MITIGATION OBLIGATIONS ANALYSIS

BALCONES CANYONLANDS
CONSERVATION PLAN (BCCP) AND
BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE (BCP)

BCCP MITIGATION OBLIGATIONS

- Acquire, protect in perpetuity, manage, and monitor a system of preserve lands called the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve
- 28,428 acres of golden-cheeked warbler habitat
- 2,000 acres of black-capped vireo habitat
- Planning units called "macrosites"
  - Some with min. sizes and max. edge-to-area ratios
- Acquire and manage, or implement management agreements for 35 named caves for listed karst invertebrates + 27 named caves for karst invertebrates of concern
- Protect and manage populations of canyon mock-orange on BCP
- Protect and manage populations of Texabama croton at Pace Bend Park.

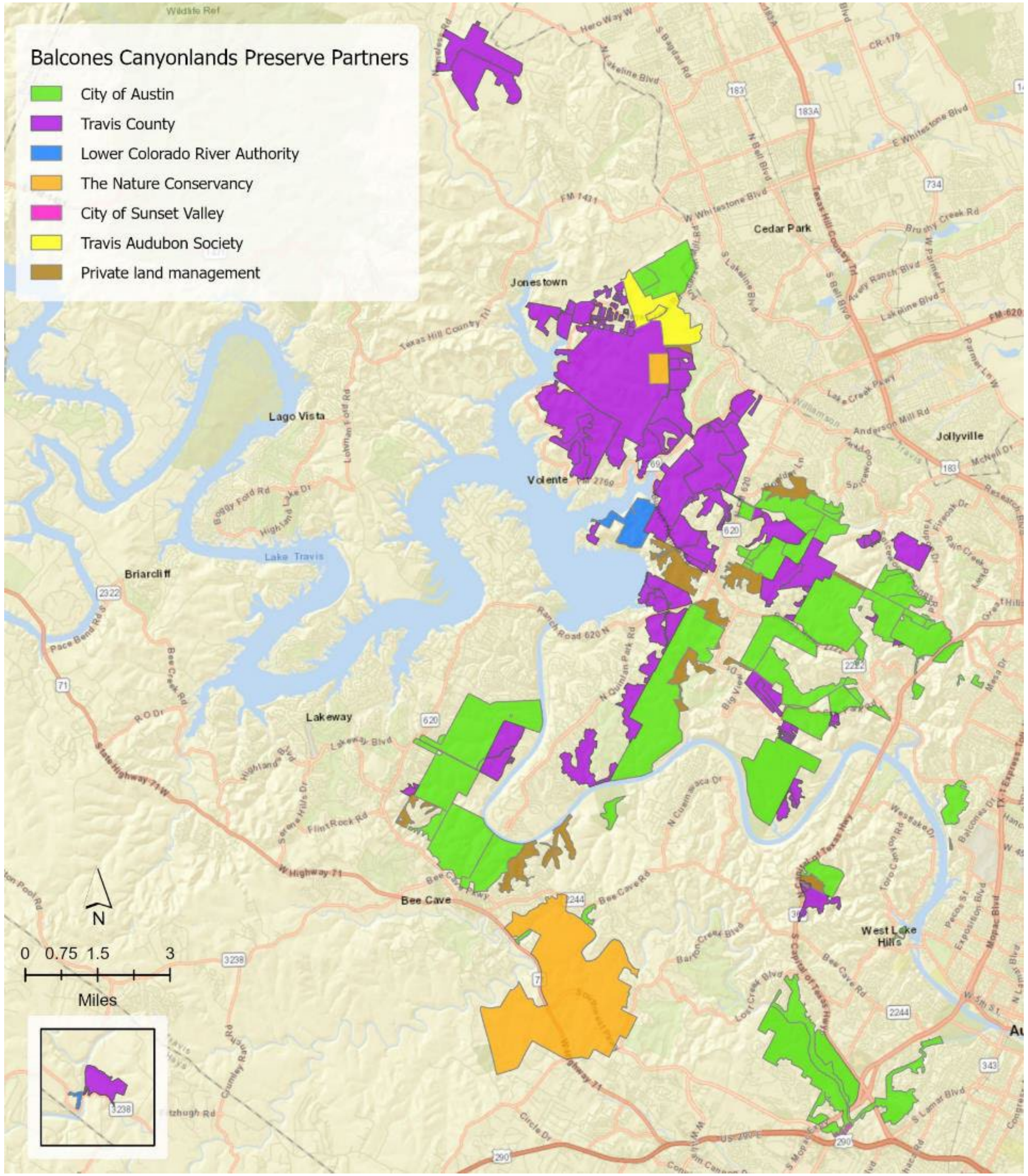
32,428 acres bird habitat & 62 caves

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE

through FY-23

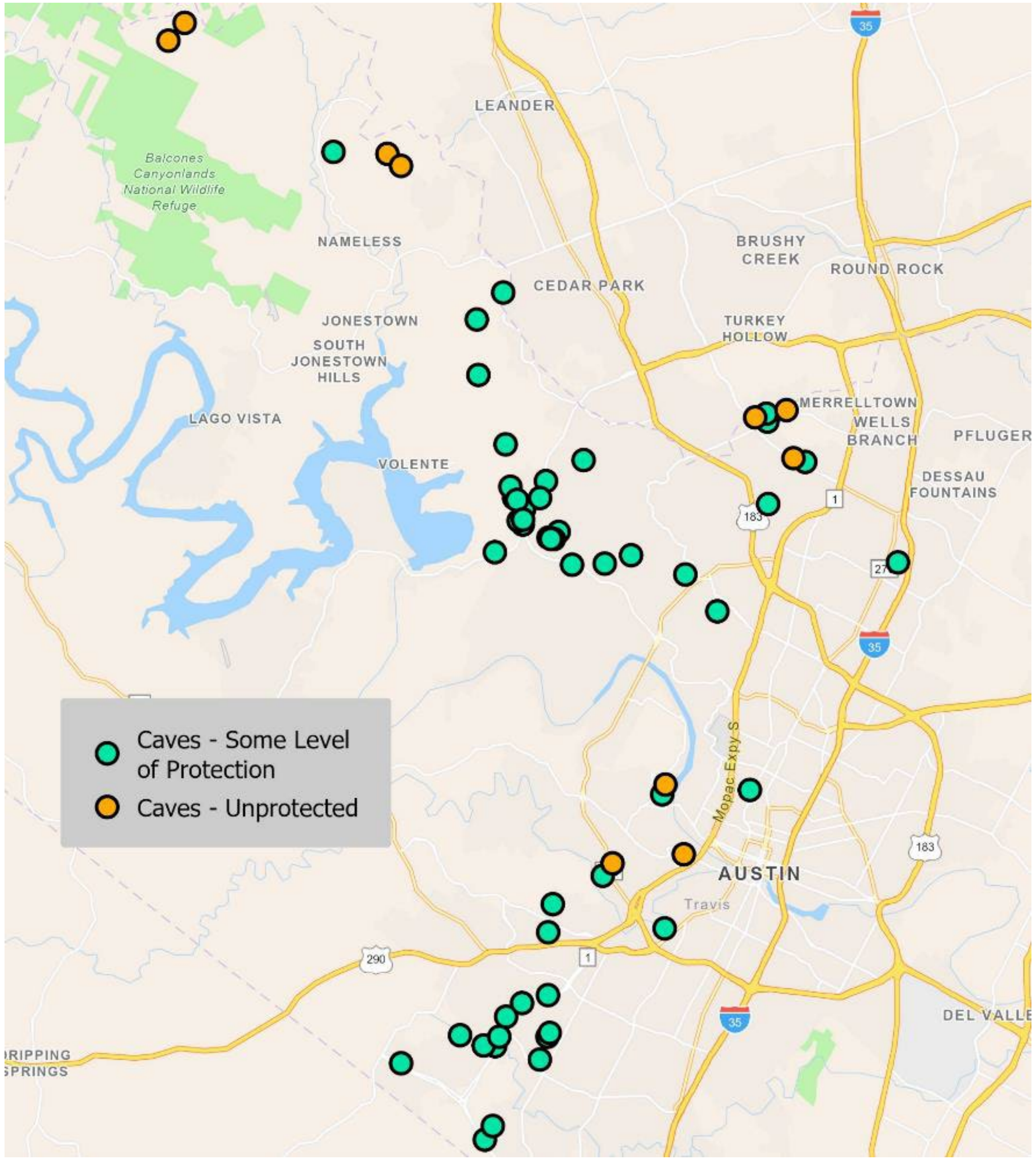
Total

33,280 acres



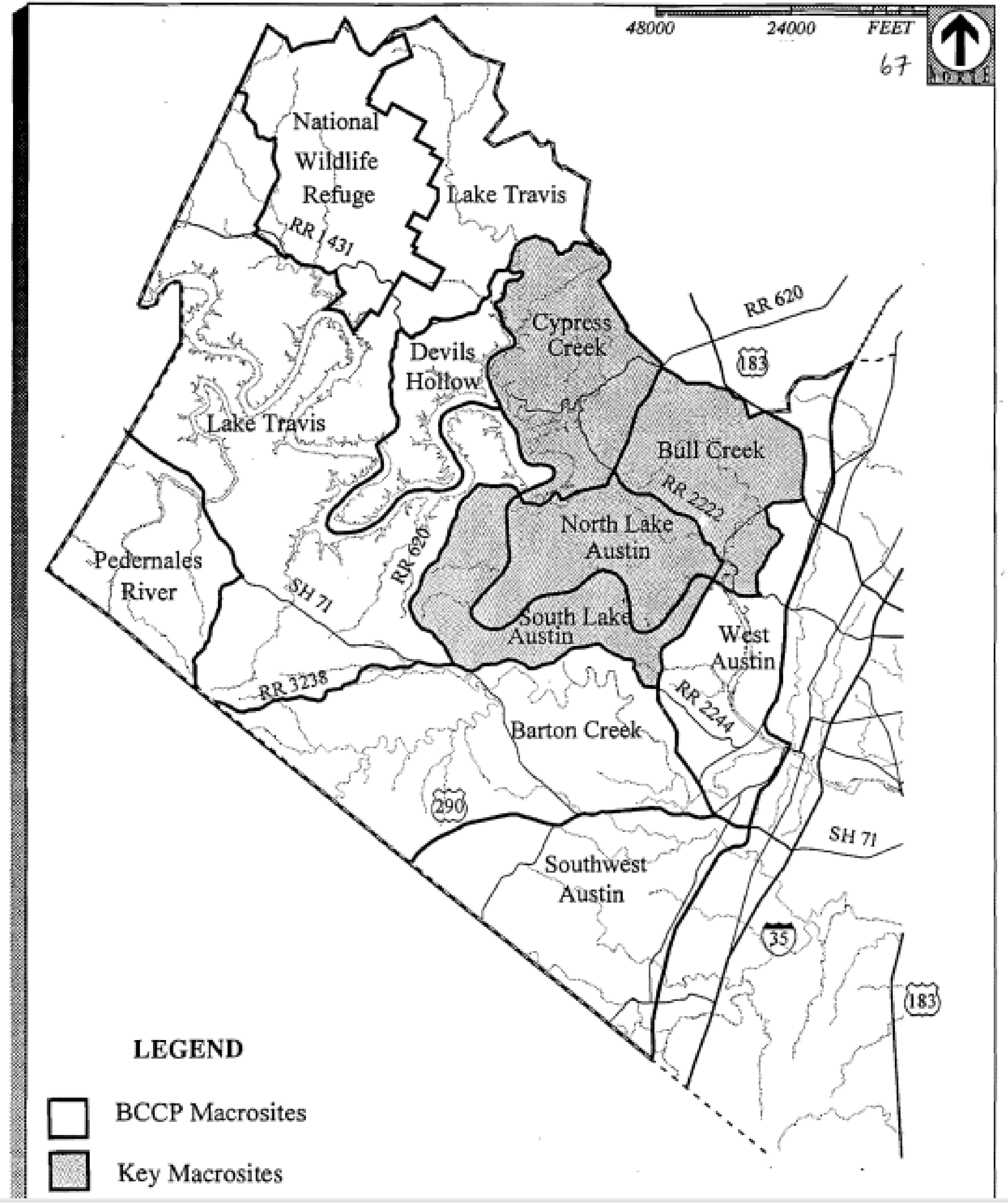
62 BCCP PERMIT CAVES

- **48 BCCP caves formally part of the BCP**
  - 22 caves- City of Austin BCP
  - 15 caves- Travis County BCP
  - 8 caves- USFWS private protection agreements
  - 2 caves- Texas Cave Management Association
  - 1 cave-Texas Nature Conservancy
- **4 private caves with protection and/or management agreements**
- **10 caves unprotected**



BCCP MACROSITES

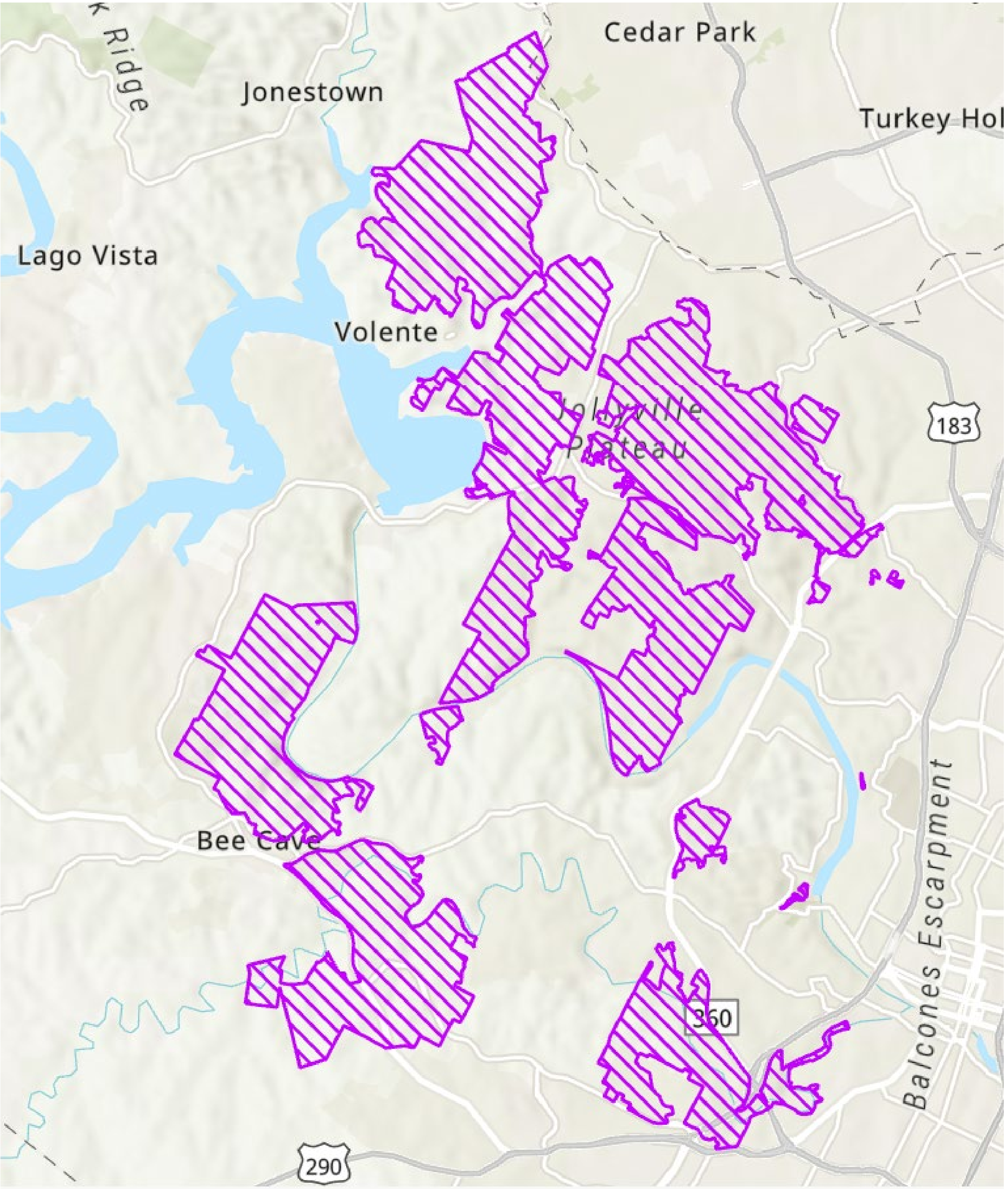
- Barton Creek Macrosite*
- Bull Creek Macrosite
- Cypress Creek Macrosite
- Devil's Hollow Macrosite
- Lake Travis Macrosite
- North Lake Austin Macrosite
- Pedernales River Macrosite*
- South Lake Austin Macrosite
- Southwest Austin Macrosite
- West Austin Macrosite*



PRESERVE ACQUISITION ZONE

Areas under consideration for BCP inclusion that had:

- Habitat for species of concern
- Areas potentially managed for species of concern
- Intervening land considered necessary to maintain contiguity of preserve design



MINIMUM PRESERVE DESIGN STANDARDS

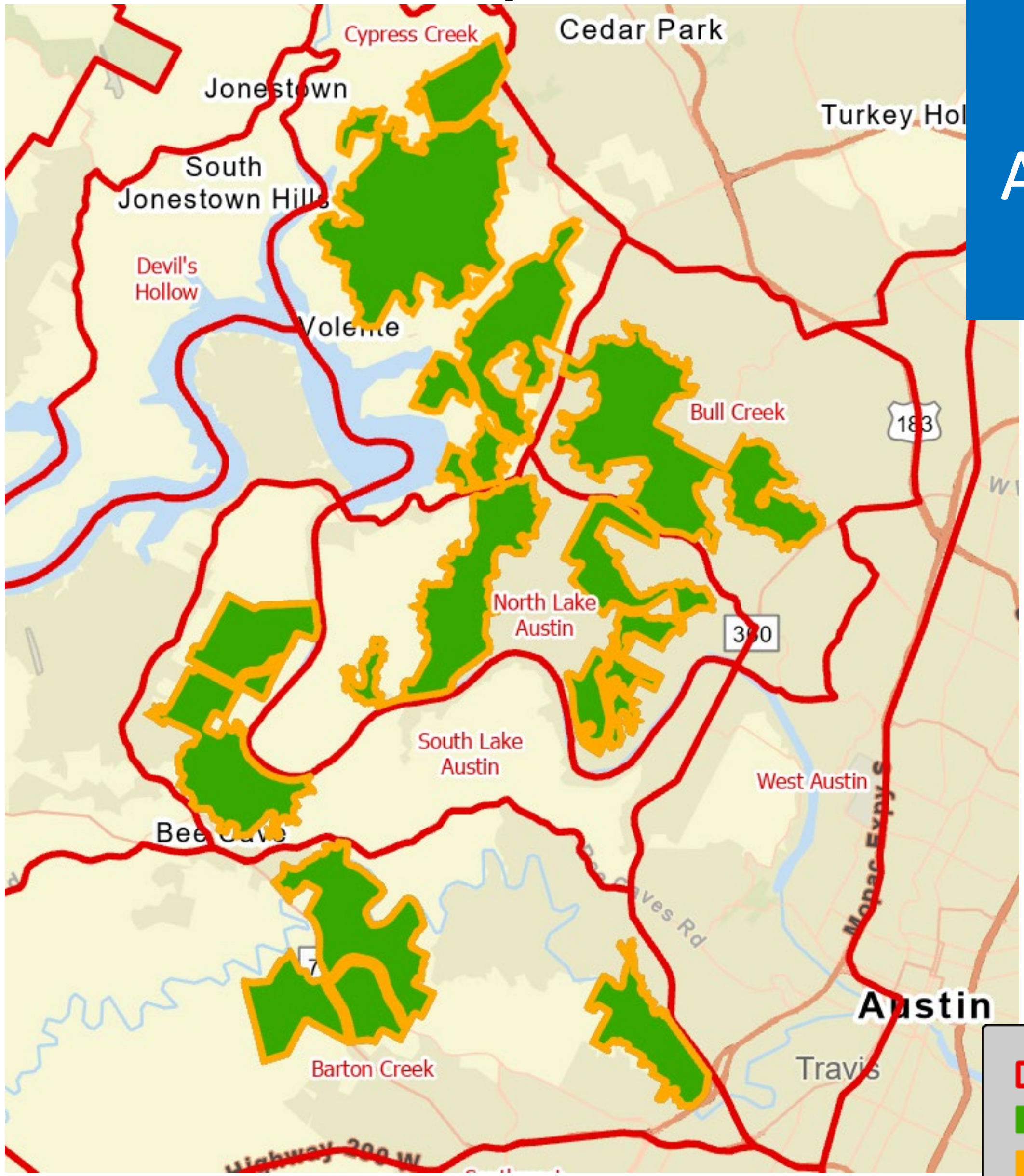
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Size in acres
- Width in feet
- Distance between preserves
- Ratio of preserve edge to overall area
  - No more than 20% total core preserve block within 330 feet of boundary

HABITAT POTENTIAL

- Distribution and occurrence of species of concern
- Presence of important karst habitat
- Presence, size, and configuration of potential preserve
- Long-term preserve viability
- Habitat quality expected with long-term management

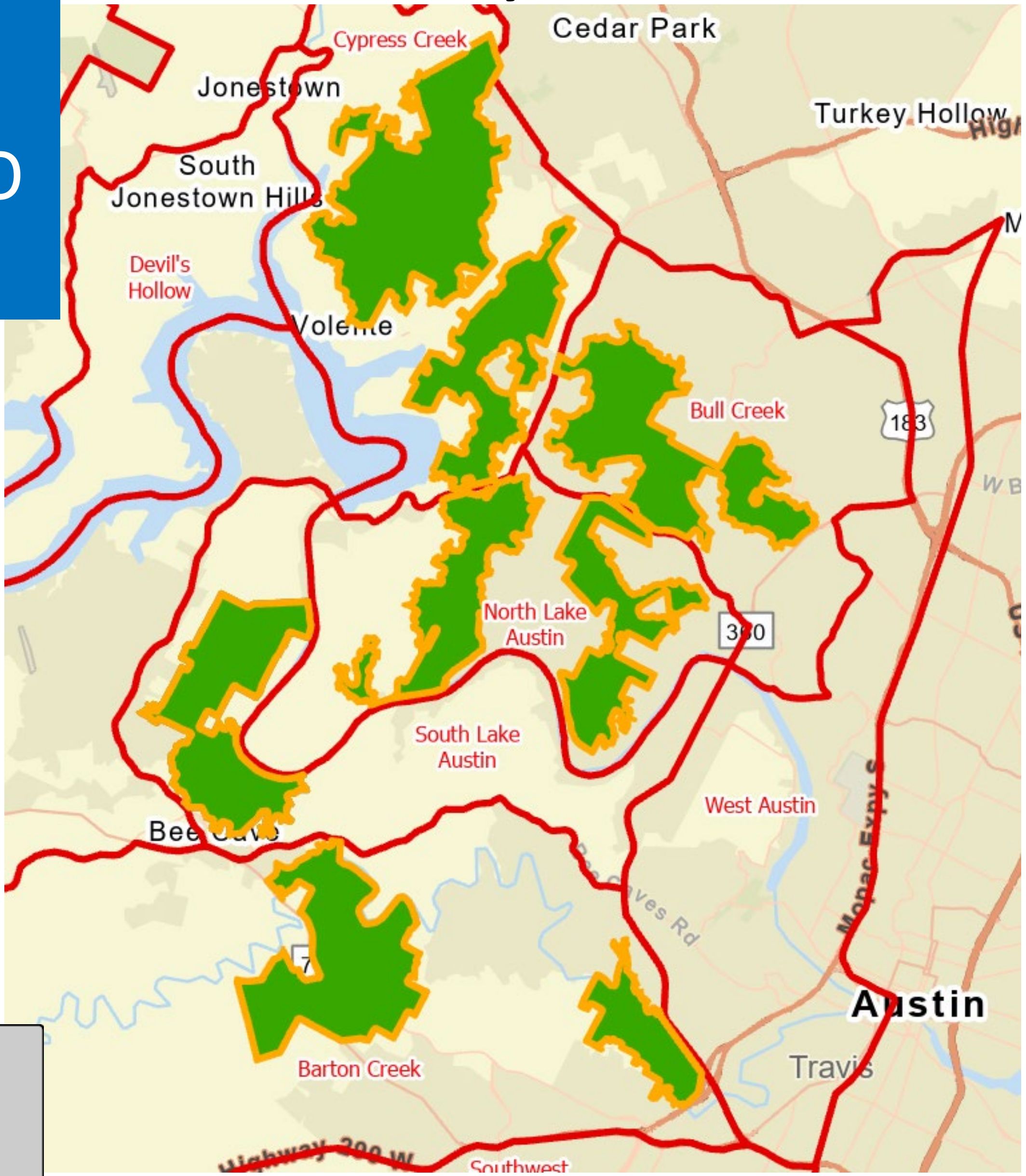
Analysis 1



Contiguous Core

EDGE-TO-AREA RATIO

Analysis 2



Roadways Excluded

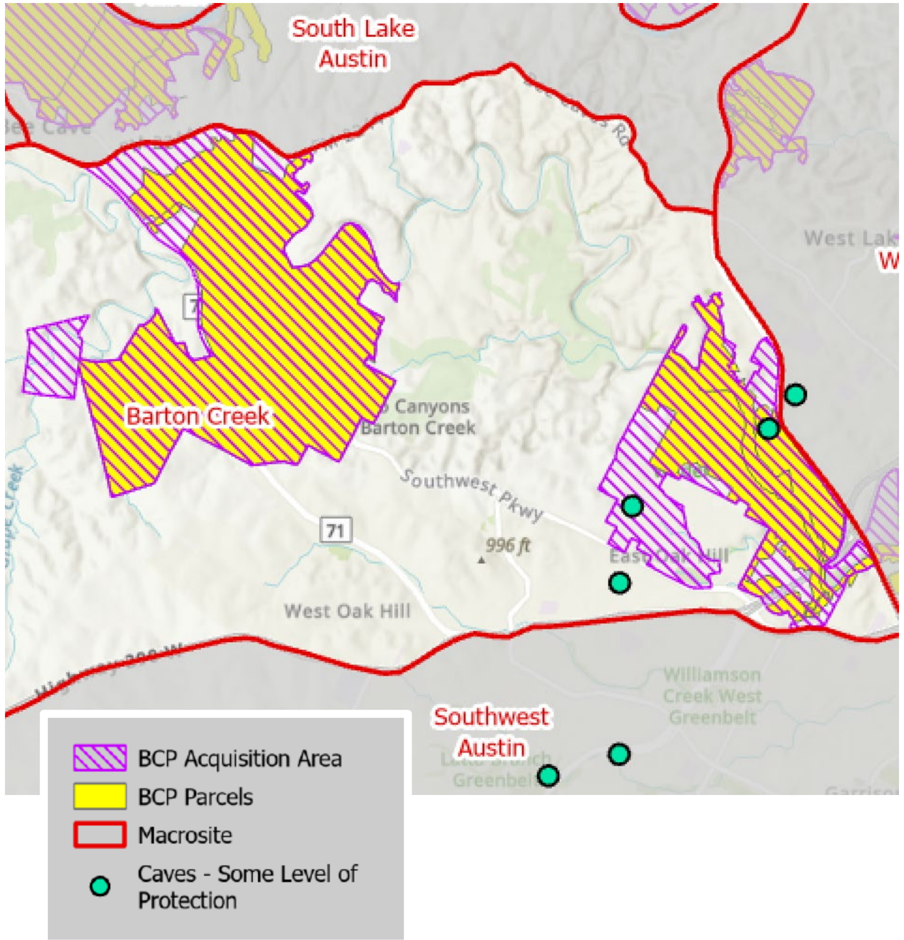
- Macrosite
- BCP Parcel
- 330 ft. Buffer

BARTON CREEK MACROSITE
Minimum Preserve Design Standards

- Exclude existing roadway intrusions
- No less than 4,000 acres
- Maximum 20% total area occurring within 330 feet of preserve boundary for preserve unit central core
- Preserve area in eastern portion not included in 20% ratio requirements

ACREAGE MINIMUM – TARGET	ACREAGE AQUIRED	
4,000 – 6,330	6,130	**(+2,130)**

EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 1	EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 2
23.6%	18.9%

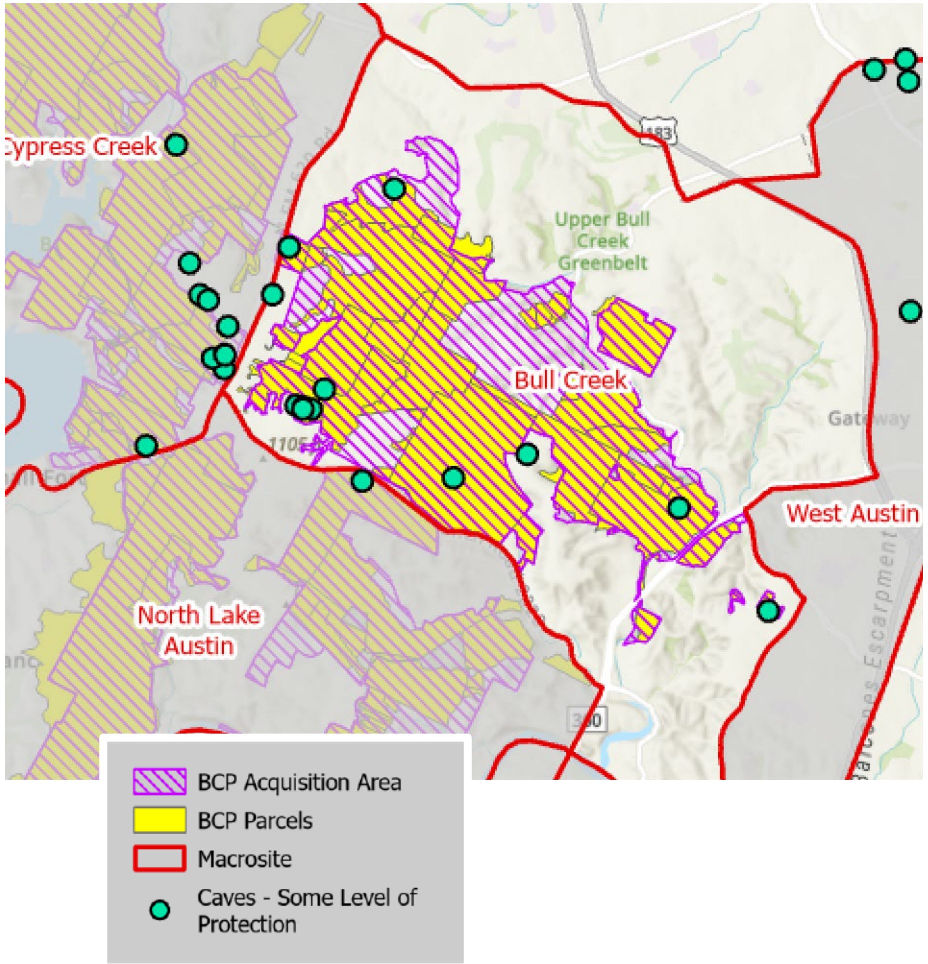


BULL CREEK MACROSITE
Minimum Preserve Design Standards

- No less than 5,200 acres
- Maximum 20% total area occurring within 330 feet of preserve boundary for preserve unit central core
- Isolated areas east of Loop 360 not included in 20% ratio requirements

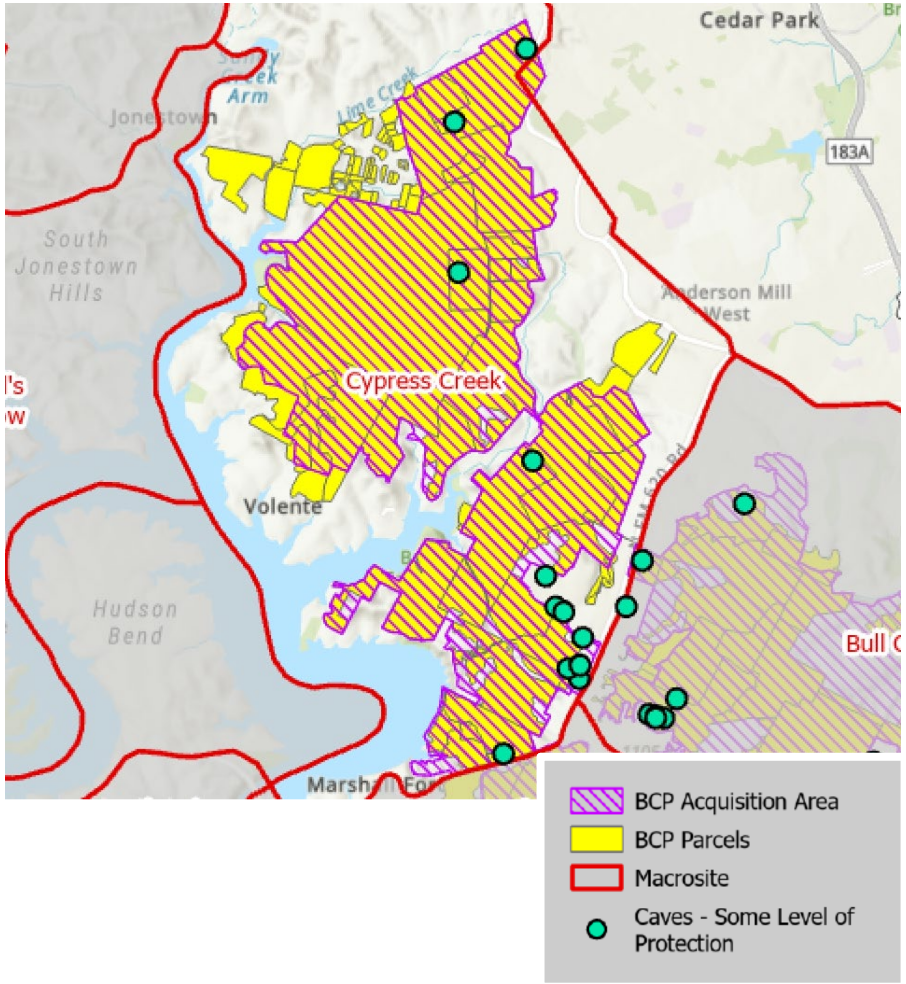
ACREAGE MINIMUM – TARGET	ACREAGE AQUIRED	
5,2000 – 5,638	5,009	(-191)

EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 1	EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 2
21.7%	21.7%



CYPRESS CREEK MACROSITE
Minimum Preserve Design Standards

- No less than 7,200 acres
- Maximum 20% total area occurring within 330 feet of preserve boundary for preserve unit central core

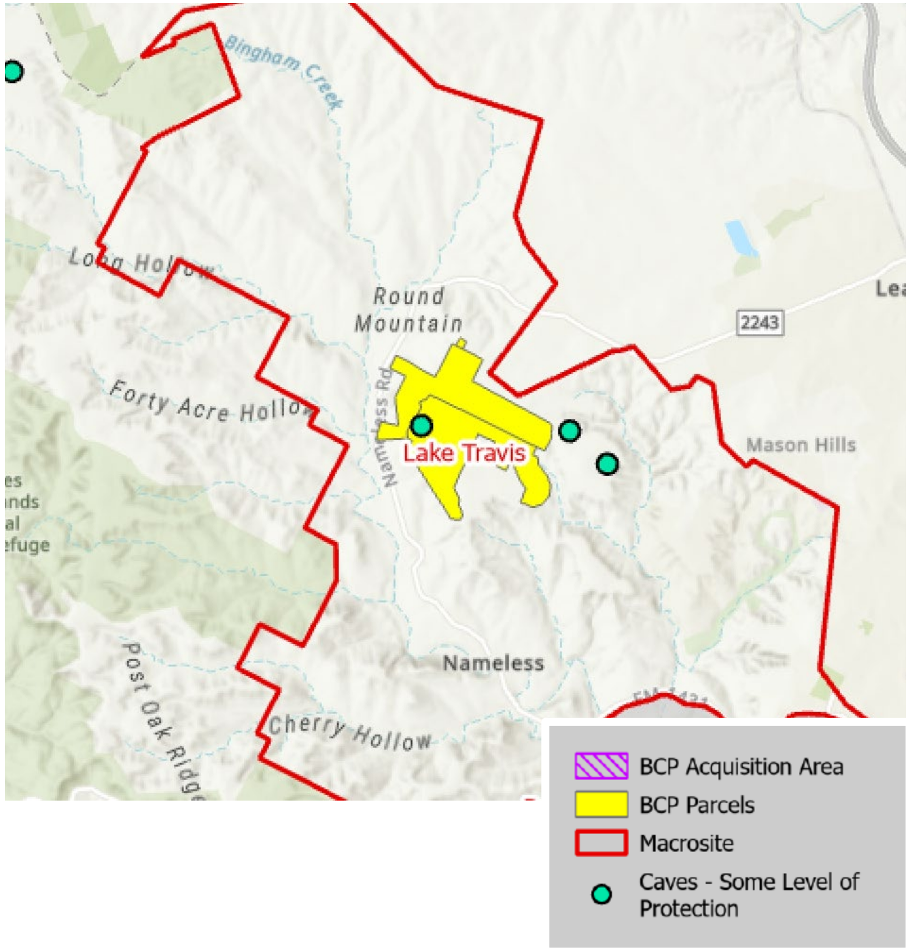


ACREAGE MINIMUM – TARGET	ACREAGE AQUIRED	
7,700 – 8,111	9,836	**(+2,136)**

EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 1	EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 2
22.1%	19.8%

LAKE TRAVIS MACROSITE
Minimum Preserve Design Standards

- No minimum preserve design specifications



ACREAGE MINIMUM – TARGET	ACREAGE AQUIRED
N/A	1,575 (+1,575)

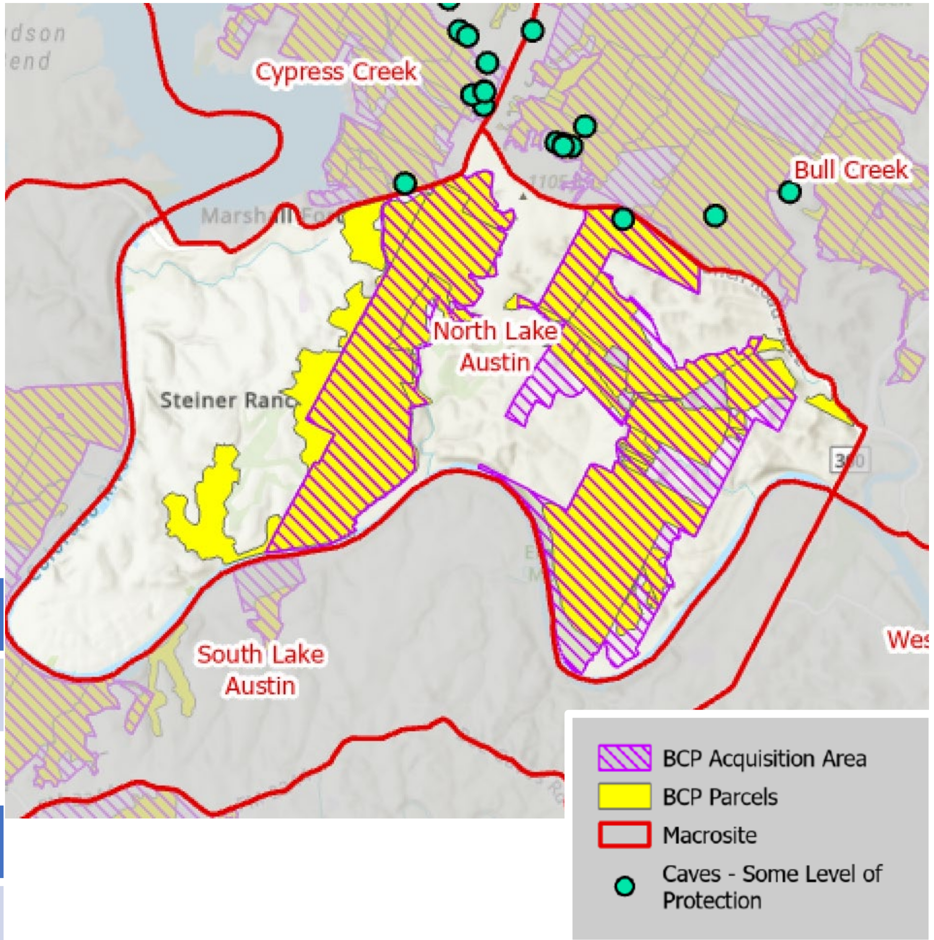
EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 1	EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 2
N/A	N/A

NORTH LAKE AUSTIN MACROSITE
Minimum Preserve Design Standards

- No less than 3,000 contiguous acres
- Maximum 20% total area occurring within 330 feet of preserve boundary for preserve unit central core
- Small preserve areas south of RM620/Comanche Trail not included in 20% ratio requirements

ACREAGE MINIMUM – TARGET	ACREAGE AQUIRED	
3,000 – 5,117	5,659	**(+2,659)**

EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 1	EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 2
33.9%	28.8%

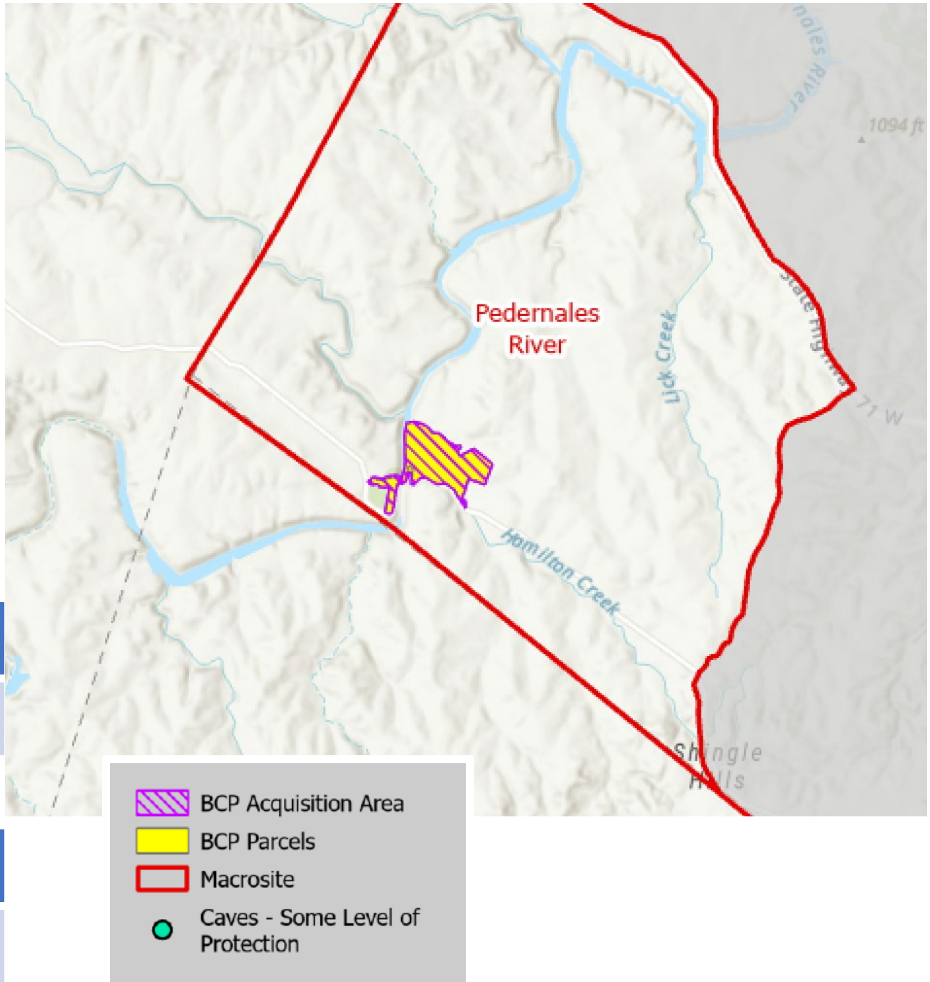


PEDERNALES RIVER MACROSITE
Minimum Preserve Design Standards

- No less than 259 acres

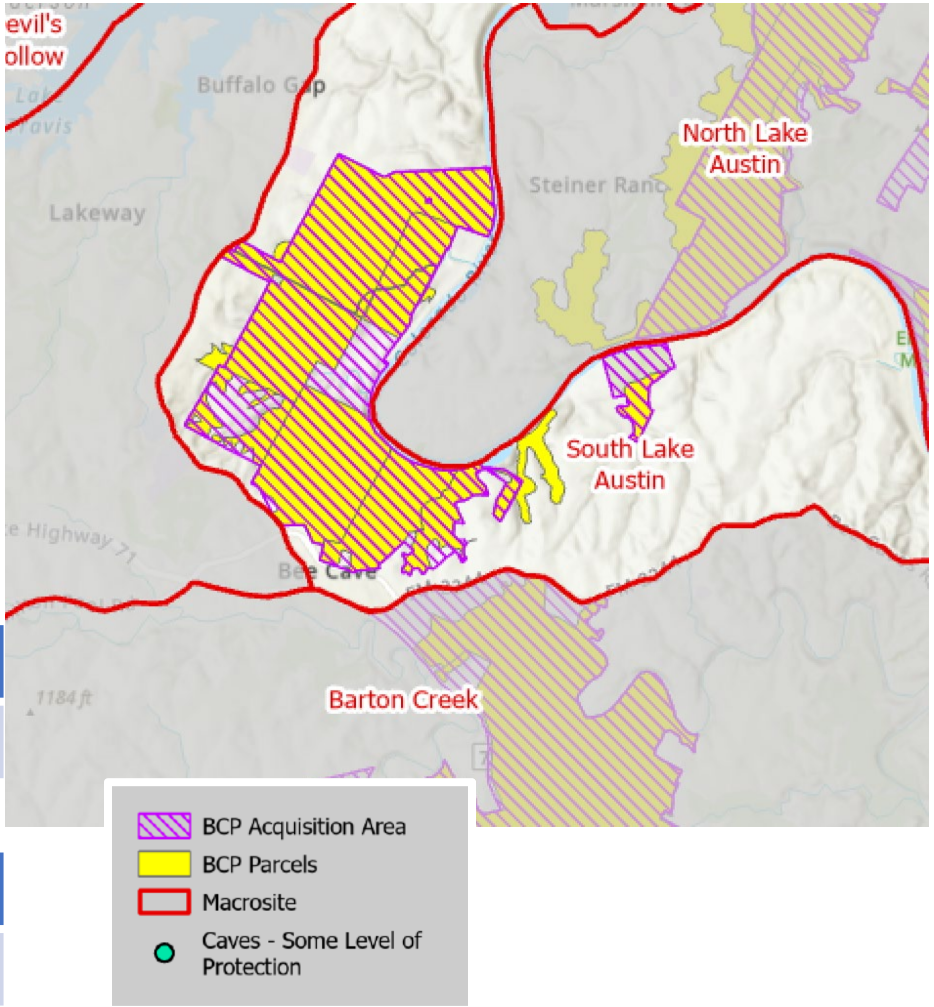
ACREAGE MINIMUM – TARGET	ACREAGE AQUIRED
259	266 **(+7)**

EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 1	EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 2
N/A	N/A



SOUTH LAKE AUSTIN MACROSITE
Minimum Preserve Design Standards

- No less than 3,000 acres
- Maximum 20% total area occurring within 330 feet of preserve boundary for preserve unit central core

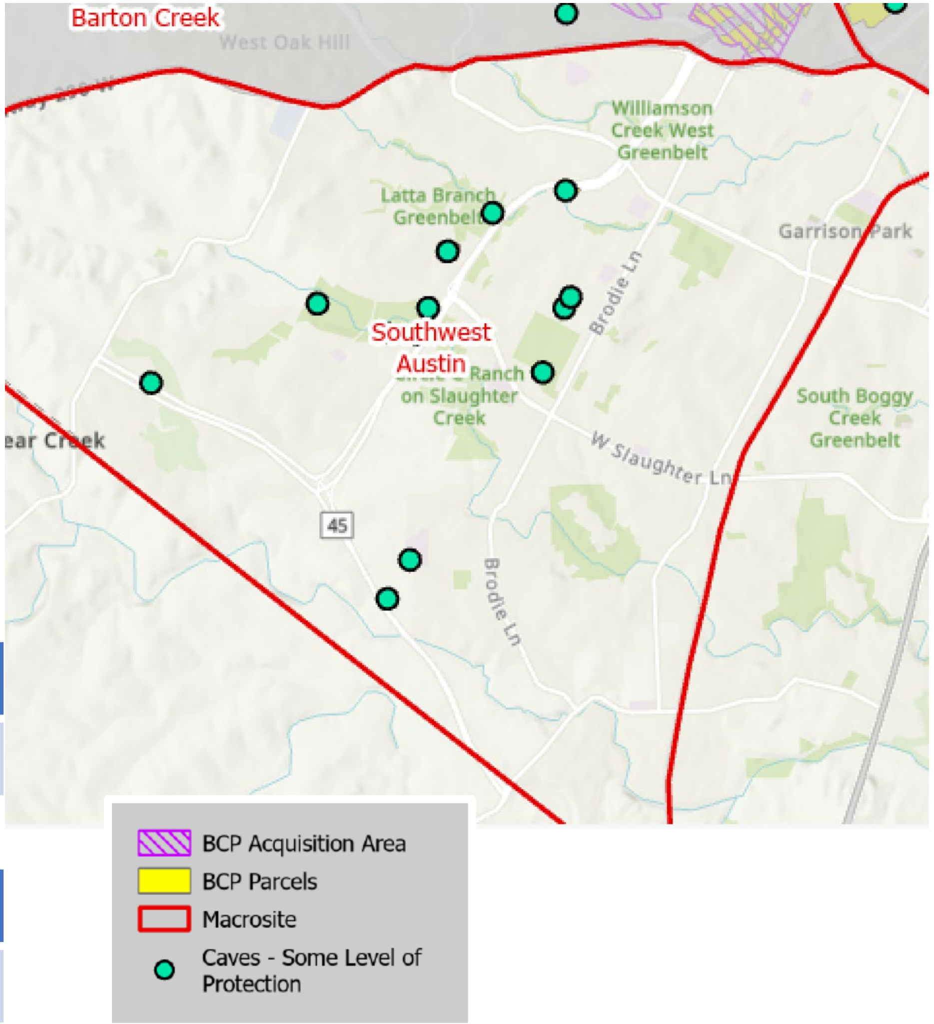


ACREAGE MINIMUM – TARGET	ACREAGE AQUIRED	
3,000 – 4,491	4,132	**(+1,132)**

EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 1	EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 2
23.3%	19.7%

SOUTHWEST AUSTIN MACROSITE
Minimum Preserve Design Standards

- No minimum preserve design specifications

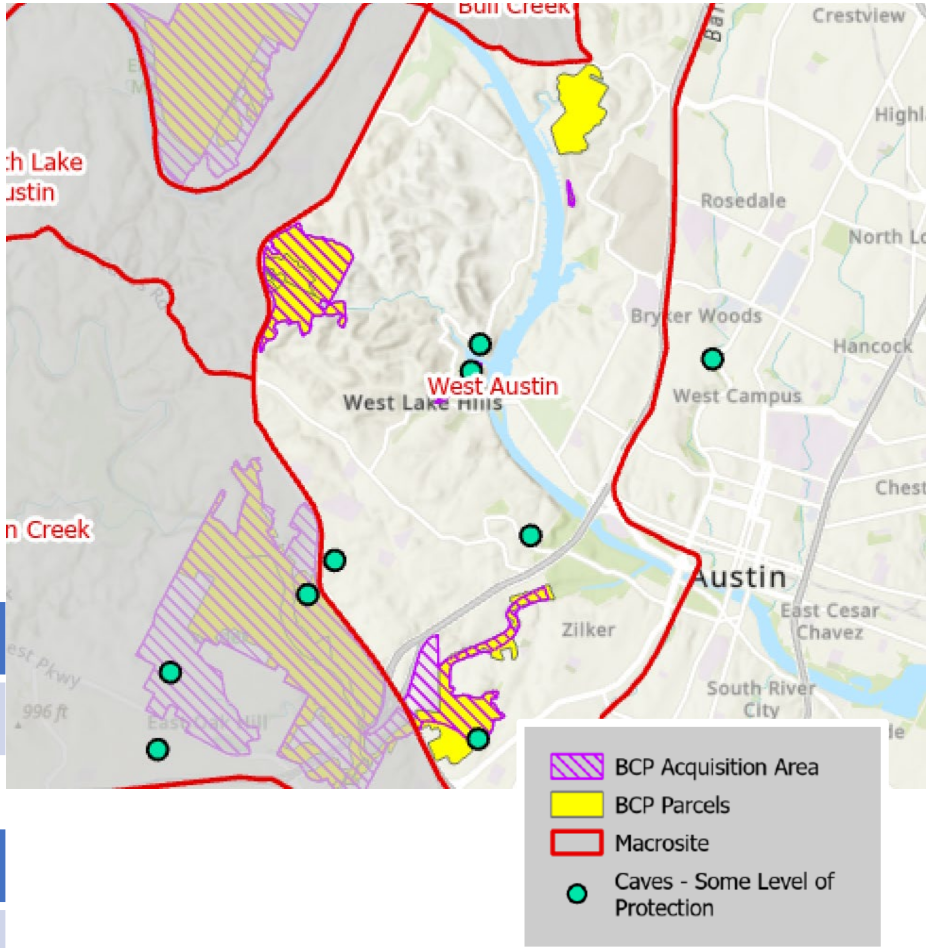


ACREAGE MINIMUM – TARGET	ACREAGE AQUIRED
N/A	18 *karst preserves

EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 1	EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 2
N/A	N/A

WEST AUSTIN MACROSITE
Minimum Preserve Design Standards

- No less than 482 acres



ACREAGE MINIMUM – TARGET	ACREAGE AQUIRED
482	680 (+198)

EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 1	EDGE-TO-AREA ANALYSIS 2
N/A	N/A

HIGH PRIORITY KEY MACROSITES

	ACREAGE AQUIRED	MINIMUM	TARGET
BULL CREEK	5,009	-191	-629

	ACREAGE AQUIRED	MINIMUM	TARGET
CYPRESS CREEK	9,836	+2,136	+1,726

	ACREAGE AQUIRED	MINIMUM	TARGET
NORTH LAKE AUSTIN	5,659	+2,659	+542

	ACREAGE AQUIRED	MINIMUM	TARGET
SOUTH LAKE AUSTIN	4,132	+1,132	-359

ACREAGE TOTALS	**24,636**	**+5,736**	**+1,280**

COMMITMENT CONSTRAINTS

- OPPORTUNITY
  - Landowners must be willing sellers.
  - Pre-existing habitat fragmentation
- ECONOMY & POPULATION GROWTH
  - Land prices have increased. BCCP presumed annual population growth rate of 2.25% but actual annual average growth rate from 1996 – 2024 was 4.05%
- REGULATORY
  - USFWS has issued individual incidental take permits within BCP preserve acquisition area since BCCP Permit was issued.
- ECOLOGY
  - Not all caves remaining to protect have adequate land around them to protect features. Cave substitutions are necessary.

CONSERVATION COMMITMENT STRATEGY SUMMARY

- Pursue high priority sites as available
- Pursue remaining cave tracts
- Identify suitable karst substitution features
- Look for alternative sites with habitat and caves to compensate for lost lands and to improve the edge-to-area ratio

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