



Policy Statement
Supporting Public Access Trails on The Balcones Canyonland Preserve
November 28, 2007

The Balcones Canyonland Preserve Plan Coordinating Committee directs:

That public access trails, where consistent with the Balcones Canyonland Preserve mission, shall be permitted within the preserve land owned and managed by City of Austin or Travis County; and

That these trails shall be implemented using the standards (for trail design, permitting, construction, operation and maintenance) established by COA Water Utility Wildlands Division or equivalent standards set by the Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Department in accord with the requirements of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan; and

That public access may include any one or combination of the following recreational activities: hiking, hiking with dogs, running, and mountain biking. The appropriate recreational activities from the list above shall be determined on a tract-by-tract basis taking into consideration the season and the risk of a taking as defined by the BCCP.

That all public access that currently exists on Travis County and City of Austin PARD/BCP "grandfathered" tracts shall continue; and

That City and County staff shall initiate, with public access stakeholder and user groups, the trail and public access master plan process they've requested, with the master plan to be completed and presented to the Coordinating Committee with suggested changes to the Land Management Guidelines and/or the BCP Land Management Plans, by no later than one year from the effective date of this resolution; and

That this master plan shall include trail and public access master plans for as many tracts within the BCP as practicable for increased access beginning in 2009. Tracts for priority review shall include the Canyon Vista, Forest Ridge and Emma Long tracts; and

Funding for acquisition of preserve habitat or species management within the preserve shall have priority over funding for recreational access within the preserve.

That in the event of a conflict between this resolution and the rest of the Balcones Canyonland Land Management Plan, the remainder of this resolution shall continue in effect while the conflict is resolved in accordance with the requirements of the Balcones Canyonland Conservation Plan.

Approved by the BCCP Coordinating Committee November 28, 2007 on a motion from Chair Wynn, second by Member Daugherty, carried 2/0.