

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

**Q1 Report
October - December 2020**

McGregor Preserve

Plateau Land and Wildlife Management conducted a white-tailed deer survey of the preserve that revealed the density of white-tailed deer to be approximately 9.94 acres/deer, with a maintenance harvest of 5 to 6 deer per year recommended. Based on these findings, LCRA may concentrate its harvesting efforts this season on other LCRA properties with higher densities and easier access.

Westcave Preserve Land Management Activities

Three workdays were held in October 2020, during which volunteers weeded butterfly gardens, worked on existing trails, and trimmed brush in the parking lot areas. In addition, invasive woody species were removed and treated as part of prairie restoration efforts.

Preserve maintenance is on-going and includes trail inspections, trail work, bird blind maintenance, and supplemental watering for butterfly gardens.

Research consisted of the following:

1. Ongoing, monthly Pond (Dragonfly) Watch (Xerxes Society-Citizen Scientist program) surveys were conducted by a core group of volunteers.
2. Monthly water sampling was conducted to check water quality at the Grotto and at Hammetts Crossing. Results were reported to LCRA.
3. FeederWatch (Cornell Lab of Ornithology citizen science program) began in November 2020 and consists of bi-weekly bird surveys conducted by a core group of volunteers.

Westcave held multiple programs during this quarter consisting of two fall bird hikes, a native grass hike, Christmas Bird Count (CBC), and Hamilton Pool Road litter pick up.