



## Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Fact Sheet

- From 1988 through 1996, a collaboration of local public officials, concerned citizens, business leaders, landowners, developers, environmental groups, scientists, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) worked together to create a Habitat Conservation Plan under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the Austin area.
- On May 2, 1996, the City of Austin (COA) and Travis County (TC) were jointly issued a regional USFWS Incidental Take (or Section 10(a)1(B)) permit as a result of this community effort. The 30 year Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) allows for the “incidental take” of two endangered bird species and six endangered karst species within Western Travis County.
- The BCCP was the first Regional multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan in the nation and continues to serve as a national model for community-based conservation that seeks to balance a healthy economy with healthy ecosystems. Its success is a multi-partner effort with Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) acreage managed by the COA, TC, Lower Colorado River Authority, City of Sunset Valley, Travis Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, St. Edwards University, Concordia University, Texas Cave Management Association, and numerous private land owners.
- An incidental take permit authorizes the loss of endangered species or their habitat associated with otherwise legal activities in exchange for minimization and mitigation measures that benefit the affected species. The BCCP provides coverage for the following endangered species listed here, plus 27 additional species of concern:

- Black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapillus*)
- Golden-cheeked warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*)
- Tooth Cave spider (*Neoleptoneta myopica*)
- Tooth Cave pseudoscorpion (*Tartarocreagris texana*)
- Kretschmarr Cave Mold Beetle (*Texamaurops reddelli*)
- Bee Creek Cave harvestman (*Texella reddelli*)
- Bone Cave harvestman (*Texella reyesi*)
- Tooth Cave ground beetle (*Rhadine persephone*)



- The BCCP provides a quick and efficient pathway for the Permit Holders, infrastructure providers, and private landowners to comply with federal law and mitigate for impacts that their land use practices may have on protected species. The Permit provides a streamlined alternative to the normal USFWS consultation and determination process.
- Approximately 1/3 of the Preserve is currently open to the public including Barton Creek Greenbelt, Emma Long Park, Commons Ford Park, St. Edwards Park, Mount Bonnell Park, Wild Basin Preserve, Hamilton Pool, and Westcave Preserve. The public can visit other parts of the Preserve on regularly scheduled tours, on Hike and Lecture Series tours, and through Preserve Volunteer programs.
- Management activities include surveys (for endangered species habitat, sensitive areas, creeks, springs, caves, rare plants, etc.); census and monitoring of the golden-cheeked warbler, black-capped vireo, karst species, and the Jollyville Plateau salamander; maintaining fences, signs, roads and trails; management of populations of deer, feral hogs, brown-headed cowbirds, and non-native invasive species; monitoring of adjacent development to prevent damage from erosion and sedimentation; and patrols to protect the tracts.

**For more information, please contact:**

City of Austin Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Program at 512-972-1664

[www.balconescanyonlands.org](http://www.balconescanyonlands.org)

Travis County Natural Resources Program at 512-854-9437 or [BCCP@traviscountytx.gov](mailto:BCCP@traviscountytx.gov)

[www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/bccp/](http://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/bccp/)