Bird City Maryland Campus
Application for Recognition

APPLY FOR BIRD CITY STATUS

1) Achieve a total of at least 10 points, meeting:
   a. A minimum of 8 criteria
   b. At least 3 criteria from Category 1
   c. Both A and B from Category 6
   d. A minimum of 1 criterion in at least 3 of the other 4 categories (Categories 2-5).
   e. NOTE: a single action cannot be used to meet multiple criteria unless it is truly exceptional, has distinct components, and can be justified in the narrative.

2) Submit a narrative and documentation.
   a. Narrative: Describe how your campus meets every criterion submitted. Use complete sentences and explain your documentation.
   b. Documentation: Where possible, electronically document each criterion submitted (e.g., photos, event flyers, brochures, ordinances, web links, etc.).

3) Complete the preamble, provide the information at the end of the form, and have a campus Bird City Maryland committee member sign the preamble.

FEES AND SUBMISSION

1) The nonrefundable application fee is $200. Send a check payable to “Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership” to: Chris Eberly, Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership, 177 Admiral Cochrane Drive, Annapolis MD 21401.

2) Submit all documents and attachments electronically to http://coordinator@marylandbirds.org

3) Applications are reviewed as they are submitted.

Preamble

As ______________________________ (title) of the campus ________________________________, I am applying for official recognition as a Bird City Campus. Our campus has met Bird City Maryland's requirements, including a commitment to recognizing World Migratory Bird Day. I also attest that, where possible, my campus’s actions align with Bird City Maryland's primary themes of urban conservation and environmental education aimed at making communities healthy for birds and people.

October 2021
Category 1: Habitat Creation, Protection, and Monitoring

*Need at least 3 criteria in Category 1

(1 Point) A. Comply with county/local "Smart Growth" guidelines for land use planning and resource management on campus.

(1 Point) B. Attach results from organized bird monitoring or data obtained from professors or student volunteers on your campus. If data are confidential, please provide a summary of the monitoring results. (Exclusions: Programs that receive credit under 4D: Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, Swift Night Out, Maryland Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program.)

(1 Point) C. Document that current campus planning seeks to provide additional bird habitat.

(1 Point) D. Demonstrate that members of your sustainability/planning committee have received information on sustainable practices and bird-friendly design.

(1 Point) E. Demonstrate that your campus promotes natural/native landscaping that emphasizes native plants and non-turf lawns.

(1 Point) F. Show that your campus a) has an invasive species removal plan and b) offers the public information on how they can control and remove invasive plant species in order to improve or maintain bird habitat. (additional 1 point)

(1 Point) G. Document a recent project that created or restored bird habitat in your campus. For example: purple martin habitat, chimney swift towers, owl nest boxes.

(1 Point) H. Create a demonstration garden of native plantings that are bird friendly to support National Wildlife Federation’s Backyard Certification Program, Maryland’s Wild Acres, Univ. of MD Extension Master Gardeners Bay-Wise Program, or another location/area/region-specific habitat certification program.

(1 Point) I. Document the establishment of a program to promote the conservation of Purple Martins through research, state of the art management techniques, or public education.

(2 Points) J. Demonstrate the implementation of a program to create and monitor nest boxes for Barn Owls, American Kestrels, or another cavity-nesting Species of Greatest Conservation Need (please contact us before initiating a nest box project).

(2 Points) K. Show how students on campus aid a local youth group (e.g., YMOS, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of USA, 4-H Club, etc.), school group or conservation group in bird conservation projects (e.g., bluebird trail, habitat restoration, American Kestrel or Barn Owl nest boxes, Purple Martin condo, Chimney Swift tower, etc.).

(2 Points) L. Document that your campus maintains a location for public birdwatching that includes educational signage and/or literature.
M. Demonstrate the implementation of a program to preserve Chimney Swift nesting and roosting sites (2 points) and/or to construct Chimney Swift towers (1 point)

N. OTHER: Demonstrate in your narrative.

Category 2: Campus Forest, Tree, and Habitat Management

A. Demonstrate that your campus has been awarded Tree Campus USA status by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

B. Implement a campus wide moratorium on the trimming of trees and shrubs and the mowing of ditches, storm water retention basins, and other grasslands from May 15 to July 15 to prevent the destruction of active bird nests. (Exceptions: Invasive species control and public safety)

C. Document an ongoing campus program to incorporate a significant number of native trees, native shrubs, native herbaceous plants, and/or cultivars of native species

D. Implement a tree risk policy (see p. 153, “Converting Hazardous Trees Into Wildlife Trees”) if it safe to do so.

E. OTHER: Demonstrate in an attached narrative.

Category 3: Limiting or Removing Threats to Birds

A. Demonstrate that your campus is actively working on Bird Strike remediation.

B. Show that your campus practices Integrated Pest Management, using natural pest control and the best available science to minimize pesticide and herbicide use.

C. Demonstrate that your campus works to educate the broader community with information about the dangers of Nandina/Heavenly Bamboo to berry-eating birds.

D. Describe your campus’s program to help educate the broader community regarding control of free-roaming cats and/or the manner in which you actively publicize the Cats Indoors! Initiative.

E. Show that your campus does not allow the planting of Nandina/Heavenly Bamboo.

F. Document that a campus building has been awarded LEED certification as a bird-friendly building (LEED SSpc 55).

G. Show how your campus regulates lighting of buildings and outdoor spaces to mitigate its risk to migrating birds and reduce the impacts of light pollution.
(2 Points) H. Document that your campus has enacted a bird collision monitoring program and has treated problem windows to reduce collisions with campus buildings.

(2 Points) I. Document that your campus has registered a campus building(s) in the Safe Skies Maryland Bird-Friendly Building program.

(1-2 Points) J. Attach your campus’s ordinance that requires new buildings to be built following bird-safe design, construction, and operation guidelines (see Bird-Friendly Building Design guide by American Bird Conservancy).

(1-2 Points) K. OTHER: Demonstrate in your narrative.

Category 4: Education, Curriculum, Research, and Service Learning

(1 Point) A. Illustrate a service learning program that involves the local community in bird conservation activities.

(1 Point) B. Provide course links for classes that incorporate avian conservation or research.

(1 Point) C. Demonstrate that your campus is represented in and promotes at least one community science bird monitoring program (e.g., the Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, Swift Night Out).

(1 Point) D. Describe your campus-sponsored annual bird festival. This must be an all-day or multi-day event. The event may NOT be the same event as the World Migratory Bird Day event in Category 6 unless it is a multi-day event.

(1 Point) E. Illustrate a program that involves students engaged with garden clubs, museums, zoos, aquariums, historic sites, or other organizations that have bird conservation programs or activities.

(1 Point) F. Demonstrate that your campus understands the critical ecological role of pollinators by documenting your Bee Campus USA status or by describing another substantial effort to promote pollinator health (for ideas visit the Xerces Society and the Pollinator Partnership).

(1 Point) G. Document a campus wide regular program or club that educates people on any of the following topics: climate change, energy efficiency, green/bird-safe buildings, or environmental sustainability.

(1 Point) H. Document how your campus incorporates art/sculpture/murals as a way to enhance avian education.

(1 Point) I. Document that a campus building has significant bird-friendly landscaping that features native plants AND signage that explains the importance of native plants and providing diverse habitat for birds (e.g., brush piles, water features).
(1 Point) J. Document research conducted by faculty or students on breeding, migration, or overwinter activity that contributes to bird conservation.

(2 Points) K. Demonstrate that your campus actively raises awareness of its bird assets. Examples include placing a remote web camera on a nest platform, offering bird watching field trips, or creating a significant educational resource on your campus's bird life.

(2 Points) L. Show that your campus works with traditionally underserved communities to increase their access to natural areas, environmental education, birding resources, and local environmental experts.

(2 Points) M. Demonstrate that your campus community participates in ecological restoration work in underserved communities, i.e., tree equity.

(1-2 Points) N. OTHER: Demonstrate in your narrative.

**Category 5: Campus Energy & Sustainability**

(1 Point) A. Document an energy audit for a campus building and show that your campus is working to implement its recommendations.

(1 Point) B. Show that your campus goes above and beyond in its support for, and implementation of, green transportation (e.g., bike trails, rideshare programs, bike trails/lanes, etc.).

(1 Point) C. Document that a campus building is LEED certified (silver or higher).

(2 Points) D. Show that your campus has implemented a sustainability plan that improves your campus’s energy efficiency and/or increases the use of renewable energy.

(2 Points) E. Demonstrate that your campus participates in a community solar program (and has a solar Integrated Best Management Practice ordinance) or that a campus building receives a significant percentage of its electricity from renewable energy.

(2 Points) F. Discuss your campus’s ordinance that requires new buildings to seek LEED certification.

(2 Points) G. Discuss your campus’s sustainability initiatives (recycling, composting, energy savings, lighting, carbon footprint)

(1-2 Points) H. OTHER: Demonstrate in your narrative.

**Category 6: World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)**

*BOTH A and B are REQUIRED*

(1 Point) Adopt a resolution to recognize WMBD (A) AND hold a campus-wide event to celebrate WMBD (B).
A. Resolution: Attach a copy of your campus’s officially-enacted resolution. This must be a resolution that is voted on and passed by the University’s Sustainability Committee or equivalent. Do not submit a proclamation. The resolution must be voted on and passed every two years; annually is preferred.

See our website for a sample resolution that you can use verbatim or modify to suit your campus.

B. Document and describe your event that incorporates the annual WMBD theme in some fashion. If the event has not yet occurred, please share your detailed plans. For information on the current year’s theme and event materials, please visit the World Migratory Bird Day website.

Signature & Partners

_____________________________________________________________________________________
Signature                              Title                              Date
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Online Presence

Campus website: ____________________________________________

Community Bird City page: ____________________________________________

Links to local birding, ecotourism, or other relevant sites: ____________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Contacts

Please provide contact information for least two campus officials who are the best contacts to deal with questions regarding this application.

Name: ____________________________ Title: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________ City, Zip: ____________________________
Phone Number: __________________ E-mail: ____________________________

Name: ____________________________ Title: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________ City, Zip: ____________________________
Phone Number: __________________ E-mail: ____________________________
Conservation projects benefit from strong partnerships. Please identify your community partners, including a contact person and email for each:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.