

Indiana Bird Town

Application for Recognition



Requirements

Please check all that apply and provide appropriate documentation. The "Other" item under each category is designed to allow applicants to demonstrate an important municipal accomplishment that Indiana Bird Town's criteria might otherwise overlook; to use this option, please include a narrative attachment and any other supplemental information. Communities must meet at least 7 of the 22 criteria below, including 2 from Category 1 and 1 from each of the other four categories

City/Town Name: _____ **Population:** _____

Please type or print contact information for the parks, forestry, environmental, or other community official who is the best follow-up contact to deal with questions regarding this application:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Category 1: Creation and Protection of Natural Communities

- A.** Attach a summary of bird monitoring results and/or other data obtained from researchers or local volunteers in the local park system.
- B.** Attach ordinance or other evidence that existing bird habitat has legal protection.
- C.** Document that current community planning seeks to provide additional bird habitat.
- D.** Attach a copy of local ordinance to demonstrate that the community does not restrict "wild" or natural lawns and landscaping.
- E.** Show how the community offers the public information on control and removal of invasive species.
- F.** Attach a state publication showing that the community contains a segment or parcel that is designated an Important Bird Area.
- G.** Demonstrate through public documents or publicity that the local Chamber of Commerce (or a similar group) takes an active role in the planning process for protecting and enlarging favorable bird habitat.
- H.** OTHER: Demonstrate in an attached narrative.

Category 2: Participation in Programs Promoting Effective Community Natural Resource Management

- A.** Enclose a copy of the "Tree City, USA" award if your community participates in this program.
- B.** Enclose a copy of various grants awarded that help promote natural resource management.
- C.** OTHER: Demonstrate in an attached narrative.

Category 3: Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds

- A.** Attach evidence or provide community web link if your community has an educational program to control free-roaming cats and/or actively publicizes the "Cats Indoors!" program.
- B.** Demonstrate that your community provides property owners with information on how to protect birds from window-strikes.
- C.** OTHER: Demonstrate in an attached narrative.

Category 4: Public Education

- A.** Demonstrate that schools or educators in your community participate in Flying WILD, helping ensure that the nation's students are knowledgeable about the conservation needs of migratory and other birds.
- B.** Attach newsletter or web links to show how your community provides information to property owners on methods to create and enhance backyard habitat for birds.
- C.** Provide web links your community offers to other organizations with information on backyard habitat programs.
- D.** Demonstrate that your community is represented in at least one bird monitoring program such as the Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, Indiana Audubon Society Big May Day Count, or Swift Night Out.
- E.** Demonstrate that your community sponsors an annual bird festival.
- F.** Illustrate how your community has a program that involves schools, garden clubs, Audubon chapter, or other organizations in bird conservation activities.
- G.** Attach a copy of both your community's official resolution recognizing IMBD and either a copy of a program or plans for your local IMBD celebration.
- H.** OTHER: Demonstrate in an attached narrative.

Conservation projects benefit from strong partnerships. Please identify any community partners you are working with and a contact person (and phone number or email) with that group:

Signature

Title

Date

Mail or email a completed hard copy application with narrative and requested documentation to:

Cookie Ferguson, 10177 N 250 W, La Porte, IN 46350

Email the electronic format to **csf2773@hotmail.com**.

Note: Applications are reviewed year-round. Communities approved will be awarded Indiana Bird Town recognition for a three-year period. Applications will not be processed without the requested documentation and attachments. All applications should also include a \$100 certification fee via check made to Indiana Audubon Society. Visa and Mastercard payments are available.

When a community is initially certified as an Indiana Bird Town, the following items will be provided to publicly celebrate that recognition:

- Two 22"x 25" street signs with the Indiana Bird Town emblem (extra signs \$50/sign);
- A prominent announcement on the Bird Town Indiana web site;
- An electronic Bird Town Indiana logo/emblem that can be used on appropriate municipal web sites and printed materials, as well as the web sites of partner organizations and local businesses; and
- Press releases to appropriate media.