



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds

### Why an Urban Conservation Treaty?

For the vast majority of people, birds represent their sole everyday contact with wildlife. Birds are a valuable resource, contributing aesthetically, culturally, scientifically, and economically to America's citizens. Urban areas are critical for migrating birds. Large concentrations of birds migrate along flyways or routes on which many large urban centers have developed. Important bird habitat is often found within these metropolitan areas. With an environmentally aware citizenry dedicated to conserving and enhancing their natural resources, cities can be sanctuaries for migratory birds and other wildlife.

### What is an Urban Conservation Treaty?

An Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds is a partnership agreement between a U.S. city and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for the purpose of conserving migratory birds through education and habitat improvement strategies. The Service provides challenge funding, and technical assistance. The Treaty city develops and implements bird conservation projects and programs, provides matching dollars and in-kind support, and develops additional partnerships.



### What Type of Funding is Provided?

Cities are awarded Service grants starting at \$10,000, depending on the type and scope of projects proposed by city and Service project leaders. The Treaty city must match the grant amount with cash or services.

### What are the Main Components?

The focus areas of the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds are Habitat Creation, Protection, and Restoration; Education and Outreach; Reduction of Hazards; and Management of Invasive, Exotic or Nuisance Species. Each city will work with the Service to develop a customized action plan that specifies goals and objectives in the four focus areas. Some cities may choose to emphasize education programs through teaching bird-focused curricula or constructing schoolyard habitat sites. Others may choose to reach out to individuals in the workplace or owners of tall buildings by providing incentives for dimming or turning lights off at night during peak migration to reduce fatal bird collisions. In all cities, there will be efforts to raise awareness of the public's role in conserving declining species by creating, protecting and restoring habitat.

### Is there a Recognition Program?

Yes, at the completion of action plan initiatives, a city will receive a national "Golden Wing Award" to recognize its ongoing commitment to urban migratory bird conservation. There will also be opportunities for the Treaty cities and the Service to promote their program throughout the extent of the grant period, and for established Treaty cities to mentor newer fledgling Treaty cities as they develop their action plans, and to team together on national awareness campaigns.

### How is a City Selected?

Currently, the Urban Conservation Treaty Program is in a pilot phase. An Urban Conservation Treaty Team, made up of Service personnel from several regions within the U.S., is accepting recommendations from agency field locations near metropolitan areas, and reviewing formal letters of interest from municipalities around the country to determine appropriate locations for pilot cities.

### What will be the Future of the Program?

In the future, the program will become an open competition for annual grants. The Service will provide guidelines and an application packet to any municipality with an interest in submitting a proposal to become a Treaty city.

### Where are the Pilot Cities and Why Were They Selected?

The pilot Treaty cities are selected for the commitment of their officials to providing habitat for wildlife, in particular migratory birds. Other criteria are a city's location along a major migratory flyway, and its proximity to Service personnel who are able to provide technical assistance and oversee the treaty activities.

#### New Orleans, Louisiana

Mayor Marc H. Morial  
Date: June 13, 1999  
Grant Amount: \$50,000

#### Chicago, Illinois

Mayor Richard M. Daley  
Date: March 25, 2000  
Grant Amount: \$100,000

**For More Information:**  
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