

Agenda

Environmental Concerns Committee

City of Kalamazoo



Wednesday, November 20, 2024 **4:30 PM**
City Commission Chambers – 241 West South Street

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

(Action: Motion to approve the agenda)

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes from the Environmental Concerns Committee meeting on October 16, 2024 **(Action: Motion to approve)**
 - a. October 2024 Minutes
 - b. Bird Friendly Window Design Presentation

D. COMMUNICATIONS

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Imagine Kalamazoo 2035- Meeting on the Go

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Discussion of future status of member who has missed more than three meetings.
2. Discussion of Environmental Concerns Committee attendance bylaw change.
3. Discussion of 2025 officer positions to be voted on in January 2025.

H. REPORTS

1. Natural Features Protection Review Board
2. Air and Water Quality Report
3. Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection
4. Planning Commission
5. Tree Committee
6. Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council
7. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
8. Kalamazoo River Watershed Council
9. Odor Task Force
 - a. Waste

I. ADJOURNMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 16TH 2024, MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Sharon Dever; David Benac, Vice-Chair; Tressa Greshak, David DeBack, Robb Liekis, Thomas Dewhirst, Rachel Jondle, Stephen Romenelli, Damaris Potter

ABSENT: Loraine Smith

STAFF: Carrie Soule (recording secretary)

OTHERS: Justin Gish, *Community Sustainability Plan*,
Alexa Hemp, Gail Walter, Birds

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

ASSURANCE OF LIVE STREAMING (Facebook/YouTube)

Recording/Streaming of the meeting was confirmed, with community members joining via a link posted on the City's Facebook page.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (10/16/2024)

Chair Dever asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the October 16, 2024, meeting.

Committee Member made a motion to approve the Agenda and was supported. With a voice vote the motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for 08/21/2024

Chair Dever asked the Committee Members if there were any changes to the August 21, 2024 meeting minutes. A misspelled board member name in meeting minutes, changed and submitted.

Committee Member made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes and was supported. With a voice vote the motion was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Individual/Announcements: Iris Potter - Deer; more information on the Urban Deer with a phase 1 data report with four action areas, Education Program, modified fencing, feeding enforcement and disposing of deer carcass program.

New Applicant-Justin Sanders: Lives in City Limits with plans to set roots, Grad Student and WMU; has done projects on Addressing Climate Change to water supply and budget planning. He was on a sub-committee at Styrker for the food container initiative. Chair Dever motioned to recommend, Romenelli seconded with a unanimous approval.

News/Educational Items: Gail Walter, Birds - Please see attached presentation

COMMENTS BY OTHERS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Dever asked if there were any comments on the phones. There were no callers.

Chair Dever opened the discussion for comments by others. PROCEDURAL ITEMS (AS NEEDED)

Attendance By-laws - Questioning, what are the by-laws for other committees and commissions. We have a full board with 10 members, will wait until November to see if a problem with other committees. By-laws are published on the website.

Sub Committee Suggestions – Urban Deer, No Mow May and Wildlife Natural Resource Protection

It was suggested that these topics be rolled into the NFP Board, put up for Motion/Vote. After discussion it was decided that Urban Deer/Wildlife and Natural Resources with interested parties Tressa Greshak and David Benac and No Mow May/Natural Resource Protection/Native Plants have a subcommittee, parties interested are Damaris Potter, Rachel Jondle.

Motion for the 2 separate subcommittees pending names made by Tressa Greshak and Sharon Dever seconded with a unanimous vote.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Kalamazoo River – Litter Waste Update – City Snapshot – Looking at the trash, WMU students have a group RSO that wants to help pick up the trash. Going to start meeting monthly, 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Jean Talanda – Quarterly Report - No report

Community Sustainability Plan – Justin Gish

Events:

Home Energy Seminar – Saturday, October 19th, 2024, located on Northside on Park St from 9 to 3. EGLE will be there as a speaker, free food and prizes and EV car show.

Great Lakes for Solar – Tuesday, November 12th, 2024, located at Brewery Outre – 567 E Ransom starting at 7pm, arrive early to mingle and learn about sustainability in Kalamazoo.

RSVP online – www.2glrea.org/events-1/solarize-kalamazoo

NEW BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Natural Features Protection (NFP) Review Board– Mr. Glasser – No Update

Air and Water Quality – Mr. Glasser - No Update

Wildlife and Natural Resource Protection – Ms. Greshak – No Update

City of Kalamazoo Planning Commission – Ms. Jondle – No Update

Tree Committee – Mr. DeWhirst – No Update

Asylum Lake Policy & Management Council – Ms. Dever – Viewed a report about a water quality project that's been being done and had people explain hundreds of tests that have been being done on the road salt that's coming in off the highway in the Asylum Lake. Discussion on the deer dying throughout the city and other places due to a disease in the water, should go away with the colder temperatures/winter.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – Mr. Liekis – No Update

Kalamazoo River Watershed Council – Mr. Benac – No Update

Wellhead Protection Program Committee – Quarterly - Jean Talanda

Odor Task Force – Quarterly – Mr. Benac – No Update

CHECK PHONE LINES: No phone calls

COMMENTS: No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



© David Mack Chmielewski

Bird-Friendly Building Design

Why we need a mandatory ordinance in Kalamazoo

Eco Services



Habitat regeneration



Consuming insect pests

Bird Populations in Decline

389 out of
604 species
of North
American
birds are at
risk of
extinction



2022 State of the Birds



Since 1970, there are 90 bird species in the US that have declined 50% or more.



Of these 90 species, 17 are found within Kalamazoo county and 10 breed here.



70 of the 90 species with 50% declines are on a trajectory to lose another 50% within the next 50 years.



Of those 70 species, 9 are found in Kalamazoo county and 4 breed here.

Reasons for Bird Declines

- Habitat loss & degradation
 - Development
 - Deforestation
 - Pollution / Pesticide use
 - Noise / light pollution
 - Ecological imbalance
- Climate change
 - Severe weather events
 - Flooding
- Free Roaming Cats
- Collisions
 - Windows
 - Other structures
- Other anthropogenic causes

Estimates of Bird Deaths from Window Collisions

- In 2014, Smithsonian estimated a median of 600 million per year in US
 - Glass use higher now than 2014
 - Carcass persistence studies estimate that only 20% of birds are found
- Researchers estimate that closer to 1 billion birds are killed annually due to window collisions

Mostly songbirds: migrating at night, colliding by day

Why don't we see more of them?



Lynne Parks

Why don't we see more of them?

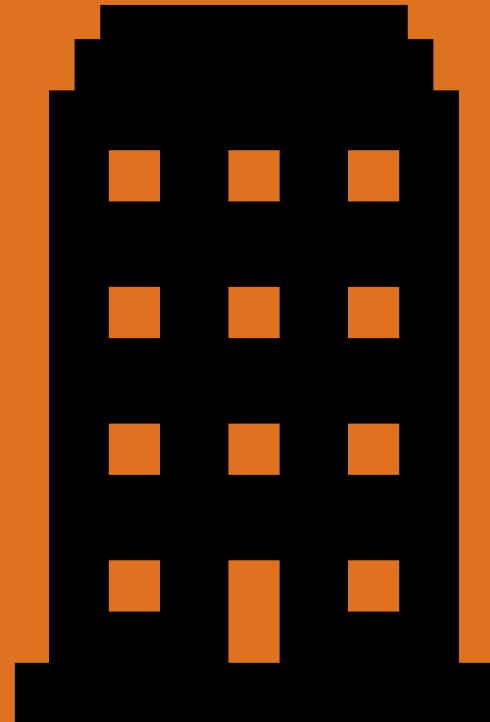
- Estimate about 20% of bird collisions are found
 - Inaccessible rooftops or other areas
 - Fall through grates
 - Flutter off to die later
 - Land in dense vegetation
 - Picked up by grounds crew (or management)
 - Scavenged by various species: cats, raccoons, crows, gulls, fox, moles, etc

Where are birds killed

**44% of fatalities at residences
(1 – 3 stories)**



**56% fatalities at low-rises
(4 – 11 stories)**



The Problem



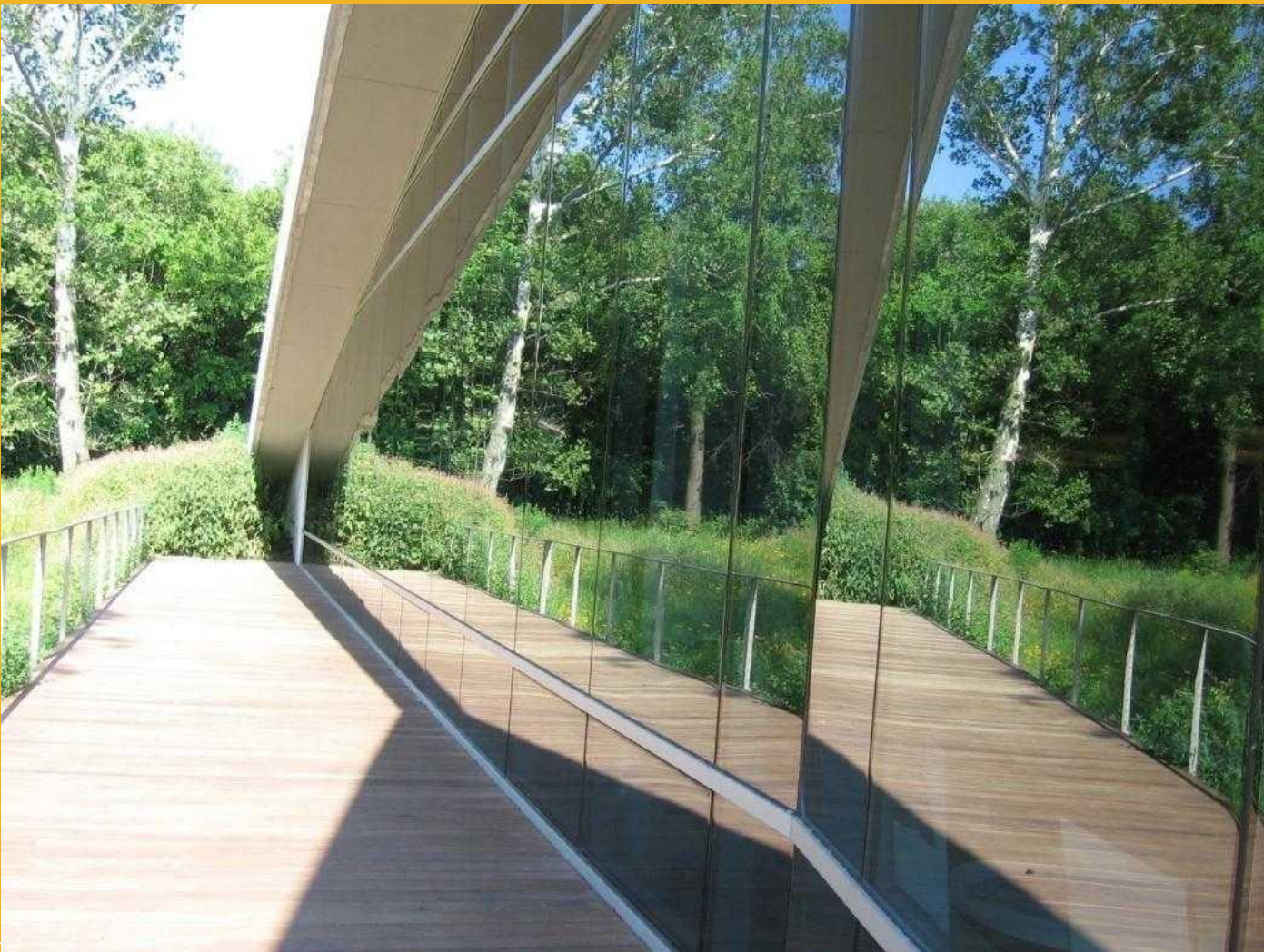
Bird's Eye Viewing



Birds and humans see
the world very differently



To Birds, reflections are real



Birds don't see glass barriers



Building Orientation: cardinal directions vs landscape



Glass Corners



WMU School of Medicine







Planted Courtyards and Open Atria





Glass railings, wind walls, noise barriers and other structures



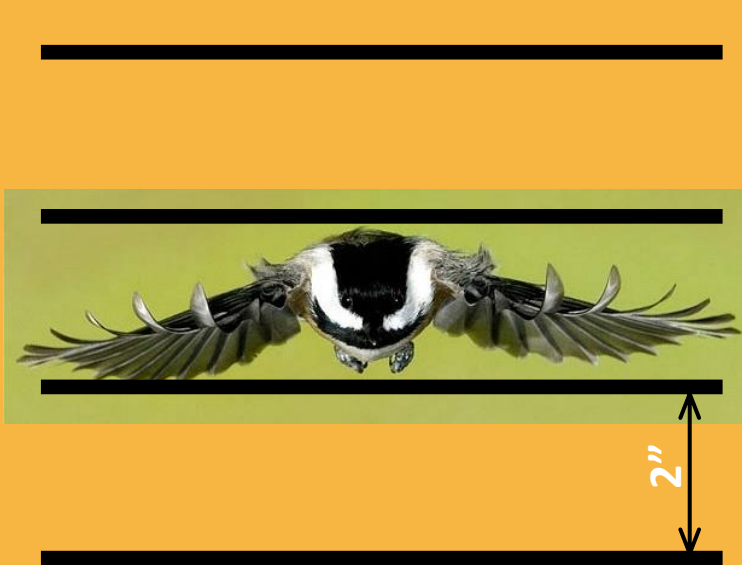
Birds often don't expect a barrier ahead--





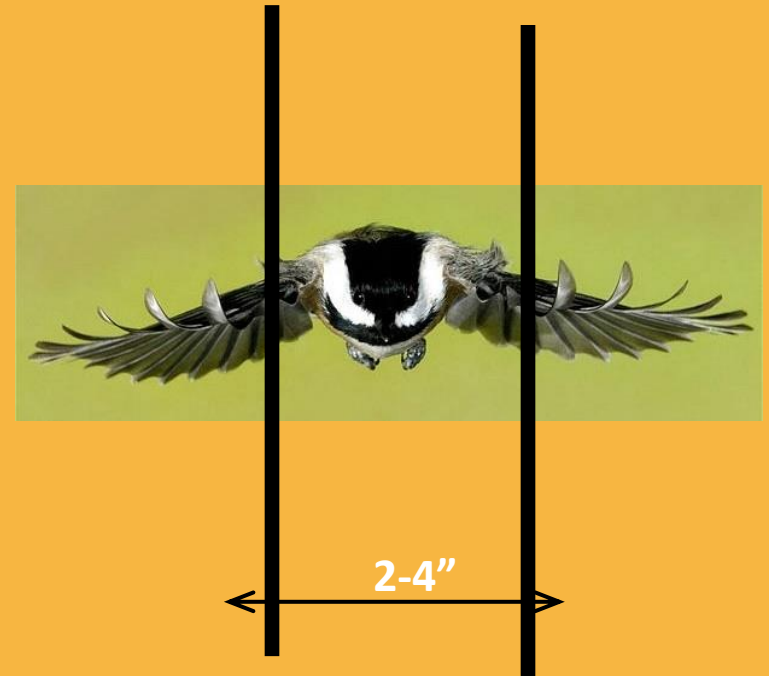
Birds have a very accurate sense of body shape and size

SOLUTIONS - 2" / 4" RULE



**Horizontal lines with a maximum
spacing of 2"**

Pattern elements at least 1/8"



**Vertical lines with a maximum
spacing of 2 - 4"**

ABC tunnel testing set up at Powdermill



Score = % flights to control



What is a Bird-friendly Building?

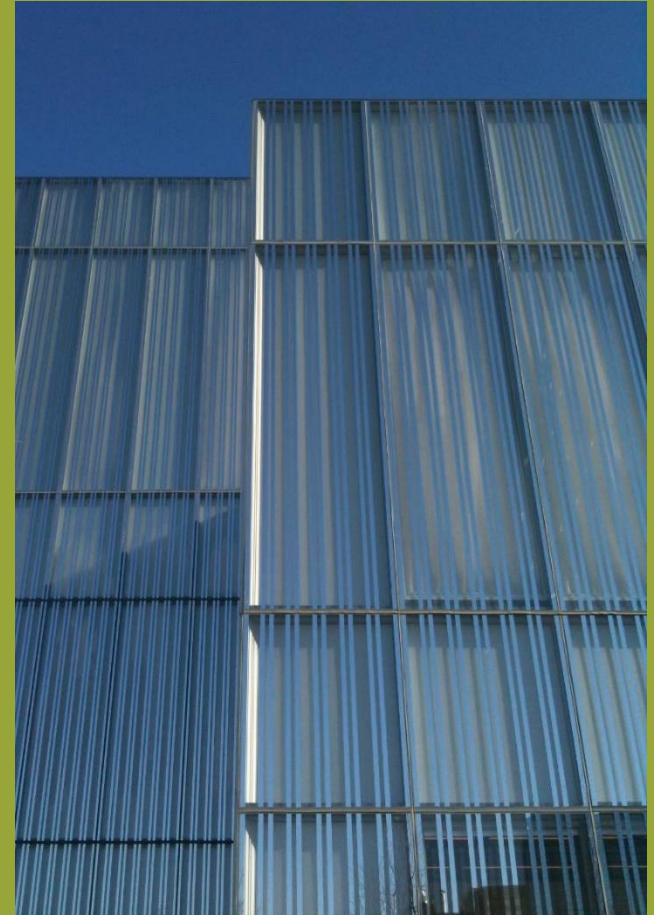




Yes, you can design a bird-friendly glass building!



Anchorage Museum David Chipperfield



How To Design A Bird-friendly Building

Strategies: Incorporate *from the beginning*

- Reduce exposure of glass
- Incorporate signals in/on glass
- Minimize use of glass

Bird-friendly Design overlaps with:

solar shading, glare control, distinctive design aesthetic, security, thermal control, energy efficiency and more

LEED Pilot Credit 55



Reduce exposure of glass



Hotel Puerta América , Madrid
Jean Nouvel



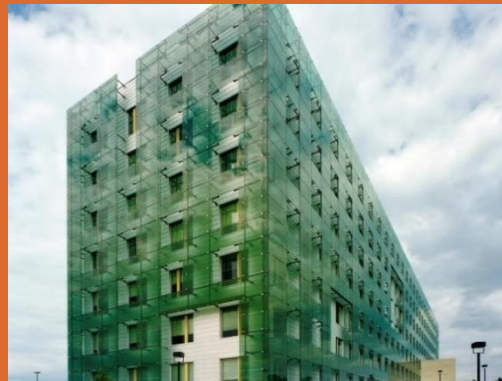
Langley Academy, Berkshire
Foster + Partners



Cooper Union, NYC
Morphosis



NY Times Building, NYC
Piano/FXFOWLE



GSA Regional Field Office, Houston
Page Southerland Page



Salt Point House, Salt Point NY
Tom Phifer and Partners

Downtown Kalamazoo



Bird-friendly glass



Cathedral of Christ the Light , Oakland SOM



Brooklyn Botanical Garden Weiss Manfredi



IAC HQ Manhattan Frank Gehry



Kursaal Center Raphael Moneo

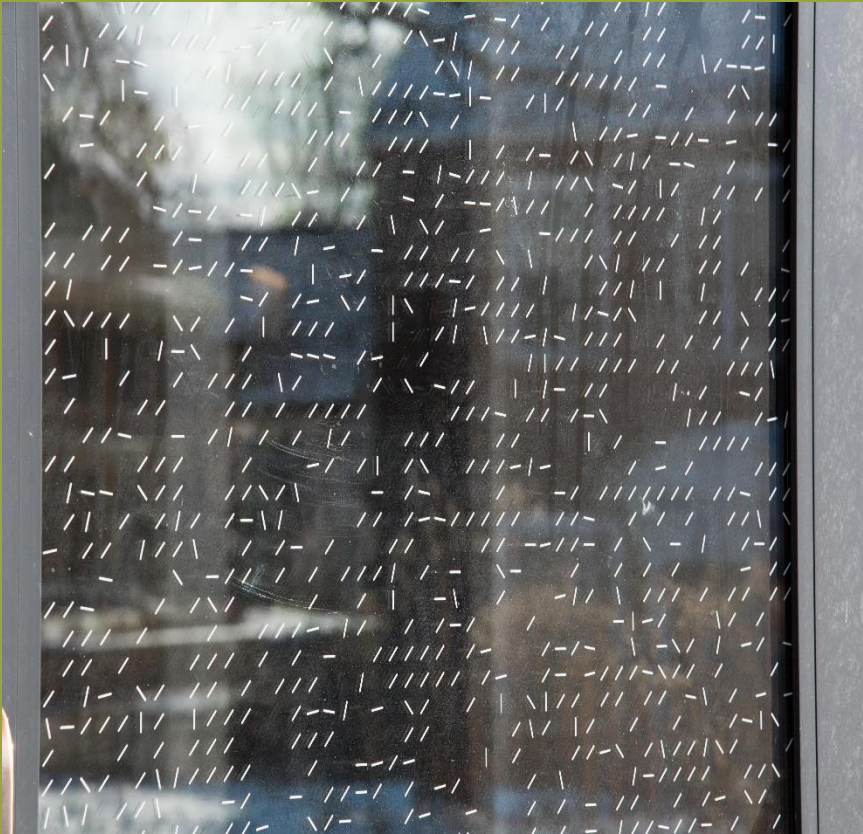


Hermes Tokyo Renzo Piano

Kalamazoo College Arcus Center for Social Justice



Custom Fritted Glass



Highway Rest Stop



Hilton Garden Inn



Food Dance Cafe



Kalamazoo Airport



Judge Charles A. Pratt Justice Center



Dunbar Hall



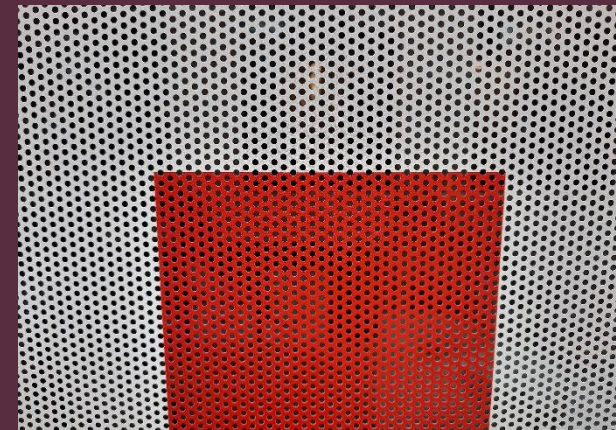
Nature's Way Preschool

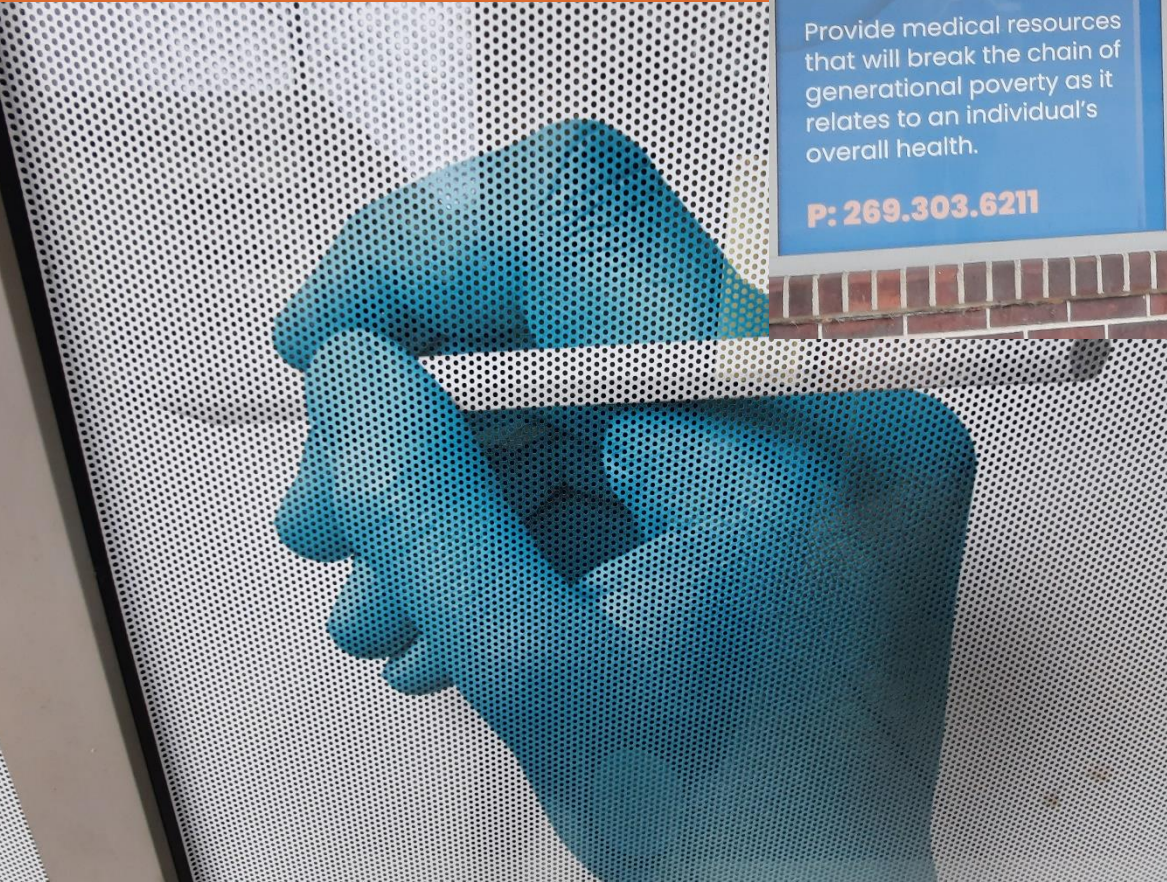
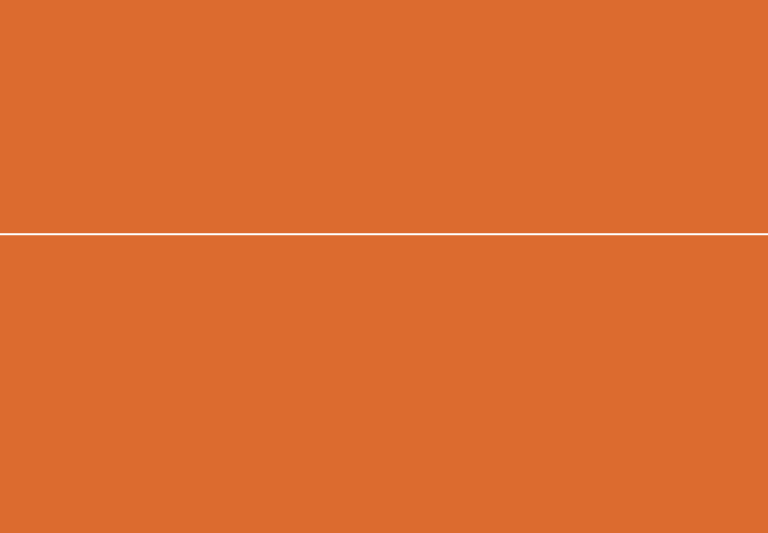


Ornilux glass



Custom Perforation







HELPINGHANDS
WELLNESS CENTER
HHWC INC.

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KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY,
ONE FAMILY AT A TIME**

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that will break the chain of
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relates to an individual's
overall health.

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OUR SERVICES







Bird-friendly Communities



Bird-Friendly Legislation and Ordinances

MANDATORY

- Toronto, Canada: Bird-friendly Development Standards
- Ontario, Canada: Environmental Protection Act, Species at Risk Act
- States of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Maine, Maryland
- In California: San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond, Mountain View, Alameda, Santa Cruz, Cupertino, San Jose
- In Illinois: Highland Park, Evanston, Cook County
- New York City
- Portland, OR
- Madison, WI
- Howard County, MD
- Washington, DC

IN PROGRESS

- Federal Bird-safe Buildings Act **PASSED US House Jul 2020!!**

Oct 5 2023 McCormick Place



Why we need a mandatory ordinance

- Birds are valuable and provide benefits
- 331 bird species have been recorded in the county, including birds of conservation concern
- Window collisions kill 1 billion birds annually
- Window collisions are upsetting
- New buildings can be designed to be bird-safe without significant additional costs
- Bird-safe practices go hand-in-hand with energy efficiency

180 East Water Street



Google



04 NORTH SIDE



05 SOUTH SIDE



06 ELEVATED RESTAURANT SEATING



07 VIEW OF FRONT OF BUILDING



08 VIEW OF SIDE ENTRY



09 VIEW FROM BUS DROP OFF

KRESA

COK Proposed Ordinance

- 100% of glass for new construction must be Bird-Friendly in the first 100 feet above grade (Bird Activity Zone).
- Major renovations in the Bird Activity Zone that replace at least 25% of existing glass or reflective material
- Glass or materials must have a Material Threat Factor Rating of ≤ 30 (American Bird Conservancy Rating).

You are limited only by your imagination



Resources

Download at
<http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/collisions/glass.htm>

Download at collisions.abcbirds.org
Also bibliography, case studies, more



Find solutions at birdsmartglass.org

Csheppard@abcbirds.org

Thank you.
gailwalter@att.net