

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. 72, SERIES 2025 – A RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR DESIGNATION AS A
BIRD CITY COLORADO AFFILIATE**

DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2025

PREPARED BY: EMBER BRIGNULL, OPEN SPACE SUPERINTENDENT

PRESENTED BY: EMBER BRIGNULL, OPEN SPACE SUPERINTENDENT

SUMMARY:

Birds across Colorado and the United States are facing multiple threats, ranging from habitat loss, climate change, and environmental toxins. Bird City Colorado is a state-wide program that helps connect communities to bird conservation by requiring actions that encourage creating bird-friendly environments, promoting avian environmental education, performing habitat restoration/conservation, and more. Receiving a Bird City Colorado designation will showcase the Open Space Division's commitment to educating citizens about threats to birds, enhancing habitat, and advocacy for the health of our avian community.

BACKGROUND / PRIOR DISCUSSIONS:

- a. April 8, 2025, City Council Study Session. The Open Space Advisory Board provided a memorandum and PowerPoint presentation to City Council advocating to include Bird City Colorado designation as a priority work project for staff, the Board, and Council on 2025 Work Plans. Link to Council packet: <https://www.louisvilleco.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/44772/638793531344330000>
- b. On May 19, 2025, OSAB emailed a follow-up memorandum to City Council advocating that the City work towards a Bird City Colorado designation, and
- c. On July 15, 2025, City Council Special Meeting, Bird City Colorado designation was represented under Board Recommendations.

ANALYSIS:

The Open Space Division's routine operational and educational work currently meets all requirements to be considered for designation as a Bird City Colorado. Remaining steps require submittal of an application (Draft attached) and an approved City Council Resolution (Attached).

2025 COUNCIL WORK PLAN:

This item was presented to City Council for consideration to add to the 2025 Work Plan. While there appeared to be general City Council support, approval was not formally communicated. City Manager and PROS Director authorized staff to proceed.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

Budgeted?: Yes

\$200 annually for the application and/or yearly renewal.

ALTERNATIVE(S):

City Council could not approve the resolution to become a Bird City Colorado. However, the Open Space Division will continue to provide education about threats to birds, enhancement to avian habitat, and advocacy for the health of our avian community, which is currently fully funded through the operational budget and supported through the Home Rule Charter and Mission and Vision of the Open Space Division.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 72, Series 2025, which allows the City to apply to be considered for designation as a Bird City Colorado. The City of Louisville's Open Space program has already achieved the requirements and consistently addresses criteria that will allow the City to qualify for and exceed the requirements for this designation. Bird City Colorado certification will showcase the excellent work our City has completed and demonstrate the City's commitment to fostering healthier ecosystems for birds and the greater Louisville community.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Resolution No. 72, Series 2025
2. Open Space Advisory Board Memorandum dated May 19, 2025; RE: Work Plan Direction from OSAB, Staff, and City Council
3. Draft Bird City Application

**RESOLUTION NO. 72
SERIES 2025**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR DESIGNATION AS A
BIRD CITY COLORADO AFFILIATE**

WHEREAS, migratory birds are some of the most beautiful, important, and easily observed wildlife that share our communities; and

WHEREAS, songbirds and other migratory birds are celebrated as symbolic harbingers of spring and play critical ecological roles, including controlling insect pests, pollinating plants, and dispersing seeds; and

WHEREAS, supporting birds fosters environmental awareness, community engagement, and broader sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, birds also provide significant economic value through recreational activities such as birdwatching, which contributes hundreds of millions of dollars statewide; and

WHEREAS, many bird species are experiencing significant population decline due to habitat loss, pesticide use, poor nutrition, disease, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and education are essential components of bird conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Louisville has invested in conserving open space that provides essential habitat for birds, while also promoting environmental education and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, community members who are informed about the threats birds face and engaged in conservation efforts can play a direct role in helping bird populations recover; and

WHEREAS, the Louisville Open Space Division supports the protection of bird-friendly habitat by promoting the use of native vegetation, minimizing pesticide use, preserving undisturbed areas for nesting and feeding, and enhancing habitat connectivity across the landscape; and

WHEREAS, the City of Louisville Open Space Division hosts bird-related educational events, habitat restoration, and community engagement initiatives to showcase Louisville's commitment to bird conservation and the enhancement of healthy bird habitat; and

WHEREAS, World Migratory Bird Day, celebrated annually since 1993, is a global campaign to raise awareness about the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats; and

WHEREAS, this event brings communities together across North, Central, and South America to learn about, celebrate, and take action on behalf of birds; and

WHEREAS, Bird City Colorado works to galvanize communities to conserve birds by providing healthy habitats, free or nearly free of pesticides, and rich in native plants; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendation of the Open Space Advisory Board and the Open Space Division, the City Council supports the pursuit of certification as a Bird City Colorado community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE, COLORADO:

Section 1. The City of Louisville Open Space Division is hereby authorized to submit an application for Bird City Colorado certification by November 1, 2025.

Section 2. The City Council supports the designation of Louisville as a Bird City Colorado affiliate.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of October 2025.

Christopher M. Leh, Mayor

ATTEST:

Genny Kline, Interim City Clerk

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council Members
Diana Langley, City Manager
Adam Blackmore, Parks Recreation, and Open Space Director

From: Open Space Advisory Board

Date: May, 19 2025

Re: Work Plan Direction for OSAB, Staff, and City Council

The items below were listed in the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB) packet materials to city council during the Study Session on April 8, 2025. OSAB Seeks clarification and city council direction to add the following items to OSAB, Staff, and City Council Work Plans.

Additional Needs Not in the Six-Year Department Work Plan:

1. Achieve Bird City designation for Louisville

The Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB) is writing in support of staff submitting an Open Space Division's application for Bird City designation in 2025. Open Space staff has researched the criteria for consideration, and the city meets all the following requirements:

- Celebrating World Migratory Bird Day. The Open Space Division sponsors a migratory bird walk at Hecla Lake every spring.
- Habitat (category 1): The Open Space Division promotes native plants, controls invasive plants, and provides nesting habitat.
- Threats to Birds (category 2): The Open Space Division addresses the threat of pesticides and other toxins.
- Education and Engagement (category 3): The Open Space Division offers a range of educational programs for adults and children that foster an interest in and engagement with the natural world.
- Sustainability (category 4): The city as a whole, is working to reduce energy use and carbon emissions.

Louisville is already a Tree City and a Bee City, and adding Bird City to our identity only strengthens our image as a sustainable, environmentally conscious community. OSAB asks the city council approval to pass a resolution in support of Bird City designation and fund the \$200 annual fee. The upcoming application deadlines are July 1 and November 1.

2. Collaborate with neighboring communities on mutual wildlife and environmental conservation goals, including restoration of pollinator habitat and the Coal Creek riparian area
3. Collaboration with other Louisville advisory boards on issues of mutual concern
4. Advocate for passage of rodenticide ordinance
5. Advocate for a vote in the 2028 election year to make the open space sales tax (2C) permanent
6. Advocate for a Dark Sky designation for areas near open spaces
7. Advocate for a volunteer and education coordinator staff position, especially able to work on weekends, when most citizens are available for programs and projects. This would enhance our public outreach and communication and free up existing staff to concentrate on their primary responsibilities.
8. Advocate for a mobile education trailer for placement on a rotating series of open-space properties, comparable to the Shack, Lafayette's Waneka Lake education and interpretation center.
9. Advocate for the purchase of water rights to improve the environmental health of Coal Creek and Hecla Lake.

Bird City Application – Deadline November 1st

Narrative Statement:

The City of Louisville is dedicated to creating a healthier community for both birds and people. Through managing its open spaces, parks, and facilities, the city aims to promote habitat conservation and restoration, support native plants, control invasive species, address threats to bird populations, and engage and educate the community on effective ways to support bird and ecosystem health in a holistic manner.

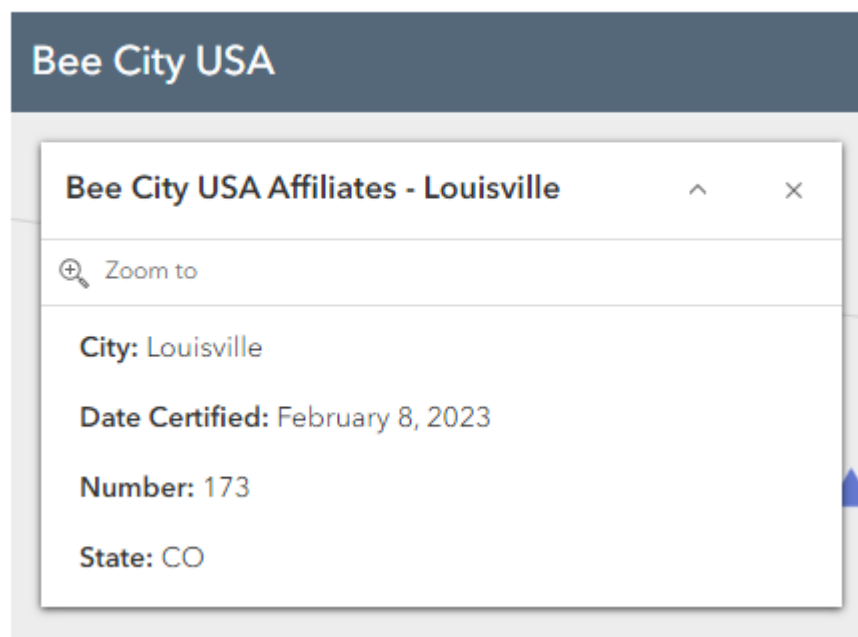
7i Habitat.(9.actions).

7i7 Promote.the.best.management.of.community.habitat.

7i7i7 - .Document.that.current.community.planning.seeks.to.provide.
additional.bird.habitat.(>7)

The City of Louisville Open Space staff's current work centers on implementing prairie restoration and planting native shrubs, grasses, and forbs on open space properties. Last year (2024), staff planted over 25 native shrubs across three properties and over 50 species of forbs. Staff also seeded over 5 acres of land with native shortgrass/piedmont grassland species.

7i7i1 Demonstrate.that.your.community.understands.the.critical.ecological.
role.of.pollinators.by.documenting.your.Bee.City.USA.status.(>7)



The image shows a screenshot of a web form titled "Bee City USA Affiliates - Louisville". The form is displayed in a window with a dark blue header. The form itself has a white background and a light gray border. It contains the following fields:

- City:** Louisville
- Date Certified:** February 8, 2023
- Number:** 173
- State:** CO

There is a "Zoom to" button with a magnifying glass icon in the top left corner of the form.

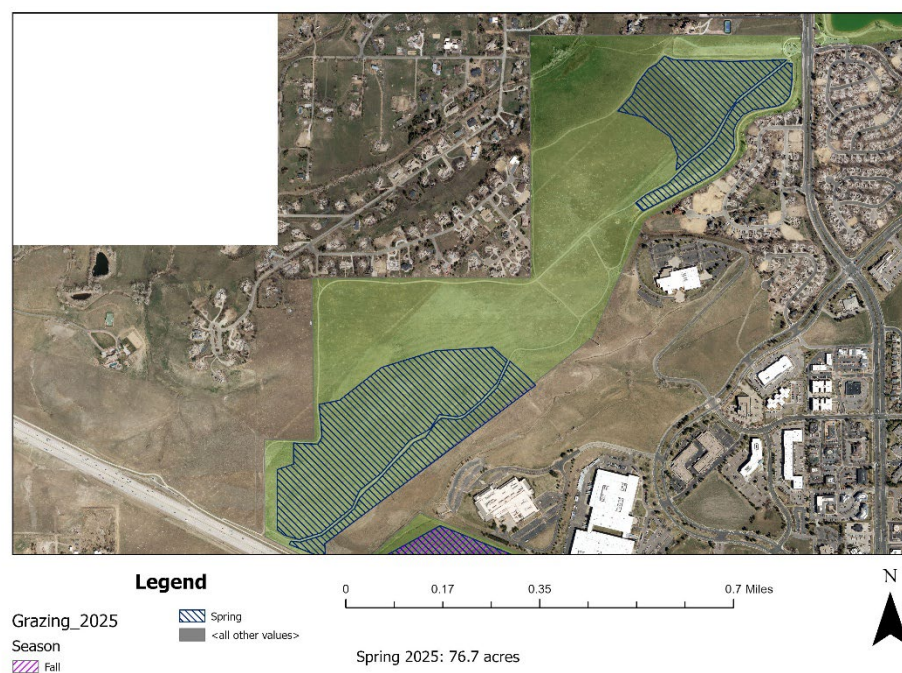
[City of Louisville Becomes an Affiliate of Bee City USA | News | City of Louisville, CO](#)

[Bee City | City of Louisville, CO](#)

7i8 Create.and.protect.habitat.

7i8i7 Document.a.recent.project.that.created.or.restored.bird.habitat.

With the large decline in native grassland ecosystems across the Western United States, the city of Louisville's Open Space program has focused on managing and restoring grasslands across its portfolio. Restoration of native grass species has been a focus point on properties that were historically used for agricultural grazing and planted with introduced cool-season grass species. Tools used for the restoration of grassland are adaptive multi-paddock grazing, reseeding of native species, and noxious weed management. In 2024, City of Louisville Open Space staff treated over 66 acres of noxious weeds, primarily focusing on List A, B, and C species and select watch list species. City of Louisville staff administered 155.74 acres of cattle grazing utilizing the adaptive multi-paddock method, which moves cattle frequently across the landscape, focusing on utilization rates to avoid overgrazing and providing a heterogeneity of vegetation height, addressing grassland bird habitat and increasing diversity through increased landscape heterogeneity.



1.3 Promote Native Plants

7;9;7 Show.that.your.community.has.restored.at.least.two.acres.of. woodlands?wetlands?prairie?or.other.habitat.important.to.bird. nesting?overwintering?or.migration.stopover;.

In 2024, staff planted over 25 native shrubs across three properties and over 20 species of forbs. Staff also seeded over 10 acres of land with native shortgrass/piedmont grassland species. These events were also open to the community and allowed staff to share native species for community members to plant and the benefits the plants bring to both native insects and birds.

1.4 Control invasive plants

7;0;7 Show.that.your.community.offers.the.public.information.on.how.they. can.control.and.remove.invasive.species.in.order.to.improve.or. maintain.bird.habitat.

City of Louisville Open Space staff offers multiple opportunities for the public to learn about noxious weed management annually. This includes a Noxious Weed ID Training hosted in May, a Weed ID Booth in June, and multiple volunteer noxious weed pulling event opportunities throughout the growing season. In addition, staff coordinate a weed control volunteer program, Weed Whackers, which promotes conservation and engages the public to learn why management is important and helps control weeds on our Open Space lands.

To learn more about our noxious weed program, please visit our website at: <https://www.louisvilleco.gov/local-government/government/departments/parks-recreation-and-open-space/open-space-division/weed-management#!/>

7;0;9 Show.that.your.community.works.on.public.lands.to.control.invasive. species.that.have.significant.negative.impacts.on.bird.habitats.

In 2024, the Open Space Division spent over 627 hours managing invasive weeds. This includes work completed by a contractor specifically hired for noxious weed management, volunteers, and dedicated staff. Staff has also been working diligently to eradicate infestations of cheatgrass and Japanese brome, totaling 12 hours spent controlling these weeds on 11.5 acres last year.

2 Threats to Birds (1)

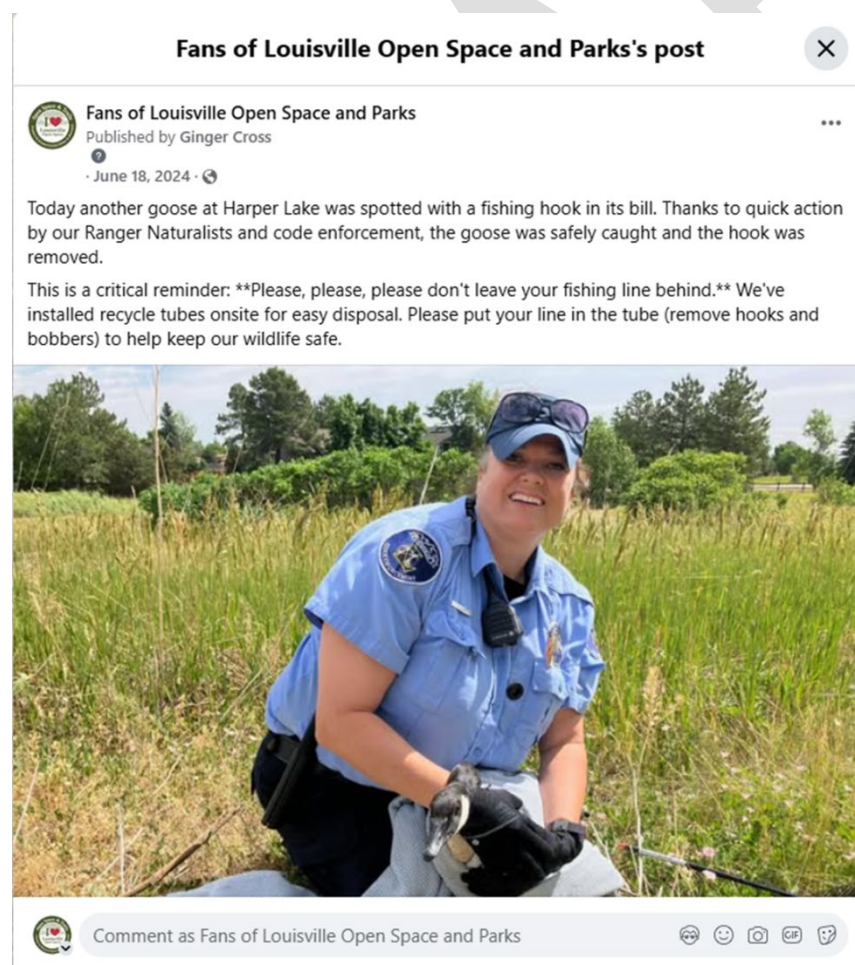
2.4 Address direct human-related threats

In a proactive move to mitigate the harmful effects of discarded monofilament fishing line on wildlife and the environment, the City of Louisville joined the [BoatUS Foundation's Reel In and Recycle Program](#) in May of 2024. For more information on our program, please visit:

<https://www.louisvilleco.gov/Home/Components/News/News/7072/>

Staff have increased shoreline clean ups and volunteer events to focus on the removal of fishing line.

Staff also assist with injured waterfowl as shown in this Facebook post:



2.3 Address light pollution

2.3.1 Document that your community operates a significant Lights Out program that dims building lights to reduce collisions during spring and fall migration or that you have an outdoor lighting ordinance that includes Lights Out during bird migration.

City of Louisville Open Space Ranger Naturalists run the Open Space Stargazers Series, which is a successful astronomy program series that has brought more than 800 attendees over the past four years. Rangers distribute Dark Sky Friendly Home Lighting Program guides, produced by the Dark Sky International, to attendees of these programs. The Dark Sky International guides include information about how to mitigate and reduce home light pollution and a self-assessment for people to use when evaluating their own light pollution sources. Additionally, one Stargazers program each year takes place during International Dark Sky Week, and the content of the program focuses squarely on the impacts of light pollution on wildlife, including birds, and how people can reduce their own light pollution.

3 Education & Engagement (1)

3.1 Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day

(MANDATORY) Share detailed plans for the event on WMBD

Location: Hecla Lake

Date & time: April 13th, 2025

Attendance: 28 community members

Theme: Program focused on covering migratory ducks and other shorebirds, the importance of conservation of ephemeral lakes, ponds and other waterbodies and their important role during migration season as well as informing the community of the upcoming World Migratory Bird Day. As well as teaching community members things they can do to support native and migratory birds on their properties, in their backyard, and across the community by building and restoring healthy habitat.

.....9;8.Increase.awareness.of.birds.and.their.habitats

9;8;9 .Demonstrate.that.your.community.actively.raises.awareness.of.its.bird.assets;Examples.include.placing.a.remote.web.camera.on.a.nest.platform?offering.regular.public.bird_watching.field.trips?or.creating.a.significant.educational.resource.on.your.community's.wildlife;

In 2019, the Open Space Division began our partnership with the Colorado Avian Research and Rehabilitation Institute (CARRI) to provide viewing opportunities of local raptor nesting activities via outdoor web cameras on select Open Space properties. Currently there are two cameras in place: one Great Horned Owl nest box and an American Kestrel box. A pair of kestrels nested in this box in 2024, and five chicks successfully fledged. The chicks were banded by Scott Rashid, Director of CARRI. Citizens could view clips of video footage on our Facebook page and on our website at: <https://www.louisvilleco.gov/living-in-louisville/residents/departments/parks-recreation-and-open-space/open-space-division/wildlife/american-kestrel>

The City of Louisville also created and provides handout printed bird checklists at its property, Hecla Lake, which attracts a variety of seasonal/migratory birds. (see below)

Responsible Wildlife Viewing

- Maintain a respectful distance from wildlife, especially near nesting areas and feeding sites
- Heed closures for natural resource restoration and critical wildlife habitat
- Stay on the trail to minimize wildlife and habitat disturbance

Bird Conservation Tips

- Plant native vegetation
- Keep house cats indoors
- Purchase shade grown coffee
- Increase window visibility with bird tape, stickers, or fishing line to reduce collisions
- Join local birding organizations

Field Notes

Date: _____ Time: _____
 Weather: _____
 Observer(s): _____
 Notes: _____

Key

Occurrence	
C	Common Regularly found in season (>30% of visits)
U	Uncommon Infrequent sightings (10-30% of visits)
R	Rare Not expected, but likely occurs annually
*	Very Rare/Accidental Few historical records
Season	
W	Winter
Sp	Spring
Su	Summer
F	Fall



Hecla Lake Open Space Rules & Regulations

- Hecla Lake Open Space is open daily one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset
- Stay on the trail to minimize wildlife disturbance and vegetation trampling
- No swimming or recreational activities are allowed in the lake
- Dogs must be on leash and under physical control at all times
- Dog waste must be picked up and properly disposed of



Open Space Mission

To conserve and restore Open Space through land acquisition and management for the protection of natural and cultural resources and provide opportunities for education, volunteering and appropriate passive recreation.



Hecla Lake Open Space

Hecla Lake Open Space features a 5.8-acre lake and 10 surrounding acres of bird habitat. Over 150 bird species have been documented at Hecla Lake Open Space to date, but many more species are possible.

The lake and shoreline attract migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Great Blue Herons regularly use the island platform for nesting. Brushy upland areas are used by resident songbirds for breeding and as a stopover point for migrating songbirds.

Bird Checklist

This checklist is designed to help visitors record birds they observe while recreating at Hecla Lake Open Space. It was created using citizen science data from eBird.org and Open Space staff records. The checklist includes the species of wild birds that have been seen here since 2016.

The taxonomic sequence and nomenclature follow the American Ornithological Society's Checklist of North American Birds.

Space is provided for recording the presence or number of each species found and general trip information. You can track and record your bird sightings on eBird.org.

If you find a species not on the current list, please email us at OpenSpace@LouisvilleCo.gov



0.8.8. Show that your community has implemented a sustainability plan that improves your community's energy efficiency and/or increases the use of renewable energy. (Exclusions: Smart Growth comprehensive plans);

In 2020, the City of Louisville updated its climate action plan with several goals to increase its own internal and external objectives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy efficiency, increasing renewable energy, and the overall resiliency of its energy grid. For more information, please refer to the City of Louisville Sustainability Action Plan linked below (pages 15-19).

City of Louisville sustainability Action Plan:

<https://www.louisvilleco.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/28886/637376646025230000>

The City of Louisville Open Space Division recently purchased electric trucks, blowers, and weed whackers to increase the sustainability of our internal daily operations.

DRAFT