

City of Austin's BCCP Activities Update: 1 April – 30 June 2017

BCCP Administration	
Infrastructure Projects	Zero Infrastructure Habitat Assessment Applications were processed and Determination Letters were issued from January – March 2017. There was an emergency pole replacement completed by Austin Energy adjacent to Vireo preserve. AT&T placed an emergency drop off of Murphin Road
Land Acquisition	No new parcels were acquired in this time period.
Reports and Events	On May 18, Austin City Council recognized Jill Harding Day for her efforts in restoring Bowie High School Cave for education since the 1990's.
Personnel	Wildlands Conservation Division hired Cait McCann as the Outreach Coordinator. The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve hired six seasonal biologists in February through May 2017 to assist with endangered species surveys, habitat restoration, and outreach/education. Wildland Conservation Division will hire a Volunteer Coordinator in 2017.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo	Conducted surveys for Golden-cheeked Warblers and Black-capped Vireos through June. Banded birds totaled 81 for Golden-cheeked Warblers and 10 Black-capped Vireos. The last documented Golden-cheeked Warbler nest fledged on June 24. The last documented Black-capped Vireo nest fledged on June 19 th , however, Black-capped Vireo monitoring is ongoing. Staff are currently entering data and will begin analyses once data entries are complete.
	On June 5, 2017, the Texas Public Policy Foundation, on behalf of the General Land Office, filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Interior over the listing of the Golden-cheeked Warbler as endangered and not designating critical habitat for this species.
Jollyville Plateau Salamander	No new activity reported for this quarter.
Bracted Twistflower	Staff coordinated and completed surveys of all known Bracted Twistflower populations on BCP. Data will be compiled and submitted to the Texas Natural Diversity Database. Twistflower habitat near the Valburn population was recognized as being at risk of disturbance by nearby construction on private property. Staff are finalizing a fact sheet for distribution to neighbors for education about this rare plant.
Karst invertebrates/ karst work	Conducted cave faunal surveys and cave cricket exit counts. (ongoing) Conducted cave excavation and restoration work at several sites. Drafted new cave maps for Little Bee Creek cave and Seibert Sink. Flint Ridge hydro study: staff from AW and WP collected water samples for multiple water quality analysis, one major goal of this study was to show that methods utilized in the past are valid. See attached update on selected BCP caves.
Plant and Animal Control	

City of Austin's BCCP Activities Update: 1 April – 30 June 2017

Feral hogs	No hogs were removed during this quarter
Red-imported fire ants and Tawny crazy ants	<p>Red Imported fire ants: staff treated multiple BCP permit caves with boiling water.</p> <p>Tawny Crazy Ants: Staff from the University of Texas at Austin, Travis County, and City BCP continue to work on the Section 6 tawny crazy ant research. Latest efforts include studying the use of a parasite (Microsporidia) that to infect TCA populations, (this parasite appears to be found in some TCA populations but not all populations)</p> <p>A new TCA infestation site was recently discovered near the intersection of RR 620 and Anderson Mill Rd which includes Travis County's Collins tract.</p>
Soft ticks/ Relapsing Fever	Helped TX State researchers and the Austin Health Department with research on relapsing fever. Activities include collecting soft ticks and allowing Texas state researchers install data loggers and cameras in COA caves.
Invasive Plants	BCP staff and volunteers are continuing efforts to remove non-native plants on COA BCP tracts.
Land Stewardship	
Habitat Restoration	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. Staff completed a fencing for a native plant nursery that is run by volunteers. 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.
Fencing	There was no fencing work completed during this quarter because of the nesting season.
Wildfire Preparedness	There was no fuels management work completed during this quarter because of the nesting season. WCD staff is planning potential shaded fuel break projects for the fall and winter.
Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	On May 2, 2017 a deer feeder and extensive tree clearing was discovered on Park West BCP Preserve inside occupied GCW habitat This appears to be associated with poaching.
Outreach/Volunteers	
See <i>BCP Partners Education Summary April - June 2017</i>	