



Bird House Design + Build Competition

Important Info

Dates and Logistics

Registration form due by April 16.
Bird house submittals and Entry Forms due April 29 – May 1.
To register: surveymonkey.com/s/tweethomechicagoregistration

Submittal location

Chicago Center for Green Technology (445 N. Sacramento Blvd.)

Submittal times

Thurs 4/29 3pm–7:30pm

Fri 4/30 10am–1pm

Sat 5/1 1pm–3pm

Submittals by mail, or not during stated hours, will not be accepted.

Entry Form can be submitted electronically in advance to birds@cityofchicago.org or can be brought with on submittal day.

Winners will be chosen for each of the following categories

Adult Any adult 18 and older may submit for this category, including college students.

Youth Any youth under 18 years of age may submit for this category.

Please note: If submitting as part of a school, club, or youth group effort, entries are limited to 5 bird houses per school or youth group. Consider having your own internal competition to pick the entries!

Restrictions Staff of the organizations represented on the Tweet Home Chicago Advisory Committee or Judging Panel are not eligible for prizes. Contest is only open to City of Chicago residents.

Questions? E-mail birds@cityofchicago.org

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in both the Adult and Youth categories.

1st prize: \$500 + a rewarding bonus prize

2nd prize: \$250 + a rewarding bonus prize

3rd prize: \$150 + a rewarding bonus prize

All winners pick from the following bonus prizes:

- Bird-friendly tree dedicated in your name at Chicago Park District park
- Attendance at private release of a rehabilitated bird
- Backyard suet feeder and fruit feeder hook
- Birds & Buildings Forum consultation for your home, school, or office on how to make more bird-friendly
- Tour of Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation Center on Northerly Island
- Subscription to Audubon Magazine
- Birds of the Chicago River Canoe Ride*

*restrictions apply

Judging Criteria

All bird houses will be judged on the following criteria:

Functionality. Is it useful?

Each bird species likes to nest in a certain kind of house. See the Bird Species Table for the dimensions and hole size preferred by each species as rough guidelines. Birds also like to nest in a house that is comfortable, durable, and non-toxic — see the Construction Guidelines for suggestions.

Suitability. Is it site-specific?

The location of a bird house is vital to its success. Think about a location in Chicago that would be a welcoming, suitable place for your bird house to be hung. Build a house for your favorite spot along the Chicago River, for your neighborhood pocket park, for your school yard, or for your mother's garden, as examples. The bird house and location should be suitable for the species chosen (as listed on the Bird Species Table). This item will be judged by the brief explanation given on your Entry Form.

Please note: This should be an actual location in Chicago, but the placement of the bird house is only hypothetical, e.g., you do not need approval from the land-owner and likewise, the bird house submitted will not be installed in this location.

Resourcefulness. Is it made from sustainable materials?

The house should be made from sustainable materials that leave a small ecological footprint. Be resourceful and creative with materials that are for example locally sourced, might otherwise end up in the trash, or ones that were produced and harvested sustainably. Creativity of sources, general carbon footprint, and other factors will be considered.

Aesthetics. Is it wonderful?

The bird house should strive for excellence in form and function. Find inspiration in Chicago's many architecture legacies, in nature, and in your everyday life. The craftsmanship, creativity, aesthetic, relationship to location, and other factors will be considered.



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor



Department of Environment
Suzanne Malec-McKenna
Commissioner



Chicago Park District
Timothy Mitchell
General Superintendent & CEO



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Important Info

Building Materials — Ideas and Discounts

Erva Tool & Manufacturing Company

3100 W. Grand Avenue, Chicago IL
800.342.3782

naturehouseinc.com

*Offering free scrap aluminum to participants!
Call ahead and say "Tweet Home Chicago."*

ReBuilding Exchange

3335 West 47th Street, Chicago IL
rebuildingexchange.org

Offering 20% discount to participants!

Just say "Tweet Home Chicago" at checkout.

Creative Reuse Warehouse

222 E. 135th Place, Chicago IL
M–F 10am–3pm & Sat 10am–6pm
resourcecenterchicago.org/crw.html

Horigan Urban Forest Products, Inc.

8110 Monticello Avenue
Skokie, IL 60076
847.568.1340
horiganufp.com

Offering 10% discount to participants!

Just say "Tweet Home Chicago" at checkout.

Green Depot

2500 North Pulaski Road
Chicago, IL 60639-2116
773.384.7500
greendepot.com

If your business would like to offer a discount to participants, please e-mail birds@cityofchicago.org

Bird House Resources

Learn more about bird house building, nesting habitat, where to purchase, and more!

Please note: if you are considering installing a bird house, they require thoughtful placement and maintenance so they do not harbor pest species – species such as European Starlings and House Sparrows that are not native to the region and overtake native birds' habitat. The below resources will help you learn how to create a welcoming and safe home for native birds.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

allaboutbirds.org

Chicago Bird House and Habitat brochure

(PDF coming soon!)

Nature House, Inc.

naturehouseinc.com

Other Bird Resources

Learn more about the birds in Chicago and what you can do to help make Chicago even more bird-friendly!

Chicago Department of Environment

cityofchicago.org/Environment

A Bird's Eye View of the Migratory Bird Route

egov.cityofchicago.org/Environment/BirdMigration

Chicago Park District

chicagoparkdistrict.com

Audubon Chicago Region

audubon.org/local/chicago

Chicago Audubon Society

chicagoaudubon.org

Chicago Ornithological Society

chicagobirder.org

Bird Conservation Network

bcnbirds.org

American Bird Conservancy

abc.org

Chicago Bird Collision Monitors

birdmonitors.net

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

flintcreekwildlife.org

Audubon at Home: Healthy Neighborhoods

audubon.org/bird/at_home/neighborhood/index.html

Chicago Bird Agenda

A Habitat Guide for Chicago Land Owners:

Enhancing Your Property for Birds

Reducing Bird Collisions with Buildings

PDFs on cityofchicago.org/Environment