

BIRD FRIENDLY CALGARY

A stylized teal cityscape with white birds flying in the sky. The city features various building silhouettes, including a prominent tower with a lattice structure on the right. The birds are depicted in white, scattered across the teal sky.

APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION

CITY REPRESENTED: CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA

DATE OF SUBMISSION: MAY 8, 2023

BIRD FRIENDLY CALGARY

APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION

In 2020, A volunteer group of community members and organizations came together to form a team called Bird Friendly Calgary. In May 2023, Calgary was recognized as one of the first Bird Friendly Cities in the country. We are pleased to submit this application to Nature Canada to continue the formal certification of Calgary, Alberta as a Bird Friendly City.

We celebrate that years of work by community members, organizations, stakeholders and public servants will be acknowledged with this certification. This is also a tremendous opportunity for a refreshed collaborative approach for continuous improvement. Our goal is to not only achieve Bird Friendly City certification for Calgary, but to promote continual improvement to ensure that Calgary is a model city in bird - and consequently, biodiversity conservation.

Based upon the close review by the Bird Friendly Calgary team, we submit that we will achieve **41 out of a possible 50 points total**. In two of the three categories, we achieve a "high" rating, whereas the first category is an "entry rating". **We respectfully submit that Calgary meets the requirements set out by Nature Canada to be a formally certified "Bird Friendly City".**

The Bird Friendly Calgary team would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the municipal representatives, public servants, and community organizations who provided support in the preparation of this application.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to the team at: BirdFriendlyCalgary@gmail.com

We honour and acknowledge the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Blackfoot confederacy: Kainai- Blood Tribe, Siksika, Peigan- Piikani and Aamskapi Pikuni, as well as the Îyâxe Nakoda and Tsuut'ina nations. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. Finally, we acknowledge all Nations – Indigenous and non – who live, work and play on this land, and who honour and celebrate this territory.

CITY OF CALGARY
RECEIVED
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

MAY 16 2023

ITEM: 7.2.13 CPC2023-0295
Distrib-Presentation 3
CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from Mayor Gondek	0
Mandatory Criteria	1
Section 1: Threat Reduction	8
Section 2: Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency	30
Section 3: Community Outreach/Education	43
Rubric with Scoring	59
Bird Friendly Calgary Contact Information	76



Calgary

Jyoti Gondek, Mayor

April 11, 2023

This letter is confirming The City of Calgary's (The City) support of continuation of certification under the Bird Friendly Cities in Canada, part of Nature Canada's Program.

It is a tremendous opportunity for The City to be recognized for its ongoing programming efforts to benefit birds and wildlife through strengthening the urban habitat. We appreciate that this recognition is one that requires ongoing stewardship, and The City is committed to a continued partnership with the community to update The City's policies and programming to further support our Bird Friendly Certification status.

In 2022, the City selected its official bird through a captivating city-wide engagement. The competition garnered media attention across the country and saw local residents championing their preference over social media. With over 25 thousand votes (the most by more than double in recent years), the Black Capped Chickadee prevailed as winner over the Black-Billed Magpie. The competition included resources for school children to learn about local birds through projects and a drawing competition. Recently, both the chickadee and magpie were part of the new Calgary Flames' pride jerseys.

Through the support of the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee which advises Administration and reports to Council, Bird Friendly Calgary initiatives are seeing progress in the City of Calgary. This work will continue to elevate the importance of diverse habitats that support wildlife, honour Indigenous ways of knowing, and result in a more sustainable city.

Council is committed to supporting initiatives such as International Migratory Bird Day and evolving our stewardship of natural spaces to support local birds.

Jyoti Gondek
Mayor, City of Calgary

Kourtney Penner
Councillor, Ward 11

MANDATORY CRITERIA

MANDATORY CRITERIA

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.
---	---

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The Establishment of a standing committee has been completed, with a sincere effort and interest to be inclusive of different perspectives, including local Indigenous community members. Our team includes a liaison with the municipality. Bird Friendly Calgary is comprised of three groups: the core team, a supporting team and members of the community or organizations who have made themselves available to assist when called upon. Our membership includes those representing organizations, and many who are acting as interested individuals with a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

Please see the [attached list of the Bird Friendly Calgary team members](#) (core and supporting members), current as of April 2023.

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	Yes
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-2: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LAND AND INCLUSION

DESCRIPTION

Provide evidence you have determined in which indigenous traditional territory(ies) your municipality occurs and that you are encouraging the participation and perspective of the local Indigenous community 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.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

We honour and acknowledge the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Blackfoot confederacy: Kainai-Blood Tribe, Siksika, Peigan-Piikani and Aamskapi Pikuni, as well as the Îyâxe Nakoda and Tsuut'ina nations. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. Finally, we acknowledge all Nations – Indigenous and non – who live, work and play on this land, and who honour and celebrate this territory.

The above land acknowledgement is included at the beginning of each of our meetings. It was apparent early on that that inclusion and diversity were sincere priorities common with each member or members of Bird Friendly Calgary. We are grateful for ongoing representation from Blood Tribe Land Management in affiliation with our team. Previously we had a representative from Siksika Animal Protection however they are no longer a part of that team and as such are unable to continue supporting our efforts. We wish him the best, with gratitude.

With funding from Nature Canada, we hosted two Indigenous focused learning events in 2021 and were successful in including members of the Tsuut'ina First Nation and a member of the Blood Tribe to elevate our City Bird Campaign through the telling of stories and sharing of knowledge in 2022. Further invitations and collaboration will be sought for a more diverse representation, especially as we learn of more contacts who have interest in birds, wildlife and ecology. We carry out these important efforts not because they are a requirement on this application, but because of the values held by the team itself.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

Please see our Bird Friendly Calgary list for membership. Links for the recordings of the two events recently held:

- **March 20, 2021:** Indigenous Scientist Speakers Series: "[Saving Birds... the Traditional Way](#)"
Special guest Bradford Kasberg, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.
A dynamic Wetlands Restoration Specialist joined us from Audubon Great Lakes. Brad shared his exciting work with bird and habitat conservation, keeping traditional ecological methods in active practice!
- **March 27, 2021:** Indigenous Scientist Speakers Series: "[Bison and Birds](#)"
Mike Bruised Head (Chief Bird) and Alvin First Rider shared insights of ecological monitoring and conservation efforts on the traditional lands of Kainai First Nation, including the recent reintroduction of free-roaming bison!
- **April 2022:** City Bird Vote Videos with representation from several members of the Indigenous community can be found on our [Facebook page](#).

Criteria Complete or
Undertaken to Complete?

Yes

Confirmed by Scoring
Committee as having met
Standard?

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-3: FORMAL MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

DESCRIPTION

Pass a council resolution nominating/ supporting your municipality's efforts to be a Bird Friendly City OR a letter of support from a high ranking city official

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).

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

We are honored and very pleased to provide this Letter of Support from Jyoti Gondek, the Mayor of the City of Calgary.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

Please see [this link](#) for a copy of the letter.

Criteria Complete or
Undertaken to Complete?

Yes

Confirmed by Scoring
Committee as having met
Standard?

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-4: ANNUAL REPORT

DESCRIPTION Once your municipality has been accorded Bird City Status, the Bird Team must provide an annual report card on activities related to your Bird City status.	SCORING INDICATORS Provide Annual Report card (calendar year) by February 1.
---	--

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The first Bird Friendly City report card was submitted on February 1, 2022, and Bird Friendly Calgary is happy to prepare and present this report annually.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

This report will be provided again in 2024 upon request and on an annual basis thereafter.

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	Yes
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-5: CITY WEBSITE

DESCRIPTION Include information about Bird Friendly City on the City website somewhere it can be easily found.	SCORING INDICATORS Provide link and proof of posting.
--	---

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

In conjunction with the Calgary City Bird vote, the City of Calgary included information about Bird Friendly Calgary on their engage webpage.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

The link for the City of Calgary can be found [here](#). We also have a [Bird Friendly Calgary website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	Yes
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-6: RENEWAL

DESCRIPTION Complete a renewal application as required every 2 years to keep your status as "active."	SCORING INDICATORS Renewals are up to date. There will be a one-year grace period for a renewal to occur.
---	--

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

This is our first biennial renewal for Calgary

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

This document acts as evidence of our continued commitment to renewing our certification.

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	Yes
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

SECTION 1: THREAT REDUCTION

THREAT REDUCTION

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

Proof of each action required. Two points per action. Generally if you can demonstrate some level of progress for each action, you will be awarded one point. Two points will be limited to comprehensive efforts to address that one issue. For example, for (A) to get 2 points, you will need to have a no-roam bylaw AND demonstrate both enforcement of the bylaw and an educational campaign to make cat owners aware of the bylaw.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Calgary has a *Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw* and accompanying education on City of Calgary website regarding responsible pet ownership. With this bylaw it is illegal for owned cats to be off of the owner's property which helps to reduce cats at large. A low income spay/neuter program is also available from the City of Calgary which helps to reduce unowned cat populations. This low income program is partially funded by cat and dog licensing through the City.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw and Pet Licensing](#)
- [Low Income Spay/Neuter Program from the City of Calgary](#)
- [Award from Nature Canada recognizing Calgary's Bylaw Services](#)



Max Points Available	2
Points Submitted	2
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

1.1 (B) UNOWNED CATS

DESCRIPTION

(B) 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

Evidence of an active program to humanely reduce the number of unowned outdoor cats. 2 points will be awarded for broad, municipal-wide strategies and actions that can demonstrate progress on the goal.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The MEOW Foundation, a non-profit organization running in the City, has a trap/neuter release (TNR) program. Cats that are not totally feral and could be placed in a home are taken into care and adopted out or made permanent residents. Citizens are advised to call MEOW for assistance with feral cats located in the city. Formal documentation supporting this program is not currently available. However, in conversation with Director of Operations Debbie Nelson, the program currently has 115 people caring for 269 feral cats primarily concentrated on the east side of the City in neighbourhoods. There are no feral cat colonies located near natural areas. Both the number of caregivers and the number of cats has increased since our initial application.

The City of Calgary and the MEOW Foundation both have low income spay/neuter programs to help reduce the stray/feral cat population.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- An explanation of the MEOW Foundations' TNR program can be found [here](#).
- Numbers for the last year in all their programs can be found [here](#).
- [Low Income Spay/Neuter Program from the City of Calgary](#)

Max Points Available	2
Points Submitted	2
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

1.1 (C) MONITORING OF ROAMING CATS

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

Proof of implementation of a cat counting/estimating protocol to establish baseline numbers or to compare with baseline numbers will be awarded 2 points. Proof of intent to implement such a protocol gets one point.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Calgary does not presently have a formal program in place. However, with funding from Nature Canada in 2022, Bird Friendly Calgary purchased two Tractive GPS cat collars and enlisted citizen volunteers to allow their cats to be tracked. While this did not give an idea of how many outdoor cats there are, it does highlight some urban cat movement.

YYC Pet Recovery is a volunteer run Facebook page that began in 2013 following Alberta's floods and provides a space for people who have found or have lost an animal to reach a wide audience. Numbers of roaming cats cannot be estimated from this alone but Bird Friendly Calgary is collaborating with YYC Pet Recovery to document cats that are reported to the site as deceased. Results are updated on the Bird Friendly Calgary website monthly.

In 2022 with grant support from Nature Canada, Bird Friendly Calgary created a Catio pamphlet to highlight the benefits to both cats and wildlife. This pamphlet has become part of adoption packages from local rescues including Calgary Humane Society, the MEOW Foundation and AARCS. In addition, it has been shared by request with interested colleagues in B.C.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [GPS collar information](#)
- [YYC Pet Recovery](#)
- [YYC Pet Recovery Deceased Cat Reports](#)
- [Catio Pamphlet](#)



Max Points Available

2

Points Submitted

2

Points Awarded

(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

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.

(A) refers to the municipality developing or adopting bird friendly or bird safe standards for new construction. One point is awarded if the standard is a guideline, two points if the standard is a requirement.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

In March 2011, the City of Calgary adopted the Bird-Friendly Urban Design Guidelines which provide tools for the development of bird friendly buildings and structures. This is a non-statutory document and therefore is a suggestion rather than mandatory in new structure design. This is an area Bird Friendly Calgary hopes to focus on in the future, particularly our member organization, the Calgary Urban Species Response Team (CUSRT).

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- Please see attached [supporting document folder](#) for Bird-Friendly Urban Design Guidelines PDF. The goals of the guidelines can be found on pg. 12-29.
- [City of Calgary's Existing Bird Friendly Guidelines](#) (March 2011)
- Listed on [Planning & Development Resource Library](#). This guideline is found under the Planning policy tab under non-statutory policies



Max Points Available	2
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

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.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The Calgary Urban Species Response Team (CUSRT) was formed in the summer of 2019 to conduct surveys of the downtown core for birds and bats that may have been injured due to collisions with glass or related urban risks. The animals found alive are rescued and submitted for care by the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society. Those found deceased are collected for further study at partner organizations including the Royal Alberta Museum. All work is conducted under appropriate wildlife permits.

The group includes municipally owned +15s (pedestrian overpasses) in their surveys and is finalizing a report for the BFC municipal representative for consideration on improvements and will to work with the City Representatives for a more comprehensive plan for municipal buildings.

Our Bird Team has recently been joined by a new representative from City of Calgary, which will be a great help to move efforts forward.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [CUSRT Website](#)
- Partial data from CMSRT's efforts is available at [BirdSafe](#).

Other evidence of the organization and the work they do can be found on the [CMSRT Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) page and news stories and articles, such as:

- [Calgary skyscrapers are killing birds — so volunteers are studying how to make downtown safer](#)
(CBC – SARAH RIEGER)
- [Le centre-ville de Calgary : un environnement dangereux pour les oiseaux migrants](#)
(CBC RADIO-CANADA – ÉMILIE VAST)
- [Volunteers count dead, injured birds and bats in downtown Calgary](#)
(GLOBAL - CAROLYN KURY DE CASTILLO)



Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

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 is awarded with evidence of educational campaigns focused on the broad public or specific neighbourhoods.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

There are several groups working on education for the public with regards to reducing the risk of bird collisions. The first is the Calgary Urban Species Response Team whose main goal is to significantly reduce fatalities and injuries of birds and bats in the urban environment, particularly related to window collisions. Direct one-on-one education occurs through social media when people post questions regarding window strike prevention. As CUSRT becomes better known, they are often tagged on posts seeking help or insight. During downtown surveys, volunteers from the organization provide contact information to people working at affected buildings with an invitation to discuss further insights. In addition, the team takes all opportunities to: educate through mainstream media (TV, radio and print); conduct online sessions to further engage the public; and speak upon invitation at events.

The Bird Friendly Calgary team also now has a social media presence through Facebook and Twitter that allows for education and the spread of information regarding ways to mitigate threats to birds including window strikes.

The Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society includes information on their website and in speaking with the public.

The Wild Bird Store sells items to help prevent window strikes including decals, feather friendly window tape and oil-based markers.

Finally, the community birding blog "Birds Calgary" has shared articles on prevention of window strikes in the past. Through all these groups, education is spread to a variety of audiences.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [CUSRT Website](#)
- [Bird Friendly Calgary Facebook Page](#)
- [Bird Friendly Calgary Twitter Page](#)
- [Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society](#)
- [Wild Bird Store prevention products](#)
- [Birds Calgary Blog](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

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

Evidence of the database is provided.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Calgary does not presently have a formal program in place. CUSRT has made effort dedicated to this but at this time there is not enough to qualify for this criterion. The Bird Friendly Calgary team and CUSRT are exploring means to create a baseline and will explore how other cities are achieving this currently.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

We will be pleased to report with an update in the future.

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	0
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

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

DESCRIPTION

(A) Municipality has a light pollution reduction strategy and supports actions to reduce light pollution, particularly during migratory seasons.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point is given upon evidence of a strategy to reduce light pollution

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Calgary controls lighting with prescriptive regulations, guidelines, and reportable nuisances.

Regulations and guidelines include:

- *Calgary Parks Lighting Plan*
- *Bird Friendly Urban Design Guidelines*
- *Municipal Development Plan*
- *Land use Bylaw*
- *City Centre Illumination Guidelines*

Calgary Parks Lighting Plan

This plan is based on keeping natural areas unlit as much as possible. In addition, there are some lighting standards in place (and under development) for regional pathways that go through natural areas. For instance, the 5A pathway network standard has principles regarding minimising lighting in natural areas.

Additionally, there are ongoing discussions to include standards such as Parks Canada or US National Parks Service underway. The Parks Lighting policy directs minimal lighting in natural areas and emphasises the value of dark skies

Bird Friendly Urban Design Guidelines

This non-binding guidelines document include lighting standards specific to mitigating risks to birds

Municipal Development Plan

The relevant portion of the *Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 24P200* was modified in 2013 by the *Bright Skies Bylaw 11P2013*. As a result of these changes, potential sources of light pollution are regulated at the sources, with controls on brightness and direction. Like all regulations of this nature, constructions and installations that predate the bylaw's implementation are 'grandfathered' in, becoming legal noncompliant.

Land Use Bylaw

Within the City of Calgary's *Land Use Bylaw 1P2007*, there are a number of sections that control lighting rules, including how much nighttime lighting may be employed. Again, like all bylaws of this nature, constructions and installations that predate the bylaw's implementation are 'grandfathered' in, becoming legal noncompliant.

(Continued on next page)

THREAT REDUCTION

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

DESCRIPTION

(A) Municipality has a light pollution reduction strategy and supports actions to reduce light pollution, particularly during migratory seasons.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point is given upon evidence of a strategy to reduce light pollution

HOW CRITERIA IS MET (CONTINUED)

Lighting Rules

PART 3 - DIVISION 4: LIGHTING RULES

Shielding

- 63** (1) All outdoor light fixtures must be aimed and shielded in a manner that does not direct illumination onto a street or adjacent residential uses.
- (2) Unless otherwise referenced in subsection (3), all outdoor light fixtures must not emit light above the horizontal plane at the bottom of the light fixture.
- (3) Outdoor light fixtures may emit light above the horizontal plane at the bottom of the light fixture only where the light fixture:
- (a) is used for accent lighting; or
 - (b) has a luminaire wattage 150 watts or less and does not contain a:
 - (i) mercury vapour luminaire;
 - (ii) metal halide luminaire; or
 - (iii) high pressure sodium luminaire; or
 - (c) has a luminaire wattage 75 watts or less and contains a:
 - (i) mercury vapour luminaire;
 - (ii) metal halide luminaire; or
 - (iii) high pressure sodium luminaire.

Signs

PART 3 - DIVISION 5: SIGNS

Rules Governing All Signs

- 73** (5) Signs in residential districts must not be internally illuminated, but may be illuminated indirectly in a manner that prevents the trespass of light onto adjacent parcels.

(Continued on next page)

THREAT REDUCTION

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

DESCRIPTION

(A) Municipality has a light pollution reduction strategy and supports actions to reduce light pollution, particularly during migratory seasons.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point is given upon evidence of a strategy to reduce light pollution

HOW CRITERIA IS MET (CONTINUED)

Digital Messaging Displays

Rules Governing Signs containing Digital Displays

- 75** (5.1) All signs containing a digital display must be equipped with an ambient light sensor.
- (5.2) A sign containing a digital display must not increase the light levels adjacent to the digital display by more than 3.0 LUX above the ambient light level.
- (6) The sign owner must ensure that while the sign is in operation, the light output for the digital display must be set in accordance with the following maximum luminance levels when measured from the sign face at its maximum brightness:
- (a) from sunrise to sunset, 7500 Nits in all districts; and
 - (b) from sunset to sunrise:
 - (i) 500 Nits in the industrial districts;
 - (ii) 350 Nits in the C-COR 1, C-COR2, C-COR3, C-R1, C-R2, C-R3, S-CRI and S-FUD Districts; and
 - (iii) 300 Nits in all other districts not referenced in subsections (i) and (ii).

Community Standards Bylaw

The City of Calgary also examines the impact of nighttime lighting on third parties as a potential nuisance. This aspect of light pollution falls under the *Community Standards Bylaw 5M2004*. An advantage of this type of bylaw is that problematic lighting is not necessarily 'grandfathered' if it is reported and deemed to be a nuisance.

(Continued on next page)



THREAT REDUCTION

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

DESCRIPTION

(A) Municipality has a light pollution reduction strategy and supports actions to reduce light pollution, particularly during migratory seasons.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point is given upon evidence of a strategy to reduce light pollution

HOW CRITERIA IS MET (CONTINUED)

City Centre Illumination Guidelines

Although not an enforceable bylaw, the *City Centre Illumination Guidelines* does educate on the topics of the need for complementary darkness, minimizing large-scale flood lighting and being sensitive to birds.

The following extracts from that document illustrates these points:

2.0 URBAN DESIGN ILLUMINATION PRINCIPLES

The successful improvement of Centre City lighting requires a common vision. The following Urban Design Illumination Principles provide a general framework for this Guideline and should be applied to the design of lighting improvements as described in this Guideline.

2.1 CREATING CONTRAST

It is important to consider darkness in illumination design as light creates interest only when contrasted with darkness and shadow.

GUIDELINE

- To avoid excessive brightness, designers should consider the environment to find attributes in each project that will remain unlit.
- General floodlighting should be reserved for special events, festivals and concerts, **with sensitivity towards bird migratory seasons. Refer to the Bird-Friendly Urban Design Guidelines.**
- Some Centre City elements should remain unlit. When choosing to light an element, consider the following:
 1. Is the element best experienced in the daylight?
 2. Is the element in close proximity to a significantly more prominent or important element?
 3. Is there a significant difference between the daytime and night-time visitor experience to the element?
 4. Will lighting of the element be restricted due to some other consideration - for example: **bird migratory patterns and seasons**, heritage constraints, airport regulations, provincial or national park restrictions?

General Light Pollution Problems

2.2 LIGHT TRESPASS

Light pollution is an unwanted consequence of outdoor lighting and includes such effects as sky glow, light trespass, and glare. Light trespass is defined as light that strays from its intended purpose and occurs when spill light is cast where it is not wanted, illuminating adjacent properties and surfaces. Spill light results from excess light from a focused source being cast where it is not useful or desired. Avoid light trespass whenever possible.

(Continued on next page)

THREAT REDUCTION

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

DESCRIPTION

(A) Municipality has a light pollution reduction strategy and supports actions to reduce light pollution, particularly during migratory seasons.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point is given upon evidence of a strategy to reduce light pollution

HOW CRITERIA IS MET (CONTINUED)

General Light Pollution Problems

GUIDELINE

- Review the City of Calgary Land Use Bylaw to ensure all light sources, and their associated housings and control components meet the City of Calgary Land Use Bylaw requirements.
- Select beam spreads that reduce the possibility of light trespass and light pollution.

Specifically addresses outdoor lighting and birds:

2.8 BIRDS

The illumination of urban landscapes, like Centre City, may influence the migration behaviour of birds that migrate at night (nocturnal migration species).

GUIDELINE

- Section 2.0 identifies illumination principles that contribute to a bird friendly urban environment. Incorporating lighting control, creating contrast, limiting light trespass, designing for energy efficiency and careful consideration of source selection will limit light pollution (which may confuse nocturnal flyers) while clearly identifying solid elements (buildings, trees) in the urban landscape for avian travelers.
- Spring migration is mid-March to the beginning of June. Fall migration is August to mid-November. Search light style effects, and similar sky-lit effects, during these periods should be minimized.
- Reference the City of Calgary's Bird-Friendly Urban Design Guidelines for recommendations for the built environment that are outside the scope of this guideline. (For example, building methods and materials and interior lighting operations.)

(Continued on next page)

THREAT REDUCTION

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

DESCRIPTION

(A) Municipality has a light pollution reduction strategy and supports actions to reduce light pollution, particularly during migratory seasons.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point is given upon evidence of a strategy to reduce light pollution

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Calgary Parks Lighting Plan, 5A Pathway Network Standard](#)
- See [supporting document folder](#), Bird-Friendly Urban Design Guidelines PDF (p.7, 9, 26-28), for specific information regarding light pollution.
- [Municipal Development Plan](#), in particular:
 - f. The design of buildings, open spaces, pathways and parking areas should adhere to the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) while ensuring light spill into adjacent property or the surrounding environment is minimized. A reduction in light spill should be achieved by minimizing the intensity of light sources and directing light only to where it is needed
- [Land Use Bylaw](#)
- [Community Standards Bylaw 5M2004](#)
PART 10 – NUISANCES ESCAPING PROPERTY
Light
43. No owner or occupier of a Premises shall allow an outdoor light to shine directly into the living or sleeping areas of an adjacent dwelling house unless the outdoor light is permitted or required pursuant to the Land Use Bylaw 1P2007, a development permit or a similar approval.
(35M2004, 2004 May 03)
(51M2016, 2016 December 14)
- [City Centre Illumination Guidelines](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

1.3 (B) LIGHT POLLUTION – NEW DEVELOPMENTS / RETROFIT

DESCRIPTION

(B) Light pollution mitigation standards for all new developments and/or retrofit program to replace street lamps with energy-efficient shielded fixtures

SCORING INDICATORS

One point given for either proof of mitigation standards (e.g., bylaw or guidance), and/or proof of a retrofit program (e.g., retrofitting standard street lights with downward directional street lighting). To attain "high level" certification, there must be evidence of both standards for new development and a retrofit program

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Calgary has been a world leader on streetlight retrofits to [reduce light pollution](#). Calgary Roads began North America's first large-scale residential and major roadway streetlight retrofit project in late 2000. The project replaced over 40,000 residential, semi-cut off streetlights with full cut off streetlights that waste less light. Along with this change, the high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamp wattage on residential streets was reduced from 200 and 250 W to 100 and 75 W. These changes reduced electricity consumption, light trespass, and sky glow.



These changes also improved visibility for drivers and pedestrians by reducing glare. The complete city retrofit was planned to be finished in 2007, but electricity cost savings were so great that the self-funded project was mostly complete three years early. Minor incremental retrofits continued to about 2010. Additional electrical efficiencies that LED streetlights provided meant that as it was time to replace end-of-life HPS lamps starting in 2015, LEDs were used in the replacement program. The LED conversion of residential streetlighting was essentially complete by spring of 2020.

All new streetlighting must meet the same standards.

The following International Space Station orthorectified image from January 2020 shows that the bulk of the orange-hued HPS residential streetlights have been converted to the more energy efficient whiter LED versions.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

See [supporting document folder](#), Bird-Friendly Urban Design Guidelines PDF (p.7, 9, 26-28), for specific information regarding light pollution.

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

1.3 (C) LIGHT POLLUTION - OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

DESCRIPTION

(C) Outreach campaign for residents and businesses to promote responsible light control practices within the municipality.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for educational and outreach campaigns to reduce light attraction during migration periods such as the "lights out Toronto" campaigns of the past.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Calgary has been a leader in light pollution abatement outreach, nationally and internationally. The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), Calgary Centre, established the first Light Pollution Abatement (LPA) Committee of any local RASC chapter, and helped develop and chair the national committee in 1989. Since its inception, the national LPA Committee has had 4 chairs, 3 have been from Calgary. Key projects include lobbying municipal and provincial governments, designating dark sky preserves and creating educational content.

To support, educate and communicate light pollution abatement policies, there are a number of RASC social media channels run by a Calgary-based volunteer.

The Calgary Centre of the RASC also has an eye-catching display about the negative impacts of light pollution as well as what some of the mitigation strategies there are. This display is set up (in non-COVID years) 3-5 times per year at public outreach events. The City of Calgary Roads department asked the Calgary Centre of the RASC to show that display during a number of public consultation engagement events for the initial streetlight retrofit program (EnviroSmart).

Outreach presentations about the negative impacts of light pollution by the Calgary Centre of the RASC happen 4-8 times per year (pre-COVID) and reach 200-400 people annually. One such talk, entitled *Death Trapped: Birds in the Land of Artificial Light*, is specifically about the negative impacts of light pollution on nocturnally-migrating birds.

In addition, there have been several talk and poster presentations to oil and gas companies and to industry conferences.

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC), Calgary Centre, works in concert with other local organizations to mitigate light pollution and to educate on the negative health, social and environmental impacts of waste light at night.

The University of Calgary's Rothney Astrophysical Observatory has an extensive outreach program about light pollution. Their website features many other local organizations.

(Continued on next page)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.3 (C) LIGHT POLLUTION - OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

DESCRIPTION

(C) Outreach campaign for residents and businesses to promote responsible light control practices within the municipality.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for educational and outreach campaigns to reduce light attraction during migration periods such as the "lights out Toronto" campaigns of the past.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET (CONTINUED)

For example, the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area, together with the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory and the Calgary Centre of the RASC has produced a [series of videos](#) about light pollution:

The Calgary Migratory Species Response Team uses [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) page to raise awareness of the role that light at night plays in bird-building collisions.

The [Bird Friendly Calgary Facebook page](#) has content about artificial light at night and birds, and recently introduced a "Save the Night Save the Birds" awareness campaign, encouraging Calgarians to turn off all lights at 11PM to 6AM.

The BFC team also wrote a position statement on what would be considered appropriate for a Bird Friendly approach to lighting and has provided that to at least one major stakeholder in the City. This document is a helpful tool for consistent communications with stakeholders.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

Twitter

[@RASC_LPA](#) – general light pollution environmental news

Facebook

[Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Dark-Sky Preserve Program](#) – general light pollution environmental news

[Songways](#) - initiative to protect nocturnal migratory flyways for birds from disruptive light pollution by linking existing RASC Dark-Sky Preserves

[University of Calgary's Rothney Astrophysical Observatory](#)

[Light Pollution Video Series](#) (Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area, the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory, and the Calgary Centre of the RASC)

Calgary Urban Species Response Team ([Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#))

[Bird Friendly Calgary Facebook](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

1.4 PESTICIDE USE

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has a policy to reduce or eliminate non-essential pesticide use that directly or indirectly harms birds, on public and private land that is implemented through local bylaws. This policy should include restrictions on pesticides used to control nuisance insects such as mosquitoes (such as BTI) unless there is a demonstrated health risk (such as proof of West Nile in larvae).

SCORING INDICATORS

Proof of the policy is provided. Examples of such policies would include a ban on cosmetic use of pesticides. The use of BTI to control mosquitoes and blackflies is controversial, in that it is increasingly used by municipalities to kill mosquito and fly larva in wetlands in response to neighbourhood pressure. There is strong evidence that this reduces the available food for aerial insectivores like swallows and has a negative impact on their populations.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Calgary has an Integrated Pest Management Plan that aims to reduce the use of pesticides/herbicides through alternative methods of control and to minimize toxicity of those used. West Nile Virus is present in mosquitoes in Calgary and represents a public health risk, so larvicides containing BTI (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) are used when necessary. Use of pesticides on private land is regulated by the federal and provincial governments.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [City of Calgary Pest Management Program](#)
- [Pesticide Use on Public Land](#)

Further information can be found in the [supporting document folder](#) under 1.4 Threat Reduction.



Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

1.5 PLASTICS

DESCRIPTION

Municipality takes regulatory measures and encourages voluntary measures to reduce the amount of plastic waste generated (e.g. banning of single use plastics).

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of regulatory (e.g. a municipal bylaw) and voluntary measures (e.g. a local business) such as a ban on single use plastics, shopping bags, plastic straws, etc.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Calgary's Single-Use Items Charter Bylaw (1H2023) has been approved by City Council and will take effect on January 16, 2024.

There is complementary programming through Plastic Free YYC. There is potential that other companies such as Cascades who has a facility in Calgary may complement this work, but further exploration is needed before we can request points. We will be happy to update if or when this takes place.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

We will be pleased to report with an update in the future.

- [Plastic Free YYC](#)
- [Cascades](#)
- [Single Use Plastic Bylaw](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

1.6 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.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Calgary does not presently have such a program in place. We will be happy to update if or when this takes place.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

We will be pleased to report with an update in the future.



Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	0
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

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 stop-over site) or evidence of a bylaw in place. Provide evidence that important bird habitats/ biodiversity hotspots are recognized within an official policy document.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Calgary has policy and practices to prohibit or mitigate the disturbance of birds and other wildlife by Calgarians and their pets in natural areas and has a suite of policies aimed at preventing disturbance by city workers and contractors. Biodiversity hotspots are recognised by designation of natural areas as areas of "special protection", "major", "supporting" or "parks with natural area zones". They are also recognized in the City's *Open Space Plan 2002*.

Bylaw 11M2019 Parks and Pathway Bylaw includes the following:

- Section 7(c)(i) no damage to vegetation or wildlife habitat
- Section 9(1) requires permits for various activities. The reviewing of these permits includes potential impacts on birds and may include mitigations. For example, approval for firework placement is made by City of Calgary with consultation of Canadian Wildlife Services to reduce impact.
- Section 11(1) drones less than 250g are allowed in designated areas within Calgary Parks, and drones over 250g require a permit (see above regarding permits).
- Section 12 - no dogs in the river
- Section 15 - rules for off-leash
- Section 25 - wildlife protection in Parks

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary does not allow dogs or bicycles in the Park.

All parks have signage regarding on-leash and off-leash areas and requirements. This information is also on the [Calgary Parks website](#).

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Natural Area Management Plan](#)
- Please see [supporting document folder](#) for Open Space Plan PDF.
- [Bylaw 11M2019 - Calgary Parks and Pathway Bylaw](#)
- [Inglewood Bird Sanctuary information](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

THREAT REDUCTION

SCORING

ENTRY

9 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE

12 points from at least 5 categories including at least 1 category worth 2 or more.

HIGH

14 points or more. Must include at least 2 points in categories 1 and 2.

ENTRY SCORING

Points from 5 of the 7 possible categories are submitted as having achieved consideration.

Max Points Available	18
Points Submitted	15
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

SECTION 2: HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.1 NATURAL AREAS

DESCRIPTION

Natural areas within the municipal boundaries are protected within the Municipal Plan and there is a commitment to increase this area. 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 city 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 the evidence of implementation and whether there are ambitious targets to increase the number and size of the protected areas.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The first document that supports this action item is the Biodiversity Strategic Plan which has a target of restoring 20% of Calgary's open space for biodiversity. According to the Our Biodiversity, in 2015, 19% of Calgary was considered natural area.

In addition, the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) supports an ecological network which has been delineated by the City. The ecological network contains 4 types of habitat, core natural areas greater than 30 hectares in size, stepping stone habitat which are natural areas 5-30 hectares in size, small natural areas that are 5 hectares or less and non-natural green space. These are connected by primary movement corridors along the river and secondary movement corridors that directly connect habitat patches. Natural Areas in the City of Calgary are being expanded two main ways:

1. Adding them to the inventory through the development process as Environmental Reserve as per section 664 of the [Provincial Municipal Government Plan](#), and [Municipal Ecological Reserve Setback Policy](#).
2. [Naturalization of Municipal Reserves and other areas](#).

In addition there is [conservation tools website](#) available.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Our Biodiversity - Calgary's 10-year Biodiversity Strategic Plan](#) (p. 5, 36 specifically)
- [Municipal Development Plan](#) (the whole document provides sections supporting this, however section 2.6.4 is most pertinent)
- [Natural Area Management Plan](#)
- [Provincial Municipal Government Plan](#)
- [Municipal Ecological Reserve Setback Policy](#)
- [Naturalization of Municipal Reserves and other areas](#)
- [Additional conservation tools website](#)

Max Points Available	3
Points Submitted	3
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.2 BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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 stop-over site) or evidence of a bylaw in place. Provide evidence that important bird habitats/ biodiversity hotspots are recognized within an official policy document.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The Biodiversity Strategic Plan supports increasing ecological resilience and habitat connectivity for wildlife. As noted in the 2.1, the Plan has a target for success of restoring 20% of Calgary's open space for biodiversity.

There are a couple of programs in place for biodiversity monitoring including a collaborative project called Calgary Captured. This program partners the City of Calgary with the Miistakis Institute for the Rockies, Friends of Fish Creek Park, Weaselhead / Glenmore Park Preservation Society to learn more about the biodiversity in Calgary's natural areas through camera monitoring.

Birds are monitored in the city by the Calgary Bird Banding Society and changes over time are documented.

The Municipal Development Plan also has goal of supporting biodiversity and maintaining habitat connectivity which can be found with the recent inclusion of the ecological network in the plan.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Our Biodiversity - Calgary's 10-year Biodiversity Strategic Plan](#) (p. 33)
- [Municipal Development Plan](#) (section 2.6.4)
- [Calgary Captured](#)
- [Calgary Captured \(Zooniverse\)](#)
- [Calgary Bird Banding Society](#)

Max Points Available	3
Points Submitted	3
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.3 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

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 flood water, 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. Additional points are awarded based on evidence of ongoing measures and actions.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Calgary currently has a Climate Resilience Strategy that is essentially a broad administrative umbrella providing strategic oversight for and direction for climate related activities at The City and climate resiliency in Calgary. Alignment and integration with existing business planning processes was started in 2017. In the spirit of One Calgary (the name of Calgary's newest budget plan), each business unit is intended to deliver on their clearly defined roles in the Mitigation and Adaptation Action Plans to support the Strategy with the initiation of all activities occurring between 2018 and 2022.

Ongoing Measure and Actions specifically related to Climate Resiliency include:

1. *The Climate Mitigation Action Plan* – this identifies the role and actions of The City to ensure services, and enabling activities. It also provides regulations and operations to reduce emissions and enable the low carbon economy.
2. *The Climate Adaptation Action Plan* – identifies the risks and vulnerabilities from severe weather events and involves an iterative process of risk assessment.

Other ongoing measures and actions that support the goals indirectly:

- A. *Branching Out Tree Program* – The City is working to increase urban tree canopy. Trees are provided at no cost by the City of Calgary. 500 trees are provided to Citizens annually.
- B. *Calgary Wetland Conservation Plan* – Contains the “No Net Loss” principle (see s. 2.2, p. 12)
- C. *Natural Area Management Plan* – this Plan has established a process for identifying and ensuring the long-term viability of Calgary's natural environments. It contains management guidelines and puts forward a landscape ecology approach to protecting and evaluating Calgary's natural systems.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [City of Calgary Climate Resilience Strategy Action Plans](#)
- [Climate Adaptation Action Plan Branching Out Tree Program](#)
- [Calgary Wetland Conservation Plan](#)
(see [supporting documents folder](#) for PDF)

Max Points Available	3
Points Submitted	3
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.4 (A) HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

DESCRIPTION Municipality has a habitat management strategy based on ecological and climate considerations. These include: (A) increasing the number of trees and area of the urban forest canopy;	SCORING INDICATORS Provide proof of implementation of the strategy and each action. One point per action. Evidence for a. includes inventories of trees and plans for increasing the numbers.
---	---

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Calgary's tree canopy is currently at 8.25% (including public and private trees), and the city is trying to increase that to 16%. The city has an inventory of all public trees, and a management plan for these trees.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Branching Out Tree Program](#) for the statement about the current tree canopy and goal for increasing this canopy.
- [Click here](#) for a map and information on Calgary trees (publicly-available information about Calgary's tree canopy).
- See also Urban Forestry Strategic Plan PDF in [supporting document folder](#) for a detailed plan regarding the management of Calgary's urban forest.

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.4 (B) SNAG PROTECTION

DESCRIPTION

(B) leaving snags standing in cases where public safety is not jeopardized;

SCORING INDICATORS

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

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Calgary promotes leaving snags or portions of trees after tree removals in certain areas (and where public safety is not jeopardized). For example, City contractors removing unsafe trees from Bowness Park were required to leave tree branches at the site for beaver use. Guidance for the protection of standing and fallen dead trees can be found in the Natural Area Management Plan p. 71, 72.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

See Natural Area Management Plan PDF pg. 71 and 72 in [supporting document folder](#) for policies regarding fallen trees in the City.

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.4 (C) PROTECTION OF TREES

DESCRIPTION

(C) protecting trees on private and public lands;

SCORING INDICATORS

Refers to a tree bylaws that protects trees as a public value from private land owners cutting them down without permits.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Calgary has tree bylaws that protect city-owned (public) trees. They also have programs to promote protection of private trees in the city.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Tree Protection Bylaw](#)
- [Tree and Shrub care in private yards](#)

Also see Urban Forest Strategic Plan PDF in [supporting document folder](#).



Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

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 is accorded if a city can demonstrate that its employees involved in active habitat management do not harm breeding birds or their habitat.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

City of Calgary has an *Urban Forestry Pruning Plan* where City and contractor crews are engaged to prune/remove trees. City crews operate year round while contractors are brought in on an as needed basis, primarily for large tree removals that the City lacks equipment for. Both contractors and City crews are expected to adhere to Federal and Provincial regulations regarding to birds. For instance, compliance with the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act and the provincial Wildlife Act is mandatory. City crews have a protocol which must be followed; if single trees are being removed they are examined for an active nest. If a nest is present, the tree remains and is checked in 30 days to see if the nest is empty. If the trees are in a natural area, a biologist does a nest check to determine any nests in the area. If nests are found again it is left and checked again after 30 days to see if it is fledged. If there is a near miss, a biologist is contacted to determine the impact, and self report to the appropriate authorities if necessary (April 2020, Julie Guimond, Urban Forestry Lead, *Personal Communication*).

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [City of Calgary Urban Forestry Pruning Plan](#)
- [Migratory Bird Convention Act](#)
- [Alberta Wildlife Act](#)
- [City of Calgary Environmental Policy](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.5 IMPORTANT BIRD AND BIODIVERSITY AREA (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.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Calgary has over 551 designated Natural Area Parks, including over 10,000 hectares of parkland and natural areas (found [here](#)). Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) within close proximity to Calgary include Eagle, Namaka and Stobart Lakes (AB078), located 50 km east of Calgary, and Frank Lake (AB079), located 50 km south of Calgary. Frank Lake is managed /taken care of by Ducks Unlimited along with Namaka, Stobart and Ballina wetlands.

Work is currently underway to update IBA's in accordance with the global Key Biodiversity Area designation. This may present opportunities to designate lands within the City using this standard.

Noting that a major solar project was proposed for an area very close to Frank Lake. [This application has been rejected](#) by Alberta Utilizes Commission (AUC).

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [City of Calgary Parks](#)
- [Natural Area Management](#)
- [Ingllood Bird Sanctuary](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.6 NATIVE FLORA - MUNICIPAL LANDS

DESCRIPTION

Municipality promotes the importance of planting native local flora 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.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Through the development process, any area that is designated as an Environmental Reserve (ER) is required to remain natural, or if disturbed returned to natural using the Corporate Habitat Restoration Guidelines. Municipal Reserve lands adjacent to an ER are required to have native species and no invasive species are allowed in any reserve lands. Developers are required to provide Habitat Restoration Plans (HRP) for any disturbed Environmental Reserve lands. These plans are approved by City Parks Ecologists in Calgary Parks, Urban Conservation. Developers have access to The City of Calgary Plant Lists and City of Calgary Seed Mix guidelines that provide guidance on appropriate plants and seed mixes for Calgary's diverse habitats.

These documents also include information regarding methods for successful propagation. Additional information is also found in the most current Calgary Parks Development Guidelines and Standard Specifications: Landscape Construction (which is updated annual). The City also requires that these plans include site prep, meaningful targets and monitoring (including weed management). Sites are inspected by City Development Inspectors and must pass a final inspection prior to the lands being signed over to The City.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Habitat Restoration Plan Framework](#)
- [Calgary Seed Mix Guidelines](#)
- [City of Calgary Plant Lists](#)
- [Soil Handling Recommendations](#)
- [Calgary Parks \(current addition\) Development Guidelines and Standard Specification: Landscape Construction](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

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 national or international initiatives or local program that encourages increasing wildlife habitat on private land. This could include membership in a program like Bee City for example.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Ecoschools Canada is an environmental certification program that provides teachers with a framework to engage their students and entire school community in environmental and climate action projects. 50 schools in Calgary have signed up for this program. In addition, the City of Calgary participates in the Butterfly Flyway Project. Thanks to the efforts of concerned citizens, this project has helped to establish Alberta’s first official butterflyway: the Beddington Butterflyway. The City of Calgary is a certified ‘Bee-City’ and provides resources to encourage pollinator-friendly practices. Through this, two “Bee Boulevards” have been established. Belvedere Parkway became Calgary’s first Bee City School (2019); and University of Calgary and SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology) are Bee Campuses.

There are also a number of naturalization programs in place in addition to riparian restoration and invasive plant removal programs. See evidence box for examples.

Bird Friendly Calgary applied for a Nature Canada grant which includes funds to purchase packages of native plant seed to be used for education and use of Calgarians who attend the World Migratory Bird Day event in May 2023.

Finally, the City of Calgary has developed resources to help citizens naturalize their yards.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Ecoschools](#)
- [Butterfly Flyway Project](#)
- [Bee-City](#) (also [here](#), and [here](#))
- [Tree Management](#)
- [School Yard Naturalization Project](#)
- [Riparian Action Program](#) (Example 1, Example 2, Example 3, Example 4)
- [Invasive Plant Programs: Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society](#)
- [Friends of Fish Creek](#)
- [City of Calgary](#)
- [City resources for naturalizing yards](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.8 STOPOVER & NESTING HABITAT

DESCRIPTION

Bird City partner groups implement stewardship to increase or improve breeding or stopover habitat for bird 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 and shorebirds. Example actions including providing housing (e.g., maintained Purple Martin condos), and maintaining bird-friendly hay production.

SCORING INDICATORS

A point is awarded to cities in which there are active stewardship recover projects such as those suggested in the criterion description.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Calgary's focus for supporting birds is on habitat creation. This is done through restoration projects and the use of appropriate native vegetation. Parks have been prioritized for restoration based on their potential for supporting biodiversity and habitat connectivity. As can be seen in the Biodiversity Strategic Plan, the expansion of habitat and habitat connectivity is a key part of supporting biodiversity, including birds in the City. Whether at risk species will use Calgary for stopover or nesting may not be dictated by the availability of any habitat but rather

habitat size and disturbance. Bylaws preventing off leash dogs and encouraging people to stay on designated paths can lessen disturbance and increase the likelihood that at risk or sensitive species will stop in the City. One of our partners, the Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society works to educate people about the impact of our footprints and strongly encourages limited areas of use by domestic dogs in the park. Outside of the City, the Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area has a birdbox program which is currently being updated.

Bird Friendly Calgary and it's partner organizations use their respective social media and awareness forums to share information on developments which may impact habitat protection to encourage engagement with the community and support conservation efforts, such as #SaveNoseCreek, #SaveRicardoRanch, Frank Lake Solar Panel project (project near IPA) and #SaveTheRosebud (outside of Calgary).

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Natural Area Management Plan](#)
- [Bylaws and education relating to dogs in the City](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

SCORING

ENTRY

8 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE

11 points from at least 4 categories.

HIGH

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

HIGH SCORING

Points from 8 of the 8 possible categories are submitted as having achieved consideration.

Max Points Available	17
Points Submitted	17
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.1 WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

DESCRIPTION

Hold (and officially proclaim) a World Migratory Bird Day event annually to celebrate birds in your municipality.

SCORING INDICATORS

This is a mandatory action for this program. Cities must hold a Bird Day event to apply. To receive all 4 points, you must provide proof of the event and Mayor's or Council proclamation in support of Bird Day.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Calgary first celebrated World Migratory Bird Day in 2000. Celebrations have been hosted by the City for 18 years and plans are already underway for 2021 with consideration for COVID safety protocols. The events are hosted by Calgary Parks Environmental Education Team at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, with attendance of approximately 1500 visitors each year. The annual celebrations are advertised throughout the community and in the media.

Activities include guided walks, exhibitions, games, crafts, viewing birds through spotting scopes and education touch tables with biofacts.

In 2022 Bird Friendly Calgary took the opportunity to announce the winner of the City Bird Vote at a WMBD event held at the Weaselhead Natural Area.

Bird Friendly Calgary is working with TELUS Spark Science Centre to host a World Migratory Bird Day event on May 13th, 2023. This will include guided bird walks and information tables/activities that promote protecting birds from window collisions, naturalizing backyards and reducing light pollution. Bird Friendly Calgary is currently promoting a "Save the Night, Save the Birds" campaign to encourage the public and businesses to turn off unnecessary outdoor lighting from 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM during spring and fall migration. Thanks to a Nature Canada grant, we will be distributing Feather Friendly packages and native seeds to participants for further education and "call to action" opportunity in the community.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

See the following documents published by the City to support the events that take place:

- [2013](#)
- [2014](#)
- [2019](#)
- [Save the Night Save the Birds](#)
- [The votes are in....](#)
- [2023](#)



Max Points Available

4

Points Submitted

4

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.2 SCHOOLS, GROUPS & COMMUNITIES

DESCRIPTION

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. At least one school does a specific bird-related program such as Christmas bird count for kids or curriculum from Keep cats safe and save bird lives. Educational program must include specific elements designed to engage members of the public who could be considered underprivileged families and groups, racialized youth and recent arrivals to Canada.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide evidence in support of this level of outreach and engagement of children, youth and other target audiences. One point is awarded if there are local education facilities and institutions that include activities for children to observe and appreciate birds both in school and outside through an educational organization that offers nature programming to the public. Two points if there are specific bird-related nature programs for recent arrivals to Canada, underprivileged or racialized families. Three points if there is at least one school or organization that offers programming from the Keep cats safe and save bird lives curriculum. (<https://catsandbirds.ca/educational-resources/>)

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

There are currently several independent organizations that work to educate youth with regards to birds in a variety of contexts. Alberta's largest school board, The Calgary Board of Education incorporates responsible stewardship of the environment into the core principals of its curriculum and the Calgary Catholic School district includes environmental courses. As part of these programs, often schools with engage with non-profit organizations to collaborate on presentations or learning events and many of those involve discussions of birds. The Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation goes out to schools for presentations and incorporates keeping cats indoors, keeping birds safe into their discussions. The Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society also holds presentations in schools and adult presentations with three programs specifically geared towards birds, injuries that occur and how individuals can make a difference.

The Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area and Rothney Astrophysical Observatory provide educational programs for youth throughout the year including their dark sky presentations which discuss the dangers of light pollution to birds. The Cochrane Ecological Institute provides similar educational opportunities. The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) visits schools and hosts educational programs for youth and adults. They also have a program directly targeting new immigrants to Canada. While none of those programs are specifically about birds, they do include environmental stewardship messaging. The Weaselhead holds annual Christmas Bird Counts and hosts educational programs for youth which include information about birds. The Inglewood Bird Sanctuary holds a number of educational programs geared towards birds for schools, youth and adults. Additionally, the "Keep cats safe and save bird lives" curriculum is featured in programs at the AIWC, Weaselhead Preservation Society and Cochrane Ecological Institute.

(Continued on next page)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.2 SCHOOLS, GROUPS & COMMUNITIES (CONTINUED)

DESCRIPTION

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. At least one school does a specific bird-related program such as Christmas bird count for kids or curriculum from Keep cats safe and save bird lives. Educational program must include specific elements designed to engage members of the public who could be considered underprivileged families and groups, racialized youth and recent arrivals to Canada.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide evidence in support of this level of outreach and engagement of children, youth and other target audiences. One point is awarded if there are local education facilities and institutions that include activities for children to observe and appreciate birds both in school and outside through an educational organization that offers nature programming to the public. Two points if there are specific bird-related nature programs for recent arrivals to Canada, underprivileged or racialized families. Three points if there is at least one school or organization that offers programming from the Keep cats safe and save bird lives curriculum. (<https://catsandbirds.ca/educational-resources/>)

HOW CRITERIA IS MET (CONTINUED)

The City also has numerous school/youth programs, including: Group nature programs for children and youth, Bird Studies, Guided walks, Birdwatching course, and "BioBlitz" school programs.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- Calgary Board of Education
- Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation
- Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area
- Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society
- Cochrane Ecological Institute
- CPAWS: Register - Action Challenge
- City of Calgary
- Rothney Astrophysical Observatory: School Groups | Faculty of Science | University of Calgary
- The Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society

School/Youth Programs from City of Calgary:

- City of Calgary Group nature programs for children and youth
- Birdwatching courses – can be all ages or age-restricted
- School Program – BioBlitz

Max Points Available	3
Points Submitted	2
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.3 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

DESCRIPTION

College 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.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The University of Calgary and SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology) are Bee Campuses which provides habitat and mitigates threats to bees which also benefits birds. Mount Royal University campus contains several wetland areas which provide habitat and nesting areas for waterfowl.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

UofC's Bee Campus

SAIT's Bee Campus

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.4 PUBLIC ACCESS TO RESOURCES

DESCRIPTION

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

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).

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Calgary has several programs geared towards education regarding the use of native plants for biodiversity including resources related to Calgary's Bee City designation, yard smart program for homeowners and the backyard naturalization program. Other organizations that provide information regarding the benefit of native plants to biodiversity include: The Calgary Horticultural Club, the University of Calgary, Silver Springs Horticultural Club, Alberta Native Plant Council and Grow Wild YYC.

These events and programs are very successful in garnering public engagement and participation. See social and traditional media links below for just a few examples.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [City of Calgary](#) (also [here](#))
- It has established two 'Bee Boulevards'. See [Facebook page](#) for evidence of public engagement
- [City of Calgary Yardsmart](#)
- [City of Calgary Backyard Naturalization](#)
- [Calgary Horticultural Society](#). See [Facebook page](#) for evidence of public engagement
- [University of Calgary](#)
- [Silver Springs Botanical Gardens](#)
- [Alberta Native Plant Council](#)
- [Grow Wild YYC](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.5 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.)

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

As one example, the Calgary Migratory Species Response Team focuses their work on reducing window strikes for birds and bats. In Fall of 2019, we held a public event graciously hosted by St. Mary's University wherein we had several presentations and had a demonstration of a "layout" of the deceased birds collected during our Fall 2019 Survey. This was covered by several news agencies.

In March of 2020, just before Covid shutdown, the Wild Bird Store of Calgary kindly hosted Dr. Scott Lovell (Co-Founder of Calgary Migratory Species Response Team) who gave a presentation on our preliminary research on Window Strikes. To support this effort of educating the public on Window Strike abatement, artist and volunteer, TJ Timonera, was hosted at The Wild Bird Store with a public education display. Since Covid, we have not had public displays but did host a series of online Facebook live events to educate the public safely through virtual means. These educational programs will be restarting in May 2023 with the Calgary Public Library hosting.

The City of Calgary (World Migratory Bird Day), Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Calgary Centre, Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society and other partner groups also provide displays and events with the intent of educating the public on hazard reduction for birds and other wildlife.

(Continued on next page)



COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.5 PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

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.)

Due to continuation of Covid, and in consideration of the accessibility of virtual outreach, CUSRT completed several further "[Wildlife Wednesday](#)" events which were free, volunteer run, and all with the focus of supporting a Bird Friendly City:

- May 16, 2021: Alberta's Backyard Bees
- Jun 2, 2021: That's CoRvid, with an R
- June 9, 2021: Traditions Today
- June 16, 2021: Cats and Birds
- June 30, 2021: Residential School
- July 14, 2021: Daytime Wildlife Wednesday (ages 9-12)
- October 6, 2021: Where Rescue Meets Research
- October 20, 2021: Gardening for Wildlife: Leaving the Leaves
- October 27, 2021: iNaturalist
- November 10, 2021: Who are you? Bird ID 101
- November 17, 2021: Art meets Science & Nature
- September 21, 2021: Save Nose Creek
- September 28, 2021: Save The Rosebud
- October 5, 2022: Foothills Solar Project
- October 12, 2022: Explore NW Calgary's Hidden Hydrology
- October 19, 2022: Save Ricardo Ranch



In person:

- January 16, 2023: [John McFaul at Rotary Club](#)
- March 8, 2023: [Kathleen Johnson at Mount Royal University](#)
- March 20, 2023: Sara Jordan-McLachlan at Rotary Club
- March 26, 2023: [Sarah Nevill at Alberta Native Plant Council](#)

(Continued on next page)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.5 PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

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.)

News and Local Media:

Bird Friendly Calgary routinely puts out press releases and participates in media interviews to reach the public. We are very grateful for local (and not so local) media for providing these opportunities:

- April 4, 2023: [Simple steps can prevent bird deaths during coming spring migration](#)
- March 12, 2023: [Bird Friendly Windows](#)
- July 18, 2022: [Why North American bird populations are declining](#)
- June 10, 2022: [Canada's newest official bird joins the flock](#)
- June 8, 2022: [Calgary vote: Official bird is the Black-capped chickadee](#)
- May 15, 2022: [The votes are in, Calgary's official bird is...](#)
- May 15, 2022: [Calgary has an official bird now](#)
- May 14, 2022: [Tweet it out! Calgary names official bird](#)
- May 14, 2022: [Black-capped chickadee unveiled as Calgary's official bird](#)
- May 14, 2022: [Black-capped chickadee Calgary's official Bird](#)
- May 14, 2022: [Black-capped chickadee Calgary's official bird](#)
- May 14, 2022: [Black-capped chickadee unveiled as Calgary's official bird](#)
- May 14, 2022: [Black-capped chickadee unveiled as Calgary's official bird](#)
- April 30, 2022: [Final push to cast your vote for Calgary's official bird](#)
- April 12, 2022: [For the birds: Calgary votes for an avian ambassador](#)
- April 1, 2022: [Calgarians can now vote for City's official bird](#)
- April 1, 2022: <https://twitter.com/GlobalCalgary/status/1509707676699303944>
- April 1, 2022: [Calgarians can now vote for City's official bird](#)
- March 31, 2022: [Public vote for Calgary's official bird launched following council OK](#)
- March 31, 2022: [Birdwatchers hope Calgary contest promotes biodiversity protection](#)
- March 30, 2022: [Council invites Calgarians to chirp in on City's official bird](#)
- March 29, 2022 (re off leash dogs): [Calgary off-leash dog parks](#)
- March 17, 2022: [Calgary's official bird](#)
- July 22, 2021: [A Nature Canada initiative has certified Calgary as a bird friendly city](#)
- May 10, 2021 (re Osprey nest): [Calgary nest relocation may affect hawk survival](#)
- May 16, 2021: [Calgary certified as one of the first bird friendly cities in Canada](#)

Older:

- May 5, 2020: [How to prevent birds from flying into your windows](#)
- July 12, 2020: [Research shows bird populations are in decline](#)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.5 PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

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.)

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- **September 2, 2019:** [The shocking numbers of bird fatalities in Calgary by window strike](#)
- **October 30, 2019:** [Calgary volunteers track building strikes by migrating birds](#)
- **November 25, 2019:** [Calgary skyscrapers are killing birds — so volunteers are studying how to make downtown safer](#) (CBC - SARAH RIEGER)
- **November 25, 2019:** [Le centre-ville de Calgary : un environnement dangereux pour les oiseaux migrants](#) (CBC RADIO-CANADA – ÉMILIE VAST)
- **December 25, 2019:** [Volunteers count dead, injured birds and bats in downtown Calgary](#) (GLOBAL - CAROLYN KURY DE CASTILLO)
- **February 13, 2020:** [The terrible toll of bird collisions with modern buildings](#) (IRISH TIMES – AMY LEWIS)
- [TJ and Monique's Display at Dr. Lovell's talk](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.6 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 (served by public transit and/or bicycle and pedestrian trails). Digital 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.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The City of Calgary has several areas designed for Bird Watching including the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary which can be accessed by car, bike or walking (though, no cycling is permitted within the sanctuary). There are observation areas along the water and trails for people to follow throughout the Sanctuary that provide ample opportunity to observe a variety of bird species. Ralph Klein Park is also designed to be birdwatching destination. It is accessible by bike or car and has walkways available for people to walk through. There is extensive wetland coverage in the area and the building constructed in the Park is designed for people to birdwatch. The Weaselhead Natural Area and the connected Glenmore Park are accessible by transit, biking, walking or car. They are connected by a paved path that goes around the Glenmore reservoir.

There are also extensive trail networks in both parks for people to enjoy and birdwatch. People can also connect from there to nearby Fish Creek Provincial Park which is also accessible by transit, bike, walking or car. Bowmont and Nose Hill Parks are accessible by transit, car, bike or walking and provide both paved paths and more rugged trails for people to bird watch. These areas also include picnic sites so people can sit and observe as well. Calgary has over 551 natural area parks, many accessible by walking in a community (see map). All of these areas provide a diversity of habitat for birds and offer opportunity for birders to observe many species. Educational signs regarding birds are posted in the Weaselhead Natural Area, Glenmore Park and Fish Creek Park.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Inglewood Bird Sanctuary](#)
- [Ralph Klein Park](#)
- [Weaselhead / Glenmore Park](#)
- [Fish Creek Provincial Park](#)
- [Bowmont Park](#)
- [Nose Hill Park](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.7 LOCAL SPECIES REFERENCE LIST

DESCRIPTION

A Bird Team partner periodically publishes a "Bird checklist" for your city or town. This checklist should be easily available in digital form on the Internet. Alternatively, there are eBird hotspots in your City.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point based on proof that a local bird checklist exists in a published form or there are eBird hotspots in your city.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

There are local bird checklists published by Nature Calgary. See documentation for evidence. Birds are also frequently documented by citizen scientists on e-bird and iNaturalist.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Calgary and area bird checklist](#) (also see "CalgaryRegionChecklist.pdf" in resources folder)
- [Calgary eBird](#)



Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.8 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.). These businesses should be recognized on partner websites.

SCORING INDICATORS

To receive a point, you must provide proof that at least two businesses in your area have bird friendly practices. You must name the businesses and describe what bird-friendly practices they have.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Our team was able to find three examples of businesses that incorporate or are working towards bird friendly practices: 1. The Wild Bird Store sells products related to birds including specific bird seed mixes for Calgary's birds, made in-house suet, birdhouses and birdbaths. In addition, they sell products to help keep birds safe including cat bibs and UV markers for windows. They collaborate with groups including the Calgary Urban Species Response Team (CUSRT), Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC), Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (CWRS) and Wild About Flowers Native Plant Nursery to support birds in the community. 2. Paradise Mountain Coffee is roasted in Calgary and is a certified bird friendly coffee. 3. Good Earth Cafe is actively working to reduce the use of single use plastic, they have composting programs to reduce their overall waste, they plant trees and sell shade grown coffee which acts to maintain habitat for birds where their coffee is grown. Men in Kilts is a window-washing and home maintenance company who installs Feather Friendly window markings at residences on a trial basis. As of April 2023, they are still providing estimates to homes.

Bird Friendly Calgary is working with these and other businesses to encourage bird friendly practices, and to promote these businesses within and beyond Calgary.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Wild Bird Store](#)
- [Paradise Mountain Coffee](#)
- [Good Earth Cafe](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.9 CITY BIRD

DESCRIPTION

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

SCORING INDICATORS

To receive a point for this criterion, you must provide the name of the “City Bird” species, proof of its status, and evidence of the process to select it.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

The Black-capped Chickadee is now the official bird of Calgary. In 2022 Bird Friendly Calgary, with support from its partner agencies including the City of Calgary held a public vote to designate an official bird of Calgary. This was done through a two-part process; First we asked local birding and nature groups to suggest their top three candidate birds. The five species which received the most votes were shortlisted for a city-wide competition. During a month-long voting period, engagement was made with schools by providing information on our candidate birds and the public through news outlets and social media. When the vote was tallied, over 36,000 citizens participated. The result of the vote was: Black-capped Chickadee (44%), Black-billed Magpie (24%), Northern Flicker (17%), Blue Jay (8%) and Red-breasted Nuthatch (7%).

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- [Bird Friendly Calgary – City Bird Vote](#)
- [City of Calgary Engage](#)
- [Black-capped Chickadee Calgary’s Official Bird](#)

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.10 INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION

There are active citizen science programs to monitor birds in your municipality including Christmas Bird Count, Swift Night Out, and Marsh Monitoring, and Global Bird Rescue, which monitor birds on areas that include public land. Public participation in these programs is promoted on local media. Demonstrate 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 citizen science programs in your city and describe the level of public interest and engagement of target audiences.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Calgary has several community science programs in place including the Christmas Bird Count which has been ongoing for 65 years. In 2020 it attracted over 250 participants. In May there is the Calgary May Species Bird Count which has been ongoing for 41 years. In 2020 there were 109 participants. The City Nature Challenge takes place in Calgary each year and encourages people to document all nature around them on iNaturalist including birds. Finally, the Calgary Migratory Species Response Team is run by volunteer community scientists who go out and record window strikes during migration in downtown Calgary.

Bird Friendly Calgary is currently working on ways to ensure that these events are welcoming and accessible to underrepresented Calgarians, including underprivileged, racialized, and recent arrivals to Canada.

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

- Calgary Christmas Bird Count – 65 years, 250+ participants in 2020
- [Calgary May Species Bird Count](#) – 41 years, 109 participants in 2020 (also in "Calgary-May-Species-Count-for-Birds-2020.pdf" in [supporting documents folder](#))
- Calgary Bird Banding Society: [Calgary Bird Banding Society](#)
- Calgary Nature Challenge: [City Nature Challenge 2023 - Nature Calgary](#)
- [Calgary Migratory Species Response Team](#)
- [Global Bird Rescue](#): 2019 & 2020 - Calgary Migratory Species Response Team participated with community

Max Points Available	1
Points Submitted	1
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

SCORING

ALL LEVELS MUST DO 3.1

ENTRY

7 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE

9 points from at least 5 categories.

HIGH

12 points from at least 7 categories.

HIGH SCORING

Points from 9 of the 10 available categories are submitted as having achieved consideration. Criteria 3.1 (mandatory) achieved.

Max Points Available	15
Points Submitted	14
Points Awarded (for completion by Nature Canada)	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

MANDATORY CRITERIA

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	SUBMISSION COMPLETE?	CONFIRMED AS COMPLETE?
Mandatory	Establish a Bird Team (standing committee) to drive the project forward. Try to ensure that your team represents different perspectives and has a liaison with the municipality	Provide a list of the Bird Team members, affiliations and contact information.	Yes	
Mandatory	Provide evidence you have determined in which indigenous traditional territory (ies) your municipality occurs and that you are encouraging the participation and perspective of the local Indigenous community in the initiative.	Provide the name of the relevant Indigenous Nation (s) and report on the outcome of an invitation to participate in the initiative.	Yes	
Mandatory	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.	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).	Yes	
Mandatory	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.	Provide Annual Report card by (calendar year) by February 1.	Completed in 2022, reapplying for status in 2023.	
Mandatory	Include information about Bird Friendly City on the City website somewhere it can be easily found.	Provide a link and proof of posting.	Yes	
Mandatory	Complete a renewal application as required every 2 years to keep your status as "active."	Renewals are up to date. There will be a one-year grace period for a renewal to occur.	Yes	

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.

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

THREAT REDUCTION

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
1.1 Threat Reduction – Cats					
1.1 (A) Threat Reduction – Owned Cats	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. (2)	Proof of each action required. Two points per action. Generally, if you can demonstrate some level of progress for each action, you will be awarded one point. Two points will be limited to comprehensive efforts to address that one issue. For example, for (A) to get 2 points, you need to have a no-roam bylaw AND demonstrate both enforcement of the bylaw and an educational campaign to make cat owners aware of the bylaw.	2 Points	2 Points	
1.1 (B) Threat Reduction – Unowned Cats	(B) 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). (2)	Evidence of an active program to humanely reduce the number of unowned outdoor cats. 2 points will be awarded for broad, municipal-wide strategies and actions that can demonstrate progress on the goal.	2 Points	2 Points	
1.1 (C) Threat Reduction – Monitoring of Roaming Cats	(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. (2)	Proof of implementation of a cat counting/ estimating protocol to establish baseline numbers or to compare with baseline numbers will be awarded 2 points. Proof of intent to implement such a protocol gets one point.	2 Points	1 Point	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

THREAT REDUCTION

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
1.2 Threat Reduction - Window Collisions					
1.2 (A) Threat Reduction - Window Collisions - New Construction	<p>Demonstrate that your municipality is taking measures to reduce window collisions by:</p> <p>(A) Developing and implementing bird friendly design standards/CSA Bird Friendly Building Design standard for new construction (2)</p>	<p>Proof of each action required. Two points for (A); and one point for (B), (C) and (D).</p> <p>(A) refers to the municipality developing or adopting bird friendly or bird safe standards for new construction. One point is awarded if the standard is a guideline, two points if the standard is a requirement.</p>	2 Points	2 Points	
1.2 (B) Threat Reduction - Window Collisions - Existing and Proposed Municipal Buildings	<p>(B) Assessing and mitigating risk to birds from existing and proposed municipal buildings (1)</p>	<p>One point if individuals or a group monitors window collision, and/or assess risk by using BirdSafe, or a similar program.</p>	1 Point	1 Point	
1.2 (C) Threat Reduction - Windows Collisions - Education of property owners	<p>(C) Informing and educating property owners and tenants of existing buildings (including homeowners) of measures they can take to mitigate bird collision risk (1)</p>	<p>One point is awarded with evidence of educational campaigns focused on the broad public or specific neighbourhoods.</p>	1 Point	1 Point	
1.2 (D) Threat Reduction - Treated Windows - Baseline Data	<p>(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. (1)</p>	<p>Evidence of the database is provided.</p>	1 Point	0 Points	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

THREAT REDUCTION

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
1.3 Threat Reduction – Light Pollution					
1.3 (A) Threat Reduction – Light Pollution – Reduction Strategy (Migratory)	(A) Municipality has a light pollution reduction strategy and supports actions to reduce light pollution, particularly during migratory seasons.	One point is given upon evidence of a strategy to reduce light pollution.	1 Point	1 Point	
1.3 (B) Threat Reduction – Light Pollution – New Developments /Retrofit	(B) Light pollution mitigation standards for all new developments and/or retrofit program to replace streetlamps with energy-efficient shielded fixtures	One point given for either proof of mitigation standards (e.g., bylaw or guidance), and/or proof of a retrofit program (e.g., retrofitting standard streetlights with downward directional street lighting). To attain “high level” certification, there must be evidence of both standards for new development and a retrofit program.	1 Point	1 Point	
1.3 (A) Threat Reduction – Light Pollution - Outreach campaign	(C) Outreach campaign for residents and businesses to promote responsible light control practices within the municipality.	One point for educational and outreach campaigns to reduce light attraction during migration periods such as the “lights out Toronto” campaigns of the past.	1 Point	1 Point	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

THREAT REDUCTION

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
1.4 Threat Reduction – Pesticides					
1.4 Threat Reduction – Pesticide Use	Municipality has a policy to reduce or eliminate non-essential pesticide use that directly or indirectly harms birds, on public and private land that is implemented through local bylaws. This policy should include restrictions on pesticides used to control nuisance insects such as mosquitos (such as BTI) unless there is a demonstrated health risk (such as proof of West Nile in larvae).	Proof of the policy is provided. Examples of such policies would include a ban on cosmetic use of pesticides or the use of rodenticides when harm to bird populations has been demonstrated. The use of BTI to control mosquitoes and blackflies is controversial, in that it is increasingly used by municipalities to kill mosquitoes and fly larva in wetlands in response to neighbourhood pressure. There is strong evidence that this reduces the available food for aerial insectivores like swallows and has a negative impact on their populations.	1 Point	1 Point	
1.5 Threat Reduction – Plastics					
1.5 Threat Reduction – Plastics	Municipality takes regulatory measures and encourages voluntary measures to reduce the amount of plastic waste generated (e.g., banning of single use plastics).	Provide proof of regulatory (e.g. a municipal bylaw) and voluntary measures (e.g. a local business) such as a ban on single use plastics, shopping bags, plastic straws, etc.	1 Point	1 Point	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

THREAT REDUCTION

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
1.6 Threat Reduction – Vehicle Collisions					
1.6 Threat Reduction – Vehicle Collisions	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).	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.	1 Point	0 Points	
1.7 Threat Reduction – Habitat Disturbance					
1.7 Threat Reduction – Habitat Disturbance	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).	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. Provide evidence that important bird habitats/ biodiversity hotspots are recognized within an official policy document.	1 Point	1 Point	
SCORING	Entry – 9 points from at least 3 categories Intermediate – 12 points from at least 5 categories including at least 1 category worth 2 or more. High – 14 points or more. Must include at least 2 points in categories 1 and 2.		18 points	15 Points	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
2.1 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Natural Areas					
2.1 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Natural Areas	Natural areas within the municipal boundaries are protected within the Municipal Plan and there is a commitment to increase this area. Plan distinguishes between natural areas and other types of municipal space such as recreational parks.	Provide proof of the policy. To maintain this criterion, the city 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 the evidence of implementation and whether there are ambitious targets	3 Points	3 Points	
2.2 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Biological Diversity					
2.2 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Biological Diversity	Municipality has an official strategy to protect the biological diversity in its parks and natural areas. The strategy includes measures such as promoting connectivity between natural areas, buffering core biodiversity hotspots from harmful human activities, increasing the number of protected areas, and periodically monitoring birds on some city parks to assess the success of the strategy.	Provide proof of the strategy and its implementation. The strategy to protect 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 is awarded for having an official strategy (adopted by Council). Two points if the strategy has targets and metrics for success and there is evidence of implementation. Three points for cities 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).	3 Points	3 Points	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
2.3 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Climate Change Adaptation					
2.3 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Climate Change Adaptation	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 flood water, or planting trees to create shade and lower the surface air temperature.	Provide proof of the strategy and its implementation. One point if the City has an official strategy. Additional points are awarded based evidence of ongoing measures and actions.	3 Points	3 Points	
2.4 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency					
2.4 (A) Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Habitat - Trees / Urban Forest Canopy	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.	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 the numbers.	1 Point	1 Point	
2.4 (B) Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Snag protection	(B) leaving snags standing in cases where public safety is not jeopardized.	One point is based on evidence such as policy statements or evidence within management plans for natural areas.	1 Point	1 Point	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
2.4 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency (Continued)					
2.4 (C) Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Protection of Trees	(C) protecting trees on private and public lands; and	(C) refers to a tree bylaw that protects trees as a public value from private landowners cutting them down without permits.	1 Point	1 Point	
2.4 (D) Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Responsible Vegetation Management	(D) prohibiting active vegetation management during breeding season on municipal lands, including forests, storm-water management facilities, and easements.	For (D) a point is accorded if a city can demonstrate that its employees involved in active habitat management do not harm breeding birds or their habitat.	1 Point	1 Point	
2.5 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA)					
2.5 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA)	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.	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.	1 Point	1 Point	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
2.6 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Native Flora – Municipal					
2.6 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency - Native Flora – Municipal lands	Municipality promotes the importance of planting native local flora 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.	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.	1 Point	1 Point	
2.7 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Native flora - Community					
2.7 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Native Flora – Private Property	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.	One point if you provide evidence supporting “widespread community participation” in at least one national or international initiative or local program that encourages increasing wildlife habitat on private land. This could include membership in a program like Bee City for example.	1 Point	1 Point	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
2.8 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency – Stopover & Nesting Habitat					
2.8 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency -Stopover & Nesting Habitat	Bird Friendly City partner groups implement stewardship to increase or improve breeding or stopover habitat for bird 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 and shorebirds. Example actions including providing housing (e.g., maintained Purple Martin condos), and maintaining bird-friendly hay production.	A point is awarded to cities in which there are active stewardship recovery projects such as those suggested in the criterion description.	1 Point	1 Point	
SCORING	Entry - 8 points from at least 3 categories Intermediate - 11 points from at least 4 categories High - 14 points from at least 6 categories including at least 1 point from categories 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4.		17 points	17 Points	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
3.1 Community Outreach/ Education – Word Migratory Bird Day					
3.1 Community Outreach/ Education - World Migratory Bird Day	Hold (and officially proclaim) a World Migratory Bird Day event annually to celebrate birds in your municipality.	This is a mandatory action for this program. Cities must hold a Bird Day event to apply. To receive all 4 points, you must provide proof of the event and Mayor's or Council proclamation in support of Bird Day.	4 Points	4 Points	
3.2 Community Outreach/ Education – Schools, Groups & Community					
3.2 Community Outreach/ Education - Schools, Groups & Community	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. At least one school does a specific bird-related program such as Christmas bird count for kids or curriculum from Keep cats safe and save bird lives. Educational programs must include specific elements designed to engage members of the public who could be considered underprivileged families and groups, racialized youth and recent arrivals to Canada.	Provide evidence in support of this level of outreach and engagement of children, youth and other target audiences One point is awarded if there are local education facilities and institutions that include activities for children to observe and appreciate birds both in school and outside through an educational organization that offers nature programming to the public. Two points if there are specific bird-related nature programs for recent arrivals to Canada, underprivileged or racialized families. Three points if there is at least one school or organization that offers programming from the Keep cats safe and save bird lives curriculum.	3 Points	2 Points	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
3.3 Community Outreach/ Education – College and University Campuses					
3.3 Community Outreach/ Education - College and University Campuses	College 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.	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.	1 Point	1 Point	
3.4 Community Outreach/ Education – Public Access to Resources					
3.4Community Outreach/ Education – Public Access to Resources	Bird Team partners (including Municipality) provide public access to resources (web links, brochures etc.) that encourage and inform the public of 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).	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).	1 Point	1 Point	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
3.5 Community Outreach/ Education – Public Installations for Education					
3.5 Community Outreach/ Education - Public Installations for Education	Municipality and Bird Friendly 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.)	One point based on proof of installations (e.g. photographic evidence, or news stories.)	1 Point	1 Point	
3.6 Community Outreach/ Education – Accessible Bird-Watching Location(s)					
3.6 Community Outreach/ Education – Accessible Bird-Watching Location(s)	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. Digital information on birding areas should be easily available.	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.	1 Point	1 Point	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
3.7 Community Outreach/ Education – Local Species Reference List					
3.7 Community Outreach/ Education – Local Species Reference List	A Bird Team partner periodically publishes a “Bird Checklist” for your city or town. This checklist should be easily available in digital form on the Internet. Alternatively, there are eBird hotspots in your City.	One point based on proof that a local bird checklist exists in a published form or there are eBird hotspots in your city.	1 Point	1 Point	
3.8 Community Outreach/ Education – Local Bird Friendly Businesses					
3.8 Community Outreach/ Education -Local Bird Friendly Businesses	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.). These businesses should be recognized on partner websites.	To receive a point, you must provide proof that at least two businesses in your area have bird friendly practices. You must name the businesses and describe what bird-friendly practices they have.	1 Point	1 Point	

RUBRIC WITH SCORING

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	INDICATORS/EVIDENCE	POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS SUBMITTED	POINTS CONFIRMED
3.9 Community Outreach/ Education – “City Bird”					
3.9 Community Outreach/ Education – City Bird	You have a “City Bird” species that was selected through a public engagement process.	To receive a point for this criterion, you must provide the name of the “City Bird” species, proof of its status, and evidence of the process to select it.	1 Point	1 Point	
3.10 Community Outreach/ Education – Inclusive Community Science Programs					
3.6 Community Outreach/ Education – Accessible Bird-Watching Location(s)	There are active citizen science programs to monitor birds in your municipality including Christmas Bird Count, Swift Night Out, and Marsh Monitoring, and Global Bird Rescue, which monitor birds on areas that include public land. Public participation in these programs is promoted on local media. Demonstrate efforts to engage members of the public could be considered underprivileged, racialized or recent arrivals to Canada.	To receive one point, provide a list of bird-related citizen science programs in your city and describe the level of public interest and engagement of target audiences.	1 Point	1 Point	
SCORING	All levels must do 3.1 Entry - 7 points from at least 3 categories Intermediate - 9 points from at least 5 categories. High – 12 points from at least 7 categories.		15 points	14 Points	
GRAND TOTAL	Minimum scores to attain different levels Entry: 24/50 Points (48%) Intermediate: 32/50 Points (64%) High: 41/50 Points (80%)		50 points	46 Points	

BIRD FRIENDLY CALGARY

LIST OF MEMBERS, AFFILIATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION (M-1)

CURRENT AS OF: MAY 8, 2023

MAIN CONTACT: BirdFriendlyCalgary@gmail.com

CORE COMMITTEE

NAME	AFFILIATION
Ann Boerner	Calgary Urban Species Response Team
John McFaul	Nature Calgary
Kathleen Johnson	Calgary Urban Species Response Team
Laura Griffin	Mount Royal University
Maureen Luchsinger	Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society
Melanle Whalen	Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society & Calgary Urban Species Response Team
Roland Dechesne	Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Calgary Centre
Sara Jordan-McLachlan	BiodiverCity Advisory Committee & Calgary Urban Species Response Team
Sarah Nevill	Community Member
Jenifer Makar	The City of Calgary
Millie Coeling	Community Member

BIRD FRIENDLY CALGARY

LIST OF MEMBERS, AFFILIATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION (M-1)

SUPPORT TEAM

NAME	AFFILIATION
Alvin First Rider	Blood Tribe Land Management
Victoria Lukasik	Community Member
Kate Wagner	Calgary Urban Species Response Team
Ken Sanderson	Miistakis Institute
Monique Sereneo	Calgary Urban Species Response Team
Simone Lee	Calgary Climate Hub



CITY REPRESENTED: CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA

DATE OF SUBMISSION: MAY 8, 2023