



BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2018 Second Quarter: January 1- March 31, 2018

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	149	726	1,601	393.5
Programs / Presentations	Onsite	36	1,495	1,064	132
	Offsite	4	240	71	
Land Stewardship	Onsite	80	24	174	1,087.75
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	66	24	68	401
Visiting Groups / Educators	Onsite	25	104	292	60
Administrative Help	Onsite			2	12.5
	Offsite			1	4.5
Campouts	Onsite	2	39	35	23
Training	Onsite	8		116	586
Jan – Mar 2018 Total		370	2,652	3,424	2,700.25

Monetary value of volunteer work (\$25.15/hour): **\$67,911.29**

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



2nd Quarter Highlights

CITY OF AUSTIN



- Despite rainy, cold weather, over 1,300 people learned about the importance of karst habitats at the Austin Cave Festival in February. More than 100 City staff, community partners and volunteers worked to make this conservation-focused event more comprehensive than previous years, including guided visits to two caves, a high-tech cave simulator brought in from Colorado, vertical caving skills, habitat scavenger hunts and artwork, live music, and over 25 scientific talks and exhibits all day.
- BCP staff trained new volunteers to assist with guided hikes, land stewardship, fuel moisture monitoring, and resighting Golden-cheeked Warblers. Volunteers that lead groups participate in a full day of CPR and First Aid training in addition to specific monitoring training provided by biologists and volunteer coordinator.
- The US Forest Service featured the Austin Cave Festival and the efforts of the BCP in a nationwide outreach program! The video is available at www.caveslive.org and reached thousands of students in both English and Spanish during a live event in March.



BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)



- In February, Baker Sanctuary hosted its 5th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. 41 observers (pictured above), ranging in age from four to 50 years of age, surveyed four trails and recorded a total of 231 individual birds comprising 13 species.
- Brendan Ryan led Boy Scout Troop 271 in the construction of a 24-foot bridge in the North Valley of Baker Sanctuary. 16 volunteers invested a total of 142 hours in constructing the bridge, a needed component for Brendan to receive his Eagle Scout badge. All materials had to be hauled in 7/10 of a mile, traversing switchbacks, drainage crossings, and uncooperative vegetation. Many thanks to Brendan and Troop 271.
- The third grade class (180 kids and six teachers) of Elsa England Elementary in Round Rock ISD were regaled with a presentation focusing on the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the challenges it faces in Texas today.



TRAVIS COUNTY



- Boy Scout Garrison Layne installed four nesting boxes for wood ducks at the BCP tract at Concordia University for his Hornaday Award Conservation Project (pictured above). He recruited volunteers and worked with County and Concordia staff to make the project a success. Nesting habitat for wood ducks is in short supply, so this is a big help!
- Travis County partnered with Concordia University and the City of Austin for the second of the Wild Neighbors speaker series. Clay Bales and Brad Hamel from the Texas A&M Forest Service gave a great presentation about oak wilt prevention and general tree care to a classroom filled with about 30 people. Before the presentation, Audrey Stewart with City of Austin BCP led folks on a tree ID hike on the Concordia BCP tract.
- Texas Conservation Corps partnered with the County to recruit volunteers for an invasive removal project on It's My Park Day. 23 volunteers from TxCC and the public removed many bags of invasive vinca!



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BARTON CREEK HABITAT PRESERVE (THE NATURE CONSERVANCY)

- The Barton Creek Habitat Preserve hosted the Capital Area Master Naturalists for an insect and herpetology course.
- The Boy Scouts of America used the property for a Crossover event, a National Youth Leadership Training campout for adult leaders, and one campout.



WILD BASIN WILDERNESS PRESERVE



- This winter and spring, Wild Basin initiated a new trail guide training program (pictured above left). Over 17 volunteers completed the 2-day in-person training in which they learned about the history and mission of Wild Basin, the BCP, interpretive guide skills, and Central Texas insects, plants, and geology. Trail guides who completed both days of training are currently continuing their certification requirements by shadowing two hikes led by experienced and long-time Wild Basin volunteer trail guides and completing a partnered hike where a peer provides feedback on the new guide's hike. By the end of March, over one half of the new trail guides had completed all of their trail guide training requirements and expanded Wild Basin's roster of active guides available to provide tours to local K-12 school groups and members of the public.
- Wild Basin welcomed Texas Conservation Corps for "Its My Park" Day (above right). The TxCC guided volunteers as they worked to clean up and repair several places along our hiking trail system. Volunteers armored a muddy trail with rocks and cleaned out drains throughout the trail system.



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WESTCAVE PRESERVE



- The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University exhibited *Our Desired Future* at Westcave Preserve from February 16th – March 15th. The exhibit examines the interconnections between surface and ground water. It combines photos, stories, and first-of-their-kind maps to help Texans understand where their water comes from and how the state's water resources can be managed for long-term viability. A public event was held at Westcave on March 7th with a panel of speakers to give voice to this exhibit. 75 people attended.
- Volunteer workday: volunteers worked on Malta star removal and boundary repairs to fencing (pictured above left).
- Spring Programs started with Paul Fushille leading our first bird walk (above right).
- New research program: Westcave became the third chapter in Texas to participate in FrogWatch USA.
- Spring Break Tours were well attended with 798 people attending one of the 28 tours we provided over an eight day period. Tour capacity average was 95%.



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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.