

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

**Q4 Report
July – September 2019**

McGregor Preserve

Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC) has requested a 0.0563-acre easement on LCRA's McGregor tract for the purpose of installing an electric distribution line. PEC will remove approximately 600 feet of electric line that currently crosses LCRA's McGregor tract. PEC has also stated that they will remove approximately 800 feet of an electric distribution line that currently crosses the Cypress Creek arm of Lake Travis. Removal of these lines will reduce disturbance to the McGregor tract and increase safety to Lake Travis. PEC conducted a survey on the McGregor tract on September 23, 2019. The surveyors used equipment that did not require trimming before the survey.

Plateau Environmental completed a camera wildlife survey (primarily white-tailed deer) on September 23, 2019. Cameras were deployed two weeks prior to September 23. Data analysis is scheduled to be completed around mid-October 2019.

Westcave Preserve Land Management Activities

Leif's Bird Blind is now open to the public. The official grand opening will occur on November 2, 2019. General maintenance is on-going and includes: trail inspections, trail work, tree trimming, and supplemental watering for butterfly gardens. Three volunteer workdays have been held working on bird blinds, trail, butterfly gardens and general maintenance.

Research consisted of: (1) Westcave staff and Travis County biologists conducted a cave faunal survey. Only one species was noted in the early 1960's. Twenty-five species were found during this survey. Some of the species discovered will be sent for identification. Westcave staff plans to create more habitat on the cave floor to support more fauna. (2) LCRA staff (Stephen Davis) and other local aquatic biologists conducted fish snorkel surveys and water quality testing at the grotto pool. Test results have not been received. (3) Dr. Andy Gluesenkamp, Director of Conservation for the San Antonio Zoo, conducted eDNA sampling for salamanders found at Westcave. Sampling efforts through Dr. Gluesenkamp's department are ongoing to determine whether a currently undescribed species of salamander found near Westcave is also located on the preserve. Test results have not been received. (4) Dragonfly surveys are ongoing as well as monthly water quality testing at the grotto and river.

Fall programming will be in October and include night hikes, native grass hikes, and bird hikes.