

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY17 Quarter 2 Update: 1 January 2017 – 31 March 2017

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Twelve BCCP applications were received and processed from January 1, 2017 –31 March 2017. Seven Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$125,050.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Land Acquisition	The 2.58 acre Martin Hamilton Pool Tract was acquired February 7th. This parcel is surrounded by the Hamilton Pool Preserve and will be managed in conjunction with Travis County Parks.
Reports	The FY2016 BCCP Annual Report was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in January and is available online at: https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/bccp/2016-annual-report
Personnel	The Travis County Natural Resources Program is hiring one vacant position. The Environmental Specialist Sr. provides administrative support for grants and contracts. Temporary Natural Resources Technician, Anthony Locatelli, began work on March 28 th . Anthony is assisting on bird surveys and other monitoring and management activities this spring and summer.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked warbler and Black-capped vireo	The first Golden-cheeked warbler spring arrival on Travis County BCP tracts was documented on March 5 th . The first Black-capped vireo was observed on March 24 th . Warbler and vireo surveys began about a week after first documentation.
Karst invertebrates	Winter season faunal surveys were performed at 10 caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at 7 caves. A karst feature survey and assessment effort on the Kotrla Unit was initiated this quarter. Both staff and a contractor are surveying for previously undiscovered karst features, and assessing new features for karst invertebrate habitat and excavation potential.
Jollyville Plateau Salamanders	Thirty-nine sites spaced 50 m apart were surveyed for salamanders in streams within the Concordia Conservation Easement as part of an occupancy study. Salamanders were detected at several new sites.
Plant and Animal Control	
Feral hogs	18 hogs were harvested from the Kotrla Unit and the Sam Hamilton East tract.
White-tailed deer	A camera deer survey was conducted on the Jollyville Unit in February to estimate the deer population. The estimated deer population based on the survey was 21 acres/deer.
Red-imported fire ants and Tawny crazy ants	Red-imported fire ant boiling water treatments were performed at 7 caves caves. Tawny crazy ant surveys were conducted at No Rent and Whirlpool caves.

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Invasive Plants	Invasive plants (Chinaberry, Ligustrum sp., Nandina, Photinia, Chinese tallow, Pyrocantha, Loquat, Vinca, and Tree of Heaven) were removed from 10 tracts. Volunteer groups helped with the removal of Vinca from the Bunten tract.
Land Stewardship	
Fence Construction	New boundary fence was constructed on the Lucas tract (7,440 feet). A 60 foot section of fence damaged by a vehicle on the Nootsie tract was repaired. Concordia University installed boundary fence along a portion of their conservation easement.
Wildfire Preparedness	Wildfire fuel mitigation projects were conducted along the Wildland-Urban Interface on the Woody Hollow, Steiner Ranch, Tomen 35, Wild Basin, and Lime Creek tracts. Parks staff conducted a 20-acre prescribed burn in a prairie area at Hamilton Pool Preserve in February.
Trash Clean-up	Staff and volunteers conducted cleanup workdays on the Trails End and Snowden tracts and removed more than 500 pounds of dumped trash and a 30 cubic yard dumpster of recyclable metal from the Preserve.
Infrastructure	Staff coordinated with Austin Energy and LCRA crews so that these companies had access to conduct routine repairs and vegetation maintenance along powerlines running through the BCP.
Conservation Easements	Staff assessed violations on 2 different conservation easements. Violations included vegetation cutting/damage, dumping of downed slash, trespass, discharge of pool water into the conservation easement, damage to fencing/gates, and failure to conduct oak wilt prevention treatment within the development area. The Travaasa property is under new ownership and the Conservation Easement has officially been transferred to the new owners, MRG ATX Holdings, LCC.
Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	Several incidences of trespassing, dumping, cut vegetation, and damage to fences/gates occurred on Travis County tracts this quarter. Highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several sets of people were caught on camera entering the Cuevas tract to access a rock climbing site. The rock climbing gear that they left behind was confiscated. • Someone drove onto the Cuevas tract and cut and removed juniper trees, presumably for use as fence posts. • Trespassers damaged a gate to enter the Cypress Creek Unit by ATV.
Outreach/Volunteers	
See <i>BCP Partners Education Summary FY17 Second Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2017</i>	