

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP FY19 Quarter 4 Update: July 1 – September 30, 2019

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Ten BCCP applications were received and processed from July 1 – September 30, 2019. Eight Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$173,875.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Land Acquisition	Travis County received a donation of the 15.1 acre McNeil tract. This tract helps protect the entrances and drainage basins for two BCCP named caves: Weldon and No Rent caves.
Personnel	<p>Seasonal staff Kristen Gold, Kristen Koppel, Audrey Kuhl, Nancy Sandoval, and Ben Stubbs completed their temporary positions in August.</p> <p>Environmental Specialist, Kelsey Meisenhelder, and Natural Resources Tech, Amanda Fernandez, resigned from their positions in September.</p> <p>Max Davern started on September 16th as the Preserve Maintenance Worker Senior.</p>
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked Warblers	Golden-cheeked warblers migrated south during this period. Staff is currently analyzing survey data from the 2019 season.
Black-capped Vireos	Black-capped vireo surveys ended in September and survey data is currently being analyzed.
Karst Invertebrates	<p>Summer season faunal surveys were performed at 10 caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at seven caves.</p> <p>Cave gates were installed at the newly acquired Weldon and No Rent caves.</p> <p>At the request of West Cave Preserve management, Travis County staff conducted a karst faunal survey at Hammett's Cave. During the survey they found various troglobitic species, including <i>Texella</i>, <i>Tayshaneta</i>, and blind <i>Cicurina</i> species, none of which had been previously observed in this cave.</p> <p>With the landowner's permission, staff performed surface surveys on a ranch adjacent to the Kotrla Unit to look for karst features that could act as potential substitutions for BCCP caves that have been destroyed or cannot be protected. Several features looked promising but will require further investigation.</p>

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP FY19 Quarter 4 Update: July 1 – September 30, 2019

Jollyville Plateau Salamanders	<p>In June, staff surveyed Jollyville Plateau salamanders at three sites. At the McDonald Well site, 149 salamanders were located, 107 of which were photographed for later identification. At the Upper Ribelin site, 212 salamanders were counted, 194 of which were photographed. At the Lower Ribelin site, 131 salamanders were counted and photographed.</p> <p>In August, a researcher collected tail clips from five salamanders at Green Dragon Springs as part of a study using isotope analysis to learn more about salamander diet and what toxins they may be absorbing.</p>
Plant and Animal Control	
Feral Hogs	Fourteen hogs were removed from the Bull Creek Macrosite and Hamilton Pool Preserve.
White-tailed Deer	Staff and volunteers conducted spotlight surveys on the Kotrla Unit and Hamilton Pool Preserve, and completed camera surveys on the Jollyville Unit. Survey results provide deer density estimates to guide harvest management decisions.
Tawny Crazy Ants	Staff worked with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to film a segment for the TPWD series which airs on PBS. The segment discusses how tawny crazy ants impact cave environments and is expected to air this winter.
Invasive Plants	Invasive plants (Chinese Tallow, Fig, Nandina, Wisteria, Ligustrum sp., Chinaberry, Tree of Heaven, English ivy, Photinia, Pyracantha, Multiflora rose, Fig, Vinca, Vitex and Loquat) were treated on 16 tracts. A total of 7,918 plants were treated or removed with approximately 345 hours of staff and volunteer effort.
Land Management	
Wildfire Preparedness	Fuel mitigation was conducted along Lime Creek Road adjacent to the Wheless tract and at the Starks North Mine tract. Planning is underway for additional fuel mitigation projects that will occur this fall and winter.
Cleanups	Over the summer, seasonal staff collected enough metal trash material from around the BCP to fill a 30 cubic yard recycling bin.
Facilities	<p>An eagle scout built a chimney swift tower near the Snowden building.</p> <p>Travis County made 50 new signs to replace old signs at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve. The signs provide information to Wild Basin visitors and will be installed by St. Edwards University staff.</p>
Fence Construction	1,628 linear feet of fence was constructed on the Steiner Ranch conservation easement.

TRAVIS COUNTY’S BCCP FY19 Quarter 4 Update: July 1 – September 30, 2019

Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	<p>Two cases where tree damage had occurred on the BCP during the winter of 2019-2020 have been remediated by the offending parties; They paid restitution for the damages.</p> <p>Numerous surveillance camera photos of trespassers were taken on the Volente Unit, Woods of Greenshores, and Trails End tracts this quarter. In September, a lost trespasser on the Volente Unit was in distress when found by County contractors. He was given water and a ride off of the property. Another trespasser on Volente was given a trespassing warning by Law Enforcement. On the Trails End tract, a trespasser cut a chain and added their own lock to a gate so that they could drive an ATV on the property.</p> <p>A fence was damaged on the Lime Creek Unit in September when a vehicle struck it.</p>
Outreach/Volunteers	
See <i>BCP Partner Education Summary FY19 Fourth Quarter: June 1 – September 30, 2019</i>	