

# AUDUBON BIRD COMMUNITY

## Community must have at least 7 of the following:

### **Water**

- Bioswales with native vegetation for water runoff
- Properly maintained rain barrels in common areas
- Eliminate lawn irrigation
- Maintain rain garden
- Re-slope retention ponds to mimic natural water systems where applicable
- Allow native plants to re-establish around retention ponds where applicable
- Reduce impervious areas where possible

### **Bird and Wildlife Habitat**

- 25% planted community grounds are native plants
- Pollinator Garden on property
- Wildlife water feature that is in addition to minimum mitigation requirements (drainage pond with native plants to create a buffer zone, maintained bird or bug bath)
- Bird or bat nest boxes (appropriate to native species)
- Pollinator and beneficial insect nesting habitat (i.e. rock piles, bundles of stems and branches, mason bee house)
- Participates in “lights out” program during bird migration
- Reduce bird window collisions on community buildings with window decals
- Food Source availability for birds during all seasons in common areas
- Maintains apiary

### **Energy**

- 1% homes powered by solar
- Promotes Solar to residents with zero solar restrictions

### **Waste**

- Recycling available to homeowners and recycling in common areas
- Composts 75% biodegradable wastes from common areas

### **Networking & Outreach**

- 10% homes are in the Audubon Recognition program
- Promotes native plants to homeowners
- Holds 2 environmental education events per year (e.g. bird walks, block parties, litter pick up days)

# AUDUBON BIRD MUNICIPALITY RECOGNITION

## Within One year:

### A. GOAL: Engagement/Education/Outreach

- 50 people in Municipality have participated in the backyard recognition program
- Audubon and citizen science literature is made available at public outlets (library, municipality bldg., etc)
- Speaker series, minimum of three talks scheduled (for example winter series or seasonal)
- Bird Municipality newsletter and logo posted on Municipality website
- A table event promoting Bird Municipality at ONE community event

### B. GOAL: Conservation

- School project proposal developed (pollinator garden, bird boxes, etc)
- Restoration project explored/planned (esp. riparian planting, turf grass conversion, etc.)
- Review of and action plan for the Native Plant Ordinance

### C. GOAL: Create sustainable program with partners

- Promote Solar Power
- Identify one corporate/business partnership for Audubon (where possible)
- Identify three Habitat Discount Card businesses

- Benefits – advertised on our website and other promotional materials as Audubon Bird City; Free promotional materials for Audubon City to pass out at events; We will also provide a recognition sign (if desired) modeled after National Audubon's Plants for Birds and Bird-Friendly Communities logos.
- Costs – \$1000 Annual fee; 2% discount for each additional item checked of the list.
- To maintain status, goals must be met yearly.

**Municipality must have at least 7 of the following:**

**Water**

- Eliminate lawn irrigation within municipality campuses
- Bio swales with native vegetation for water runoff
- Promotes water saving practices to residents
- Maintains a community rain garden
- Re-slope retention ponds to mimic natural water systems where applicable
- Allow native plants to re-establish around retention ponds where applicable
- Reduce impervious areas where possible

**Bird and Wildlife Habitat**

- The community has public lands with natural habitat for birds and other wildlife. This is demonstrated by bird monitoring results and/or data obtained from researchers or local volunteers
- Park planning seeks to improve bird habitat (attach park plans that illustrate preserved habitat)
- The community contains a segment of an Important Bird Area or Audubon Sanctuary
- The community has at least one environmental ordinance benefiting wildlife and/or native plants in place. This might include a native plant ordinance, updated “weed law”, buffer, etc.
- Municipality regularly plants new native trees in parks or other public land
- Municipality has planned or created a pollinator garden on public property (if planned, garden must be planted within 1 year)
- 10% of planted grounds owned by the municipality is native plants
- City buildings participate in “lights out” program during migration seasons
- Maintains a community apiary

**Energy**

- 1% homes have solar
- Recycling available to residents and businesses
- Promotes energy saving practices to residents

**Waste**

- Recycling available for free to residents (Either curb pick-up or drop-off)
- Recycling established within all municipality buildings

**Networking & Outreach**

- Municipality has an Environmental Advisory Board, Sustainability Committee or similar
- Parks offer environmental educational programming for public (such as bird walks or educational outreach events)
- Community partners with local environmental organizations such as nature centers, Audubon chapters, Master Gardeners and other groups, etc. to provide regular programming.
- Municipality regularly bring in speakers addressing environmental issues related to land use, sustainability, energy, etc.
- 1% of households are currently registered in the Bird Habitat Recognition program
- 1% of Communities and Industries are Audubon Recognized
- Practice coastal stewardship (where applicable; i.e. -leash laws on beach during migration, no dogs on beach during nesting season, volunteer stewardship exists during nesting season and migration season, educational signs on beach (kid signs) at beach access paths and around nesting sites if nesting sites exist)