



## Emma Long Metropolitan Park Motocross Trail

### Currently:

Emma Long Metropolitan Park's Motocross Trail, located off of Oak Shores Drive, Austin, Texas 78730, is a unique and very popular 7.56-mile single-track loop for motorcycles (dirt bikes) and mountain bikes. The City of Austin through the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) received a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission to renovate, repair and rehabilitate the motocross trail.

The trail is unidirectional and more technically challenging than many other trails in Texas. Trail features include multiple stair-step climbs/descents and steep drops in a rocky Limestone terrain with Ashe juniper and hardwood trees. This trail is recommended for experienced intermediate and advanced riders only. As a result of the steep slopes and popularity of the trail for mountain bike and motorcyclist enthusiasts, there are twenty-four (24) build-up/block areas and four (4) build-up/preventative maintenance areas that have been identified to be repaired, renovated or rehabilitated by this grant. In addition, all authorized trails will be clearly marked.

### Legal Obligations:

On May 2, 1996, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a 30-year permit to the City of Austin and Travis County, under section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act, to provide acquisition, protection, and management of habitat of eight federally listed endangered species, including two songbirds and six invertebrates. The Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) called for the creation of a system of habitat preserves known as the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP). Emma Long Metropolitan Park is a part of this protected habitat and is dual-managed by PARC and Austin Water Utility (AWU). Within this BCP habitat, the Golden-Cheeked Warbler, an endangered songbird, is the species of note. The BCP is managed under the terms and conditions of the BCCP. The BCP management goal is to ensure the long-term viability of this endangered species and its habitat (closed canopy Ashe juniper-oak woodlands).

BCCP authorized trails should be:

- Existing prior to when permit was issued (1996)
- Approved under BCP Trail Master Plan
- Sustainable

### Future:

Trails, whether they are for pedestrians, motorcycle riders, or mountain bike enthusiasts, should be sustainable. Trails should avoid sensitive ecological areas and critical wildlife and plant habitats; 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 from use; and formally decommission and restore unsustainable trail corridors.

The first step will be to use grant funding to repair, renovate and/or rehabilitate 28 site-specific areas of the authorized motocross trail. After the grant is complete, the second step will be for PARC, along with community assistance through volunteers, to close non-authorized trails impacting the protected habitat.

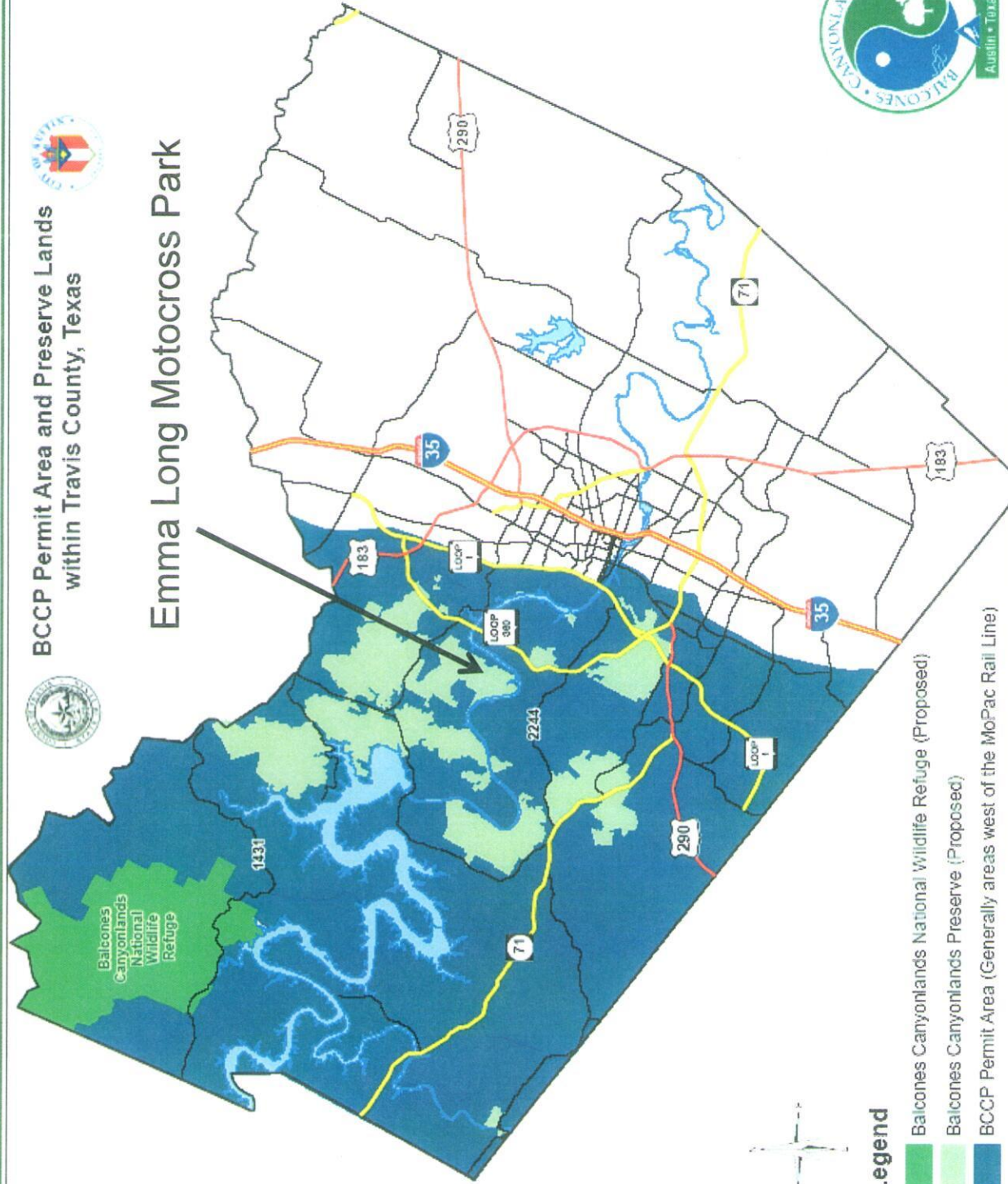




BCCP Permit Area and Preserve Lands  
within Travis County, Texas



## Emma Long Motocross Park



### Legend

- Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge (Proposed)
- Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (Proposed)
- BCCP Permit Area (Generally areas west of the MoPac Rail Line)

Emma Long Park is dual-managed by PARD and AWU









## Examples of unsustainable/unauthorized trails in Connor Creek, Motocross Park



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

