

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY2021 Quarter 3 Update: 1 April 2021 – 30 June 2021

<b>BCCP Administration</b>	
Public Participation	Twelve BCCP applications were received and processed from April 1 <sup>st</sup> – June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021. Two Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$160,875.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Personnel	Seasonal Natural Resources Techs, Kaitlin Lopez and Rebecca Woodward, resigned in June after accepting permanent positions.  Mickey Leland intern Madison Ebest began her summer position in June.
<b>Rare and Endangered Resources Management</b>	
Golden-cheeked warblers	Golden-cheeked warbler enumeration surveys and band resighting concluded by the end of May and intensive plot surveys concluded on June 15.
Black-capped vireos	Black-capped vireo surveys began in April and will continue through the summer.
Karst invertebrates	Spring season faunal surveys were performed at five BCCP-listed caves, one potential substitution cave on the Scott & White tract, and a recently discovered cave on the Paladino tract.  Spring season cave cricket exit counts were performed at four BCCP-listed caves.  Samples of karst invertebrates were sent off to experts for identification and genetics study. One identification resulted in a new confirmed locality for <i>Texella reddelli</i> at Hammett's Cave at Westcave Preserve.
Jollyville Plateau salamanders	City and County staff completed Jollyville Plateau salamander occupancy surveys on Bull and West Bull creeks, including the mainstem of Bull Creek.
<b>Plant and Animal Control</b>	
Feral hogs	Staff removed three hogs from the BCP: two from the Kotrla Unit and one from the Medway tract.
Brown-headed cowbirds	Staff trapped and removed 155 cowbirds from Travis County BCP tracts. Sixty-five additional cowbirds were captured at Milton Reimers Ranch Park and Pogue Springs Preserve.
Tawny crazy ants and Red imported fire ants	Staff completed canopy arthropod surveys as part of a study looking at the impact of tawny crazy ants on golden-cheeked warblers.  Dr. Ed LeBrun, with the University of Texas, continued his research on tawny crazy ants at the Anderson Mill/Collins tract population and other sites in Travis County.  Red imported fire ant surveys and treatments were conducted at two caves.

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<p>Invasive Plants</p>	<p>Travis County was awarded a U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service grant to help fund a Native Plant Exchange Program. This program will promote the use of native plants in residential landscaping by replacing invasive trees and shrubs with native varieties for eligible BCP neighbors. The goal is to reduce invasive plant species on the BCP by removing seed sources from neighboring properties.</p> <p>Staff hosted community volunteers to hand-pull vinca from the Bunten tract. Approximately one acre of Johnson grass was treated with herbicide on the Snowden and Nootsie tracts.</p>
<p><b>Land Stewardship</b></p>	
<p>Fence Construction and Repairs</p>	<p>Fence repairs were made at multiple locations where trees had fallen during the winter storm and caused damage.</p>
<p>Wildfire Preparedness</p>	<p>Staff began field assessments of winter storm damage to shaded fuel breaks.</p>
<p>Buildings</p>	<p>Travis County issued an RFQ for a design team to provide architect, landscape architect, engineering, and interpretive design services for the BCP Building/Visitor Center. The contractor will work with County architects, Natural Resources staff, and TNR engineers to design the center.</p> <p>The Snowden House is currently under renovation.</p>
<p>Conservation Easements</p>	<p>Staff conducted annual conservation easement monitoring on three privately-owned properties managed by Travis County through conservation easement agreements. All were in good standing.</p>
<p><b>Patrol and Law Enforcement</b></p>	
<p>Trespass and Property Damage</p>	<p>One new incident of tree cutting was documented on a Travis County BCP tract and is being investigated. Settlement agreements were reached on three previous tree cutting cases.</p> <p>Trespass and property damage occurred on several tracts. A gate was damaged on the Steiner Ranch conservation easement to gain access by vehicle. A fence was cut at the Vireo Ridge tract for pedestrian access. Access by ATV occurred on the Fyffe tract. A back-of-lot shooting range was discovered on the Vista Point tract. One case of yard waste dumping was documented on the Endres tract. Surveillance cameras documented additional trespassing incidents on several different tracts.</p>
<p><b>Outreach/Volunteers</b></p>	
<p><i>See BCP Partner Education Summary Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2021</i></p>	