

Avian Management – Case Studies

City of Addison, Texas

Web

https://www.addisontexas.net/index.php?section=parks-department_dont-feed-the-ducks

Ordinance(s)

[Code of Ordinances](#) Chapter 10, Article I, Sec. 10-11. - Feeding of waterfowl.

(a) The large number of waterfowl attracted by feeding in and around small ponds and lakes within the town increases the presence of fecal matter from such waterfowl and corresponding harmful bacteria, which create a potential health hazard and a nuisance. The purpose of this section is to control the regular or habitual feeding of waterfowl in order to protect the public health and public property and the water quality of such ponds and lakes, by reducing the amount of fecal matter deposited by waterfowl in such waters and on the adjacent shoreline and public property.

(b) For purposes of this section, "waterfowl" means those species of birds commonly known as ducks, swans, and geese, and any other waterfowl, whether or not migratory.

(c) No person shall engage in the regular, routine, or habitual practice of feeding any waterfowl within any pond or lake within the town or within any public property adjacent thereto, or on any private property. No person shall regularly, routinely, or habitually create or foster any condition or allow any condition to exist or continue which results in a congregation or congestion of waterfowl. For purposes of this section, the behavior is presumed to be regular, routine or habitual when three written warnings have been issued to the same individual within a 60-day period. Once three written warnings have been issued within a 60-day period, it shall not be necessary to again establish regular, routine or habitual behavior by the issuance of written warnings for that individual. Regular, routine or habitual practice may also be established by other evidence.

Enforcement (of ordinances or other rules)

Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, Article II, Sec. 10-31. - Enforcement.

(a) Enforcement of this chapter shall be the responsibility of the supervisor of animal control or any animal control officer.

(b) Any animal control officer shall have the authority to issue citations for any violation of this chapter. If the person being cited is not present, the animal control officer may send the citation to the alleged offender by registered or certified mail.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere with any animal control officer in the performance of his duties.

Managing Entity

Animal Control, Parks and Recreation

Public education efforts

The Please Don't Feed the Ducks webpage outlines a number of reasons that residents should not feed the ducks, including: poor nutrition, disease, water pollution, general environmental degradation, and creating a dependency on humans.

City of Bedford, Texas

Web

<https://www.bedfordtx.gov/220/Citys-Feeding-Wildlife-Policy>

Ordinance(s)

The supplemental of wildlife ordinance amending Section 86-3 of the Code of Ordinances states:

“b. The supplemental feeding of wildlife leads to overcrowding and increases the susceptibility for wildlife to contract life threatening diseases. The Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife discourages supplemental feeding of wildlife in public and private places. The purpose of this section is to control the feeding of wildlife in order to protect the public health, public property, and wildlife.

1. No person shall engage in the feeding of any wildlife within any park within the city or within any public property.”

Enforcement (of ordinances or other rules)

Code of Ordinances Section 86-16:

“Any person convicted of a violation of sections 86-1 through 86-15 shall be punished by a fine not to exceed the amount allowed to be imposed under state law.”

Managing Entity

Parks and Recreation

Public education efforts

The web page on the wildlife feeding policy (above) emphasizes that the city has an enforceable ordinance. It lists numerous reasons to resist feeding ducks, including both animal and environmental health. The city has a known problem with Duck Virus Enteritis, which is caused by rotting food from supplemental feeding.

City of Dallas, Texas

Web

<https://www.dallasparcs.org/115/Park-Rules-Ordinances>

Ordinance(s)

[Code of Ordinances](#) Volume II, Chapter 32-7 – Protection of Fish, Animals, and Fowl

“Wherever the city owns or keeps any fish, animals or fowl on public exhibition in any of the public parks or grounds of the city, it shall be unlawful for any person in any manner to injure, annoy or interfere with any such animal, fish or fowl, or to injure or interfere with, in any manner, any of the enclosures in which any animal, fish or fowl may be kept. **The term “annoy” or “interfere with” shall include any**

attempt on the part of the person, save and except the duly authorized keeper thereof, or person in charge thereof, **to feed or offer any foodstuff or other substance to any such animal, fish or fowl.** Whenever any fish, fowl or animals are kept on exhibition, it shall be the duty of the public to obey all rules provided by the park board or other authority for the exhibition of any such animal, fish or fowl. (Ord. 8019)” (Emphasis added)

Enforcement (of ordinances or other rules)

Code of Ordinances, Volume II, Chapter 32-11 – Promulgation and Posting of Rules and Regulations

“The park board shall adopt such rules and regulations as it deems best for the management of the public parks and where such rules have been adopted for a specific park area and posted within the specific park so regulated, any person found guilty of violating such rules is guilty of an offense. (Ord. Nos. 8019; 19963)”

Managing Entity

Parks and Recreation

Public education efforts

Published this short [article](#) on the website and aired a related segment on local news.

Tips 3 and 4 on the Dallas Park Rangers [page](#) provide guidelines for dealing with wildlife in urban park settings, including reasons not to feed birds.

City of Grand Prairie, Texas

Web

<http://www.gptx.org/city-government/city-departments/animal-services/wildlife-and-trap-policies>

Ordinance(s)

None

Enforcement (of ordinances or other rules)

Not Applicable

Managing Entity

Animal Services

Public education efforts

The website is aimed at informing citizens about how to interact with wildlife in general. It does specifically mention to “Avoid feeding wildlife, including birds,” but this seems to be more in the context of a homeowner’s backyard. Grand Prairie does not have any waterfowl feeding information online.

City of North Richland Hills, Texas

Web

<https://www.nrhtx.com/680/Ducks-and-the-Environment>

Ordinance(s)

None

Enforcement (of ordinances or other rules)

None

Managing Entity

Parks and Recreation

Public education efforts

NRH maintains the above webpage and produces a related one-page [flyer](#) than focuses mainly on how feeding is harmful to the ducks. The website and flyer mention that high concentrations of waterfowl can lead to pollution.

City of Plano, Texas

Web

<https://www.plano.gov/230/Urban-Wildlife>

Ordinance(s)

None

Enforcement (of ordinances or other rules)

None

Managing Entity

Animal Services

Public education efforts

The city provides a couple of documents ([here](#) and [here](#)) outlining why feeding wildlife is harmful to the animals and the environment. Both documents have an emphasis on waterfowl.

The city also has an Urban Wildlife Program. The [overview](#) stresses allowing wildlife to be wild, including avoiding supplemental feeding.

City of Richardson, Texas

Web

<http://www.cor.net/departments/animal-services/wildlife/waterfowl>

Ordinance(s)

None

Enforcement (of ordinances or other rules)

None

Managing Entity

Animal Services

Public education efforts

The website says citizens may talk to others to correct them if they feel comfortable doing so, but it stresses not being confrontational. The website also explicitly discourages feeding using “healthier” alternatives.

There are some signs up at parks, but number and prevalence are unknown.

Sugarland, Texas (Out of Region)

Web

<https://www.sugarlandtx.gov/447/Why-You-Should-Not-Feed-Ducks>

Ordinance(s)

None

Enforcement (of ordinances or other rules)

None

Managing Entity

Animal Services

Public education efforts

Public Education seems mostly focused on the website. Overall, the City’s resources on this topic are pretty scarce, but it’s included here for its excellent theme: “Harmless Gestures Lead to Harmful Consequences.”

New Braunfels, Texas (Out of Region)

Web

<https://www.nbtexas.org/Search?searchPhrase=urban%20wildlife>

Ordinance(s)

None

Enforcement (of ordinances or other rules)

None

Managing Entity

None

Public education efforts

The City of New Braunfels is just beginning its effort to address several issues related to urban wildlife, including the effects of waterfowl and waterfowl feeding on water quality. Over the last couple months (02/18 – 05/18), the City has been seeking public input and brought in the local Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologist to hold a [workshop](#) for citizens on urban wildlife issues. The latest update, including survey results from the call for public input, can be seen [here](#).

It may be helpful for municipalities considering avian feeding or wildlife feeding ordinances to follow what happens in New Braunfels over the next several months.

New York, New York (Out of Region)

Web

http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/watershed_protection/wildlife_and_waterfowl.shtml

Ordinance(s)

Parks and Recreation Ordinances only prohibit harassment, harming, and taking of wildlife, not feeding.

NYC has focused most of its efforts internally rather than oriented toward managing public behavior. The City first created a [Waterfowl Management Plan \(WMP\)](#) in 1992 for one reservoir, and it has expanded this effort to five other reservoirs since 2002. The WMP seems to be a pretty involved process, involving collection and analysis of fecal samples, water samples, and waterfowl population surveying. Based on conditions, reservoirs are either actively managed with bird harassment techniques or the city performs harassment and deterrence on an as-needed basis. These included noisemakers, pyrotechnics, remote-controlled motorboats, physical chasing, and other techniques. The City also used egg and nest depredation on some species.

Enforcement (of ordinances or other rules)

N/A

Managing Entity

Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Supply, Division of Watershed Water Quality Operations

Public education efforts

The website has one short page about this program, but little else to suggest a significant public education component.