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For Immediate Release

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### **Springfield Loves Its Birds!**

*Receives funding boost and Urban Bird Treaty designation*

Birds of a feather flocked together today to protect Springfield's migratory birds. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and ReGreen Springfield joined forces, signing an [Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds](#) (Urban Bird Treaty) at the Springfield Science Museum today. The Urban Bird Treaty program brings together municipal governments and other public and private partners to conserve birds that live in or migrate through their cities.

Other key organizations involved in the partnership are the, Springfield Parks and School Departments, Smithsonian Institution Neighborhood Nestwatch, Springfield Science Museum, University of Massachusetts, Springfield Conservation Commission, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, MassAudubon, and the Allen Bird Club.

Under the designation, ReGreen Springfield was awarded \$46,400 to work with partners and volunteers to enhance bird stopover and nesting habitat in Springfield communities and open spaces. The program envisions a sustained, interdisciplinary approach to engage Springfield residents in citizen-science and stewardship-related activities to foster their knowledge and appreciation of bird conservation issues.

"It's an incredible honor to be one of only 27 cities in the United States to be designated as an Urban Bird Treaty City. Through our education efforts and creation of the bird garden, the Science Museum is committed to the Service and all city partners and citizens as an advocate for people, birds and bird conservation," says David Stier, Director of Springfield Science Museum.

Projects funded under the program will make restoration and habitat improvements for resident and migratory birds, creating a network of "Neighborhood Habitat Refuges" in strategic locations in the city. Two such projects include creating a wildlife garden at the Springfield Science Museum, and

designing a Springfield birding trail map to encourage additional opportunities for the public to enjoy the birds of Springfield. These efforts will strengthen relationships among school groups, community groups, private residents and organizations committed to enhancing Springfield's natural areas and conserving bird habitat.

“Conserving bird habitat creates healthy communities for both people and wildlife. The work accomplished through the Urban Bird Treaty Program connects people with the nature and offers opportunities for residents to take ownership of green spaces in their own neighborhoods,” says Andrew French, Refuge Manager at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

The event is also a “kick-off” to Valley Bird Days, a series of events celebrating migratory birds held throughout the Valley all week. For a list of Valley Bird Days events go to:  
<https://valleybirddays.wixsite.com/valleybirddays>

The Urban Bird Treaty program was launched in 1999, and has since grown to include 28 cities spanning the United States. Cities can become effective sanctuaries for birds and other wildlife with an environmentally aware citizenry dedicated to learning about and conserving birds, while also improving the health and well-being of people living within our communities.

*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 [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).*

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