

Bird City Wisconsin

2017 High Flyer Flight Renewal Application

NEW!

→ Please *estimate* the total number of adults and children reached by your Bird City actions in 2016 (including your IMBD event).

NUMBER OF ADULTS: 254

NUMBER OF CHILDREN/YOUNG ADULTS: 75

→ Please *estimate* the total number of people who organized, managed, or volunteered in your 2016 Bird City activities. Please also *estimate* the total number of hours that they spent on those activities.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: 27

NUMBER OF HOURS: 140

Directions

- 1) Complete the Basic Requirements and High Flyer Requirements.
- 2) Definitions:
 - a. New: For all new actions you must provide documentation AND a brief narrative that summarizes the action.
 - b. Continuing: Actions that have continued unchanged since your previous application do not require documentation.
- 3) Renewal fee:
 - a. Renewal submitted on January 31, 2017: **\$125**.
 - b. Renewal submitted before January 31, 2017: **\$100**.
- 4) Payment:
 - a. **Make checks payable to "Milwaukee Audubon Society"** (checks payable to Bird City will be returned).
 - b. For personal checks, write the name of your community on the note/memo line
 - c. Mail payment to:
 - Bird City Wisconsin
 - C/o Milwaukee Audubon Society
 - 1111 E. Brown Deer Rd.
 - Bayside, WI 53217
- 5) Application Submission: Bird City prefers electronic applications submitted over email (BirdCityWisconsin@gmail.com). If this is not possible, please send your application to the address in 4c above.

Basic Requirements

(At least 7 of 22 overall while meeting category minimums)

Category 1: Creation and Protection of Habitat (*Check at least 3*)

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

Category 2: Participation in Programs Promoting Effective Community Forest Management (*Check at least 1*)

- A. Demonstrate that your community is a member of the National Arbor Day Foundation's program [Tree City USA](#).
New () Continuing (**X**)
- B. OTHER: Demonstrate in an attached narrative.
New () Continuing ()

Category 3: Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds (*Check at least 1*)

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

Category 4: Public Education (*Check at least 1*)

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

Category 5: Community Celebration of International Migratory Bird Day

(Provide 2017 IMBD resolution AND documentation of 2016 IMBD event)

- A. Resolution: Attach a copy of your community's officially-enacted *resolution* (not proclamation) recognizing IMBD in **2017**. If the resolution will be voted on after January 31, 2017, please submit a draft of the resolution and send the final version whenever it passes.
Attached (**X**)
- B. Provide documentation that describes your **2016** IMBD event (e.g., a few sentences about your event, an article, photos, etc.).
Attached (**X**)

High Flyer Requirements

(At least 5 of 17 from at least 2 categories)

Category 1: Creation and Protection of Habitat

- A. Show how and where the community has restored at least two acres of woodlands, wetlands, or prairie.
New () Continuing (**X**)
- B. Demonstrate how the community offers material assistance to property owners interested in removing invasive shrubs from woodlands.
New () Continuing ()
- C. Demonstrate or document a program similar to 1(B) for helping control other types of invasive species.
New () Continuing (**X**)
- D. Document a program to support the establishment of natural lawns and native landscaping.
New () Continuing ()
- E. Demonstrate the implementation of a program to preserve Chimney Swift roosting sites and/or to construct alternative Chimney Swift towers.
New () Continuing ()
- F. Document the establishment of a program to promote the conservation of Purple Martins through research, state of the art management techniques, or public education.
New () Continuing ()
- G. Show how the community aides the Boy/Girl Scouts and conservation groups in projects like establishing Bluebird Trails and erecting Wood Duck nesting boxes.
New () Continuing ()
- H. Demonstrate how a public golf course is managed to benefit birds.
New () Continuing ()

- I. Document that the community maintains a birding trail or "hot spot" location with educational signage and/or literature.
New () Continuing (**X**)

Category 2: Participation in Programs Promoting Effective Community Forest Management

- A. Document an ongoing community program to incorporate native hardwood trees and native shrubs in public landscaping.
New () Continuing ()

Category 3: Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds

- A. Document laws or regulations in place to eliminate feral cat populations.
New () Continuing ()
- B. Demonstrate that the community enforces a law or regulation that requires domestic cats to be kept indoors or in an enclosure that prevents them from preying on native birds.
New () Continuing ()
- C. Show how the community regulates construction and siting of communication towers to mitigate their risk to migrating birds.
New () Continuing (**X**)
- D. Document that the community operates a "Lights Out for Birds" program to dim the lights of tall buildings to reduce collisions and save birds' lives during spring and fall migration.
New () Continuing ()
- E. Show how the community supports a bird collision monitoring program and/or offers information and material for preventing window collisions in homes and commercial establishments.
New () Continuing ()
- F. Document that your community has registered public buildings (e.g. city/town/village hall) in the Wisconsin Humane Society's [Wings BirdSafe Business](#) program (read the entire page, but specifically see "Things that can be done at businesses").
New () Continuing (**X**)

Category 4: Public Education

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

Additional Information

Please update your contact information for the **two** parks, forestry, environmental, or other community officials who are the best follow-up contacts to deal with questions regarding this application.

Name: Lewis Kuhlman Title: Associate Planner

Address: 400 La Crosse Street City, Zip: La Crosse, WI 54601

Phone Number: (608) 789-7361 E-mail: kuhlmanl@cityoflacrosse.org

Name: Jason Gilman Title: Director of Planning and Development

Address: 400 La Crosse Street City, Zip: La Crosse, WI 54601

Phone Number: (608) 78907362 E-mail: gilmanj@cityoflacrosse.org

Conservation projects benefit from strong partnerships. Please identify your community partners, including a contact person and email for each:

Outdoor Recreation Alliance, Marvin Wanders, (608) 782-7368

Coulee Region Audubon Society, Dan Jackson, (608) 483-2271

WI DNR, Craig Thompson, (608) 785-1277

WisCorps, Stephanie Hanna, (608) 782-2494

USGS, Jennifer Herner-Thogmartin, (608) 781-6348

Application Checklist

Did you remember to:

- () Send your payment?
- (X) Check all of the criteria met by your community (and only those criteria)?
- () Attach your **2017** IMBD resolution (or a draft) and a summary of your **2016** IMBD event?
- () Update your community's narrative? (The narrative is provided by Bird City Wisconsin. Please contact us at director@birdcitywisconsin.org if you do not have a copy of this Microsoft Word document.)

Resolution endorsing La Crosse's annual application as a Bird City and for the High Flyer Award from Bird City Wisconsin in 2017 and supporting the annual International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) at Myrick Park.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, migratory birds are some of the most beautiful and easily-observed wildlife sharing our communities, and many citizens recognize and welcome migratory songbirds as symbolic harbingers of spring; and

WHEREAS, these migrant species also play an important economic role in our community, controlling insect pests, pollinating plants, dispersing seeds; and

WHEREAS, National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation in 2011 states, "residents and nonresidents spent \$5.5 billion on wildlife recreation in Wisconsin. Of that total, trip-related expenditures were \$1.2 billion and equipment expenditures totaled \$3.1 billion. The remaining \$1.2 billion was spent on licenses, contributions, land ownership and leasing, and other items."

WHEREAS, climate change, habitat fragmentation caused by urbanization, wetland reduction, and deforestation within breeding habitats and along migration routes deplete ecological diversity and diminish the survival of migratory birds throughout the Americas; and

WHEREAS, public awareness is a crucial component of migratory bird conservation ensuring citizens are informed about the threats they face, and to educate the public so that informed decisions are made in land use practices, energy consumption, purchasing goods that deplete habitat, and in legislation to mitigate such threats; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain its Bird City designation, the City is called upon to protect bird habitat, participate in programs promoting effective community forest management, limit and remove hazards to birds, participate in public educational outreach, and adopt a resolution saying as such annually; and

WHEREAS, in La Crosse, International Migratory Bird Day is celebrated each year on the first Saturday in May, where people of all ages from around the area will gather in Myrick Park to learn about birds, foster wild bird appreciation, support migratory bird conservation, and produce a call to action.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse, that it hereby endorses the City's application as a Bird City and as a High Flyer and take necessary measures needed to qualify for these designations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED in coordination with the Planning Department, Park and Recreation Department, and the Information Systems Department, the City Hall will add content to the City's website promoting bird conservation practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City recognizes International Migratory Bird Day celebrated annually in Myrick Park and that it will work with local IMBD organizers as appropriate to enable its continuation.



Contact: Stephanie Hanna
789 Myrick Park Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601
Office: (608)782-2494
Cell: (608)769-5766
steph.hanna@wiscorps.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration

LA CROSSE, WI, May 7, 2016 – WisCorps, Coulee Region Audubon Society, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey and the City of La Crosse are hosting an International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) celebration at the Myrick Park Center on Saturday May 7, 2016 from 6:30 am – 1 pm. This entirely FREE event includes a sunrise birding hike, bird banding demonstration, family-friendly birding walks, live raptor (hawk) presentation by Raptor Education Group Inc., and bird-themed crafts and games. All ages, abilities, and families are welcome to participate in all activities. Find the schedule at: <https://lacrossebirdday.wordpress.com/>

This year marks the Centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty, a landmark agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico to protect our shared migratory birds. This day brings awareness of over 350 migratory bird species, including many that depend on preservation efforts for their survival. IMBD is the largest-known conservation and education event of its kind in the Western Hemisphere with over 500 events now being hosted from South America to Canada. The partnering sponsors have been instrumental in migratory bird protection, monitoring, and habitat conservation while educating communities about how they can participate.

- WHO:** For families and friends of all ages and abilities
WHAT: International Migratory Bird Day Celebration
WHEN: Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 6:30am to 1pm
WHERE: At the Myrick Park Center: 789 Myrick Park Dr., La Crosse, WI 54601
WHY: Have fun while learning about migratory birds and their importance

Questions regarding the event should be directed to Stephanie Hanna, WisCorps Education Manager, (608)782-2494 or (608)769-5766, steph.hanna@wiscorps.org

Community Narrative Update

Highlights of La Crosse's Bird Conservation Efforts

Category 1: Creation and Protection of Habitat

1A. The City of La Crosse's Website states that, "The 1999-2001 Wisconsin Biennial budget included legislation requiring all Cities, Villages, and Towns to adopt comprehensive plans by 2010. Under the Comprehensive Planning and "Smart Growth" Legislation all jurisdictions will prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan with at least nine elements. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2010, any community that makes land-use decisions is required to base those decisions on its adopted comprehensive plan. Each element of the plan will include background information, objectives policies and goals, programs, and a portrayal of what those aspects of the community are planned to look like when the target year arrives (2020 for the La Crosse Comprehensive Plan)." Not only does the City meet the nine elements that are required by state law; it added an additional five elements to its comprehensive plan.

1C. Lower Pool 7 and Upper Pool 8 of the [Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge](#) are located along the La Crosse portion of the Mississippi River. This federally protected area provide habitat for many species of migratory birds. Several areas within La Crosse's city limits are included within the boundaries of the refuge.

1G. Several of La Crosse's parks and trails have Great Wisconsin Bird and Nature Trails (GWBNT) designation. The GWBRT [website](#) gives a brief description of what the parks/trails has to offer.

1H. Since 2002, the City of La Crosse has been in partnership with the Mississippi Valley Conservancy (MVC) to purchase and preserve the local bluff lands through the La Crosse Bluffland Protection Project. According to the Mississippi Valley Conservancy [website](#), "The program provides scenic preservation to ensure that beauty of the landscape is not destroyed by poorly-planned development, as well as protecting rare natural communities like bluff prairies and providing a marvelous outdoor recreational resource." An indirect effect of this conservation effort is that it enlarges the habitat for local and migratory birds.

Category 2: Participation in Programs Promoting Effective Community Forest Management

2A. The La Crosse area has a longstanding tradition of promoting effective and responsible land use. This point can be demonstrated by the volume of natural habitat for local wildlife that surrounds the city. The City of La Crosse has been a Tree City for 25 years.

Category 3: Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds

3A. [Sec. 6-36](#) of the municipal code requires cats are licensed and have permit tags. [Sec.6-38](#) requires all cats to be kept under restraint, either on a leash not exceeding six feet in length or within an enclosed yard. The City will begin distributing the [Cats, Birds, and You](#) brochure with Cat license renewals.

Category 4: Public Education

4D. La Crosse has been represented in both the Great Backyard Bird Count and the Christmas Bird Count for numerous years.

Category 5: Community Celebration of International Migratory Bird Day

Myrick Park has hosted International Migratory Bird Day events annually since 2008. This event featured guided birds walks, a family-oriented bird walk, bird banding with USGS and USFW scientists, bird-themed activities and crafts, a raptor presentation and a visit with the raptors.

High Flyer Achievements

6 Criteria Accomplished

Category 1: Creation and Protection of Habitat

1A. The community has restored at least two acres of woodlands, wetlands, or prairie. The Mississippi Valley Conservancy has restored over two acres of prairie land in the city of La Crosse. In their 2009 Grant Report to the Stry Foundation, they describe the type of restoration work that they have done in the Juniper Partners Tract in La Crosse.

1C. The municipality has a similar program for helping control of other types of invasive species. The Mississippi Valley Conservancy has a program to help control invasive plants on the lands they maintain in the city.

1I. The community maintains a birding trail or “hot spot” location with educational signage and/or literature. The city maintains trails in the La Crosse marsh that includes informational signs and maps. The Coulee Audubon’s Marsh Map illustrates the trails and bird observation points.

Category 3: Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds

3C. The City is in the process of updating its zoning ordinance. The current zoning ordinance has regulations for Wireless Communication Facilities, but the city has included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s “Service Guidance on the Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of Communications Towers”.

3F. The community has registered as a bird safe community on the Wisconsin Humane Society/Wildlife Rehabilitation Center [website](#). The Planning Staff has registered La Crosse’s City Hall as a Bird-Safe Building with the Wisconsin Humane Society.

Category 4: Public Education

4A. The community is active in raising awareness of its bird assets. The Coulee Region Audubon Society does a lot to raise awareness of La Crosse’s bird assets. It regularly holds birding hikes to Myrick Marsh and Hixon Forest. While no sightings occurred in 2013, there have been reports of the threatened Bell’s Vireo in the marsh. Fortunately, the Golden-winged Warbler, a species of concern has been spotted on these hikes.

[The Mississippi Explorer](#) also helps raise awareness of their bird assets. It is a pontoon boat based in La Crosse during the warm season that takes people on guided backwater wildlife cruises. The naturalist onboard teaches about the natural history of the river and identifies numerous Bald Eagle nests that are located along the river.