

To: **Mayor and City Council**  
Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**  
From: **Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director**  
Date: **February 24, 2020**

## **Bird City USA Resolution**

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The West St Paul Environmental Committee continues to work on best practice action steps for the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program. One action that it has researched over the past year, and recommending approval by the City Council, is becoming a Bird City USA. This recognition is very similar to the Tree City USA designation that West St Paul has held for nearly 20 years. It is a way for the City to increase public education and awareness of birds in our community, improve bird habitat, and ensure the best management of our urban forest and waterways. Marthaler Park will be designated as the official site of bird friendly habitat. Being a Bird City USA will include an annual celebration recognizing International Migratory Bird Day. This celebration will be held in conjunction with the annual Arbor Day Celebration. The Bird City USA designation will help the City fulfill multiple action steps in the GreenStep Cities program.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is a one-time application fee of \$200 to join the program. Members of the Environmental Committee plan to gather donations to cover the cost of joining the program. There could be additional minimal costs if the City decides to use any signage at parks regarding birds.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the resolution to declare West St Paul a Bird City USA.