

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****April 6, 2021**

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SUBJECT: EGRETS IN THE CANDLERIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD

Texas is a major route for migratory birds, including Egrets, that travel between South America and United States/Canada twice a year. This annual event provides many wonderful benefits, but can also impact residential, commercial and industrial properties when Egret nesting occurs. The nesting birds bring challenges such as noise, odor and significant amounts of excrement covering streets, sidewalks, cars and mailboxes on public and private property.

Egrets have protected status under the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918](#). Per the Treaty Act, persons cannot kill, harass, move or disturb the birds during nesting season. Therefore, the best course of action is to educate residents to report bird sightings and to make residential areas uninviting for nesting.

Currently, we are in the pre-nesting season for birds and City staff are actively working with residents and neighborhood associations to identify birds and discourage nesting which is permitted by the Treaty (not permitted after established nesting/nests are made). In addition, last year, the Code Compliance Department applied for and received a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that will give City staff increased methods for nonlethal avoidance and minimization measures which should help in displacing nuisance birds.

A few egrets and herons have already been observed in the Candleridge and Summerfields neighborhoods and staff continues to actively work with residents in these areas. Listed below is the action city staff is taking to address the egret situation.

- Presentations at Candleridge community meetings (virtual) with Code Compliance and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to educate residents.
- Code Compliance published articles/posts in City News (03/25/2021), NextDoor (03/29/2021) and Community Engagement Bulletin (04/01/2021)
- Residents can report egret / heron sightings via the wildlife section on the MyFW app.
- City staff and residents are utilizing air cannons and other measures to move birds along and prevent nesting in residential neighborhoods and city parks.
- If nesting occurs, staff will continue to work with residents to minimize the effects of nesting birds.
- Code Compliance and the Park & Recreation staffs continue to monitor the situation and provide information to the residents.

If additional information is needed, please contact Brandon Bennett, Code Compliance Director, at (817) 392-6322.

David Cooke
City Manager