

Bird Friendly City Application



What is a Bird Friendly City?

Cities that have “met or exceeded a minimum standard with regard to reducing threats to birds in their municipality, protecting and restoring natural habitat and increasing climate resiliency; and actively engaging their community in these actions through education and outreach.”

Nature Canada has been actively working in 2022 on this project with a number of municipalities in Ontario to reach a target of 30 Bird Friendly Cities by World Migratory Bird Day (October 8th).



Characteristics

OF A BIRD-FRIENDLY CITY



- Key threats to birds are effectively mitigated
- Nature is restored so that native bird populations can thrive
- Residents are actively engaged in admiring and monitoring local bird populations
- Organizations are creating events to protect birds
- Progressive municipal policies are created to protect urban bird populations
- A Bird Team has been created to oversee and lead these initiatives

Certification Levels

The certification level awarded to the cities responds to the lowest level attained in the three categories of the Bird Friendly City Criteria.

For example, if a city scores “High” level in 2 of the 3 categories but “Entry” level in the third, the final level of certification that said city would attain would be “Entry”.

Entry 

50% of the points awarded within each category

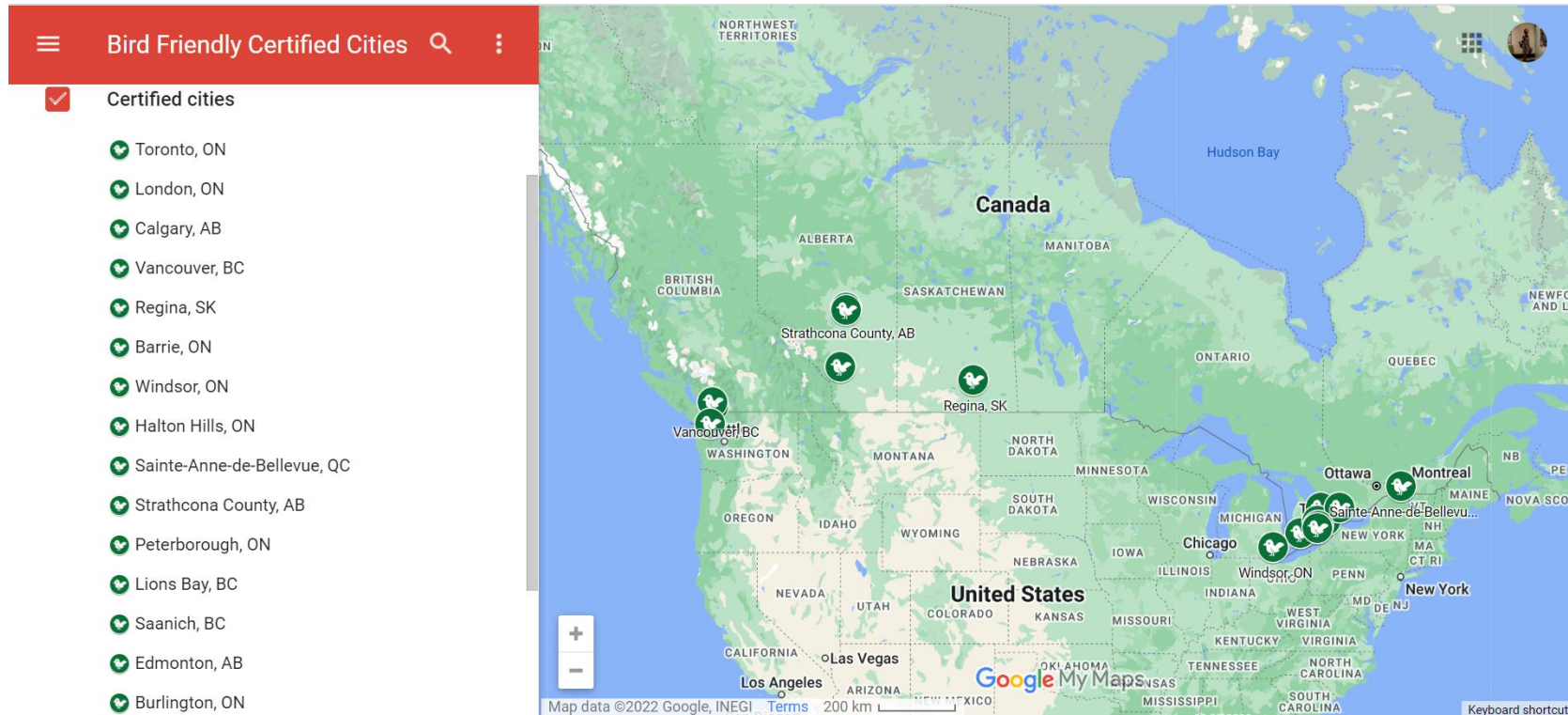
Intermediate 

65% to 80% of points awarded in each category

High 

Over 80% of points awarded in each category

Other Certified Cities



- [Peterborough](#) (Entry) - 04/11/22
- [Barrie](#) (Entry) - 06/14/22
- [Toronto](#) (High) - 05/08/21
- [Halton Hills](#) (Entry) - 04/26/22
- [Burlington](#) (Intermediate) - 02/28/22
- [Hamilton](#) (Entry) - 02/26/22

What are the Benefits?



01. Access to network of other Bird Friendly cities.
02. Ecotourism - people spend money on birds. Certified bird cities could use their status to attract visitors and promote bird-based ecotourism.
03. Certification provides a rigorous standard to measure impact and progress of your work, while providing flexibility. The program design allows cities to choose what issues they want to work on and provides a pathway to do more to help birds.
04. Advantages for your city, including access to feather friendly products and discounts, potential access to small grants, potential to infuse biodiversity considerations into green infrastructure projects, and tools to address key issues.

Certification Process

01

QUESTIONNAIRE

Complete the questionnaire found on the Nature Canada website

02

PHONE MEETING

Meet with a Nature Canada Bird Team representative to discuss questionnaire results and interest in certification

03

ATTEND A WEBINAR

If it is determined that there is strong potential for certification, applicants will attend a Bird Friendly City webinar (1 hr)

04

APPLICATION

Complete the application from the Nature Canada website, including providing supporting evidence and information

05

REVIEW

Nature Canada staff reviews the application and informs applicants of the decision made

06

CERTIFICATE & PRESS RELEASE

Announce your new status and provide a one-paragraph description for the Bird Friendly City website

Application Questions

Section 1

Reducing Human-Related Threats to Birds

- Cats roaming at large
- Bird collisions with windows and/or vehicles
- Light pollution
- Pesticide use
- Plastic pollution
- Disturbance of birds at natural areas or important bird habitat

Section 2

Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency

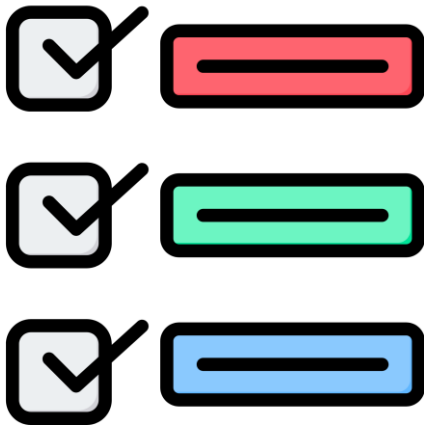
- Protected areas policy
- Biodiversity strategy
- Climate change strategy and policies
- Ecological approach to managing trees and forests
- Policies promoting native species

Section 3

Community Education/Outreach

- Publicly visible information and infrastructure that supports birds
- Organizations providing youth with bird education
- Businesses that have bird-friendly practices and products
- Active citizen science programs for birds in the community
- Public resources to promote individual practices that help birds

Mandatory Criteria



01. Hold and officially proclaim a Migratory Bird Day event **annually**. Migratory Bird Day is observed annually on the second Saturday in May.
02. Pass a council resolution nominating/supporting your municipality's efforts to be a Bird Friendly City or a letter of support from a high-ranking city official (e.g., Mayor, CEO).
03. Establish a Bird City Team (standing committee) to drive the project forward that has a liaison with the municipality.
04. Provide evidence you have determined in which indigenous traditional territory(ies) your municipality occurs and that you are encouraging the participation and perspective of the local Indigenous community in the initiative.

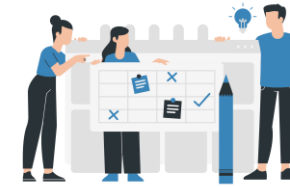
- Provide Annual Report Card (activities related to Bird Friendly City status) by **February 1st**
- Need to complete a renewal application **every two years** to maintain “Active” status
- Applications can be submitted during any time of the year
- No cost to apply
- If not eligible for any Bird Friendly levels, Nature Canada will discuss strategies on steps that can be taken to attain certification

Other Notes

Potential Role for BEAC



Assist in completing certification process, including setting up a Bird City Team



Promote Bird Friendly status and oversee the planning and execution of the annual Migratory Bird Day Event in May



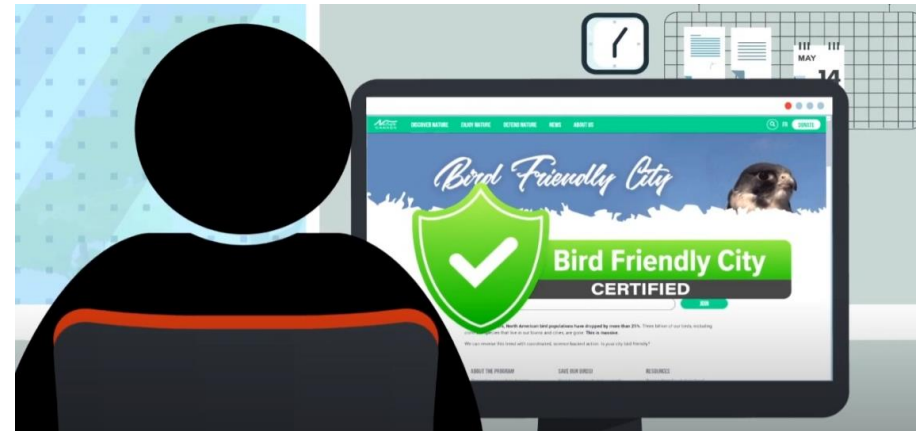
Assist in the creation of the annual Report Card that tracks Bird Friendly City related activities



Assist in completing the renewal application every two years to maintain Bird Friendly City status

- Gauge interest. Is this something BEAC is interested and has the capacity to take on?
- Will achieving Bird Friendly City status benefit the City of Brampton? What Certification Level do we want to achieve?
- Are there any major concerns?
- Create a rough timeline
- More information can be found at:
naturecanada.ca/bfc

Next Steps



Draft Resolution

1. That the presentation from Jennifer Khuu, Environmental Planning Student, Public Works and Engineering, to the Environment Advisory Committee of August 9th, 2022 re: Pursuing Bird Friendly City status for the City of Brampton be received;
2. That the Environment Advisory Committee endorse the City of Brampton pursuing the Bird Friendly Status with Nature Canada, and recommend that Council direct City staff to submit the Bird Friendly City application to designate Brampton as a Bird City.

Thank you!

