

## Bird City Wisconsin

# Basic Application for Recognition

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

I herewith make application for this community to be officially recognized and designated as a Bird City Wisconsin, having 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. The "Other" item under each category is designed to allow applicants to demonstrate an important municipal accomplishment that Bird City Wisconsin's criteria otherwise overlook; to use this option, please include a narrative attachment 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 a summary of 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 how your community has 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 official resolution recognizing IMBD and either a copy of a program or plans for your local IMBD celebration. A sample resolution can be found at [www.birdcitywisconsin.org/resolution](http://www.birdcitywisconsin.org/resolution).

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please type or print 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](mailto:cschwartz3@wi.rr.com)

**Note:** Bird City's recognition year runs from April 1 to March 31. Applications are reviewed during three periods each year. The current application period closes Nov. 1, 2011. Communities approved in this review period will be awarded Bird City Wisconsin recognition through March 31, 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 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 22"x 25" 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.