

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY17 Quarter 3 Update: 1 April 2017 – 30 June 2017

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Fifteen BCCP applications were received and processed from April 1 – June 30, 2017. Three Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$57,606 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Land Acquisition	Travis County purchased the 2,319.15-acre Wheless tract from LCRA on April 24, 2017. The 4.44 acre Endres parcel, adjacent to the Scott and White tract, was acquired May 5, 2017. Travis County acquired the 38.95 acre Blackmore tract on June 9, 2017. The Blackmore tract is within the Preserve Acquisition Boundary and surrounded by Travis County BCP parcels.
Personnel	Carla Martin filled the Environmental Specialist Sr. position on May 30, 2017. Carla provides administrative support for grants and contracts; Mickey Leland Intern Kenneth Sparks also started in May and will be assisting with field work throughout the summer.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo	Two intensive 100 acre plots and enumeration surveys on nine tracts were completed this spring. In addition, a pilot point-count survey was initiated. Staff is currently entering data.
	Vireos were surveyed and nine pairs successfully fledged at least 20 young. Three banded males returned and two new males were banded this year.
Karst Invertebrates	Winter season faunal surveys were performed at nine caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at seven caves; a karst feature survey and assessment effort is being implemented on the Kotrla Unit. A contractor is excavating newly discovered features and assessing the karst invertebrate habitat.
Jollyville Plateau Salamanders	Twenty-one occupancy sites were set up on the tributary running from the SAS canyon to Cypress Creek. They were surveyed once a week for three consecutive weeks and yielded five new occupied sites. Site marking has begun on the Kelly Hollow and McDonald Well tributaries.
Water Quality Monitoring	Environmental Integrity Index sites were flagged at Cypress Creek North of McDonald Well tributary, SAS tributary, above Bullick Hollow, above Hamilton Pool, and at Bee Creek below Hwy 360. Biological data was sampled using surbers. Flow, pH, temp, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen data was collected. Bankfull width and canopy cover were also measured and diatom scrapes were collected.
Plant and Animal Control	
Brown-headed Cowbirds	Five cowbird traps were operated during the spring and 223 cowbirds were captured.
Feral hogs	Ninety-eight hogs were harvested from the Kotrla Unit, Hamilton Pool Preserve, and the Sam Hamilton East, Karnik, and Canyon Vista tracts.

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Red-imported Fire Ants and Tawny Crazy Ants	Red-imported fire ant boiling-water treatments were performed at eight caves.
	In June, Natural Resources staff documented a new tawny crazy ant population in close proximity to the Jollyville Unit. The extent of this population is being assessed; tawny crazy ant surveys were conducted at No Rent and Whirlpool caves.
Invasive Plants	Invasive plants (Chinaberry, Ligustrum sp., Nandina, Photinia, Chinese tallow, Pyracantha, loquat, Vinca, bamboo, honeysuckle, paper mulberry, and tree of heaven) were removed from 23 tracts. Volunteers helped with the removal of Vinca from the Bunten tract and bamboo from the Attwood tract.
Land Stewardship	
Fence Construction	Currently planning for fence construction projects to begin after September 1 st at the Kotrla Unit and Cuevas tract.
Wildfire Preparedness	Currently planning for several fuel mitigation projects to begin after September 1 st . Projects will occur on the BCP along the Wildlife-Urban Interface in the Crossings, Volente, and Steiner Ranch tracts.
Management Issues	On June 21, 2017, Natural Resources staff documented a large water discharge at the City of Cedar Park water tank on the Wheless tract. Staff alerted Cedar Park and the flow was stopped. Cedar Park determined that an incorrectly calibrated sensor caused the release of about 50,000 gallons of treated water. Natural Resources staff inspected the area and determined that no significant damage was caused to the Preserve or nearby karst features.
Conservation Easements	Staff conducted annual site monitoring on one conservation easement. Previously documented violations, which included vegetation cutting/damage and dumping of downed slash into the conservation easement, were addressed during the site visit.
Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	<p>Twenty-five incidents of trespassing were documented, primarily by surveillance cameras. Other incidents include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one case of Illegal dumping at Vista Point • a 0.7 acre fire started at Vireo Ridge, which was fortunately extinguished by rain • six stolen or damaged gate locks and a cut fence • damage to the Lucas fence from a car accident
Outreach/Volunteers	
See BCP Partner Education Summary FY17 Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2017	