

**Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP)  
Updates for McGregor and Westcave Preserves**

**Q4 Report  
July - September 2022**

**McGregor Preserve**

Plateau Land and Wildlife Management conducted a deer survey at McGregor Preserve in September 2022. LCRA is waiting for the final report, which will include population in acres/deer, and recommendations on harvest numbers.

**Westcave Preserve Land Management Activities**

Westcave welcomed Jenny McMillan as the new Executive Director.

Staff and volunteer efforts continue to water and fertilize planted trees and gardens throughout the summer.

Staff prepared for a prescribed burn of the prairie, scheduled for October 2022.

Preserve maintenance is on-going and includes trail inspections, trail maintenance, bird blind maintenance, boundary inspections, boundary maintenance, butterfly garden upkeep, and building maintenance.

Staff is still collecting data for Night Sky Quality readings. The application for Westcave to become a Dark Sky Park is nearly complete, with only a couple of items missing including data.

Game cameras were installed in the canyon, off trail, to detect the presence/absence of non-native animals. Eight individual Axis deer were detected.

A roundtable social was held at Westcave Preserve that included local groundwater conservation districts and the University of Texas School of Economics. Sixty-two people were in attendance to give updates on groundwater conservation.

Staff conducted Firewise preparations around the facility.

Research consisted of the following:

- 1) Monthly water sampling was conducted to check water quality at Heinz Branch. Results were reported to LCRA.
- 2) Volunteers conducted bi-weekly Dragonfly watch as part of the Migratory Dragonfly Partnership Citizen Science Program.
- 3) Staff collected population data and trends with Harvester Ants on the preserve.
- 4) Biannual cave faunal surveys were conducted in collaboration with Travis County Natural Resources Department.