

**Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP)
Updates for McGregor and Westcave Preserves**

**Q4 Report
July - September 2018**

McGregor Preserve

On Sunday, September 23, 2018, four Comanche Trail Community Association (CTCA) neighbors interested in obtaining a permit to hike McGregor Preserve on designated trails were trained and permitted. There are approximately 50 CTCA neighbors permitted to hike the preserve.

Westcave Preserve Land Management Activities

Research activities included the following citizen science programs: FrogWatch (<https://www.aza.org/frogwatch>), and Dragonfly surveys. Water quality testing was conducted in the grotto and Pedernales River. The test results were sent to the Colorado River Watch Network (CRWN) at <https://www.lcra.org/water/quality/colorado-river-watch-network/Pages/default.aspx>. In addition, preliminary data is being collected for a future graduate study on dung beetles.

Trail maintenance and repairs were completed on both canyon and Upland trail systems. The preserve received 11.55 inches of rain for the month of September. Some trail repair was required due to wash outs from the force of water from the elevated creek. Johnson grass was removed from an area on the Uplands. Nesting boxes were taken down for the season; the bat box and owl boxes are left up year-round.

The footprint for the new bird blind was staked on a small area of the Uplands. Some cactus and mesquite were cleared for the future structure.

The Conservation Committee had its bi-annual meeting.