



# **Bird Friendly City 2024 Application Summary**

## Ongoing Focus Categories

This is a comprehensive list of the scored categories identified by Nature Canada for a Bird Friendly City. This was last scored by Nature Canada in 2024. To maintain status, a certain number of points must be obtained in each category. Bird Friendly Regina’s next application deadline is 2027 where we aim to improve in many areas. You can learn more by visiting: <https://naturecanada.ca/defend-nature/how-you-help-us-take-action/bfc/>

### FOCUSED CATEGORY SECTION 1: THREAT REDUCTION

#### 1.1 Free-roaming Cats

- (A) Coordinated efforts directed at cat owners to reduce the number of owned cats outside such as educational campaigns, licensing, and no-roam bylaws **(SCORE: 2/3)**;
- (B) Active strategy in municipality to reduce populations of unowned (feral) cats and mitigate their threat to birds (e.g., removing feral colonies from areas of high bird importance) **(SCORE: 1/2)**;
- (C) The Bird Team and/or municipality either has or is a partner in programs/projects to estimate the number and/or distribution of cats outdoors so that progress on reducing the populations of outdoor cats can be tracked over time **(SCORE: 0/1)**.

#### 1.2 Window Collisions

- (A) Municipality is taking measures to reduce window collisions by developing/ implementing bird friendly design standards/CSA Bird Friendly Building Design standard for new construction **(SCORE: 0/2)**;
- (B) Assessing and mitigating risk to birds from existing and proposed municipal buildings **(SCORE: 1/1)**;
- (C) Informing and educating property owners and tenants of existing buildings (including homeowners) of measures they can take to mitigate bird collision risk **(SCORE: 1/1)**;
- (D) Establishing a baseline and maintaining a database of the number of residences or buildings with treated windows in the city to demonstrate progress over time **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

#### 1.3 Light Pollution

- (A) Municipality has a light pollution reduction strategy for existing and planned neighbourhoods **(SCORE: 0/1)**;
- (B) Municipality actively implements light pollution reduction strategy from point sources (retrofitting standard streetlights with downward directional, wildlife-friendly LED lighting 3000K or less, make communication tower lighting and other facility lighting wildlife-friendly) **(SCORE: 1/1)**;
- (C) Outreach campaign for residents and businesses to reduce external lighting that attracts nocturnal migrants such as “Lights out Toronto” **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

#### 1.4 Pesticide Use

- (A) Municipality has policy / bylaw to reduce or eliminate use of cosmetic pesticides (e.g., broad-leaved plant control) known to directly or indirectly harm birds on public and private lands **(SCORE: 0/1)**;
- (B) Restricting or banning use pesticides to control insects or rodents that are important food sources for birds (e.g., neonicotinoids, Bti for mosquito or midge control, rodenticides) **(SCORE: 0/1)**.

#### 1.5 Plastics

- (A) Municipality has effective regulatory or non-regulatory measures that result in a reduction of plastic waste generated and the elimination of plastic pollution in local ecosystems such as shorelines and riversides **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

#### 1.6 Vehicle Collisions

- (A) Measures in place to reduce bird collisions with vehicles such as lower speed limits when passing through important bird habitat, and measures to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads (such as a good public transit system and cycling infrastructure) **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

#### 1.7 Habitat Disturbance

- (A) Municipality has policy and practices to prohibit or mitigate disturbance of birds from humans or their pets at natural areas or important bird habitat (e.g., leash bylaw, no-go zones certain times of year) **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

**SECTION 1 CURRENT SCORE: 11/19**

## FOCUSED CATEGORY SECTION 2: HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

### 2.1 Natural Areas Protection

- (A) Natural areas within the municipal boundaries are protected within the Municipal Official Plan and there is a commitment to increase this area. Plan distinguishes between natural areas and other types of municipal space such as recreational parks **(SCORE: 2/2)**.

### 2.2 Biological Diversity

- (A) Municipality has an official strategy to protect and restore biological diversity in its parks and natural areas. The strategy can include measures such as promoting connectivity between natural areas, buffering core biodiversity hotspots from harmful human activities, increasing the number of protected areas, and bird monitoring within municipal limits to assess the success of the strategy **(SCORE: 2/3)**.

### 2.3 Climate Change Resilience

- (A) Municipality has a climate change adaptation strategy that includes specific measures including nature-based climate solutions. Examples of this include wetland creation to absorb and retain floodwater, or planting trees to create shade and lower the surface air temperature **(SCORE: 2/3)**.

### 2.4 Habitat Management Strategy

- (A) Municipality has a habitat management strategy based on ecological and climate considerations including increasing the number of trees and area of the urban forest canopy **(SCORE: 1/2)**;
- (B) Leaving snags standing in cases where public safety is not jeopardized **(SCORE: 0/1)**;
- (C) Protecting trees on private and public lands **(SCORE: 0/1)**;
- (D) Prohibiting active vegetation management during breeding season on municipal lands, including forests, storm-water management facilities, and easements **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

### 2.5 IMPORTANT BIRD AREA (IBA)

- (A) Municipality has an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) within or adjacent to its boundaries. A local partnership promotes the protection and stewardship of this area **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

### 2.6 Native Flora: Municipal Lands

- (A) Municipality promotes the importance of planting native flora appropriate for the ecoregion on municipal lands, especially where new development is occurring through development and landscaping guidelines and standards in areas near natural features. Subdivision permits should include conditions protecting existing natural habitat and promote use of native vegetation and include measures to discourage illegal disposal of yard waste (a source of invasive exotic plants) in natural areas **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

### 2.7 Native Flora: Private Property

- (A) Demonstrate widespread community participation in initiatives to encourage native plant habitat that supports native birds and pollinators on private property, to increase the urban tree canopy on private land, and to support other “green infrastructure” initiatives to address climate change **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

### 2.8 Stopover & Nesting Habitat

- (A) Implementation of stewardship projects to increase or improve breeding or stopover habitat for bird species that are of high conservation priority species from your Bird Conservation Region Plan. Example species include Species at Risk (e.g. Chimney Swift) and other aerial insectivores, Eastern Meadowlark and other grassland birds, shorebirds, and birds requiring old growth forest conditions. Example actions include providing housing (e.g., maintained Purple Martin housing), and maintaining bird-friendly hay production, and managing municipal forests to promote old growth conditions **(SCORE: 2/2)**.

**SECTION 2 CURRENT SCORE: 13/18**

## FOCUSED CATEGORY SECTION 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH/EDUCATION

### 3.1 Children & Youth Education

- (A) There are educational programs and activities for children and youth about birds and nature in the municipality. A significant percentage of local schools and other educational organizations (e.g., Scouts Canada, Earth Rangers, 4-H) provide students with opportunities to connect with nature, enjoy birds and learn how to help them. Local school boards, conservation authority, or municipality, have facilities/staffing to support outdoor/environmental education, including opportunities to observe birds **(SCORE: 1/1)**;
- (B) Educational programs include specific elements designed to engage children and youth who could be considered underprivileged, racialized, or recent arrivals to Canada **(SCORE: 0/1)**;
- (C) At least one school does a specific bird-related program such as Christmas bird count for kids, School Yard Bird Blitz, Global Bird Rescue, or curriculum from Keep cats safe and save bird lives **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

### 3.2 College & University Campuses

- (A) College, CEGEP, and University campuses have adopted practices that actively reduce threats to birds or establish habitat that benefits birds. Implementation of practices should include or be driven by student committees or groups **(SCORE: 0/1)**.

### 3.3 Communicating Best Practices

- (A) Bird Team partners (including Municipality) provide public access to resources (web links, brochures etc.) that encourage and inform the public of ways to help birds. For example: 1) the benefit to birds from native plant gardening or establishment of natural habitat patches on their property in support of birds and/or pollinators (e.g. backyard habitat program), 2) best practices in feeding birds that mitigate risks from feeding (e.g. predation at feeder, contamination from pathogens, etc.) **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

### 3.4 Public Installations

- (A) Municipality and Bird City partners install demonstrations or displays in public areas that educate citizens on the benefits of bird friendly actions and encourage engagement (benefits of dark sky lighting, window modifications etc.) **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

### 3.5 Accessible Bird-Watching

- (A) There is at least one birding location within your city or town that has infrastructure to facilitate the observation and appreciation of birds (e.g., signs, panels, observation tower, and trails). This facility is publicly accessible for people without a car (serviced by public transit and/or bicycle and pedestrian trails) and is accessible to people with disabilities or who are mobility impaired. Information on birding areas should be easily available **(SCORE: 1/1)**.

### 3.6 Local Bird Friendly Businesses

- (A) Businesses in your area promote bird friendly practices (e.g. sell or offer bird friendly coffee, no single use plastics, treat their windows with feather-friendly markers, etc.), and reflect these values in their supply chains. These businesses are recognized on partner websites **(SCORE: 0/2)**.

### 3.7 City Bird

- (A) You have a “City Bird” species that was selected through a public engagement process **(SCORE: 2/2)**.

### 3.8 Participatory Science

- (A) There are active participatory science programs to monitor birds in your municipality including Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, Project Feederwatch, Marsh Monitoring, Swiftwatch, or Global Bird Rescue, which monitor birds on areas that include public land. Public participation in these programs is promoted on local media. Demonstrate efforts to engage members of the public could be considered underprivileged, racialized, or recent arrivals to Canada **(SCORE: 2/2)**.

**SECTION 3 CURRENT SCORE: 9/13**

**Are you experienced, knowledgeable, or interested in any of these areas? Join our flock!**  
More information can be found at [regina.ca/bird](http://regina.ca/bird).