



Bird City Wisconsin Addresses Invasives

Dr. Noel Cutright
Bird City Wisconsin
Steering Committee Member

Presentation to
Minnesota – Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference
November 10, 2010

Patterned After An Existing Non-Bird Program



Program recognizes
“urban” communities
that meet 4 established
standards



www.arborday.org

TREE CITY USA – What a Certified Community Receives



Flag



Plaque



Highway Sign

Bird City Wisconsin
Has Developed
Similar Recognition

TREE CITY USA – And the result:

180 Tree City USAs in Wisconsin

104 Tree City USAs in Minnesota

Bird City Wisconsin Timeline

2002 -- Bird City idea emerges in WBCI
April 2009 – Steering Committee Formed
May 2009 – Proposal Submitted to TogetherGreen
August 2009 – Awarded an \$8K Planning Grant
October 2009 – Coordinator Hired
Fall-Winter 2009/10 – Criteria, Structure Developed
February 2010 – Web Site Launched
March 2010 – Application Process Opens
April 2010 – Working With Several Communities
August 2010 – Wins Renewed TG Funding (Shhh!)
October 2010 – Reviewing 12 Initial Applications





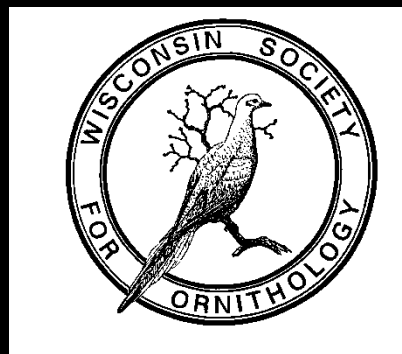
Bird City Wisconsin

TogetherGreen is an innovative alliance between Audubon and Toyota.

Environmental groups have received more than \$1 million dollars each of the last 3 years!

These grants will fund innovative conservation projects, ranging from environmental education to habitat rehabilitation, spanning across the country!

The Toyota logo, consisting of the word 'TOYOTA' in a bold, red, sans-serif font, is displayed on a white rectangular background.





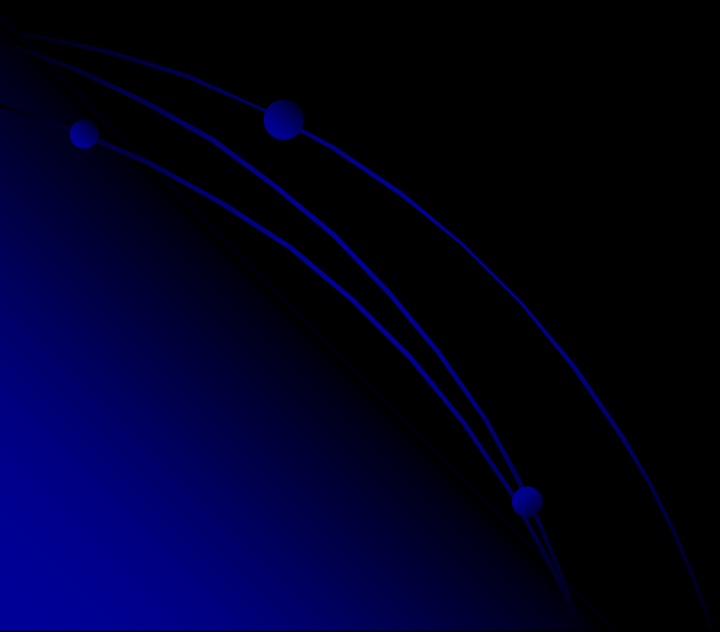
Bird City Wisconsin – Communities are able to select criteria from 5 categories

To be recognized as a Bird City Wisconsin community, 3 items must be met from the first category and 1 item from each of the other four categories.

- Creation and Protection of Habitat**
- Participation in Program Promoting Effective Forest Management**
- Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds**
- Public Education**
- International Migratory Bird Day**

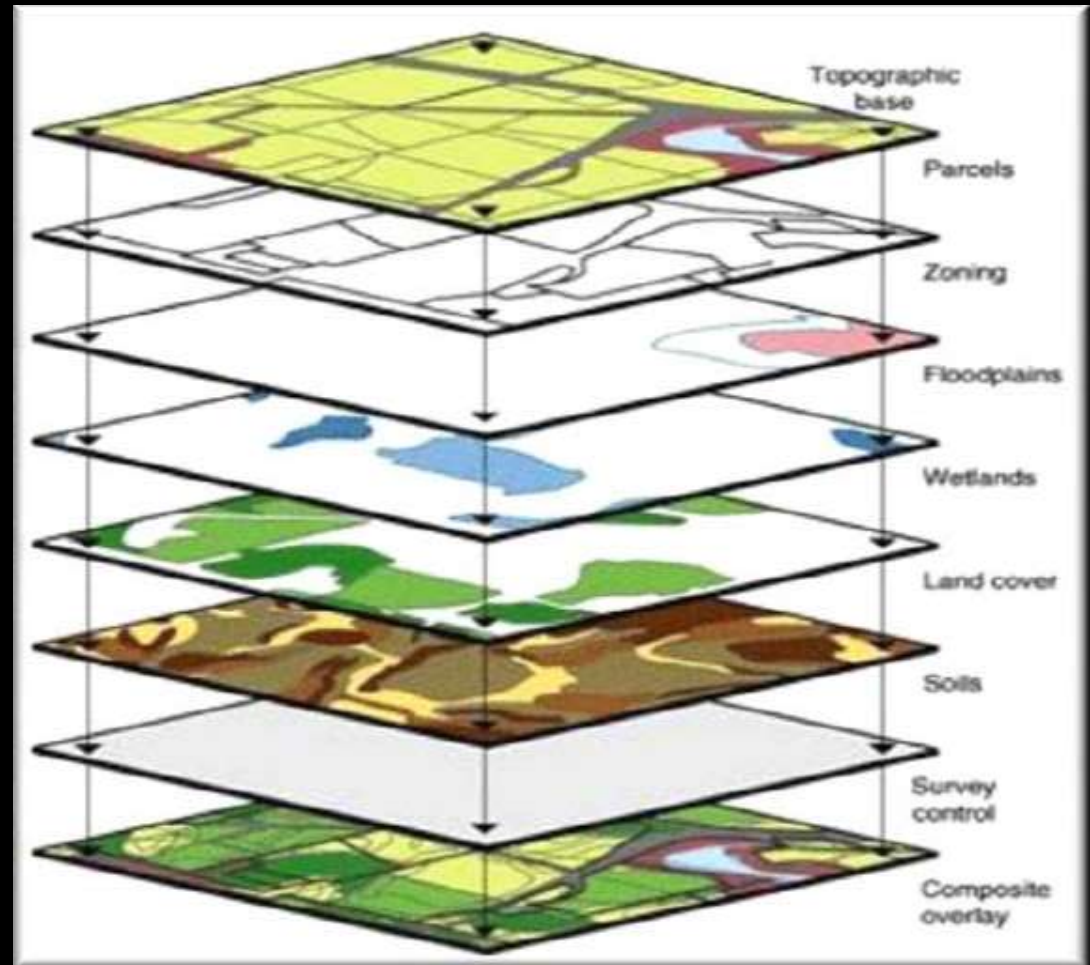
BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Habitat Criteria

- The community is in compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law for land use planning and resource management.





Smart growth values long-range, regional considerations of sustainability over a short-term focus. One goal is to achieve a unique sense of community and place.



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Habitat Criteria

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.

- The community has a park system with habitat for birds of a number of species.

This is demonstrated by bird monitoring results and/or other data obtained from the parks.



Breeding Bird Populations:

...Blue Jay – 3 pair

...Barn Swallow – 4 pair

...Black-capped Chickadee – 1 pair

...House Wren – 7 pair

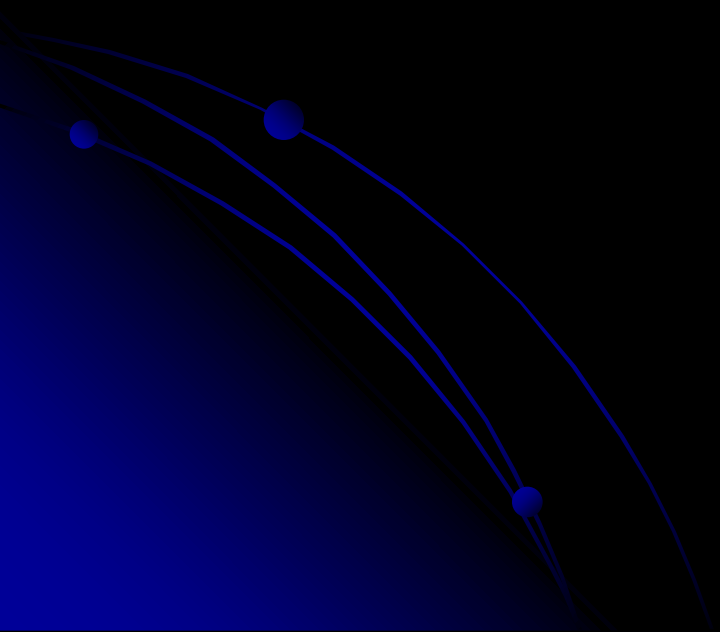
...etc.



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Habitat Criteria

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.
- Park system with bird habitat.

- Existing bird habitat has legal protection.



Legal Protection

Conservation Easements

Fee Simple

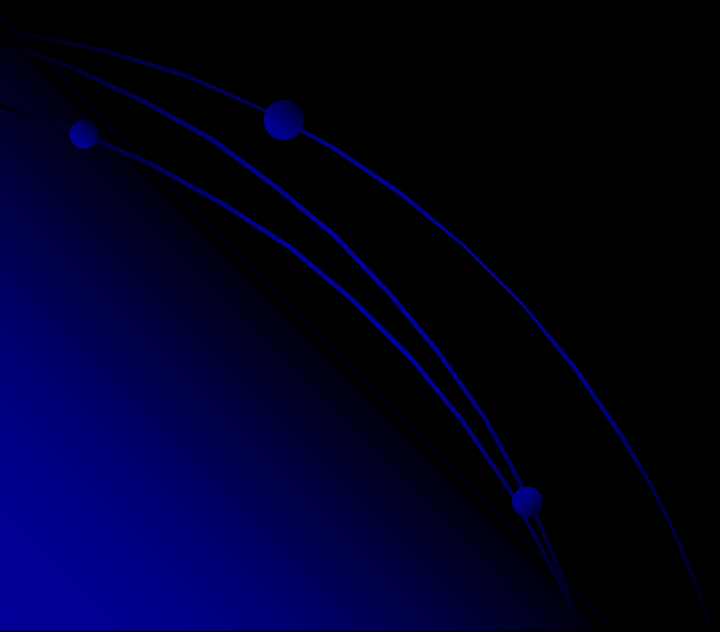
Deed Restriction

Land Registry

BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Habitat Criteria

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.
- Park system with bird habitat.
- Existing habitat is legally protected.

- Park planning seeks to provide additional bird habitat.



PROVIDE MORE BIRD HABITAT.

Conservation group buys
prairie chicken habitat

Native plantings for birds

Restore wetlands and native plant communities

More landscape features
to attract more birds

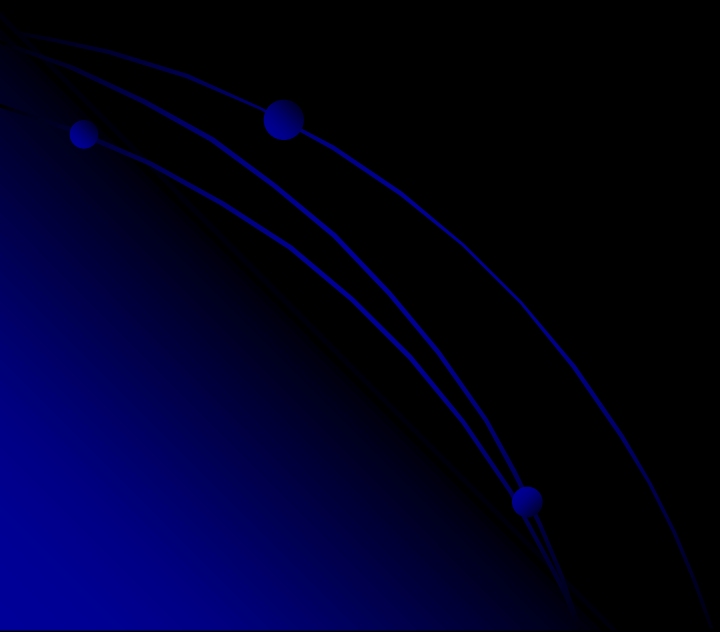
Create
wetlands

Add
bird
nest
boxes

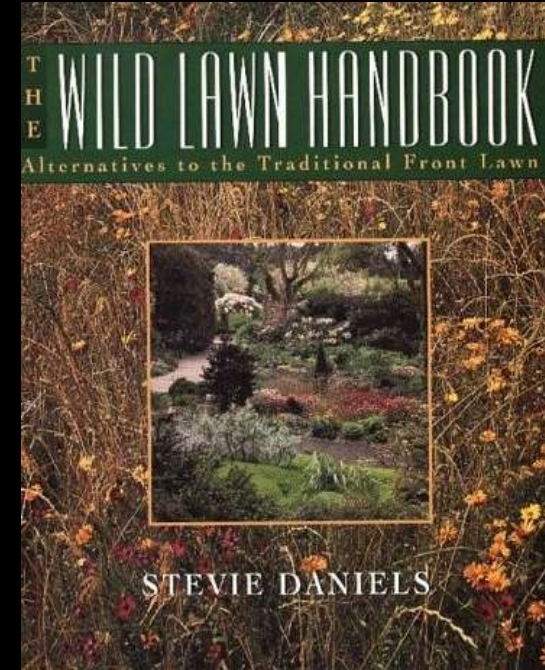
BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Habitat Criteria

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.
- Park system with bird habitat.
- Existing habitat is legally protected.
- Provide additional bird habitat.

- Community does not restrict “wild” or natural lawns and landscaping.



NO RESTRICTIONS ON NATURAL LAWNS/LANDSCAPES



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Habitat Criteria

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.
- Park system with bird habitat.
- Existing habitat is legally protected.
- Provide additional bird habitat.
- Wild or natural lawns and landscaping allowed.

- Community offers property owners information on control/removal of invasive plant species.

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL INFORMATION

Invasive Spotted Knapweed



A FIELD GUIDE TO TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE PLANTS IN WISCONSIN



by: Thomas Boos, Kelly Kearns, Courtney LeClair, Brendon Ke, Bryn Scriber, Bernadette Williams, & Olivia Witthun

KEEP A LOOKOUT

for INVASIVE PLANTS

The plant species on this list are recognized by the Door County Invasive Species Team, DCIST, as the most serious threat to the integrity of Door County ecosystems.

in Door County!



Why Should I Care About Invasive Plants?

HOW INVASIVE PLANTS AFFECT
HUNTING, FISHING, BOATING,
GARDENING, HIKING, BIKING,
HORSEBACK RIDING, AND
OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
IN THE MIDWEST

MIPN.org
Midwest Invasive Plant Network



Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest

an illustrated guide to their identification and control



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Habitat Criteria

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.
- Park system with bird habitat.
- Existing habitat is legally protected.
- Provide additional bird habitat.
- Wild or natural lawns and landscaping allowed.
- Offer property owners invasive plant control information.

- Community contains a segment of the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail or an Important Bird Area.

Contains Great WI Birding & Nature Trail or an IBA



Important Bird Areas of Wisconsin:

Critical Sites for the Conservation
and Management of Wisconsin's Birds



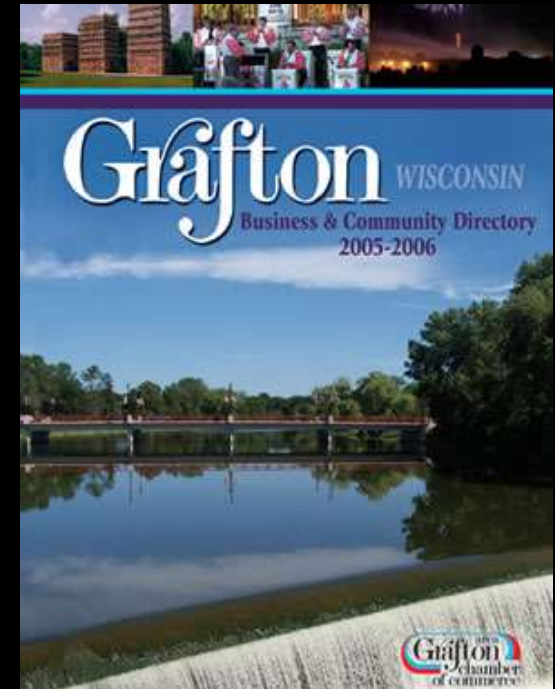
Editor:
Yoyi Steele

BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Habitat Criteria

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.
- Park system with bird habitat.
- Existing habitat is legally protected.
- Provide additional bird habitat.
- Wild or natural lawns and landscaping allowed.
- Offer property owners invasive plant control information.
- Contains segment of GWB&NT or an IBA.

- Local business group takes an active role in planning process for protecting/enlarging favorable bird habitat.

BUSINESS GROUP INVOLVED IN PLANNING FOR MORE B



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Urban Forest Management Crite

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.
- Park system with bird habitat.
- Existing habitat is legally protected.
- Provide additional bird habitat.
- Wild or natural lawns and landscaping allowed.
- Offer property owners invasive plant control information.
- Contains segment of GWB&NT or an IBA.
- Local business group involved in planning for bird habitat.

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- Participate in the Tree City USA program.

TREE CITY USA PARTICIPANT



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Urban Forest Management Criteria

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- Other – Offers communities an opportunity to propose an alternative achievement

A POSSIBLE 'OTHER' EXAMPLE



<http://ipaw.org/index.aspx>

Plants out of Place

The newsletter of the

INVASIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATION
OF WISCONSIN

Issue 29, September 2010

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin



The mission of the IPAW is to advance our understanding of invasive plants and encourage their control in order to promote good stewardship of the natural resources of Wisconsin.

BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Hazard Criteria

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.
- Park system with bird habitat.
- Existing habitat is legally protected.
- Provide additional bird habitat.
- Wild or natural lawns and landscaping allowed.
- Offer property owners invasive plant control information.
- Contains segment of GWB&NT or an IBA.
- Local business group involved in planning for bird habitat.
- Participate in the Tree City USA program.
- Other.

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Urban Forest Management

- Active educational program in place to control free-roaming cats or publicize *Cats Indoors* program.

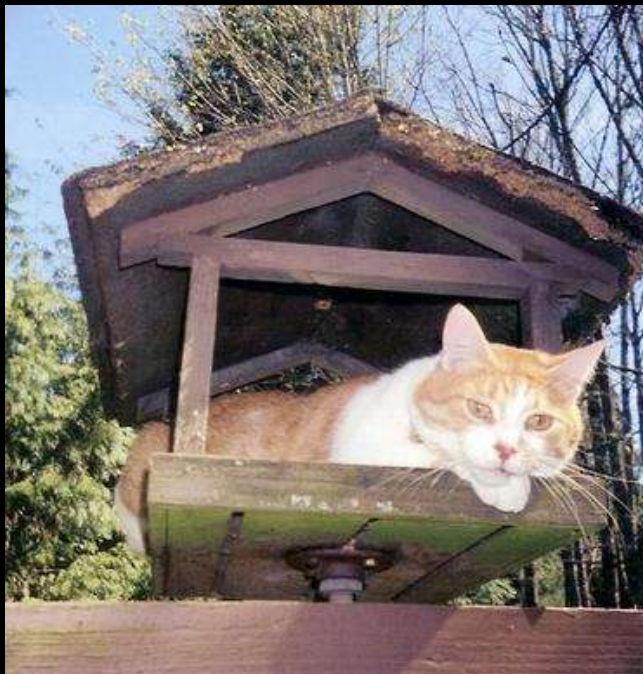
BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Hazards Criteria



Cats Indoors!
The Campaign for Safer
Birds and Cats

Cats, Birds,
and You





© Kevin & Jay McGewan



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Hazard Criteria

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- Provide additional bird habitat.
- Wild or natural lawns and landscaping allowed.
- Offer property owners invasive plant control information.
- Contains segment of GWB&NT or an IBA.
- Local business group involved in planning for bird habitat.
- Participate in the Tree City USA program.
- Other.
- Educate about cat danger to birds.

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Urban Forest Management

- Provide information to property owners on protecting birds from window strikes.



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Hazard Criteria



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Public Education Criteria

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.
- Park system with bird habitat.
- Existing habitat is legally protected.
- Provide additional bird habitat.
- Wild or natural lawns and landscaping allowed.
- Offer property owners invasive plant control information.
- Contains segment of GWB&NT or an IBA.
- Local business group involved in planning for bird habitat.
- Participate in the Tree City USA program.
- Other.
- Educate about cat danger to birds.
- Provide info on protecting birds from window strikes

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Urban Forest Management

Hazard

- Participate in Flying WILD.

Welcome to Flying WILD

In Flying WILD, students, teachers and the community come together to advance bird conservation.



Flying WILD, a program of the Council for Environmental Education, introduces students to bird conservation through standards-based classroom activities and environmental stewardship projects.

Flying WILD encourages schools to work closely with conservation organizations, community groups, and businesses involved with birds to implement school bird festivals and bird conservation projects.

<http://www.flyingwild.org/>

BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Public Education Criteria

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.
- Park system with bird habitat.
- Existing habitat is legally protected.
- Provide additional bird habitat.
- Wild or natural lawns and landscaping allowed.
- Offer property owners invasive plant control information.
- Contains segment of GWB&NT or an IBA.
- Local business group involved in planning for bird habitat.
- Participate in the Tree City USA program.
- Other.
- Educate about cat danger to birds.
- Provide info on protecting birds from window strikes.
- Flying WILD.

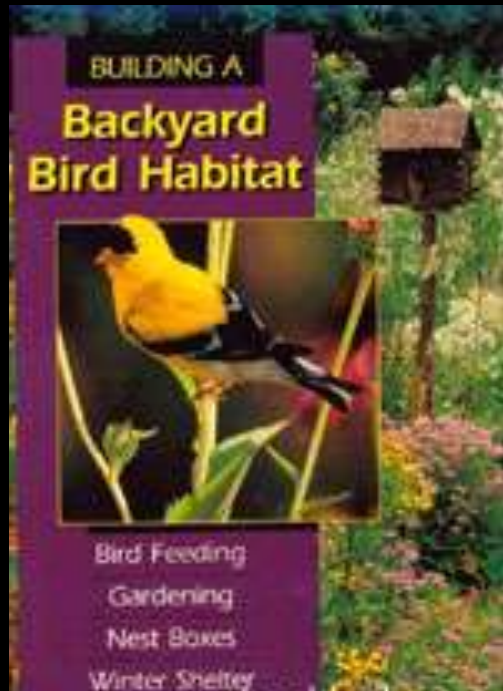
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Urban Forest Management

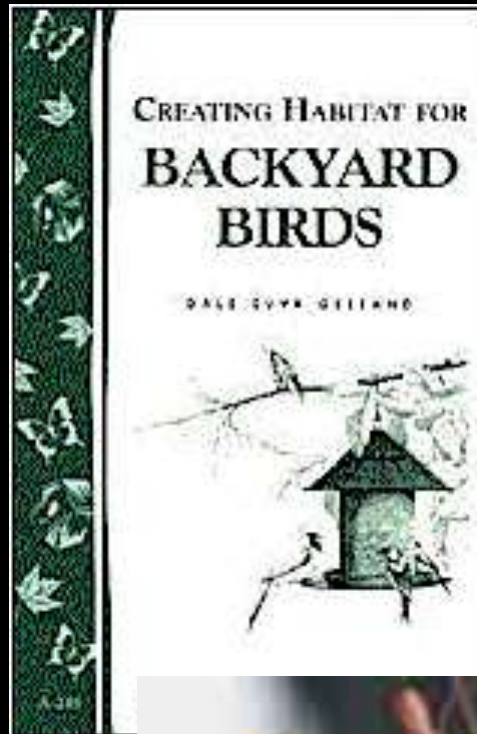
Hazard

- Provide information to property owners on methods to create/enhance backyard habitat for birds.

BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Public Education Criteria



**BIRDING
HABITAT**



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Public Education Criteria

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.
- Park system with bird habitat.
- Existing habitat is legally protected.
- Provide additional bird habitat.
- Wild or natural lawns and landscaping allowed.
- Offer property owners invasive plant control information.
- Contains segment of GWB&NT or an IBA.
- Local business group involved in planning for bird habitat.
- Participate in the Tree City USA program.
- Other.
- Educate about cat danger to birds.
- Provide info on protecting birds from window strikes.
- Flying WILD.
- Provide info on backyard bird habitat.

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Urban Forest Management

Hazard

- Provide links to organizations having info on backyard bird habitat.

BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Public Education Criteria



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- Provide info on protecting birds from window strikes.
- Flying WILD.
- Provide info on backyard bird habitat.
- Provide links to organizations with backyard bird info.

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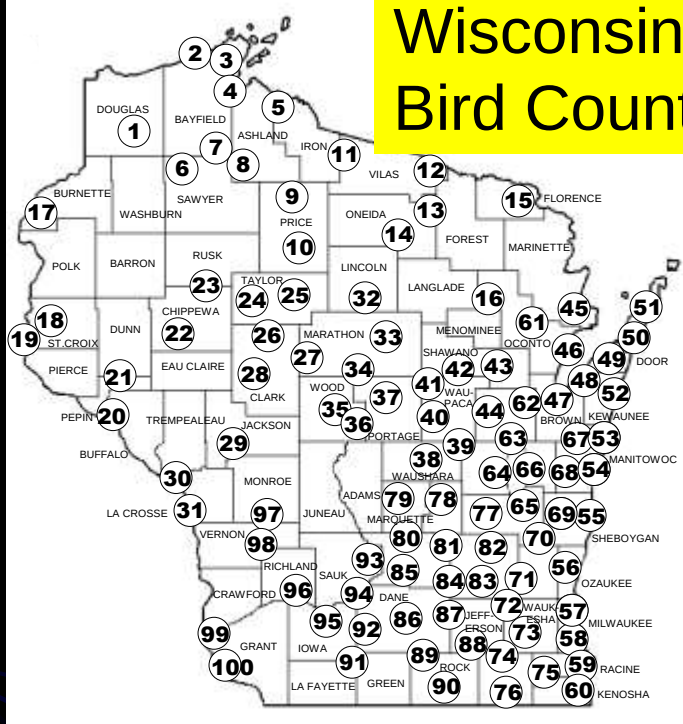
Urban Forest Management

Hazard

- Community is represented in at least 1 bird monitoring program.

BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Habitat Criteria

Wisconsin Christmas Bird Count Locations



The Great Backyard Bird Count

The 13th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

February 12-15, 2010

photos by GBBC participants

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology Audubon

Sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited

A SWIFT NIGHT OUT 2009

A Continent-wide Chimney Swift Roost Monitoring Project

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- Participate in the Tree City USA program.
- Other.
- Educate about cat danger to birds.
- Provide info on protecting birds from window strikes.
- Flying WILD.
- Provide info on backyard bird habitat.
- Provide links to organizations with backyard bird info.
- Represented in at least 1 bird monitoring program.

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Urban Forest Management

Hazard

- Community sponsors an annual bird festival.

BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Public Education Criteria



Wehr Nature Center



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Public Education Criteria

- Compliance with Wisconsin's *Smart Growth* law.
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- Other.
- Educate about cat danger to birds.
- Provide info on protecting birds from window strikes.
- Flying WILD.
- Provide info on backyard bird habitat.
- Provide links to organizations with backyard bird info.
- Represented in at least 1 bird monitoring program.
- Community sponsors a bird festival.

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Urban Forest Management

Hazard

- Community has program involving schools, garden clubs, etc. in bird conservation activities.

BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – Public Education Criteria



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- Other.
- Educate about cat danger to birds.
- Provide info on protecting birds from window strikes.
- Flying WILD.
- Provide info on backyard bird habitat.
- Provide links to organizations with backyard bird info.
- Represented in at least 1 bird monitoring program.
- Community sponsors a bird festival.
- Involve schools, garden clubs, etc in bird conservation.

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Urban Forest Management

Hazard

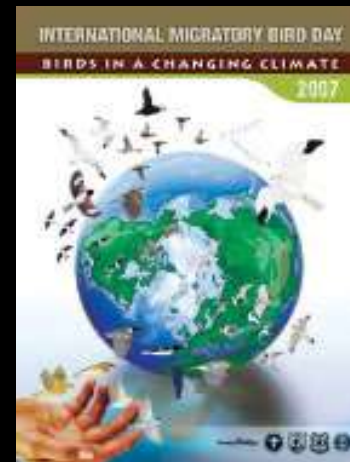
Public
Education

- Recognize International Migratory Bird Day.

BIRD CITY WISCONSIN – IMBD Criterion



The Power of Partnerships INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2016





Migration Celebration!

*Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day
and the "Power of Partnerships" at*

Forest Beach Migratory Preserve

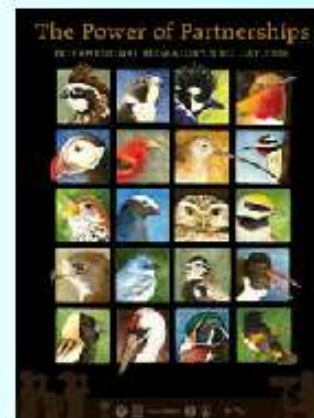
*(Former Squires Country Club)
4970 Country Club Beach Road,
Belgium, WI*

May 8th, 2010, 7:30 a.m.-noon



Ongoing Activities:

- ❖ Birding tours (leaving approximately every hour)
- ❖ Presentations on stopover habitat and results of bird monitoring at Forest Beach Migratory Preserve (FBMP)
- ❖ Informational booths and activities (for adults and kids)
 - o will include information on restoration progress at FBMP and future plans
- ❖ Bird viewing station set-up on beach through duration of event



Event Partners:



For More Information:

Please call the Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust at:
262-338-1794
Or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at:
920-866-1717



A DOZEN REASONS TO BECOME A BIRD CITY

- Community pride
- Signs tell visitors community cares
- Sustain natural systems in community
- Sustain natural systems worldwide
- Save money
- Make money
- Have fun and relax
- Get outdoors
- Understand nature
- Build community spirit
- Build beneficial networks
- Improve the local environment

www.birdcitywisconsin.org



Welcome To Bird City Wisconsin

"Making our communities healthy for birds...and people"



"Swift Night Out" is approaching. Check out our new PROTECTING resource page to learn how you and your community can get make a difference.

Click the Chimney Swift (left) to link.

[Application Process is now under way!!!](#)

Our Mission

Healthy communities are not just an assemblage of people. They are the sum of many parts, including birds. Bird City Wisconsin seeks to mobilize a statewide coalition of citizens and public officials to work together to protect and enhance the bird community.

Video/slide show shows how you can be a Bird City

In a half-hour webinar that combines live video with a PowerPoint slide show, Bird City

Bird hikes planned at lakefront state park in Ozaukee County



Harrington Beach State Park -- along the Lake Michigan shore in Ozaukee County -- has the largest bird list of any Wisconsin state park and has

been a bird-watching hot spot, attracting birders throughout the year from all over the region. Beginning on Saturday, August 7, volunteers from the

Milwaukee Audubon Society and the Riveredge Bird Club will conduct a series of 8 Saturday morning walks to look for and listen to resident and migrant birds in the park.

The 90-minute walks will begin at 7:30 a.m., leave from the observatory area at Puckett's Pond, and work their way east toward Quarry Lake and the Lake Michigan shore in order to explore a variety of habitat.

Walks will be held on these Saturdays: August 7, 14, and 21; September 4, 11, and 18; and October 2 and 9.

The walks were conceived to especially serve users of 65 new campsites at the park, located just east of I-43 and south of County Highway D, but will be open to all park visitors. Standard park entrance fees will apply. Walks will be leisurely and geared to all experience levels; children need to be accompanied by adults.

Participants should dress for the weather and insect conditions. A pair of binoculars will make for a much more rewarding experience. If you have a birding field guide, bring it along.

Birds attracted to backyard water feature

Here's a reminder about just how important water can be in improving the habitat for your backyard birds. And how much it can improve your enjoyment of them.

The advice came in a recent online posting to the Wisbrdn e-mail exchange by Maureen Gross, a Waukesha County birder and member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology who was instrumental in helping the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources raise Trumpeter Swans for reintroduction into the state. Maureen wrote in part:

Coming to the aid of Purple Martins

The Purple Martin is North America's largest swallow and one of the best known and most popular migratory birds in North America. *Martins and people enjoy a certain similarity: they both like to live in colonies.*



The Purple Martin is a Neotropical migrant that nests throughout Wisconsin but whose population here is declining. Purple Martins were either confirmed or given a probable breeding status in approximately a quarter of the state's topographic quads during the 1995-2000 field seasons for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas. They were more common in the southeastern and east-central regions of the state.

Bird City criteria

Working to increase the population of Purple Martins is a wonderful opportunity for Wisconsin communities interested in being designated as a Bird City Wisconsin (BCW) community.

Working on a Purple Martin project would help a community to achieve BCW status.

What sort of research is being done locally on martins? On July 13, 2010, with support from Bird City Wisconsin, Noel and Seth Cutright, Carl Schwartz and boat captain Tom Schaefer surveyed Purple Martin nesting structures for almost 12 hours from the water along the entire Lake Winnebago shoreline. Lake Winnebago, located in the counties of Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago, is about 30 by 10 miles and has 88 miles of shoreline. The cities of Fond du Lac, Menasha, Neenah, and Oshkosh are located along the shore.

Using four sets of eyes and binoculars, they attempted to detect every Purple Martin nesting structure located on the shore. They recorded 228 poles at 131 locations that supported 200 wooden or aluminum nesting structures (103 wooden, 97 aluminum) and supplied 3,078 nest holes. The number of holes available at a site ranged between 5 and 98. Of these available holes, 349 were gourds, including 4 that were dried gourd fruit, and 26 that were plastic tubes or cylinders.

A third of the sites where there was only a wooden structure(s) available were active, whereas where only aluminum housing was available, half of the sites were active. Wooden housing tended to be older and sometimes more dilapidated, was placed in less suitable locations to attract martins than aluminum housing, and served as ideal House Sparrow apartments. Sites where aluminum housing plus gourds were available had the highest active colony success.

Reproductive success in aluminum houses has been found to be no better than in wooden houses. However, aluminum houses are recommended from a management perspective because they are lightweight, encouraging people to lower them for nest cleanouts. Hinged doors, which few wooden houses have, further facilitate cleaning and maintenance.



What Bird Cities Get

When a community is initially certified as a Bird City Wisconsin, the following items will be provided free of charge to publicly celebrate that recognition:

- Two, 24"x 30" street signs with the Bird City Wisconsin emblem;
- A 3' x 5' all-weather Bird City flag that can be flown at a prominent civic location;
- A recognition plaque suitable for display at the municipal center;
- A prominent announcement on the BirdCityWisconsin.org web site;
- An electronic Bird City Wisconsin logo/emblem that can be used on appropriate municipal web sites and printed materials, as well as the web sites of partner organizations and local businesses; and
- Press releases to appropriate media.

Online Applications: [Word](#) | [PDF](#)



Bird City Wisconsin - 1111 E. Brown Deer Road - Bayside, WI 53217 - Phone (414) 416-3272 - [Email Us](#)





Status report on Bird City candidate communities as of 10/2010

Reviewed favorably; approval pending

- Mequon
- Stevens Point
- Bayside

Applications under review

- Brookfield
- Green Bay
- Lake Geneva
- Chenequa
- Ozaukee County
- Manitowish Waters
- Muskego

Working on an application

- Oneida Nation
- Elm Grove
- Ephraim/
Peninsula SP
- Williams Bay
- New London
- McFarland
- West Bend
- Oshkosh
- Racine
- Hales Corners
- Glendale

Proponents seeking interest

- Horicon
- Mayville
- Sheboygan
- Kenosha
- River Falls
- Fond du Lac
- Whitefish Bay
- Ripon
- Medford
- Town of Grafton
- Prairie du Sac
- Sauk City
- Fox Point

Sustained Flight Awards

Communities that maintain their Bird City status in subsequent years will receive an updated insert annually for their recognition plaque.

Stickers for updating street signs will be supplied to mark 5, 10 & 15 year achievements and for each year thereafter.

High Flyer Awards

Special recognition decals and updated plaques will be awarded to each community achieving this status.

A prominent announcement on BirdCityWisconsin.org and press releases to appropriate media.

Bird City Wisconsin

*Making Our Communities Healthy
For Birds...And People*



WWW.BIRDCITYWISCONSIN.ORG

