



BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2022 First Quarter: October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

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

1st Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	268	464	2205	138.5
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	19	316	395	2
	Onsite	11	110	73	8
Visiting Group/Educators	Onsite	13	9	135	
Land Stewardship	Onsite	107	19	387	1021.5
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	34	2	75	250.25
Administration	Onsite	4	4	3	27.5
Training	Onsite	1	0	1	4
Campouts	Onsite	1	4	4	
October-December Total		458	928	3,278	1,451.75

Monetary value of volunteer work (\$26.43/hour): \$38,369.75

*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS (Estimated Annual Visitation)

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



- City of Austin BCP staff has continued to amplify the Lights Out for Birds initiative by resharing posts on social media platforms and including them in our newsletter.
- We've talked to neighbors and the public about spiders, wildfire, the wildland urban interface (WUI), and co-existing with coyotes with the Wild Neighbors webinar series in conjunction with Travis County.
- Guided hikes were reintroduced, and there was a successful hike on the BCP's Reicher Ranch.
- Workdays on the Vireo, JJT, and Long Canyon tracts have continued with seeding, lots of tree planting and care, and invasive plant control.
- In November, we gathered outside to thank volunteers for continuing to share their time and talents.



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BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)



- Due to the February ice storm, a good deal of damage was inflicted upon Ashe Junipers and Live Oaks, with many branches coming asunder and even entire trees splitting and falling. Cleaning up the damage not only involves cutting and clearing the material from public spaces but also chipping the countless cubic yards of brush. Luckily, TAS has had a good deal of help spreading mulch on the trails from local Boy Scout troop 97; without their assistance, many bitter tears would have been shed.
- Continuing in the Zoom tradition, a riveting, some whisper transformative, Powerpoint presentation was given to 295 fourth grade students from Deer Creek, Cypress, and Naumann elementary schools (LISD). The talk covered basic central Texas ecology with a special emphasis on the Golden-cheeked Warbler.



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TRAVIS COUNTY



- We were very happy to welcome volunteers back for the 2021 Christmas Bird Count (pictured above). This was the 122nd year of the CBC nationally, and our volunteers helped us count over 55 species.
- Travis County BCP staff has been active in the Lights Out Texas campaign, working with the Commissioners Court to pass resolutions to turn out non-essential lights at downtown County buildings during bird migration each year. They also publicized the initiative through BCP social media, County social media (working with the PIO), and through local neighborhood and organizational newsletters.
- The Wild Neighbors monthly webinar series continued this quarter in partnership with the City of Austin featuring public presentations on Learning to Love Spiders, Co-existing With Coyotes, and Wildfire, Wildlands, and You.
- In December, we hosted the first guided hike open to the public on the Travis County BCP since February 2020. The group hiked the Grandview Hills Canyon Loop Trail and was greeted with fantastic weather while learning about the Preserve and our mission.
- The fall survey period for Bird Strike Monitoring concluded at the end of October. Volunteers contributed over 43 hours of survey time and found four confirmed bird strikes. This information will be used to help reduce bird strikes in the future.



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WESTCAVE PRESERVE



- Fall at Westcave was full of surprises and exciting experiences! Rarely sighted wildlife joined in for many tours, including an American woodcock and tricolored bat. The education department hosted a wonderful tree Identification hike for beginners and celebrated volunteerism at the Preserve during December's annual volunteer appreciation party.
- Field trips also resumed during the fall, with over 108 students from 3 schools visiting the grotto at Westcave. In addition, we have seen a large increase in the number of requests for field trips from homeschool co-ops and groups, with homeschool field trips comprising the bulk of our fall field trip events.
- Due to the presence of venomous snakes on the grotto trail at the preserve, guides have added a demonstration to our tours of how to practice snake safety using fake rubber snakes. Guests have responded positively to the new approach to snake education, and we continue to develop our outreach efforts to protect even the least popular wildlife at Westcave.



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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.