN (refer to page 34 and 35 of the plan in link below).

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2024-02-27-2024-Climate-Risk-Assessment-and-Adaptation-Plan_v1.pdf

the plan includes developing a comprehensive strategy to transition the Town's landscapes to increase climate resilience. This includes planting more trees to better protect public spaces from extreme heat, and planting a diversity of tree species that are more suitable to the climate of the future[23]. Priority tree planting locations should include high public use spaces such as the downtown area, popular parks and recreation areas. The Town should also commit to transitioning existing landscaped areas by using drought resistant trees, shrubs and grasses, and considering rainwater capture and storage and innovative irrigation systems, where feasible and cost-effective, to increase water

use efficiency[24]. Land use and strategic planning are also important tools for climate resilient landscapes, for example by encouraging or requiring low impact development landscaping in the Land Use Bylaw, and the Town's Design and Construction Standards.
Town initiatives documented in this plan:

The Town of Devon Green Strategy describes priority areas of action relating to protection of the environment, and includes a priority focus on sustaining a healthy natural environment and identifies actions to protect biodiversity, improve landscaping, and conserve water.
In the Urban Forest Management Plan, trees planted on public property are selected based on proven hardiness to the local climate and lack of susceptibility to disease.
Town staff have completed many ecological restoration projects including wetland restoration in Highwood Park, bioengineering for the river/creek banks, and erosion management projects in Battery Creek ravines.
The Town continue to grow and maintain the Town's urban forest and seek recognition as a "Tree City of the World"[25].i
The Town of Devon is aiming to become the first net zero-energy community in Alberta. Net zero energy means that the Town's energy use will be offset by renewable energy production. The town is willing to take action for the good of the community and future generations. Below is a link to Devon's Green Strategy document with its embedded Climate Change Policy.

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2017-05-30-Town-of-Devon-Green-Strategy_v1.pdf

Evidence of Implementation Climate Change Policy:

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2024-02-27-2024-Climate-Risk-Assessment-and-Adaptation-Plan_v1.pdf

Evidence of Increasing the Number of Trees and Area of the Urban Forest Canopy:
The Town of Devon supplied 75 trees as part of the 75th anniversary celebration which volunteers helped plant around the waste water management pond. The Devon Nature Club staked them and wrapped them when they realized that the rabbits were enjoying them. The town budgets for tree planting to replace damaged or dead trees on public land. Approximately 60 trees per year are planted.

2.2 (B) MUNICIPAL LANDS

DESCRIPTION
Protecting trees on public and private lands through a tree bylaw that protects trees as a public value from private land owners cutting them down without permits.

SCORING INDICATORS
Provide proof of implementation of each action. One point per action. Note that these policies could occur at the Regional level but often require implementation at local level.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
The The Town of Devon has established new protections for parks, trails and green spaces.

The new Parks, Trails & Open Spaces Bylaw adds various protections for natural spaces across the municipality. This includes new regulations to protect local green spaces by preventing damage to vegetation, illegal dumping of hazardous materials, and other harmful activities.

The main objective of the new bylaw is to preserve the community's natural areas for many generations to come. The bylaw was developed in conjunction with several community advocates.

The new bylaw also adds a new permitting system to allow certain activities that would otherwise be restricted, ensuring they are conducted safely and responsibly. In addition to this, fines and penalties for disobeying rules for public green spaces has been established in the new bylaw.

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Bylaws/2025-06-19-Parks-Trails-and-Open-Spaces-Bylaw-1021-2025_v1.pdf

There are 2932 documented and maintained boulevard and planted trees in the urban spaces and urban parks in Devon. Devon Parks and Recreation is constantly maintaining trees and parks, replacing trees that have to be removed, and making sure that new subdivisions have suitable trees.

Additionally there are many more undocumented trees in the natural areas of Bob Macdonald and Voyager Parks, which are also protected by the bylaw.

Tree City of the World:
In 2021, and again in 2024, Devon earned recognition as a Tree City in the program's third year. The Arbor Day Foundation is the world's largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Both organizations came together in 2019 to found Tree Cities of the World. The program is a global effort to recognize cities and towns committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated. Each year since, Devon has applied for and has been granted recognition in this program. To earn Tree Cities of the World recognition, Devon demonstrated its commitment by meeting five program standards: establish responsibility for the care of trees, set rules to govern the management of forests and trees, maintain an updated inventory or assessment of local tree resources, allocate resources for a tree management plan, and hold an annual celebration of trees to educate residents.

https://www.devon.ca/Government/News-Publications/Community-News/devon-earns-2024-tree-city-of-the-world-recognition-from-arbor-day-foundation

https://www.devondispatch.ca/news/local-news/devon-recognized-as-a-tree-city-of-the-world

The Town of Devon's Parks, Trails and Open Spaces bylaw states that no person shall:
"j) remove, move, prune, cut, debark, or penetrate the bark of any portion of a Town Tree on Park land, without prior authorization of the CAO and in accordance with the 2013 Urban Forest Management Plan; k) secure in any fashion, without penetrating the bark, any object or poster to a Town Tree;"

Link to bylaw:
https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Bylaws/2025-06-19-Parks-Trails-and-Open-Spaces-Bylaw-1021-2025_v1.pdf

In Devon there are:
- 128 recorded species of birds including a few sensitive at-risk species.
- 45 species of mammals, (3 sensitive at risk mammals)
- 3 species of reptiles (1 sensitive at risk)
- 5 species of amphibians
- 25 species of fish (2 sensitive at risk species of fish)

There is a protected area of known garter snake hibernacula supported by the Town of Devon in Bob McDonald Park

There is a key spawning area outflow of Battery Creek documented with fisheries biologist and DNC with presentation to council:

https://www.devondispatch.ca/news/local-news/alberta-fisheries-conducts-fish-survey-of-battery-creek
•

2.2 (C) HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

DESCRIPTION
Prohibiting active vegetation management on municipal lands during breeding season.

SCORING INDICATORS
Provide proof of implementation of each action. One point per action. Note that these policies could occur at the Regional level but often require implementation at local level.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
Current policy in Devon restricts routine brushing operations in Voyager Park and Bob McDonald Park during nesting season. Only safety related, and essential infrastructure related brushing is done in these areas during prime nesting season. All brushing there, and elsewhere on all municipal land are conducted in accordance with the Migratory Bird Act.

Link to Town Website (see the comments regarding Brushing Restrictions during nesting season under Habitat Disturbance section:

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails/Bird-Friendly-City/Threat-Reduction

Devon has an Urban Forest Management Plan (Link Below) which links to Habitat Protection, and reducing effects of Climate Change.

https://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2015-03-17-APPROVED-Urban-Forest-Management-Plan_v1.pdf

The following are highlights from the plan:
Goal: Connect People and Nature - Help people connect to nature through recreation and make environmental stewardship a priority.
Our Values In Devon, we believe: parks, open spaces, natural areas, and green spaces are essential to our well-being and our environmental sustainability;
1. Ensure all trail building and maintenance equipment is washed and clean prior to beginning of work so as not to bring in seeds or pieces of invasive plants from other locations.
2. If invasive species are encountered, remove as much as possible and vegetate with fast growing, native shrubs and trees. If the infestation is significant, develop an invasive species management plan.
3. Implement ongoing mapping and monitoring of identified locations.
4. Implement annual or biannual invasive species management work, as required.
5. Undertake a detailed environmental assessment of proposed trail alignments to identify wildlife habitats including dens, beaver dams and bird nests. Reroute trails to minimize impacts.
6. Avoid tree and shrub clearing in early spring through mid-summer to minimize impact on breeding birds and wildlife.
7. Avoid the addition of features that could impede wildlife movement along the river corridors or up and down the slopes

2.2 (D) HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

DESCRIPTION
Protecting and enhancing naturalized buffers for watercourses, such as streams, rivers, canals and municipal drains, and shorelines, to prevent water contamination, reduce erosion and provide and protect habitat, including corridors linking natural areas, natural beaches, etc.

SCORING INDICATORS
Provide proof of implementation of each action. One point per action. Note that these policies could occur at the Regional level but often require implementation at local level.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Town of Devon Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Bylaw states:
"Section 12- BODIES OF WATER (excluding the North Saskatchewan River) 1201. No Person shall enter, wade or swim in or upon any Stormwater Management Facility or any area which is part of the Town's Storm Drainage Collection System. 1202. No Person shall operate a boat powered by a motor nor operate or launch any boat, canoe, kayak or similar craft upon any Stormwater Management Facility or any area which is part of the Town's Storm Drainage Collection System. 1203. No Person shall enter, wade, swim or skate in or upon any body of water which flows through, is adjacent to or is located within a Park, unless such activity is specifically permitted by way of posted notice from the CAO, or a Permit has been issued pursuant to this Bylaw. 1204. No Person shall operate a boat powered by a motor, except motorized model boats, unless such activity is specifically permitted by way of posted notice from the CAO, or a Permit has been issued pursuant to this Bylaw."
Devon has an extensive park system, surrounding entire Washout and Battery Creek system and along the North Saskatchewan River. The entire north, east and south sides of Devon consist of Natural Habitat Parks and Nature Trails. The Town of Devon has approximately 240 hectares of natural area including three wetlands, three ravines and borders on the North Saskatchewan River. There are about 200 hectares of parks and green spaces containing 2932 planted and maintained trees...planting started in 1950. These natural spaces are linked by many parks and trails.
River Valley Alliance (RVA):

A link to the RVA https://rivervalley.ab.ca/ and a link is also available on the Town of Devon site on the Voyageur Park page: https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Voyageur-Park

The RVA envisions transforming the Saskatchewan River valley into a world-class, integrated, cross-municipality, continuous park and trail system running from Devon to Fort Saskatchewan, approximately 100 km long. It is 70% complete. The RVA works with six municipalities to co-ordinate the planning, funding and development of the trail systems and projects that support accessibility and connectivity to the river valley. The Town of Devon is represented by one Devon councillor who is on the Board of Directors and two Devon residents. who are on the Community Engagement Committee. The first phase, completed in 2015 upgraded about 10 km of Devon trails and added a staircase (known as the "Legs of Fire") from street level into the river valley.

Devon Voyageur Park
Located at the end of Saskatchewan Avenue West along the North Saskatchewan River, this beautiful area includes a boat launch, picnic tables, Gazebo, and washroom facilities. Voyageur Park is also the westernmost point for the beginning of the River Valley Alliance parks and trail system that starts here in Devon and runs all the way to the County of Strathcona to Fort Saskatchewan, a full 88km of riverfront integrated park.

Bob McDonald Nature Park
Devon's natural heritage gem is a 130 Hectare old growth white spruce forest park that encompasses the Battery and Washout creeks' riparian area. Devon town council created this park on March 17, 2016. The park is home to an extensive and diverse cross section of flora and fauna. It has a vigorous community of goose neck moss, which is rare in Alberta, red-sided garter snake hibernacula, some American marten, and several breeding pairs of at-risk Western Tanager, and numerous other bird species have been spotter there. Battery Creek is a valuable spawning habitat for many of the 37 species of fish that live in the adjacent North Saskatchewan River. A 2019 survey conducted by a Seniors Fisheries Biologist and the Devon Nature Club identified 5 species in the creek.

The park contributes to the cultural and historic preservation of a healthy fishery for all to enjoy and is established for low impact recreational activities, safeguarding the ecosystem. It has a unique white spruce climax forest mix that has never been logged or burned in recent history (200 plus years). This area will be surrounded by urban development some day and will be a rare gem. Only three approved low impact trails exist in the park.

2018-01-18-Parks-Culture-and-Recreation-Master-Plan http://www.devon.ca/Portals/0/Documents/Plans-Reports/2015-11-Final-River-Valley-Trails-Master-Plan-1_v1.pdf

The Town of Devon closes environmentally sensitive areas of the parks and posts appropriate signage. See below.





2.3 IMPORTANT BIRD AREA NEARBY

DESCRIPTION

There is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) within or adjacent to the municipality. A local partnership promotes the protection and stewardship of this area. The local community is involved in stewardship or promotion of the IBA.

SCORING INDICATORS

A point if there is a nearby IBA (the area must be a registered IBA on the IBA Canada database – IBACanada.com) and if the local community is involved in the stewardship or promotion of the area (e.g. ecotourism). 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 if there is digital information on the IBA on the municipal website.

The nearest IBA to Devon is Big Lake.
https://www.ibacanada.org/site.jsp?siteID=AB068

Information about Big Lake a.k.a. Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park, is on the Town of Devon Bird Friendly Pages at:
https://www.devon.ca/birding-in-devon
•

2.4 PROMOTING LOCAL NATIVE FLORA ON PUBLIC LANDS

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has a demonstration garden/habitat on municipal lands, with local native plants to attract birds and insects, which offers residents a good example of beneficial practices for wildlife for their own properties.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide evidence of a demonstration project on municipal lands. A pollinator garden, or wildlife garden are example demonstrations.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Devon Nature Club in conjunction with Alberta Plant Council and the Town of Devon has restored the Highwood Park wetland by planting 30 plus species of local native plants including a native orchid and removing invasive weeds like thistle and hops. There are bird and pollinator houses on the sight. The Devon Nature Club maintains this natural area by an annual weed pull.

Devon Community Garden has many local native plants to attract pollinators. One plot is producing offspring from Devon's heritage trees to be replanted around town.

In 2015, the Devon Nature Club volunteers undertook the maintenance of the shrub beds in Powerline Park. These beds contain many native fruiting and flowering shrubs. There are saskatoons, cranberries, gooseberries and currants. These fruits feed the birds and are also great to pick and eat. For two years, the group provided weed control. At this time a heavy mulch was applied, ending the Nature Club involvement. Starting in 2020, and continuing yearly, the CiB committee has organized workdays to tackle the weeds which have been overtaking the beds.

The Lions Club has a rigorous program of renewal of trees in Lions Park. 2018 plantings included 82 deciduous trees and about 240 shrubs in a variety of species in the Devon Lions Campground. New trees are added for beautification and to replace existing trees that have become dangerous. All the shrubs are native species, mostly Red Osier Dogwood with some High Bush Cranberry and Prickly Rose. The bulk of the shrubs were used to plant a hedge which is designed to keep campers off the road. Temporary fencing has been erected to protect the shrubs until they get established. In 2019 about 40 or 50 dangerous black poplar trees were removed to protect campers from falling trees. In 2021, 46 new spruce and pine trees were planted in the campground.

The Devon Nature Club grows trees, other seedlings and native plants to be used in various reclamation projects. They are also working with the Town and golf course to replant native trees. They are donating over twenty native white spruce that were grown from seeds collected in the ravine. They have over twenty silver maples, which are close to two meters tall, from the famous tree on South Ram Crescent. With the support of Devon Parks, they will be planted in parks soon, and will perpetuate the unique genetics of this species. They also prune and keep trunk protectors on the 25 trees that they have previously planted.

The Alberta Native Plant Council, Associated Environmental and the Town of Devon hosted Bioengineering Walking Tour and Native Plant Workshop including native plant and installation methods, practical experience in the installation of native plants, and how they can be used to enhance ecosystem services and build resiliency into the watershed. Participants installed native plants along the Beaver Loop Trail where soil disturbance resulted from landslide activity.

The Devon Lions Club actively removes invasive species from Voyageur Park and the Lions Campground. They have a “Weed of the Week” program that informs the public of which invasive weeds to look for and remove from public and private lands. “Weed of the Week” is highlighted on social media pages including Communities in Bloom, Devon Nature Club, Devon Community Garden and Around Town Events.









2.5 PROMOTING LOCAL NATIVE FLORA ON PRIVATE LANDS

DESCRIPTION

Demonstrate widespread community participation in initiatives to encourage native plant habitats that support native birds on private property, such as sustainable, environmentally friendly farming, establishment of pollinator habitat, wetland restoration, etc.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if you provide evidence supporting “widespread community participation” in at least one national or international initiative or local program that encourages increasing wildlife habitat on private land. For example, Bee City recognition, ALUS projects, and Monarch City certification would all qualify. Need to demonstrate that the initiatives show engagement by multiple households or businesses.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

There The Town of Devon and the Devon Public Library held informative presentations on native plant gardens. Below is the link to the Devon Public Library’s May 17, 2022 talk by Allan and Karen Macaulay of the Devon Nature Club.

https://www.facebook.com/DevonLibrary/posts/pfbid0JxWVDbvNpUpCRaqQrpQCkjmEQPPiQJ5tD5osT3Uj7wZyGeck8nZwxMzw8p474C4jl

“Gardening with Native Wildflowers” presentation by Manna Parseyan and Patsy Cotterill of the Edmonton Native Plant Society was held at the Devon Public Library on April 30, 2019 and again on September 9, 2020. Below are the

links to these presentations:

https://www.facebook.com/DevonLibrary/posts/pfbid02yK1U6XDbMGHAfjkicAYYD9ntUViPWDWeScEPyjeZ7M3S9a45LQL7r8KLSRmFVTSml

https://www.facebook.com/TownofDevon/photos/a.208668822488666/3406159322739584/

The Devon's Lions Club held a Bee Hotel Workshop for citizens and others. As a result there have been numerous bee hotels mounted in yards.

2.6 STEWARDSHIP FOR SPECIES OF HIGH CONSERVATION CONCERN

DESCRIPTION

Within the municipality, there are projects to increase or improve breeding or stopover habitat for bird species that are of high conservation priority from your Bird Conservation Region Plan. Example species include Species at Risk (e.g. Chimney Swift and Barn Swallow) aerial insectivores, open-country and grassland birds such as Meadowlarks and Tree Swallows, and shorebirds.

Example actions: providing housing (e.g., maintained Purple Martin condos or tree swallow nest boxes), or maintaining bird-friendly hay production and managing forests to promote old growth conditions.

SCORING INDICATORS

A point 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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Devon Nature Club together with the Devon Lions Club held a workshop to build Mountain Bluebird Nest boxes on March 29, 2017. See link to facebook page advertising this event:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/posts/746299002195150/

There are approximately 30 nesting boxes in and around the town of Devon which are maintained by the Devon Nature Club. These boxes are used by black capped chickadees, tree swallows and house wrens. There have been several Purple Martin condos erected by Devon Nature Club Members and other groups in the past few years.







HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY SCORING 10 / 12 POINTS - HIGH LEVEL

ENTRY 6 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE 8 points from at least 4 categories.

HIGH 10 points from at least 5 categories including at least 2 points from both categories 2.1 and 2.2 and 2.6.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

3.1 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.

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

C) At least one school does a specific bird-related program such as Christmas Bird Count for Kids, the Great Backyard Bird Count, Global Bird Rescue, or curriculum from Keep Cats Safe and Save Bird Lives.

SCORING INDICATORS
EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

During the Devon Town Bird Election, all Devon public and separate school students between Kindergarten and Grade 9 were able to participate, and vote at their respective schools (Holy Spirit Catholic School, Robina Baker Elementary School, Riverview Middle School), and cast a total of 617 votes, and choose between eight finalists to elect the town's official bird. During the program, one of the schools ran educational programs about each of the Bird candidates, including presentations from the Devon Nature Club about the candidate birds and Hazards to Birds.

Teachers at local schools in Devon go above and beyond the curriculum when it comes to teaching about birds. At Robina Baker Elementary School, students can observe geese in flight, make bird feeders, take seasonal walks in the river valley to observe and listen to birds, and participate in presentations from organizations such as the Beaverhill Bird Observatory BirdSmart education program. Jolene Milson, a teacher at Robina Baker, shares her love of birds with students by sharing pictures, videos, a #birdnerd presentation, and information about local birds throughout the school year. A link to the #birdnerd school presentation is below:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Es9YdOaLFJ2L8s4TXHtv4nLPBrY6I-h1eYJQYvXlgeg/edit#slide=id.g89ae133f90_0_15

Birding Backpacks are available to Kids and Adults for free use at the Devon Public Library. One of the Birding Backpacks is specifically designed for youth.
See the CTV News Video at the link below:

https://www.ctvnews.ca/edmonton/article/birding-enthusiasts-flocking-to-devon-library-for-new-backpack-program/

https://devonpubliclibrary.ca/birding-backpacks

Members of the Devon Nature Club lead the local Brownie pack to observe and record birds at the Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/search/?q=brownie

In addition to school learning opportunities, two community members and outdoor enthusiasts, Allan Macaulay and Kelly Harlton, frequently provide nature walks for adults, youth, and children in the river valley. These nature walks include education about birds.

Every year the Devon Nature Club leads a Bird / Nature Walk with the local Beaver Group. Beaver Walks always include education about Threats to Birds and what Beavers can do to help protect birds. Local Beavers were also invited to vote for Devon's Town Bird during the election.

Girl Guides Outreach In 2022, the Devon Girl Guides participated in a bird friendly project to complete molded bird seed hangers, using only bird seed and gelatin.

They also attended a construction night to build Swallow Houses - at a local bird enthusiast's workshop. While there they were able to view an amazing array of birds and bird houses at the owners' home and garden.

The Local Girl Guides continue to encourage green projects and connections with the outdoors and nature.

The Devon Nature Club also provides learning opportunities for all Devon residents about birds. Notable presentations include Birds of Prey Presentation with Dr. Gordon Court, Devon & Area Birds of Prey & The Big Picture: Owls & Owl Conservation in Alberta Birds and Animals in Devon's Backyard and Winter Backyard Birds

Bird of Prey Presentation Facebook

The Devon Public Library and the Devon Nature Club plan to continue to provide more educational opportunities for children and youth at Devon Public Library, with the Devon Public Library's Family Storytime for preschool children and their caregivers. moving forward. Bird Friendly Family Storytime events always include education about Threats to Birds and what kids and residents can do to help protect birds.



3.2 COMMUNICATING BEST PRACTICES TO HELP BIRDS

DESCRIPTION

Municipality (and/or Bird Friendly City partners if appropriate) promotes and has information available to its residents and visitors linked with Bird Friendly City Program about ways to help birds. Examples: establishment of natural habitat on their property, feeder maintenance, and mitigation of threats to birds.

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).

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

As As part of the Town of Devon's Bird Friendly City initiative, we created multiple Devon Bird Friendly Web Pages on the Town's website with links to information about ways to help birds.

The Opening page has info about our Certification, as well as a series of green/ blue button bars near the top linking to other pages and links containing information on how the Town and individuals can:

Reduce Threats
Protect Habitat
Community Outreach
Birding in and around Devon.

We are very proud of our Web pages, and of the Town of Devon's Communication Coordinator for inputting, and ongoing editing of our Bird Friendly Town Web Pages. The Bird Friendly pages can be found by simply Googling "Bird Friendly Devon". Links to our are below:

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails/Bird-Friendly-City

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails/Bird-Friendly-City/Threat-Reduction

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails/Bird-Friendly-City/Habitat-Protection

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails/Bird-Friendly-City/Community-Education

The Devon Nature Club Facebook Page regularly shares digital resources to educate the community about keeping birds safe and the Devon Bird Species List, which is updated by Devon Nature Club members.

Brochures about the Devon Bird Friendly Program, Nature Alberta Homeowners Guide to Protecting Birds, and Town of Devon Birding Checklist are available in hardcopy at the Town Office, Devon Public Library, Community Events and on the Bird Friendly Web pages.

3.3 DEMONSTRATIONS OF BIRD FRIENDLY ACTIONS

DESCRIPTION

Municipality (and/or Bird Friendly City partners if appropriate) install displays (e.g. information panels) in public areas that include information on birds in the community and the benefits of bird friendly actions. This is done to encourage local residents to do things to help birds.

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Evidence of public interest, knowledge, and info on bird threat reduction can be found on the Devon Nature Club facebook page, where Devon residents and members of the nature club regularly engage by liking, sharing, commenting, and posting their own photos of birds. Citizens of Devon and surrounding area regularly question members about what to do about injured birds

Clifford E. Lee Sanctuary - Located 5 min. north of Devon on Hwy 60, this 300-acre nature preserve contains marshes, meadows, pine and aspen woodland that is free and open to the public year-round. Established natural paths and boardwalks, provide numerous viewing points showcasing a variety of flora and fauna.

A link to Clifford E Lee Sanctuary website is available on Town of Devon Page at:

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Experience-Devon/Visiting-Devon/Attractions?udt_407_param_detail=1659

Bird Protection Information is available on the above linked Clifford E Lee Sanctuary site at the links below:

https://adventurealberta.ca/clifford-e-lee-nature-sanctuary/

https://www.facebook.com/cliffordelee/

32% of Devon's Population voted in the Town Bird Electon. 617 of these votes were from Devon Public and Separate School students.





3.4 NEARBY ACCESSIBLE BIRDING LOCATION

DESCRIPTION

There is at least one birding location near your village or municipality that has infrastructure to facilitate the observation and appreciation of birds (e.g. signs, panels, observation tower, and trails). Information on birding area, or birding trail and how to access it should be easily available digitally on partner websites and/or in printed materials.

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. Note that links to general descriptions of a public park, that do not include information about birds, will not be given a point.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

There are several excellent areas to observe birds within the Town of Devon and in the immediate surrounding areas. The Town of Devon Web Pages contain links to Birding in Devon and nearby Birding Areas, as well as information on responsible birding, eBird, protecting birds, Devon Area Bird Identification, a Devon Area Birding Checklist and a Devon Bird Species Sighting List.

3.5 BIRD FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

DESCRIPTION

For your municipality, one or more businesses promotes and adopts bird friendly practices (e.g. sell or offer bird friendly coffee, sell window treatment film, sell products that promote or support birding, demonstrate bird friendly

practices, etc.). In the case of a village without a store, partner websites/ landing pages recognize or include links to bird-friendly products.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for proof of businesses in your area with bird friendly practices or proof of information on your website for Bird Friendly products. This could be the Municipality's website or that of other partners on the Bird Team.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Links to the applicable Town of Devon web page and excerpts and links are below:

https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails/Bird-Friendly-City/Community-Education

These links are available on the Town of Devon Bird Friendly web pages:

https://www.cafebirdfriendly.org/products/in-support-of-bird-friendly-city
https://birdsandbeans.ca/
https://toronto.wbu.com/bird-friendly-organic-fair-trade-coffee
https://avescoffeeco.com/
https://balzacs.com/pages/balzacs-sustainability-practices

The Town of Devon has several local businesses that promote bird friendly practices.

Devon Walking Trails Marketplace

There is a small business in Devon sells locally crafted products, many of which are bird friendly.

Some of these include bird houses, window decals to prevent bird collisions, organic tea, coffee, soap, shampoo, shaving and body creams. Another vendor sells "seed bombs" which contain wildflower seeds .The seeds used for these "bombs" do not contain Neonicotinoids. They sell clear nectar concentrate for hummingbirds and stopped stocking colored concentrate years ago. In addition the Home Hardware chain has stopped stocking products which contain neonicotinoids in all of its stores. Vegetable seeds are all neonicotinoid free. Below are some of the Bird Friendly products sold at the Devon Home Hardware,

Town of Devon Wetland Creation / Preservation

We also consider the Town of Devon itself as a Bird friendly business.

The Town supports and promotes our Bird Friendly status through conservation actions, promotion of our events, and promotion of Bird Friendly status through their web pages, and thru other social media platforms. They highlighted our Bird Friendly Status in the 2024 State of the Town address (refer to time 5:25 of the video below).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q4OHPTh7MI

A new construction project by the Town of Devon at the south edge of our town has made an impressive effort to preserve the adjacent wetland, in cooperation with the local Eco Club, Nature Club and Communities in Bloom.

3.6 TOWN BIRD

DESCRIPTION

You have a "Town Bird" species that was selected through a public engagement process and which is recognized by the municipal council.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide the name of the “Town Bird” species, proof that it was officially adopted or recognized by Council and evidence of the process to select it.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

On December 9, 2024, the Town of Devon - Mayor and Council voted unanimously to adopt the Black-capped Chickadee as Devon’s Official Bird. The Devon Bird Team is shown above presenting a commemorative picture of the Black-capped Chickadee to Mayor Craddock and Council.
In the fall of 2024, the Devon Bird Team proposed candidates for an official Town of Devon bird. Over 2150 Residents and students voted online and in person and chose the Black-capped Chickadee as the winner.
As the official town bird of Devon the Black-capped Chickadee:
Symbolizes the importance of birds in our ecosystem
Continues to build awareness of birds in our town
Encourages bird conservation and continued certification as a Bird Friendly Town

Election Process
Pre-selection of 8 finalists was completed by the Devon Bird Team / Devon Nature Club using the following criteria:
Should be non-invasive;
Should be a bird seen in Devon year round;
Should be bird that residents are familiar with.
From these eight candidates 2150 residents of Devon voted online, and in-person for the official town bird between September 15 and November 15, 2024. This represents 32% of our total population.
Devon school students between Kindergarten and Grade 9 were also able to participate and vote at Holy Spirit Catholic School, Robina Baker Elementary School, Riverview Middle School, and cast a total of 617 votes.



3.7 PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE TO MONITOR BIRDS

DESCRIPTION

There are active participatory science programs to monitor birds in your municipality such as Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, Project Feederwatch, Marsh Monitoring, Swiftwatch, or Global Bird Rescue. Public participation in these programs is promoted on local media or social media.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide a list of bird-related participatory science programs that operate in your municipality, and evidence of efforts to engage community members in these programs.

Evidence of widespread engagement in multiple projects receives 2 points.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

As you judge this section, we would ask that you consider the level of participation "percentage of scale" when you consider Devon's level of participation in this element (and others). For example, Devon's population of 7000 is approximately 1/200th of that of Edmonton. Per Capita participation rates in Citizen Science are actually quite high when compared to other Bird Friendly cities. For example, the Christmas Bird Count participation of 42 people might seem relatively small, but if you multiplied it by 200, it would be a rather large number (8400)

There are several active citizen science programs in Devon and surrounding counties of Parkland and Leduc. They are listed on the Town of Devon Bird Friendly Web Page at https://www.devon.ca/Community/Facilities-Recreation/Parks-Trails/Bird-Friendly-City/Community-Education .

The Devon Bird Team has a registered Team in the Global Bird Rescue program and has been actively participating for the past two years. The Town of Devon Parks and Rec employees are also volunteering to supply information and details of collisions to the Global Bird Rescue Team coordinator.

Global Bird Rescue is also promoted on the Devon Nature Club facebook pages:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/search/?q=global%20bird%20rescue

(3) The Great Backyard Bird Count is also promoted on the Devon Nature Club facebook page with instructions on how to participate and join:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/posts/2940934429398252

(4) Breeding Bird Survey

Several Teams participate in the Breeding Bird Survey in Devon and surrounding area every year. The Devon Nature Club publishes information on how to join, and some of the results on their Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/464145797077140/search/?q=Breeding%20Bird%20Survey

(5) Birding Backpacks

Free Loaner Birding Backpacks are available at the Devon Public Library for people interested in getting involved in Birding and Citizen Science programs.

https://devonpubliclibrary.ca/birding-backpacks

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION SCORING 10 / 11 POINTS - HIGH

ENTRY 5 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE 7 points from at least 5 categories.

HIGH 9 points from at least 7 categories.

APPLICATION TOTAL FINAL SCORE: 32 /37

HIGH OVERALL

OUR NORTH STAR

The Normalization of Nature in Decision-Making

Bird Friendly Cities and Towns is a certification program run by Nature Canada.

Suite 1000, 141 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, ON K1P 5J3
1-800-267-4088 | info@naturecanada.ca | NatureCanada.ca
Charitable registration #11883-4704-RR0001

Nature CANADA

BIRD FRIENDLY CITY

CERTIFIED BY NATURE CANADA