

**Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP)
Updates for McGregor and Westcave Preserves**

**Q1 Report
October - December 2018**

McGregor Preserve

In October 2018, a wildlife survey was conducted by Plateau Land and Wildlife Management at McGregor preserve. These surveys are performed before the harvest period for white-tailed deer. The density results yielded 9.94 acres per deer. It was concluded that harvesting of white-tailed deer is not warranted at this time due to these results.

Westcave Preserve Land Management Activities

Fall programming consisted of a native grass walk, a fall bird hike, and a neighborhood round table focusing on wild fires. Other scheduled programs had to be cancelled due to the weather. In total, 34 adults attended these events.

Research consisted of FeederWatch (<https://feederwatch.org/>) and water quality testing in the grotto and at Hammetts Crossing on the Pedernales River. Data was submitted to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Colorado River Watch Network (CRWN) at <https://www.lcra.org/water/quality/colorado-river-watch-network/Pages/default.aspx>.

Hydrogeologists from Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District took water samples from the well located adjacent to the residence at Westcave. Most of the constituents analyzed measure naturally occurring materials found within the rock layers of the Trinity Aquifer. The lab results indicated that the tested constituents were within the range of concentrations expected to be found in the aquifer.

Trail maintenance was conducted on both the Uplands and Canyon trails. Boundary checks for the entire preserve were completed and the fire break on the Uplands was maintained.

Seven volunteer workdays were conducted and seventeen volunteers participated. Projects consisted of digging post holes for the new bird blind structure, trail maintenance, garden maintenance, planting and mulching, and cleaning and maintaining the man-made pond closest to the visitor center.

Westcave participated in the 2018 Christmas bird count. Staff and volunteers counted 34 species of birds. Seven volunteers participated.