



# 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.

Birdhouse maintenance and monitoring activities may include:

- thorough cleaning and repair of nesting boxes early November with City staff
- bi-weekly careful inspections of the boxes from mid-April to July involving the recording data, submitting data on-line and recording number of boxes in need of repair

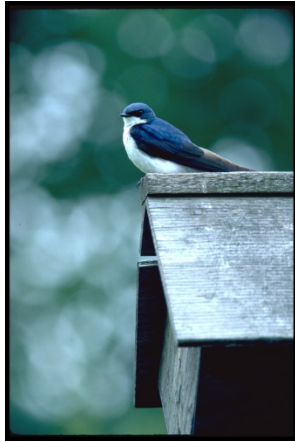


Photo credit: Derek Kirkland



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:

- **maintenance activity** - City of Waterloo coordinates required equipment, orientation and monitoring during activity involving a thorough cleaning and repair of boxes, as required
- **monitoring activity** - Group Leader supervises group participants with suitable project tasks during the activity, is able to identify native bird species and submits recorded data into Bird Studies Canada Project Nestwatch Program on-line database
- 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!



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### Group participants

- Group Leader must be 18 years of age or older to coordinate the activity with City staff
- geared to ages 14 years and up; maximum five participants including adult supervision
- in good physical condition as moderate physical activity is required such as bending, lifting, walking long distances along public trail and 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

- Group Leader undergoes a mandatory orientation session with City staff prior to carrying out the monitoring activity
- City of Waterloo provides instruction, a tool safety talk and monitors the maintenance activity to ensure tasks are completed safely and of the highest standard

### 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)
- maintenance activity generally takes place early November during a weekday 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 to prevent accidents
- 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
- 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
- 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