



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

**RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR**

November 3, 2020

**Bird City Texas Partners
7700 Hwy 71 West, Suite 330
Austin, TX 78735**

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter from the City of San Antonio is to recognize and endorse the efforts of Bird City Texas San Antonio coalition to achieve the Bird City Texas Certification as conferred by Audubon Texas and Texas Parks and Wildlife. The certification which lasts for three years, is a community focused program created to recognize communities that help protect birds and their habitats within cities. The City of San Antonio as represented by its Mayor and City Council would like to join other Texas cities in making our State a Bird friendly place for the amazing abundance of species who fly biannually through San Antonio and for those that call our region home.

The criteria for certification involves educating the public at large on the value of maintaining bird friendly habitat; initiating and executing long term programs for the removal of invasive species while encouraging the use of native plants; provide demonstration gardens and interpretive displays; and encouraging bird related tourism to the San Antonio community.

Bird City Texas San Antonio is a collaborative group, led by Bexar Audubon Society, and involving the whole community and its agencies: the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation and the Office of Sustainability, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, San Antonio Water System, San Antonio River Authority's Westside Creeks Restoration Committee, Headwaters at Incarnate Word, Native Plant Society of Texas, Texas Invaders, San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site, San Antonio Audubon Society, Eco-Centro, San Antonio Eco-Tourism, American Bird Conservancy, Alamo Area Master Naturalists, Wild Birds Unlimited, Alamo City Golf Trail, TPC San Antonio, Hyatt Hill Country Golf Club and a growing list of other interested parties. These organizations are providing guidance, advice, time, money, and large amounts of selfless effort to help San Antonio achieve Bird City Certification.

Bird City Texas San Antonio is pledging to continue work on the certification criteria, all of which are geared toward making San Antonio a world class supporter for birds and the habitat they depend on. More specifically, we have programs to continue education on implementing dark sky policies during peak bird migration, expanding the use of native pollinator plants to help feed birds and the bugs they thrive on, implementing native grass lands to provide habitat for grassland birds, and managing invasive plant and animal species so these bird friendly habitats continue to thrive. We'll continue to work with the City of San Antonio and Chambers of Commerce to market San Antonio as a great destination for birding and other eco-tourism activities.

Sincerely,



Ron Nirenberg
MAYOR