



LAKE COUNTY  
Investing in People  
and Our Communities

ADOPTING BIRD SAFE  
BUILDING DESIGN IN  
UNINCORPORATED  
LAKE COUNTY

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

# Background

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- 2014 AOS study of impact of building collisions on the U.S. bird population found it to be a major threat  
“...Rough estimates of between 100 million and 1 billion birds killed annually in the United States.”

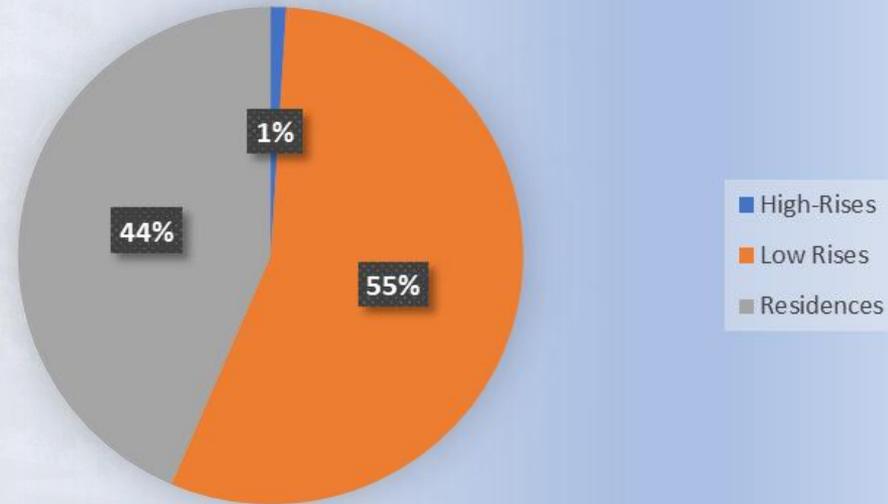


# Background

Per AOS:

- 599 million birds (median) are killed annually by building collisions in U.S.
- Approximate mortality:
  - 56% at low-rises
  - 44% at residences
  - <1% at high-rises

Annual Bird Mortality by Building Type



# Previous Initiatives

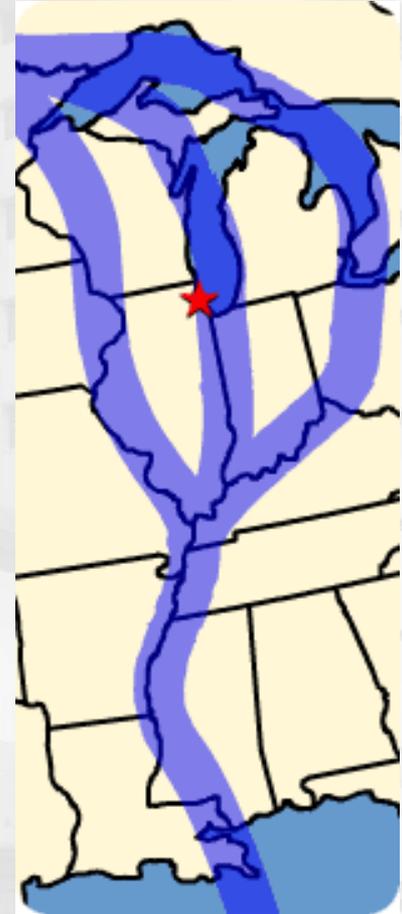
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- In 2017, PB& Z Committee directed the Department to create a Bird Safe Design webpage to inform public about dangers that buildings present to birds and provide a list of resources on mitigation

# Previous Initiatives

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- The County is monitoring the new Courthouse Tower structure to analyze potential impacts on birds and bird migration along the Lake Michigan migratory flyway.



# Review of Regulations-2020

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PB&D staff conducted a review of national and local development codes and found on a national level:

- While some jurisdictions have implemented changes in their building and zoning codes, it remains uncommon.
- When adopted, these requirements have been exclusively applied to commercial and high-rise residential buildings.
- No jurisdiction in U. S. has adopted bird safe design requirements for single family residences.

# Review of Regulations

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## Local Regulations:

- Highland Park, Cook County, and the Cook County Forest Preserve District have policies that require that major infrastructure projects should include bird safe design.
- The City of Highland Park and the Village of Barrington offer their residents informational brochures about the inclusion of bird safe design in building projects.

# Moving Ahead

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Based on analysis of how other jurisdictions have addressed the issue, the County may consider:

- Formally encouraging voluntary inclusion of Bird Safe Design through proclamation
- Requiring Bird Safe Design for new County facilities

# Moving Ahead

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- ❑ Adopting cost-reasonable Bird Safe Design requirements for commercial structures
- ❑ Adopting cost-reasonable Bird Safe Design requirements for both commercial and non-commercial structures including private homes
- ❑ Reducing landscaping requirements for new commercial developments that include Bird Safe Design features

# Moving Ahead

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- ❑ Allowing various development incentives for new residential subdivisions and new in-fill housing that include Bird Safe Design features
- ❑ Incentivize Bird Safe Design on additions to existing principal commercial structures or on the facades of residential structures

The background image is a faded, light-colored photograph. It depicts a modern, multi-story building with a grid of windows. In the foreground on the right side, there is a large, dark bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln, shown in profile facing left. The bust is mounted on a dark, tiered stone pedestal. The overall image has a soft, low-contrast aesthetic.

QUESTIONS?

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