



Lake County Policy

Bird Friendly Building Design Policy for Lake County Facilities

Approved by the County Board on:
May 14, 2024

1. Purpose and Intent

1.1 The purpose of the policy is to improve the environment by making the built environment less hazardous for birds.

2. Background

2.1 This policy was requested by the Planning, Building, Zoning and Environment Committee subsequent to staff analysis and proposal of options. As many as one billion birds may be killed by collisions with windows every year in the United States. New buildings can be designed to reduce bird deaths from collisions without significant additional cost.

3. Scope

3.1 This policy applies to all Lake County government facilities over which the Lake County Board has authority.

4. Authority

- 4.1 The County Administrator is directed to implement a solution that meets the requirements of this policy in accordance with all applicable codes or ordinances.
- 4.2 The Finance & Administrative Committee has oversight over this policy and will be the final arbiter of any conflicts or concerns with the implementation of this policy.

5. Policy

- 5.1 Effective May 14, 2024, at least eighty percent of the exterior glass of each newly constructed Lake County Government facility, from ground level to one hundred feet, including but not limited to glass surrounding a green roof or landscaped area, shall be bird friendly glass with a threat factor of thirty or less. (See <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/products-database/>)
- 5.2 Any renovations or additions to a Lake County Government facility building from the ground level to one hundred feet that involves replacement and/or addition of glass or other transparent or reflective materials, shall ensure that at least eighty percent of all such materials be bird friendly. This shall apply to all exterior glass or other transparent or reflective materials including but not limited to glass surrounding a green roof or landscaped area.
- 5.3 New Lake County Government facility accessory structures including but not limited to free-standing glass walls, railings, windscreens, and greenhouses shall be built to apply to the same standards, regardless of whether the rest of the building or project triggers these bird friendly building requirements.
- 5.4 All new High-Risk Building Features shall be built to apply to the same standards regardless of whether the rest of the building or project triggers these bird friendly building requirements.
- 5.5 This policy shall be reviewed at least every five years with any recommended amendments brought to the defined oversight committee.

5.6 Progress reports shall be provided to the defined oversight committee as the County Administrator deems appropriate.

6. Severability

6.1 If any section or provision of this policy should be held invalid by operation of law, none of the remainder shall be affected.

7. Non-Discrimination

7.1 Lake County prohibits the discriminatory application, implementation, or enforcement of any provision of this policy on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, military discharge status, source of income, gender identity housing status, or any other protected category established by law, statute, or ordinance.

8. Definitions

8.1 **Glass area.** Glass area shall be measured as one continuous panel of glass or other transparent and/or reflective material, or a set of two or more such panels divided by mullions of six inches in width or narrower. Panels surrounded on all sides by solid walls or mullions wider than six (6) inches shall be considered individual windows.

8.2 **Bird friendly glass.** Glass or materials that have a Material Threat Factor Rating ≤ 30 by including materials that meet any of the following conditions: a) any product tested and designated by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) to have a Material Threat Factor Rating ≤ 30 (see <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/products-database/>) b) glass with exterior surface obstructed and effectively covered by building-integrated structures that do not have gaps larger than 12” in any dimension including non-glass double-skin facades, metal screens, fixed solar shading, exterior insect or solar screens; or c) continuous-surface materials, including spandrel glass and polished or brushed metals, whose exterior surface gloss has a reflectivity of 15 percent or less as specified by the manufacturer.

8.3 **High-Risk Building Features:** Elements including skyways/skywalks; building connectors; outside corners where a bird can see in one side of the building and out the other (“fly-through conditions”) within 30 feet of the corner; interior corners within 30 feet of the corner; glazing adjacent to courtyards; open and enclosed atria; glazing adjacent to any green roof or partial green roof.

8.4 **Reflective and/or Transparent Non-Glass Materials:** Any non-glass materials that are transparent or highly reflective, including but not limited to plexiglass and polished metal.

8.5 **Threat Factor.** The degree of risk that a material poses to birds, as defined by the most current version of the American Bird Conservancy’s (ABC) Threat Factor Index (initially established in October 2011), and as indicated by the percent of times in which birds will not avoid collision. ABC defines “bird friendly” materials as having a Threat Factor ≤ 30 .

Policy History			
Version	Date Adopted	Legistar Item #	Notes
Original	May 14, 2024	24-0598	--