

# ASAC



# Egrets

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee Meeting

March 19, 2026

# Photos from 2024



In the summer of 2024, an egret rookery was established in the Shady Oaks neighborhood. Since egrets are federally protected once nesting begins, neither the city nor the residents could remove them. The large number of birds in the rookery caused significant disruption, including excessive noise, unpleasant odors, and damage to trees and grass.

# Website

[www.burlesontx.com/egrets](http://www.burlesontx.com/egrets)

## Egrets

### Migratory Birds

Nesting birds, such as herons, egrets and other nesting waterbirds, bring challenges such as noise, odor and significant amounts of excrement that covers streets, sidewalks, cars and mailboxes on public and private property. People may find the birds' chosen nesting areas offensive and a nuisance when birds locate near their homes and businesses. Concerns of possible health hazards, as well as noise and odors are some of the most cited complaints.

However, these birds are protected under the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918](#), a U.S. federal law that protects more than 800 species of birds during their migration between the United States and Canada. As a result, the City of The Burleson is unable to address any complaints while the birds are nesting.

### Report an Egret Concern

Use this request to report any egret-related nuisance including nesting, droppings, or other concerns. Egrets are federally protected birds, and taking the appropriate steps at the right time of year can help deter them from nesting on your property.

### When should you report them?

Please report egrets only if you see them:

- Sitting in neighborhood trees
- Gathering in groups in residential areas
- Showing signs of staying in one location for extended periods

Seeing egrets **flying overhead** or in **parks and open spaces is normal** and does not need to be reported.

[Submit a Service Request](#)



Hi help

# Flyers: Distributed to Homes



## Egret GAME PLAN



You are receiving this flyer because an egret rookery has been established in your area in the past.

Egrets are migratory birds that can **create significant challenges in neighborhoods**. Once they begin nesting, they are **federally protected**, which means they cannot be disturbed. Because **they nest in large colonies, a single rookery can bring hundreds – sometimes thousands – of birds** into one area for several months.

**Rookeries can lead to:**

- Damage to trees and landscaping
- Strong odors and excessive noise
- Large amounts of waste
- Other quality-of-life impacts



Cattle Egret

To defeat egrets you have to use multiple strategies



Scan for more information and additional resources



THE CITY OF  
**BURLESON**  
TEXAS | **Animal Services**

817-426-9283  
animalshelter@burlesontx.com

### TRIM YOUR TREES!

Rookery sites can be made less attractive to birds by selectively cutting and pruning trees to open the stand 50-75 percent.

- The best time to trim your trees is December through February, before nesting season begins.
- Trim tree canopy to allow sunlight to shine between limbs and other trees.
- Team up with your neighbors when hiring a tree trimming service and ask for discount rates for group service.



Previous Rookery Established in Burleson

### DETERRENT MEASURE CHECKLIST

- Be on the lookout for "sentry" or "scout" birds, they are the first to arrive looking for nesting places.
- Check daily for birds and nesting material in your trees.
- Check for twigs on the ground, increased bird droppings and an increase in bird noises.
- Begin scare tactics as soon as you see birds on or near your property.
- Use noisemakers, water spray or shine lights at night, hang "scare eye" balloons or other moving objects in trees, use long poles, tennis balls or water hoses to disturb early nesting material.
- Be a good neighbor and help those near you who may not be able to help themselves.



Report sightings to your neighbors & to BTX 311 by phone 817-426-9600, online at [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com) or through the BTX 311 app

For additional information contact:

Texas Parks and Wildlife: 972-293-3841  
Texas Wildlife Services: 817-978-3146

[www.burlesontx.com/egrets](http://www.burlesontx.com/egrets)

# Flyers: Distributed to Employees



## BTX We need your help To stay egret free



As you're out and about in our community, we encourage you to report any egret sightings in residential areas. Early awareness helps animal services respond quickly and supports efforts to keep our neighborhoods clean and safe.



CATTLE EGRET



SNOWY EGRET



LITTLE BLUE HERON



YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON



GREAT BLUE HERON

### Why do we care?

Egrets are migratory birds that can **create significant challenges in neighborhoods**. Once they begin nesting, they are **federally protected**, which means they cannot be disturbed. Because **they nest in large colonies, a single rookery can bring hundreds – sometimes thousands – of birds** into one area for several months.

### Use any of the below options to report a sighting:

- Email: [311@burlesontx.com](mailto:311@burlesontx.com)
- Call BTX 311: 817-426-9600
- Call Animal Services: 817-426-9283
- Email Animal Services: [animalshelter@burlesontx.com](mailto:animalshelter@burlesontx.com)



GREAT EGRET



Previous egret rookery in the Shady Oaks area

### TRIM YOUR TREES!

Rookery sites can be made less attractive to birds by selectively cutting and pruning trees to open the stand 50-75 percent.

- The best time to trim your trees is December through February, before nesting season begins.
- Trim tree canopy to allow sunlight to shine between limbs and other trees.
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Previous Rookery Established in Burleson

### DETERRENT MEASURE CHECKLIST

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Report sightings to your neighbors & to BTX 311 by phone 817-426-9600, online at [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com) or through the BTX 311 app

# Flyers: Distributed at CityFest



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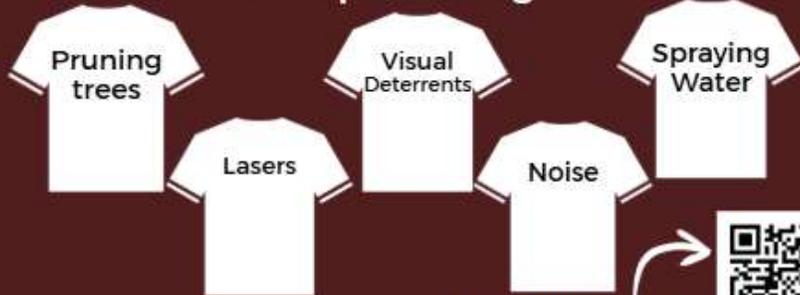
### Rookeries can lead to:

- Damage to trees and landscaping
- Strong odors and excessive noise
- Large amounts of waste
- Other quality-of-life impacts



Cattle Egret  
© Scott Kridelbock

To defeat egrets you have to use multiple strategies



Scan for more information and additional resources



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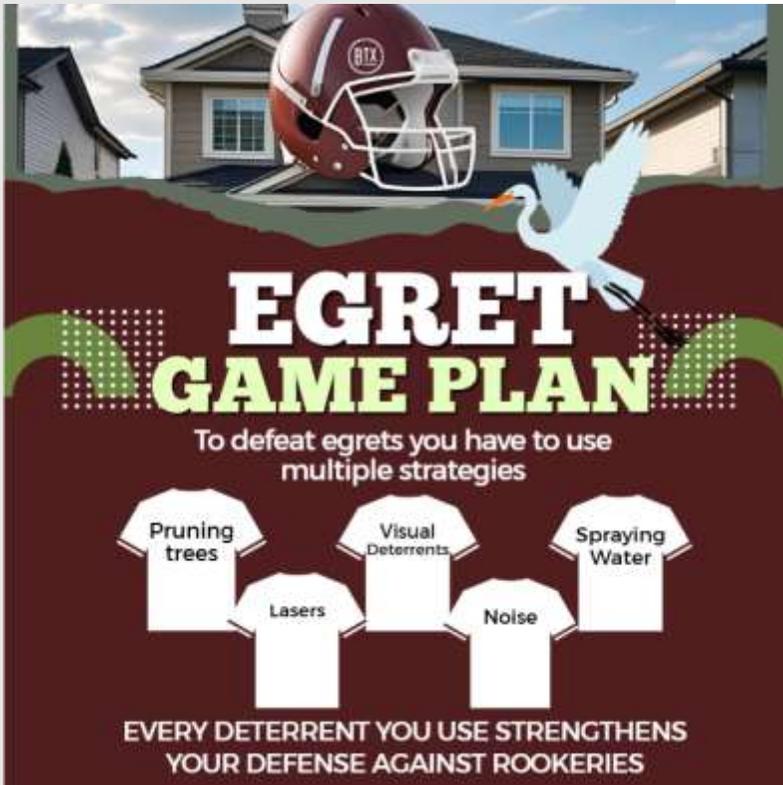
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# Social Media Posts



**EGRET GAME PLAN**

To defeat egrets you have to use multiple strategies

Pruning trees    Lasers    Visual Deterrents    Noise    Spraying Water

EVERY DETERRENT YOU USE STRENGTHENS YOUR DEFENSE AGAINST ROOKERIES

**BTX**



**EGRET SEASON PLAYBOOK**

Just like football, you need a full playbook to win. One deterrent alone won't stop egrets. Use these plays together for the strongest defense.

**TEAM HUDDLE**  
Talk with your neighbors and create a game plan. Make sure new neighbors understand the damage egrets can cause.

**CALL THE COACHES**  
Report egret sightings to BTX 311 online, via the app or to 817-426-9600. Animal Services will respond to these reports.

**RUN THE PLAYBOOK**  
One deterrent won't win the game. Use multiple methods - tree trimming, noise makers, streamers - consistently over time.

**STAY DISCIPLINED**  
Don't panic if you see a bird. It takes days to two weeks for a nest to form. Stay alert, but don't jump offsides.

**DEFENSE WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Neighbors working together are the best defense against a rookery. Teamwork makes the line stronger.

**BURLESON** Animal Services    **BTX** 311    [www.BurlesonTX.com/egrets](http://www.BurlesonTX.com/egrets)    [burlesonbx.com/311](http://burlesonbx.com/311)



**DEFEND AGAINST EGRETS**

**TIGHTEN UP YOUR DEFENSE (YOUR TREES!)**  
Now is the perfect time to prune your trees while the canopies are thinner. Opening up your trees makes them less attractive for egrets looking to build nests next spring.

**SET UP YOUR DEFENSIVE LINE (DETERRENTS)**  
Add visual deterrents such as shiny streamers, reflective objects, or predator decoys in your yard and trees. These "players" help make your property less inviting when the birds start scouting in early spring.

**HUDDLE UP WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS**  
Defeating egrets is a team effort. If only one house takes action, the "offense" just moves next door. Work together so your entire neighborhood is ready before the season starts.

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# Social Media Posts

**BTX** **KNOW YOUR MIGRATORY BIRDS** 



CATTLE EGRET



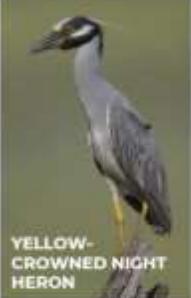
SNOWY EGRET



LITTLE BLUE HERON



GREAT BLUE HERON



YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON



GREAT EGRET

**YOUR HOLIDAY EGRET-PREVENTION CHECKLIST**



**BURLESON TEXAS**



# Yard Signs

**IF YOU SEE ME.  
REPORT ME.**

**MORE INFO:  
[BURLESONTX.COM/311](http://BURLESONTX.COM/311)**



**DON'T LET ME  
HANG OUT IN  
YOUR YARD OR TREES.  
FIND OUT WAYS TO  
DETER ME.**



SCAN ME

**MORE INFO:  
[BURLESONTX.COM/EGRETS](http://BURLESONTX.COM/EGRETS)**





Questions and Comments ?