

Bird City Wisconsin
Renewal Application

For **Sustained Flight Award** complete Basic Requirements section

For **High Flyer Award** complete Basic **and** High Flyer sections

As _____ of the village/city/town/county of _____, Wisconsin,
(Title: mayor, or other leading official)

I herewith make application to renew this community's designation as a Bird City Wisconsin, having again achieved the criteria set forth by the Bird City organization. Our community has met at least 7 of the 22 criteria below, including 3 from Category 1 and 1 from each of the other four categories.

Basic Requirements

(Please check all that apply and provide appropriate documentation. This application needs to be submitted in both paper and electronic form, including any additional narrative. Bird City encourages communities to strive to improve their conservation practices and achievements each year and will call attention to those efforts on its web site. However, if a community is meeting a criteria in the same manner as in the previous year, it need only explain that in the narrative without attaching full documentation. If a community is meeting an "Other" item under any category, please include a narrative and any other supplemental information.)

Category 1: Creation and Protection of Habitat

- A.** Demonstrate with an attachment that your community is in compliance with Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" law for land use planning and resource management.
- B.** Attach bird monitoring results and/or other data obtained from researchers or local volunteers in the local park system.
- C.** Attach ordinance or other evidence that existing bird habitat has legal protection.
- D.** Document that current community planning seeks to provide additional bird habitat.
- E.** Attach a copy of local ordinance to demonstrate that the community does not restrict "wild" or natural lawns and landscaping.
- F.** Show how the community offers the public information on control and removal of invasive species.
- G.** Attach a state publication showing that the community contains a segment of the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail or a designated Important Bird Area.
- H.** Demonstrate through public documents or publicity that the local Chamber of Commerce (or a similar group) takes an active role in the planning process for protecting and enlarging favorable bird habitat.
- I.** OTHER: Demonstrate in an attached narrative.

Category 2: Participation in Programs Promoting Effective Community Forest Management

- A.** Enclose a copy of the "Tree City, USA" award if your community participates in this program.
- B.** OTHER: Demonstrate in an attached narrative.

Category 3: Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds

- A.** Attach evidence or provide community web link if your community has an educational program to control free-roaming cats and/or actively publicizes the "Cats Indoors!" program.
- B.** Demonstrate that your community provides property owners with information on how to protect birds from window-strikes.
- C.** OTHER: Demonstrate in an attached narrative.

Category 4: Public Education

- A. Demonstrate that schools in your community participate in Flying WILD, helping ensure that the nation's students are knowledgeable about the conservation needs of migratory and other birds.
- B. Attach newsletter or web links to show how your community provides information to property owners on methods to create and enhance backyard habitat for birds.
- C. Provide web links your community offers to other organizations with information on backyard habitat programs.
- D. Demonstrate that your community is represented in at least one bird monitoring program such as the Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, or Swift Night Out.
- E. Demonstrate that your community sponsors an annual bird festival.
- F. Illustrate a program that involves schools, garden clubs, or other organizations in bird conservation activities.
- G. OTHER: Demonstrate in an attached narrative.

Category 5: Community celebration of International Migratory Bird Day

- Attach a copy of both your community's officially enacted resolution recognizing IMBD and documentation of this past year's local IMBD celebration.

High Flyer Requirements

In addition to meeting Bird City Wisconsin's Basic Requirements, our community seeks to strengthen its commitment to urban bird conservation. We herewith make application for the High Flyer Award, having also met at least 5 of the following 17 criteria from at least 2 different categories.

Category 1: Creation and Protection of Habitat

- A. Show how and where the community has restored at least two acres of woodlands, wetlands or prairie.
- B. Demonstrate how the community offers material assistance to property owners in removing invasive shrubs from woodlands.
- C. Demonstrate or document a similar program for helping control other types of invasives.
- D. Document a program to support the establishment of "natural lawns."
- E. Demonstrate the implementation of a program to preserve Chimney Swift roosting sites and/or to construct alternative Chimney Swift towers.
- F. Document the establishment of a program to promote the conservation of Purple Martins through research, state of the art management techniques and public education.
- G. Show how the community facilitates Scouting and conservation groups in such projects as establishing Bluebird Trails and erecting Wood Duck nesting boxes.
- H. Demonstrate how a public golf course is managed to benefit birds.
- I. Document the fact that the community maintains a birding trail or "hot spot" location with educational signage and/or literature.

Category 2: Participation in Programs Promoting Effective Community Forest Management

- Document an ongoing community program to incorporate native hardwood trees and native shrubs in public landscaping (**for cities that do not choose to meet Tree City criteria**).

Category 3: Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds

- A. Document laws or regulations in place to eliminate feral cat populations.
- B. Demonstrate that the community enforces a law or regulation that requires domestic cats to be kept indoors or in an enclosure that prevents them from preying on native birds.

- C. Show how the community regulates construction and siting of communication towers to mitigate their risk to migrating birds.
- D. Document that the community operates a "Lights out for Birds" program to dim the lights of tall buildings to reduce collisions and save birds' lives during spring and fall migration.
- E. Show how the community supports a bird collision monitoring program and/or offers information and material for preventing window collisions in homes and commercial establishments.
- F. Document that the community has registered as a bird-safe community on the Wisconsin Humane Society/Wildlife Rehabilitation Center website: <http://www.wihumane.org/wildlife/wings/birdsafebuildings.aspx>

Category 4: Public Education

- Demonstrate that the community is active in raising awareness of its bird assets. Examples include placing a remote web camera on a nesting platform, offering field trips to observe threatened or endangered birds, or creating a significant educational resource on the community's bird life.

Signature	Title	Date
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Please update your contact information for the parks, forestry, environmental, or other community official who is the best follow-up contact to deal with questions regarding this application:

Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Address: _____ **City, Zip:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Conservation projects benefit from strong partnerships. Please identify any community partners you are working with and a contact person (and phone number or e-mail) with that group:

Mail a completed hard copy application with narrative and requested documentation to:
Carl Schwartz, Project Coordinator, Bird City Wisconsin, 1111 E. Brown Deer Rd., Bayside, WI 53217
 Email the electronic format to cschwartz3@wi.rr.com

Note: Bird City's recognition year runs from April 1 to March 31. Communities that applied and received recognition prior to April 1, 2011, need to file their renewal application by Jan. 15, 2012. Communities that applied and received recognition later in 2011 were awarded recognition through March 31, 2013, will not need to seek renewal until Jan. 15, 2013. Applications will not be processed without the requested documentation and attachments. Also, please enclose a nonrefundable application fee of \$100 in a check made payable to Milwaukee Audubon Society/Bird City Wisconsin.

- When **Sustained Flight Award** status is approved, these items will be provided to celebrate that recognition:
- Decals for Bird City street signs to mark the number of years the community has been recognized;
 - An updated insert for the Bird City Wisconsin recognition plaque;
 - A prominent announcement on the BirdCityWisconsin.org web site;
 - An updated page devoted to the community 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.

When a community is certified for the **High Flyer Award**, Bird City will issue special emblems for the community's street signs as well as an updated insert for the community's recognition plaque noting its High Flyer status.