

Building for Birds



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Would you like to increase the number of birds or the diversity of bird species in your community? A new tool, [Building for Birds](#), can help design subdivisions to do just that. Landscaping layout, particularly the presence of trees, is an important factor in the type of habitat created and the resulting bird species present. This nationwide tool provides decision makers with a way to evaluate different development scenarios and assess their relative conservation value to birds for stopover, wintering, and breeding. Building for Birds uses the number of fragments in a development, the predevelopment habitat type, and the number of wooded acres conserved to predict bird utilization. Each development scenario receives a score accompanied by a list of birds likely to use those habitats.

This work is part of a larger [Conservation Subdivisions](#) project that provides information to planners and developers on conservation choices during the design, construction, and post-construction phases of development. The new online tool gives decision makers a quick way to assess how implementing their development plan could further conservation objectives and how establishing tree canopy can create habitat. Birds can now be readily incorporated into how development projects are evaluated and designed so that birdfeeders of the future can be more diverse! Regional Planning Commission staff is available to assist communities who would like to learn more about using this new tool.