



# BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2018 Third Quarter: April 1- June 30, 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	49	436	592	164.5
Programs / Presentations	Onsite	6	208	291	117
	Offsite	13	708	566	5
Land Stewardship	Onsite	86	108	430	1,439.5
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	56		104	441
Visiting Groups / Educators	Onsite	15	286	127	3
Administrative Help	Onsite	2		5	18.5
	Offsite			1	2
Campouts	Onsite	1	32	28	
Training	Onsite	3		85	100
<b>Apr – Jun 2018 Total</b>		<b>231</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>2,229</b>	<b>2,291.5</b>

Monetary value of volunteer work (\$25.15/hour): **\$57,631.25**

## 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



## 3rd Quarter Highlights

### CITY OF AUSTIN



- City and County staff came together to take nearly 400 people into a cave at a free Wildflower Center Nature Night event (pictured above). Each visitor learned a little bit about how caves are habitat for unique creatures and provide a quick path for water to reach our aquifer and springs. The next Austin Cave Festival will be held in February!
- Wildlands staff spent a June morning with camp counselors at the Shield Ranch's El Ranchito before campers arrived this summer. The training included time to learn games focused on making field observations and focusing on animal adaptations and ended with practice collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates in Barton Creek. Sharing the excitement of conservation lands, of making observations in nature, of seeing water quality through indicator species, and of taking a hike will lead to better stewards of the Preserve and other wild areas.



## BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)



- Baker Sanctuary hosted its annual Nature Day (pictured above) for the Cedar Park/Leander community, which was attended by over 200 adults and kids. Participants went on guided hikes throughout the Sanctuary, were educated and entertained by a raptor show, and participated in bird-themed activities and crafts.
- Chris Zimmerman, with help and support from his family and Boy Scout 202, installed two new benches on the Baker Spring Trail as part of his Eagle Scout project.
- The annual Golden-cheeked Warbler themed Youth Nature Camp was held in April and attended by 12 elementary-aged students from Leander ISD. Participants went on a guided hike to view Golden-cheeked Warblers, learned about GCWA natural history, and participated in the ever-popular Neotropical migration activity.



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## TRAVIS COUNTY



- In April, 21 students from Jarrell High School and ACC Round Rock (pictured above left) worked hard pulling invasive plants, and accomplished a huge amount! They also learned about the BCP through a guided hike and a lunch presentation before heading back north.
- Johanna Arendt, Travis County Natural Resources Community Liaison, was the guest speaker at the Balcones Canyonlands Master Naturalist chapter's class graduation in April. She thanked them for their hard work and commitment to environmental education and stewardship, and discussed ways to stay involved with the preserve. The event was followed by a guided hike on the BCP tract at Concordia University (pictured above right). Members of this Master Naturalist chapter have contributed many hours of volunteer work and been great partners in outreach and education, helping to lead guided hikes and other events on the preserve.
- For the second year in a row, a large group of Oracle employees volunteered on the preserve in celebration of Earth Day. This year, 50 employees spent two hours pulling invasive vinca and picking up trash.



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## BARTON CREEK HABITAT PRESERVE (THE NATURE CONSERVANCY)



- Teens with Camp Champions volunteered twice this quarter, picking up trash from alongside a 2-mile stretch of Southwest Parkway that goes through the preserve. One of the piles of trash they collected is shown above.
- More than 100 people came out to the Barton Creek Habitat Preserve for an Earth Day event that featured a nature photography hike, a naturalist hike, and open hiking for the day.
- Other events this quarter included two visits from a UT Vertebrate History class, a guided hike for 6<sup>th</sup> graders from the Rose Hill Christian School, and a Cub Scout Pack 30 campout.



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## WILD BASIN WILDERNESS PRESERVE



- In May, four St. Edward's University undergraduate students participated in a 1-week research experience in the field of herpetology (pictured above left). The students investigated the best methods for sampling reptiles and amphibians at Wild Basin to create a protocol for measuring herpetofaunal diversity over time.
- Wild Basin has created a new relationship with a local professional volunteer organization, the Austin Association of Facilities and Maintenance Engineers (AAFAME). AAFAME volunteers help local non-profits by carrying out projects that require professional and technical skills in engineering. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, more than twenty members of AAFAME helped Wild Basin rebuild one of the trash receptacle kiosks and began refurbishing the small building in the parking lot, among other tasks (pictured above right).
- Wild Basin hosted four events that reached 141 young English-learner Pre-K and Pre 1<sup>st</sup> grade students through a collaboration with a summer program hosted by Ridgetop Elementary. During their visits, students used Wild Basin's self-guided hike maps to locate and learn about plants and wildlife. The students also took notebooks on their hikes to record and draw their observations. After the hike, they engaged with the educational exhibits in the visitor's center.



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## WESTCAVE PRESERVE



- The golden-cheeked warbler nest shown above was photographed this spring at Westcave Preserve by long-time volunteer Tom Hausler.
- New research initiative called FrogWatch: research goals include endemic frog species identification and documentation, expanding on current species databases and community awareness, and contributing to local and national conservation initiatives. Westcave has joined FrogWatch as only the third Chapter in the state of Texas. Data collected through this research project will contribute to a more comprehensive research program and expand on existing environmental education programs.



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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.