



ELMP Motocross Trail

■ **Currently Reality:**

- Emma Long Metropolitan Park's Motocross Trail, located off of Oak Shores Drive, Austin, Texas
- It 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 Department to renovate, repair and rehabilitate the motocross trail.

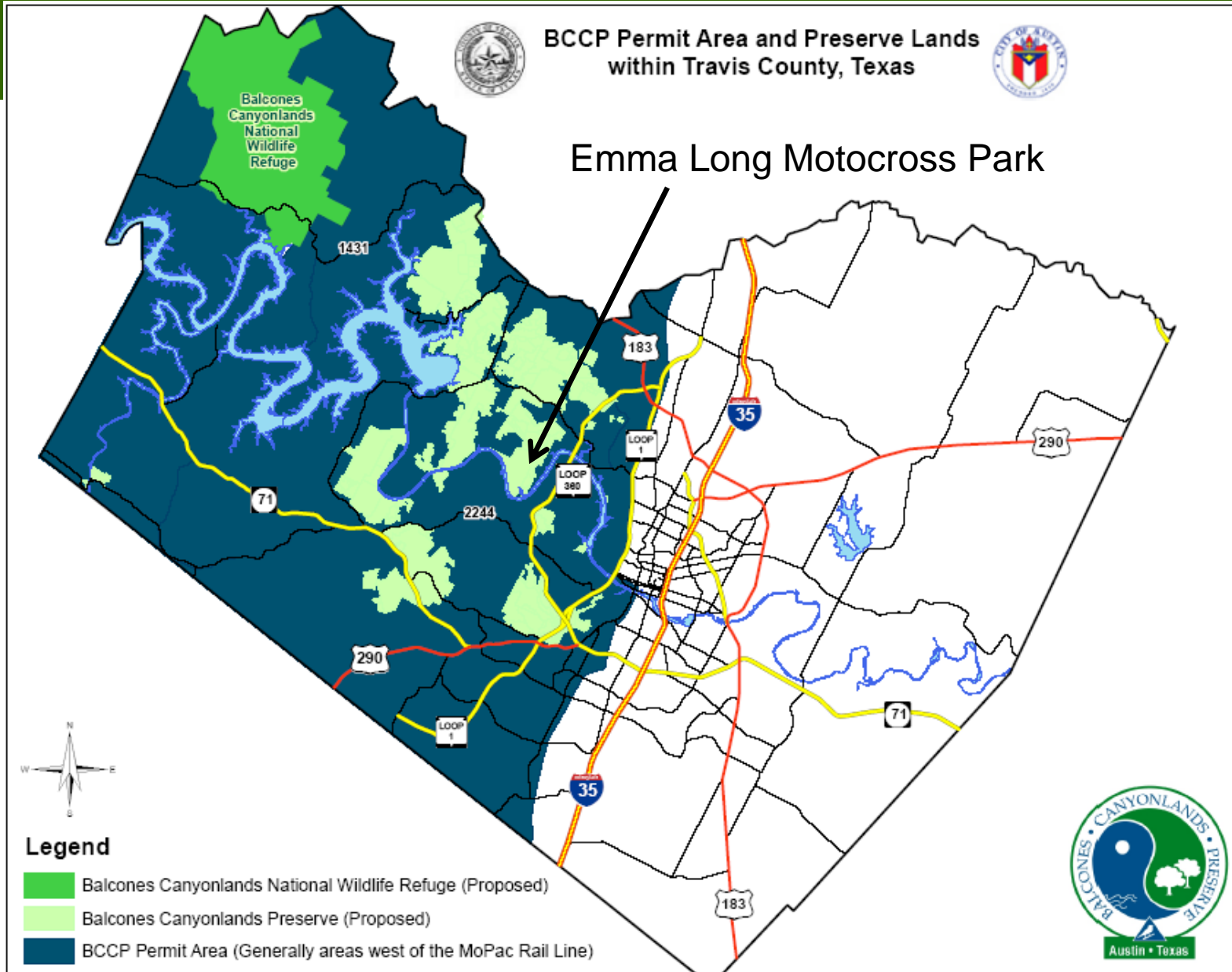




BCCP Permit Area and Preserve Lands within Travis County, Texas



Emma Long Motocross Park



Emma Long Park is dual-managed by PARD and AWU

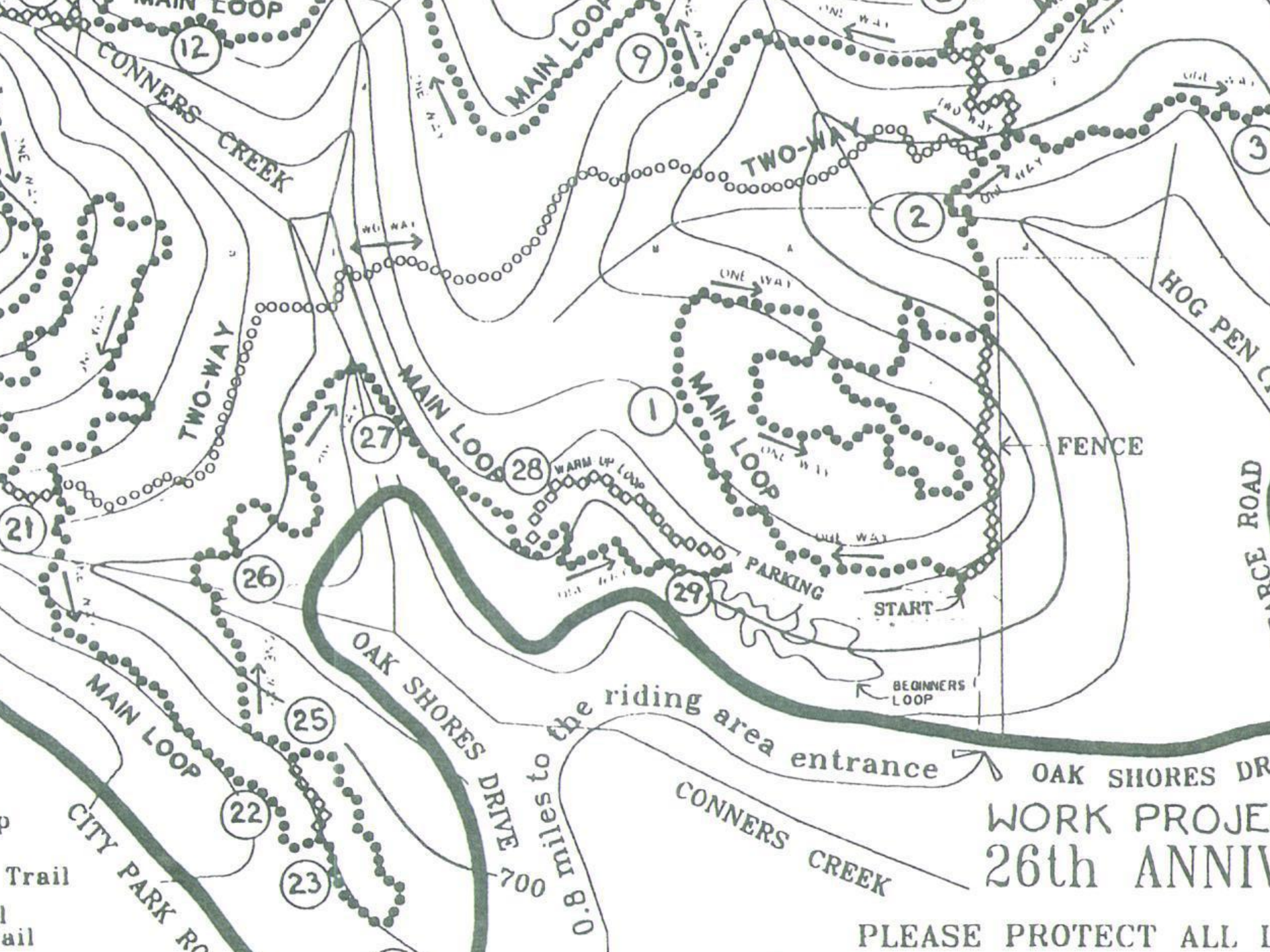




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- The trail is unidirectional and more technically challenging than many other trails in Texas.
- This trail is recommended for experienced intermediate and advanced riders only.
- As a result of the steep slopes and popularity of the trail for mountain bike and motorcyclist enthusiast, there are twenty-four (24) build-up/block areas and four (4) build-up/preventative maintenance areas that have been identified to be repaired
- Other work includes authorized trails will be clearly marked.



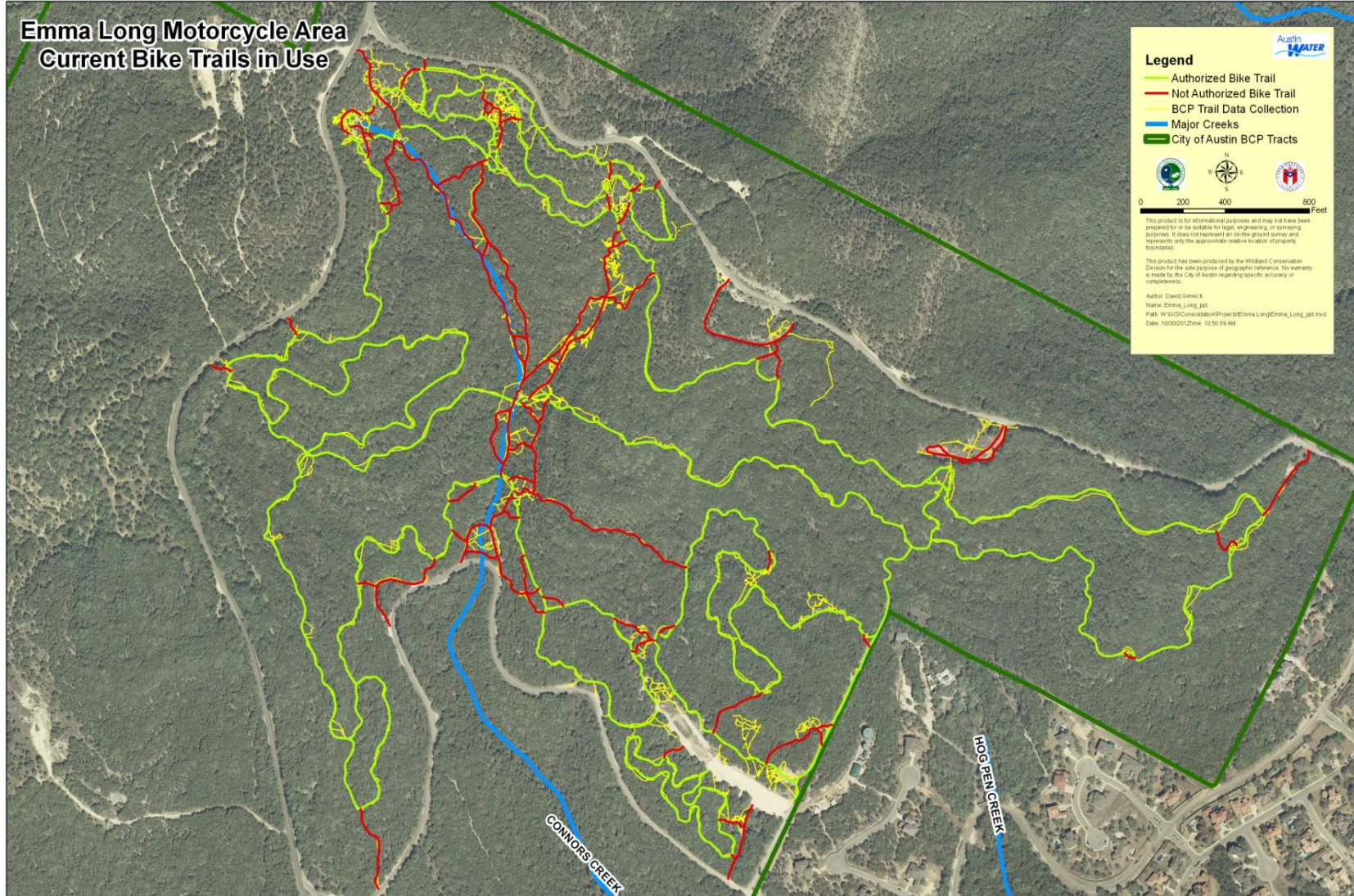


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Emma Long Motorcycle Area Current Bike Trails in Use



ELMP Motocross Trail -



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).

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- Emma Long Metropolitan Park is a part of this protected habitat and is dual-managed by PARD 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.

BCCP authorized trails should be:

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





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■ Stakeholders

- Stakeholders and users of the trails have been informed and will continue dialog with them on the use and condition of the trail
- Stakeholders have shown an interest on assisting in the work that is needed and will be a partner in disseminating information.

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



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





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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 and protect sensitive ecological and hydrologic systems.
- Provide ongoing stewardship of the trails and adjoining natural systems
- Formally decommission unauthorized trails.



BCCP authorized trails:



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





Golden-cheeked warbler fledglings taking a bath.

Photo by: John Ingram