



# **BIRD TOWN** P E N N S Y L V A N I A

Creating Livable Communities Through the Lives of Birds

For over 10 years, Bird Town Pennsylvania has worked with local municipalities to promote community-based conservation actions through

- Engagement
- Education
- Encouragement
- Support



#### Mission

Bird Town Pennsylvania works in partnership with local municipalities and like-minded organizations to promote community-based conservation actions to create a healthier, more sustainable environment for birds, wildlife and people. 38 Bird Towns in 9 Counties and growing! Berks County
Longswamp Township

**Bucks County** Chalfont Borough Doylestown Borough **Doylestown Township** Falls Township Lower Makefield Township Morrisville Borough New Britain Borough Newtown Township **Richland Township** Solebury Township Springfield Township

Northampton County Bethlehem City Chester County Charlestown Township Kennett Township Schuylkill Township Tredyffrin Township West Vincent Township

Delaware County Lansdowne Borough Nether Providence Township Newtown Township Radnor Township Swarthmore Borough

Lancaster County Manheim Township

**Tioga County** Wellsboro Borough Lehigh County Allentown Lower Macungie Township Salisbury Township Montgomery County Abington Township Borough of Jenkintown Cheltenham Township Hatfield Township Lower Gwynedd Township Marlborough Township Springfield Township Upper Dublin Township Upper Moreland Township Upper Salford Township

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### Why Become a Bird Town?

- 1. Inspire municipal level change to create a more liveable community for birds, wildlife and people
- 2. Create bird and wildlife friendly habitat, healthy living and good stewardship
  - Enhance community and cohesion with bird related events
- Save money and increase property values
- 5. Improve water quality and reduce costly storm water and flooding expenses
- Encourage grassroots innovation and involvement and sharing across communities



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Malvern is already doing the work with the potential to do more manageably through...

Municipal Actions Community Engagement Collaboration Habitat Enhancement Advocacy **Municipal Actions** – The municipality can engage in the Bird Town process through proclamations, resolutions and ordinances. These actions have a direct effect and set an example for the whole community.

ESTABLISHED	Dedicate passive recreation acres
	Consider use of native plants and meadows as a part of stormwater management
	Establish policy on tree removal
	Create a Shade Tree Commission that promotes planting of native trees
EAC INITIATIVE	Create native plant demonstration gardens [HGNP]
COMP PLAN GOAL	Flood plain restoration/Riparian buffers [strategy 5.1-3]
	Reduction in light pollution [strategy 5.1-8]
	Sustainable energy plan [strategy 7.1.11, 13]

**Habitat Enhancement** – Habitat is the most important element to support birds. One of Bird Town's major goals is to ensure resident and migrant birds have healthy spaces that provide food, shelter and water for birds. Birds and other wildlife will benefit from a community where public, commercial and private properties are linked to provide corridors of habitat to sustain wildlife.

ESTABLISHED	Create a 'To Do' list of areas that need restoration and work with land owners and the municipality to plan for remediation [Randolph Woods]
EAC INITIATIVE	Create programming around supporting bird and increasing habitat using native plants, water management strategies, and providing shelter throughout the year [HGNP]
COMP PLAN GOAL	Identify areas of poor water management indicated by frequent flooding [Strategy 7.1-10]

**Community Engagement**, **Collaboration**, and **Advocacy** – The Bird Town committee will be strengthened by partnerships. Enlisting the community and Borough committees will increase the number of helping hands and will help form a positive attitude toward change. Advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels will increase the base of support.

**ESTABLISHED** Write articles for your municipal newsletter [Strategy 7.1-7] Provide table events with information at community events [EAC table at Farmer's Market/event] EAC INITIATIVE Coordinate volunteer work to clear invasive plants and restore native plants to parks, riparian corridors and public woodland spaces [Partner with CRC Watersheds] Hold community bird walks for all ages. Invite local, state or federal politicians to attend. [EAC/Parks & Rec event] Create a list of organizations for collaboration—reach out to each to explore ideas [HGNP] Contact your local library to discuss possible synergy with Bird Town activities [HGNP]



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## website: birdtownpa.org

#### **Resources for Participating Municipalities**

- State-wide structured program with congruous goals
- Offers concrete resources and achievable actions
- Provides a framework for community networking with other Bird Towns and Conservation Partners, including: avenues of communication, events, volunteer opportunities, and citizen science projects
- Bird Town PA Leader training and workshops
- Opportunities to expand into diverse communities
- Increased opportunity for successfully obtaining funding