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Agenda

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan  
Scientific Advisory Committee  
May 11, 2015, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
Reicher Ranch Cana House  
3621 S. Ranch Road 620  
Austin, Texas 78738**

Action may be taken on any agenda item.

1. Approve Record of Decisions from regular meeting on 10/14/14
2. Update regarding CAC proposed "State of BCCP Report – Secretary
3. BCCP Karst Substitution Workshop Update- Secretary, Members, Staffs
4. Subcommittee reports
  - a. Golden-cheeked Warbler modeling task group - Steed
  - b. Mountain Bike Experimental Design – Steed
  - c. Karst – Hauwert
  - d. BCP Strategic Research Plan - Whitehead
5. Staffs' reports
6. Members' Issues and concerns

Came to hand and posted on a Bulletin Board in the Courthouse,  
Austin, Travis County, Texas on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of  
MAY 20 15.

Dana DeBeauvoir  
County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

By

*M. Mitchell*  
**M. MITCHELL**

Deputy



**FILED AND RECORDED**  
OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS

*Dana DeBeauvoir*

May 06, 2015 03:45 PM

201580704

MITCHELLM: \$3.00

Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk  
Travis County TEXAS



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## Record of Decisions

**Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan  
Scientific Advisory Committee  
October 14, 2014 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
Waller Creek Center, Room 104  
625 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701**

### Attending:

Jean Krejca  
David Steed  
John Cornelius  
Sam Whitehead  
Aimee Treur-Kuehn

### Excused:

Craig Farquhar  
Nico Hauwert

1. **Approve Record of Decisions from regular meeting on 8/4/14** – Motion by Krejca, second Whitehead Carried 5/0
2. **Update regarding CAC proposed “State of BCCP Report”**– Secretary Conrad reported that the CAC has agreed to support the report and collaborate with the SAC. Conrad will report the proposed action to the Coordinating Committee on October 29, 2014 and will organize a task group thereafter.
3. **BCCP Karst Substitution Workshop Update**- Secretary Conrad reported that he organized a task group in August to develop a process to be used to implement substitution for caves protected by the BCCP Federal Permit. The permit provides that when listed caves cannot be protected, other caves may be substituted with Service approval. However, neither the permit nor the HCP speak clearly about processes for making such decisions. Conrad would like to have a process to recommend to the Coordinating Committee to be adopted as BCCP Policy by summer 2015.
4. **Subcommittee reports**
  - a. **Golden-cheeked Warbler modeling task group** – David Steed reported to the committee. He noted that Lisa O'Donnell and Craig Farquhar had actually been the lead on this effort. He gave a brief overview of the history of the subcommittee and then discussed the draft manuscript recently circulated by O'Donnell. He recommended that the SAC approve the manuscript for publication. O'Donnell asked members to review the manuscript one last time. After she receives and addresses their comments she will submit it for publication in the Journal for Field Ornithology. Chair Krejca thanked the committee for their efforts and noted that submission for publication will complete the assignment for this committee and that it will sunset afterwards.

- b. **Mountain Bike Experimental Design** – David Steed discussed the Davis *et al* paper regarding trail effects on golden-cheeked warblers. He advised members that while the study might be criticized for how the control sites and study sites differ slightly, this is still a definitive study that demonstrates that mountain bike recreation on trails in golden-cheeked warbler habitat have a measurable effect on the birds behavior, nesting success, and recruitment success. He also noted that the Davis *et al* findings are very consistent with findings from studies involving numerous other avian species.

Steed also discussed the need to monitor effects from trails on habitat. He discussed a publication by Marion with USGS that documents procedures and methodology to quantitatively monitor effects from trails on vegetation and soils. He suggested that this methodology be considered for use on BCP. Lisa O'Donnell spoke favorably about the Marion paper as well. She described Marion as a trail ecologist and said his methods have been used extensively by National Park Service.

Conrad asked the SAC members to review the Marion Paper and comment back to David and Lisa regarding its applicability to BCP before 11/1/14. Lisa will email a link to the paper. Steed, Cornelius, and O'Donnell will summarize comments on both Davis *et al* and Marion with recommendations to BCP and submit this report to the SAC at their winter 2015 meeting. This will complete this assignment for this subcommittee.

- c. **Karst** – Hauwert, no report
- d. **BCP Strategic Research Plan** – Sam Whitehead prepared a draft strategic research plan that he developed with support from Lisa Belair with Concordia University, Monica Swartz, Lisa O'Donnell, and Sherri Kuhl. SAC members received and accepted this draft and agreed to help Sam move forward with completing the plan with more specific input from others. The next step will be to develop a SWOT analysis. Members recommended that he work the the BCP Land Managers working group to conduct this step. This existing group might also be appropriate to serve as the research oversight committee described in the draft strategic research plan. Sam will be supported by Kuhl, Laack, and O'Donnell and will report back with progress at future meetings.

5. Staffs' reports

Sherri Kuhl Reviewed the Written BCP Operations report from the City and the BCCP joint Public Outreach Report.

Linda Laack reviewed the Travis County written report.

6. Members' Issues and concerns:

Aimee Treur Kuehn reported to members that Spotted Knapweed, and introduced invasive forb, has been collected at the Balcones National Wildlife Refuge. She noted that was likely established as the result of a seeding project where it was seeded using contaminating seed purchased for restoration work.

John Cornelius reported results from current white tailed deer population inventory work done through Emma Long City Park. He noted extreme population density of 2.46 acres per deer where 25 acres per deer would be ideal for preserve management and habitat resilience. He also noted that the doe to buck ratio was 7.6 to 1 and that the fawn to doe ration is 0.5 to 1. These are indicators that the trend for

deer populations will continue to rise without management. One implication for BCP is that restoration efforts planned for Connors Creek at Emma Long Park may likely be impaired by extreme deer browse and foraging pressure.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM

City of Austin BCP Report  
BCCP Coordinating Committee Meeting  
October 15, 2014 – May 1, 2015

**Program Administration**

**BCCP Infrastructure Training Workshop**

- This annual workshop was held on October 30, 2014 at UT's J. J. Pickle Research Campus.

**Permits**

- The BCCP annual reports were submitted to Travis County in late December 2014/early January 2015. Travis County compiled and submitted the report to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the reports are now available on Travis County's website at <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/bccp/2014-annual-report>.
- Annual scientific permit reports were submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in December 2014.
- City Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) staff has issued 10 BCP research permits to conduct research on the BCP in 2015. 2015 projects include quantification of soil bacteria and fungi (soil metagenomics), ant diversity and abundance, cave research and restoration, Jollyville Plateau salamander monitoring and research, water quality and quantity monitoring for Water Treatment Plan 4, tick population densities as disease vectors in Austin parks and preserves, and presence/absence surveys for emerald ash borer in an Austin park.

**Biological Monitoring**

**Karst**

- Tawny crazy ants (TCAs) were first observed negatively impacting cave fauna in Whirlpool Cave in June 2013, and on November 20, 2014, TCA's were discovered in no rent cave. In an effort to monitor impacts, City and Travis County staff continues to monitor Whirlpool Cave as well as no rent and Weldon cave (in close proximity to TCA's). We still anticipate that this new invader will have a major negative effect on cave fauna. The section 6 grant proposal (investigate possible methods of treating TCAs within the cave cricket foraging area) was denied due to lack of funding, however, City and Travis County BCP staffs along with Ed LeBrun (UT Fire Ant Lab) resubmitted the grant proposal in November (ongoing).
- BCCP Karst Substitution Process: Travis County, COA BCP and Watershed Protection Department (WPD), and USFWS staffs are currently working on a document that defines and gives direction the process for cave substitution (for caves on the BCP permit).
- Conducting cave faunal surveys and cave cricket exit counts (ongoing).
- Monitoring cave conditions, removing trash, and treating for red-imported fire ants (ongoing).
- BCP Staff is continuing to assist Nico Hauwert and the Watershed Protection Department with the Blowing Sink critical environmental feature (CEF) stabilization CIP project. Several major recharge features/caves are unstable, leading to large amounts of sediment washing into the aquifer. The project will stabilize these features, thus improving water quality to Barton Springs. This project is nearing completion. (ongoing)
- In an effort to educate the public about the importance of caves and cave fauna, Nico Hauwert initiated an effort to find local non-BCP caves that would be appropriate for educational purposes. Staff and volunteers are currently excavating several karst features. (ongoing)
- Cave public access: A cave collaboration group of City and County staff and volunteers met regarding guidelines for future public access to local caves including some BCP permit caves. The goal is to try to determine which caves are appropriate for public access, determine the appropriate number allowed per cave, and come up with a permitting system that would determine qualifications needed for leading cave tours (ongoing).
- Restoration and monitoring efforts have begun at 2 endangered species caves located in the courtyard at McNeil High. Nico Hauwert and McNeil High School science teacher Tina Vick are leading the restoration effort along with help from FWS, City and Travis County BCP staff. Travis

County and City BCP staffs are currently conducting cave faunal surveys and cricket exit counts with the goal of including student participation for long term monitoring and potential research projects that will benefit the listed species. Travis County and City BCP staff has also held 2 volunteer clean up dates, removing large volumes of trash. City staff has provided plants for this project, planting 86 trees and shrubs, many of which provide forage for cave crickets (ongoing).

- City BCP and WPD staff continue to comment on the SH45 SW Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), trying to bring attention to existing problematic issues such as the fact that the FEIS was completed prior to the completion of the Flintridge hydrological study (ongoing).
- COA WPD staff is looking into acquiring a 5.82 acre tract immediately adjacent to Goat cave karst preserve. This acquisition would greatly increase the size of the preserve thus better protecting the BCP permit caves.

### **Golden-Cheeked Warbler (GCWA)**

- USFS Project: Interlocal Agreement with the US Forest Service (Dr. Frank Thompson, Jennifer Reidy) to provide GCWA Population Viability and Habitat Suitability modeling within the BCP.
  - 5-year study, focuses on four primary questions:
    - What is the absolute abundance of the GCWA on the BCP and on individual macrosites?
    - How do demographics (e.g. density, productivity, survival) vary with landscape and habitat factors?
    - How viable are these populations?
    - How do various management scenarios influence population viability?
  - Currently collecting fifth year of data in collaboration with BCP partners (Audubon, LCRA, Travis County, Wild Basin) and 42 volunteers.
  - Data summaries to date:
    - Color-banded 126 GCWAs (93 males, 5 females, 28 nestlings) on 18 intensive study plots
    - ~140 GCWA nests
    - Return rates (79 GCWA returns from 2011-2014):
      - 69 males (34% )
      - 6 females (26% )
      - 3 males and 1 female banded as nestlings in 2014 (8%)
  - Staff has observed a few GCWAs with symptoms of avian pox, an infectious viral disease characterized by wart-like nodules or lesions on featherless areas of the body transmitted by mosquitoes and contact with surfaces contaminated by the pox virus. Pox-like symptoms were previously reported in GCWAs and other birds in 2012.
  - Staff found a dead GCWA male on City Park Road on April 7, 2015. The male was banded on March 27, 2014 and found about 300 meters east of where he was banded.

### **Black-capped Vireo (BCVI)**

- Forest Ridge: 3-4 BCVI territories, including a male banded by William Simper/Travis County in 2009 (this BCVI male is 7 years old).
- Kent Butler: 2-3 BCVIs. A male banded last year has returned to Kent Butler, the first known return to the Kent Butler preserve. One female has been observed. All the BCVIs at Kent Butler are residing in areas where BCP staff worked with the utility providers to improve the habitat under the Austin Energy and LCRA electric transmission lines.
- COA BCP staff and volunteers are continuing to implement demonstration projects at the Vireo Preserve to promote slope stabilization, soil restoration, and regeneration of native plants on degraded areas that are currently not habitat for either the GCWA or BCVI. Since Vireo Preserve supports many of the habitat types observed throughout the BCP, lessons learned from restoration work at this site should be applicable to other areas within the BCP.

## **Jollyville Plateau Salamander (JPS)**

- COA BCP staff assisted the Watershed Protection Department with several JPS surveys.

## **Bracted Twistflower**

- Non-native *Jasminum mesneyi* encroaching on a group of twistflowers at Ullrich were pulled. More needs to be done to eliminate the non-native from the tract.
- Plans for fence to protect Bracted Twistflower at Mount Bonnell: see Fencing Projects, below.
- 2015 surveys for Bracted Twistflower are currently being conducted

## **Preserve Management**

### **Dual-Managed Lands**

- AWU and PARD are working to close and restore trails within the Connors Creek critical water quality protection zone in Emma Long Motocross Park. Additional signs are scheduled for installation. Staff is developing a stream assessment, restoration and monitoring plan with assistance from staff in the Watershed Protection Department.
- The proposed Mount Bonnell fencing to protect bracted twistflower habitat and keep people off the bluff has been designed and is being taken by PARD to the Historic Landmark Commission and Parks and Recreation Board for approval. Construction will begin in the fall.
- PARD and BCP staffs are working with the Hill Country Conservancy on the installation of 911/mile markers in the Barton Creek Greenbelt
- Barton Creek homeless camps: see Law Enforcement below

### **Infrastructure Management**

- BCP staff worked with a number of infrastructure providers on scheduled maintenance activities during the non-nesting season (ongoing).
- LCRA successfully completed their upgrade of the T-160 line which runs through the Bull Creek macrosite and received construction approval from BCCP. LCRA worked closely with BCP and WPD staff to avoid impacts to endangered/threatened species and habitats.
- BCP is currently working with the West Travis County PUA (WTCPUA) on construction of a new water service line which includes drilling underneath Barton Creek.

### **Law Enforcement**

- River Place Nature Trail (MUD trail).
  - The trail decommissioning and restoration work has been completed
  - A fence was completed to help control trespass onto City property
- Homeless camps are an ongoing management challenge in the Barton Creek Greenbelt. City Wildland Conservation and PARD staff continues to monitor these sites and remove camps as they are discovered.
- Major vandalism and theft occurred at the Blowing sink tract, APD arrested 2 suspects.
- Major unauthorized tree clearing occurred on the Jester tract at Bottlebrush Drive. The damage assessment is ongoing.

### **Invasive Species/Animal Management**

- See Tawny Crazy Ants, above.
- BCP staff is continuing efforts to remove non-native plants on COA BCP tracts.
- BCP staff is actively removing feral hogs.
- BCP staff is treating red imported fire ants with boiling water adjacent to BCP caves.
- BCP staff completed deer management in the fall, removing a low number of deer. Staff is currently evaluating deer management needs for 2015/2016 season.



**Oak Wilt**

- BCP staff inspected known oak wilt centers on the Barton Creek/Friesenhahn, Emma Long, JJ&T, Cortaña, Hanks, Canyon Creek, Long Canyon, and Reicher Ranch tracts over the summer, monitoring movement of the fungus and success of control trenches.

**Fencing Projects**

- A fence was constructed on the Cortana Preserve near the River Place trail.
- We are currently preparing bids for fences for installation in the fall on the Jester, Forest Ridge and Cortana tracts.

**Fire Management**

- Wildland Conservation Division (WCD) staff participated in the creation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Travis County. The final draft is complete and has been rolled out to the public
- WCD staff worked with the Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division to implement additional fuel mitigation projects during the fall on the Kent Butler tract adjacent to the Jester subdivision. The work met the specifications in the City of Austin Fuel Treatments in Juniper and Juniper-Oak Woodlands, Best Management Practices within the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve.
- Prepped and burned (R/X Burn) the Circle at Reicher. 0.33 acres burned.
- Prepped the Shinnery at Cortana for R/X Burn. Weather did not allow this section of the Cortana tract to be burned this year.

**TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities Update: 1 October 2014 –30 April 2015**

<b>BCCP Administration</b>	
Public Participation	Eighteen BCCP applications were received and processed; Ten Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$417,225. All funds were evenly divided 50:50 between City of Austin and Travis County.
Land Acquisition and Protection	The 12.89 acre Montandon tract was acquired in December. A 40 foot wide strip along Bullick Hollow Road is reserved for future road expansion, so the acreage added to the BCP is 11.88 acres.
	The 449.94 acre Scott and White tract was acquired in February. This property is located off of Nameless Road and contains warbler and vireo habitat as well as portions of the surface and subsurface drainage basins for Spanish Wells cave.
	The 227.84 acre Plains Capital tract was acquired in February. This tract is bisected by Trails End Road.
	In April, Travis County purchased a conservation easement from Travis Audubon Society on 648 acres of the Baker Sanctuary.
Personnel	Melinda Mallia became the Natural Resources Program Manager in January. Melinda has worked for Travis County since 1993 as an Environmental Project Manager and has been instrumental in acquiring BCP tracts for Travis County.
	Two seasonal Natural Resources Technicians, Travis Clark and Christopher Weyenberg, were hired in March.
	Environmental Specialist Mike Wallace, Natural Resources Tech Erin Cord, and Natural Resources Specialist Renee Fields each resigned to pursue new career opportunities. All three positions are currently advertised and will be filled this summer.
	The Volunteer Coordinator Position is currently vacant while the position is being reviewed for re-classification.
Reporting	The FY2014 BCCP Annual Report was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in January. The Report is available online at: <a href="https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/bccp/reports">https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/bccp/reports</a>
<b>Rare and Endangered Resources Management</b>	
Golden-cheeked warbler	Golden-cheeked warbler surveys began in mid-March and will continue into July.
Black-capped vireo	Black-capped vireos surveys began in early April and will continue into August. Ten territories have been confirmed on Travis County BCP.
	A 3 acre vireo habitat enhancement project was completed in February. Texas Conservation Corps and Ecology Action helped on the project which primarily involved thinning small junipers from a shrubland area on the Grandview Hills tract.
Karst invertebrates	Fall season faunal surveys were performed at 11 caves; Winter season faunal surveys were performed at 11 caves.



TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities Update: 1 October 2014 –30 April 2015

	Fall season cave cricket exit counts were performed at six caves; Winter season cricket counts were performed at six caves.
	Staff monitored protection efforts for karst features within and near the area of LCRA's T-160 power line upgrade.
	Conducted two cave cleanups with student volunteers at Millipede Annex Cave on the McNeil High School campus.
	Staff participated in development of BCCP cave substitution policy.
Jollyville Plateau salamander	Conducted monthly water quality monitoring at nine Jollyville Plateau salamander sites and three other sites. Surveyed for salamanders at SAS.
<b>Plant and Animal Control</b>	
Deer	Fifty-four white-tailed deer were harvested on the BCP by a contracted service provider. Meat was donated to Caritas of Austin. One exotic sika deer was harvested at Hamilton Pool Preserve.
Feral hogs	Nineteen hogs were trapped and dispatched on the Woody Hollow tract. A trap at Sam Hamilton East is currently being baited.
Brown-headed cowbirds	Five cowbird traps have been in operation since March.
Red imported fire ants	Performed fire ant control at 11 caves in the fall and five caves in the spring.
Tawny crazy ants	Conducted assessments and surveys of Tawny crazy ant infestation at Whirlpool and No Rent caves; designed and implemented methodology for quantifying tawny crazy ant density and impacts.
Invasive plants	Removed invasive plants ( <i>Nandina</i> , <i>Ligustrum</i> , <i>Ailanthus</i> , <i>Melia</i> , <i>Photinia</i> , <i>Pyracantha</i> ) from ten tracts.
<b>Land Stewardship</b>	
Fencing	Preparations are being made to fence the Ireland's Cave and Collins tracts.
Wildfire Preparedness and Prescribed Fire	Three fuel reduction projects along neighborhoods and roads were conducted by contracted service providers. The projects were on the Webb tract adjacent to the China Gardens neighborhood, the Steiner Ranch tract adjacent to the Rayo de Luna neighborhood and the Grandview Hills tract along Wilson Parke road.
	Staff attended the Parke HOA annual meeting and a Versante Firewise meeting to answer questions on BCP fuel mitigation.
	A regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan was adopted by the City of Austin and Travis County in November 2014.

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities Update: 1 October 2014 –30 April 2015

	<p>The County expects to receive a final award for a Hazard Mitigation Grant from FEMA through the Texas Division of Emergency Management by July/August 2015. The grant will fund wildfire mitigation projects on County BCP properties in the Wildland Urban Interface. Travis County applied for the grant in March 2012, in connection with the declared disaster for the Labor Day Fires.</p>
	<p>Parks staff conducted a prescribed fire on a 20 acre field/prairie area at Hamilton Pool Preserve on February 13<sup>th</sup>.</p>
Infrastructure	<p>Coordinated with the City of Austin and LCRA regarding LCRA's T-160 transmission line upgrade project which involved pole replacement on a section of transmission line crossing through the BCP.</p>
Transportation	<p>LISD is pursuing an individual ESA 10(A) permit for the proposed road project in the infrastructure corridor through Travis County Ribelin, Sam Hamilton East, and private 10(A) mitigation lands; SWCA was granted a Travis County Scientific Research Permit for karst, cultural resources, and waters of the US environmental assessment. City of Austin and Travis County sent SWCA existing JPS data to review.</p>
	<p>SH 45 SW: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was released January 23, 2015. The Record of Decision dated March 4<sup>th</sup> identified the Preferred Alternative as the Selected Alternative. See <a href="http://www.sh45sw.com/about/environment.php">http://www.sh45sw.com/about/environment.php</a></p> <p>USFWS responded to letters from City and County elected officials re concerns. The future status of Flint Ridge Cave remains in question. Details of land management in the vicinity of FRC must be resolved. On April 21<sup>st</sup> the Travis County Commissioners Court directed staff to work with the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) to include state-of-the-art stormwater controls for this area of extraordinary sensitivity; and to work with the CTRMA to require a sharing, by the CTRMA, of the risk of non-compliance under the Endangered Species Act.</p>
	<p>Travis County commissioned a feasibility study for the realignment of Steiner Ranch Boulevard/Comanche Trail which is under review.</p>
Adjacent Development	<p>Staff is coordinating with City of Austin and developers on current and future development projects adjacent to the Concordia, Cuevas, Nootsie, and Steiner Ranch tracts.</p>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	<p>Trespassing continues to be a problem on the Volente tract. Photos of multiple groups of people, some entering in motorized vehicles, have been documented on surveillance cameras. One criminal trespass warning was issued by Park Police.</p>



TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities Update: 1 October 2014 –30 April 2015

	<p>A feeder and a game camera were stolen on separate occasions on the Cuevas tract.</p>
	<p>On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Park Police and Natural Resources staff responded to a suicide attempt call on the Lime Creek Unit. Park Police found the subject in a semi-comatose state on the LCRA Wheless tract and he was sent by helicopter for medical treatment.</p>
	<p>On March 29<sup>th</sup>, a small fire (&lt;1 acre) broke out on the Grandview Hills tract adjacent to an apartment complex. Fire crews responded and no major damage occurred.</p>
	<p>Three cases of illegal tree clearing behind residences are being investigated at Steiner Ranch. Staff is working with the Steiner Ranch Community Association to resolve these cases; Staff and SRCA developed a brochure for Steiner Ranch residents which describes the BCP and explains the Steiner Ranch conservation easement rules.</p>
<b>Outreach/Volunteers</b>	
<i>See BCP Partners Education Summary October 2014 - April 2015</i>	



# BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE

## PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

October 2014-April 2015



### **Partner Education, Outreach and Volunteer Highlights:**

- Over 40 volunteers are currently helping with golden-cheeked warbler resighting by surveying buffer plots at least 3 times for 6 hours each time between March 1<sup>st</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Travis County and the City of Austin partnered with McNeil High School to provide presentations and a workday to clean up the BCP cave located in the McNeil High School courtyard.
- Volunteers continue to work on projects independently with BCP partners. Larger groups from Austin High School, Dell, Boy Scouts, and Texas Trail Tamers all completed projects with BCP partners from October 2014- April 2015.
- This spring partners hosted a series of hikes focused on observing golden-cheeked warblers in their habitat. Each of the three hikes offered were lucky enough to hear and see golden-cheeked warblers.
- City of Austin staff are working internally to establish a training protocol and guidelines for all City staff that lead public tours in City of Austin BCP caves.
- All partners and volunteers helped to conduct a recreation survey on trails that cross into a 100-acre golden-cheeked warbler study plot. This trail data collected 16 hours of data in April on 6 different trails on both weekday and weekends. Preliminary data suggests that trails at Barton Creek and Turkey Creek experience more visitation than other trails.

### **Upcoming Opportunities:**

6/13 Introduction to Barton Creek Habitat Preserve ([www.meetup.com/bcpfriends](http://www.meetup.com/bcpfriends))

6/27 Discoveries in the Canyonlands at Baker Sanctuary ([www.meetup.com/bcpfriends](http://www.meetup.com/bcpfriends))

Wild Basin is revamping their Balcones Canyonlands Preserve exhibit.

Partners are brainstorming ideas for celebrating 20 years of the BCCP in May of 2016.



# BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE

PARTNER EDUCATION OCTOBER 2014-APRIL 2015

Contributing Partners include: Travis County, City of Austin, Wild Basin St. Edwards University,  
The Nature Conservancy, Travis Audubon Society



## 69 YOUTH EDUCATION EVENTS

YOUTH EDU PARTICIPANT TOTAL:	2283
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## 38 GUIDED HIKE OFFERED

GUIDED HIKE PARTICIPANT TOTAL:	408
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## 4 BCP HIKE AND LECTURE SERIES EVENTS

FY13 HIKE AND LECTURE PARTICIPANT TOTAL:	95
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## 31 SPECIAL TOURS, NEIGHBORHOOD PRESENTATIONS OR LARGER ACTIVITIES

TOUR PARTICIPANT TOTAL:	1592
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## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

BCP gains valuable help completing tasks with the help of numerous volunteers. Tracking volunteer hours includes updates and additions after the printing of this report. The most up-to-date volunteer hours will be available in the year-end report. Volunteers work is valued at \$22.55/hr

VOLS. CONTRIBUTED 2741.5	A COST SAVINGS VALUE OF OVER \$61,820
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