PROJECT TITLE: Documenting spatial and temporal patterns in wildlife distribution across Wild Basin

INVESTIGATORS: Dr. Amy Belaire

Objective:
Different wildlife species respond differently to environmental characteristics of the landscape and encroaching urbanization. The goal of this project is to begin documenting the long-term spatial and temporal patterns in wildlife distribution at Wild Basin.

Methods:
Thirteen motion-triggered cameras are set up on a sample grid of points spaced approximately 250m apart from each other, and SD cards from the cameras are collected every 6-8 weeks. St. Edward's University students help sort through and analyze all images collected from cameras.

Results:
Species such as white-tailed deer, bobcats, coyotes, and armadillos have been documented with the wildlife cameras. We have not yet sorted through all images and analyzed data from Fall 2015.

Project status:
Images from the cameras are still being sorted and tagged by students, and this will continue into the Spring 2016 semester. In addition, analysis of distribution and spatial/temporal patterns will take place in Spring 2016, in conjunction with upper-level students in the St. Edward's University Ecology lab. We expect to share images and findings from this project with visitors to Wild Basin and with the broader public via our website and social media.