NASHVILLE'S BIRD AGENDA:

Nashville's Bird Agenda (Table 5) was created in collaboration with the core group of partners and numerous stakeholders via the October 2022 Stakeholder meeting and through follow-up with individuals. As the Bird Agenda is implemented, partners will go through an additional process of prioritization based on feasible timelines and available funding. Actions are anticipated to be completed within a 3 to 5-year timeline. The core group of partners has made these Actions as specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) as is feasible at this time. While Actions are specific and relevant to supporting the overarching goals, there is recognition that details may change during implementation due to changing variables and/or resource opportunities.

Table 5. Nashville's Bird Agenda

Goals, Objectives, Actions 2023-2027	Partners for Implementation
Goal 1: Conserve Urban Habitats for Birds	
Objective 1.1: Create, restore, protect, and ensure best management practices for bird habitat	
Action 1.1.1. Identify and implement seasonal best management practices for birds on metro-owned public lands. This includes properly timed mowing, minimal use of herbicides/pesticides, and retaining snags and standing dead trees for cavity nesting birds.	Metro Parks Nature Centers (Nature Centers), Metro Departments, Nashville Zoo
Action 1.1.2. Work with private business and non-governmental landowners to adopt seasonal management best practices that protect nesting birds on their properties.	Tennessee Wildlife Federation, The Habitat Connection
Action 1.1.3. Develop and receive approval for a natural areas designation plan for new or existing public lands and/or portions of publicly owned land (local, state, federal) as 'natural areas' that would be primarily managed for the benefit of native plants, wildlife, and ecosystems, and may include passive recreational activities.	The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Metro Departments
Action 1.1.4. Identify priorities for potential land acquisitions, donations, or conservation easements that could benefit priority bird, wildlife, riparian and native plant communities.	TennGreen, TNC, Metro Departments
Action 1.1.5. Restore 200 acres and implement a maintenance plan for habitat on publicly owned land (Metro Parks, TWRA, TN State Parks) with special emphasis on native grasslands.	TNC, TN Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), TN State Parks & State Natural Areas, Metro Departments
Action 1.1.6. Collaborate with local communities to create native habitat and demonstration gardens in and on public properties, community centers, libraries, or other sites to provide nature access that can be easily visited by socioeconomically diverse groups.	Urban Green Lab, Nature Centers
Action 1.1.7. Explore opportunities for permanent dedicated funding in Metro Nashville to support habitat protection and restoration.	TNC, Mayor's Office, Trust for Public Land
Action 1.1.8. Sponsor a small grants program for habitat restoration projects to improve bird habitat.	Wild Ones, TWRA, Garden Club of Nashville, Metro Departments
Objective 1.2: Promote native and beneficial plants for birds	
Action 1.2.1. Maximize the value of vacant lots and right-of-way space (e.g., power lines, pipelines, etc.) and Nashville's flood buyout sites by promoting and advocating for native plantings that support birds throughout the year. See Homegrown National Park and Audubon's Plants for Birds Program.	Cumberland River Compact, Harpeth Conservancy, NES, TN State Parks & State Natural Areas, Metro Departments

Action 1.2.2. Advocate for the incorporation of native trees, native shrubs, native herbaceous plants, and/or cultivars of native species in public and private landscaping. See Homegrown National Park and Audubon's Plants for Birds Program.	Urban Green Lab, Nature Centers, Metro Departments, Cheekwood
Action 1.2.3. Develop and promote a city-recommended list of native tree, shrub and forb species that support birds throughout the year, recommended for use by parks and new developments (business and sub-division developers). See Homegrown National Park and Audubon's Plants for Birds Program.	Urban Green Lab, Nature Centers, Tennessee Invasive Plant Council, Metro Departments
Action 1.2.4. Host plant sales with high emphasis on native plants that support birds.	Wild Ones, Garden Club Nashville
Objective 1.3: Support bird focal species	
Action 1.3.1. Utilize the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and state and federally listed species to identify the suite of birds that occur within Davidson County and have also been determined by SWAP to be of greatest conservation need.	TWRA
Action 1.3.2. Promote the conservation of focal species (e.g., Eastern Bluebird, Barn Swallow, Rusty Blackbird, Osprey, Chimney Swift, Loggerhead Shrike) through research, state of the art habitat management techniques, and/or public education.	TWRA, Nature Centers, Friends of Warner Park's Warner Park Nature Center BIRD Program (BIRD Program), Southeastern Avian Research (SEAR), Austin Peay State University, Nashville Zoo
Action 1.3.3. Install a permanent Motus receiver station in downtown Nashville to inform Purple Martin roost behavior, benefiting other avian research projects. Identify other sites where the installation of additional Motus stations provide increased opportunities to support research of priority species.	BIRD Program, Nashville Zoo, TNC
Action 1.3.4. Utilize eBird, iNaturalist and local expert-derived information to construct species lists for each nature center and public lands over 100 acres and identify areas/habitats where birds of greatest conservation need are most often observed.	Nature Centers, TNC
Action 1.3.5. Create an informal Purple Martin task force to annually identify and document the migration roost, and to work with partners to ensure the safety of the martins.	Bird Safe Nashville (BSN), BIRD Program, Nashville TOS, TNC, Mayor's Office, Metro Departments
Objective 1.4: Ensure clean water and natural waterways	
Action 1.4.1. Implement wetland habitat restoration or installations to mitigate flooding along waterways and greenways.	Cumberland River Compact, Harpeth Conservancy, Metro Departments
Action 1.4.2. Conduct riparian habitat restoration to promote bird habitat and water quality improvement.	Cumberland River Compact, Harpeth Conservancy, Metro Departments
Action 1.4.3. Continue to improve Metro Nashville sewer systems to eliminate unauthorized flows of untreated raw sewage and control overflows of combined sewage and storm water per the agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).	Cumberland River Compact, Harpeth Conservancy, Metro Water Services
Action 1.4.4. Implement actions from the Clean Water Act and the EPA's National Menus of Best Management Practices for Stormwater into the City's stormwater management plan.	Metro Water Services
Action 1.4.5. Require water quality buffers on new development and redevelopment projects.	Metro Water Services

Goal 2: Reduce Urban Hazards to Birds	
Objective 2.1: Address disturbance by invasive and detrimental species	
Action 2.1.1. Provide rationale to the USDA for why a proposed plant species is or may become invasive and recommend that it be removed from lists provided to regions where proposed species are not native.	Tennessee Invasive Plant Council
Action 2.1.2. Hold at least 25 community exotic invasive removal events on public lands with an emphasis on areas of importance to birds.	Nature Centers, Friends of Warner Park, Garden Club of Nashville Weed Wrangle®, Tennessee Invasive Plant Council
Action 2.1.3. Assess the feasibility of passing a Metro ordinance to ensure the use of native plants on appropriate and publicly owned lands including parks and rights of way and encourage other publicly owned properties to do the same.	Metro Departments and UBT Core Group
Action 2.1.4. Assess the feasibility of prohibiting cat trap/neuter/release programs within Metro Nashville.	UBT Core Group
Objective 2.2: Address bird collisions with glass	
Action 2.2.1. Form a working group to explore the feasibility of passing a city ordinance that requires new building construction to follow bird-safe design, construction, and operation guidelines (e.g., Toronto Green Standard, San Francisco ordinance, NYC ordinance).	Metro Departments, BSN, Nashville Zoo
Action 2.2.2. Educate the public about the benefits of window modifications that improve glass visibility and reduce glass reflectivity, including through demonstration displays in public areas.	Nature Centers, Mayor's Office
Action 2.2.3. Work with Architectural firms, City Planning Committee, and Nashville Civic Design Center to raise awareness of the importance of bird-friendly design.	BSN
Action 2.2.4. Work with Metro to assess the feasibility of designing or retrofitting high profile public or private buildings to reduce bird collisions using Bird-Friendly Buildings guidelines by American Bird Conservancy and Audubon.	UBT Core Group, BSN, Mayor's Office, Metro Departments, Wild Birds Unlimited, Audubon
Objective 2.3: Address light pollution	
Action 2.3.1. Sign up federal, state and Metro buildings and more businesses and individuals for the voluntary Lights Out Program during spring and fall migration periods.	BSN, Metro Departments
Action 2.3.2. Provide organizations and educational institutions with educational outreach programs about Lights Out and other objectives of the UBT program.	BSN, Urban Green Lab, Nature Centers, Audubon
Action 2.3.3. Create a communications campaign that highlights Lights Out and bird-friendly building design and/or retrofitting to reduce collisions.	Nashville Wildlife Conservation Center
Action 2.3.4. Form a working group to explore the feasibility of passing an ordinance requiring city buildings to have downcast lighting and shielded lighting throughout the city and refrains from installing or using blue wavelength lights (4000 Kelvin) in all outdoor publicly owned fixtures with a target of approximately 2700 Kelvin.	Metro Departments, NES, Tennessee Chapter International Dark Sky Association
Action 2.3.5. Work with Nashville Department of Transportation (NDOT) and Nashville Electric Service (NES) to transition to Dark Sky compliant lighting on roads and in problematic areas.	Metro Departments, NES, Tennessee Chapter International Dark Sky Association
Action 2.3.6. Form a working group to explore the feasibility of extending Dark Skies to core downtown buildings.	Metro Departments, Tennessee Chapter International Dark Sky Association
Action 2.3.7. Certify Warner Parks and consider other large Metro city parks as an 'Urban Night Sky Place' with the International Dark Sky Association.	Warner Park Nature Center, Tennessee Chapter International Dark Sky Association

Objective 2.4: Address the threat of disease, pollution, pesticides, and other environmental hazards	
Action 2.4.1. Educate the public about the importance of cleaning bird feeders and bird baths regularly to prevent the spread and impact of diseases like Avian Bird Flu. Coordinate with the TN Department of Agriculture and TWRA to communicate the current status of diseases within the Nashville area.	The Habitat Connection, Nature Centers
Action 2.4.2. Engage communities in at least 25 trash clean ups (especially of plastics) on land and in waterways.	Cumberland River Compact
Action 2.4.3. Create and post educational signage about the negative impacts of feeding wildlife and of hazardous trash, especially plastics, monofilament, and fishing line.	Nature Centers
Action 2.4.4. Ensure the implementation of Metro Nashville Integrated Pest Management strategies to minimize use of pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides, and other chemicals which are harmful or fatal to birds on city-managed property.	Metro Departments
Action 2.4.5. Explore policies to encourage voluntary efforts to limit distribution of single use plastic (straws, shopping bags, balloons, etc.) and provide clean-up containers for microfilaments, when applicable.	UBT Core Team, Mayor's office
Goal 3: Educate and engage urban communities in caring about and conserving birds and their habitats	
Objective 3.1: Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day	
Action 3.1.1. Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day across the city's nature centers and promote community stewardship and appreciation of native birds and their habitats.	Nature Centers, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Action 3.1.2. Engage diverse and historically unengaged communities with planning and participation at each World Migratory Bird Day event.	Nature Centers, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Action 3.1.3. Engage diverse and historically unengaged communities to create art which celebrates migratory birds and hold community art exhibitions displayed in nature centers.	Nature Centers
Action 3.1.4. Engage Mayor's Office and partners to promote World Migratory Bird Day event and Nashville's Bird Agenda Actions.	Nature Centers
Objective 3.2: Increase awareness of birds and their habitats in your community	
Action 3.2.1. Continue to offer high quality environmental education opportunities at the four nature centers and expand opportunities within the park system and community centers to support the goals of the UBT Program.	Nature Centers, TN State Parks & State Natural Areas
Action 3.2.2. Install accessible birdwatching amenities in public parks, community centers and private parks such as bird blinds, observation decks, interpretive signs, binocular loan out programs, birdwatching/trail guides, and remote web cameras on nest platforms. Promote on Birdability.	Nature Centers, TN State Parks & State Natural Areas
Action 3.2.3. Conduct speaker or workshop events with topics focusing on issues relating to birds, wildlife, habitat conservation, native plants for birds, environmental stewardship and engaging communities in nature.	Audubon, Nashville TOS, Nature Centers, Nashville Zoo
Action 3.2.4. Provide information on municipal tourism and/or Chamber of Commerce or other local partner website about local birdwatching sites, lists of native birds, tips for native landscaping for birds, local educational resources, birdwatching events, bird-related community science projects and bird clubs.	TWRA, Nashville TOS, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Action 3.2.5. Develop and promote accessible city-wide birding trails with onsite and online information, which may include signage, a map of sites, habitat descriptions and birds that can be seen, and birdwatching and education programs at these sites.	Metro Departments, TWRA, Radnor Lake State Natural Area and Division of State Natural Areas, Nashville TOS

Objective 3.3: Educate and engage youth and young adults, including diverse underserved communities	
Action 3.3.1. Facilitate and recruit Eagle Scouts for bird conservation projects such as bird blinds, nest boxes, educational signage, and habitat restoration.	Nature Centers
Action 3.3.2. Offer day camps and community center outreach programs to local youth, including diverse underserved youth, covering topics that relate to birds and conservation.	Nature Centers, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Action 3.3.3. Partner with local university professors to recruit students for volunteering and paid internship opportunities in bird-related conservation and stewardship.	Nature Centers, Lipscomb University, Belmont, Tennessee State University
Action 3.3.4. Conduct teacher workshops to inspire and encourage teachers to incorporate bird-related topics into curriculum.	Urban Green Lab, Nature Centers, Metro Nashville Public Schools
Action 3.3.5. Hire a recent graduate as the Urban Bird Treaty Program Coordinator, to focus on community engagement with underserved communities and stakeholder coordination for implementation, evaluation, monitoring and reporting activities.	TNC
Objective 3.4: Involve the community in conservation and stewardship	
Action 3.4.1. Educate the public about the responsibilities and best practices of providing food and clean water for birds and discern the benefits of landscaping with native plants to provide natural food sources through website, newsletters, public events, and the National Audubon Society's Plants for Birds program.	Urban Green Lab, Nature Centers, The Habitat Connection, Cumberland River Compact, NES
Action 3.4.2. Implement an annual communications campaign about issues and actions related to World Migratory Bird Day events, creating bird-friendly communities, the city's Urban Bird Treaty designation, and other national bird initiatives.	Urban Green Lab, UBTP Core Group, Nature Centers, Metro Departments
Action 3.4.3. Engage property owners in a bird-friendly yard recognition program (e.g., National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Certification Program) to work toward a significant number of recognized or certified yards.	Habitat Connection, Green Smart Yard Program
Action 3.4.4. Promote and provide educational opportunities for landscapers and garden centers/nurseries to learn about the detrimental effects to birds and other wildlife of exotic plants (nandina, bush honeysuckle, privet).	Nature Centers, Cheekwood, Tennessee Invasive Plant Council
Action 3.4.5. Work with interested parties such as veterinary clinics, Metro government, and rescue organizations to educate about the critical importance and advantages of keeping cats indoors.	BSN
Objective 3.5: Promote community science, monitoring, and research	
Action 3.5.1. Engage community members in community science programs such as Christmas Bird Count, Great Backyard Bird Count, City Nature Challenge, Project Feeder Watch, Globe at Night, and/or other long- term local bird monitoring programs that incorporate dBird, eBird and/or iNaturalist.	Nature Centers, Nashville TOS, Cumberland River Compact, Audubon, Metro Nashville Public Schools, Tennessee Chapter of the International Dark Skies Association
Action 3.5.2. Engage community members in Purple Martin migration roost monitoring and education.	BIRD Program, Nashville TOS
Action 3.5.3. Engage community members in bird collision monitoring to identify hazardous buildings that result in high mortality rates.	Audubon, BIRD Program
Action 3.5.4. Educate the public about birds' full annual cycle through public banding, MOTUS, and other research projects across multiple parks.	Nature Centers, BSN