

Resolution endorsing La Crosse's annual application for the High Flyer Award from Bird City Wisconsin in 2020 and supporting the annual International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) celebration 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."; and

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 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.