

TRAVIS COUNTY’S BCCP Activities FY18 Quarter 3 Update: 1 April – 30 June 2018

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Fifteen BCCP applications were received and processed from April 1 – June 30, 2018. Two Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$7,150.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Acquisitions	In May, a 223.8 acre tract, Volente Peak, was acquired in the Cypress Creek macrosite. The 10.4 acre Ross conservation easement was added to the North Lake Austin macrosite in July.
Personnel	<p>A new BCCP Administrator (Environmental Specialist), Kelsey Meisenhelder, is scheduled to start work July 23; this position processes take permits for residential and commercial development through the BCCP.</p> <p>Natural Resources Specialist Todd Bayless resigned in June; he was a staff biologist, karst lead, and tract manager. The position will be re-filled.</p> <p>The vacant Maintenance Worker Senior position was filled by Sam Berg in April. Sam was previously a Maintenance Worker for Travis County Parks.</p> <p>Seasonal Tech, Amanda Fernandez, started in April and will work through the summer. Sara Hamilton is a Mickey Leland intern who started in June and will work through the summer.</p>
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked Warblers	<p>Staff conducted Golden-cheeked warbler surveys on two intensive 100 acre plots and 11 enumeration survey plots. Staff is currently entering data.</p> <p>The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Bird Conservancy conducted Golden-cheeked warbler point count surveys on Travis County BCP tracts, sampling 139 points. This work was part of a larger study to delineate potential warbler habitat throughout the breeding range and to develop a population estimate for the species.</p>
Black-capped Vireos	Eleven pairs of Black-capped vireos have been documented on Travis County BCP tracts this season. Surveys will continue through the summer.
Karst Invertebrates	Spring season faunal surveys were performed at nine caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at seven caves.
Jollyville Plateau Salamanders and Water Quality Monitoring	<p>Capture-recapture salamander surveys were conducted at the Upper and Lower Ribelin sites. Photographs were taken of 282 salamanders, which will be used to identify individuals by their spot patterns.</p> <p>Biological and habitat assessments, as part of the Environmental Integrity Index monitoring program, were conducted on the Cypress main stem, SAS tributary, and Hamilton Creek downstream of Hamilton Pool.</p>
Plant and Animal Control	
Feral Hogs	Twenty-two hogs were harvested from tracts in the Bull Creek macrosite.

TRAVIS COUNTY’S BCCP Activities FY18 Quarter 3 Update: 1 April – 30 June 2018

Tawny Crazy Ants	<p>Tawny crazy ant (TCA) surveys were conducted at No Rent and Whirlpool caves.</p> <p>The first year of a cooperative study with Dr. Ed LeBrun of the University of Texas was initiated on the TCA colony near the Anderson Mill Road and FM 620 intersection. This study will investigate whether a microsporidian pathogen is effective in reducing the abundance and spread of the ants. Travis County staff is conducting a companion study investigating the potential impact of TCAs on Golden-cheeked warbler productivity and prey base.</p>
Invasive Plants	<p>Invasive plants (Chinaberry, Ligustrum sp., Nandina, Photinia, Chinese Tallow, Vinca, tree of heaven, and Vitex) were removed from nine tracts. Volunteers assisted with the removal of Vinca at the Bunten tract and with the treatment of several species at the Ribelin tract.</p>
Land Stewardship	
Wildfire Preparedness	<p>Fuel mitigation projects are being planned for implementation during September 1 – February 28.</p>
Vegetation Issues	<p>In May, a Pedernales Electric Company (PEC) subcontractor cut some trees on the Cuevas tract to gain entry to the infrastructure corridor. Staff is working with PEC on mitigation.</p>
Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	<p>Several incidents of trespass and associated vandalism occurred this spring. A cave gate was vandalized to gain access to the cave. At another site, a post and two signs were damaged by a trespasser to gain access by ATV. There were also two separate incidents of cut fences. Trespassers accessed the BCP on foot, by bicycle, and by ATV.</p> <p>Two cases of illegal dumping were documented and are being investigated.</p> <p>In June, a rescue by law enforcement was needed when a trespasser under the influence of illegal drugs entered the Jollyville Unit and became disoriented. He was found and had minor injuries.</p>
Outreach/Volunteers	
<p>See <i>BCP Partner Education Summary FY18 Third Quarter: April - June, 2018</i></p>	