BIRD FRIENDLY

APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION

Scoring and Evaluation Rubric Version 2.0 • June, 2025

BIRD FRIENDLY CITY

CERTIFIED BY NATURE CANADA

CITY REPRESENTED: Saskatoon, SK

DATE OF SUBMISSION: September 2026

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please take a few moments to review the below preamble and Bird Friendly City 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

WHO CAN APPLY?

The Bird Friendly City Canada Standard generally applies to cities with **populations over 30,000**. Cities (municipalities) that have populations between 15,000 and 30,000 have the option of applying for this standard or for the small municipality standard.

The applicant municipality must have its own elected Council with typical municipal powers. To obtain Bird Friendly status, a certain number of points must be obtained in each category of criteria. The level that an applicant is awarded is equivalent to the lowest level achieved in each of the three categories of criteria (threat reduction, habitat protection, restoration and climate resilience, and community outreach/education).

Many of the criteria include evidence of a policy and evidence of implementation of the policy. In many cases, actions to meet a criterion are community-based (not government). It is a good exercise for Bird Teams during the application process to identify those actions that can be implemented by community members and those that require implementation by the municipality or some other level of government.

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



MANDATORY CRITERIA

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M-1: ESTABLISHMENT OF BIRD TEAM

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

See supporting documentation M-1.

M-2: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LAND AND INCLUSION

DESCRIPTION

We recognize that all of Canada is still within the traditional territory or unceded territory of Indigenous Peoples. Through respect of this fact, and the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples, an Indigenous perspective should be included in this program if possible. We encourage prospective applicant bird teams to seek this perspective as is possible. Bird teams must identify the Indigenous traditional territory (ies) of the municipality and invite it/them to participate in the initiative.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide the name of the relevant Indigenous Nation(s) and report on the outcome of an invitation to participate in the initiative. Reporting on progress of having an Indigenous perspective on the Bird Team is an annual requirement.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

We acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory and the Homeland of the Métis, the ancestral homeland of the Métis, Cree, Saulteaux, Dene, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota peoples. We are grateful for their historic stewardship of the land and pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place.

Lillian Dyck, retired Canadian senator and a member of the Cree Gordon First Nation, was invited to lead the Bird Team but declined the invitation. We are still trying to find someone within the Saskatoon community that would be able to bring an Indigenous perspective to our Bird Team.

The Natural Resources Manager (not of Indigenous descent) of Wanuskewin Heritage Park was previously on the Bird Team but stepped back as he became busier with his full-time position at the park. Despite stepping back from the Bird Team, he is on our list of volunteers and is available for any collaborations between Wanuskewin and Bird Friendly Saskatoon in the future.

M-3: FORMAL MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

We are working with the city to get official support from the mayor and the city council. They seem quite interested but want to do their own research into what it means to be a bird-friendly city and what the associated costs are. We are staying in touch to get this moving along.

M-4: ANNUAL REPORT

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Bird team is prepared to meet this criteria.

M-5: WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The City of Saskatoon proclaimed May 9th World Migratory Bird Day (see supporting documentation) and several free events/ activities were held. There was a guided bird walk within the city, a local art program did a bird-themed activity with attendees, and

there was an educational event about gardening with native plants to feed the birds and the bees. Partners for these events included Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation, Remai Modern, Wild about Saskatoon, and the Saskatoon Public Library.
In addition to World Migratory Bird Day, the city also proclaimed May 9th to 16th Bird Safe Week (see supporting documentation) to celebrate and recognize the importance and value of birds in our lives and for our ecosystems. This allowed us to organize more events and get more people and organizations involved. Additional events included several guided walks to look at birds and/or native plants, an online screening of the Birds on the Move Audubon video series, and an educational event about gardening with native plants to feed the birds and the bees. Partners for these events included the Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas, Fabulous Feathers, Meewasin Valley Authority, Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation, Wild about Saskatoon, and the Saskatoon Public Library.

CTV News - Bird Safe Week Saskatoon interview https://www.ctvnews.ca/saskatoon/video/2026/05/11/bird-safe-week-saskatoon/

See supporting documentation M-5 for a full list of events.

M-6: PROGRAM VISIBILITY

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

We believe the city will be willing to post something about BFC on their website once certification has been earned.

M-7: RENEWAL

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

Submit an application for renewal. Applications for renewal are due by the September or February application window that follows the three years of their most recent application's acceptance and their recognition as a Bird Friendly City.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Bird team is prepared to meet this criteria.



SECTION 1:
THREAT REDUCTION

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1.1 (A) OWNED CATS

DESCRIPTION

Regulatory and educational measures taken to help control and reduce populations of cats roaming at large:
a) Coordinated efforts directed at cat owners to reduce the number of owned cats outside such as educational campaigns, licensing and no-roam bylaws.

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Bylaw No. 7860 - The Animal Control Bylaw, 1999 (bylaw was last updated December 17, 2025 - codified to Bylaw No. 10139)
https://www.saskatoon.ca/content/bylaw-7860-animal-control-bylaw-1999

Every cat owner must ensure that their cat(s):

- have and wear a license (non-wearing of license is permitted if the cat is microchipped and the identification information has been shared with the city) (Section 4, 5, 6.1) - are not roaming at large (Section 9.1)
- are not in prohibited areas listed in the bylaw, on any public playground, or in any posted area where pets are not permitted (Section 11.1, 11.2)
- does not howl so as to create a nuisance or become a nuisance or danger to other persons or animals (Section 15, 15.1)

Furthermore, the bylaw sets out provisions for borrowing cat traps to trap cats at large (Section 12).

Fines for at-large cats start at $100, not licensing a pet results in a base $250 fine. Enforcement is contracted out to the Saskatoon Animal Control Agency (SACA).

The no-roam bylaw is advertised on the city's website and periodically by various organizations involved in cat and wildlife rescue on social media sites.

1.1 (B) UNOWNED CATS

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Saskatoon Animal Control Agency (SACA) is in charge of animal control activities in Saskatoon. They address at-large complaints and investigate concerns under both the Dangerous Animal bylaw and Animal Control bylaw. They provide pound services and staff actively work to return animals directly home. Those whose owners can't be identified are transported to the animal pound. SACA manages a comprehensive lost and found program, helping reunite lost pets with their owners. Following a holding period, animals that can't be reunited with an owner, will undergo an assessment and adoptable animals will be moved to the adoption center. SACA provides a pet adoption service that includes a screening process to ensure pets are matched with responsible owners in suitable, loving homes.

SACA: "We are passionate about educating the public and encouraging responsible pet ownership. We actively work in the community, providing information directly as Bylaw Officers. We also engage in community events actively sharing valuable information about our agency, our duties, and the importance of spaying and neutering of pets." https://saskatoonanimalcontrol.ca/services/

Two local cat rescues, SCAT Street Cat Rescue and SOS Prairie Rescue, organize the trapping of roaming feral cats throughout the year. Animals are trapped, receive care, and are placed in foster homes until they are adopted. Both rescues stipulate that cats adopted from them are not to be allowed to roam freely.

Cats from outside of the city that are unsuited for indoor life are either placed into a Barn Cat program (SOS Prairie Rescue) to be adopted to homes outside of the city or enter a trap-neuter-return-manage program (both rescues) after being spayed or neutered. SCAT does not trap-neuter-return cats within city limits. Instead, all trapped cats enter the adoption program. Trap-neuter-return programs work to reduce the number of unfixed cats living outdoors and maintain and/or decrease population numbers over time. In managed feral cat colonies, populations decrease by a process of "aging out" their members.

1.1 (C) MONITORING OF ROAMING CATS DESCRIPTION

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

No such program exists at this time.

1.2 (A) WINDOW COLLISIONS – NEW CONSTRUCTION

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS
Proof of each action required.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
(A) One point if a municipality has a bird-friendly building design standard that is a guideline, and two points if the standard is a requirement.

**Note: High-level status requires that a municipality have, at least, a guideline.*

The City of Saskatoon has implemented the High Performance Civic Building Policy (Policy C08-002, effective as of January 1, 2022) that requires that new civic buildings, renovations, and building additions consider green infrastructure and environmental impacts, among others. Environmental impacts are "impacts to the surroundings in which a community is located and an organization operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelations. The environment in this context extends from within the community of Saskatoon to the prairie region and the broader global system." (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-clerk/council-policies/c08-00 2.pdf)

The Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA) is a Saskatoon-based conservation authority with some regulatory control over construction within a narrow corridor along the South Saskatchewan River. The MVA is currently revising its requirements for new construction within the corridor and consulted with Bird Friendly Saskatoon about how to integrate bird-friendly practices into its guidelines (meeting took place on May 22, 2026). The revisions are still underway, but there was interest in, at a minimum, encouraging new buildings to have collision-prevention measures in line with CSA guidance and building standards from other municipalities (e.g., Toronto, Calgary).

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

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

SCORING INDICATORS
One point if individuals or a group monitors window collisions, and/or assess risk by using BirdSafe, or a similar program.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION
In fall 2025, Bird Friendly Saskatoon conducted 55 days of targeted monitoring of Saskatoon City Hall and several other buildings in downtown Saskatoon. We focused on City Hall because previous informal monitoring reported numerous collisions, particularly on the building's north façade. The goal of this monitoring was to document the scope of bird-window collisions and identify priority windows/buildings for mitigation actions, with a focus on municipal buildings. We paired this monitoring with a petition to urge the City of Saskatoon to treat windows of civic buildings, particularly the north façade of City Hall, with anti-collision window decals.

We compiled our collision monitoring findings into a summary report and paired it with our petition, for which we collected over 500 signatures. We then presented these to the Saskatoon Standing Committee on Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services and later the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee and requested funding for anti-collision measures. Bird Friendly Saskatoon ultimately received ~$5,000 for partial treatment of the most problematic windows at City Hall. In the summer of 2026, window decals and stenciled dots were applied to the north side windows of the building to prevent bird-window collisions. Signs explaining the dots were installed at the windows and at both entrances (see https://www.facebook.

com/share/p/1DKXFjbJKp/ and supporting documentation 3.4). We are currently planning a media event surrounding this installation with the mayor and other city officials in attendance (scheduled for September 22nd).

Though much work remains to be done, through this effort we have started the conversation about the need for bird-window collision mitigation in Saskatoon. (Find the initial interview about the decals here: https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-88-saskatoon-morning/clip/16204875-a-pilot-project -aims-stop-birds-striking-windows)

We continued our window collision monitoring in May 2026 with a team of 10 volunteer surveyors. In addition to continuing our monitoring at City Hall, we focused on several other municipally-owned buildings including the Remai Museum and the Nutrien Wonderhub. These data will be used to continue to advocate for window mitigation at municipal buildings.

Additionally, an undergraduate at the University of Saskatchewan is planning to use our data for an independent research project this fall. The project will compare our collision monitoring methods to the collision monitoring methods used at the University to evaluate whether methodological differences affect the types of collision victims found.

We will continue monitoring during the fall 2026 migration season (late August-early October; currently underway).

1.2 (C) WINDOW COLLISIONS - EDUCATION OF PROPERTY OWNERS

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

In 2025, Bird Friendly Saskatoon's main education push was about bird-window collisions. We had tables at the Broadway Street Fair and 33rd Street Fair where we talked to people about preventing collisions and raffled off free Feather Friendly decals.

As Bird Friendly Saskatoon continues to build its database of where window-collisions occur, we are increasing our efforts to reach out to property owners. Bolstered by the success we had with securing funding for anti-collision decals at City Hall, later in 2026 we are planning to reach out to three other buildings that we've identified as being high-risk for collisions: Remai Museum (owned by the City), Nutrien Wonderhub (leased from the City) and RBC tower (privately owned).

One of Bird Friendly Saskatoon's partner organizations, Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation (LSWR), has a BIRDS (Birds In Real Danger Saskatoon) program that started in 2017. The program uses FLAP as a reference point but was created as something that applies more to Saskatoon versus Toronto. Whereas Toronto sees birds "trapped"/confused by bright lights and glass buildings at night, with birds being found in the morning, Saskatoon sees more collisions in the afternoons due to reflective windows. LSWR also has flyers and other materials educating on bird window collisions. (https://livingskywildliferehabilitation.org/birds-windows/#Our_BIRDS_Partners)

BIRDS also has a Flight Crew component which started in 2022. The Flight Crew consists of individuals and businesses that are equipped and available to respond to window collisions. Birds are collected and brought to LSWR, which logs all bird-window collisions reported in the Global Bird Collision Mapper (even if the bird is reported to LSWR but does not end up at LSWR).

Between 12 and 25 individuals are Flight Crew volunteers. (https://livingskywildliferehabilitation.org/birds-windows/b-i-r-d-s-birds-in-real-danger-sa skatoon-volunteering/)

Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation (LSWR) and Bird Friendly Saskatoon post about window collisions relatively regularly, including what to do when a bird hits a window and how to prevent window collisions. (examples: https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1bm7aixBBg/, https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17fpebdt5Y/). Information on this issue is also hosted on the LSWR website (https://livingskywildliferehabilitation.org/birds-windows/). At events, LSWR and Bird Friendly Saskatoon also educate on the issue and hand out educational materials like flyers and pamphlets.

1.2 (D) TREATED WINDOWS – BASELINE DATA

DESCRIPTION

(D) Establishing a baseline and maintaining a database of the number of residences or buildings with treated windows in the city to demonstrate progress over time.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide evidence of an active database on treated windows.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Window collisions tracked through Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation (LSWR) patient intakes or reports made to them (reports made by phone call or web form on LSWR's website where LSWR knows about the collision but the bird is not brought in) are logged in the Global Bird Collision Mapper. Window collisions observed during the bird-window collision monitoring project by Bird Friendly Saskatoon are also logged in the collision mapper. This resource is shared on LSWR's website (https://livingskywildliferehabilitation.org/birds-windows/ under "Data Collection") and Bird Friendly Saskatoon's LinkTree site.

Various window decals and other deterrents are available for purchase at Wild Birds Unlimited, Early's Farm & Garden Centre, and Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation.

Units sold by Wild Birds Unlimited:

- Feather Friendly dots: 93 units in 2025, 162 units in 2026 (as of June 24th, 2026) WindowAlert (package of 4 or 5): 117 units in 2025, 27 units in 2026 (as of June 24th, 2026)
- Ultraviolet bird decals: 23 units in 2025, 11 units in 2026 (as of June 24th, 2026) Suncatcher decals: 12 units in 2025, 43 units in 2026 (as of June 24th, 2026)

Units sold by Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation:

- Feather Friendly dots: 19 units in 2024, 30 units in 2025, 48 units in 2026 (as of June 25th, 2026)
- Most purchases from Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation are linked to the name of the purchaser or a patient record (which includes the location of the strike).

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

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The City of Saskatoon adopted a Comprehensive and Integrated Dark Sky Policy in 2005. This policy applies to new and renovated civic buildings and civic infrastructure (but currently not for industrial, commercial or residential) lighting.

As part of the Dark-sky Policy, Saskatoon's lighting utility, Saskatoon Light and Power, uses only dark-sky compliant flat-lens, full cut-off streetlights with maximum 3000K CCT. Additionally, streetlights in Saskatoon owned by SaskPower (our provincial crown corporation) also provide the same full cut-off streetlighting at 3000K CCT.

Civic buildings use full cut-off wall-pack lighting. City-owned sports lighting will typically use well-shielded Musco dark-sky compliant lighting to eliminate glare and light spill beyond the sports fields.

Even though industrial, commercial and residential lighting is not strictly controlled, the recently revised Zoning Bylaw No. 9990 has been updated to add stronger light pollution reduction comments for construction: General Requirements Section 5.1.15, Lighting of Sites states "Outdoor lighting for all developments must be located and arranged so that no direct rays of light are pointed at nearby sites or interfere with the safe operation of nearby roadways or traffic control devices". (https://www.saskatoon.ca/content/bylaw-9990-zoning-bylaw-2024).

The Parks division of the City also mostly uses low pole full cut-off fixturing for park walkway lighting.

The internationally awarded Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA), funded by the City, University of Saskatchewan and Provincial Government, also follows dark-sky principles in lighting. The MVA is responsible for more than 50 linear kilometres of natural and naturalized parklands that abut the South Saskatchewan River that flows centrally through the city. The MVA uses low pole flat lens full cut-off lighting and generally imposes a lights-off curfew in positions of their parks, where lighting is reduced at 10:45 pm and shut off at 11:00 pm until dawn.

The MVA is also responsible for maintenance of the natural grassland park, the Northeast Swale, home to over 175 species of birds and over 289 species of plants. This expansive pristine natural area is devoid of artificial lighting, and adjacent roadways have controlled 3000K CCT fixtures mounted so as not to shine into this rare and fragile habitat.

Buildings that are constructed on MVA land follow dark-sky principles and incorporate bird collision deterrent construction practices such as the requirement for trunnions or collision-deterrent window dots.

1.3 (B) LIGHT POLLUTION – NEW DEVELOPMENTS /RETROFIT

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Meewasin Valley Authority and City of Saskatoon have been receptive to public review of new building construction such as the River Landing Nutrient Towers (Parcell YY) development adjacent to the river where bird collision measures are discussed for inclusion in building design. (See Section 9.2.2.) (https://meewasin.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/1.1-Development-Review-Policy-2021. pdf)

Where light is introduced close to the river, dimming strategies are considered, as was done on LED light strips on two downtown tall buildings (Nutrien and RBC) adjacent to the South Saskatchewan River.

The City of Saskatoon is also currently working on updating the digital billboard bylaw (appendix to Bylaw 9990) to provide limits to nighttime brightness levels, and enforceable rules for violations. (https://sac-ace.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Zoning-Bylaw-Sign-Regulations-Review-Phase-1.pdf)

A winter festival and darkness decoration strategy called WintercityYXE will look at lighting that is decorative but not intrusive to the environment. Professional lighting designers have been consulted in this effort. (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/community-services/planning-de velopment/wintercityyxe_saskatoons_winter_strategy_sept_2020.pdf)

1.3 (C) LIGHT POLLUTION - OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Meewasin Valley Authority has a robust educational program that often features light pollution abatement presentations (at Beaver Creek) and promotions of in-city astronomy in the public section of the Northeast Swale and in downtown MVA parks which of course requires subdued lighting.

City of Saskatoon web pages also have (as of Feb, 2026) 192 mentions of the dark-sky lighting policy, so public awareness is high.

The City has a Street lighting webpage entry regarding Streetlight Conversion and Light Pollution reduction. (https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/power-water-sewer/saskatoon-light-power/ street-lighting)

Bird Friendly Saskatoon produced and shared a "Lights out for birds" informational post on Instagram and Facebook on April 2nd, 2026 (https://www.instagram.com/p/DWoePL_lmZC/?img_index=1). The original post received over 1000 views on Instagram within 24 hours and was reposted (not shared) 5 times on Instagram. It was also shared 21 times (on Instagram and Facebook combined) by individuals and organizations from Saskatoon and Saskatchewan, so it is difficult to gauge how many people actually saw it. The original post continued receiving views and being shared after the first 24 hours, with a total of over 3700 views and over 65 reposts and shares (as of June 29, 2026). One of the Saskatoon city councillors even shared the post.

1.4 (A) PESTICIDE USE – COSMETIC PESTICIDES

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has a policy and bylaw to reduce or eliminate use of pesticides known to directly or indirectly harm birds on public and private lands including:
a) Restricting or banning use of cosmetic pesticides (e.g. broad-leaded plant control)

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The City of Saskatoon currently has no bylaw banning pesticides. However, the City encourages residents to be pesticide free and includes information on the topic on their website (https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/housing-property/yard-garden/be-pesticide -free, https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/housing-property/yard-garden/healthy-yards). They are also committed to using the least toxic control methods wherever possible to control pests. The Parks division manages local parks in a way to improve the health of fields and turf to make them more resistant to weeds and reduce the need for pesticides. Broadleaf weeds have not been controlled using herbicides since 2004.

Other management practices such as controlled burning, haying, and grazing are also being explored to reduce the need for pesticides, fertilizer, and extensive watering.

Community gardens and boulevard gardens are required to be pesticide free.

1.4 (B) PESTICIDE USE – INSECT PESTICIDES

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The use of strychnine to control pests like Richardson's ground squirrels has been banned (with a phase-out of two years) in Canada since March 2023. There are no general bans or restrictions on other rodenticides. Neonicotinoids and Bti are also not banned or restricted for general use.

1.5 PLASTICS

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Saskatoon currently does not have a bylaw banning the use of single-use plastic checkout bags, though businesses have largely stopped using them. Most if not all restaurants no longer use plastic straws.

1.6 COLLISIONS WITH VEHICLES

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The City of Saskatoon developed an Active Transportation Plan in 2016 to improve options for moving around the city by making changes to infrastructure (signage, pavement markings, pinned curbs) and shaping support programs that will encourage citizens to use active forms of transportation (walking, biking, other forms of active transportation). The city is updating the plan to reflect new, safer, and more accessible year-round infrastructure; the updated plan is expected to be finished in fall 2026 and will go to City Council for approval. https://www.saskatoon.ca/moving-around/walking/active-transportation

The City of Saskatoon has completed several projects to improve cycling infrastructure and improve safety, accessibility, and connectivity. Projects included establishing multi-use pathways, on-street bikeways with traffic calming (including 30km/h speed limit), and protected bike lanes. At least one project is still under development. The City also has a “Learn to Ride Safe” program to teach children how to ride a bike safely. https://www.saskatoon.ca/moving-around/cycling/cycling-plans-and-projects

Shared and personal e-scooters are authorized for use in Saskatoon and reduce the amount of people using motor vehicles in the city. https://www.saskatoon.ca/moving-around/cycling/electric-scooters-e-scooters

Saskatoon Transit is currently planning to redesign the current transit network to reflect the needs of a growing city, support long-term growth, and enable public transit to become the preferred mode of travel for more residents. The planning process began in 2024 and the Saskatoon Transit Bus Network Redesign Strategy was received as information at the April 1, 2025 Standing Policy Committee on Transportation. The plan will introduce dedicated transit lanes/corridors, optimized routes, and modern and efficient station infrastructure. The redesigned bus network is planned to launch in the spring of 2028. https://saskatoontransit.ca/BusNetworkRedesign, https://saskatoontransit.ca/about-us/projects/link-bus-rapid-transit

The speed limit on McOrmond Drive and Central Avenue which cut through the Northeast Swale is 60 km/h, which was increased from 50 km/h in 2020 to improve traffic flow and congestion. The bridge McOrmond Drive connects to outside of the Swale has a speed limit of 70 km/h. When the roads were constructed (McOrmond Drive) and extended (Central Avenue), considerations were made to conserve and protect the Northeast Swale, including:

- narrowed roadways to help prevent wildlife collisions and reduce impact to adjacent habitat
- installation of wildlife-friendly fencing to reduce human-animal interaction and allow for movement of animals over and under the fence with the use of smooth wire on the top and bottom and barbed-wire in the middle
- Installation of dark sky compliant lighting
- “Wildlife crossing” signage is in place for the safety of drivers and wildlife (see supporting documentation for Google Streetview images taken June 2025) - Built-in animal and amphibian crossings under the roads https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/bridge_event_-_construction_thr ough_swale.pdf

1.7 HABITAT DISTURBANCE

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Bylaw No. 7860 - The Animal Control Bylaw, 1999 (bylaw was last updated December 17, 2025 - codified to Bylaw No. 10139) https://www.saskatoon.ca/content/bylaw-7860-animal-control-bylaw-1999

Cats and dogs are not permitted to be at-large and must be on a leash when outside of the owner's property. Cats and dogs are not allowed on any public playground, in cemeteries, in several parks inside of the Meewasin Valley Authority's 67 square kilometer conservation zone and urban river valley, and at the Forestry Farm (Sutherland Migratory Bird Sanctuary). (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/community-services/recreation-s port/Responsible%20Pet%20Ownership.pdf)

Dogs are not allowed in the ecological core of the Northeast Swale but are allowed on-leash in the recreational zone of the Swale. Signs are in place to advise visitors of this. (https://meewasin.com/map/location/meewasin-northeast-swale, https://meewasin.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Map-of-Swale-with-Parking.pdf)

Dogs and cats are not permitted to run at large inside the Sutherland Migratory Bird Sanctuary. https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-sanctuari es/locations/sutherland.html

THREAT REDUCTION SCORING: 10/19 POINTS - ENTRY

ENTRY 10 points from at least 3 categories.

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

HIGH 16 points or more. Must include at least 3 points in categories 1 and 2.

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



SECTION 2:

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

SECTION 2: HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.1 NATURAL AREAS PROTECTION

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Saskatoon is home to many citizen groups dedicated to natural areas protection, which keep up the pressure for designations and management. These include SOS Trees, Swale Watchers, Friends of Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area, and Wild about Saskatoon.

Natural Areas Inventory

- A Natural Areas Inventory for the City of Saskatoon was completed in 2019. It determined that the Green Network comprises 47% (11,150 ha) of the area of the City of Saskatoon. Natural Assets (Aquatic, Forested & Shrubland, Grassland) comprise 14% (3,461 ha) of the area of Saskatoon and Enhanced Assets (Green Space and Agricultural Lands) comprise 9% (2,185 ha), while Agricultural Lands comprise 23% (5,504 ha). Tree canopy across the city is an average of 10%. (https://meewasin.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Natural-Areas-Inventory-for-the-City of-Saskatoon-2019-Final-Report-November-25-2019.pdf).
- The City is currently looking at an update to the inventory (TBD).

Saskatoon has two additional natural areas with management plans:

- the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area
  - This afforestation area and urban park is 133 ha in size. The area is degrading so this plan was developed to conserve, protect, and manage the area for ecological integrity and citizen enjoyment for the future. Multiple Species of Management Concern (SOMC) and Culturally
  - Significant species occur here (bank swallow, barn swallow, horned grebe, common nighthawk, and lesser yellowlegs). The City received federal funding for the implementation of at least parts of this plan.
- the Small Swale
  - 85 ha connected to other natural areas such as the Northeast Swale and West Swale. The plan aims to ensure

connectivity with the swale complex, preventing further fragmentation of the important wetland/grassland complex. Documented birds of SOMC included: bobolink, bank swallow, barn swallow, Harris's sparrow, loggerhead shrike, rusty blackbird, osprey. The Small Swale plan has not been sufficiently funded.
    - There is also a management plan for the Northeast Swale, a biodiversity hotspot that includes natural grassland and wetlands, that is implemented by the Meewasin Valley Authority through grazing, controlled fire, and removal of invasive plants.

City Wetland Policy

- The City of Saskatoon has a Wetland Policy (Policy C09-041) addressing wetlands conservation and management in Saskatoon. It provides guidance to landowners, developers, and City staff on achieving responsible integration of wetlands into the urban environment (https://www.saskatoon.ca/content/policy-c09-041-wetland-policy). The City is looking to roll out a new Natural Areas Policy to integrate the Wetland Policy (see further below).

Pathways for an Integrated Green Network

- Plans for the improvement and expansion of Saskatoon's natural areas are outlined in the Pathways for an Integrated Green Network (Green Pathways) plan. The City differentiates among sports fields, neighbourhood parks, and naturalized parks, of which there are currently 10. Naturalized parks are defined by the inclusion of natural features and native vegetation and their ability to maintain ecosystem services, provide wildlife habitat, and support nature-based recreation. The Government of Canada and the City of Saskatoon invested a combined $34 million in the project. https://www.canada.ca/en/housing-infrastructure-communities/news/2023/09/canada-and saskatoon-invest-in-the-green-networks-natural-infrastructure-project.html
- A central goal of the Green Pathways plan is to increase the quality and quantity of natural infrastructure in Saskatoon, enhance the urban environment, and improve the quality of life of citizens. For instance, Action 2.3 commits the City to the following actions:
    - Action 2.3: Naturalize and restore non-park green space: Open spaces and rights-of-way outside parks are naturalized starting in prioritized locations. Storm water management facilities (SWMFs) including former wetlands are enhanced to include naturalized elements where appropriate, improving the ecosystem services of these assets (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pathways_for_an_integrated_gre en_network_an_implementation_plan_for_the_green_infrastructure_strategy.pdf).
- In August 2025, a State of the Green Network report was presented to City Council, describing the current state of natural infrastructure and assets in Saskatoon and identifying several gaps to be addressed (https://pub-saskatoon.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=241016).
- At the City Budget meeting in late 2025, a proposal to support Natural and Naturalized Areas passed, with an allocation of $1 million in 2026 and $1 million in 2027. This will support the rolling-out of a new Natural Areas Policy (to integrate existing policies like the Tree Protection Bylaw and the Wetland Policy and to be more inclusive and comprehensive), integration of natural infrastructure into the City's asset management system, an audit of city-owned parks and green spaces to identify priority sites and opportunities for naturalization, and the selection of sites for on-the-ground naturalization improvements based on the previously noted site audits. The aim is to complete a Natural Areas Policy by year end 2026.

Meewasin Valley Authority

- Saskatoon is home to the Meewasin Valley Authority, a non-profit organization established in 1979 to conserve and manage the natural and cultural resources of the South Saskatchewan River Valley. It operates under the aegis of the Meewasin Valley Authority Act. The Meewasin Valley has an area of 67 square kilometers, which are managed with natural disturbance regimes, ongoing stewardship and education, and active restoration. There is a Meewasin Valley-wide Resource Management Plan with targets including improving the "ecological health of conservation targets on Meewasin

Conservation sites … by 20%" (https://meewasin.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Meewasin-Valley-Wide-Resource-Man agement-Plan_March2017.pdf). As of the most recent State of the Valley Report (2019-2024), the amount of native & naturalized cover has remained steady in both the Study Area (Meewasin Valley plus 2km buffer) and Meewasin Valley since the 2018 assessment. The Meewasin Valley saw a slight increase of 0.46% in this type of cover compared to the slight decrease experienced in the Study Area (https://meewasin.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/State-of-the-Valley-2019-2024_Links.pdf).

Proposed Meewasin National Urban Park

- Meewasin is also working towards the designation of a National Urban Park under Parks Canada's National Urban Park program. In January of 2026, the National Urban Park Exploration and Engagement report was released, showcasing broad community support for this initiative. The Design and Implementation Phases are pending, awaiting formal designation and funding by the Government of Canada. (https://meewasin.com/news-release-exploring-a-potential-national-urban-park-in-the-saskatoon-region/).

2.2 BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the strategy and its implementation. The strategy to protect and restore biological diversity can be part of the protected areas plan, or vice versa, but must specifically identify protection of biological diversity as a goal.

One point for having an official biodiversity conservation strategy or goal (adopted by Council).

Two points if the strategy or goal has targets and metrics for success and evidence of implementation.

Three points for municipalities that meet the previous two tests as well as using monitoring to track changes to biodiversity and use results for adaptive management (e.g. bird monitoring in city owned natural areas).

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The City does not have an official Biodiversity Policy or specific biodiversity targets. Instead, the City's biodiversity approach centers around its Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Natural Areas Policy Framework (combined under the Pathways for an Integrated Green Network plan).

Pathways for an Integrated Green Network

- The City has a Pathways for an Integrated Green Network (Green Pathways) plan to increase the quality and quantity of natural infrastructure in Saskatoon, enhance the urban environment, and improve the quality of life of citizens. One of the goals of the project is to protect and improve biodiversity and ecosystem health throughout the Green Network. Establishing ongoing biodiversity monitoring and reporting with partners is one of the actions proposed in the plan. (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pathways_for_an_integrated_green_network_an_

implementation_plan_for_the_green_infrastructure_strategy.pdf).

- Vision
- Action 11. Protect, restore, and manage significant natural areas.
- Action 12. Connect and naturalize the Green Network in built-up areas.
- Action 12.2. Purchase or acquire land in strategic areas to enhance biodiversity outcomes and increase connectivity.
- Action 13. Improve biodiversity and ecosystem health throughout the Green Network.
- Action 13.4. Establish ongoing biodiversity monitoring and reporting with partners.
- Action 2.3: Naturalize and restore non-park green space: Open spaces and rights-of-way outside parks are naturalized starting in prioritized locations. Storm water management facilities (SWMFs) including former wetlands are enhanced to include naturalized elements where appropriate, improving the ecosystem services of these assets

Natural Areas Inventory

- A Natural Areas Inventory for the City of Saskatoon was completed in 2019, in partnership with the Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA) where information like the types and numbers of species seen in Urban Green Spaces was analyzed. Five hundred fifty-six species were documented within city limits (based on citizen science data). The City is currently looking at an update to the inventory (TBD). (https://meewasin.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Natural-Areas-Inventory-for-the-City of-Saskatoon-2019-Final-Report-November-25-2019.pdf).

Meewasin State of the Valley Report

- Meewasin also monitors the health of the river valley through their State of the Valley report, released every five years. The intent of the State of the Valley Report is to provide a point-in-time assessment of the advancement Meewasin has made in relation to their objectives and goals. The report covers a total of five years and has been retooled to be more transparent and useful in tracking ecological health than it was in the past.The study area encompasses the Meewasin Valley, plus a 2 km buffer, to assess potential influencing factors impacting the Meewasin Valley. Since the Meewasin Valley cuts through Saskatoon, this means that a good part of the city is assessed. The report documents an increase in the number of Species at Risk detected within the study area, due to improved monitoring, and a 250% increase in overall species reports, thanks to iNaturalist and other citizen-science tools. (https://meewasin.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/State-of-the-Valley-2019-2024_Links.pdf)

2.3 CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the strategy and its implementation. One point if the City has an official strategy to address the impacts of climate change and reduce the municipality's climate impact.

A second point is that nature-based climate solutions are an important part of the strategy.

A third point if there are active examples of wetland restoration projects and/or large-scale projects to mitigate the urban heat island through planting of trees and other vegetation that favour use by birds.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The City of Saskatoon has committed to reducing emissions to net-zero by 2050. Saskatoon's climate action plan has two main parts: reducing emissions (mitigation) and preparing the city for a changing climate (adaptation).

The City of Saskatoon has a corporate climate adaptation plan (Local Actions: The City of Saskatoon's Adaptation Strategy) which sets out actions to prepare Saskatoon for a changing climate. One of the areas of focus is asset and resource management, which includes increasing integration of green infrastructure to improve resilience (https://www.saskatoon.ca/environmental-initiatives/climate-change/climate-adaptation)

The City has a Pathways for an Integrated Green Network (Green Pathways) plan to increase the quality and quantity of natural infrastructure in Saskatoon, enhance the urban environment, and improve the quality of life of citizens. Natural areas are recognized to provide health and safety benefits like flood and erosion control, shade/cooling, and climate change resilience (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pathways_for_an_integrated_gre en_network_an_implementation_plan_for_the_green_infrastructure_strategy.pdf).

The City's Urban Forestry division is responsible for planting and maintaining all trees located on public property, including trees on boulevards, medians, and in parks. Residents are able to request that a tree be planted in the boulevard or median adjacent to their property. The Urban Forestry team is responsible for over 110,000 trees on City property (lining streets, within civic park spaces). The urban forest stores a total of 682,000 tones of CO2 and sequesters an additional 26,750 tonnes annually as of 2017 (https://www.saskatoon.ca/environmental-initiatives/green-network/urban-forest).

2.4 (A) HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

DESCRIPTION

A) Municipality has a habitat management strategy based on ecological and climate considerations.

These include: (A) increasing the number of trees and area of the urban forest canopy.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of implementation of the strategy and each action.

One point per action. Evidence for a. includes inventories of trees and plans for increasing their numbers.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Official Community Plan

- Saskatoon has an Official Community Plan Bylaw which is a legally binding framework covering planning and development in the city, in accordance with the Planning and Development Act. Entrenching these policies in law ensures that Saskatoon's vision for responsible city management and development are empowered and actionable in the long-term.
- Policies directly address how natural areas are maintained and protected, and natural assets are considered in the same detail as infrastructure. The City is also required to maintain an inventory of natural areas and assets, require screening for important natural assets prior to development, and promote natural areas and features to be integrated into new development. Policies regarding urban forestry require it to be managed as a continuous system. Urban forests are sustained or enhanced along city streets, and development applicants may be required to submit tree surveys.

Urban Forest Management Plan

- The City of Saskatoon's Parks Department is responsible for the care of approximately 110,000 trees on boulevards, center

medians, in parks and at civic facilities. Additional trees in residential yards, the river valley, naturalized parks, afforestation areas, school

- grounds and commercial and industrial lands also contribute to Saskatoon's urban forest. Saskatoon's Urban Forest Management Plan and Implementation outlines specific targets for the protection and improvement of the city's trees. A timeline of initiatives has been developed to achieve each action item.
    - Increase canopy cover to 15-20% by 2060 (as informed by the canopy assessment and canopy forecasting model). Saskatoon's canopy cover has already been increased from 8.00% in 2005 to 10.10% in 2017. The target includes all trees on both public and private property.
    - Plant by Request: Homeowners in existing neighbourhoods may opt for a City tree planted adjacent to their property (on the boulevard). The resident agrees to water the tree for the first three years of establishment.
    - Community Tree Planting Program: Homeowners in new neighbourhoods may opt in for a City tree planted adjacent to their property (on the boulevard). This program is levy funded. The resident agrees to water the tree for the first three years of establishment.
    - Track, monitor, and address young tree mortality and safe useful life expectancy of trees, including adapting watering/irrigation and soil volume and quality.
    - The Urban Forestry team is included in the City's Natural Area Screenings process, where appropriate, to identify natural tree stands that should be considered for protection.
    - Transition the urban forest to no more than 10% of any single species and no more than 20% of any genus
    - Track and monitor the health and performance of the urban forest.
    - Develop a formalized tree protection process that ensures clarity and balance for stakeholders who conduct work near City trees.
    - Develop an urban forest invasive species management strategy in collaboration with local and regional partners.
    - Including but not limited to Dutch elm disease, cottony ash psyllid, emerald ash borer, and European buckthorn.
    - Identify how climate change may affect the types and levels of invasive species impacts in Saskatoon
    - Tree inventory is publicly available via GIS interface: Tree Inventory Public (EB) (PRD)

Natural Area Management Plans

- Saskatoon has two additional natural areas with management plans:
- the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area
    - This afforestation area and urban park is 133 ha in size. The area is degrading so this plan was developed to conserve, protect, and manage the area for ecological integrity and citizen enjoyment for the future. Multiple Species of Management Concern (SOMC) and Culturally Significant species occur here (bank swallow, barn swallow, horned grebe, common nighthawk, and lesser yellowlegs). The City received federal funding for the implementation of at least parts of this plan.
- the Small Swale
    - 85 ha connected to other natural areas such as the Northeast Swale and West Swale. The plan aims to ensure connectivity with the swale complex, preventing further fragmentation of the important wetland/grassland complex. Documented birds of SOMC included: bobolink, bank swallow, barn swallow, Harris's sparrow, loggerhead shrike, rusty blackbird, osprey. The Small Swale plan has not been sufficiently funded.
- There is also a management plan for the Northeast Swale, a biodiversity hotspot that includes natural grassland and wetlands, that is implemented by the Meewasin Valley Authority through grazing, controlled fire, and removal of invasive plants.

Meewasin Valley-wide Resource Management Plan

- As Saskatoon is located in the Moist Mixed Grassland ecoregion, the native plant community is dominated by a variety of grasses and forbs. Meewasin Valley Authority, a conservation agency dedicated to conserving the cultural and natural

resources of the South Saskatchewan River valley, manages 6700 hectares in and around Saskatoon, working to restore and conserve the native grassland characteristic of the region. Through their Meewasin Valley-wide Resource Management Plan (RMP) 2017 - 2027, their conservation actions directly aim to improve bird habitat:

- (1.1.9) “Enhance grassland bird habitat on Meewasin Conservation sites through an integrated native prairie management approach.”
- (2.1.5) “Install nesting and roosting structures to enhance bird and bat habitat on Meewasin Conservation sites and along the Meewasin Valley to provide natural insect control.”
- By 2027, install 300 tree swallow / mountain bluebird bird houses, 200 bat boxes, 20 purple martin houses.

The Canadian Prairies Prescribed Fire Exchange is housed at Meewasin. Meewasin uses prescribed fire to maintain grassland habitats (with timing restrictions during breeding season) and also promotes the use of prescribed fire as a management tool in the region and beyond.

2.4 (B) SNAG PROTECTION

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

There is no protection specifically outlined for snags. However, the Tree Protection Guidelines outline that tree removal must be minimized and no policies discuss removing trees explicitly because they’re dead. In addition, when the community was engaged for the Urban Forest Management Plan, there was an expectation that “the forest [would] be properly maintained, with the least amount of disturbance possible and any fallen trees [would] remain in the forest to provide wildlife habitat”.

The Meewasing Valley Authority (MVA) is a Saskatoon-based conservation authority responsible for conserving the cultural and natural resources of the South Saskatchewan River Valley. The MVA is currently drafting a new conservation policy and consulted with Bird Friendly Saskatoon about how to improve guidance for habitat creation, maintenance of natural areas, and safe construction practices (meeting took place on May 22, 2026). Snag protection along the river valley was raised as an issue and as an area of improvement.

2.4 (C) PROTECTION OF TREES

DESCRIPTION

(C) Protecting trees on private and public lands.

SCORING INDICATORS

Refers to a tree bylaw that protects trees as a public value from private landowners cutting them down without permits.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The City of Saskatoon has a Tree Protection Bylaw (Bylaw No. 9957, 2024) that protects any tree located on City property from being removed or damaged without City approval. Any unauthorized excavation, removal, relocation, pruning, or damage may be subject to penalties (https://www.saskatoon.ca/services-residents/housing-property/city-owned-trees/tree-pro

tection-requirements). The bylaw only applies to trees on City-owned property. However, the tree protection measures required by the City can also be applied to trees on private property if developers or residents want to preserve trees on private property during development.

Tree permits are required for work within 6m of any tree on city property. These are free and usually processed within 4 days.

Violations can result in fines up to $10,000 for individuals or $25,000 for corporations, plus $2,500 per day for continuing offences. Offenders may also be required to cover the costs of violations including pruning, removal, replacement, appraised tree value losses, and installation of protective measures.

2.4 (D) RESPONSIBLE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Prescribed fires are the controlled application of fire to enhance natural areas, particularly those of prairie ecosystems that evolved with fire (caused by lightning or set by indigenous people), to enhance habitat and reduce invasive species. The City of Saskatoon explicitly does not burn during the active nesting season, opting for spring or fall. prescribed_fire_fact_sheet_lettersize.pdf

On the 6700 ha that Meewasin manages in and around Saskatoon, “haying and conservation mowing, for native shrub control, of Meewasin Conservation sites is delayed between May 1st and July 15th annually.” Meewasin-Valley-Wide-Resource-Management-Plan_March2017.pdf

Within the Monitoring section of the Small Swale Conceptual Master Plan and Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area Conceptual Plan, two of the city-managed natural areas, the workflow for implementing projects contains a step for identifying environmental constraints which includes the “Potential disruption to breeding birds, breeding amphibians, or migratory species”.

2.5 IMPORTANT BIRD AREA NEARBY (IBA)

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) within or adjacent to its boundaries. A local partnership promotes the protection and stewardship of this area.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if there is one or more nearby IBAs and the Bird Team can provide the names of the IBAs and at least one IBA caretaker group or individual.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The closest IBAs to Saskatoon are Blackstrap Coulee, Porter Lake, and Rice Lake. All three are located within 30 minutes of city limits.

The Saskatoon Nature Society, one of the organizations that founded the Bird Friendly Saskatoon team, is the caretaker for Porter Lake and Ponass Lake (2.5 hours away). The search for the caretakers of Blackstrap Coulee and Rice Lake is still ongoing. We have periodically connected with Nature Saskatchewan to get in contact with the caretakers but our Nature Saskatchewan contact has not heard anything back from them regarding setting up contact with us.

2.6 NATIVE FLORA - MUNICIPAL LANDS

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Saskatoon manages several naturalized parks which support biodiversity and feature drought-resistant native plants and grasses. They require less maintenance, mowing, fertilizer, and irrigation. Various ecosystem types are represented in these parks, such as native prairie, wetlands, and aspen parkland. Naturalized parks make up about 12% of the total park area in the city (https://www.saskatoon.ca/environmental-initiatives/green-network/parks-and-green-space).

The City has a native plant species list available online (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/UE-SA_CentreMedian_SeedBooklet5.5x8.5_PRINT-Booklet2%20%281%29.pdf) and has created natural garden guidelines to protect native plant gardens from being fined for being “messy” (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/UE-SA_NaturalizedGardensGuidelines_web.pdf). The City also has a “creating biodiversity in your yard” guide promoting the use of native plants (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/corporate-performance/environ mental-corporate-initiatives/community-environmental-programs/brochure_healthy_yards_biodiversity.pdf).

2.7 NATIVE FLORA – PRIVATE PROPERTY

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Wild About Saskatoon has a Pollinator Paradise YXE program that promotes planting native plant gardens to support biodiversity and local ecosystems and recognizes the efforts of Saskatoon residents to support local biodiversity by bringing native plants home to urban parks, boulevards, balconies and yards. To qualify as a Pollinator Paradise, each site must feature a variety of native plants that provide resources of food, water and shelter for pollinating insects throughout the growing season. Resources are located on their website (downloadable and printable, website) and include a list of recommended plants, a sample plan for a small pollinator garden, and other topics. Over 200 people have registered their native plant garden with Wild about Saskatoon (https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1b7YkM4jZH/). https://wildaboutsaskatoon.org/pollinator-paradise-yxe/

Wild About Saskatoon has information and resources on their website about starting a native plant garden (https://wildaboutsaskatoon.org/starting-a-native-plant-garden/, https://wildaboutsaskatoon.org/growing-with-native-plants/).

The City has a native plant species list available online (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/UE-SA_CentreMedian_SeedBooklet5.5x8.5_PRINT-Booklet2%20%281%29.pdf) and has created natural garden guidelines to protect native plant gardens from being fined for being "messy" (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/UE-SA_NaturalizedGardensGuidelines_web.pdf). The City also has a creating biodiversity in your yard" guide promoting the use of native plants (https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/documents/corporate-performance/environmental-corporate-initiatives/community-environmental-programs/brochure_healthy_yards_biodiversity.pdf).

2.8 STOPOVER & NESTING HABITAT

DESCRIPTION

Implementation of stewardship projects to increase or improve breeding or stopover habitat for bird species that are of high conservation priority species from your Bird Conservation Region Plan.

Example species include Species at Risk (e.g. Chimney Swift) and other aerial insectivores, Eastern Meadowlark and other grassland birds, shorebirds, and birds requiring old growth forest conditions.

Example actions include providing housing (e.g., maintained Purple Martin housing), and maintaining bird-friendly hay production, and managing municipal forests to promote old growth conditions.

SCORING INDICATORS

A point is awarded if there are active stewardship recovery projects (can be led by individuals or groups in the community) such as those suggested in the criterion description.

Two points if there are more than two active projects for different species or groups of species.

For information on Bird Conservation Regions and their priority species, visit: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-conservation/regions-strategies.html

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

We do not know of any specific active stewardship recovery projects focusing on high conservation priority species from our Bird Conservation Region Plan.

However, since 1969, the Young Naturalists have been monitoring Mountain Bluebird and Tree Swallow populations in nest boxes in the Saskatoon area. Bluebird populations plummeted in the 1950s due to pesticide use and habitat loss. In an effort

to conserve the bluebirds, the Mary Houston Bluebird Trail was founded by Mary Houston and what are now known as the Young Naturalists from the Saskatoon Nature Society. The trail consists of nest boxes placed about 400 meters apart along a rural road. Today, the trail is about 80 kilometers long, spanning from just south of Langham, SK to just north of Hanley, SK. To this day, sections of the trail are monitored for bluebirds to check on their reproductive success, the survivorship, and how long they live. This information helps researchers understand how bluebird populations change over time. https://saskatoonnature.org/the-mary-houston-bluebird-trail/

Additionally, a number of sites in the Meewasin Valley, managed by the Meewasin Valley Authority, have been recognized as a Protected Area or Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure (OECM) site in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD). Examples include:

- Cosmopolitan Park: a natural space park that consists of forest and shrubland and is home to numerous wildlife species. This park is a migratory bird concentration site and habitat for the olive-sided flycatcher and western grebe (both of special concern), and the barn swallow (threatened).
- Meewasin Park: a migratory bird concentration site that includes groves of trees, shrubs, some wildflowers, a creek, and a riparian zone along the water's edge. It provides habitat for the barn swallow (threatened), Harris's sparrow, the rusty blackbird, and the olive-sided flycatcher (all of special concern), as well as the whooping crane (endangered).
- Victoria Park: the area is near neighbourhoods and contains predominantly elm and Manitoba maple groves, shrubs, some wildflowers, and a riparian edge along the water. It also provides habitat for the barn swallow (threatened), Harris's sparrow, the olive-sided flycatcher, and the western grebe (all of special concern).
- Beaver Creek: a key part of the regional wildlife corridor. Beaver Creek contains remnant sandhill prairie complexes that provide a unique habitat for grassland birds, wildflowers, and habitat for numerous species at risk.
- Chief Whitecap park: part of the riparian zone of the South Saskatchewan River. The uplands are former cropland and hayland, which were restored to native grass species by the Meewasin Valley Authority in the early 2000s to provide habitat for grassland birds, wildlife, and native plants. This park provides habitat for at least 11 species at risk or rare species, including the bobolink. https://meewasin.com/other-effective-area-based-conservation-measures-oecms/

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY SCORING: 12/18 POINTS - INTERMEDIATE

ENTRY 9 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE 12 points from at least 4 categories.

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



SECTION 3:

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

3.1 (A) CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

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

(A) A significant percentage of local schools and other educational organizations (e.g. Scouts Canada, Earth Rangers, 4-H) provide students with opportunities to connect with nature, enjoy birds and learn how to help them.

Local school boards, conservation authority, or municipality, has facilities/staffing to support outdoor/environmental education, including opportunities to observe birds.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide a description of the programs and the names of the organizations or institutions that offer them. One point if there are local education facilities and institutions that offer children or youth programming on nature appreciation and bird observation.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Kids in Nature Grant Program (up to $2,000 per year) is organized by The Saskatoon Nature Society (SNS) to strengthen existing programs and encourage new initiatives that connect youth in the Saskatoon area with nature. SNS accepts proposals from schools, community associations, First Nations and Métis groups, and registered charities. Priority is given to projects with a focus on local natural history. Some examples of youth groups that have received funding include:

- "Off the Grid Class", Tommy Douglas Collegiate, $1150 for a place-based, outdoor learning opportunity.
- "Building Biodiversity – Bird House Workshop", Living Sky Wildlife Rehab $350.
- Lawson Heights School – $600 to purchase equipment (e.g., binoculars for bird watching, compasses) to be used in nature-based student programming.

The Saskatoon Young Naturalists began in 1968 and offers nature-based activities geared toward 5-11 year olds. Young Naturalists is a free joint program organized by the Saskatoon Nature Society and the Saskatoon Zoo Society. The Young Naturalists' premier conservation education activity is the Mary Houston Bluebird Trail. Since 1969, the Young Naturalists have been monitoring Mountain Bluebird and Tree Swallow populations in nest boxes in the Saskatoon area. In 2025 we found 79% (128 boxes) of the 163 nest boxes checked were occupied. Our bluebird trail is designed to teach youth the importance of wildlife monitoring and study of birds using metal leg bands. Fourteen total programs are offered throughout the year including "Christmas Bird Count for Kids."

The Young Naturalists and the Mary Houston Bluebird Trail was the subject of a CBC's Creator Network video. The final 6-minute video (and accompanying news article) was released in February of 2026. https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/bluebird-trail-conservation-scientists-birding-9.7045172

Wild Sky Adventure Learning is a Saskatchewan-based nonprofit that offers land-based education for children and adults alike, often at little or no cost.

Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation offers wildlife education programs that are tailored to align with Saskatchewan curriculum topics by grade and can be delivered to accommodate a variety of needs. They have three trained Environmental Educators with different specialties who provide community-based programming about wildlife. Presentations range from 30-45 minutes with an opportunity to engage with an interactive display table and/or meet the presentation's Education Ambassador up close and personal.

Presentations include:

- Bird Brains – Corvids at Work: Meet Edgar, our Crow ambassador, and see if you can outwit him! Corvid's intelligence is matched by their curiosity and their socialness. Not your average bird brain!
- All About Raptors: Saskatchewan's prairie skies are home to an incredible variety of raptors – from stealthy owls to swift falcons. Discover their role in rodent population control, and the challenges they face in both urban and rural settings.
- What To Do When – Encounters with Wildlife: This overview of the animals living in our neighbourhoods reviews the natural history of each species, and teaches participants how to determine if and when an animal needs their help.
- Backyard Wildlife: From bunnies to birds, foxes to fawns, the health of our urban wildlife is a good measurement of the health of our city. Get to know the urban wildlife in your backyard, learn how they have adapted to survive in proximity to us, in both rural and urban settings.

The Saskatoon Public Schools & Saskatoon Greater Catholic schools have additional excellent examples of environmental education, including bird appreciation. The following is taken from their websites:

Saskatoon Public Schools

- *"Nature-Based Learning"* is a program open to students at Buena Vista and Lawson Heights elementary schools. Programming includes outdoor learning experiences, Indigenous land-based learning, climate change education, and ecological education.
- *The Brightwater Science, Environmental and Indigenous Learning Centre* offers land-based programming for middle years and high school students and integrates teaching about prairie ecology and Indigenous ecology. Each year, more than 3,000 students, teachers, and volunteers participate with programming at Brightwater.
- Additional programming:
  - *"Off the Grid"* gives students hands-on learning experiences by participating in overnight canoeing, camping and tree planting trips; looking after beehives; and meeting some of Saskatchewan's leading experts in the field of environmental sustainability.
  - *"Waskawīwin Land-Based Education"* takes an environmental approach to learning that recognizes our deep connection and relationship to our place in the world. This approach acknowledges that knowing and learning occur by cultivating the relationship between people and the land.
  - *"Outdoor School"* is coordinated at Walter Murray Collegiate and engages students in outdoor activities, helping them build the skills to confidently explore and understand the natural world.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

- *The Blackstrap Outdoor/Environmental Education Centre* strives to teach students the meaning of stewardship. Blackstrap is open to all classrooms from kindergarten - Grade 12 for self-guided programming.
- *The Ed and May Scissons Environmental Education Centre Program* serves as an outdoor classroom that is available to all schools and classrooms from kindergarten through Grade 12 for self-guided programming. The site presents numerous opportunities for the study of prairie ecology and environmental issues. The school system's First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team also offers land-based learning programs for classrooms at this site.

3.1 (B) CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Kids in Nature Grant Program (up to $2,000 per year) is organized by The Saskatoon Nature Society (SNS) to strengthen existing programs and encourage new initiatives that connect youth in the Saskatoon area with nature. SNS accepts proposals from schools, community associations, First Nations and Métis groups, and registered charities. Priority is given to projects with a focus on local natural history. Some examples of youth groups that have received funding include:

- "Off the Grid Class", Tommy Douglas Collegiate, $1150 for a place-based, outdoor learning opportunity.
- "Building Biodiversity – Bird House Workshop", Living Sky Wildlife Rehab $350.
- Lawson Heights School – $600 to purchase equipment (e.g., binoculars for bird watching, compasses) to be used in nature-based student programming.

We didn't find any specific programs targeting underprivileged groups. However, note that several programs above offer free or low-cost activities.

3.1 (C) CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

At least one school does a specific bird-related program such as Christmas bird count for kids, School Yard Bird Blitz, Global Bird Rescue, or curriculum from Keep Cats Safe and Save Bird Lives.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if at least one school or organization does a specific bird-related program for children and youth, such as Christmas bird count for kids, Global Bird Rescue, or curriculum from Keep Cats Safe and Save Bird Lives.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Saskatoon Nature Society organizes Christmas Bird Counts every year, including a Christmas Bird Count for Kids program. Twenty twenty-five (2025) was the 71st year in which Christmas Bird Counts were organized. Due to unfavourable weather conditions (high of -17C), attendance was lower than the close to 50 anticipated participants - a total of 18 people attended, 11 adults and 7 kids. The final participant count for the 2025 Christmas Bird Counts was 70, including 15 Feederwatchers. Since Christmas Bird Counts were first organized in 1955, participation numbers have been as low as 20 and as high as 125 people. Bird counts had also been organized for May and September 2025, where 46 and 51 people participated respectively.

3.2 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The University of Saskatchewan (located in Saskatoon) has several buildings which are highly problematic for bird-window collisions, perhaps most notably the Agriculture Building. There is an active window-collision monitoring program led by students in the Department of Biology and Dr. Leanne Grieves. During the spring and fall migration seasons, students monitor high-priority buildings six days per week.

When external funding is available, the University of Saskatchewan uses anti-collision design measures. For example, the Collaborative Sciences Research Building has etched acid window designs (See more here: https://www.walkerglass.com/blog/bird-friendly-acid-etched-glass-at-usask/). Dr. Grieves is in contact with the Office of Sustainability and Planning, Design & Construction at the University to connect collision monitoring data to priority areas for retrofitting and new construction, as appropriate.

Additionally, an undergraduate at the University of Saskatchewan is planning to use our bird window collision data collected in downtown Saskatoon during spring and fall migration for an independent research project this fall. The project will compare our collision monitoring methods to the collision monitoring methods used at the University to evaluate whether methodological differences affect the types of collision victims found.

3.3 COMMUNICATING BEST PRACTICES TO HELP BIRDS

DESCRIPTION

Bird Team partners (including Municipality) provide public access to resources (web links, brochures etc.) that encourage and inform the public of ways to help birds. For example:

1. the benefit to birds from native plant gardening or establishment of natural habitat patches on their property in support of birds and/or pollinators (e.g. backyard habitat program).
2. best practices in feeding birds that mitigate risks from feeding (e.g. predation at feeder, contamination from pathogens, etc).

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Wild about Saskatoon has a Pollinator Paradise YXE program that promotes planting native plant gardens to support biodiversity and local ecosystems. Resources are located on their website (downloadable and printable, website) and include a list of recommended plants, a sample plan for a small pollinator garden, and other topics. Over 200 people have registered their native plant garden with Wild about Saskatoon. https://wildaboutsaskatoon.org/pollinator-paradise-yxe/ , https://wildaboutsaskatoon.org/growing-with-native-plants/

A printable brochure highlighting strategies to prevent and control bird feeder-associated diseases and threats is available online on the website of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, a wildlife health organization whose Western/Northern regional center is located in Saskatoon. The regional center as well as Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation field calls from the

public regarding occasional bird feeder-associated disease outbreaks and provide advice and guidance on using bird feeders safely. Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation receives thousands of phone calls from concerned citizens every year. https://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/docs/fact_sheets/Bird_Feeder_Strategies_Trifold.pdf

Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation has an active social media presence and regularly posts about wildlife topics including ways to help wild animals (including fundraisers to fund rehabilitation efforts). They have over 9200 followers on Facebook and over 2400 on Instagram. They also talk about ways to help birds and other wildlife at events.

The City of Saskatoon in cooperation with the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture and Bioresources and the Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre has created a "Bird-Friendly Yards: A How-to Guide" printable brochure that is searchable online and provides information about bird feeders, preventing window strikes, other threats to birds (e.g. lighting, cats), and other topics. https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/images/brochure_-_healthy_yards_-_birds.pdf

Bird Friendly Saskatoon posts about ways to help birds on social media and has 207 followers on Facebook and 367 followers on Instagram as of June 24, 2026 (as of September 18, 2026). We have also set up a LinkTree site where we share relevant information and resources in a centralized, easy-to-access way (https://linktr.ee/birdfriendlyyxe). This site is linked on our social media pages and includes links to information about feeding birds, keeping them safe, planting backyard habitat, and other topics. All of the links in this section of the application are available on the LinkTree site (except for links to instagram posts). We also speak about ways to help birds at the events we attend.

During Earth Month 2026 (April), Bird Friendly Saskatoon posted a series of informational posts to our social media pages about being both earth- and bird-conscious. Topics included light pollution (https://www.instagram.com/p/DWoePL_lmZC/), bird-friendly purchasing (https://www.instagram.com/p/DW6hO8elKIg/), gardening/planting (https://www.instagram.com/p/DXMsIVeFrzN/), and conscious consumption (https://www.instagram.com/p/DXelScvFMvp/). The posts received a total of around 7300 views and 75 shares across platforms.

Wild Birds Unlimited, a bird-friendly store in Saskatoon, also has educational pamphlets for customers to take.

3.4 PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS FOR EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

In late 2025, Bird Friendly Saskatoon received ~$5,000 for partial treatment of the most problematic windows (in regards to bird strikes) at City Hall. In the summer of 2026, window dots were installed on the second floor of the north facade of City Hall and oil-based markers and stencils were used to apply the dot pattern on the first floor windows. Along with the dots, vinyl displays explaining the window decals/dot pattern were installed at the windows and at both entrances to City Hall (see https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DKXFjbJKp/ and supporting documentation 3.4). We are currently planning a media event surrounding this installation with the mayor and other city officials in attendance (scheduled for September 22nd).

3.5 ACCESSIBLE BIRD-WATCHING LOCATION(S)

DESCRIPTION

There is at least one birding location within your city or town that has infrastructure to facilitate the observation and appreciation of birds (e.g. signs, panels, observation tower, and trails). This facility is publicly accessible for people without a car (serviced by public transit and/or bicycle and pedestrian trails) and is accessible to people with disabilities or who are mobility impaired. Information on birding areas should be easily available.

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Meewasin Valley in Saskatoon is a protected urban river valley that runs through Saskatoon along the South Saskatchewan River. It is managed by the Meewasin Valley Authority (MVA) for education and recreation and features over 100km of trails. Trails are maintained, largely wheelchair-accessible (ramps leading down to trails), and many portions of the trail system are paved. As the river valley cuts through Saskatoon, it is easily accessible by walking, biking, or taking the bus. Notable accessible bird-watching locations within the valley are the South Saskatchewan River Weir (known to attract water birds) and the Cosmopolitan Park and Lookout (known to attract songbirds, especially during migration), both located within 7 blocks of a bus route. Both locations have paved paths that are accessible by wheelchair.

3.6 LOCAL BIRD FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

To receive a point, you must name the businesses and describe what bird-friendly practices they have. These practices must include the sale of bird-friendly products, and demonstrated bird-friendly business practices (e.g. window treatments, low carbon footprint, plastic bag policy, etc.).

For one point, for cities under 100,000 residents, there must be at least 2 businesses.

For cities from 100,000 to 500,000 there must be at least 3 businesses.

For cities between 500,000 and 1,000,000, there must be at least 4 businesses.

For cities over 1 million, there must be 5 or more businesses. For two points there needs to be double the previous numbers of bird-friendly businesses, based on population size.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

Early's Farm & Garden Centre in Saskatoon sells WindowAlert decals and a wide variety of bird feeders, bird baths, feed, educational materials, etc. (https://www.earlysgarden.com/shop-online/c-2-wild-bird-supplies). They have not used plastic bags at checkout for years and encourage customers to bring reusable bags or will reuse boxes as possible. Their north end store also has one-way window graphics that prevent birds from flying through. Additionally, they run a monthly birding

advice blog that covers topics such as creating habitat, feeding birds responsibly, and participating in citizen science projects (https://www.earlysgarden.com/resources/birding)

Wild Birds Unlimited in Saskatoon sells many different window deterrents including Feather Friendly window dots. They sell flags, windsocks, and ribbons for instant prevention (little install time compared to decals) and recommend using soap or washable markers on windows to people who won't apply window decals. Birdsbesafe cat collars is another item they sell to keep birds safe from cats that are not kept indoors by their owners. They sell bird-friendly coffee when they can get it into the store. They do not use plastic bags at checkout and instead use empty boxes or reusable bags. They have educational pamphlets for customers to take home (for example "7 Simple Actions to Help Birds" from Cornell Lab) and educate customers on gardening topics like planting native plants, leaving leaf cover on lawns, and not using pesticides or chemicals. One of the owners also helps people put up window dots if they need assistance if they contact the store. https://order.wbu.com/order/search/?searchTerm=decal

The Better Good is a local Saskatoon store that "promotes sustainable living and provides products that fit that life". They look for products that are organic and fair trade and made with up-cycled, recycled, or renewable material and look for local producers whenever possible. They sell a lot of products that aim to help people reduce the negative impacts they may have on the environment by reducing waste, plastic waste in particular (https://thebettergood.com/collections/waste-reduction). They sell birdwatching books and a book about making your yard a good home for birds (https://thebettergood.com/collections/books-1/products/a-playground-for-birds-penney). They use paper or reusable bags at checkout and have solar panels and many energy efficiency upgrades in the building.

3.7 CITY BIRD

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

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

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

A city bird has not yet been chosen but a campaign is being planned.

3.8 PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE TO MONITOR BIRDS

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

To receive one point, provide a list of bird-related participatory science programs in your city and describe the level of public interest and engagement of target audiences.

A second point for communities in which more than three of these programs are practiced. You must demonstrate widespread community involvement.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRESS OR COMPLETION

The Saskatoon Nature Society organizes Christmas Bird Counts every year, including a Christmas Bird Count for Kids program. 2025 was the 71st year in which Christmas Bird Counts were organized. The final participant count for the 2025 Christmas Bird Counts was 70, including 15 Feederwatchers. Since Christmas Bird Counts were first organized in 1955, participation numbers have been as low as 20 and as high as 125 people. Bird counts had also been organized for May and September 2025, where 46 and 51 people participated respectively.

During the Saskatoon Nature Society's Christmas Bird Counts, participation in Feederwatch is encouraged and included in final participation numbers (15 participants in 2025 - see above). Project Feederwatch is also advertised by Wild About Saskatoon on their "Feeding Winter Birds" page, though participation is not tracked (https://wildaboutsaskatoon.org/feeding-winter-birds/).

Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation runs a "B.I.R.D.S. Birds In Real Danger, Saskatoon" and "Flight Crew" program inspired by FLAP's Global Bird Rescue. Birds in Real Danger Saskatoon solicits data on local bird window collisions to demonstrate that there is a problem and use that information for advocacy and to inspire municipal and community change. Members of the "flight crew" look for injured birds during their daily routines or around high risk locations primarily from spring to fall and either bring them to the rehabilitation center or call them to request for a volunteer to pick up the injured bird. Volunteers include individuals and local businesses. Bird collisions are reported using a reporting form and/or directly to the Global Bird Mapper (https://livingskywildliferehabilitation.org/birds-windows/b-i-r-d-s-birds-in-real-danger-saskatoon-volunteering/).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION SCORING: 7/13 POINTS - ENTRY

ENTRY 7 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE 9 points from at least 5 categories.

HIGH 11 points from at least 7 categories.

FINAL OVERALL APPLICATION SCORE: 29 / 50 - Entry

OUR NORTH STAR

The Normalization of Nature in Decision-Making

Bird Friendly Cities 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

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