

TO: Parks Advisory Commission

FROM: Becky Hand, NAP Supervisor  
Remy Long, Parks & Recreation Services Deputy Manager  
Josh Landefeld, Parks & Recreation Services Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution to Recommend City Council Approval of Application and Acceptance of Designation as Bird City of Michigan

DATE: February 25, 2025

In February of 2025, the City of Ann Arbor was approached by Michigan Audubon to discuss the potential for pursuing a Bird City Michigan designation. For over 30 years, the City of Ann Arbor has actively stewarded the park system's natural areas and has also coordinated bird-related community science and educational programming across that time. The City's bird-related programming is a key feature of the wider birding community's activities, and the importance of birding activities, culture, and science within the community is well understood. Staff believe pursuit of a Bird City Michigan designation aligns with our past, present, and future work in bird and habitat conservation.

To receive a formal designation, the City would need to submit a Bird City Michigan application. The attached resolution recommends City Council approval of both an application to Bird City Michigan and subsequent approval of adoption of the Bird City Michigan designation, if awarded.

#### RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF DESIGNATION AS BIRD CITY OF MICHIGAN

**Whereas**, birds play an important ecological role in our community, controlling insect pests and contributing to pollination and seed dispersal, and

**Whereas**, birds play an important economic role in our community, attracting tourists and generating millions in recreational dollars statewide, *and*

**Whereas**, migratory birds and their habitats are declining throughout the Americas, facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in both their summer and winter homes, *and*

**Whereas**, public awareness and concern are crucial components of migratory bird conservation, *and*

**Whereas**, since 1993 World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) has become a primary vehicle for focusing public attention on the nearly 350 species that travel between nesting habitats in our communities and throughout North America and their wintering grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the southern U.S., *and*

**Whereas**, through Bird City, hundreds of thousands of people will observe WMBD, gathering in town squares, community centers, schools, parks, nature centers, and wildlife refuges to learn about birds, take action to conserve them, and simply to have fun, *and*

**Whereas**, community members enthusiastic about birds, informed about the threats they face, and empowered to help address those threats can directly contribute to maintaining health bird populations, *and*

**Whereas**, sound policies and practices enhancing natural ecosystems and reducing threats to birds also make healthier communities for people, *and*

**Whereas**, Bird City is an initiative to build relationships within local communities and guide action to protect and conserve birds, *and*

**Whereas**, the City of Ann Arbor finds that it is in the best interest of the community and its residents to show its support for the Bird City initiative.

RESOLVED, the Parks Advisory Commission of the City of Ann Arbor recommends application for, and if approved, recommends acceptance of designation as a Bird City of Michigan.