



BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2017 Second Quarter: January 1- March 31, 2017

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Travis Audubon, Westcave & Wild Basin

OUTREACH & EDUCATION (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth	Adults	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	132	802	1,665	441
Programs / Presentations	Onsite	46	865	495	304
	Offsite	8	63	166	
Land Stewardship	Onsite	119	18	151	684
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	9		46	228
Campouts	Onsite	2	31	10	
Visiting Groups / Educators	Onsite	14	40	262	112
Administrative Help	Onsite	5		8	60
Training	Onsite	3		50	180
Jan - Mar Total		339	1,819	2,853	2,009

Monetary value of volunteer work (\$25.11/hour): **\$50,445.99**

SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS (Estimated Annual Visitation)

These numbers are not included in the Outreach & Education chart above. They represent a sample of BCP areas with public access – we hope to include more complete visitation numbers in future reports.

Hamilton Pool (Travis County): 173,136

Wild Basin (St. Edward's Univ. & Travis County): 10,000+

Baker Sanctuary (Travis Audubon): 468

Westcave - BCP portion (LCRA): 6,840

HIGHLIGHTS

CITY OF AUSTIN



- Middle school students from all over Austin visit the BCP's Reicher Ranch to learn about the golden-cheeked warbler, hike, and even help remove weeds around young trees. This quarter, student volunteers moved compost and mulch to support a pollinator garden in an area previously dominated by invasive grasses.
- 60 volunteers are participating in golden-cheeked warbler re-sighting surveys this year across City, County, and Travis Audubon properties.
- The volunteer-led habitat restoration efforts on the Vireo Tract continue. Every Tuesday and Sunday, a group of new and old volunteers help to mulch, water, seed, and grow the next generation of native plants. This supports a healthy ecosystem and also allows volunteers to learn from one another.

TRAVIS AUDUBON



- Baker Sanctuary hosted its fourth annual Great Backyard Bird Count on February 18 (pictured above). Fifteen adults and eighteen kids helped survey four trails, recording twenty-one bird species. Younger kids especially enjoyed chasing all the butterflies. Older kids were most impressed by a red-shouldered hawk, and adult birders were happy to get a few good looks at a very vocal Hutton's vireo that lurks around Baker Cabin.
- 20 volunteers, including a Boy Scout Troop, contributed 96 hours of work helping to clean up construction debris from the Sanctuary.



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TRAVIS COUNTY



- This quarter, volunteers contributed 415 hours of labor on the Travis County BCP tracts. They removed more than 500 pounds of trash and recyclables from the preserve, removed invasive species (pictured above), helped with salamander surveys and cricket counts, worked on the landscaping around the Snowden House, monitored cowbirds, restored vireo habitat, surveyed for golden-cheeked warblers, patrolled preserve boundaries, and provided beautiful photographs for use in outreach materials.
- A class of ACC early-college students (high school seniors) spent a day on the preserve removing invasive species, hiking, and touring a cave. They also got a lunch-time presentation about managing the BCP and the importance of green space in urban areas.

WESTCAVE



- 1,628 people visited Westcave during spring break. 85% of the guided tours were full – some filled up two hours ahead of time.
- Westcave staff and volunteers worked together to measure the depth of the pool at the grotto (pictured above). They took measurements every two meters in a grid pattern – the deepest part was 20 feet.
- The latest “Roundtable Social” featured a presentation about chimney swifts by Paul and Georgean Kyle. The event was attended by 13 preserve neighbors.
- The first Warbler Walk of the season was led by Westcave’s Conservation Chair (and Travis County biologist) Paul Fushille.

WILD BASIN



- Wild Basin hosted the first annual Wild by Wild Basin, a week of events during spring break celebrating Austin's wild outdoors. 1,600 people visited Wild Basin during that week, with 130 attending special events including three guided hikes lead by Certified Master Naturalist docents, full moon yoga, a mindfulness hike, a family friendly night hike, a skin and skulls lecture for children, a native plant use lecture, an REI sponsored nature photography workshop, and a family friendly fun day with live music.
- Wild Basin hosted Central Texas Trail Tamers (CTTT) workshops on building and maintaining trail systems on public lands. CTTT offered two "Introduction to Trail Maintenance" classes in February and March and will follow up with a workshop on advanced trail techniques in April. The courses use a curriculum developed by the Pacific Crest Trail Association and U.S. Forest Service Trails Specialist John Schubert. These workshops are designed to teach how trails work, basic design concepts, safety protocols, and how to gain "trail eyes".



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ACTIVITY DEFINITIONS

Guided Hikes

Hikes on the BCP guided by staff or volunteers; includes education about the BCP, wildlife, and land management practices.

Programs / Presentations

Presentations by staff or volunteers about the BCP and related scientific and land management topics; includes educational events and programs.

Land Stewardship

Volunteer work on the BCP that includes removing invasive species, preparing for prescribed burns, creating fuel breaks, restoring habitat, patrolling, and maintenance of grounds, trails & facilities.

Ecological Monitoring

Includes surveys of endangered species, vegetation, and nuisance species such as cowbirds, hogs and red imported fire ants.

Campouts

Campouts on the BCP, usually organized by outside groups such as the Boy Scouts.

Visiting Groups / Educators

Groups visiting or hosting an event on the BCP that was not organized by BCP staff.

Administrative Help

Volunteer help with administrative work such as office work, research, and event coordination.

Training

Volunteer training & other trainings that support the BCCP's mission. Examples include educating emergency response and infrastructure maintenance staff about protecting sensitive environmental features and complying with clearing restrictions.