

**City of Austin's BCCP Activities  
Quarter 4 Update: 1 July – 30 September 2022**

<b>BCCP Administration</b>	
Infrastructure Projects	Ten Infrastructure Habitat Assessment Applications were processed, and Determination Letters were issued from July through September 2022.
Land Acquisition /Management Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AW BCP was approached in April 2022 by developer representatives of the proposed Juniper Apartments on FM 620 near Zimmerman Lane adjacent to existing AW BCP-managed Bull Creek Preserves. Because of the proximity of Jollyville salamander springs nearby on Bull Creek, the creek channels making up the proposed preserve, the frequent observation of endangered Golden-cheeked Warblers, the high frequency of nearby caves with endangered karst species, AW BCP offered to manage a small preserve here. A site inspection of Aug 25 revealed several potential filled caves within a block of several federal permit caves. In August, Parks &amp; Recreation requested the site for a public trail through parkland dedication of the development review process and AW BCP has offered to co-manage it as a preserve with public trails.</li> <li>• AW BCP is working with the owner of Four Points Preserve to transfer ownership to the City. This site is a high priority acquisition, containing 4 BCCP permit caves and springs with Jollyville salamanders.</li> <li>• Brodie Oaks Mall representatives drafted an access easement for the portion of Airmen's Cave beneath the mall as requested. It is currently under review by City Legal.</li> </ul>
Reports and Events	AW BCP staff presented cave activities at Barton Springs University Sept 20. Barbara Attwell unveiled her local endangered bird and cave life paintings there which remain on exhibit at the Sheffield Education Center.
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)	GCWAs were observed through early August, and BCVIs as late as September 1st. City/County BCP staff completed BCVI and GCWA observation data entry into a GIS geodatabase and summary spreadsheets in preparation for annual reporting.
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. BCP staff conducted the twice yearly JP salamander survey in Testudo Tube, all salamanders captured were photographed for future population analysis.
Karst invertebrates/ karst work	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 and RM 620 with funding provided from Texas Department of Transportation to mitigate the FM 2222 bypass to RM 620. Mapping of new cave on Wildflower center continues
<b>Plant and Animal Control</b>	

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Mammals	Three 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. The TCA were observed for the first time at Weldon Cave.
Invasive Plants	BCP staff continue to remove non-native plants on COA BCP tracts. In September Austin Youth Works helped remove invasive plants from Long Canyon.
<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. Tree planting and seed collection to grow “hyperlocal” native trees and shrubs began in late September.
	City of Austin/Travis County BCP and Lisa Markovchick (Northern Arizona University) hosted the first MycoBlitz on the BCP to learn about the benefits of mycorrhizal communities (symbiotic with plant roots) and collect mycorrhizal samples to inform habitat restoration and land and natural resources management.
Fencing	In anticipation of new fence installation projects, BCP staff completed prep work including finding property monuments and worked on determining how the contractor will access Bright Leaf and Hiller preserves to enable fence installation.
Oak Wilt	BCP staff inspected several known oak wilt centers this quarter. Aerial reconnaissance, with Austin Police Department, was used to locate new infections. None were found.
Wildfire Preparedness	Shaded fuel break work started along a boundary on the Bright Leaf Preserve. Live Fuel Moisture collection was expanded to 3 plots (Open/Edge/Forest) on 3 different sites to compare LFM content across the BCP landscape.
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	Staff reported to PARD Rangers in August homeless camps appearing behind an unsecured gate along Loop 360 in the Barton Creek Wilderness.
	Continued patrols of Preserve boundaries.
<b>Outreach/Volunteers</b>	
Staff gave a virtual presentation to 35 member of the Lost Pines Master Naturalists Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup> on the topic “Connecting Us : Riparian Forests, Corridors of Life”	
On behalf of AW BCP, a simulated cave experience was provided to about 450 6-8 <sup>th</sup> grade students at Gus Garcia YMLA (title 1 school) by CaveSim on Sept 23 and Sept 26, as well as Anderson High School.	