

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY2022 4th Quarter Update: 1 July – 30 September 2022

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	<p>Twenty-three BCCP applications were received and processed in the fourth quarter. Three Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$20,300.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.</p>
Personnel	<p>Seasonal Natural Resources Techs Kylynn Parker, Nick Johns, and Jake Olson completed their employment term in July (Parker) and August (Johns and Olson).</p> <p>Madison Ebest was hired as a Natural Resources Patrol Tech and started in August.</p> <p>In September, Natural Resources Supervisor, David Morgan, was promoted to the Climate Change Project Manager position, and Volunteer Coordinator, Jeremy Hull, was promoted to the Community Liaison Supervisor position.</p>
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked warblers and Black-capped vireos	<p>Staff entered data from the 2022 Golden-cheeked warbler survey season and began initial data analysis.</p> <p>Black-capped vireo surveys ended in September and staff then started analyzing data.</p>
Karst invertebrates	<p>Staff performed summer season faunal surveys at eight BCCP-listed caves, one endangered species cave, and two potential substitution caves.</p> <p>Spring season cave cricket exit counts were performed at six BCCP-listed caves and one endangered species cave.</p> <p>A contractor, Zara Environmental, continued to analyze and excavate karst features on the Kotrla Unit as part of a project to find substitution caves. Zara also conducted a LIDAR analysis of potential karst features around the BCP building (11920 Wilson Parke Ave) to aid in the visitor center trail and grounds planning.</p> <p>A report was received from Dr. Marshal Hedin regarding genetic determinations of <i>Cicurina</i> specimens collected on the BCP. The most notable finding was that a <i>Cicurina</i> found in Hammett Cave at Westcave Preserve appears to be an undescribed species.</p> <p>Pseudoscorpion specimens collected on the BCP were deposited with Zara Environmental for identification.</p>
Plant and Animal Control	
White-tailed deer	<p>Staff conducted surveys to estimate deer density on portions of the BCP. They performed spotlight surveys on the Kotrla Unit and Hamilton Pool Preserve and camera surveys on the Jollyville Unit.</p>

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Tawny crazy ants	Tawny crazy ants were found in high densities in and around No Rent and Weldon Caves. University of Texas researcher, Dr. Ed LeBrun, performed a <i>Microsporidia</i> inoculation in that population in August.
Invasive Plants	Staff removed more than 1,300 non-native invasive plants from three tracts this quarter. Additionally, wisteria vine was treated on approximately ½ acre of the Bunten tract.
Land Stewardship	
Water Quality	Staff monitored water quality at two sites on or near the BCP using Environmental Integrity Index methodology.
Mycorrhizal Study	Staff collaborated with Dr. Lisa Markovchick, a researcher with Northern Arizona University, to identify potential sample locations for a mycorrhizal fungi community study on the BCP. In September, Travis County and COA staff, along with volunteers, conducted the first BCP MycoBlitz to collect mycorrhizal fungi samples at sites across the BCP.
Conservation Easements	Staff conducted annual conservation easement monitoring at one privately-owned property managed by Travis County through a conservation easement agreement.
Buildings	Staff participated in a series of meetings with Jackson McElhane Architects to provide input on the design of the future visitor center. Contractors began installation of a new roof on the BCP building at Wilson Parke Avenue.
Fence Repairs	Repairs were made to the boundary fence on the Lucas tract, Bunten tract, and Lime Creek Unit.
Wildlife Preparedness	Staff flagged treatment areas in the wildland-urban interface in preparation for fall and winter fuel mitigation work.
Utility Infrastructure Corridors	The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) conducted routine inspections, vegetation clearing, and pilot hole drilling along the T197 (Marshall Ford to McNeil) Transmission Line, which crosses through the BCP.

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Patrol and Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Property Damage	<p>Three incidents involving firearms were documented this quarter. Multiple BCP signs were shot on the Volente tract and along a shared roadway on the Karnik/Richards/Wendland tracts. In addition, a dead coyote, which had been shot, was found on the Grandview Hills tract.</p> <p>A trespasser on the Ribelin tract stole an SD card from a camera after being photographed by the camera. An abandoned homeless encampment was found on the Lucas tract near a 0.14-acre burned area.</p> <p>Two vehicular collisions caused boundary fence damage on the Lime Creek Unit and the Lucas tract.</p>
Outreach/Volunteers	
<i>See BCP Partner Education Summary Fourth Quarter: 1 July– 30 September, 2022</i>	



Photo by Zach Stark

BCP volunteers, Sam Voltaggio and Julian Yates, photographed a pair of river otters on the Lake Perspectives tract in August (top photo) as part of a volunteer camera trap survey. Several otter photos were also taken during the spring on the Concordia conservation easement (bottom photo). River otters have been expanding their range in recent years and are now occasionally seen in Central Texas.