

City of Austin's BCCP Activities
Quarter 4 Update: 1 July – 30 September 2019

BCCP Administration	
Infrastructure Projects	One Infrastructure Habitat Assessment Application was processed, and Determination Letter was issued from July - September 2019.
	On Aug 16, BCP met with TxDOT staff to discuss upcoming projects along RM 620, Loop 360, and proposed fencing on ROW at Proposed Carol Lee Preserve. Staff later hosted a meeting with TxDOT and partnering managers of Barton Creek Wilderness Park to discuss ramifications of TxDOT plans for altering Loop 360 at Walsh Tarlton Lane.
Land Acquisition /Management Agreements	AW BCP is currently negotiating a management agreement with Texas Cave Management Association for management of two BCP permit caves. Also drafting management agreements with PARD maintenance operations and LBJ Wildflower Center. BCP is continuing to work toward acquisition of Carol Lee Preserve, expected in late November.
Reports and Events	BCP staff hosted event for Austin Water executive team at Vireo Preserve Sept 27. A BCP land manager meeting was held at Westcave Preserve on July 8.
Personnel	Willow Cohn joined Wildlands Outreach Team on July 8.
Administrative	BCP agreed with PARD to reopen a pre-existing motorcycle trail at Emma Long Park. The users and Austin Ridge Riders will work to make the trail sustainable.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA) and Black-capped Vireo (BCVI)	Golden-cheeked Warbler Delisting – Following USFWS's answering brief (June 21, 2019), we have no further information on the appeal of the February 7, 2019 court ruling that upheld USFWS's decision on the 90-day finding (GCWA remains on the endangered species list).
	BCVI surveys continued into July. Avian data entry and quality control in progress. Annual report writing will begin when all data is entered and reviewed.
	Staff is collaborating with Texas A&M University to assess the genetic structure of GCWA populations across its breeding range.
	Submitted information to BirdLife International for consideration in the proposed reclassification of the BCVI on the IUCN Red List. BirdLife International is recommending downlisting the BCVI from Vulnerable to Near Threatened.
	Staff attended meetings with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to assess the BCVI and GCWA state rankings.
Jollyville Plateau Salamander	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 and other rare stygobitic life.
Karst invertebrates/ karst work	Staff continued to conduct assessments of City properties for previously unknown caves and karst features with the goal of finding potential substitution and or supplementing existing BCP permit caves, and to aid in future hydrological studies. Corridor Mobility department is contributing about \$100,000 toward a hydrogeological study along Slaughter Lane. BCP brought CTRMA contractors to LaCrosse Cave on Sept. 13 to help them design educational signs regarding cave life and the aquifer.
	Conducted cave faunal surveys and cave cricket exit counts (ongoing).

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Bracted Twistflower	Staff completed review and submitted comments to FWS on Bracted Twistflower Species Status Assessment draft.
Plant and Animal Control	
Mammals	46 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	AW BCP staff continue to monitor caves in the Austin area for soft ticks to improve public safety and study means for discouraging their habitation of caves. AW BCP staff continue to work with Texas State University, Baylor College of Medicine, Austin Health Department, and Center for Disease Control to study factors influencing habitat preference of soft ticks in the Austin area. AW BCP staff continue to monitor Bullet Cave on the Barton Creek greenbelt and Live Oak Cave in the Village of Western Oaks Karst Preserve and Watershed Management Area to make certain that the warning signs and gate (on live oak cave) are still in place.
Invasive Plants	BCP staff and volunteers are continuing efforts to remove non-native plants on COA BCP tracts. The exotic plant mapping and removal contract with Zarria Environmental is close to completion.
Oak Wilt	BCP staff began annual inspection of known oak wilt centers.
Land Stewardship	
Habitat Restoration	Staff and volunteers continue to implement demonstration projects at the Vireo Preserve to promote water retention, 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. Staff are also now expanding these efforts to other BCP preserves.
	Staff has been conducting research on oak survival and has found complete mortality of oak seedlings in full sun in late summer, and that shade is critical for oak regeneration.
	Staff published a note in the Invasive Plants Science and Management journal on using a wood decaying mushroom (turkey tail) to accelerate decomposition of invasive woody plants (privet).
Fencing	Surveyors completed marking boundaries for two fence projects to begin in FY 2020.
Wildfire Preparedness	Analysis began on future wildfire fuels mitigation needs, and projects for FY2020 were planned for the Bohls, JJ&T, and Senna Hills tracts. Maintenance of previous fuels treatments were planned for the Kent Butler tract and will be conducted after September 1, 2019.

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Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	Rangers discovered and repaired or blocked 3 new fence breaches and an unauthorized gate in the southern boundary fence of the Cortaña tract.
Outreach/Volunteers	
<p>BCP staff presented a foam simulated cave at Barton Springs University Sept 17 to demonstrate scientific data collection techniques for hydrogeological studies. BCP also assisted with a fieldtrip for a Society of Exploration Geophysics conference fieldtrip. On Aug. 22 Wildlands staff met with Watershed Protection to offer ways to support their cave education.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>See BCP Partners Education Summary July – September 2019.</i></p>	