



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Lights Out Texas is a statewide initiative that aims to raise awareness of the risk light pollution poses to birds and to ask businesses, residents, and governments to turn off non-essential lights at night in the City of Woodcreek during bird migration from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. in the spring and fall bird migration periods of March 1 – June 15 and August 15 – November 30 each year; and

WHEREAS, The City of Woodcreek is joining an international Lights Out effort by proposing and implementing a simple solution that dramatically reduces hazards to migrating birds, allowing them to safely proceed with their journeys during critical migration periods; and

WHEREAS, The initiative is led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Texan by Nature, which was founded by former First Lady Laura Bush, and is a collaborative effort supported by numerous organizations and communities throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, More than one billion birds die in collisions with buildings, including our single-story buildings with lights that attract and disorient migrating birds in the United States annually; and

WHEREAS, Each year, nearly two billion birds travel through the State of Texas, mostly at night. This number represents between a quarter and a third of all birds migrating throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, The extensive light pollution, from our non-shielded rural and urban lights, both residential and commercial, including string and pole lights, combined with the enormous bird migration, creates a particularly hazardous environment; and

WHEREAS, Birds are important to the Texas economy. Texas A&M found that nature tourism, which is dominated by bird watching, contributes \$300 million to the economy; and

WHEREAS, Birds also help control the population of pest insects, enhancing agricultural production, and are important pollinators for many flowering plants; and

WHEREAS, Turning out non-essential lights also provides additional benefits such as reducing electricity consumption, saving money, and reducing pollution associated with power production; and

WHEREAS, The Lights Out Program supports other local activities such as Parks and Open Space, Hays County Master Naturalist Chapter, the International Dark Sky Community designations, Adult and Jr. Birding Clubs, Hays County Friends Night Sky, that will help enhance Nature Tourism benefiting our local economy; and

WHEREAS, The City of Woodcreek has acknowledged the importance of the night sky by implementing progressive lighting ordinances, and is recognized by the I.D.A.; and

WHEREAS, Birds are essential to the ecology of our planet, provide ecosystem services, act as benchmarks for environmental health, increase livability, and connect people of all ages and abilities to the natural world.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, I, Jeff Rasco, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of Woodcreek,

1. March through June 15, 2022, and August 15 through November 2022 shall hereafter be known as "Lights Out for Bird Safety" months in the City of Woodcreek, Texas
2. Community members, business owners, and government officials are encouraged to pledge stating they will extinguish exterior lights during the specified time frame during Lights Out for Bird Safety migratory months.

Jeff Rasco, Woodcreek Mayor