

City of Austin's BCCP Activities Update: 15 October 2016 – 31 December 2016

BCCP Administration	
Infrastructure Projects	Nine Infrastructure Habitat Assessment Applications were processed and Determination Letters were issued from October 1, 2016 –31 December 2016.
Land Acquisition	No new parcels were acquired in this time period.
Reports and Events	Annual scientific permit reports were submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in December 2016. Staff prepared annual BCP reports.
Personnel	Wildlands Conservation Division hired David Gimnich,. The Wildlands GIS Environmental Program Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator positions will be filled in 2017.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked warbler and Black-capped vireo	The first of three manuscripts on the 5-year Golden-cheeked Warbler Population & Habitat Viability study was submitted for publication: Reidy, J.L., F.R. Thompson, and L. O'Donnell. In review. Density and nest survival of golden-cheeked warblers varies with plot, forest, and landscape characteristics. Two more manuscripts will be submitted in 2017.
	On December 15, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a 12-month finding/proposed rule to delist the Black-capped Vireo, with a 60-day public comment period. Staff prepared comments on the proposed delisting.
Jollyville Plateau salamander	With lowered Lake Austin levels from January to mid Feb. 2017, trips were made to historically documented Mormon Springs below Mt. Bonnell (Peter Sprouse and Tom Devitt) as well as Santa Monica Springs between Commons Ford and Cortana BCP tracts (Nico Hauwert). Although lake levels lowered roughly 15feet over Santa Monica Springs, they were not exposed.
Karst invertebrates	A karst completion meeting was held on Feb. 2 to review the status of roughly half of the 62 permit caves. Conducted cave faunal surveys and cave cricket exit counts. (ongoing)
Plant and Animal Control	
Feral hogs	BCP staff are actively removing feral hogs.
Red-imported fire ants and Tawny crazy ants	Tawny Crazy Ants: Staff from the University of Texas at Austin, Travis County, and City BCP continue to work on the Section 6 tawny crazy ant research. Ed LeBrun hired technicians to help City and Travis County staff on the research and monitoring efforts.
Invasive Plants	BCP staff and volunteers are continuing efforts to remove non-native plants on COA BCP tracts.
Oak Wilt	BCP staff continued to monitor the movement of the fungus in known oak wilt centers and the success of control trenches.

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Other Species	City BCP staff worked with Animal Services and Parks & Recreation Dept. to provide training and outreach materials for COA staff, partners, and volunteers to promote nonlethal coexistence methods for coyotes.
Land Stewardship	
Habitat Restoration	Staff and volunteers are continuing to implement demonstration projects at the Vireo Preserve to promote slope stabilization, soil restoration, and regeneration of native plants on degraded areas that are currently not habitat for either the GCWA or BCVI. Staff completed a gazebo roof and rainwater collection systems, and began a native plant nursery. Since Vireo Preserve supports many of the habitat types observed throughout the BCP, lessons learned from restoration work at this site should be applicable to other areas within the BCP.
Fencing	Installed 1,080 linear feet of fencing along the southern boundary of Forest Ridge, along Lakewood Drive
Wildfire Preparedness	Shaded fuel break work was completed on Double J and T including 780 linear feet (1.1 acres) in the Gebron area and 1,450 linear feet (1.7 acres) in Apache Shores. We began a research project to survey vegetation before and after treatment, including species composition and material, volume removed, and canopy density.
Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	In December 2016 the chain locking the fence around Midnight Cave was cut on 2 occasions. No damage to the cave was observed. On January 7, 2016 a security camera was installed which observed 4 individuals inside the enclosed area later that evening. The 4 persons were apprehended but released on warning after identification. A new security gate lock was installed and no further trespassing has been observed.
Outreach/Volunteers	
<i>See BCP Partners Education Summary January– March 2017</i>	