



**The City of Green Lake has the prestigious designation as a Bird City.**

## **Making our communities healthy for birds ...and people**

**Bird City Wisconsin**, a pillar program of the **Lake Michigan Bird Observatory**, is a statewide initiative that recognizes and supports communities committed to bird conservation and environmental stewardship. Through local action to protect habitat, reduce threats to birds, engage residents, and support environmental sustainability, the program helps communities become healthier, more resilient places for both birds and people.

### **Benefits to our community:**

1. **Boost Community Pride:** Earning the Bird City designation shows your town cares about its environment, wildlife, and quality of life. It gives residents a reason to celebrate and strengthens local identity—something people can rally around and be proud of.
2. **Build a Green Reputation:** Bird City communities are recognized for their commitment to sustainability and conservation. This reputation attracts environmentally conscious residents, businesses, and visitors, setting your town apart as a leader in green initiatives.
3. **Cut Pest Control Costs:** Birds are natural pest control agents. Encouraging healthy bird populations can reduce the need for chemical pesticides and lower municipal pest control costs, creating a safer, more balanced ecosystem.
4. **Tap into Birding Tourism Dollars:** Birdwatching is a billion-dollar industry. Birders travel, stay in hotels, eat at local restaurants, and shop. Becoming a Bird City helps attract this growing group of eco-tourists looking for bird-friendly destinations.
5. **Support a Healthy Ecosystem:** Birds play a vital role in pollination, seed dispersal, and insect control. Protecting them helps your entire local ecosystem thrive—from clean air and water to vibrant plant life.
6. **Get Families Outdoors:** Bird City programs encourage outdoor activities for all ages—like bird walks, festivals, and habitat projects. These events bring families together and inspire a love for the natural world right in their backyard.
7. **Connect with Nature:** Creating bird-friendly spaces helps residents unplug, slow down, and enjoy the beauty around them. Regular contact with nature is proven to boost mental health and overall well-being.
8. **Create Better Green Spaces:** Bird Cities often plant native trees, restore habitats, and manage public green spaces more thoughtfully. These improvements benefit people as much as birds, making parks and neighborhoods healthier and more inviting.
9. **Strengthen Community Bonds:** Bird City projects often involve schools, churches, local clubs, and volunteers of all ages. Working together toward a shared goal builds community spirit and brings people closer.
10. **Protect Our Birds:** With many bird species in decline, local action matters. Bird City communities help protect critical habitats and raise awareness about threats like window collisions and outdoor cats—making a real difference for our feathered friends.

*For additional information...[birdcity.org/wisconsin](http://birdcity.org/wisconsin)*