



Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds

Making Cities Better for Birds and People

Birds enrich our lives through their intrinsic value to people as threads in the earth's ecological tapestry, as pollinators, predators, and prey. Birds are also actively appreciated and enjoyed by millions of people throughout the country. In urban areas, birds represent people's most frequent contact with wildlife, help them connect to nature, and thus benefit their overall health and well-being.



Urban and suburban areas can provide important habitat for migratory birds like this Indigo Bunting. / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Birds contribute aesthetically, culturally, scientifically, and economically to America's communities. Urban areas can provide important habitats for birds. For example, many birds migrate through urban areas and need healthy habitats to rest and refuel. These visitors are threatened by habitat loss in urban areas and by hazards such as lights and glass windows, which create collision threats for birds.

The Urban Bird Treaty Program emphasizes invasive species control and native plant restoration; hazard reduction with bird-safe building programs; citizen science activities; and education and outreach programs that give people, especially youth, opportunities to learn about and appreciate birds and participate in their conservation.

Urban Bird Treaty cities can become sanctuaries for birds and other wildlife with an environmentally aware citizenry dedicated to learning about and conserving birds and their habitats. This is good both for birds and our own well-being.



Over 80 % of the U.S. population lives in urban areas. The future of conservation lies in our ability to inspire Americans to connect with nature. / Susannah Lerman, U.S. Forest Service

Urban Bird Treaty Program — Since 1999, there have been 28 Urban Bird Treaty cities designated in the U.S. Working with conservation partners, treaty cities aim to:

- Protect, restore, and enhance urban and suburban habitats for birds.
- Reduce hazards to birds.
- Educate and engage citizens, especially youth, in caring about and conserving birds and their habitats.



In 2011, the City of Portland and partners adopted a "Portland Oregon's Bird Agenda" to carry out actions to reduce bird strike hazards to migratory birds. / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Urban Bird Treaty program is a unique collaboration between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and participating U.S. cities and their partners. The Service provides guidance and technical assistance to partners to carry out projects and become designated as Urban Bird Treaty cities. The Service also awards grants through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program. If awarded a grant, city partners agree to work toward Urban Bird Treaty city designation.

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