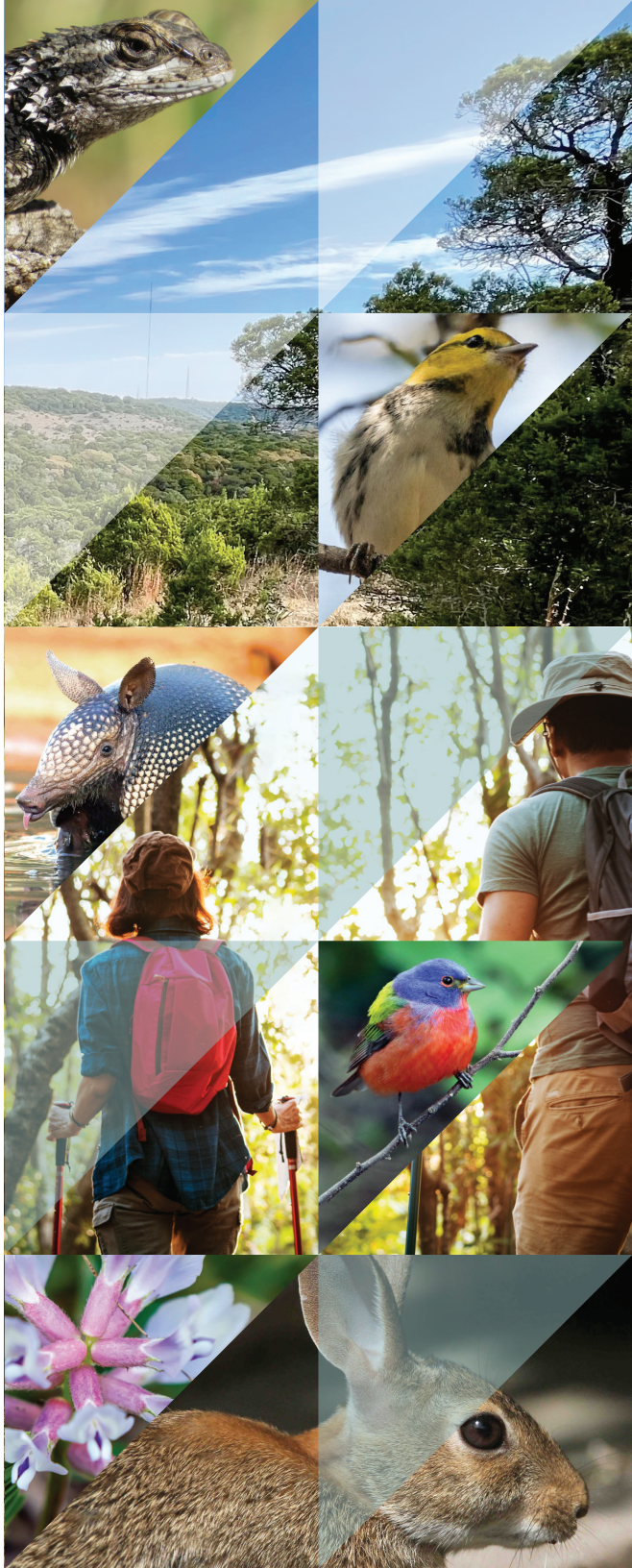


Living near the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve

Travis County, Texas



The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) is one of the nation's largest urban preserves, covering about 50 square miles in western Travis County. It was created to protect irreplaceable endangered species habitat while supporting the growing Central Texas economy. A historic 1996 agreement between the US Fish & Wildlife Service and local government allowed most of the endangered species habitat in western Travis County to be developed in exchange for creating the 33,000+ acre BCP.

Decades later, the preserve's forest-covered hills continue to help as only nature can—by cleaning the water and air, providing habitat for wildlife, helping prevent floods, and giving us all a refuge away from the hustle and bustle. So get to know this amazing urban preserve system, right here in the heart of it all. Learn about public trails, guided hikes, volunteer opportunities and more inside.



The golden-cheeked warbler is one of the endangered species the BCP was created to protect. It's the only bird that nests exclusively in Texas, so every one is a native Texan.



Visiting the BCP

There are a number of ways to visit the preserve, including some popular destinations like Hamilton Pool and Wild Basin. Much of the BCP does not have public access, so check our interactive map before planning a visit traviscountytx.gov/bcpmap.

You can also visit some special spots by joining a guided hike or volunteering. Find your next BCP adventure on our calendar at traviscountytx.gov/bcpevents.





Bringing Nature Home

Want to see more birds and butterflies in your yard or your neighborhood? With a few simple changes, you can enjoy more life and beauty close to home. You'll be amazed how quickly you'll see a difference.

TOP 3 TIPS:

1. Plant Texas natives and remove any existing invasive plants like nandina or ligustrum.
2. Avoid using pesticides, herbicides, or rodenticides unless necessary.
3. Leave non-essential lights off at night.

Follow these steps give wildlife a helping hand. With all of today's challenges, from climate change to invasive species, our local ecosystems needs all the help they can get. You are a key part of the solution, and the benefits will extend far beyond your property. Check out our Wild Neighbors webinar series to learn more. Watch BCP social media for upcoming webinars or find recordings at traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr/videos.





Neighbor Resources

Western Travis County is a beautiful place to live and work, with its rolling green hills, open water, and majestic trees. But as anyone who lives here knows, living with nature can come with special challenges and rules. We've put together a resource for BCP neighbors covering important issues like wildfire and oak wilt. Check it out at traviscountytx.gov/tnr/nr/bcp/neighbors.

Please keep in mind that it is illegal to trespass, cut vegetation, or dump any materials on the BCP, including landscaping debris. If you have any questions or would like to report illegal activity on the BCP, please contact us at BCCP@traviscountytx.gov. In an emergency, always call **911** first.

Thank you for being our partner in keeping Western Travis County safe and beautiful!



Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Partners

The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) was created through a community-led process and continues to be managed by a diverse group of partners. About 80% of the preserve system is managed by Travis County or the City of Austin. The other 20% is managed by public and private entities, including:

- The Nature Conservancy
- Lower Colorado River Authority
- Travis Audubon Society
- Concordia University Texas
- St. Edward's University
- Westcave Preserve
- City of Sunset Valley
- Private Landowners

The Travis County Natural Resources Program manages the County's preserve lands.

For more information, visit our website at

traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/nr.



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PHOTOS: Melody Lytle (golden-cheeked warbler: side view), Russell Hughes (drone shot), Julia Land (lizard), Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve (landscape), Tom Hausler (rabbit, flower, golden-cheeked warbler: front view, purple flower), Stephen Sinclair (armadillo, painted bunting), Heather Valey (Hamilton Pool), Johanna Arendt (volunteers), Jennifer Leigh Warner (rock squirrel), Paul Fushille (nestlings).

The mature juniper-oak woodlands of the BCP are essential to the endangered golden-cheeked warbler and many other species.