Annual Report for Barton Creek Habitat Preserve 2009
The Nature Conservancy of Texas
January 1st 2009-December 31st 2009

Science / Stewardship

Annual surveys (point count) were completed for the black-capped vireo (BCV) and golden-cheeked warblers (GCW) to determine population densities. Texas A&M University conducted transects surveys in a study to determine the impact of future expansion/construction of Hwy 71 on the GCWs. They noted approximately 80 GCW territories and three BCV territories were found, one other BCV was heard in a new location on the preserve but not found again. Only one male BCV was documented for the 2008 season.

Brown-headed cowbirds are being removed from the preserve through shooting.

Hunting is being conducted on the preserve as in previous years, preserve staff and TPWD public lands lottery hunters are helping to control the population of white-tailed deer in an effort to reduce browse and increase recruitment of Texas Oaks.

Austin Youth River Watch continues to monitor water quality in Barton Creek; results have not found any anomalies.

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has continued to collect seeds for the Millennium Seed Bank Project.

Although no prescribed fires have occurred on the preserve in 2009, four units totaling approximately 300 acres are ready to be completed during the winter season.

Education/Outreach/Volunteers

Numerous groups have used the preserve for conservation education, and volunteer projects. Two Eagle Scout projects built boardwalks over uneven terrain to improve walking access from the parking lot to the pavilion. During 2009, we had approximately 706 visitors on the preserve for volunteer, educational, and research purposes.