



## Top 10 Local Government Policies to Enhance Conservation of Birds & Biodiversity

- 1. Land Development Practices:** Land clearing, site preparation and construction should be carefully planned and follow a detailed Environment Management Plan to reduce impacts and disturbance.
  - ✓ Identify sensitive ecosystems and establish Development Permit Areas to protect sensitive areas.
  - ✓ Require that environmentally sustainable development guidelines and best practices be followed such as Develop with Care 2012 and Green Shores practices.
  - ✓ Identify any local Important Bird Areas as environmentally sensitive areas.
  - ✓ Encourage proper rainwater/stormwater management: require on-site oil-water separators where applicable and Low Impact Development (LID) techniques.
- 2. Bird Friendly Landscaping:** Native plants are lower maintenance and many species can benefit birds by providing shelter, nesting areas, and food like seeds & berries.
  - ✓ Use native drought-tolerant trees and plants suitable for the location and preserve wildlife trees, snags and fallen wood.
  - ✓ Encourage the use of native plants in home gardens and discourage the use of exotic invasive species (e.g. English ivy, Lamium, Holly).
  - ✓ Encourage residents to preserve wildlife trees, snags, fallen wood and other structures used by birds (e.g. barns) where appropriate.
- 3. Pets Under Control:** Free-roaming outdoor cats cause significant mortality to birds and other small wildlife, and offleash dogs can disturb resting flocks and nesting birds.
  - ✓ Encourage residents to keep cats indoors or limit free-roaming outdoor access.
  - ✓ Establish dog leash bylaws in natural areas and in the neighborhood.
- 4. Reduce Waste, and Promote Recycling and Clean-ups:** Birds and wildlife can become entangled in plastic bags, fishing line and other garbage, resulting in injury, strangulation or easy predation.
  - ✓ Encourage recycling and composting programs.
  - ✓ Support education programs aimed at reducing use of plastics and other waste.
  - ✓ Support beach, stream and other clean-up activities.
- 5. Building Guidelines:** Unbroken reflections cause birds to fly into glass. About 1-10 birds are killed annually for every building in North America.
  - ✓ Encourage architects and builders to use bird friendly building designs/materials.
- 6. Energy Savings & Night Lighting:** Migratory songbirds are attracted by lights and can be killed by colliding with lighted buildings at night.
  - ✓ Encourage residential and commercial building owners to turn off the lights or close the blinds at night.

7. **Avoid Pesticides and Herbicides:** These poisons kill beneficial insects, harm amphibians and are often washed into streams and waterways. Birds can be effective at controlling insect pests.
  - ✓ Establish a bylaw to limit cosmetic pesticide use on residential lawns.
  - ✓ Encourage use of natural or organic alternatives for pest control and lawn care.
  - ✓ Provide information on proper disposal for hazardous materials.
  
8. **Parks and Green Space:** Parks, greenways, community gardens and street trees provide important green space that enhance wildlife value and improve human health.
  - ✓ Retain and enhance native vegetation and urban forests.
  - ✓ Support partnerships to conduct local habitat restoration projects.
  - ✓ Improve habitat connectivity along local parks and greenspace.
  - ✓ Develop a strategy to acquire new parkland, implement a tree retention bylaw and consider the establishment of a Regional Conservation Fund.
  
9. **Ecotourism:** Birdwatching and wildlife viewing are a fast growing tourism sector.
  - ✓ Develop partnerships with local businesses and organizations to enhance the economic development potential from ecotourism, wildlife viewing and nature experience at local parks and other natural areas.
  - ✓ Develop communications to promote local parks as ecotourism destinations.
  - ✓ Ensure measures are in place to protect sensitive areas from human disturbance.
  
10. **Public Education:** Increasing awareness of local biodiversity will improve the understanding of impacts and will promote local stewardship of natural resources.
  - ✓ Develop programs and partnerships to increase the awareness of the importance of local habitats and biodiversity through educational programs, interpretive signage on pathways and in parks, and public participation in Citizen Science monitoring programs.
  - ✓ Support local nature festivals and events like Migratory Bird Day celebrations.

**For further information:**

- **Develop with Care 2012: Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia:**  
[www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2012/index.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2012/index.html)
- **Green Shores Program:** [www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca/greenshores](http://www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca/greenshores)
- **Green Bylaws Toolkit:** [www.greenbylaws.ca](http://www.greenbylaws.ca)
- **Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Canada:** [www.ibacanada.ca](http://www.ibacanada.ca)
- **BC's Important Bird Area Program:** [www.bcnature.ca/projects/iba/ibas-in-bc](http://www.bcnature.ca/projects/iba/ibas-in-bc)
- **Fatal Light Awareness program:** [www.flap.org](http://www.flap.org)
- **Regional Conservation Fund:** [www.soscp.org/conservationfundguideforbc](http://www.soscp.org/conservationfundguideforbc)
- **Bird Studies Canada:** [www.birdscanada.org](http://www.birdscanada.org)
- **State of Canada's Birds:** [www.stateofcanadasbirds.org](http://www.stateofcanadasbirds.org)

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