



BIRD CITY WISCONSIN: Making our communities healthy for birds ... and people

January 18, 2014

Lee Szymborski
City Administrator
11333 N. Cedarburg Road
Mequon, WI 53092

Dear Lee,

On behalf of the Steering Committee for Bird City Wisconsin, our congratulations on successfully renewing your recognition as a Bird City for 2014 at the High Flyer level. It is an accomplishment that again puts Mequon at the absolute forefront of efforts to forge a statewide coalition of citizens and public officials who know that birds are more than beautiful -- they are significant.

We recognize and appreciate both the work that goes into meeting Bird City's criteria and in submitting your application, which our committee ranks as among the most impressive we have received. We believe that this recognition not only promotes strategies for bird-centered conservation activities, it also presents the kind of image that most citizens want to have for the place they live, conduct their business or ask people to come visit.

Having recently recognized our 76th Bird City community, we also want to say a special thank-you to our 15 inaugural year communities, including Mequon, which are now being recognized for a fourth year.

Our review team appreciated the breadth and detail in your application, laying out how the community now meets 16 of our Basic Sustained Flight conservation criteria as well as 8 High Flyer standards. Mequon once again has increased the number of criteria it has achieved over the previous year and continues to stand as one of just 9 High Flyers among our 76 Bird City communities.

Notable additions to your efforts included development of additional bird habitat with land acquisition and native grasses planted at the Trinity Creek site, removal of a dense stand of buckthorn at the amazing Mequon Nature Preserve, the Garlic Mustard Pull-a-Thon, distribution of window-bird-clings, participation in the Great Wisconsin Birdathon, development of a new bird hot spot with year-round flowing water, and the ash tree reduction program.

All of that leads me to take this opportunity to personally invite any and all of those involved in Mequon's Bird City conservation activities to attend the upcoming **Bird City Summit, March 21-22 in Oshkosh.**



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We view this as an opportunity to better serve our communities by providing a forum in which they can both share their own conservation ideas and also gain new knowledge. Program details and registration information are available online at <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/> and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Mequon's exemplary High Flyer status makes its presence at our summit particularly valuable – both for what someone like Kristin Gies could share and what Mequon can potentially learn to further its efforts.

With the regular-mail copy of this letter you will find enclosed:

- A replacement insert for your official Bird City plaque, updating it for the current year, which runs through March 31, 2015.
- All-weather reflective decals for updating your street signs.
- An instruction sheet showing the correct positioning and application for the decals.

BCW is an annual recognition project, much like Tree City USA, and we look forward to your renewal again next year. We celebrate your initiative in improving the quality of life for your fellow citizens and thank you again for helping to make our communities healthier for birds... and people.

Best regards,

Carl Schwartz

Bird City Coordinator

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