



# BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Fourth Quarter: July 1 – September 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

## 4th Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	313	614	2737	85.5
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	16	38	451	2
	Onsite	3	9	11	
Visiting Group/Educators	Onsite	9	8	107	
Land Stewardship	Onsite	111	62	395	1397.75
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	77		51	187.50
Administration	Onsite	7			18.75
<b>July-September Total</b>		<b>529</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>3,752</b>	<b>1,691.50</b>

Monetary value of volunteer work (\$26.43/hour): \$44,706.35

\*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

## ANNUAL SUMMARY: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	1032	2062	8270	153.25
Programs / Presentations	Onsite	23	900	96	21
	Offsite	47	759	1413	16.5
Land Stewardship	Onsite	452	139	1096	4439.25
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	266	6	239	1102.25
Visiting Groups / Educators	Onsite	10	8	140	
Training	Offsite	7	0	372	
Administration	Onsite	10		2	40.75
<b>Oct 2020 – Sept 2021 Total</b>		<b>1847</b>	<b>3874</b>	<b>11628</b>	<b>5773</b>
<b>Monetary value of volunteer work (\$26.43/hour): \$152,580.39</b> *Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals					

## SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS

*These numbers are not included in the Outreach & Education chart above. They represent a sample of BCP areas with public access – we hope to include more complete visitation numbers in future reports.*

Hamilton Pool: 30,000+

Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve: 8,906

Baker Sanctuary: 558

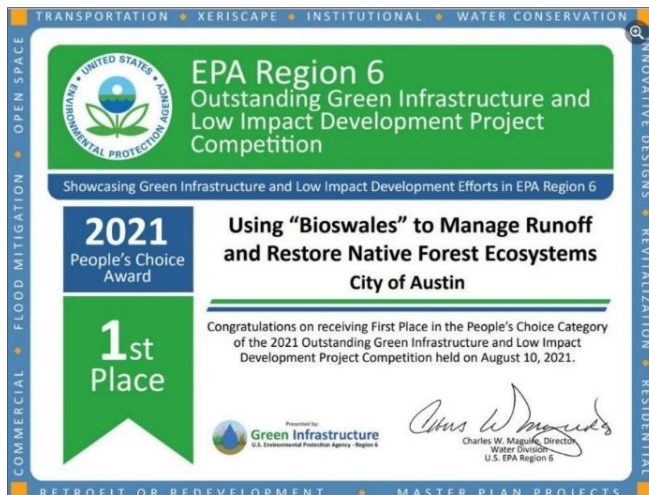


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## CITY OF AUSTIN



- We celebrated the Lights Out for Birds resolutions and Deep in the Karst of Texas education campaigns this season, talked to neighbors and the public about Tawny Crazy Ants, cave invertebrates, and native trees with our Wild Neighbors webinar series in conjunction with County partners, and missed time with volunteers when COVID Stage 5 necessitated group limitations. The bilingual #VireoViernes series featuring biologists' field stories about Black-capped Vireos were a hit on social media on Fridays throughout the season (pictured above right).
- The berms and swales on the JJT ("Double J and T") tract of Austin's Balcones Canyonlands Preserve are alive! Despite COVID limitations to volunteering, Jim O'Donnell led a few staff in the effort to keep forest restoration areas on the degraded hillside watered and thriving through the end of the summer. This award-winning reforestation effort on this tract as well as Vireo tract were recognized by the EPA (pictured above left)!





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## BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)



A plethora of Eagle Scout projects were completed at Baker Sanctuary this quarter: Andrew McMeans (Troop 202) and Wyatt Deviney (Troop 70) each constructed a Chimney Swift Tower to add to our growing collection (pictured above left). Matthew Chater (Troop 271) contributed two new picnic tables (pictured below right) while Hunter Ryan (Troop 271) installed four new trail benches (pictured below left). Many thanks to these young men and their parents for their contributions!





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## TRAVIS COUNTY



- The Wild Neighbors monthly webinar series continued this quarter in partnership with the City of Austin, featuring presentations on Cave Life with City of Austin BCP Biologist Colin Strickland and Planting Native Trees with Andreina Alexatos from TreeFolks. Recordings of the talks are available on the County BCP and City Wildlands Facebook pages, YouTube, and the Travis County website (<https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr/videos>).
- The Balcones Canyonlands Master Naturalist workdays that began in Q3 2021 continued in Q4 with over 60 volunteer hours spent removing invasive plant species (pictured above left) and planting native plants at our Snowden and Bunten Tracts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month.
- Live Fuel Moisture Monitoring began at four Travis county BCP sites in July 2021. This data is collected to aid Fire Managers throughout Central Texas by monitoring the volatility of Ashe Juniper, which is a species of interest to local Fire Managers. Samples are collected in the field and dried in a laboratory oven to determine moisture content (pictured above right).





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## WILD BASIN



- Texas State University (TSU) Wildlife Society attended a guided hike and completed a service project removing invasive species (pictured above left).
- Darren Proppe, Wild Basin Creative Research Center (WBCRC) Research Director, attended a TSU Wildlife Society meeting in San Marcos and presented on the BCP and Wild Basin history, land management, and current research.
- ACC Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society helped procure sensory garden elements from the preserve and removed invasive species (pictured above right).
- "Naturalist Neighbors: Dark Skies – Why it's Right to Turn Down the Lights" took place on Zoom and was recorded.
- WBCRC Research Director conducted an ecology and Songbird Communication workshop as part of the Freshman Advanced Research Methods program.
- Regular Saturday and Thursday workdays took place and focused mainly on trail maintenance, sensory garden construction, and invasive species removal.
- Volunteers were engaged in helping review camera trap images for wildlife and people.



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## WESTCAVE PRESERVE

- Westcave's environmental education programs have been fully re-engaged over the last month for the first time since early 2020. In September alone we have hosted over 800 adult guests to the grotto area and 137 children on our public tours and 19 people on our private tours. Westcave staff additionally attended a tabling event at the Austin Zoo, where we engaged



over 100 homeschool families with a bird watching activity and information about the Golden-Cheeked Warbler (pictured above).

- Westcave has also seen a dramatic increase in volunteer engagement. Our education manager has trained over 11 new education program volunteers to help with the front desk and lead public tours. Over 60 volunteer hours were logged in the last month for the education programs on the preserve. Also, our new UTeach intern started his semester of student teaching with Westcave. He will be focusing on giving weekend tours and helping create the virtual lesson plans we can offer schools for asynchronous learning this winter and spring.
- A volunteer, who is also a member of Westcave and attended a grotto tour, is helping collaboratively create a new Tree Identification Hike series in partnership with TreeFolks. After doing a site visit to support us in identifying the trees of the grotto trail, TreeFolk's education specialist Colin McMichael has agreed to become an education volunteer at Westcave as well. He will be a fantastic resource for tours, and Lindsay is really excited to have him on board.



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## ACTIVITY DEFINITIONS

### **Guided Hikes**

Hikes on the BCP guided by staff or volunteers; includes education about the BCP, wildlife, and land management practices.

### **Programs / Presentations**

Presentations by staff or volunteers about the BCP and related scientific and land management topics; includes educational events and programs.

### **Land Stewardship**

Volunteer work on the BCP that includes removing invasive species, preparing for prescribed burns, creating fuel breaks, restoring habitat, patrolling, and maintenance of grounds, trails & facilities.

### **Ecological Monitoring**

Includes surveys of endangered species, vegetation, and nuisance species such as cowbirds, hogs and red imported fire ants.

### **Campouts**

Campouts on the BCP, usually organized by outside groups such as the Boy Scouts.

### **Visiting Groups / Educators**

Groups visiting or hosting an event on the BCP that was not organized by BCP staff.

### **Administrative Help**

Volunteer help with administrative work such as office work, research, and event coordination.

### **Training**

Volunteer training & other trainings that support the BCCP's mission. Examples include educating emergency response and infrastructure maintenance staff about protecting sensitive environmental features and complying with clearing restrictions.