

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

News Release



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region
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Denver Joins U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Urban Bird Treaty Program *City will utilize \$100,000 grant to benefit bird habitat and provide education*

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DENVER - Denver Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced today the implementation of an Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds, also known as the Urban Bird Treaty.

"Being selected to be an Urban Bird City shows how important Denver is for birds and the city's commitment to preserving and protecting the environment," said Scott Gilmore, Deputy Executive Director of Denver Parks and Recreation. "Through this program, not only will we create a haven for migrating birds, but create new way for residents and visitors to learn about nature and see what the city and its partners are doing to conserve wildlife."

Backed by a \$100,000 challenge grant from the Service, the Urban Conservation Treaty will support initiatives throughout Denver to get residents, especially youth, involved in bird conservation. These funds will be used to print pocket guides to backyard birds of the Front Range, partially fund a stationary bird banding station, develop five interpretive panels to highlight migratory birds, enhance and restore land on an island off of Sloan's Lake Duck Point, plant native trees and shrubs on the island along with native grasses and forbs, restore a portion of the South Platte River's confluence with Cherry Creek, provide bus funding and program fees for environmental education programs for metro area kids at Barr Lake State Park and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory; and, purchase/install an eBird Trail Tracker kiosk.

"Denver is a crossroads on the plains not only for people but for migrating birds like raptors and songbirds," said Noreen Walsh, Regional Director of the Service's Mountain-Prairie Region. "Because of their commitment to wildlife conservation and abundant green space, the City of Denver is a great fit for the Urban Bird Treaty program," Walsh added.

The Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds (Urban Bird Treaty) program was created to help municipal governments conserve birds that live and nest in or overwinter or migrate through their cities. Launched in 1999, the first treaty was signed with New Orleans. The treaties are a partnership agreement between a U.S. city and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve migratory birds through education, habitat improvement and bird conservation actions. Typically, many other partners are involved with Urban Bird Treaty activities and projects at a local level.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.

For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/>. Connect with our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/USFWSMountainPrairie>, follow our tweets at <http://twitter.com/USFWSMtnPrairie>, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmtnpairie/>