

Final
BIRD SAFE BUILDING DESIGN GUIDELINES

There are two types of design guidelines to address bird safe building. The first option is for projects within 300 feet of a body of water or projects adjacent to a landscaped or open space area larger than one acre in size. The second option is criteria to be used in reviewing new projects located in all other areas of the city.

Option 1: If within 300 feet of a body of water larger than one acre in size or located immediately adjacent to a landscaped area, open space or park larger than one acre in size.

If the project meets any of the prior criteria, projects should include specific bird safe design elements into the building and site design and operation. These would include:

1. Avoid the use of multi-floor expanse of reflective or transparent glass in the first 60 feet of the building design, specifically in these area facing the water or open space;
2. Building glass shall be limited to low reflectivity levels such as 25% or less;
3. Limit the amount of glass on ground level stories, especially in areas adjacent to landscaping;
4. Add architectural devices, such as louvers, awnings, sunshades or light shelves to building design to reduce massing of glass;
5. Consider use of opaque, fritted or etched glass on ground floor in areas adjacent to landscaped areas;
6. If site is near water features, use soil berms, furniture, landscaping or other features to prevent reflection of water in glass building facades;
7. Consider using angled glass (20-40 degrees) from vertical to reflect ground instead of adjacent habitat or sky buildings with an expanse of glass near water or landscaping areas
8. Avoid placing tall landscaping in front of highly reflective glass and the use of green roofs and water features near glass;
9. Avoid the funneling of open space towards a building face;
10. Avoid glass skyways or freestanding glass walls;
11. No up lighting or spot lights on site;
12. Ensure all site lighting uses shielded fixtures;
13. Turn building lights off at night or incorporate blinds into window treatment to use when lights are on at night;
14. Create smaller zones in internal lighting layouts to discourage wholesale area illumination;
15. Place signs at several locations near building with the telephone number an authorized bird conservation organization or museum to aid in species identification and to benefit scientific study;
16. Monitoring efforts shall include a bird-safe program developed by the project owner of the methods to ensure necessary steps are taken to reduce bird strikes. These efforts would include how each dead bird will be handled and donated to scientific study, providing a yearly inventory to the City of the number of birds found and locations, and the steps necessary to resolve any consistent location's bird deaths. Options include shades to reduce transparency and night lighting, fritted glass, netting, stickers, etc.

Option 2: All other locations in city

Efforts should be taken to reduce bird strikes in all locations of the city. The following items should be included regardless of location. These guidelines could be used as part of a project's review. Staff could include a discussion relative to the guidelines in staff reports in order to give decision-makers information necessary to review this aspect of a project's impact.

1. Avoid large expanse of glass near open areas, especially when tall landscaping is immediately adjacent to the glass walls;
2. Avoid the funneling of open space towards a building face;
3. Prohibit glass skyways or freestanding glass walls;
4. Avoid transparent glass walls coming together at building corners to avoid birds trying to fly through glass;
5. Reduce glass at top of building, especially when incorporating a green roof into the design;
6. Prohibit up lighting or spotlights;
7. Shield lighting to cast light down onto the area to be illuminated;
8. Turn commercial building lights off at night or incorporate blinds into window treatment to use when lights are on at night;
9. Create smaller zones in internal lighting layouts to discourage wholesale area illumination;

Monitoring efforts

The following options should be considered by each project owner for all locations in order to learn more about the subject and to avoid further issues:

1. Reduce the use of night lighting in the building without incorporating blinds into the window design;
2. Donation of discovered dead birds to an authorized bird conservation organization or museum;
3. Consider placing signs in several locations around the building with the telephone number an authorized bird conservation organization or museum to aid in species identification and to benefit scientific study.