

# Bird Friendly City Certification

Committee of the Whole  
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# Bird population decline

- In the last 50 years, North American bird populations have declined by more than 25%
- Nature Canada's Bird Friendly City certification program
  - provides a standard for cities to achieve
  - raises awareness and contributes to action
  - celebrates local efforts

# What is a Bird Friendly City?

- Key threats to birds are mitigated
- Nature is protected and/or restored
- Residents birdwatch and monitor local bird populations
- Organizations host events to raise awareness and protect birds
- Municipal policies protect urban bird populations
- A Bird Team contributes to these initiatives

# What is the standard?

- The standard consists of a series of criteria or actions
- There are three major categories of criteria:
  - Reducing human-related threats to birds
  - Habitat protection, restoration and climate resiliency
  - Community outreach/education
- There are three levels of Bird Friendly City status:
  - “Entry status” is 50 per cent of possible points
  - “Intermediate status” is 65 to 80 per cent of possible points
  - “High status” is above 80 per cent
- Mandatory criteria must be met

# Mandatory criteria

- Establishment of Bird Team
- Indigenous Peoples, land and inclusion
- Formal municipal support
- Annual report
- City website
- Renewal application every two years

# Threat Reduction

- Measures to control and reduce populations of cats roaming at large
- Measures to reduce window collisions
- Measures to reduce light pollution
- Measures to reduce or eliminate non-essential pesticide use
- Measures to reduce the amount of plastic waste generated
- Measures to reduce bird collisions with vehicles
- Measures to prohibit or mitigate disturbance of birds from humans and/or their pets in natural areas

# Habitat Protection, Restoration and Climate Resiliency

- Natural area protection and expansion
- Climate change adaptation strategy
- Habitat management strategies
- Important Bird and Biodiversity Area
- Native plant-related initiatives
- Stewardship recovery projects for bird conservation priority species

# Community Outreach and Education

- World Migratory Bird Day event
- Opportunities to connect with nature
- University and college campus involvement
- Public access to resources
- Public installations for education
- Accessible bird-watching locations
- Local species reference list
- Local bird friendly businesses
- Selection of Guelph's City Bird
- Bird-related community science programs



# Natural Heritage Advisory Committee

- Guelph's Bird Friendly City application was brought to the NHAC on April 14, 2022

The following questions were asked of the Committee:


- Do you know of any initiatives that could be included in Guelph's Bird Friendly City application?
- Do you have any additional thoughts to share about Guelph's Bird Friendly City application?

# Guelph's Official Bird




- Black-capped Chickadee is Guelph's official bird (1,656 votes)
- Honourable mentions go to Chimney Swift (715 votes) and Green Heron (407 votes)
- "Friendly bird, friendly city"




# Guelph Bird Day



**Bird Safe Guelph**  
Education and action toward local bird conservation




**GUELPH**




**BIRD DAY**

Date: Saturday May 14th, 2022  
Time: 10am - 1pm  
Location: University of Guelph  
Arboretum, Conifer Site



For more information,  
check out  
[birdsafeguelph.ca/birdday2022](https://birdsafeguelph.ca/birdday2022)



# Thank you!

- [More information on the Bird Friendly City certification program](#)
- [More information on the scoring and evaluation of Bird Friendly City applications](#)