Action Plan Update: June 25, 2013

Congratulations on a successful campaign!

Through strong partnerships and community involvement we have prevented a recurrence of last year's nesting activity. We are very proud to be part of this effort. It has been three months since the first heron was reported this year. During this period we have conducted a successful campaign that significantly reduced nesting activity in Carrollton. To our knowledge there has been no egret nesting activity in the residential areas of our community. As mentioned last year, this opportunity to work so closely with our community has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my 25 year career. It continues to be very inspiring to watch this program come together and, despite a few challenges along the way, stay on such a positive course from start to finish. A few facts to communicate just what we accomplished together:

- More than 200 city staff from departments such as Police, Code Enforcement, Utility Billing, Public Works, Building Inspection, and Parks and Recreation remained committed to support this program by assisting with identifying migratory birds and reporting this activity to our team in Animal Services.
- In addition to the untold hours residents volunteered to patrol, our city staff spent more than 1,600 man-hours on patrol over the last 100 days!
- Strong partnerships were maintained between not only our community and city staff, but also with our regulatory teams with Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Animal Damage Control Services and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Although the City of Carrollton had applied for and received a Federal Depredation Permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we did not have to take lethal action to attain this success.

These are just a few of the great things we have accomplished through this partnership!

Where do we go from here? First we take a moment to appreciate our success and learn from this year's experience. One factor that contributed significantly to our success relates to training and communication. Therefore, starting in November we will begin again sending reminders about the importance of proactively managing your property by

trimming trees and removing old nesting material. We will follow this effort up by delivering flyers door-to-door in areas that we know have a history with egret or heron nesting to share a similar message. We will work with our neighborhood associations to provide small group training as a refresher course on identifying migratory birds and how to report this activity. We will also work with individual homeowners who experienced heron nesting this year to offer suggesting on reducing this activity next year.

What can you do over the next six months to get a head start for next year? Experts tell us it may take three years before we can consider our efforts complete. We still have one more year before the total results of this campaigned will be realized. Please remain engaged by learning more about our birds of interest. To review a list of these birds please click here. During fall or early winter ensure that your trees are trimmed to allow sunlight to shine through; it may also be helpful to create a separation between tree canopies. Fall and winter months are the best time to also remove all old nesting material. Although the city is not able to assist with tree trimming, we may be able to help remove old nests. For assistance call our Animal Services team at (972) 466-3420. Remember to be a good neighbor: If you know one of your neighbors faces a challenge, lend a helping hand!

Please remember that we continue to serve as your partner. Although you may not see us as frequently, we are only a phone call away. You may continue to see some herons and egrets in your neighborhood. When in doubt call Animal Services immediately at (972) 466-3420.

Congratulations on an extremely rewarding partnership!