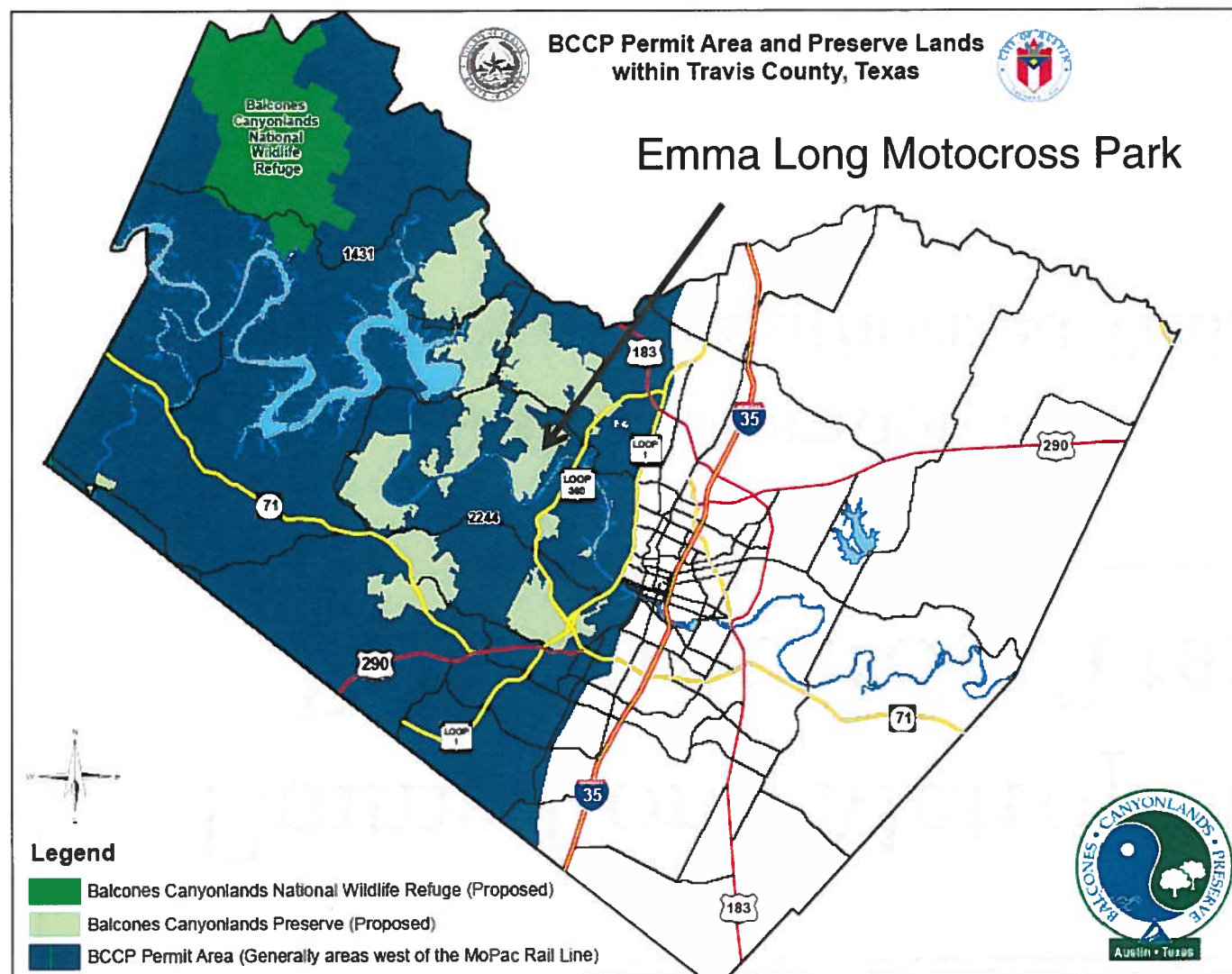




Emma Long Metropolitan Park Motocross Trails

Trail Restoration and
Closure of Unauthorized Trails





BCP = 30,428 ac

COA manages
13,608 ac

7 tracts (3,210 ac)
dual-managed by
PARD and AWU

Emma Long Park is one of 7 BCP tracts dual-managed by PARD & AWU



Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP)



- USFWS issued 30 year permit in May 2, 1996
- First multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan, under Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act; national model
- Provides TC, COA, and landowners with a streamlined approach to Endangered Species Act compliance
- The BCCP Permit allows “take” of habitat and requires mitigation of protected acres within the BCP





Species covered by the BCCP

■ Endangered Species

- ❑ Golden-cheeked warbler
- ❑ Black-capped Vireo
- ❑ Six karst (cave) invertebrates



■ Species of Concern

- ❑ 25 karst species
- ❑ 2 plant species

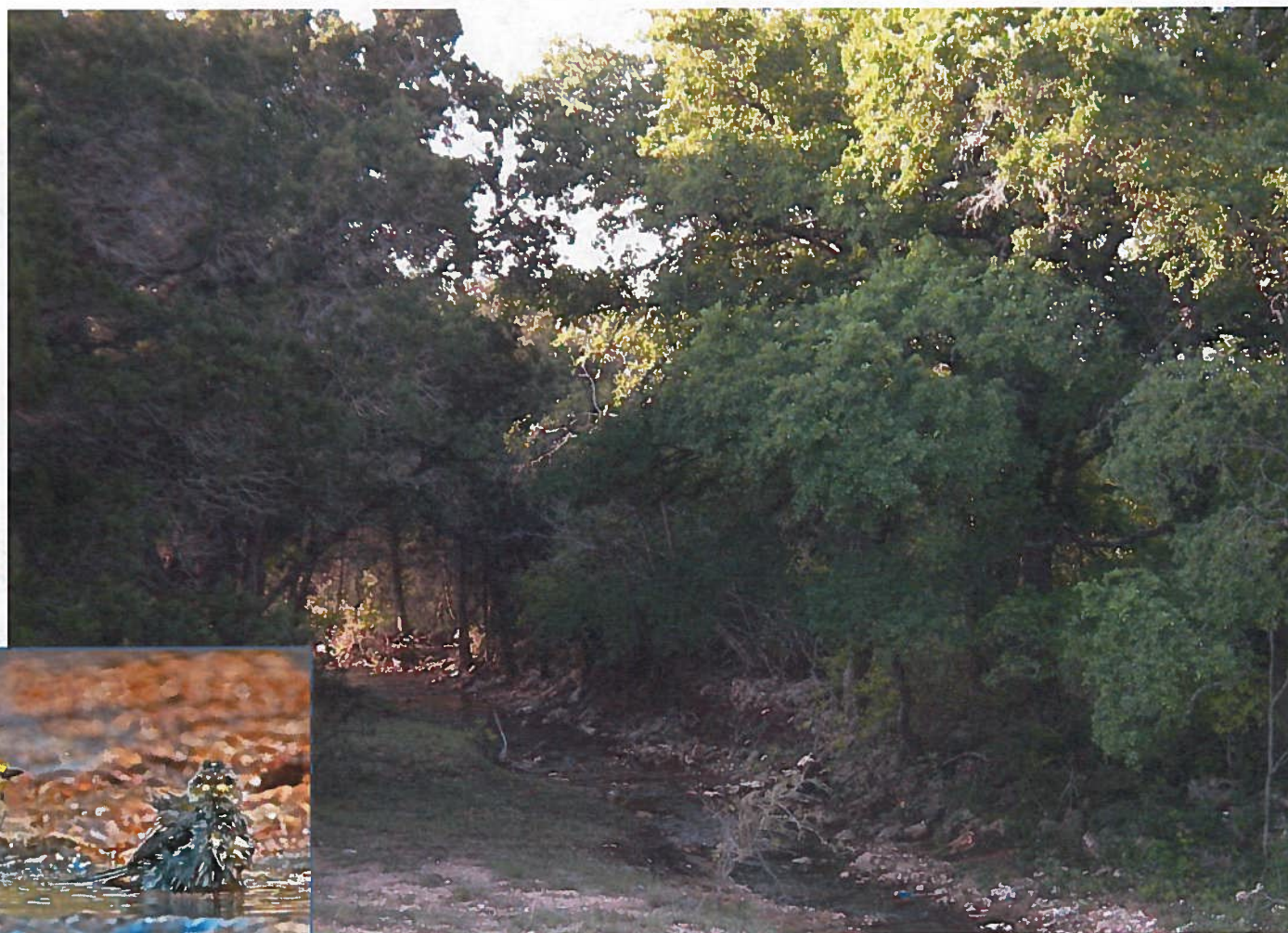


Travis County, including Emma Long Metropolitan Park, supports some of the best and largest blocks of habitat in the heart of the GCWA's breeding range. Since the BCCP allows development of >70% of the existing habitat, protection of the remaining habitat is critical.





BCCP Permit requires acquisition, protection, and management of 28,428 acres of GCWA habitat





The BCCP permit allows for trails under certain conditions, including:

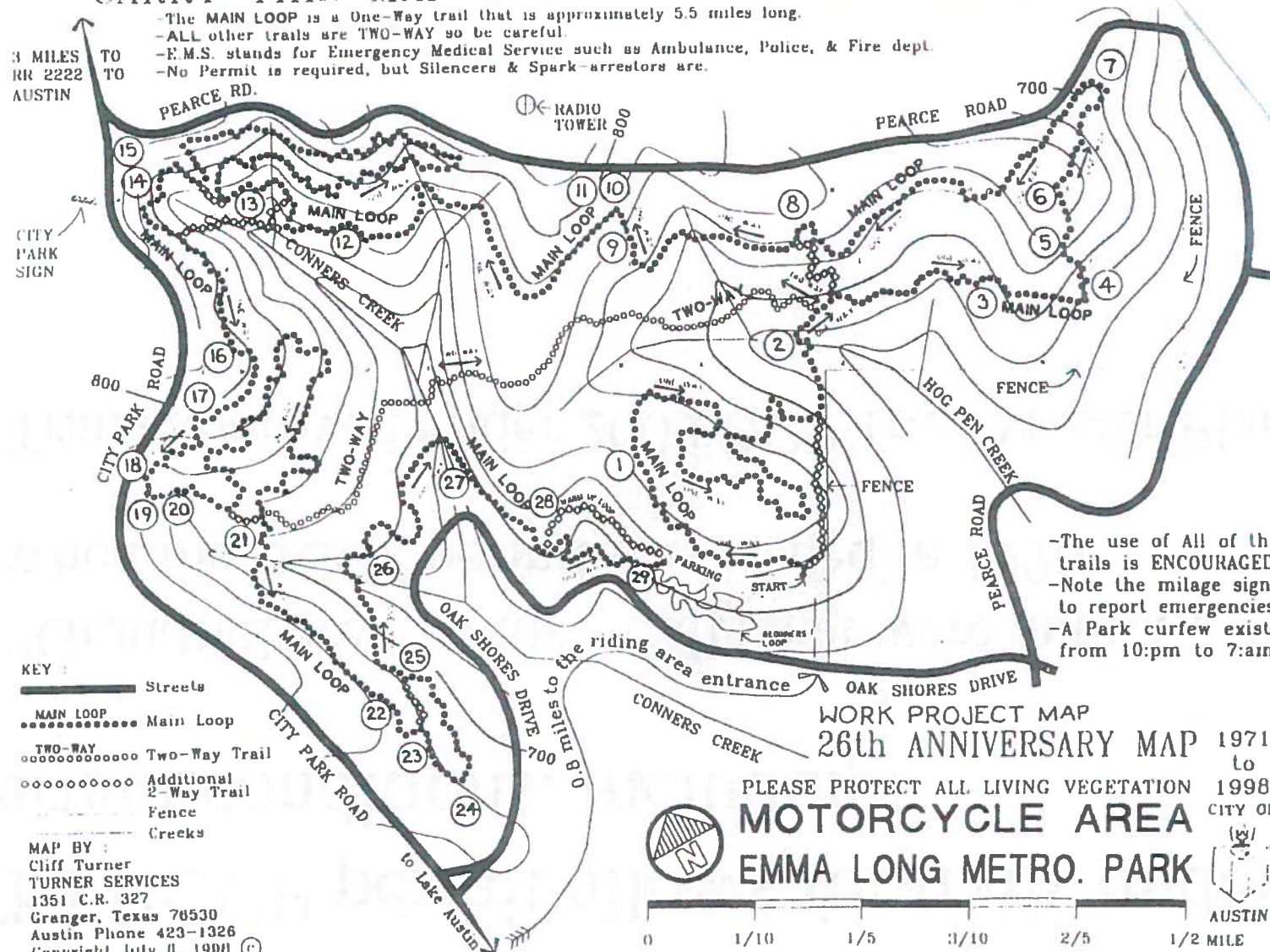
- “Grandfathered” trails - trails that were authorized when the BCCP permit was issued in 1996
- Trails approved under 2009 BCP Trail Master Plan



3 MILES TO
RR 2222 TO
AUSTIN

- The MAIN LOOP is a One-Way trail that is approximately 5.5 miles long.
- ALL other trails are TWO-WAY so be careful.
- E.M.S. stands for Emergency Medical Service such as Ambulance, Police, & Fire dept.
- No Permit is required, but Silencers & Spark-arrestors are.







OF RD.



- The use of All of the trails is ENCOURAGED.
- Note the milage signs to report emergencies.
- A Park curfew exists from 10:pm to 7:am.

WORK PROJECT MAP
26th ANNIVERSARY MAP 1971
To
PLEASE PROTECT ALL LIVING VEGETATION 1998
MOTORCYCLE AREA CITY OF
EMMA LONG METRO. PARK

KEY :

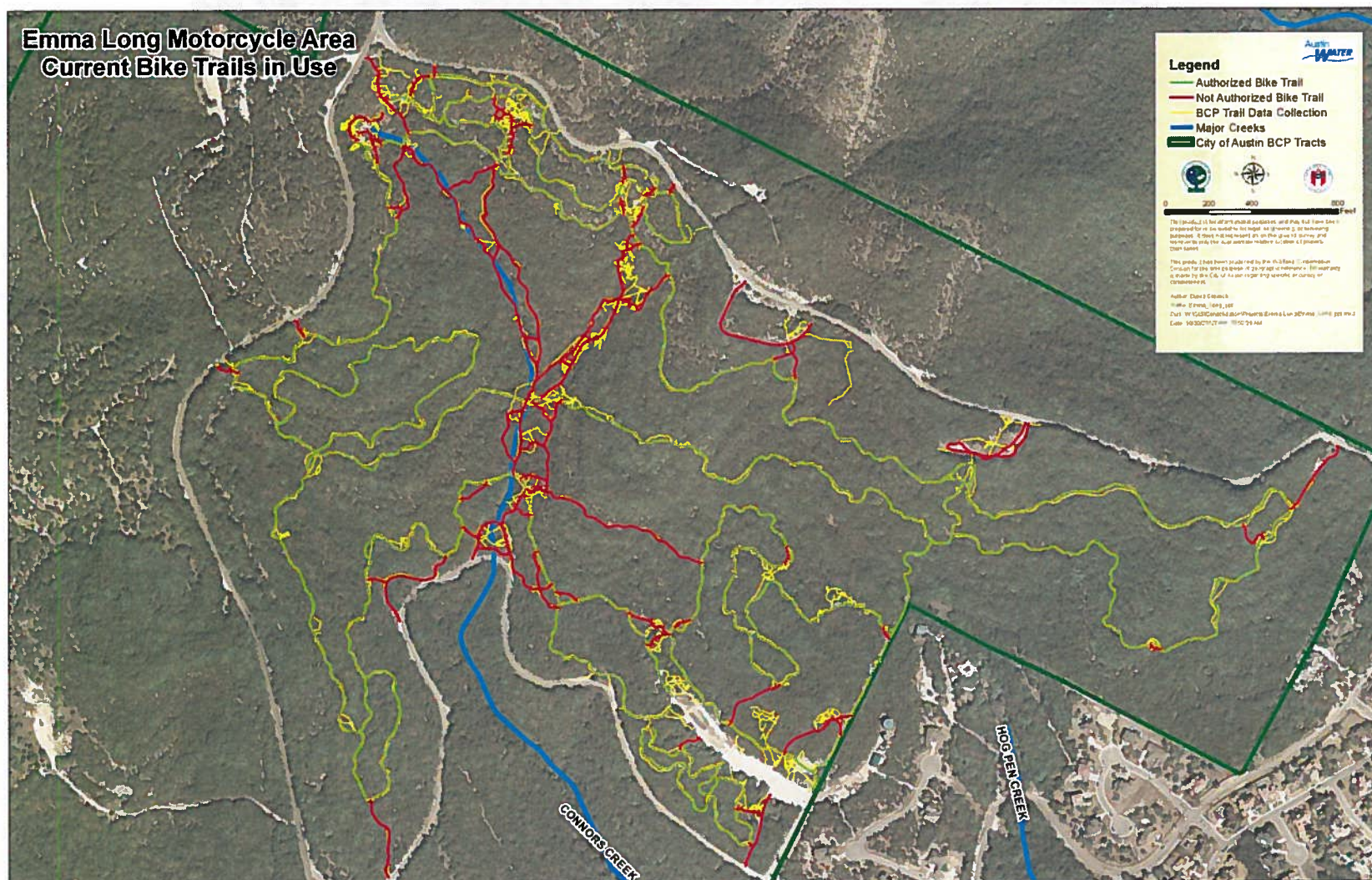
	Streets
	Main Loop
	Two-Way Trail
	Additional 2-Way Trail
	Fence
	Creeks

MAP BY :
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Austin Phone 423-1326
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AUSTIN







Example of high quality GCWA habitat along a creekbed in BCP (no trail)



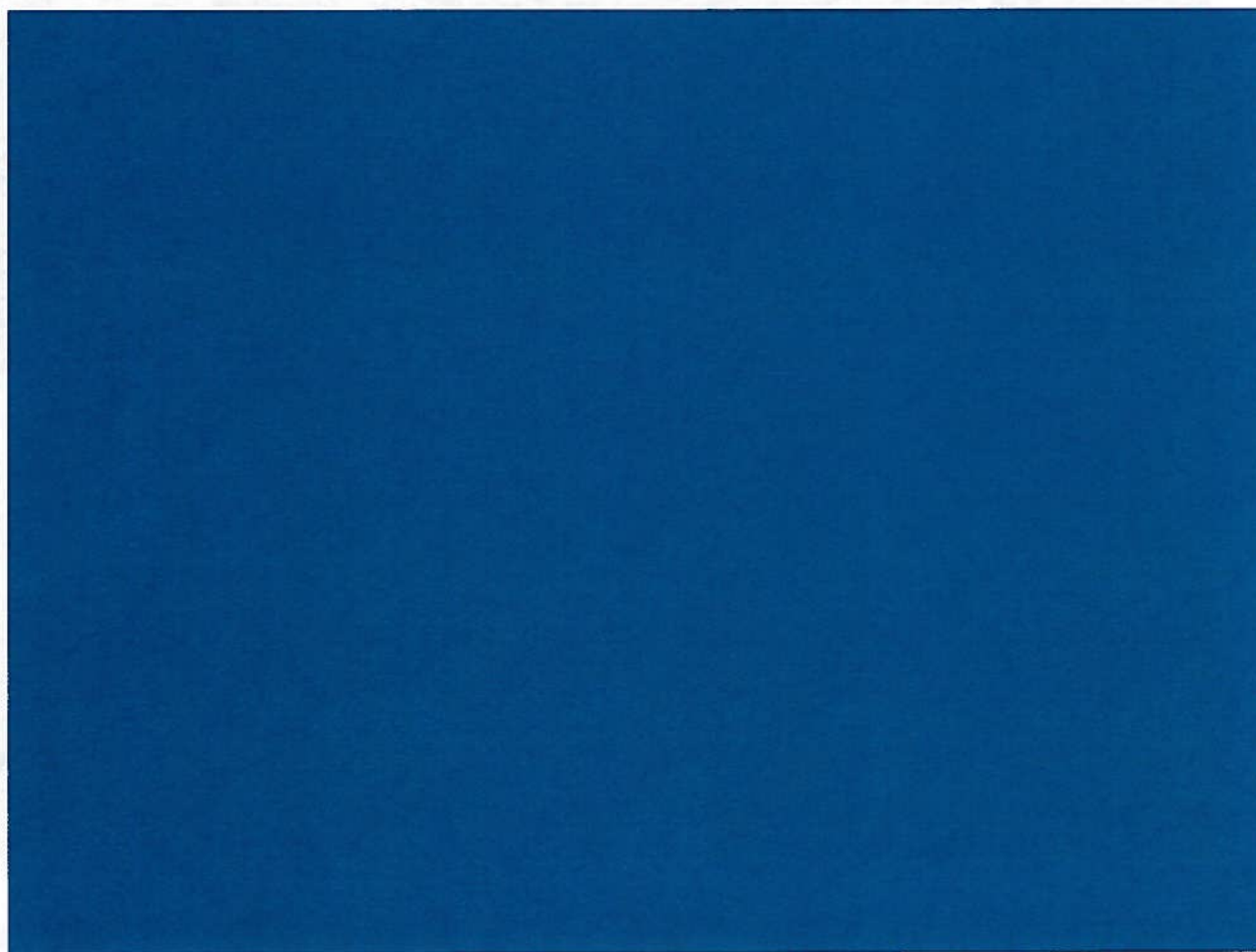
Note diversity of plants, understory, ground cover, leaf litter

Examples of unsustainable/unauthorized trails in Connors Creek, Motocross Park



Note soil erosion, little/no understory plants, ground cover, leaf litter





Video of GCWA nesting activities





Key factors in sustainable trails

Designing trails to retain their form over years of use and natural forces acting on them

**PHYSICAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

**ECOLOGICAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

Minimizing the ecological impacts of trails, especially in sensitive areas

**ENGENDERING
STEWARDSHIP**

Fostering a sense of individual responsibility for stewardship



Guiding principles of ecologically sustainable trails

- Avoid sensitive ecological areas and critical habitats
- Develop trails in areas already influenced by human activity
- Provide buffers to avoid/protect sensitive ecological and hydrologic systems
- Use natural infiltration and best practices for stormwater management
- Provide ongoing stewardship of the trails and adjoining natural systems
- Ensure that trails remain sustainable
- Formally decommission and restore unsustainable trail corridors



Next Steps

- Use grant funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to repair, renovate and/or rehabilitate 28 site-specific areas of the authorized motocross trail.
- Close unauthorized trails impacting the protected habitat, including the unsustainable trail along Connors Creek



Golden-cheeked warbler fledglings taking a bath

Photo by: John Ingram





BCP management goals: avoid habitat fragmentation & edge effects

- Refers to disturbance effects along the boundary between natural habitats (forests and shrub lands) and disturbed or developed land.
- Effects may include increased drying (wind, temperature, light), predation/parasitism, and/or invasive plant and animal species.
- Predators commonly found along edges:
 - Rat snakes
 - Jays, crows
 - Fox squirrels
 - Fire ants
 - Brown-headed cowbirds

