





MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Kimberly A. McNeeley, M.Ed., CPRP, Director Austin Parks and Recreation Department

THROUGH: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager  

DATE: March 24, 2023

SUBJECT: Staff Response to Bird City Texas Program (Resolution No. 20220505-035)

This memo serves as staff's response to [Resolution No. 20220505-035](#) annually recognizing every second Saturday of May as World Migratory Bird Day in Austin, and supporting the pursuit of local certification with the Bird City Texas Program.

The Austin City Council has continually supported bird-friendly initiatives, including the Lights Out Resolution enacted in 2021 and the World Migratory Bird Day Resolution enacted in 2022. Thanks to the collaboration between the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Travis Audubon, and other City departments and nonprofit organizations, Austin was designated an official Bird City in February 2023, by Texas Parks and Wildlife and Audubon Texas.

The Austin community cares deeply about wildlife and habitat conservation and is already doing much to protect the unique habitats and promote bird-friendly practices. This certification strengthens existing efforts and connects a new network of partners working toward this common goal. The connections between wild birds and humans are crucial in helping understand how to mitigate the biodiversity declines and climate change challenges.

The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to collaborate with Travis Audubon and other partners on Bird City Texas implementation. Implementation will include a website landing page and educational programming. The next big celebration event of birds in Austin will be World Migratory Bird Day at Hornsby Bend on May 13, 2023.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (512) 974-6717.

cc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager