



BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2017 First Quarter: October 1- December 31, 2016

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Travis Audubon, Westcave & Wild Basin

OUTREACH & EDUCATION (All Partners)

| Activity | Location | Events | Youth | Adults | Volunteer Hours |
|-----------------------------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Guided Hikes | Onsite | 101 | 315 | 901 | 289.5 |
| Programs / Presentations | Onsite | 49 | 909 | 556 | 22 |
| | Offsite | 5 | 260 | 106 | |
| Land Stewardship | Onsite | 33 | 23 | 123 | 756 |
| Ecological Monitoring | Onsite | 13 | | 43 | 107 |
| | Offsite | 1 | | 7 | 37 |
| Campouts | Onsite | 2 | 28 | 14 | 42 |
| Visiting Groups / Educators | Onsite | 16 | | 252 | |
| Administrative Help | Onsite | 1 | | 2 | 29.5 |
| Oct – Dec Total | | 221 | 1,535 | 2,004 | 1,283 |

Monetary value of volunteer work (\$25.11/hour): **\$32,216.13**

SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS (Estimated Annual Visitation)

These numbers are not included in the Outreach & Education chart above. They represent a sample of BCP areas with public access – we hope to include more complete visitation numbers in future reports.

Hamilton Pool (Travis County): 173,136

Wild Basin (St. Edward's Univ. & Travis County): 10,000+

Baker Sanctuary (Travis Audubon): 468

Westcave - BCP portion (LCRA): 6,840

HIGHLIGHTS

CITY OF AUSTIN



- With the start of Austin's new BCP Program Manager, Nico Hauwert, came a renewed focus on public education about caves. In two months, the City of Austin shared information about local karst species with over 200 participants in guided cave trips.
- City of Austin BCP staff organized a Resource Advisor training to connect wildland firefighters with biologists and land managers. These connections will promote the protection of sensitive environmental features during an emergency response.

TRAVIS AUDUBON



- Baker Sanctuary has a new brown headed cowbird trap (pictured above) thanks to Alex Massaro, who built it for his Eagle Scout project with the help of Boy Scout Troop 202.
- This quarter, Travis Audubon continued its successful Hiking Club at Whitestone Elementary in Leander. 23 fifth graders participated, getting to know the preserve in depth with regular visits over a six week period. Each student received a total of 12 hours of instruction in Central Texas ecology and geology.



BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2017 First Quarter: October 1- December 31, 2016

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Travis Audubon, Westcave & Wild Basin

TRAVIS COUNTY



- 30 community volunteers came out to help clean up the Trails End tract of the BCP, which was the site of illegal dumping for years before being acquired by the County. The volunteers made the preserve safer for wildlife and more attractive for neighborhood visitors, while also getting to know more about the BCP. (Photo by volunteer Heather Valey)
- In the first quarter of FY 2017, County volunteers removed more than 1,000 pounds of dumped trash, recyclables and scrap metal from the preserve.
- County staff presented about the BCP to 45 new homeowners in the Steiner Ranch development. Staff also provided education about wildfire prevention, oak wilt, and other important issues through articles submitted to neighborhood newsletters.

WESTCAVE



- In October, Sebastian and Jose Casarez (pictured above) purchased materials and donated their time and expertise to make improvements to the Murphy Bird Blind. They doubled the height of the old blind, painted it, added a donation box to the outside, and made a cover to conceal the water barrel.
- Feeder watch kicked off November 15th. Volunteers monitor and record bird sightings at the Murphy Bird Blind twice a week from November through April. All data is submitted by staff to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.
- Prairie restoration: Trans Union employees volunteered dispersing about 75 pounds of native forb seeds, followed later by an American Youthworks crew removing brush.



ACTIVITY DEFINITIONS

Guided Hikes

Hikes on the BCP guided by staff or volunteers; includes education about the BCP, wildlife, and land management practices.

Programs / Presentations

Presentations by staff or volunteers about the BCP and related scientific and land management topics; includes educational events and programs.

Land Stewardship

Volunteer work on the BCP that includes removing invasive species, preparing for prescribed burns, creating fuel breaks, restoring habitat, patrolling, and maintenance of grounds, trails & facilities.

Ecological Monitoring

Includes surveys of endangered species, vegetation, and nuisance species such as cowbirds, hogs and red imported fire ants.

Campouts

Campouts on the BCP, usually organized by outside groups such as the Boy Scouts.

Visiting Groups / Educators

Groups visiting or hosting an event on the BCP that was not organized by BCP staff.

Administrative Help

Volunteer help with administrative work such as office work, research, and event coordination.

Training

Volunteer training & other trainings that support the BCCP's mission. Examples include educating emergency response and infrastructure maintenance staff about protecting sensitive environmental features and complying with clearing restrictions.