

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY2022 Quarter Update: 1 October 2021 – 31 December 2021

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Twenty-four BCCP applications were received and processed in the first quarter. Two Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$189,200.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Land Acquisition	Travis County acquired a conservation easement on the 70.41-acre Murfin tract in the North Lake Austin macrosite and purchased the 621.05-acre Flying K tract in the Lake Travis macrosite.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked warblers and Black-capped vireos	Travis County staff (staff) completed data analysis on the 2021 golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo survey seasons and completed annual reports summarizing the results.
Karst invertebrates	Fall season faunal surveys were performed at seven BCCP-listed caves. Fall season cave cricket exit counts were performed at five BCCP-listed caves. Travis County and City of Austin staff gave presentations to the BCCP Coordinating Committee and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service highlighting recent karst management activities on the BCP.
Salamanders	A presentation co-authored by City of Austin and Travis County staff, entitled "Occupancy of Jollyville plateau salamanders" was presented at the 2021 Texas Herpetological Society on October 23 rd .
Rare plants	Staff and volunteers conducted a Texabama croton survey at Pace Bend Park in September and October. Colonies were in good health, most had expanded in numbers, and 15 new colonies were discovered.
Plant and Animal Control	
Feral hogs	Staff removed six feral hogs from the Ribelin tract.
White-tailed deer	Staff completed spot-light deer surveys on the Kotrla Unit and Hamilton Pool Preserve, and camera surveys at ten locations on the Jollyville Unit to assess deer population trends.
Tawny crazy ants and Red imported fire ants	Dr. Ed LeBrun, with the University of Texas, continued to research tawny crazy ants at the Anderson Mill/Collins tract site and other locations in Travis County.
Invasive Plants	Staff and volunteers removed more than 2,200 invasive plants from six BCP tracts. Heritage Tree Care was contracted to remove bamboo and wisteria from the Bunten tract using an air spade.

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Land Stewardship	
Habitat Enhancement	<p>In November, native grasses and forbs were planted in a 13-acre area of the Nootsie tract where staff had conducted a prescribed burn two months earlier. The goal of this project is to replace invasive King Ranch bluestem grass with native vegetation. The area will be monitored to track its progress.</p> <p>Seeds and transplants of fifteen native tree, shrub, forb, and grass species were planted on the Bunten tract.</p> <p>Staff conducted black-capped vireo habitat maintenance work on the Vireo Ridge tract; Natural Texas was contracted to perform black-capped vireo habitat management on the Jollyville Unit.</p>
Water Quality	<p>Staff monitored water quality at five sites on or near the BCP using Environmental Integrity Index methodology.</p>
Fence and Road Construction and Repairs	<p>Two gates were repaired and one new gate was installed on the Steiner Ranch conservation easement.</p> <p>Staff coordinated with neighbors on the Lime Creek and Cypress Creek Units to implement road maintenance projects on gravel roads that have shared access by neighbors and BCP staff.</p>
Wildfire Preparedness	<p>Maintenance of the existing fuel mitigation projects were started on the BCP in the Wildlife-Urban Interface of the Steiner Ranch conservation easement and the SAS tract. The work was done by the Texas Conservation Corps.</p> <p>Staff conducted storm damage clean up in the shaded fuel breaks at the Romberg, Canyon Vista, and Webb tracts and the Lime Creek Unit.</p>
Conservation Easements	<p>Staff conducted annual conservation easement monitoring at one privately-owned property managed by Travis County through a conservation easement agreement.</p>
Utility Infrastructure Corridors	<p>The Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC) removed seven utility poles from the Stratton tract; PEC completed the installation of new utility poles on the Trails End tract to supply electricity to the Brushy Creek Regional Utility's new water treatment plant.</p> <p>The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) completed drilling soil borings for geotechnical investigations along the T197 (Marshall Ford to McNeil) Transmission Line which crosses through the BCP. The drillers hit several voids and bait traps were deployed to check for karst invertebrates. Mitigation measures were taken to cover the voids.</p> <p>Austin Energy completed vegetation trimming along their utility lines on the Canyon Vista tract.</p>

Patrol and Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Property Damage	<p>Surveillance cameras documented trespassers on the Grandview Hills, SAS, Sam Hamilton East, and Ribelin tracts. Two trespassers on the SAS tract were issued criminal trespass warnings by Park Police. Two individuals on motorcycles were stopped on the Trails End tract and issued verbal warnings.</p> <p>Two vehicle collisions caused damage to the Lime Creek Unit and Bunten tract boundary fences.</p>
Outreach/Volunteers	
<i>See BCP Partner Education Summary First Quarter: October 1 – December 31, 2021</i>	