

Rotary



Club of Bastrop County



Bird Houses and Other Public Service Projects for Smithville



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Rotary Club Public Service Projects for Smithville

- Support Smithville character and values
- Public service projects for city
 - Bird houses
 - Bike racks
 - Benches or other projects



Summary of Bird Houses for City of Smithville

- A public service project for public spaces such as city parks or City Hall
 - Support of protecting the environment and education
- Provide houses for birds native to or migrating through our portion of Central Texas
 - Support “our feathered friends”
 - Help maintain a natural environment in rural or suburban areas
 - Provide supplemental shelter for wildlife (e.g., native birds) while discouraging predators
 - Houses are available for songbirds (Texas Bluebirds, etc.), ducks, or bats
- Install at locations such as Riverbend Park and Railroad Museum/Chamber area

Birdhouse Purposes

- Provide best opportunity for some of “God’s creatures” to thrive and raise their families
- Provide protection from weather, predators, etc. for mothers and nestlings



Examples of natural bird nests in bushes:
Nests susceptible to severe weather (wind, rain),
“Support God’s creatures” predators (e.g., squirrels, racoons, snakes, fire ants, etc.)



Native bird house with predator guard

Planned Bird Houses



Native songbird (e.g., Bluebird), Wood Duck, Bat houses, Owl

- Install on poles (e.g., T posts)
- Install guards for predators such as squirrels, racoons, snakes
- Check and clean every few months
- Some weathering is expected but plan to replace in approximately 4 years

Wood Duck house approximately 3 years old and still functional



Example of Native Bird House with Predator Guard and sign

- Illustrates configuration with Native Songbird (e.g. Bluebird)
- Duck house, Bluebird house would be similar
- This is mounted on a 8' T post
 - T post is normally 8' long in ranch, 10' on public parks
- Owl and bat houses mounted high on poles



Sign for Bird House Posts

8"x10" sign

- Sign for T posts (or poles)
 - Shows aspects
 - Mount on T posts
 - 8"x10"
 - PVC/aluminum sign on T post (or pole)
- Front of bird house is CNC laser engraved with color with Rotary logo



Sign for Bird House

- Sign for T posts (or poles)
 - Shows aspects
 - Mount on T posts
 - 8"x10"
 - PVC/aluminum sign on T post (or pole)
 - Could have Bible verse
- Front of bird house is CNC laser engraved with color with Church logo and name

8"x10" sign (can be customized)



Predator Control for Bird Houses

www.thespruce.com/protecting-bird-houses-from-predators-386633

- Protect nesting bird from predators such as racoons, squirrels, or snakes
- Mounting bird house on pole (e.g., "T post") is a viable approach
 - Predators can readily climb trees
 - Flexible placement of bird house location
- Snake netting deters rat snakes



4-in x 10-ft-PSI Corrugated Solid Pipe

Item #187428 Model #04950010

★★★★★ 78



\$13.61

- Triple-wall pipe can be used for retention walls, drainage
- Triple-wall pipe is unaffected ultraviolet radiation, if it is
- Triple-wall PIPE is made of
- address the smooth interior

4-in Pipe (Diameter)
4-ft.

Pickup & Delivery Options

FREE Pickup

Ready within 2 hours

At Store Locations

Online Available

Check Other Sizes

134 Available

Area SW1 Day 10



- Stovepipe predator guard for mounting pole
- Cut into five 2' sections

- Picture with 8' T post and "stovepipe" predator guard
- 10' T post is recommended for public spaces to minimize vandalism and increase comfort for birds

Wood Duck House

www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/build-a-wood-duck-box

Build a Wood Duck Box

These wooden structures help boost local wood duck populations, and may also be used by other cavity nesting birds.



A Home for Wood Ducks and Others



Bat House

- It is possible to build this or some version
- www.thespruce.com/bat-house-plans-4775009
- diy.dunnlumber.com/projects/how-to-build-a-bat-house?pp=1

Amazon.com Shopping Cart x Amazon.com Shopping Cart x Amazon.com Shopping Cart x Amazon.com Shopping Cart x Amazon.com: MIXXIDEA Ba x

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B08TM7555S/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&ppr=1

Pet Supplies Pet Profiles Dogs Cats Fish & Aquatics Small Animals Birds Reptiles Horses Deals & Coupons Pet Care Tips Subscribe & Save

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Patio, Lawn & Garden Outdoor Décor Backyard Birding & Wildlife Bats

1 Last purchased Sep 3, 2022
Color: wood | View order

MIXXIDEA Bat House Bat Box Double Chamber Outdoor House Nursery Bat Shelter Habitat Big bat Box Handcrafted from Cedar Wood - Easy for Bats to Land and Roost - Weather Resistant & Ready to Install

Visit the MIXXIDEA Store
★★★★☆ 128 ratings | 6 answered questions

Was: \$23.99 Details
Price: **\$21.99** ✓prime & FREE Returns
You Save: \$2.00 (8%)

Earn 5% Back on this purchase when you pay with your Amazon Business Prime American Express Card. Eligible Prime membership required. Terms and cap apply.

Color: wood

Brand: MIXXIDEA
Material: Wood, Cedar
Color: Wood
Style: Box
Product Dimensions: 9.3"D x 15"W x 4"H

100% western cedar, naturally resistant to rot and insects
The grooves provide a safe grip point for the bat
A large landing pad (8.75" x 7")

Roll over image to zoom in

VIDEO

Secure transaction

Sold by U-T-SKY and Fulfilled by Amazon.

Return policy: Eligible for Return, Refund or Replacement within 30 days of receipt

Add a gift receipt for easy returns

7:20 PM 8/3/2022

Owl Box House

www.audubon.org/news/how-build-screech-owl-nest-box

Plan calls for 1x10 8' cedar or Cyprus

Activities

How to Build a Screech-Owl Nest Box

Step-by-step instructions for building a home that Eastern and Western Screech-Owls will enjoy.



Birds in This Story

Eastern Screech-Owl
Latin: *Megascops asio*



Examples of Bat and Bird House Installation



- Jan 8, 2023 at Kovar Ponds Ranch
- Bat house on electric power pole
- Bird house with stovepipe predator guard and snake netting
- Also installed NWF "Certified Wildlife Habitat" sign



National Wildlife Foundation

- It is possible to have areas in Smithville apply for and obtain NWF recognition as “Certified Wildlife Habitat”
- Riverbend Parks already “Certified Wildlife Habitat”
- [Garden for Wildlife \(nwf.org\)](http://www.nwf.org)
www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat



CERTIFIED WILDLIFE HABITAT

Certify Your Habitat to Help Wildlife!

Wildlife habitat gardens are a haven for local birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. Tell us how your yard or garden provides habitat and the National Wildlife Federation will recognize it as a Certified Wildlife Habitat®.

Once certified, you can share your accomplishment and commitment to helping wildlife with your whole neighborhood by purchasing and posting an exclusive Certified Wildlife Habitat® sign.



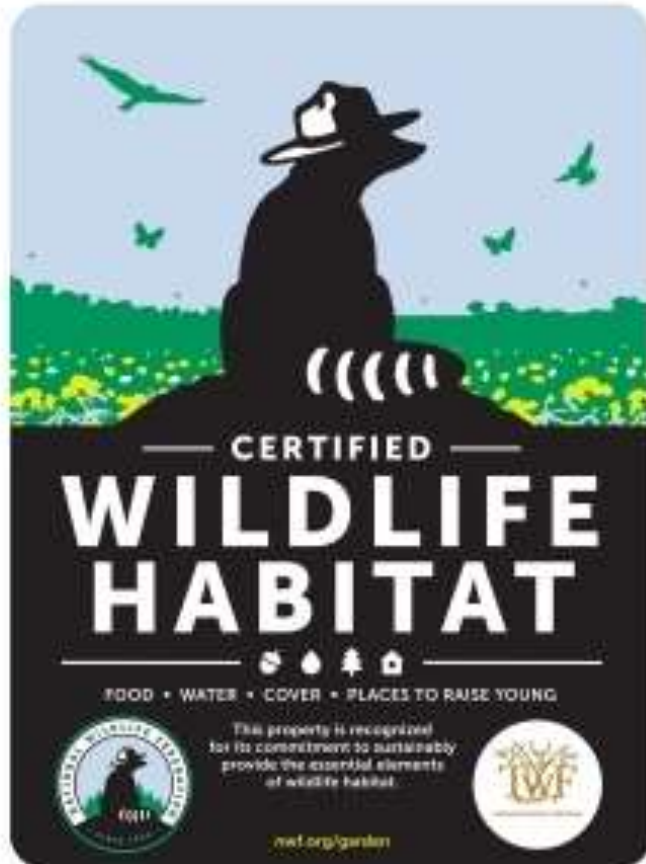
The secure \$20 application processing fee and sign purchase directly support the National Wildlife Federation's programs to protect wildlife and its habitat.

- The **NWF program** certifies wildlife-friendly land for homeowners, businesses, schools, universities, places of worship, parks, and community-based organizations as community wildlife habitats
- Example locations:
 - Smith city property such as Fisherman's Park, Railroad museum park, etc.
 - Private property
 - Churches in Smithville

Smithville Parks, Gardens, etc. as Certified Wildlife Habitat

www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat

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Smithville Has potential for “Bird City Certification” and Proposed Bird Houses can Support This



Significant effort but this could be a future, optional project

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/wildlife/birding/bird-city-texas/how>



Bird City Texas

Bastrop: Bird City Texas Certified Community

Learn more about the excellent work being done in Bastrop to involve their community, improve habitat, and create safer spaces for birds. Below you will find some details about Bastrop as well as a few examples of the local bird-friendly initiatives they have implemented that led to their Bird City Texas official certification. This list is not exhaustive but hopefully helps give insight on what local communities are doing to support birds and the spaces where they live. We hope these examples help you discover ways your community can work to protect birds and their habitat where you live.

Details

Bastrop Details

How to Apply Program Timeline

- **June 1, 2022:** Application period re-opens for all communities
- **November 1, 2022:** Applications must be started by this date. The portal will close to new applications on this date.
- **December 2, 2022:** 2022 Bird City applications due
- **January 31, 2023:** Annual report due for currently certified communities

Possible Considerations and Locations for Bird Houses in Smithville

- Should be visible to the public (with signage) but not in unprotected area with excessive people, vehicle, or pet area to disturb nesting birds
- Located on City owned property
- Railroad museum/Smithville Chamber: 1-2 Native songbird (e.g., Bluebird)
- Riverbend Park:
 - 2+ Native songbird in open areas but near trees
 - Wood Duck on banks of the Colorado River
 - Possible bat or owl house
- At garden area near highways 71 and 95 (TX DOT Green area)
- Schools, other, Serenity Star Ranch

Approach

- City of Smithville decides on projects including locations of birdhouses (e.g., six)
 - Example: Riverbend park, Railroad/Smithville Chamber area
 - Augment Rotary members with “birders” such as Audubon Society
- Let people know these birdhouses exist and the purpose
- Assess results and next steps
- Rotary Club (ideally with the public) maintains the houses such as checking at least twice a year
- Birdhouses will weather and eventually need replacement for a limited cost and time
- We will have a similar effort in Bastrop

Additional Considerations

- Support of wildlife is also relevant to the rural character of Smithville
- Growth and development is happening and can be beneficial
- Support of appropriate growth/development is desirable
- One aspect of that can be an approach for support of Texas Ag based upon “Wildlife/open space” for Texas Ag 1-d-1
 - One example is our Kovar Ponds Ranch south of Smithville where we (and our neighbors) support wildlife
 - We are in process of installing many native bird, Wood Duck, and bat houses with predator guards as part of this

Bench at Smithville Chamber/Railroad Park



Example of Outdoor Bench



- This was made at Smithville HS but a version could be made by a Smithville area business
- Could have custom decorative/functional features made using CNC plasma cutter by a Smithville area business

Little Library at Smithville City Hall



Stocked with books
from "Born Again
Emporium"

Bike Rack Dedication Ceremony at Bastrop Public Library

Potential opportunity: make custom bike racks or other items for Smithville



- Encourage bicycling
 - Good for people, environment, and businesses
- Custom Bike racks to emulate the historic bridge in Bastrop
- Installed Oct 2022
- Made for Rotary Club by students and then a local Smithville area business