

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY2021 Quarter 2 Update: 1 January 2021 – 31 March 2021

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Sixteen BCCP applications were received and processed from January 1 st – March 31 st , 2021. Nine Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$324,425.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Personnel	Three seasonal Natural Resources Techs were hired in March: Analilly Lopez, Kaitlin Lopez, and Rebecca Woodward. They will assist with bird surveys and other duties during the spring and summer.
BCCP Annual Report	The FY2020 BCCP Annual Report was submitted to the USFWS in January. It can be viewed at: https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr/2020-annual-report .
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked warblers	The first golden-cheeked warbler spring arrival on the BCP was observed on March 5 th . Surveys started in mid-March.
Karst Invertebrates	Winter season faunal surveys were performed at seven caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at six caves. Staff conducted surveys and collected specimens at SW-3 (Poison Ivy Pit) for <i>Batrisodes reyesi</i> and at Tooth, Amber, and Gallifer Caves for <i>Texamaurops reddelli</i> for a genetics study funded by the USFWS.
Jollyville Plateau salamanders	City and County staff conducted Jollyville Plateau salamander occupancy surveys on Bull and West Bull creeks, including the mainstem of Bull Creek.
Rare Plants	A new colony of Texabama croton was documented on the Trails End tract. Texabama croton is a BCCP-listed Species of Concern.
Plant and Animal Control	
Feral Hogs	Staff and contractors removed three hogs from the Webb tract and the Seven 05 tract.
White-tailed deer	Nine deer were harvested by contractors on the Volente tract and at Hamilton Pool Preserve.
Tawny crazy ants and Red imported fire ants	Staff completed two rounds of canopy arthropod surveys as part of a study looking at the impact of tawny crazy ants on golden-cheeked warblers. Red imported fire ant surveys and treatments were conducted at six BCCP-listed caves.

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY2021 Quarter 2 Update: 1 January 2021 – 31 March 2021

Invasive Plants	Staff, volunteers, and contractors hand-pulled or treated more than 7,600 invasive plants from five BCP tracts.
Land Stewardship	
Habitat Restoration	<p>Staff, contractors, and volunteers planted 78 plants representing 15 species in the restoration areas on the Bunten tract.</p> <p>Contractors planted 30 native trees in open areas on the Cuevas tract near Kretschmarr Cave.</p> <p>Work began on the Woods of Greenshores tract to restore a disturbed area currently dominated by <i>baccharis</i> back to woodland habitat. The <i>baccharis</i> plants were cut and treated and native trees will be planted in the fall.</p> <p>Contractors conducted vegetation management on approximately 8 acres of the Lake Travis Bluffs tract to improve black-capped vireo habitat.</p>
Oak Wilt	An oak wilt center on the Steiner Ranch conservation easement was trenched to prevent the further spread of oak wilt. The oak wilt center also covered parts of the City of Austin's Cortaña tract and the Steiner Ranch Homeowners Association greenbelt and it was a collaborative effort to trench the entire center.
Roads and Trails	The week-long February winter storm caused significant tree damage. Considerable staff time was required before the warbler nesting season began in March to remove the uprooted trees and broken limbs that fell on BCP fences, roads, and trails.
Fence Construction	New boundary fence was constructed on the SAS and Woods of Greenshores tracts. A new pedestrian gate was installed in the boundary fence at Wild Basin Preserve. Fence repairs were made at multiple locations where trees had fallen during the winter storm and caused damage.
Wildfire Preparedness	Fuel mitigation projects were completed on the BCP in the Wildlife-Urban Interface along the following tracts: Grandview Hills, Vista Point, Lake Perspectives, Mollberg, Romberg, SAS, and Woods of Greenshores. Shaded fuel break maintenance was completed at the Canyon Vista tract.
Utility Infrastructure Corridor	<p>LCRA trimmed vegetation along some of their transmission lines that cross through Travis County BCP land.</p> <p>PEC replaced six old utility poles with new poles on the Cypress Creek Unit.</p>

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY2021 Quarter 2 Update: 1 January 2021 – 31 March 2021

Buildings	<p>A Scope of Services was submitted to Purchasing for issuance of an RFQ to hire a design team for architect, landscape architect, engineering, and interpretive design services for the BCP Building/Visitor Center. The selected contractor will work with County architects, Natural Resources staff, and TNR engineers to design indoor and outdoor facilities.</p> <p>The Snowden House is currently under renovation.</p> <p>The February winter storm damaged a well pump and some pipes which left the Snowden House without water until repairs were made. Water was also lost at the Field Office when an electric cable to the well pump house was damaged by the storm and had to be replaced.</p>
Conservation Easements	<p>During this quarter, staff conducted annual conservation easement monitoring at 11 privately-owned properties managed by Travis County through conservation easement agreements. Greenshores and Woods of Greenshores had several trees die due to construction on the underground wastewater line. A restoration plan was developed that will be implemented in the fall to mitigate the damage.</p>
Patrol and Law Enforcement	
Vegetation Damage and Trespass	<p>Two new incidents of tree cutting on Travis County BCP tracts were documented and are being investigated. Settlement agreements were reached on one previous tree cutting case and one encroachment case.</p> <p>A fence was cut on the Woods of Greenshores tract to provide pedestrian access. Unauthorized vehicle access occurred when a fence was cut on the Kotrla Unit and two locks were cut on the Trails End tract. There were three encounters with trespassers and additional photos of trespassers were taken by surveillance cameras. One incident of dumping occurred on the Lime Creek Ranch tract.</p>
Outreach/Volunteers	
<i>See BCP Partner Education Summary Second Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2021</i>	



A giant rock saw was used to trench around an oak wilt center found on the Steiner Ranch conservation easement, as well as the City of Austin's Cortaña tract and the Steiner Ranch Homeowner Association's greenbelt. Trenching cuts off root contact between infected and uninfected trees to prevent further spread of the disease.



Many uprooted trees and broken limbs caused by the February winter storm needed to be cleared from BCP fences, roadways, and trails.