

4.4.2.b Bird Safety

DESIGN FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Consider bird safety in building design and landscaping.

RATIONALE

The City of San José has design guidance in place for areas of the City where birds are most common. These requirements apply specifically to areas north of Highway 237 according to the *Envision San José 2040 General Plan (Goal ER-7.1)* and *City Council Policy 6-34 - Riparian Corridor Protection and Bird-Safe Design*.

Bird safety is a vital consideration in Downtown as well, particularly given the size and number of buildings and the presence of riparian corridors. Bird safety may also become an issue in the environmental review process.

There are a variety of techniques to reduce bird deaths due to building collisions. These involve material choice, material patterning, landscaping, and building design. These are particularly important for buildings near bird habitat, such as open spaces and water.

Multiple sections of this document consider bird safety, including this section, 4.4.2.c Balconies, 4.4.8 Pedestrian Bridges, 4.4.9.a Lighting - Podium Level, 4.4.9.b Lighting - Skyline Level, and the Glossary, which includes definitions of *bird safety treatment*, *bird-safe pattern*, *mirrored glass* and *riparian corridor*.

The requirements of the Design Guidelines are in addition to any resulting from City rules or regulations about bird safety.

GUIDELINES

- For projects within 300 feet of a *riparian corridor*, treat all glass that is visible from a riparian corridor with a *bird safety treatment*.
- Do not create areas of glass through which trees, landscape areas, water features or the sky is visible from the exterior unless a *bird safety treatment* is used.
- Reduce or eliminate upward-facing spotlights on buildings.
- For projects within 300 feet of a *riparian corridor*, turn off decorative exterior lighting between 2:00AM and 6:00AM except during June, July, December, and January due to bird migration.
- Do not plant landscaping tree lines that are perpendicular to glass facades.



DO NOT - Highly reflective glass can be dangerous for birds, which may mistake it for sky and collide with the building.

STANDARDS

- Do not use *mirrored glass*.
- Use a *bird safety treatment* on facades within 300 feet of a *riparian corridor* that have 50% or more glazed surface.
- Use a *bird safety treatment* on the facade of any floor of the building within 15 vertical feet of the level of and visible from a green roof, including a green roof on an adjacent building within 20 horizontal feet, if the facade has 50% or more glazed surface.
- Use a *bird safety treatment* on areas of glass through which sky or foliage is visible on the other side of parallel panes of glass less than 30 feet apart.

RELATED GUIDELINES

4.4.2.c - Balconies

4.4.3 - Materials and Colors

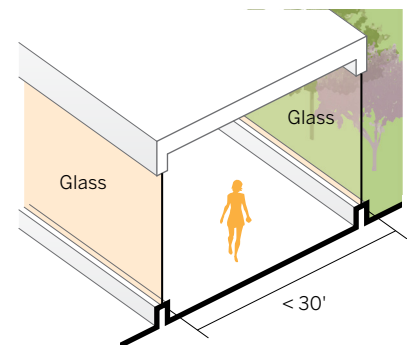
4.4.8 - Pedestrian Bridges

4.4.9.a - Lighting - Podium Level

4.4.9.b - Lighting - Skyline Level

GENERAL PLAN REFERENCE

- ER 7.1, ER-7.6



DO - Add *bird-safe patterns* to parallel glass less than 30 feet apart.