

**City of Austin's BCCP Activities  
Quarter 3 Update: 1 April – 30 June 2022**

<b>BCCP Administration</b>	
Infrastructure Projects	Four Infrastructure Habitat Assessment Applications were processed, and Determination Letters were issued from April through June 2022.
Land Acquisition /Management Agreements	AW BCP received comments from Parks & Recreation on an interdepartmental agreement and are working on revision. AW BCP agreed to acquire/manage a small land donation from proposed Juniper Apartments on FM 620 near Zimmerman Lane.
Reports and Events	AW BCP staff attended a Juneteenth sign unveiling at Eastwoods Park on June 11 Held cave guide training at Goat Cave June 1
Dual-managed Properties	No activity to report.
Personnel	No activity to report.
<b>Rare and Endangered Resources Management</b>	
Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA) and Black-capped Vireo (BCVI)	Staff continued color-banding GCWAs and BCVIs through the quarter. Staff and volunteers continued GCWA and BCVI surveys through May (volunteers) and June. Due to the late February freeze, GCWA arrival and nesting was delayed by about a week. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is currently conducting a Species Status Assessment for the GCWA to evaluate the needs of the species, its current condition, and its potential future condition under a variety of probable future scenarios. They held an "Expert Meeting" on June 2 to receive feedback on preliminary recommendations. BCP staff followed up with written comments.
Bracted Twistflower	Staff and volunteers censused known twistflower populations in April and May.
Jollyville Plateau Salamander	BCP continues to conduct aquatic life surveys of springs across the BCP on a periodic basis in hopes of locating new salamander locations and other rare stygobitic life.
Karst invertebrates/ karst work	Restoration: staff worked on protecting recently planted vegetation adjacent to Millipede and Millipede annex caves from future damage from RISD mowing crews.
	AW BCP conducted cave faunal surveys and cave cricket exit counts on all other assigned caves (ongoing). Currently hydrogeological studies continue in the FM 2222 and RM 620 area. Contractors and staff continue to excavate filled caves on AW BCP preserves along FM 2222 with funding provided from Texas Department of Transportation to mitigate the FM 2222 bypass to RM 620. Flow monitoring station for Flint Ridge Cave upgraded with new solar panels.
<b>Plant and Animal Control</b>	
Mammals	14 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.

**City of Austin's BCCP Activities  
Quarter 3 Update: 1 April – 30 June 2022**

Invasive Plants	BCP staff continue to remove non-native plants on COA BCP tracts.
<b>Land Stewardship</b>	
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.
Fencing	Contractor completed the Stovepipe Cave Karst Preserve perimeter fence. Staff installed a new gate to prevent active dumping at Forest Ridge.
Oak Wilt	No work during nesting season.
Wildfire Preparedness	In response to homeowner complaints, staff investigated sites behind homes adjacent to Jester preserve and determined that vegetation was not touching powerlines and thus not an immediate fire threat.
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	Hiller/ Gibson/ Forest ridge: illegal trails: staff investigated trespass issues on the Hiller/ Gibson tracts, staff installed a new game camera at Hiller/ Hough boundary. Staff also followed up with PARD staff about curtailing illegal access from their newly acquired Hough tract.
	Cave Y gate breach: staff reported that someone had breached the gate at Cave Y, found that large rocks to the right of the gate had been removed, thus allowing easy access. Staff oversaw contractor who made the necessary repairs, thus securing the cave from future trespass.
	Staff found three gates had been vandalized between Portofino Drive and Big View Drive across the Steiner Ranch and Cortaña tracts – chains cut and removed and one hinge broken. Staff repaired the damages.
	Continued patrols of Preserve boundaries. Biologists patrolled tract interiors that correspond with warbler monitoring.
<b>Outreach/Volunteers</b>	
June 30 Nature Nights and public cave tours for 150 at Wildflower Center.	
Staff gave a brief presentations to 3 science classes at McNeil High, the focus was on cave fauna and the restoration work we are doing in the courtyard. Staff also led in cave tours to approximately 20 students.	
Staff led a night hike/ guided tour at Sam Hamilton Memorial Reserve. On April 11, staff provided a soil trench excavation of likely sinkhole on Whirlpool Cave Preserve for a Univ of Texas soil class field trip led by Dr. Tim Beach as an opportunity to examine local historical environments.	
Staff led the annual cave guide training at Goat and Wade cave for Pard and WP staff, the focus was on how to minimize impacts, keep an eye out for signs of vandalism, and educate the public about the importance of karst and karst invertebrates.	
On June 30, staff from AW Wildlands Cons. Division, Watershed Protection, and Parks & Recreation departments hosted a free Nature Nights for 730 and cave tours for 150.	