Gaines Greenbelt

2017 Annual Report

Submitted by the City of Sunset Valley

Introduction

The Gaines Greenbelt is owned and managed by the City of Sunset Valley as part of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP). The Gaines Greenbelt provides habitat for the federally endangered Golden-Cheeked Warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*, GCWA) and a portion contains a public use hike and bike trail. Sunset Valley has signed a Managing Partner Agreement with the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP), The Sunset Valley – BCCP Managing Partner Agreement adds the Sunset Valley Gaines Greenbelt to the BCP Barton Creek Macrosite. The Managing Partner Agreement was officially filed in 2014.

The Gaines Greenbelt parcel is approximately 21.9 acres located in Travis County, Texas, at the northern edge of the City of Sunset Valley. The parcel's south side borders the back lot lines of residential sites, a hotel, and a Texas Department of Transportation storm water pollution prevention facility located along US Highway 71/State Highway 290 West; east of the tract lies a larger-lot residential area; and, the remaining parcel borders the City of Austin's Barton Creek Greenbelt trail system (Appendix A).

Golden-cheeked Warbler Surveys

The City conducts surveys every two years. The next survey will be completed in 2018.

Trail Management Activities

Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) oversees the operation and maintenance of the Violet Crown Trail within the Gaines Greenbelt. HCC will generate a separate report that details all trail management activities within the area of the Violet Crown Trail.

Photo Points

Photo points were established at trail markers located within the Gaines Greenbelt. These photos will be archived by the City of Sunset Valley and used to monitor the condition of the trails and vegetation within the Gaines Greenbelt over time. Several of the photo point locations and panoramic photos have been included for reference.

Point 1 Behind Enviroplan

Start Location	30.235, -97.816
Start Landmark	Trail marker overlooking canyon
Shoot Direction	Start with back to trail marker.
View	Panoramic view of area.



Point 2 Top Switchbacks	
Start Location	30.236, -97.816
Start Landmark	Trail marker near top of switchbacks
Shoot Direction	Start with back to trail marker.
View	Panoramic view of area.



Point 3 Bottom Switchbacks	
Start Location	30.236, -97.815
Start Landmark	Trail marker near bottom of switchbacks
Shoot Direction	Start with back to trail marker.
View	Panoramic view of area.



Point 8 At Barton Creek

Start Location	30.24, -97.811
Start Landmark	Gaines and Barton Creek confluence
Shoot Direction	Start with back to trail marker.
View	Panoramic view of area.



Budget

At this time, the City does not track staff time related to open space management activities. This includes staff time related to management and monitoring activities within the Gaines Greenbelt.

Appendix A
Map of Gaines Greenbelt

