

Resolution endorsing the annual submittal of the City of La Crosse's "Bird City" application to Bird City Wisconsin for 2013 and supporting the annual International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) at Myrick-Hixon Eco Park

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, migratory birds are some of the most beautiful and easily observed wildlife that share 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, wildlife watchers in Wisconsin spent \$745 million in retail sales, \$111 million in state and local taxes, and \$91.3 million in federal taxes, as well as created a total multiplier effect of \$1.2 billion according to the most recent National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation in 2006.

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 meet requirements of a Bird City, the City is required annually to adopt a Resolution and submit an application to maintain its Bird City designation and the City is called upon to protect bird habitat, participate in programs promoting effective community forest management, limit and remove hazards to birds, and participate in public educational outreach; and

WHEREAS, in North America, IMBD is held each year on the second Saturday in May, where thousands of people across the country will gather in town squares, community centers, schools, parks, nature centers, and wildlife refuges 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 take necessary measures needed to qualify for this designation (see attached application form).

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 the Park and Recreation Department assist in installing Bird City signs, and to work with area schools and universities, Myrick-Hixon Eco Park, and the Audubon Society to assist in creating educational displays at area parks and conservation areas where appropriate and that the City recognizes the International Migratory Bird Day held annually at Myrick-Hixon Eco Park.