

ITEM #: 11  
DATE: 08-08-23  
DEPT: PW

## COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: BIRD FRIENDLY COMMUNITY RECERTIFICATION**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Ames became a Bird Friendly Community in 2020 after submitting an application in partnership with Iowa Wildlife Center, Iowa Young Birders, Wild Birds Unlimited, Iowa Audubon, Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Friends of Brookside Park, The Community Academy, and Big Bluestem Audubon Society. In 2022, the City of Ames achieved Sustained Flight status as a Bird Friendly Community for all the work being done through all partners to focus on educating and engaging the public about birds, reducing threats to birds, and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the bird habitat. **An additional partnership is now being added through Prairie Rivers of Iowa working with the City of Ames to create the City of Ames Pollinator-Friendly Community Plan.**

The City of Ames is dedicated to improving native vegetation in our city parks and along waterways to build a connected system of greenways for bird habitat and migration. The City of Ames has 302 documented bird species within City limits and several educational programs to promote the use of native trees, perennials and shrubs to enhance bird habitat and provide food sources for birds.

A Bird Friendly Community Proclamation (attached) was signed and read by the Mayor on August 11, 2020. **City of Ames staff is working to submit the 2023 recertification, which now has a requirement to include a resolution of support.**

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve a resolution supporting the City of Ames continued designation as a member of Bird Friendly Iowa.
2. Direct staff to make changes to the program.

### **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Supporting the continued designation as a member of Bird Friendly Iowa shows the community's desire to maintain bird habitat and migration. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.

# City of Ames, Iowa Proclamation

## “BIRD FRIENDLY COMMUNITY”

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ames is being designated as a Bird Friendly Community; and,

**WHEREAS**, Ames continues to be dedicated to improving natural vegetation in our city parks and along our waterways that create a connected system of greenways for bird habitat and migration, and,

**WHEREAS**, Ames encourages residents to plant native trees, perennials and shrubs that benefit birds; and,

**WHEREAS**, Ames staff and residents continue to reduce threats to birds; and,

**WHEREAS**, we celebrate conservation at community events such as the annual EcoFair; and,

**WHEREAS**, the health of bird communities serve as indicators of the health of our soil, water, air, and native vegetation; and,

**WHEREAS**, birders in Ames have documented 302 bird species within city limits, which appears to be more species than any other city in Iowa; and,

**WHEREAS**, this collaboration between City of Ames’ staff, Iowa Young Birders, Big Bluestem Audubon, Wild Birds Unlimited, Friends of Brookside Park, Iowa DNR, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Audubon, Iowa Wildlife Center, and The Community Academy will continue to focus on educating and engaging the public about birds, reducing threats to birds, and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the habitat that birds rely on.

**THEREFORE**, I, John Haila, Mayor of the City of Ames, Iowa, do hereby proclaim Ames as a “BIRD FRIENDLY COMMUNITY.” I urge every citizen of the City of Ames to recognize the importance of birds in our community and to commit to keep learning and identifying how you can make a difference, even in your own backyard.

Signed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.



John A. Haila, Mayor

