

**TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY2021 Quarter 1 Update: 1 October 2020 – 31 December 2020**

<b>BCCP Administration</b>	
Public Participation	Fifteen BCCP applications were received and processed from Oct 1st – Dec 31st, 2020. Seven Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$15,750.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Land Acquisition	The County acquired ownership of 9.8 acres of land underlying the Greenshores conservation easement. The conservation easement was already being managed as part of the BCP, so no new acreage was added.
Personnel	Katie Hallberg was hired as the Natural Resources grants and contract administrator in November 2020.
<b>Rare and Endangered Resources Management</b>	
Golden-cheeked warblers and Black-capped vireos	<p>Staff completed entering and analyzing data from the 2020 golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo survey seasons.</p> <p>Staff and contractors conducted vegetation management to improve 27 acres of existing black-capped vireo habitat and to create two acres of new vireo habitat on the Jollyville Unit; A fire lane was created on the Kotrla Unit in preparation for a prescribed burn to improve vireo habitat.</p>
Karst Invertebrates	<p>Fall season faunal surveys were performed at six caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at four caves.</p> <p>Zara Environmental was contracted to restore the openings of Kretschmarr and Gallifer caves to their original condition and install new cave gates. The new gates are more bat-friendly and provide a safer entrance for staff (see photos).</p>
<b>Plant and Animal Control</b>	
Feral Hogs	Staff and contractors removed 29 hogs from the Kotrla Unit, the Sam Hamilton East tract, and the Canyon Vista tract.
White-tailed deer	Seventy-nine deer were harvested by contractors on the Kotrla Unit, the Jollyville Unit, and the Webb, Medway, and Volente tracts.
Tawny crazy ants and Red imported fire ants	<p>Research conducted by the University of Texas found that the densities of tawny crazy ants on the Collins tract declined significantly in 2020 and native ants are rebounding. The presence of a microsporidian pathogen may account for the overall reduction in density.</p> <p>Red imported fire ant surveys were conducted at four caves but treatment was not performed due to weather and COVID-19 constraints.</p>
Invasive Plants	Staff, volunteers, and contractors removed more than 27,000 invasive plants from five BCP tracts.

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<b>Land Stewardship</b>	
Fence Construction	<p>New boundary fence construction occurred on the Woods of Greenshores conservation easement and the Webb tract.</p> <p>Seven new gates were installed within existing fence on the Steiner Ranch conservation easement to improve access for patrolling and management.</p>
Wildfire Preparedness	<p>Fuel mitigation projects were completed on the BCP in the Wildlife-Urban Interface at Molberg, Woods of Greenshores, Vista Point, and SAS tracts.</p> <p>Maintenance of the existing shaded fuel break was completed on the Canyon Vista tract.</p>
Utility Infrastructure Corridor	<p>Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC) and LCRA conducted inspections and trimmed vegetation along some of their transmission and distribution lines that cross through Travis County BCP land.</p> <p>Preparations were made by PEC to replace some utility poles in the Cypress Creek Macrosite.</p>
Buildings	<p>Plans for the Travis County BCP Visitor Center were delayed while key staff refocused on COVID-19 planning. A Scope of Services was developed to hire a design team for architect, landscape architect, engineering, and interpretive design services. The contractor will work with Natural Resources staff, county architects, and engineers to design the center.</p> <p>The Snowden House is currently under renovation.</p>
Conservation Easements	<p>During this quarter, staff conducted annual conservation easement monitoring at two privately-owned properties managed by Travis County through conservation easement agreements. One property was in compliance with the easement agreement; the other had a tree cutting violation which is being investigated.</p>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	
	<p>Three new incidents of tree cutting on the BCP were documented and are being investigated.</p> <p>Two incidents of criminal mischief occurred this quarter. A gate was removed from its hinges on the Vista Point tract to allow vehicle access. A deer feeder was vandalized on the Webb tract.</p>
<b>Outreach/Volunteers</b>	
<p><i>See BCP Partner Education Summary FY2021 First Quarter: October 1 – December 31, 2020</i></p>	



Gallifer cave before (top photo) and after (bottom photo) the entrance was renovated and a new cave gate was installed.