

2. Vancouver Bird Friendly Strategy

MOVER: Commissioner Barnes

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. Metro Vancouver - including Vancouver - supports 407 identified bird species, most of which are migratory;
2. Birds, through their dependence on many habitats along their migrations, often feel the effects of changing habitats before many other species, making them key indicators for the environmental health and thus the health of residents;
3. Canada's science-based 'Important Bird Areas Program', an initiative to identify, conserve and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for Canada's bird population, has identified the Fraser River Delta adjacent to Vancouver as BC's most significant important bird area, supporting millions of birds annually;
4. Birding tourism accounted for \$35.7 billion in expenditures in the United States in 2009, the most recent year for which information is available. No comparable study exists in Canada, estimates of birding participation rates in western Canada for the same year are much higher than in the United States (30% vs 21%);
5. The Greenest City Action Plan recognizes that natural spaces need to be protected and well managed, and that the City should contribute to, and influence, the development of Metro Vancouver's Regional Biodiversity Strategy, which includes guidelines to create or re-establish wildlife corridors;
6. Many birds contribute to urban food production as pollinators and by eating destructive insects and other pests;
7. Since 2010 the City has partnered with the Vancouver Park Board, the Stanley Park Ecology Society, Bird Studies Canada, Nature Canada and other community partners to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day and this year Bird Week in Vancouver to provide a week of public education programming about birds and bird habitat;
8. The built form of the urban environment can pose particular challenges for birds, with over one million bird deaths in Toronto annually from bird/building collisions;

9. Toronto, Calgary, Chicago and several other North American cities have successfully established bird-friendly strategies, that include public education, habitat creation and protection, building guidelines and tourism strategies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. Staff work with the Park Board's Bird Week partners to expand public education efforts for 2014;
- B. Staff report back on efforts underway to improve bird habitat;
- C. Staff report back on the feasibility of developing landscape design guidelines to enhance bird habitat values for landscapes across Vancouver.