

City of Austin's BCCP Activities
Quarter 2 Update: 1 January – 31 March 2022

BCCP Administration	
Infrastructure Projects	Eleven Infrastructure Habitat Assessment Applications were processed, and Determination Letters were issued from January through March 2022.
Land Acquisition /Management Agreements	Real Estate Dept is currently processing the donation of a 10-acre donation of creek adjacent to existing Park West Preserve at the east end of Milky Way in River Place to the City under AW BCP management. Multiple City departments discussed the proposed transfer of Four Points Preserves, containing 4 of the 62 BCCP permit caves and portions of Bull Creek, to AW BCP management, in association with upcoming PUD agreement. AW BCP has been in discussion with the owners on the proposed acquisition since 2017.
Reports and Events	Submitted annual BCCP report to USFWS https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/nr/2021-annual-report Austin Water (AW) BCP, Wildlands Conservation staff, Austin Fire Department, and local neighborhood Firewise coordinators toured Bright Leaf Preserve on March 21 to examine wildfire risk elements and get feedback for its management. Securing the preserve from open unauthorized access was the biggest current risk.
Personnel	No activity to report.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA) and Black-capped Vireo (BCVI)	Initiated BCVI and GCWA surveys and color-banding in March. Conducted a volunteer training to search for banded GCWAs outside the study plots. Over 60 volunteers are assisting with search efforts this year. Due to the late February freeze, GCWA arrival and nesting was delayed by about a week.
Jollyville Plateau Salamander	BCCP continues to conduct aquatic life surveys of springs across the BCCP on a periodic basis in hopes of locating new salamander locations and other rare stygobitic life. Contractor Crystal Datri collected what is believed to be a Barton Springs salamander from Bee Creek preserve (Ullrich WTP), if so, this will be a new location for this endangered salamander. BCCP staff conducted the twice yearly JP salamander survey in testudo tube, all salamanders captured were photographed for future population analysis.
Karst invertebrates/ karst work	Soft tick/ Tick borne relapsing fever: staff met with staff from Baylor School of Medicine and staff from the State Health Department, the primary purpose of the visit was to show City staff their methods of collecting soft ticks, and where to search. They also are actively conducting research on soft ticks, so they need lots of live specimens. One goal is to try to determine how genetically distinct populations are, so that could show how widespread the populations are, and or if they are actively being transported by host. The team successfully collected ticks from shallow features at VWO and at the base of Seismic Wall/ Barton Creek.
	Currently hydrogeological studies continue in the FM 2222 and RM 620 area. Conducted cave faunal surveys and cave cricket exit counts on all other assigned caves (ongoing).

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Bracted Twistflower	Staff submitted a response to the U.S. F&WS proposed listing of the Bracted Twistflower as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act on January 7 th 2022.
Plant and Animal Control	
Mammals	5 hogs were removed by contractors and City staff this quarter.
Red-imported fire ants and Tawny crazy ants	Ed LeBrun continued monitoring TCA and native ant densities and effectiveness of management strategies.
Invasive Plants	BCP staff continue to remove non-native plants on COA BCP tracts. A long-standing infestation of Chinese Privet on the Long Canyon tract continues to be a focus of work by staff and volunteers. New areas addressed by staff this quarter included a large invasive plant infestation on the Vaught Ranch tract, and others in canyons in the northern half of the Cortaño tract.
Land Stewardship	
Habitat Restoration	Staff and volunteers continued working on restoration projects on the JJ&T and Vireo Preserve tracts to promote water infiltration, slope stabilization, soil restoration, and reforestation on degraded sites to promote future habitat for GCWA and BCVI. Planted ~500 native woody trees and shrubs, as well as native grasses and forbs.
	Austin CCC assisted with tree planting on habitat restoration sites on the JJ&T tract.
	Planted ~100,000 "hyperlocal" native woody plant seeds on the JJT tract.
Fencing	Fence work was initiated on Stovepipe cave karst preserve. Barbed wire fence was replaced with game fence on 1-1/3 mile of the western boundary of the Cortaño tract, including new gates at entrances off of Portofino Drive.
Wildfire Preparedness	Staff oversaw contractor completion of a Shaded Fuel Break on Park West, covering ~600ft of boundary.
Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	Staff located a few new homeless camps residual trash dumps in the Barton Creek Wilderness, and reported to PARD Rangers. Removal of these camps will be a lower priority than for camps in more visible public areas.
	We continue to work on fencing, patrolling and education to avoid preserve damage.
Outreach/Volunteers	
Staff prepared and presented a Wild Neighbors virtual presentation about Golden-cheeked warblers.	