



# Partners in Parks program

## Short-term stewardship activity: Monitoring and maintaining bird houses

In Canada, about 50 species of birds nest in natural cavities, such as decaying trees or stumps. To provide additional habitat, approximately 30 bird house boxes have been installed on cedar posts at RIM Park along the Walter Bean walking trail in Waterloo. This stewardship activity aims to maintain and monitor existing nesting boxes on public parkland.

Activities (can include one or both):

- **Bird house monitoring:** group carries out bi-weekly careful inspections of the boxes from mid-April to July involving the recording of data, submitting data on-line and documenting the number of boxes in need of repair
- **Bird house maintenance:** one-time 3 hour event involving a thorough cleaning and repair of nesting boxes late October to early November with City staff

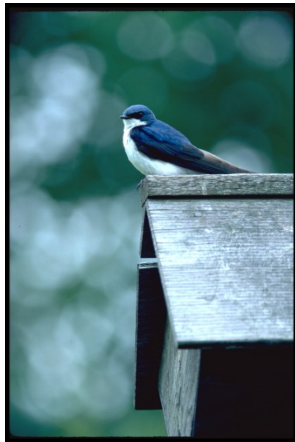


Photo credit: Derek Kirkland



Repairing bird houses



Cleaning out old nests from boxes

## Responsibilities

The City of Waterloo and Group Leader work together to determine the extent of project and timing as seen below:

- **monitoring activity** - Group Leader supervises group participants with suitable project tasks during the activity, accurately identifies native bird species and submits recorded data into Bird Studies Canada Project Nestwatch Program on-line database
- **maintenance activity** - City coordinates required equipment and leads the event
- Group Leader is responsible for engaging community involvement and ensuring participants are wearing personal protective equipment, have read, understood and signed the Informed Consent Agreement and are directly supervised. Transportation to the activity site and during the monitoring activity is the sole responsibility of the participants.

Thanks to [CleanRiver®](#) for their generous donation of nesting boxes constructed from 98% post-consumer recycled plastic through their Project Nest Box School Nest Watch Program.



# Partners in Parks program

## Short-term stewardship activity: Monitoring and maintaining bird houses

### Group participants

- Group Leader must be 18 years of age or older to coordinate the activity with City staff
- geared to group participants ages 14 years and up; ideal for 5-15 participants per group
- in good physical condition as moderate physical activity is required such as bending, lifting, walking long distances along paved trail and within natural areas on uneven terrain

### Direct supervision

Group Leader directly supervises group participants during the activity. Parent or guardian of any under-age-18 participant must sign the Informed Consent Agreement for the minors' participation and supervise them with suitable project tasks.

### Orientation

- monitoring activity - Group Leader undergoes a mandatory orientation session with City staff prior to initiating the spring to summer project
- maintenance activity - City provides instruction on the task and education, and monitors the activity to ensure tasks are completed safely

### Time and place

- existing bird houses on cedar posts situated along the Walter Bean walking trail at RIM Park in Waterloo
- monitoring the bird houses takes place during mid-April to July during daylight hours (completed one hour before dark); note: extensive walking distance to reach all boxes
- maintenance activity generally takes place late October to early November, on a weekday or Saturday between the hours of 9 a.m. to noon or 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

### Personal protective equipment

All group participants shall wear:

- closed-toe footwear which must be fully laced to provide full support and prevent accidents
- cloth gloves supplied by the City, where they may be exposed to the hazard of injury from contact of skin with a sharp or jagged object which may puncture, cut or abrade the skin
- clothing appropriate for outdoor weather and natural area conditions including long pants, hats, sunglasses, as well as sunscreen, insect repellent and bottled water, as required
- a volunteer ID lanyard for the Group Leader is supplied by City for the monitoring activity

### Acceptable tools and supplies

replacement boxes

clipboards, pens, data sheets

hammers and nails

safety gear

screwdrivers, screws

First Aid kit, cell phone