SUNSET VALLEY

# Gaines Greenbelt
# 2021 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 stormwater 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 of Sunset Valley conducts Golden Cheeked Warbler Surveys every two years. The next survey will be conducted in 2022.

**Trail Management Activities**

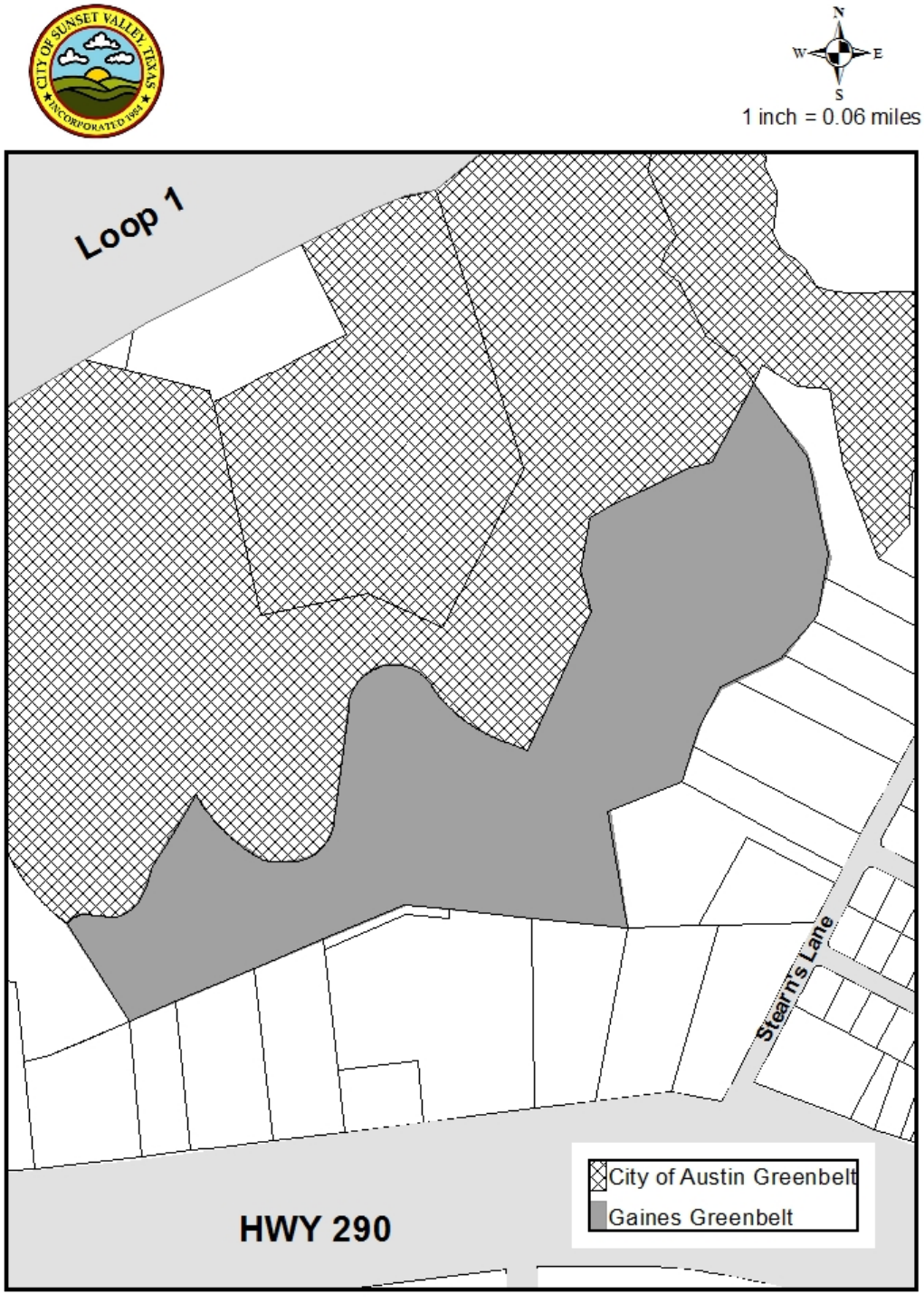
Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) oversees the operation and maintenance of the Violet Crown Trail within the Gaines Greenbelt. HCC will generate a separate report that details all trail management activities within the area of the Violet Crown Trail. The City routinely checks the trail for hazards and other concerns.

The City of Sunset Valley utilized American Youthworks to remove invasives species along the trail corridor in 2021. This worked occurred in early February 2021 prior to the return of the warblers.

**Budget**

The budget for the Gaines Greenbelt is attached in Appendix B. Budgetary expenditures only reflect the cost of consultants. The City of Sunset Valley does not track staff time in regard to open space management.

**Appendix A**
**Map of Gaines Greenbelt**



## Appendix B

| Project/Program | Cost |
|---|---|
| Invasive Species Removal | $6,000.00 |
| Total | $6,000.00 |