



**PROCLAMATION  
LIGHTS OUT DURING PEAK  
BIRD MIGRATION  
MARCH 15-JUNE 15 AND  
AUGUST 15-NOVEMBER 15,  
2026**

**WHEREAS**, each spring and fall, approximately 5 to 8 million birds representing more than 250 species migrate through the greater Chicago region, including River Forest, on their way to their summer or winter homes; and

**WHEREAS**, Chicago has been found to be the most dangerous city within the United States for migratory birds by a team of scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 44% of all collisions of birds with windows occur at single-family homes of less than 3 stories; and

**WHEREAS**, artificial light pollution, including that from upward facing, blue-tinted, and all-night ornamental lighting, disorients migratory birds, increasing the risks of exhaustion, predation, and collisions with glass windows, buildings, and other structures; and

**WHEREAS**, residents are encouraged to turn off unnecessary lights and close drapes and blinds after 11:00 p.m. and dim, place on timers, or extinguish unnecessary outdoor, ornamental or landscape lighting during the migration seasons to help ensure safe passage for these birds; and


**WHEREAS**, reducing light pollution year-round, by turning off unnecessary lights, shielding outdoor fixtures, and directing light only where it is needed, protects migratory birds and improves community safety by reducing glare, conserves energy, and lower maintenance costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village continues its efforts to reduce light pollution that is disorienting for migratory birds, including installation of light diffusers on streetlights and exploring additional street lighting technologies to further reduce light pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village and the Sustainability Commission will provide informational resources for residents, businesses, and institutions, on ways to reduce light pollution and make River Forest safer for migratory birds, contributing to both environmental sustainability and public safety.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, CATHERINE ADDUCI**, President of the Village of River Forest, do hereby proclaim Lights Out for Birds During Peak Migration in the Village of River Forest, and encourage all residents, businesses, and institutions to join in protecting migratory birds during these critical seasons.

**IN WITNESS, THEREOF**, I have hereto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of River Forest, this 23rd day of March 2026.

  
Catherine M. Adduci,  
Village President