

## Openlands Sustainable Landscaping

Openlands is a nationally accredited land trust serving northeastern Illinois since 1963. It has helped protect more than 55,000 acres of land for public parks and forest preserves, wildlife refuges, land and water greenway corridors, urban farms, and community gardens. Openlands is now scheduling spring appointments to help homeowners, businesses, and institutions manage their properties in ways that support aesthetics, stormwater management, and ecological resilience. On-site, outdoor property visits are provided by a staff Landscape Ecologist. Recommendations are tailored to each property owner's needs, and may address stormwater, the selection of native trees and other plants, the control of invasive species, and tree and lawn care. To learn more visit: [Openlands.org/beautiful](https://openlands.org/beautiful).

## Tree City USA Award

*The Village of Libertyville has once again been named a Tree city USA for 2021—a distinction it has enjoyed since 1994.*

Tree City USA, a national recognition program that began in 1976, is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. Municipalities must apply for this award and meet four fundamental standards to be considered.

The application is vetted through the state and forwarded on to a national committee for review. If all standards are met at both levels, the municipality is recognized as a Tree City USA community. Residents can then enjoy the knowledge that they have a greener and healthier community!



## Bird Strike Prevention— Libertyville Sustainability Commission

According to a 2014 study, an estimated 1 billion birds in the US die each year from hitting windows. Many of these deaths and injuries involve migrating birds and house windows, especially where windows reflect, inviting skylines and foliage. Migratory birds contribute important environmental benefits, including pollinations, disease and pest control, and seed dispersal. As spring migration approaches, there are simple measures homeowners can take to prevent bird strikes on their property.

If your home's screens are on the outside of your windows, your windows are generally bird-safe. For those windows that do not have exterior screens, consider applying ultraviolet (UV) visible patterns on the exterior. These applications come in multiple patterns and configurations. Netting and one-way transparent film also deter birds from contacting glass panes. Painting a pattern on your windows with tempera paints or etchings can also be an effective means of protecting migrating birds.

While daytime strikes are often in response to reflections, nocturnal migrating birds are lured into windows by lights from inside homes. This is especially true in low-ceiling and foggy conditions. Closing blinds and drapery at night can be helpful in limiting this nighttime light pollution. Shielding outdoor lights and pointing them downwards also helps to prevent bird collisions in the dark.

During times of migration, consider turning off your home's exterior lighting. BirdCast, a migration tracking program powered by several research institutions, has a resource page that forecasts local and live bird migration routes at [birdcast.info](https://birdcast.info). Use these trackers to plan which nights are best for limiting outdoor lighting.

Using these simple tips, you can ensure a safe migration of birds in the fall and spring seasons. As we live amongst the natural world around us, the smallest of efforts can lead to the biggest of impacts in creating an environment that is sustainable for all!