

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Zoë Shark, Natural Areas Community Connection & Protection Manager
Katie Donahue, Natural Areas Director

SUBJECT

Resolution 2025-051 Supporting the City's Renewal as a Certified Bird City.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to renew Fort Collins' designation as a Bird City. Renewal requires a Council resolution, a public celebration of World Migratory Bird Day, and a submission of an updated application documenting the City's actions to support bird populations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The City received Bird City designation in 2022 as part of Council's priority to "Help Bird Species Recover." The renewal provides an opportunity to document and celebrate the community's ongoing commitment to protecting bird habitats and species.

The City is hosting a World Migratory Bird Day celebration on May 11, 2025, at Fossil Creek Reservoir Natural Area. Find details at fcgov.com/register.

The renewal application was a collaborative effort involving five City departments -- Natural Areas, Parks, Gardens on Spring Creek, Environmental Services, and Utilities, and three partner organizations: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Audubon Rockies, and the Northern Colorado Bird Alliance (formerly Fort Collins Audubon).

Bird City Colorado was created by and is managed by Environment for the Americas, a Boulder, Colorado-based non-profit organization that "connects diverse people to birds and nature and inspires the next generation of conservationists through education, outreach, research, and trainings" environmentamericas.org/about/mission/.

The City is interested in renewing the certification as efforts to support native birds have continued including ongoing land conservation and restoration efforts, annual World Migratory Bird Day celebrations, work to protect dark skies, partnerships with local bird conservation organizations, and ongoing educational outreach. The renewed certification documents and highlights this important work.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The Bird City certification renewal was prepared collaboratively by community volunteers who donated their time and City staff, using existing capacity. The \$200 renewal fee will be paid by the Natural Areas Department.

World Migratory Bird Day celebratory activities are free of charge for community participants thanks to the collaboration between City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Audubon Rockies, Rocky Mountain Raptor Program, and Northern Colorado Bird Alliance.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Land Conservation and Stewardship Board supported the resolution at its April 9, 2025, meeting. Board members requested clarification on the sponsoring organization, which has been included here. An excerpt of the meeting minutes is attached.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

While no specific outreach was conducted regarding the Bird City renewal, community support is reflected in participation at World Migratory Bird Day celebrations -- 279 people have attended 6 events since 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution 2025-051
2. Land Conservation and Stewardship Board Minutes, April 9, 2025 (excerpt)