

# About the Nature Center

Baytown Nature Center, located at 6213 Bayway Drive, is a 500-acre peninsula surrounded by Burnet, Crystal and Scott Bays. It consists of hardwood uplands, high quality tidal marsh, and freshwater wetlands. This unique site is listed on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, providing habitat for 317 species of resident and neotropical migrant birds. The American Bird Conservancy designated BNC as a nationally important bird area. The nature center hosts a monthly Audubon Bird Survey in partnership with Houston Audubon.

But this recreated wetland isn't just for the birds. Numerous other animals also call the nature center home. In addition, it's an important nursery area for a variety of aquatic species, including shrimp, crab and fish.

This former residential subdivision (Brownwood) now features picnic shelters, four fishing piers, two pavilions and two overlooks. There's also the A. Jean Shepherd Butterfly Garden, the Billy Barnett Children's Nature Discovery Area, the Myra C. Brown Bird Sanctuary and approximately seven miles of hiking trails.

Baytown Nature Center, operated by the City of Baytown, is open to the public 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

## Bird Buddies Responsibilities

- Fill feeders on assigned days
- Observe feeders for at least 5 minutes
- Complete Bird Buddies Survey Sheet
- Clean feeders as needed

## Logistics / FAQ's

- What will BNC provide?
  - BNC will provide feeders and all bird food, clipboard, survey forms, disposable gloves, insect repellent, binoculars and guidebook (if needed).
- Where do I park?
  - Bird Buddies should park at the A. Jean Shepherd Butterfly Garden. The feeding station is a short walk from the parking lot along the Chickadee Trail.
- Where do I find supplies?
  - Birdseed and survey forms are located at the Visitor's Center.
- How long should I stay at the feeding station?

- We ask that you stay at least 5-10 minutes to monitor the station and record what species and how many visit. The survey form has a simple checklist of common birds in the area and we will provide binoculars and a field guide if you would like to use them.
- What should I do in the event of inclement weather?
  - If you cannot fill the feeders due to bad weather please contact BNC Staff.
- What should I do if a feeder is broken or missing?
  - If feeders or equipment are broken please fill out the Maintenance section in the survey.
- Where do I leave the Feeder Surveys?
  - Please leave your Feeder Surveys at the Visitor's Center in the folder labeled Feeder Surveys.
- What to do if you can't attend?
  - We understand life happens and circumstances may change. If you are unable to fill the feeders on your designated day, contact BNC staff at least 1 day in advance. Talk to the BNC staff if you need to adjust your designated day to better accommodate your schedule.

## Volunteer Expectations

- Bird Buddies are expected to arrive in time to fill feeders by 7:30 am. If a Bird Buddy is absent more than 3 times without notifying staff before their shift they will be removed from the program.
- Follow all Safety Guidelines.
- Be friendly and courteous to guests.
- Complete Feeder Survey at each visit.

## Safety Guidelines

- Please be aware of your surroundings. You may come in contact with poisonous plants and various reptiles and insects. These include but are not limited to poison ivy, thorny vines and trees, ants, mosquitoes, bees, wasps, snakes, and alligators.
- BNC will provide insect repellent.
- Although it is uncommon, if a Shelter in Place Event occurs please return to your vehicle and leave the park. You should not turn on your air conditioning / heating or return air in your vehicle.
- A first aid kit is located at the Visitor's Center.

## Code of Conduct

- When interacting with the public Bird Buddies should be friendly and courteous.

- Bird Buddies should not communicate with the Media. If a Bird Buddy is contacted by a member of the Media they should direct them to BNC Staff.
- If a Bird Buddy comes into contact with confidential information about BNC, other volunteers, or BNC Staff, he or she is obligated to keep that information confidential. They should not divulge personal phone numbers or address of BNC Staff or other Bird Buddies without permission.

# BNC Staff

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***\*All addresses and phone numbers on this page are public information.***