

Information Report



Service Area	Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services
Date	Friday, October 8, 2021
Subject	Bird-friendly Design Guideline, Partial Completion of Natural Heritage Action Plan Priority Action 11

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the release of the Bird-friendly Design Guideline.

Key Findings

The [Natural Heritage Action Plan](#) identified the preparation of technical guidelines and standards as a priority to assist with the implementation of natural heritage-related Official Plan policy through the development process. The Bird-friendly Design Guideline is the first of several guidelines that Environmental Planning is working on to protect local biodiversity and improve the sustainability of development in Guelph.

The Bird-friendly Design Guideline will be in effect as of November 1, 2021 and will be applied to development applications through the site plan approval process going forward.

The release of the Bird-friendly Design Guideline aligns with the temporary artwork display that was installed on the arched window near the main entrance of City Hall by Bird Safe Guelph at the beginning of October.

Financial Implications

None.

Report

Details

To support mitigation and enhancement of the natural heritage system, the Bird-friendly Design Guideline builds upon the City of Guelph's [Guidelines for the preparation of Environmental Impact Studies](#), version 2 (April 2020), and the best lighting practices established in the City's [Lighting Guidelines for Lighting Plans](#) (2019) to provide an effective standard to reduce bird-window collisions in Guelph.

Official Plan policy 4.1.1.1 indicates that the City shall ensure the long term protection of the Natural Heritage System and associated ecological and hydrologic functions. The Bird-friendly Design Guideline helps to implement this policy.

The *Planning Act* (Section 41(4)(2)(d)) allows municipalities to require exterior elevation drawings for site plan approval. The Bird-friendly Design Guideline will be applied to exterior elevation drawings to improve sustainable building design.

The Bird-friendly Design Guideline applies to all development applications subject to site plan approval located within 120 metres (m) of the natural heritage system. The applicability of the guideline will be determined at the pre-consultation stage of development.

The guideline prescribes the treatment of exterior glass/glazing with visual markers to mitigate bird-window collisions. Bird-friendly design features are required to be highlighted on elevation drawings and through the completion of the Bird-friendly Design Guideline checklist. Illustrations are provided to depict the requirements for visual markers and the treatment of exterior glass/glazing. A map showing the area of application of the guideline is also provided.

Financial Implications

None.

Consultations

The Bird-friendly Design Guideline was prepared in consultation with an internal working group, including Environmental Planning, Urban Design, Landscape Planning and Development Planning staff from Planning and Building Services.

The Bird-friendly Design Guideline will be shared with the development industry at an information session.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Priority

Sustaining our Future and Building our Future

Direction

Plan and design an increasingly sustainable city as Guelph grows. Continue to build strong, vibrant, safe and healthy communities that foster resilience in the people who live here.

Alignment

The Bird-friendly Design Guideline aligns with “Sustaining our Future” by providing an implementation tool for increasing the sustainability of our city, and “Building our Future” by contributing to the building of strong, vibrant, safe and healthy communities that are inclusive of nature.

Attachments

Attachment-1: Bird-friendly Design Guideline

Departmental Approval

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