



STAFF REPORT

Resolution: R-11-20

Title: World Migratory Bird Day

Date: February 6, 2020

The purpose of this resolution is to designate April 22 as World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) in the City of Annapolis. This day will coincide with the anniversary of Earth Day. WMBD's purpose is to encourage the City and its residents to implement sound bird-conservation practices and to educate the public about the interactions between birds and people and about the contributions birds make to a healthy community.

This resolution is also for the purpose of adopting, honoring, and upholding the commitments to the goals of the Bird City Maryland program. The Bird City Maryland program will assist the City in promoting the understanding that healthy communities are the sum of many parts, including healthy bird populations. The program will also assist the City of Annapolis to make the City friendlier for birds and improve the health and beauty of the City of Annapolis.

The City of Annapolis will also join Bird City Maryland, as it provides highly visible public recognition to municipalities that understand that healthy communities include birds. Bird City Maryland supports communities in their efforts to protect and manage green space, educate their citizens, build and erect nesting structures, landscape with native plants, and reduce threats to birds. By joining Bird City Maryland, the City of Annapolis will underscore that the natural environment is a key component of the City's health and prosperity.

The certification process will require approximately forty hours of staff time in FY20 and approximately ten hours each subsequent year to renew the City's membership. Activities related to the Bird City program will require approximately thirty hours of work annually. The Office of Environmental Policy staff can handle these tasks easily.

There are several reasons to become a Bird City and designate a World Migratory Bird Day:

1. **Community Benefits:** Bird City Program activities will build community spirit, foster new public-private sector partnerships, provide educational opportunities, and improve the ecological health and beauty of the City of Annapolis.

2. **Environmental Sustainability Certification:** Many of the Bird City designation requirements count towards the recertification/higher level certification requirements for the City's participation in Sustainable Maryland, STAR Communities, and Bee City USA.
3. **Environmental Reputation:** The Bird City Maryland program will grow the City of Annapolis' environmental reputation by participating in a statewide conservation program and by displaying Bird City Maryland signs.
4. **Save Money:** Birds assist with pest control and keeping natural systems in balance.
5. **Make Money:** The birding industry helps generate jobs and tax revenue as part of the tourism industry.
6. **Ecosystem Health:** Tasks to satisfy certification will promote improvement to the City's natural environment. They will sustain healthy natural ecosystems by helping to maximize the number of native bird species populations and other species that share bird habitats.
7. **Understand Nature:** Birds teach us about the interconnectedness of humans and nature, including how birds enhance human life and the impacts of human activities on wildlife.
8. **Improve Environment:** Managing green space to benefit birds not only creates better habitat for birds but also improves conditions for a host of other species, including humans.

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