

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities Update: 1 October 2015 –31 January 2016

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Eighteen BCCP applications were received and processed as of February 3rd; Six Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$303,950.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Land Acquisition	No new parcels were acquired in this time period.
Reports and Events	<p>The FY 2015 Annual Report was submitted to USFWS 1/27/15 and is available online here: https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/bccp/reports.</p> <p>The Karst Management Chapter of the Land Management Plan is complete and will be discussed, and likely approved, at the next BCCP Coordinating Committee meeting.</p> <p>A State of the BCCP Report is being drafted by COA and Travis County staff based on the outline provided by the Citizens Advisory Committee. This report will be part of the 20th anniversary celebration.</p> <p>Planning is underway for the BCCP 20th Anniversary Celebration. Activities will be scheduled from March through May, culminating in a 20th Anniversary Party Friday, May 6th 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Reicher's Ranch.</p>
Personnel	Kayla Miloy filled the Environmental Specialist position in the Natural Resources Program; she is responsible for BCCP Administration. The county's Volunteer Coordinator position was reclassified and posted under the title "Community Liaison". Hiring for this position is underway. An Environmental Project Manager in the Natural Resources Program resigned and the position will be re-posted in February.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked warbler and Black-capped vireo	<p>Planning is underway for the warbler and vireo survey seasons, which will begin in early March for the warbler and early April for the vireo.</p> <p>A vireo habitat enhancement project occurred on a four acre portion of the Vireo Ridge tract in December. Small secondary growth junipers were removed from the area. In January, a group of Keep Austin Beautiful volunteers assisted in planting about 250 shin oaks and other small shrubs on the New Life tract in an effort to create vireo habitat.</p>
Jollyville Plateau salamander	Salamander surveys were conducted at upper and lower SAS, McDonald Well, Collins, and upper and lower Ribelin.
Karst invertebrates	Fall season faunal surveys were performed at 10 caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at six caves; Winter season faunal surveys were performed at four caves and cricket exit counts were conducted at six caves.
Rare Plants	Texabama croton surveys occurred on the Kotrla Unit. A significant colony of this rare plant has been discovered on this newly acquired tract. Texabama croton was also surveyed in an area of Pace Bend Park prior to a prescribed fire, which occurred in January. Follow-up surveys will occur to monitor the impacts of the fire on this species.
Plant and Animal Control	
Feral hogs	Four hogs were removed from the BCP including one at Hamilton Pool, one from the Sam Hamilton East tract, and two from the Woody Hollow tract.

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	Staff coordinated with Texas Agrilife Service technicians and an adjacent landowner to discuss opportunities to combine efforts to tackle the hog problem on the Kotrla Unit and the adjacent Crystal Falls community.
White-tailed deer	Seventy-two deer were harvested from nine tracts from October through January.
Red-imported fire ants and Tawny crazy ants	Red-imported fire ant surveys and boiling water treatments were performed at five caves; assessments and surveys of Tawny crazy ant infestation were conducted at Whirlpool and No Rent caves.
Invasive Plants	Invasive plants (Chinaberry, Ligustrum, Vitex, Nandina, Pyrocantha, and Tamarisk) were removed from 13 tracts.
Land Stewardship	
Fencing	Boundary fences were installed on the Collins tract (4,820 linear feet) and the Trails End tract (9,808 linear feet).
Trails	<p>A TNR Road & Bridge crew is wrapping up the final work on a trail maintenance project at Wild Basin Preserve to restore and stabilize the Arroyo Loop Trail and improve handicapped accessibility. The project was undertaken as part of a settlement between Travis County and a citizen-advocate for handicapped accessibility. Under the settlement, Travis County did not admit any wrong-doing but did agree to make a number of improvements to make the trail more accessible. This included smoothing the trail wherever practical using decomposed granite treated with TerraPave resin to make the surface more durable. The project also involved replacing boards on a trail bridge, paving and striping the handicapped parking area, removing obstacles between the parking area and the trail that would hinder accessibility, and adding road base to the access driveway. The project was a joint effort of Travis County and St. Edwards University. Special thanks to the Road & Bridge crew for doing a great job with minimal disturbance off trail.</p> <p>A new pedestrian bridge at Hamilton Pool was replaced after the previous one was destroyed during the last flooding event.</p>
Wildfire Preparedness	Three fuel reduction projects were conducted this fall/winter on Travis County BCP along the wildland urban interface. Two of the projects occurred at Steiner Ranch, and one was on Grandview Hills South tract. Two projects on the Canyon Vista tract are scheduled for February.
Infrastructure Corridor	An Infrastructure Workshop was held October 8 th at the Wildflower Center. This workshop was designed to help explain the significance of the BCP and provide guidance to infrastructure service providers that cross the BCP or that pass through endangered species habitat outside of the preserve. There were 134 participants at the workshop.
Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	Numerous incidents of trespass and criminal mischief were detected this period including two incidents of dumping, four incidents of vandalism, two incidents of illegal use of fire, and one incident of illegal use of firearms.
Outreach/Volunteers	
See <i>BCP Partners Education Summary September 2015 – January 2016</i>	