**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**City of Bastrop Certified as ‘Bird City Texas' Community by Texas Parks and Wildlife**

**BASTROP, Texas, Feb. 13, 2020 –** Visit Bastrop, the official marketing organization for the City of Bastrop, today announced Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Audubon Texas has designated the City of Bastrop as a Bird City Texas certified community through 2022.

“The certification recognizes the amazing work our community has done to preserve the great outdoors of Bastrop,” said Susan Smith, president of Visit Bastrop. “We look forward to continuing the conservation efforts and welcoming more bird enthusiasts to the city.”

The new program recognizes Bastrop as one of the leaders in community action and bird conservation. Bastrop County is home to 277 different species of birds and a prime destination for bird watchers in the Lone Star State. The program also aims to attract more of Texas’ 2.2 million birdwatchers who are major drivers in the state’s $1.8 billion wildlife-viewing industry.

Bastrop has been committed to restoring the ecosystem for birds and other wildlife by addressing light pollution and choosing not to light its prominent Old Iron Bridge for the benefit of migratory birds. In addition, Bastrop will be implementing certain infrastructural measures to ensure the urban area is hospitable for a wide variety of birds. Bastrop will also be providing education and birding events to the public including an “Introduction to Birding for Adults” class at the Bastrop Public Library and annual bird counts at Bastrop and Buescher State Parks, as well as McKinney Roughs Nature Park.

"Bastrop has big plans to become even more bird-friendly and I am confident this will lead to an improved community for people of Bastrop and birds," said Dorothy Skarnulis, chairperson of The Bird City Texas Bastrop Coalition.

To learn more about Bastrop’s bird education events and activities, parks and recreation, as well as places to stay, go to [visitbastrop.com](http://www.visitbastrop.com/).

**ABOUT VISIT BASTROP**

Visit Bastrop is the official tourism marketing destination for the City of Bastrop, an original Texas town with a fresh approach to life. Visit Bastrop strives to promote its special brand of Texas hospitality, diverse lodging properties and provide tourists and business travelers with helpful resources. Bastrop is home to a bustling art scene, vibrant nightlife, quaint restaurants offering homecooked meals and breathtaking nature with abundant outdoor activities. From the moment visitors step foot on its charming downtown streets, they feel welcomed - Welcome To It All. To learn more about accommodations, dining and things to do in Bastrop go to [visitbastrop.com](http://www.visitbastrop.com/) or call 512.332.8990.

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