BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 First Quarter: October 1 – December 31, 2020

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

1st Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	218	212	1459	48
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	8	350	330	
	Onsite	8	300	28	14
Land Stewardship	Onsite	119	0	64	633.5
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	17	0	13	66
Training	Offsite	5	0	214	
October-December Total		**375**	**862**	**2,108**	**761.5**

Monetary value of volunteer work ($25.10/hour): $19,113.65

*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS

Many of the publicly accessible areas of the preserve closed in March to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. These included Hamilton Pool Preserve and Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve. Both locations have re-opened for self-guided hiking with limited capacity, hours, and extended COVID safety protocols. Swimming continues to be closed at Hamilton Pool.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 First Quarter: October 1 – December 31, 2020

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

CITY OF AUSTIN





- This season was marked by adaptability from volunteers and staff. We began with masked, distanced workdays of ten people, then five. Then we switched to having volunteers work only with others from their household following health authorities' recommendations.

- And yet, newfound interest in the Preserve emerged as the Forest Restoration and City/County Wild Neighbors webinar audiences grew. Even from home, we're sharing best practices and building a community of volunteers to join us in enhancing and restoring functional ecosystems from the ground up. https://bit.ly/bcpForestRestoration

- We also introduced the Women of the Wildlands series – a collection of interviews and posts that illustrate how women have contributed to securing habitat, determined how aquifer flow conditions affect the life cycle of salamanders, and helped shape policy and management for the protection of species. This season saw interviews with biologist Laurel Moulton (above right), local geologist Sylvia Pope, and a feature on the Wild Basin founders.

BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)



- With regard to education and outreach, nothing very interesting occurred this quarter at Baker Sanctuary, thanks to the global pandemic. However, a Zoom presentation was given to three LISD 4th grade classes, composed of approximately 350 very lucky students and their teachers.

  The presentation covered central Texas ecology with an emphasis on the Golden-cheeked Warbler. Many good questions were fielded after the presentation, including which bird was my favorite, and, for those who are wondering, it is the American Robin. Who can resist that sassy bird?

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 First Quarter: October 1 – December 31, 2020

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

TRAVIS COUNTY



- The Wild Neighbors monthly webinar series continued this quarter in partnership with the City of Austin. Guest speakers discussed Dark Skies, Backyard Habitat, and Backyard Birds, and answered many attendees' questions. Recordings of the talks are available on the County BCP and City Wildlands Facebook pages, YouTube, and the Travis County website (https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/nr/videos).

- In October and November, small groups of volunteers helped remove invasive vinca from a restoration area on the Bunten tract (pictured).

- While the majority of our volunteer activities continued to be suspended this quarter to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, we continued to work with a handful of volunteers helping with essential activities including patrol and Snowden garden maintenance. All volunteers worked outside and practiced social distancing and masking protocols.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 First Quarter: October 1 – December 31, 2020

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

WILD BASIN





- Wild Basin programs for fall included Science Live! at Wild Basin, a live science webcast program for middle grades as well as a virtual science and literacy program series for early elementary grades, called Reading in the Wild in partnership with Austin ISD. All programs are free and available online on demand to all schools and families at this time.

- Land stewardship activities included trail maintenance on Thursday workdays, trail patrol, signage, invasive plant removal on Saturdays, trash cleanup, and a perimeter survey.

- Ecological monitoring included plant surveys, acoustic monitoring, and photo surveys.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 First Quarter: October 1 – December 31, 2020

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

WESTCAVE PRESERVE





- Westcave continues to operate in a limited capacity, offering private-hike experiences to our members and small-group, socially distanced hikes to the general public.

- In October, Westcave's "Howl-oween Hikes" gave members and guests a chance to night hike in our Uplands during one of the two full moons (Harvest and Hunter).

- November brought a native grass workshop and hikes with "Birdability" (dedicated to improving opportunities for mobility impaired persons to get out and bird) and Travis Audubon's "Introduction to Birding" field-experience to Westcave Preserve.

- In December, Westcave managed its zone in the annual Christmas Bird Count, adding several new tracts to this year's CBC.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 First Quarter: October 1 – December 31, 2020

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

ACTIVITY DEFINITIONS

Guided Hikes
Hikes on the BCP guided by staff or volunteers; includes education about the BCP, wildlife, and land management practices.

Programs / Presentations
Presentations by staff or volunteers about the BCP and related scientific and land management topics; includes educational events and programs.

Land Stewardship
Volunteer work on the BCP that includes removing invasive species, preparing for prescribed burns, creating fuel breaks, restoring habitat, patrolling, and maintenance of grounds, trails & facilities.

Ecological Monitoring
Includes surveys of endangered species, vegetation, and nuisance species such as cowbirds, hogs and red imported fire ants.

Campouts
Campouts on the BCP, usually organized by outside groups such as the Boy Scouts.

Visiting Groups / Educators
Groups visiting or hosting an event on the BCP that was not organized by BCP staff.

Administrative Help
Volunteer help with administrative work such as office work, research, and event coordination.

Training
Volunteer training & other trainings that support the BCCP's mission. Examples include educating emergency response and infrastructure maintenance staff about protecting sensitive environmental features and complying with clearing restrictions.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Second Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

2nd Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	221	515	1709	19.75
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	10	101	277	
	Onsite	4		13	5
Land Stewardship	Onsite	92	35	116	666.5
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	46	0	68	387
Training	Offsite	2	0	158	
January-March Total		**375**	**651**	**2,341**	**1,078.25**

Monetary value of volunteer work ($25.10/hour): $27,064.08

*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS

Many of the publicly accessible areas of the preserve closed in March to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. These included Hamilton Pool Preserve and Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve. Both locations have re-opened for self-guided hiking with limited capacity, hours, and extended COVID safety protocols. Swimming continues to be closed at Hamilton Pool.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Second Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

CITY OF AUSTIN



- In January, we completed our virtual BCP Forest Restoration training series. 210 people joined us across 7 webinars to learn about the BCP and forest restoration concepts, including tree identification and care, invasive species removal, soil biology, and mycology. A few webinar attendees who had not volunteered on the BCP before have already come out to practice what they learned as volunteers on the Vireo Preserve. Episodes can be viewed on the Austin Water Wildland Conservation YouTube channel.

- Golden-cheeked Warbler resighting volunteers were eager to return to survey warblers this spring after an interrupted season in 2020. 65 volunteers are helping biologists monitor warbler populations across City and County BCP properties from March 21-May 25 (photo above by volunteer Lori Malloy).

- We've continued to engage people through our social media channels. We featured a new series called "Plant This, Not That" to share native alternatives to popular invasive landscape plants, and returned with our #WarblerWednesday series to share information and raise awareness about Golden-cheeked Warblers.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Second Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)

Baker Sanctuary hosted two Eagle Scout projects over the last several months. The first was led by Nicholas Wang who installed two trail benches with the help of Troop 70.

The second was led by Carter Corley who erected a Chimney Swift Tower with the help of Troop 202 (pictured right). Many thanks to the Boy Scouts and their willingness to perform heavy labor in masks!



Beginning on March 17, volunteers began to brave the ice-storm ravaged North Valley to survey for the ever elusive Golden-cheeked Warbler. This will be the first season this area has been formally surveyed utilizing color-banded individuals. Survey efforts will continue on a weekly basis through mid-June.

Finally, a total of four Zoom presentations were given to the students of St. Michael's Catholic Academy, St. Edward's University, Ann Richard's School, as well as the membership of Travis Audubon. Presentations covered the natural history of the Golden-cheeked Warbler, habitat management, non-native invasive plants, and the Blair Woods Sanctuary.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Second Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

TRAVIS COUNTY





- The Wild Neighbors monthly webinar series continued this quarter in partnership with the City of Austin. Guest speakers discussed the Natural History of Armadillos and Animal Tracks & Signs with 193 attendees. Recordings of the talks are available on the County BCP and City Wildlands Facebook pages, YouTube, and the Travis County website (https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/nr/videos).

- In February and March, volunteers spent numerous hours maintaining outreach trails around the preserve after the winter storms and removing invasive vinca (pictured left).

- Ames Nicolas built for building a new 8 ft chimney swift tower at the Snowden Tract for his Eagle Scout project (pictured right). It was a great success and we look forward to the swifts' return.

- Finally, we gave three virtual BCP 101 Presentations to area high schools. A total of 71 students from Jarrell, Stoney Point, and Hendrickson High Schools participated.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Second Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

WILD BASIN







- Preserve stewardship volunteers rallied in late February to clean up many downed limbs and trees after the unprecedented snow and ice (pictured right). Other activities included trail maintenance on Thursday workdays, trail patrol, signage repair, invasive plant removal on Saturdays, trash cleanup, and a perimeter survey.

- Wild Basin programs for early spring include a virtual science and literacy program series for early elementary grades, called *Reading in the Wild* in partnership with Austin ISD. All programs are free and available online on-demand to all schools and families at this time.

- Student interns worked on a plant survey project this semester (pictured left). Other ecological monitoring included continuing research projects with photo points and acoustic monitoring.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Second Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

WESTCAVE PRESERVE



Westcave, like so many others, weathered the snow-apocalypse of February in stride. The preserve was closed for many days in a row due to icy roads and very hazardous conditions. Once staff was able to brave the roads they were treated to unreal icicles and 'cave-cicles' like none have ever seen. Some icicles were well over 30 feet long.



BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Second Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

ACTIVITY DEFINITIONS

Guided Hikes
Hikes on the BCP guided by staff or volunteers; includes education about the BCP, wildlife, and land management practices.

Programs / Presentations
Presentations by staff or volunteers about the BCP and related scientific and land management topics; includes educational events and programs.

Land Stewardship
Volunteer work on the BCP that includes removing invasive species, preparing for prescribed burns, creating fuel breaks, restoring habitat, patrolling, and maintenance of grounds, trails & facilities.

Ecological Monitoring
Includes surveys of endangered species, vegetation, and nuisance species such as cowbirds, hogs and red imported fire ants.

Campouts
Campouts on the BCP, usually organized by outside groups such as the Boy Scouts.

Visiting Groups / Educators
Groups visiting or hosting an event on the BCP that was not organized by BCP staff.

Administrative Help
Volunteer help with administrative work such as office work, research, and event coordination.

Training
Volunteer training & other trainings that support the BCCP's mission. Examples include educating emergency response and infrastructure maintenance staff about protecting sensitive environmental features and complying with clearing restrictions.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

3rd Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	301	723	1306	74
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	11	270	258	
	Onsite	6	591	44	2
Visiting Group/Educators	Onsite	1	0	33	
Land Stewardship	Onsite	110	39	476	1378.75
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	106	0	63	316.44
Administration	Onsite	3	0	2	14
April-June Total		**538**	**1,623**	**2,182**	**1,873.19**

Monetary value of volunteer work ($25.10/hour): $44,808.27

*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS

Many of the publicly accessible areas of the preserve closed in March to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. These included Hamilton Pool Preserve and Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve. Both locations have since re-opened, though swimming continues to be closed at Hamilton Pool due to falling rocks.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

CITY OF AUSTIN





- On the City of Austin's Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, staff spent many hours and days at the JJT ("Double J and T") tract (pictured above left), preparing the berm and swale restoration area for the return of regular volunteer groups. With a rainwater catchment system in place, a nascent native plant nursery, and stage-based COVID protocols, the BCP will welcome volunteers to new public workdays at JJT in July. Many thanks to the staff and volunteer corps that, along with the rains, kept hundreds of native trees and plants thriving in the meantime.

- This quarter also saw volunteers conducting bracted twistflower surveys at Mt. Bonnell and the Barton Creek Greenbelt. Austin Cave Day celebrations in June included a citywide proclamation and an exhibition of cave life paintings in the Texas Capitol during the busy legislative session. Online, we saw public interest in the #WarblerWednesday series of posts and the return of Black Birders Week (pictured above right).

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)





- Casey Ryan, with help from family and Troop 271, constructed a new Chimney Swift tower as part of his Eagle Scout project (pictured above left). He was the first to utilize the new and improved guide for eight-foot towers and did a fabulous job. Chimney Swifts were most certainly eyeballing his work as they went about their ceaseless chasing and chittering and it is quite possible that he got it completed in time to potentially host a nest; time will tell. Not to be outdone, Justin McNabb, with help from Troop 202, constructed and delivered two beautiful eight-foot-long picnic tables to Baker as part of his Eagle Scout Project (pictured above right). Assuming the pandemic ends at some point, they will certainly enhance outreach efforts with their beckoning benches and tantalizing tabletops.

- Four Golden-cheeked Warbler and central Texas Ecology presentations were given to various elementary schools in Leander ISD. Students were regaled with the many wonders that can be found in such subjects. Hopefully the upcoming school year will see fewer Zoom versions and more in-person interaction.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

TRAVIS COUNTY



- The Wild Neighbors monthly webinar series continued this quarter in partnership with the City of Austin featuring presentations on Managing Mosquitos, Golden-cheeked Warblers and Black-capped Vireos, and Snakes of Central Texas. Recordings of the talks are available on the County BCP and City Wildlands Facebook pages, YouTube, and the Travis County website (https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/nr/videos).

- In April, we participated in the Lake Travis Cleanup-Spring Clean Downstream event. As part of the watershed-wide event, volunteers contributed 62.5 hours at two BCP locations picking up trash and pulling invasive plants.

- Following the heavy rains in late April, we hosted members of the Central Texas Mycological Society (pictured above) for a Mycology Bioblitz in early May. The group found many different species of fungus, and learned a lot about mycology, and got a fun introduction to the preserve.

- Finally, our spring migration bird-strike monitoring at the future BCP headquarters building took place throughout April and May. The volunteers completed over 42 hours of survey time and collected a ton of useful data.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

WILD BASIN



- Stewardship volunteers worked to maintain the preserve with regular Thursday trail workdays and Saturday invasive removal workdays. Volunteers also helped with signage repair, trash cleanups, and creating a new native plant garden at the Visitor Center.

- Wild Basin programs for late spring included a virtual science series for middle grades called *Science Live! at Wild Basin* in partnership with area public and private schools. And a new public webinar program, *Naturalist Neighbors,* encouraged the promotion of sustainable natural landscapes near the preserve.

- Ecological monitoring included continued water quality monitoring, a plant survey project, and a perimeter survey.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

WESTCAVE PRESERVE



We are excited to introduce Lindsay Loftin, Westcave's new Environmental Education Programs Manager (pictured above). Lindsay is preparing to host field trips to the preserve for the first time since the winter of 2020, re-open Westcave's Environmental Learning Center, and create new programs to spark curiosity and passion for conservation. As staff prepare for the annual Celebration of Children in Nature, currently set for October 24, 2021, we are increasingly engaging higher levels of visitation. On average, 600 visitors participate in educational tours at Westcave each week.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

ACTIVITY DEFINITIONS

Guided Hikes
Hikes on the BCP guided by staff or volunteers; includes education about the BCP, wildlife, and land management practices.

Programs / Presentations
Presentations by staff or volunteers about the BCP and related scientific and land management topics; includes educational events and programs.

Land Stewardship
Volunteer work on the BCP that includes removing invasive species, preparing for prescribed burns, creating fuel breaks, restoring habitat, patrolling, and maintenance of grounds, trails & facilities.

Ecological Monitoring
Includes surveys of endangered species, vegetation, and nuisance species such as cowbirds, hogs and red imported fire ants.

Campouts
Campouts on the BCP, usually organized by outside groups such as the Boy Scouts.

Visiting Groups / Educators
Groups visiting or hosting an event on the BCP that was not organized by BCP staff.

Administrative Help
Volunteer help with administrative work such as office work, research, and event coordination.

Training
Volunteer training & other trainings that support the BCCP's mission. Examples include educating emergency response and infrastructure maintenance staff about protecting sensitive environmental features and complying with clearing restrictions.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Fourth Quarter: July 1 – September 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

4th Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	313	614	2737	85.5
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	16	38	451	2
	Onsite	3	9	11	
Visiting Group/Educators	Onsite	9	8	107	
Land Stewardship	Onsite	111	62	395	1397.75
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	77		51	187.50
Administration	Onsite	7			18.75
July-September Total		**529**	**731**	**3,752**	**1,691.50**

Monetary value of volunteer work ($26.43/hour): $44,706.35

*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

ANNUAL SUMMARY: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	1032	2062	8270	153.25
Programs / Presentations	Onsite	23	900	96	21
	Offsite	47	759	1413	16.5
Land Stewardship	Onsite	452	139	1096	4439.25
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	266	6	239	1102.25
Visiting Groups / Educators	Onsite	10	8	140	
Training	Offsite	7	0	372	
Administration	Onsite	10		2	40.75
Oct 2020 – Sept 2021 Total		**1847**	**3874**	**11628**	**5773**

Monetary value of volunteer work ($26.43/hour): **$152,580.39**

*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS

These numbers are not included in the Outreach & Education chart above. They represent a sample of BCP areas with public access – we hope to include more complete visitation numbers in future reports.

Hamilton Pool: 30,000+
Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve: 8,906
Baker Sanctuary: 558

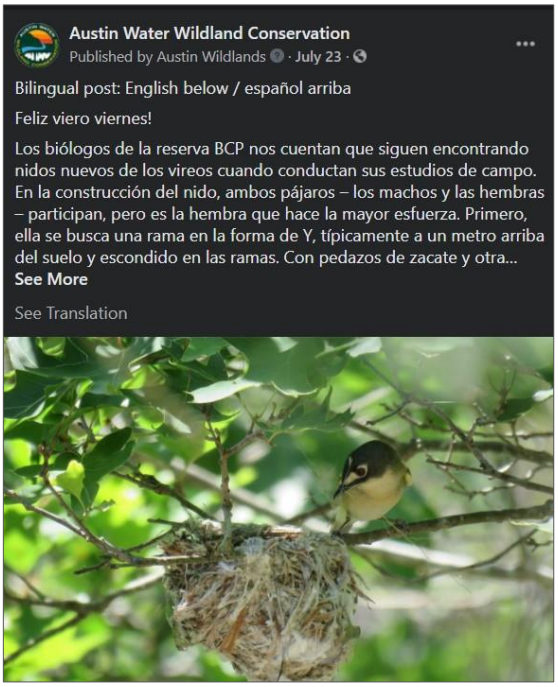
BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Fourth Quarter: July 1 – September 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

CITY OF AUSTIN





- We celebrated the Lights Out for Birds resolutions and Deep in the Karst of Texas education campaigns this season, talked to neighbors and the public about Tawny Crazy Ants, cave invertebrates, and native trees with our Wild Neighbors webinar series in conjunction with County partners, and missed time with volunteers when COVID Stage 5 necessitated group limitations. The bilingual #VireoViernes series featuring biologists' field stories about Black-capped Vireos were a hit on social media on Fridays throughout the season (pictured above right).

- The berms and swales on the JJT ("Double J and T") tract of Austin's Balcones Canyonlands Preserve are alive! Despite COVID limitations to volunteering, Jim O'Donnell led a few staff in the effort to keep forest restoration areas on the degraded hillside watered and thriving through the end of the summer. This award-winning reforestation effort on this tract as well as Vireo tract were recognized by the EPA (pictured above left)!

BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)





A plethora of Eagle Scout projects were completed at Baker Sanctuary this quarter: Andrew McMeans (Troop 202) and Wyatt Deviney (Troop 70) each constructed a Chimney Swift Tower to add to our growing collection (pictured above left). Matthew Chater (Troop 271) contributed two new picnic tables (pictured below right) while Hunter Ryan (Troop 271) installed four new trail benches (pictured below left). Many thanks to these young men and their parents for their contributions!





BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Fourth Quarter: July 1 – September 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

TRAVIS COUNTY





- The Wild Neighbors monthly webinar series continued this quarter in partnership with the City of Austin, featuring presentations on Cave Life with City of Austin BCP Biologist Colin Strickland and Planting Native Trees with Andreina Alexatos from TreeFolks. Recordings of the talks are available on the County BCP and City Wildlands Facebook pages, YouTube, and the Travis County website (https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/nr/videos).

- The Balcones Canyonlands Master Naturalist workdays that began in Q3 2021 continued in Q4 with over 60 volunteer hours spent removing invasive plant species (pictured above left) and planting native plants at our Snowden and Bunten Tracts on the 2nd Sunday and 4th Saturday of each month.

- Live Fuel Moisture Monitoring began at four Travis county BCP sites in July 2021. This data is collected to aid Fire Managers throughout Central Texas by monitoring the volatility of Ashe Juniper, which is a species of interest to local Fire Managers. Samples are collected in the field and dried in a laboratory oven to determine moisture content (pictured above right).

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Fourth Quarter: July 1 – September 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

WILD BASIN





- Texas State University (TSU) Wildlife Society attended a guided hike and completed a service project removing invasive species (pictured above left).
- Darren Proppe, Wild Basin Creative Research Center (WBCRC) Research Director, attended a TSU Wildlife Society meeting in San Marcos and presented on the BCP and Wild Basin history, land management, and current research.
- ACC Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society helped procure sensory garden elements from the preserve and removed invasive species (pictured above right).
- "Naturalist Neighbors: Dark Skies – Why it's Right to Turn Down the Lights" took place on Zoom and was recorded.
- WBCRC Research Director conducted an ecology and Songbird Communication workshop as part of the Freshman Advanced Research Methods program.
- Regular Saturday and Thursday workdays took place and focused mainly on trail maintenance, sensory garden construction, and invasive species removal.
- Volunteers were engaged in helping review camera trap images for wildlife and people.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Fourth Quarter: July 1 – September 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

WESTCAVE PRESERVE

- Westcave's environmental education programs have been fully re-engaged over the last month for the first time since early 2020. In September alone we have hosted over 800 adult guests to the grotto area and 137 children on our public tours and 19 people on our private tours. Westcave staff additionally attended a tabling event at the Austin Zoo, where we engaged over 100 homeschool families with a bird watching activity and information about the Golden-Cheeked Warbler (pictured above).



- Westcave has also seen a dramatic increase in volunteer engagement. Our education manager has trained over 11 new education program volunteers to help with the front desk and lead public tours. Over 60 volunteer hours were logged in the last month for the education programs on the preserve. Also, our new UTeach intern started his semester of student teaching with Westcave. He will be focusing on giving weekend tours and helping create the virtual lesson plans we can offer schools for asynchronous learning this winter and spring.

- A volunteer, who is also a member of Westcave and attended a grotto tour, is helping collaboratively create a new Tree Identification Hike series in partnership with TreeFolks. After doing a site visit to support us in identifying the trees of the grotto trail, TreeFolk's education specialist Colin McMichael has agreed to become an education volunteer at Westcave as well. He will be a fantastic resource for tours, and Lindsay is really excited to have him on board.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2021 Fourth Quarter: July 1 – September 30, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

ACTIVITY DEFINITIONS

Guided Hikes
Hikes on the BCP guided by staff or volunteers; includes education about the BCP, wildlife, and land management practices.

Programs / Presentations
Presentations by staff or volunteers about the BCP and related scientific and land management topics; includes educational events and programs.

Land Stewardship
Volunteer work on the BCP that includes removing invasive species, preparing for prescribed burns, creating fuel breaks, restoring habitat, patrolling, and maintenance of grounds, trails & facilities.

Ecological Monitoring
Includes surveys of endangered species, vegetation, and nuisance species such as cowbirds, hogs and red imported fire ants.

Campouts
Campouts on the BCP, usually organized by outside groups such as the Boy Scouts.

Visiting Groups / Educators
Groups visiting or hosting an event on the BCP that was not organized by BCP staff.

Administrative Help
Volunteer help with administrative work such as office work, research, and event coordination.

Training
Volunteer training & other trainings that support the BCCP's mission. Examples include educating emergency response and infrastructure maintenance staff about protecting sensitive environmental features and complying with clearing restrictions.