

**Rotary**

Club of Bastrop County



**BIRD  
CITY**  
TEXAS

# Public Service Projects Including Bird Houses for Bastrop

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# Rotary Club Public Service Projects for Bastrop

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





# Summary of Bird Houses for City of Bastrop

- 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 winged 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 first at Fisherman's Park
  - Later locations might be Bob Bryant Park, Mayfest Park, and Bastrop City Hall
- Do periodic checking and cleaning to maintain houses and assess results



# “Bird Houses” Installed at Fisherman's Park

- Installed Houses for “Birds” (e.g., Bluebird or similar), “Bat”, “Owl” and “Duck”





# Birdhouse Purposes

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



“Support God’s creatures”



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

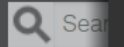


Bird house with predator control

# Planned Bird Houses Support Bastrop “Bird City Certification”



- Parks
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Boating
- Game Warden
- Activities
- Wildlife
- Land
- Water
- Media
- Calendar
- Regulations
- Education
- Volunteer
- More...



Bird City Texas

- About
- Resources ▾
- FAQ
- How to Apply
- Contact Us



## 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**





# Sign and Locations for “Bird Houses” at Fisherman's Park

## “Bird Houses” at Fisherman’s Park



Houses for “Birds” (e.g., Bluebird or similar), “Bat”, “Owl” and “Duck”

*Support birds, nature, and people*



[www.CityofBastrop.org](http://www.CityofBastrop.org)



[www.BastropRotary.org](http://www.BastropRotary.org)



Curtis Hancock (Bastrop Public Works), Norman Jones

Sign (24”x18”) showing locations



# Installed 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



# Sign for Bird Houses

8"x10" sign

- Sign to summarize aspects
- Mount on "predator guard" on 10' T post
- 8"x10" outdoor vinyl sticker
- Front of bird house is CNC laser engraved with color with Rotary logo



# House Site Considerations and Possible Locations

- Should be visible to the public (with signage) but not in unprotected area with excessive people, vehicle, or pet area to disturb nesting birds
- Phase 1: Fisherman's Park
  - Songbird (e.g., Bluebird) 3-4 at various locations
  - Wood Duck along Colorado river
  - Bat house on tall pole
  - Optional Owl box on tall pole
- Phase 1B: Songbird (e.g., Bluebird) inside detention pond at City Hall
- Phase 2
  - Do after assessing results of phase 1
  - Bob Bryant Park, Mayfest Park
  - Schools, other



# Approach

- City of Bastrop decides on projects including locations of birdhouses (e.g., five)
  - Examples: Fisherman's park, Mayfest Park, Bastrop City
- Have publicity for these birdhouses and the purpose as part of protecting wildlife and the environment
- Assess results and next steps
- Rotary Club (ideally with other groups) maintains the houses such as checking at least twice a year
- Birdhouses will weather and eventually need replacement for a limited cost and time

# Example of Bird House with Predator Guard and sign

- Illustrates configuration with “Native bird house” (e.g., Bluebird)
- Duck house, Bluebird house would be similar
- This is mounted on a 8’ T post
  - 10’ on public parks for nest security
- Owl and bat houses mounted high on poles





# Predator Control for Bird Houses

<https://nesthollow.com/what-is-a-bluebird-house-predator-guard/>

- 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



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

Item #187408 Model #04550010

★★★★★ 78



\$13.61

- Triple-wall pipe can be used for retention walls, downspout
- Triple-wall pipe is unaffected ultraviolet radiation, it is UV resistant
- Triple-wall PIPE is made of stiff resin the smooth interior

Inch Pipe Diameter  
4-in

Pickup & Delivery Options

**FREE Pickup**

Ready within 2 hours

At Searle Lowe's

[Click to see availability](#)

Check Other Stores

134 Available

Asst. Mgr. Bay 10

1

- 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

# Texas Bluebird Society Style Birdhouse

- [www.texasbluebirdsociety.org/BuildingPlans.php](http://www.texasbluebirdsociety.org/BuildingPlans.php)
- Has swing out door for checking and periodic cleaning
- Made of pine glued up boards
- Paint exterior with light color paint
- Label using “exterior vinyl sticker”
  - Simple, inexpensive, and flexible on design





# Wood Duck House

[www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/build-a-wood-duck-box](http://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



Nesting Wood Duck pair at "Kovar Ponds Ranch"

# Wood Duck House

- [www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/build-a-wood-duck-bo](http://www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/build-a-wood-duck-bo)
- Has swing out door
- Made of pine glued up boards
- Paint top and back with light color paint





# Owl Box House

[www.audubon.org/news/how-build-screech-owl-nest-box](http://www.audubon.org/news/how-build-screech-owl-nest-box)

- Build using 1x10 8' pine, cedar or Cyprus: can be glued up boards
- Change from top opening to side opening
- Paint top and back with light color paint

## 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

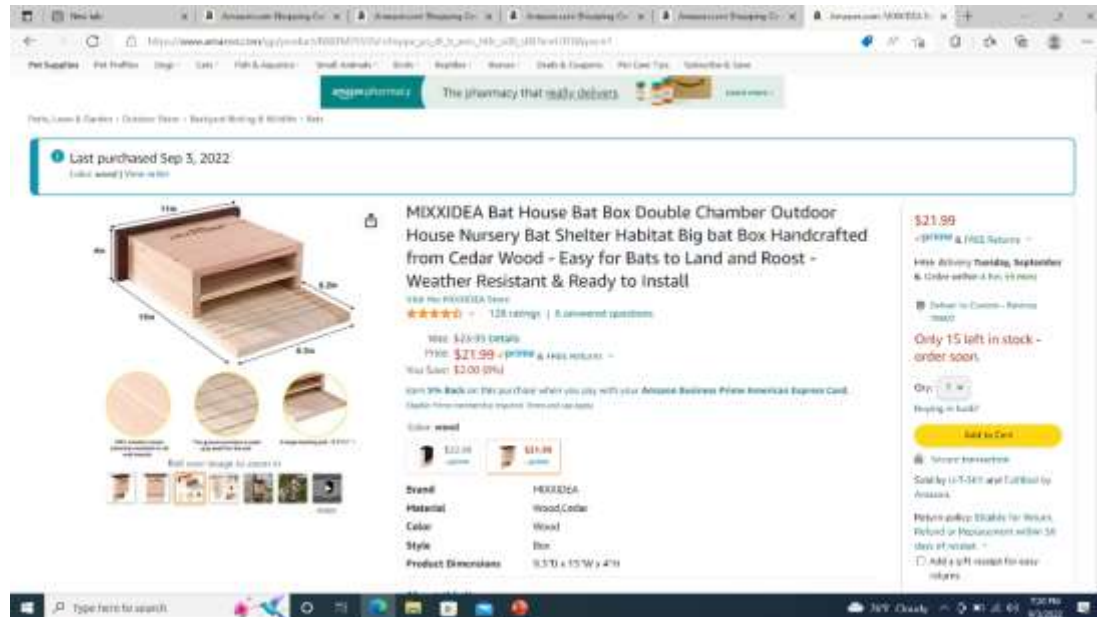
Eastern Screech-Owl  
Latin: *Megascops asio*



- An owl house is rather large and heavy
- Best mounted on a high pole (e.g., metal)

# Bat House

- Build this or some version
- [www.thespruce.com/bat-house-plans-4775009](http://www.thespruce.com/bat-house-plans-4775009)
- [diy.dunnlumber.com/projects/how-to-build-a-bat-house?pp=1](http://diy.dunnlumber.com/projects/how-to-build-a-bat-house?pp=1)
- Paint top and back with light color paint

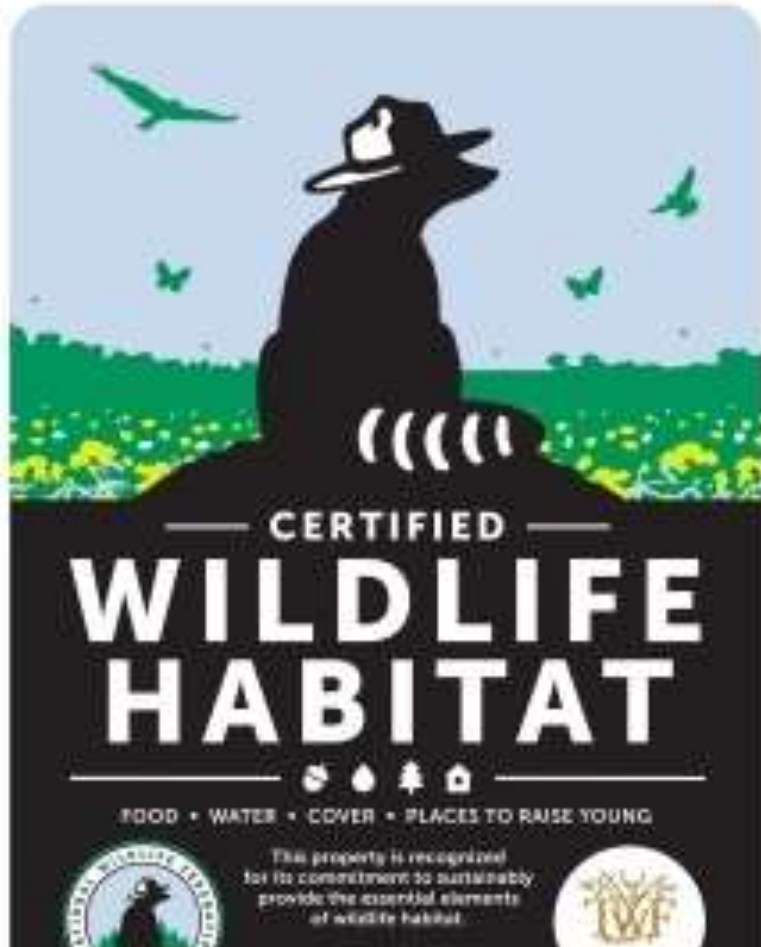




# Buy or Build “Bird houses”

- Houses for native songbirds (e.g. Bluebirds) ducks, owl, and bat can be made with plans and basic tools
- A viable “buy” approach is to purchases from a supplier (ideally local)
  - Total cost approximately \$60
    - \$21 for Bluebird house Bluebird, \$12 for T post

# Bastrop as Certified Wildlife Habitat for Parks, Churches, etc.



[www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat](http://www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat)

The **NWF program** certifies wildlife-friendly land for homeowners, businesses, schools, universities, places of worship, parks, and community-based organizations as community wildlife habitats.

- It is also possible to have a specific area such as a park get this recognition rather than a entire city
- This can be simpler



# Bike Rack Dedication Ceremony in Bastrop

- Encourage bicycling
  - Good for people, environment, and businesses
- Custom Bike racks to emulate the historic bridge in Bastrop
- Installed Oct 2022 and March 2023
- Made for Rotary Club by students and then by a local business





# Rotary Bench in Bastrop

On Main Street near Chestnut



Rotary Club of Bastrop County bench on Main street



# Example of Outdoor Bench as a Project



- This was made at Smithville HS but a version could be made by a local 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”



# Fisherman's Park Example Possible Locations



Fishermans Park  
Jan 4 2023

Specific locations to be approved by  
Bastrop Parks and Recreation



Fishermans Park Jan 4 2023