



Our Mission: *To foster an environment of economic growth and opportunity through effective partnerships with our citizens, businesses, and visitors while maintaining a high standard for quality of life in a progressive community which embraces its heritage.*

**City of Oregon
Tree Board Agenda
Tuesday, March 18th, 2025 @ 4:30 pm.**

**115 N 3rd Street
City Hall Conference Room**

Public Comment

1. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes of November 19th, 2024
2. New Business
 - a. OCSWD Tree Sale
 - b. How To: Review/Approve Tree List
 - c. Bird City Network
 - d. Education Material for Spring
 - e. Arbor Day Celebration Discussion
3. Old Business
4. Adjournment

Future Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday May 20th – 4:30pm
- Tuesday July 15th – 4:30pm
- Tuesday September 16th – 4:30pm

The City of Oregon, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that persons with disabilities, who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in the meeting(s) or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting(s) or facilities, contact the City Manager Darin DeHaan at 815-732-6321 at least 24 hours before a scheduled meeting to allow the city to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.

Chairperson: Mark Herman
Secretary:
Jordan Plock, Street Foreman
Bill Covell, Dir. Of Public Works (Ex-officio)

Tyler Hagemann
Grant Afflerbaugh
Caleb Jenks
Darin DeHaan, City Manager (Ex-officio)

Tree Board Minutes
Tuesday November 19th, 2024, 4:30 pm
115 N 3rd Street

City Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Grant Afflerbaugh, Bill Covell, Darin DeHaan, Mark Herman, Cheryl Hilton, Caleb Jenks, Jordan Plock, and Quentin Snook.

Mark Herman called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

No public comment.

Bill Covell moved to approve the October 15th, 2024 minutes, Seconded by Mark Herman.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Updates of Fall Tree Planting & Educational Material for Spring: Bill Covell provided a list of locations where trees will be planted before the end of the year. The city has a significant amount of public property for tree plantings. The committee also discussed the tree replacement program and how to educate residents on the program. They discussed planting trees in higher visibility locations, using social media to promote tree plantings, and providing a placard or temporary sign at the location of the tree planting providing information about the program.

Review/Update Approved Tree List: Mark Herman gave a brief synopsis of how the original list was created. They discussed reaching out to Morton Arboretum for a list of trees they recommend. Quentin Snook said he could contact the regional forester to see what they recommend.

Approve 2025 Meeting Dates: The Tree Board is required to hold four meetings a year as a requirement for the Tree City USA designation. An Arbor Day event is also required.

Mark Herman moved to approve the meeting dates for 2025 as March 18th, May 20th, July 15th, and September 16th, 2025, Seconded by Bill Covell.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Other business: Darin DeHaan spoke about the Growth Award. He said part of the award is collaboration. He said the city could partner with the Oregon Park District for any upcoming tree plantings. Caleb Jenks stated the Oregon Park District will be holding an Earth Day event next year where someone from the Tree Board could provide educational materials.

Mark Herman moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 pm, Seconded by Jordan Plock.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Submitted by Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk.



<https://birdcity.org/illinois/pdf>

How to apply for designation

All applications and renewals must be submitted ONLINE.

Contact us to set up an account.

BIRD CITY ILLINOIS - REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 9 actions are required to be a Bird City in Illinois

- (1) Action 3.7.1 from Category 3 (Bird City Illinois Resolution)
- (3) At least 3 actions from Category 1 (Habitat)
- (2) Both actions from 3.1 (World Migratory Bird Day - Adopt a proclamation to recognize WMBD AND hold a public event to celebrate WMBD)
- (3) At least 3 more actions from any of the categories: Category 1 (Habitat), Category 2 (Threats to Birds), Category 3 (Education and Engagement), Category 4 (Sustainability)

Before you submit, please make sure to:

- Include a narrative statement for each action and, where appropriate, documentation and photographs that support the narrative.
- Provide any additional required information and have a municipal employee or elected official sign and date your application.
- Initiate payment (\$200) once your application has been confirmed as received. Instructions for payment will be provided at that time.

NOTE: World Migratory Bird Day proclamation and a summary of events must be submitted annually.



1 . Habitat

1 . 1 . Promote best management of community habitat

1 . 1 . 1 - Community has assessed all natural areas, developed a habitat master plan to create additional natural areas and habitat corridors connecting them.

1 . 1 . 2 - Document that current community planning seeks to provide additional bird habitat.

1 . 1 . 3 - Demonstrate through public documents or publicity that the local Audubon chapter (or a similar group) takes an active role in the planning process for protecting and enlarging favorable bird habitat.

1 . 1 . 4 - Demonstrate that your community understands the critical ecological role of pollinators by documenting your Bee City USA status or by describing another substantial effort to promote pollinator health such as participating in the Illinois Monarch project.

1 . 1 . 5 - Demonstrate that your community has been awarded Tree City USA status by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

1 . 2 . Create and protect habitat

1 . 2 . 1 - Document a recent project that created or restored bird habitat in your community. How many acres or square footage did that include?

1 . 2 . 2 - Create and maintain a public demonstration garden including native plants to benefit birds, wildlife, and ecosystems. Select a highly visible location, consider signage and / or messaging about the space / process, plan for maintenance and monitoring.

1 . 2 . 3 - Demonstrate how a public golf course is managed to benefit birds.

1 . 2 . 4 - Show that your community maximizes the value of right-of-way space (e.g., power lines, pipelines, etc.) by planting them with native grasses, shrubs, herbs, and other prairie/grassland plants.

1 . 2 . 5 - Provide evidence (e.g., official designation of natural areas, easements, etc.) that existing bird habitat within community limits has legal protection. (Exclusions: Leash laws; prohibitions against disturbing nests and wildlife; areas consisting primarily of mowed grass)

1 . 3 . Promote native plants



1 . 3 . 1 - Document a program to support the establishment of natural lawns and native landscaping, by offering training (e.g. presentations, workshops, workdays) on native plantings for birds, pollinators, water quality. Examples can include public presentations of Audubon's Plants for Birds Initiative or Homegrown National Park.

1 . 3 . 2 - Work with local growers and suppliers to increase / ensure supply of locally appropriate native plants. Cultivate and publicize reliable suppliers. Organize, support or promote native plant sales.

1 . 3 . 3 - Attach a copy of a local ordinance demonstrating that your community does not restrict natural/native landscaping that emphasizes native plants and non-turf lawns. Consider improving existing regulations to improve emphasis on natives.

1 . 4 . Control invasive plants

1 . 4 . 1 - Show how the community offers the public information on control and removal of invasive species.

1 . 5 . Provide nesting habitat

1 . 5 . 1 - Develop and manage a program to create and monitor nest structures.

1 . 6 . Support focal species

1 . 6 . 1 - Document the establishment of a program to promote the conservation of a specific species of birds such as Purple Martins, Chimney Swifts, Peregrine Falcons, or American Kestrels through public education, preservation of nesting locations or constructing nest sites.

1 . 7 . Ensure clean water in natural waterways

1 . 7 . 1 - Bring community stakeholders together to discuss and plan projects for conserving water and improving water quality.

1 . 7 . 2 - The community has established a storm water management program that reduces polluted runoff and ensures protection for wetlands (including riparian and other aquatic ecosystems) and also promotes use of native plantings to accomplish management goals.

1 . 7 . 3 - Reduce sources of water pollution through clean-up events, identification and mitigation of run-off and/or point sources, and promoting regulation to control these inputs.

2 . Threats to Birds

2 . 1 . Address disturbance by harmful species



2 . 1 . 1 - Describe your community's educational program to control free-roaming cats and/or the manner in which you actively publicize the Cats Indoors! Initiative.

2 . 1 . 2 - Limit disturbance of birds from humans and/or pets in natural areas by enforcing leash laws, exclusion zones and pet waste disposal rules, especially during certain seasons (breeding, stopover).

2 . 1 . 3 - Discourage or prohibit feeding where disease might be a risk for wild or domestic birds.

2 . 2 . Address collisions with glass

2 . 2 . 1 - Demonstrate that your community provides property owners with information on how to protect birds from window strikes (e.g., online links, brochures).

2 . 2 . 2 - Document that a municipal or major public building has been awarded LEED certification as a bird-friendly building (LEED SSpc 55 or comparable).

2 . 2 . 3 - Attach your community's ordinance that requires new buildings to be built following bird-safe design, construction, and operation guidelines (e.g., Toronto Green Standard, see Ecology: Bird Deterrence; San Francisco).

2 . 3 . Address light pollution

2 . 3 . 1 - Provide information about the impact of light pollution and how residents and businesses can reduce artificial light at night (ALAN).

2 . 3 . 2 - Inventory all municipal lighting (building, facility, street) for Dark Sky compliance, develop a plan including timeline and priority actions.

2 . 3 . 3 - Document your community's strategy to reduce light pollution and encourage broad participation, particularly during migratory seasons.

2 . 3 . 4 - Document that your community has outdoor lighting regulation(s) to reduce the impacts of light pollution such as requiring Dark Sky compliant bulbs and fixtures for all or certain buildings and requiring operational approaches such as following established "Lights Out" protocols, especially during migration.

2 . 4 . Address direct human-related threats

2 . 4 . 1 - Implement actions to reduce pollution and associated entanglement and ingestion risks (e.g. fees or bans on single-use plastics, secure collection for fishing line / trash, clean up events).



2 . 4 . 2 - Regulate siting, construction, and operations of infrastructure (e.g. solar, power, communications, wind, transportation including roads and bridges) to reduce risk to birds.

2 . 5 . Address the threat of pesticides and other toxins

2 . 5 . 1 - Create and conduct an educational campaign on the impacts of pesticides and herbicides on bird populations and include practical information on solutions including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and other natural controls.

2 . 5 . 2 - Encourage and promote the use of non-lead tackle and ammunition. Work with local sportsman's clubs to include related education in hunter education / gun safety.

2 . 5 . 3 - Reduce toxins / hazards by providing for and / or coordinating cleanup of lead ammunition on gun ranges and / or lead tackle (and fishing line) at fishing areas.

2 . 5 . 4 - Show that your municipality practices Integrated Pest Management or comparable, using natural pest control and the best available science to minimize pesticide and herbicide use.

2 . 5 . 5 - Ban the sale and private, agricultural and municipal use of specific toxic pesticide and herbicide products. Examples include the herbicide glyphosate (Roundup), as well as chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoid pesticides.

2 . 5 . 6 - Prohibit the use of lead ammunition and tackle on municipal land or more broadly within your community.

3 . Education & Engagement

3 . 1 . Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day

3 . 1 . 1 - Proclamation: Attach a copy of your community's officially-enacted WMBD proclamation. The proclamation must be presented annually. (MANDATORY)

3 . 1 . 2 - Host a World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) event annually to celebrate birds in your community and to raise awareness of migratory birds, threats to their populations, and ways you can help to protect them. Your WMBD may be an education program, an educational bird walk, and/or a festival. It should incorporate the current conservation theme and may include components of past themes. For this event, birds must be the focus and should not be tagged onto other events. In your narrative, include 1) the date, timing, and 2) description of the event and 3) detail how you incorporated the WMBD theme. 4) Please register your event and include a link to your event on the WMBD map in your narrative. Timing and scope of event TBD locally. (MANDATORY)

Find current theme materials and register your event at <https://www.migratorybirdday.org/>



3 . 2 . Increase awareness of birds and their habitats

3 . 2 . 1 - Provide web links or a community newsletter demonstrating that your community educates property owners on methods to create and enhance backyard habitat for birds.

3 . 2 . 2 - Educate the community about bird conservation issues, the actions the community has taken / is taking, and actions that can be taken at home.

3 . 2 . 3 - Demonstrate that your community actively raises awareness of its bird assets. Examples include placing a remote web camera on a nest platform, offering regular, public bird watching field trips, promoting Important Bird Areas (IBAs), birding hotspots, birding trails and phenomena (e.g., raptor, waterfowl, or songbird migration, congregating), in your area and/or creating a significant educational resource on your community's bird life.

3 . 2 . 4 - Develop a birding checklist for your area and make it available to citizens and tourist outlets in print and/or online. Consider working with students and/or community to create.

3 . 2 . 5 - Provide a link to your community's Bird City Illinois webpage, which must be visible from the main page of your municipal website (it may be located at the first level of a drop-down menu on the main page but cannot be any less visible) OR demonstrate that your Bird City effort has a significant social media presence.

3 . 2 . 6 - Create and distribute regular bird and bird conservation related content for online and news media (newsletters, blog posts, press releases, social media posts).

3 . 2 . 7 - Describe your community-sponsored environmental festival, such as an Earth Day, Conservation, or Sustainability event, with a bird education component. (This is in addition to WMBD).

3 . 2 . 8 - The community provides information regarding safe and responsible wildlife rescue & assistance, including contact information for aligned organizations & locally permitted wildlife rehabilitators.

3 . 2 . 9 - Document that your community maintains a birding trail or hot spot location with educational signage and/or literature. (Note: A birding hotspot alone is not sufficient – your community must actively promote birding and public education at the site itself.).

3 . 2 . 10 - Promote birding and enhance amenities at one or more birding locations. Examples include: facilitating early / off hours, access to restricted areas, improved signage, enhancing amenities (trails, blinds, observation towers, boardwalks, decks), improving security.



3 . 2 . 11 - Document that a municipal building has significant bird-friendly landscaping that features native plants AND signage that explains the importance of native plants and providing diverse habitat for birds (e.g., brush piles, water features).

3 . 2 . 12 - Encourage public art focused on birds through installments, awards, events, competitions.

3 . 2 . 13 - Create, support, or assist an injured bird response team to help licensed rehabilitators in taking calls and responding to reports of injured birds.

3 . 3 . Educate and engage all ages

3 . 3 . 1 - Document a substantial regular educational program appropriate for children, youth, and families on any bird and conservation related programs, such as climate change, energy efficiency, green/bird-safe buildings, or environmental sustainability, etc.

3 . 3 . 2 - Demonstrate that schools in your community participate in a nationally-recognized environmental/bird-related education program (e.g., Flying WILD, Audubon Adventures), incorporate such curriculum into their formal and informal learning environments, or that your community organizes its own substantial conservation education and outreach program for young people.

3 . 3 . 3 - Show how your community aids a local youth group (e.g., Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of USA, 4-H Club, etc.) or conservation group in bird conservation projects (e.g., bluebird trail or nest box monitoring, habitat restoration, Wood Duck nest boxes, bird surveys, etc.).

3 . 3 . 4 - Demonstrate that your community's academic / corporate / community campuses have adopted practices that establish bird habitat and/or actively reduce threats to birds, ideally including students / employees / members.

3 . 4 . Ensure access to nature

3 . 4 . 1 - Plan and budget for parks, green spaces, water features, trails and habitat connections in all new development areas, and especially where such spaces and connections are lacking.

3 . 4 . 2 - Show that your community works with traditionally underserved communities to increase their access to natural areas, environmental education, birding resources, and conservation activities.

3 . 4 . 3 - Create demonstration bird-friendly landscape(s) on community property accessible by diverse groups.



3 . 4 . 4 - Offer multilingual programs and/or materials at environmental events.

3 . 4 . 5 - Develop one or more accessible nature / birding sites for visitors regardless of physical abilities.

3 . 4 . 6 - Identify and address other barriers to nature / birding access (e.g. hazardous plants, insects, animals, roads, areas).

3 . 5 . Involve the community in conservation and stewardship

3 . 5 . 1 - Designate a community mascot or city bird species selected through a public engagement process.

3 . 5 . 2 - Highlight traditional knowledge and approaches to conservation. Determine the indigenous traditional territory(ies) where your community occurs. Describe efforts to encourage the participation and perspective of local Indigenous community(ies) in the initiative.

This website <https://native-land.ca/> can be used to help map Indigenous territories, treaties, and languages.

3 . 5 . 3 - Illustrate a program that involves schools, garden clubs, or other organizations in bird conservation activities.

3 . 5 . 4 - Research Important Bird Areas (IBAs) or similar special habitats or bird resources in your community and encourage stewardship activities to protect them. Examples include bird and/or habitat monitoring, restoration, invasive species removal, advocacy. May include formation of a dedicated stewardship group.

3 . 5 . 5 - Create and maintain bird feeding stations at parks, nature centers, schools and tourism / lodging sites. Consider incorporating education or monitoring activities. Note: It would be important to monitor the feeding stations for large usage by nonnative House Sparrows and ensure visitors are not feeding improper foods.

3 . 5 . 6 - Host community planting event(s) to create or restore native bird habitat on municipal property. May include per event or dedicated on-going volunteer participation.

3 . 5 . 7 - Work with partners in the non-profit, governmental and corporate / business sectors to adopt bird-friendly practices and help sustain the Bird City program.

3 . 6 . Promote scientific research and monitoring

3 . 6 . 1 - Set up systems for community science participation (e.g. setting up accounts and projects within existing platforms like eBird and iNaturalist and protocols and training for participation).



3 . 6 . 2 - Demonstrate that your community is represented in at least one citizen science bird monitoring program (e.g., the Christmas Bird Count, Midwest Crane Count, Climate Watch, Great Backyard Bird Count, Swift Night Out, Audubon Climate Watch, D-Bird, Globe at Night, Nestwatch, FeederWatch, Hummingbirds at Home,, the Big Sit, Marsh Monitoring, Global Bird Rescue, or other actively coordinated community science project).

3 . 6 . 3 - Attach results from organized bird monitoring or data obtained from researchers or volunteers in the local park system. (Exclusions: Programs that receive credit under 3.6.2: Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, Midwest Crane Count, Climate Watch, etc.)

3 . 7 . Mobilize support / funding for community bird conservation

3 . 7 . 1 - Resolution: Attach a copy of your community's officially-enacted Bird City Illinois resolution. This must be a resolution that is voted on and passed by the appropriate municipal council/board. Do not submit a proclamation. The resolution must be voted on and passed every three years. (MANDATORY)

4 . Sustainability

4 . 1 . Educate residents about climate impacts and renewable energy

4 . 1 . 1 - Describe your community's efforts to educate residents about climate change, effects on birds/biodiversity, and solutions.

4 . 2 . Reduce energy use and carbon emissions

4 . 2 . 1 - Document an energy audit for municipal building(s) and show that your community is working to implement its recommendations.

4 . 2 . 2 - Create a community plan to reduce energy use and carbon emissions through operational or building design changes, nature-based solutions, renewable energy use.

4 . 2 . 3 - Demonstrate that your community participates in a community solar program or that a municipal building receives a significant percentage of its electricity from renewable energy.

4 . 3 . Promote sustainable infrastructure and practices

4 . 3 . 1 - Adopt nature-based solutions (e.g. keeping water at surface, green roofs, tree cover, wetlands) adding natural features and / or processes into the built environment to promote adaptation and resilience and increase biodiversity.

4 . 3 . 2 - Demonstrate community recognition or certification by a recognized rigorous sustainability program.



4 . 3 . 3 - Show that your community goes above and beyond in its support for, and implementation of, green transportation (e.g., bike trails, rideshare programs, bike trails/lanes, etc.). Be sure to utilize the narrative to illustrate why your community is exceptional because standard practice will not receive credit.

4 . 3 . 4 - Document recognition or certification of an energy efficient municipal building (LEED certified silver or higher or comparable).

4 . 3 . 5 - Describe your community's sustainability initiatives (e.g.: recycling/reuse, composting, water reuse, energy savings, lighting, carbon footprint) and/or describe how your municipality has incentive programs for installing sustainable systems and nature-based solutions.

4 . 3 . 6 - Require new buildings to be certified by a recognized sustainability program (LEED or comparable).