

City of Austin's BCCP Activities
Quarter 1 Update: 1 January – 31 March 2018

BCCP Administration	
Infrastructure Projects	Three Infrastructure Habitat Assessment Applications were processed, and Determination Letters were issued from January - March 2018.
Land Acquisition	No new parcels were acquired in this time period.
Reports and Events	Submitted annual BCCP report to USFWS (https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/bccp/2017-annual-report)
Personnel	Hired 4 seasonal positions to assist with biological monitoring, management, and outreach.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo	<u>Black-capped Vireo Delisted</u> - The USFWS published its post-delisting monitoring plan for the Black-capped Vireo in the Federal Register on March 14, 2018 and allowed a 30-day public comment period. The City of Austin submitted comments on April 11, 2018. USFWS announced the delisting on April 13, the day the public comment period closed.
	Initiated Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler in March.
	The Balcones Canyonlands NWR and American Bird Conservancy are conducting point count surveys to estimate Golden-cheeked Warbler abundance across its breeding range. City of Austin has offered its intensive monitoring data for this species for comparison to determine the accuracy of the abundance predicted from the point count methods.
Jollyville Plateau Salamander	Staff continue to work on restoration of Moss gully spring. BCP continues to locate and conduct flow measurement, aquatic life surveys, and water-quality sampling of springs across the BCP on a periodic basis in hopes of locating new salamander locations.
Karst invertebrates/ karst work	<u>Bone Cave Harvestman Delisting</u> - Oral arguments on delisting the Bone Cave harvestman were presented at a federal court hearing on March 2.
	Conducted cave faunal surveys and cave cricket exit counts (ongoing). Staff finalized data entry from 2017 surveys and counts submitted to Travis County staff to merge data for annual report. Conducted cave excavation and restoration work at several sites. Locating and assessing undocumented karst features (ongoing), currently focusing on Rollingwood Karst Faunal Region. Documenting flow rates at springs (ongoing). Completed reopening filled sinkhole access into the Main Pit into Blowing Sink Cave to facilitate debris obstruction removal blocking access to lower cave levels. Cave restoration of Wade Cave reported in the 2017 State of the Environment Report.
Plant and Animal Control	
Mammals	74 deer and 19 hogs were removed by contractors and City staff this quarter.
Red-imported fire ants and Tawny crazy ants	Tawny crazy ants continue to be monitored per established protocol from Section 6 grant.
Soft ticks/ Relapsing Fever	Soft tick collection continues, including all publicly accessible guided caves. Our new standard is to survey public access caves annually. Specimens captured are delivered to Texas State researchers.

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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 continue 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 are applicable to other areas within the BCP.
Fencing	Approximately 2,700 LF of fencing was installed on Long Canyon tract boundary. Repaired 1,000 LF due to three sections with vehicle collisions.
Wildfire Preparedness	No fuel reduction treatments during this time.
Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	PARD staff, with information from BCP staff, worked with neighbors to remove most encroachments from the Barton Creek Wilderness before Austin Fire Dept. began implementation of the shaded fuel break.
Outreach/Volunteers	
<i>See BCP Partners Education Summary January - March 2018</i>	