



BASTROPTX

Heart of the Lost Pines / Est. 1832

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1311 Chestnut Street
P. O. Box 427
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512-332-8800

www.cityofbastrop.org

December 17, 2018

Bird City Texas Team
Texas Parks and Wildlife
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

RE: Support for the City of Bastrop's Bird City Application

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Bastrop, we are honored and excited to be one (1) of 14 cities to receive an invitation to apply for the inaugural Bird City Pilot Program. We appreciate the opportunity to submit our application for your consideration.

Recognizing that birding generates \$1.8 billion annually in economic impact for Texas, we believe being designated a Bird City will enhance our ability to promote our natural resources sector, a vital part of our tourism economy. Bastrop's natural resources include Bastrop State Park, Lake Bastrop, Buescher State Park, Colorado River Refuge, McKinney Roughs Nature Park, Fisherman's Park, and Bob Bryant Park. If the City receives a Bird City designation, Visit Bastrop, our destination marketing organization, will promote these areas as prime locations for bird recreation and bird monitoring.

In addition, Bastrop has a strong network of partnerships dedicated to enhancing and maintaining our natural resources as well as educating the public on their importance. This network includes Bastrop Audubon Society, Texas Master Naturalist "Lost Pines Chapter," Bastrop County Master Gardeners Association, Bastrop State Park, Bastrop County Tourism & Economic Development, Visit Bastrop, and the Lower Colorado River Authority. If Bastrop is designated as a Bird City, the Bastrop Parks Board will add a subcommittee, known as the Bird City Coalition, which will include participation from all partners.

Building Bastrop is an initiative the City is undertaking to guide responsible development that honors our authentic past and prepares for our sustainable future. The goal is to create new land-use regulations that are locally made, **geographically sensitive**, and **fiscally sustainable**. We have studied the economic data and statistics supporting the value of bird conservation to communities, local residents, and public health, which results in increased property values from protecting habitat, annual budgetary savings related to environmental services, and the overall economic value of wetlands and other critical habitat. There is a great fit between Building Bastrop and being designated a Bird City. Our efforts to create geographically sensitive regulations

and fiscally sustainable development will only enhance our natural resources in the future.

On December 11, 2018, the Bastrop City Council approved Resolution No. R-2018-124 endorsing the application for the designation of Bastrop, Texas as a Bird City. The City Council acknowledged that being designated a Bird City meets Economic Vitality, which is one (1) of nine (9) focus areas adopted by Council to support the implementation of the City's vision and mission statements, as well as aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan 2036 regarding Parks & Recreation and Cultural Arts & Tourism.

Again, thanks for your consideration of the City of Bastrop's application to be designated a Bird City. If I can provide any additional information that may be helpful as you consider our application, please feel free to contact me via email at lhumble@cityofbastrop.org or via telephone at 512-332-8800.

Sincerely,



Lynda K. Humble
City Manager



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