



BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2019 Fourth Quarter: July 1 – September 30, 2019

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Travis Audubon, Westcave & Wild Basin

4th Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth	Adults	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	143	409	1,569	99
Programs / Presentations	Onsite	22	359	322	6
	Offsite	13	367	363	6
Land Stewardship	Onsite	103	60	442	1,269
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	21		50	110.5
Visiting Groups / Educators	Onsite	31	275	270	
Training	Onsite	2		30	168
Campouts	Onsite	1		29	29
July - September Total		336	1,470	3,075	1,688

Monetary value of volunteer work (\$25.10/hour): **\$42,368.80**



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ANNUAL SUMMARY: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth	Adults	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	549	3,962	5,501	1,000
Programs / Presentations	Onsite	132	3,141	1,382	48.5
	Offsite	37	2,499	2,612	145
Land Stewardship	Onsite	395	370	1,835	5,940.5
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	224	34	379	2,123.25
Visiting Groups / Educators	Onsite	57	374	759	
Training	Onsite	15		265	1,070
Campouts	Onsite	2	28	43	29
Administration	Onsite			3	14
Oct 2018 – Sept 2019 Total		1,411	10,408	12,779	10,370.25
Monetary value of volunteer work (\$25.10/hour): \$260,293.28					

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): 100,000+

Wild Basin (St. Edward's Univ. & Travis County): 32,000+

Baker Sanctuary (Travis Audubon): 724

Westcave (LCRA): 6,500+



4th Quarter Highlights

CITY OF AUSTIN



- We found creative ways to share the BCP with new people by participating in our first PARK(ing) Day downtown and in the annual Barton Springs University event (pictured above). At PARK(ing) Day we turned a parking space into a piece of the BCP. 120 passersby stopped to learn about the BCP, participate in a Golden-cheeked Warbler survey activity, and take a virtual reality cave tour. At Barton Springs University, staff shared a new hands-on science activity about caves and water quality with 180 local youth.
- We hosted an all-day training for 18 volunteer leaders to provide in-depth information about the BCP and extend our capacity to offer guided hikes for the public and host habitat restoration volunteer days.
- In addition to our regular habitat restoration workdays at Vireo Preserve, we took two Sunday "Vireo fieldtrips" to share the restoration effort with the Long Canyon tract. Volunteers and staff are making progress removing invasive privet and planting native plants in its place.



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BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)



- Boy Scout Troop 202 has been busy at Baker Sanctuary with the completion of two new Eagle Scout projects by the Jumper brothers. Grant Jumper installed seven sorely needed trail signs (pictured above) on the northern and southern sections of the preserve. Not to be outdone by his younger brother, Owen Jumper designed and installed a new Chimney Swift tower located near Lime Creek Road on the southern portion of the sanctuary.
- A dedicated corps of brave volunteers endured the relentless summer heat to participate in a total of seven sanctuary work days. Volunteers removed old internal fencing, demolished defunct hunting blinds, helped maintain targeted invasive species management areas, watered plants, and collected and removed ever-present rubbish.
- Several groups from the Sierra Club and Travis Audubon partook in guided hikes during the summer, regardless of the heat. Some were fortunate enough to glimpse the Golden-cheeked Warbler and all were happy to get in their quota of forest bathing.



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TRAVIS COUNTY



- Employees from three different companies volunteered to help pull invasive periwinkle from the preserve despite the blistering heat. Thanks to the folks from Ricoh (pictured above), MilliporeSigma, and Zenoss!
- Boy Scout Justin Roberts built a chimney swift tower on the Snowden tract for his Eagle Scout project in July. These towers provide important roosting and nesting habitat for chimney swifts, which have been declining in population. Building a tower is no easy task, and Justin organized a group of friends and family to help bring the project to fruition.
- County staff and volunteers led three night hikes this quarter to escape the heat (with limited success – our August hike started at 8pm and it was still 96 degrees!). This gave us the opportunity to explore night sights and sounds including the calls of screech owls, scorpions glowing under black-light, and a giant Texas katydid in its dramatic defensive stance.



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WILD BASIN WILDERNESS PRESERVE



- In September, Wild Basin hosted 12 PK-12 teachers for a training for Project WILD, a nationally-recognized environmental education program. We partnered with staff from the Texas Memorial Museum at UT-Austin and the Austin ISD Science Curriculum Department to host these trainings at Wild Basin (pictured above left).
- Thanks to support from the Travis County Parks sign shop, the Wild Basin signs are getting a makeover. In July, Wild Basin staff conducted an inventory of the directional and informational signs at the preserve, and developed a plan for new signage. The entrance, parking lot areas, and trailheads at Wild Basin will be refreshed with new directional signs. Look for the new brown and white park signs to be installed over the next couple of months.
- In August, Wild Basin hosted Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) training with trainer Clark Hancock. Six interpreters from Texas and New Mexico attended. The Environmental Education Coordinator at Wild Basin received CIG certification.
- Wild Basin continued to offer monthly Second Saturday Guided Hikes with Master Naturalist John Barr during this quarter. Each hike was at capacity with about 15 in attendance, mostly adults.

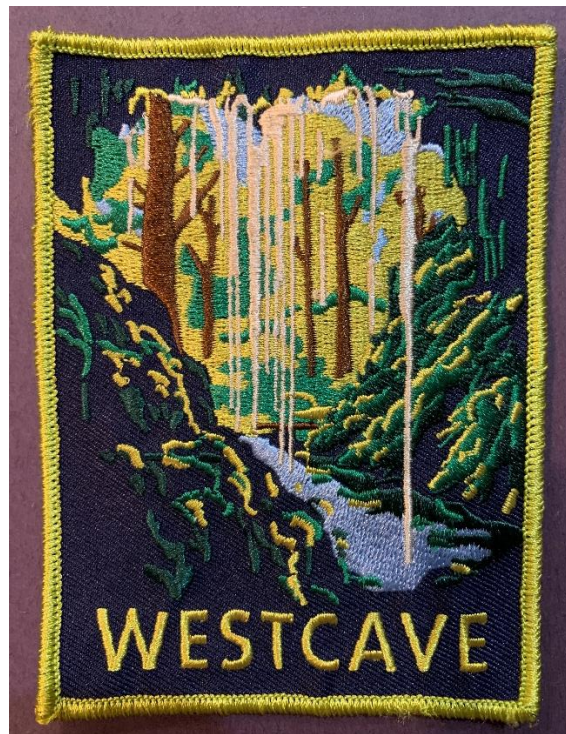


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WESTCAVE PRESERVE



- From June through September, Westcave offered an 8am tour instead of a 4pm tour on the weekends in order to deal with the extreme summer heat. 8am tour guests were treated with a rainbow in the grotto when we had sunny skies (pictured above left).
- In September, Westcave provided a three-hour Girl Scout Experience program that involved a guided tour, birding, and reflections stations to connect with nature. The girls received a Westcave patch for their participation (pictured above right).
- The addition of a public tour reservation system has allowed us to better integrate into a technology-driven world. Guests are able to reserve their spot up to four weeks in advance.



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BARTON CREEK HABITAT PRESERVE (THE NATURE CONSERVANCY)

- Camp Champions worked at picking up trash along Southwest Parkway in July. The weather was hot but the group was able to clear the third and final section of road bordering the preserve.
- We hosted two research groups this quarter - one collecting seeds for a bluestem project and another collecting data on stream flow and water quality in Barton Creek and two area wells.
- Volunteer workdays included work on trail maintenance and invasive species removal (Johnson Grass, Paper Mulberry, Ligustrum, Chinaberry, and Chinese Tallow).



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.