BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Fifteen BCCP applications were received and processed from Oct 1st – Dec 31st, 2020. Seven Participation Certificates were issued for a total of $15,750.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Land Acquisition	The County acquired ownership of 9.8 acres of land underlying the Greenshores conservation easement. The conservation easement was already being managed as part of the BCP, so no new acreage was added.
Personnel	Katie Hallberg was hired as the Natural Resources grants and contract administrator in November 2020.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked warblers and Black-capped vireos	Staff completed entering and analyzing data from the 2020 golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo survey seasons. Staff and contractors conducted vegetation management to improve 27 acres of existing black-capped vireo habitat and to create two acres of new vireo habitat on the Jollyville Unit; A fire lane was created on the Kotrla Unit in preparation for a prescribed burn to improve vireo habitat.
Karst Invertebrates	Fall season faunal surveys were performed at six caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at four caves. Zara Environmental was contracted to restore the openings of Kretschmarr and Gallifer caves to their original condition and install new cave gates. The new gates are more bat-friendly and provide a safer entrance for staff (see photos).
Plant and Animal Control	
Feral Hogs	Staff and contractors removed 29 hogs from the Kotrla Unit, the Sam Hamilton East tract, and the Canyon Vista tract.
White-tailed deer	Seventy-nine deer were harvested by contractors on the Kotrla Unit, the Jollyville Unit, and the Webb, Medway, and Volente tracts.
Tawny crazy ants and Red imported fire ants	Research conducted by the University of Texas found that the densities of tawny crazy ants on the Collins tract declined significantly in 2020 and native ants are rebounding. The presence of a microsporidian pathogen may account for the overall reduction in density. Red imported fire ant surveys were conducted at four caves but treatment was not performed due to weather and COVID-19 constraints.
Invasive Plants	Staff, volunteers, and contractors removed more than 27,000 invasive plants from five BCP tracts.

Land Stewardship	
Fence Construction	New boundary fence construction occurred on the Woods of Greenshores conservation easement and the Webb tract. Seven new gates were installed within existing fence on the Steiner Ranch conservation easement to improve access for patrolling and management.
Wildfire Preparedness	Fuel mitigation projects were completed on the BCP in the Wildlife-Urban Interface at Molberg, Woods of Greenshores, Vista Point, and SAS tracts. Maintenance of the existing shaded fuel break was completed on the Canyon Vista tract.
Utility Infrastructure Corridor	Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC) and LCRA conducted inspections and trimmed vegetation along some of their transmission and distribution lines that cross through Travis County BCP land. Preparations were made by PEC to replace some utility poles in the Cypress Creek Macrosite.
Buildings	Plans for the Travis County BCP Visitor Center were delayed while key staff refocused on COVID-19 planning. A Scope of Services was developed to hire a design team for architect, landscape architect, engineering, and interpretive design services. The contractor will work with Natural Resources staff, county architects, and engineers to design the center. The Snowden House is currently under renovation.
Conservation Easements	During this quarter, staff conducted annual conservation easement monitoring at two privately-owned properties managed by Travis County through conservation easement agreements. One property was in compliance with the easement agreement; the other had a tree cutting violation which is being investigated.
Law Enforcement	
	Three new incidents of tree cutting on the BCP were documented and are being investigated. Two incidents of criminal mischief occurred this quarter. A gate was removed from its hinges on the Vista Point tract to allow vehicle access. A deer feeder was vandalized on the Webb tract.
Outreach/Volunteers	
See *BCP Partner Education Summary FY2021 First Quarter: October 1 – December 31, 2020*	





Gallifer cave before (top photo) and after (bottom photo) the entrance was renovated and a new cave gate was installed.

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Sixteen BCCP applications were received and processed from January 1st – March 31st, 2021. Nine Participation Certificates were issued for a total of $324,425.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Personnel	Three seasonal Natural Resources Techs were hired in March: Analilly Lopez, Kaitlin Lopez, and Rebecca Woodward. They will assist with bird surveys and other duties during the spring and summer.
BCCP Annual Report	The FY2020 BCCP Annual Report was submitted to the USFWS in January. It can be viewed at: https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/nr/2020-annual-report.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked warblers	The first golden-cheeked warbler spring arrival on the BCP was observed on March 5th. Surveys started in mid-March.
Karst Invertebrates	Winter season faunal surveys were performed at seven caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at six caves. Staff conducted surveys and collected specimens at SW-3 (Poison Ivy Pit) for *Batrisodes reyesi* and at Tooth, Amber, and Gallifer Caves for *Texamaurops reddelli* for a genetics study funded by the USFWS.
Jollyville Plateau salamanders	City and County staff conducted Jollyville Plateau salamander occupancy surveys on Bull and West Bull creeks, including the mainstem of Bull Creek.
Rare Plants	A new colony of Texabama croton was documented on the Trails End tract. Texabama croton is a BCCP-listed Species of Concern.
Plant and Animal Control	
Feral Hogs	Staff and contractors removed three hogs from the Webb tract and the Seven 05 tract.
White-tailed deer	Nine deer were harvested by contractors on the Volente tract and at Hamilton Pool Preserve.
Tawny crazy ants and Red imported fire ants	Staff completed two rounds of canopy arthropod surveys as part of a study looking at the impact of tawny crazy ants on golden-cheeked warblers. Red imported fire ant surveys and treatments were conducted at six BCCP-listed caves.

Invasive Plants	Staff, volunteers, and contractors hand-pulled or treated more than 7,600 invasive plants from five BCP tracts.
Land Stewardship	
Habitat Restoration	Staff, contractors, and volunteers planted 78 plants representing 15 species in the restoration areas on the Bunten tract. Contractors planted 30 native trees in open areas on the Cuevas tract near Kretschmarr Cave. Work began on the Woods of Greenshores tract to restore a disturbed area currently dominated by *baccharis* back to woodland habitat. The *baccharis* plants were cut and treated and native trees will be planted in the fall. Contractors conducted vegetation management on approximately 8 acres of the Lake Travis Bluffs tract to improve black-capped vireo habitat.
Oak Wilt	An oak wilt center on the Steiner Ranch conservation easement was trenched to prevent the further spread of oak wilt. The oak wilt center also covered parts of the City of Austin's Cortaña tract and the Steiner Ranch Homeowners Association greenbelt and it was a collaborative effort to trench the entire center.
Roads and Trails	The week-long February winter storm caused significant tree damage. Considerable staff time was required before the warbler nesting season began in March to remove the uprooted trees and broken limbs that fell on BCP fences, roads, and trails.
Fence Construction	New boundary fence was constructed on the SAS and Woods of Greenshores tracts. A new pedestrian gate was installed in the boundary fence at Wild Basin Preserve. Fence repairs were made at multiple locations where trees had fallen during the winter storm and caused damage.
Wildfire Preparedness	Fuel mitigation projects were completed on the BCP in the Wildlife-Urban Interface along the following tracts: Grandview Hills, Vista Point, Lake Perspectives, Mollberg, Romberg, SAS, and Woods of Greenshores. Shaded fuel break maintenance was completed at the Canyon Vista tract.
Utility Infrastructure Corridor	LCRA trimmed vegetation along some of their transmission lines that cross through Travis County BCP land. PEC replaced six old utility poles with new poles on the Cypress Creek Unit.

Buildings	A Scope of Services was submitted to Purchasing for issuance of an RFQ to hire a design team for architect, landscape architect, engineering, and interpretive design services for the BCP Building/Visitor Center. The selected contractor will work with County architects, Natural Resources staff, and TNR engineers to design indoor and outdoor facilities. The Snowden House is currently under renovation. The February winter storm damaged a well pump and some pipes which left the Snowden House without water until repairs were made. Water was also lost at the Field Office when an electric cable to the well pump house was damaged by the storm and had to be replaced.
Conservation Easements	During this quarter, staff conducted annual conservation easement monitoring at 11 privately-owned properties managed by Travis County through conservation easement agreements. Greenshores and Woods of Greenshores had several trees die due to construction on the underground wastewater line. A restoration plan was developed that will be implemented in the fall to mitigate the damage.
Patrol and Law Enforcement	
Vegetation Damage and Trespass	Two new incidents of tree cutting on Travis County BCP tracts were documented and are being investigated. Settlement agreements were reached on one previous tree cutting case and one encroachment case. A fence was cut on the Woods of Greenshores tract to provide pedestrian access. Unauthorized vehicle access occurred when a fence was cut on the Kotrla Unit and two locks were cut on the Trails End tract. There were three encounters with trespassers and additional photos of trespassers were taken by surveillance cameras. One incident of dumping occurred on the Lime Creek Ranch tract.
Outreach/Volunteers	
See *BCP Partner Education Summary Second Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2021*	



A giant rock saw was used to trench around an oak wilt center found on the Steiner Ranch conservation easement, as well as the City of Austin's Cortaña tract and the Steiner Ranch Homeowner Association's greenbelt. Trenching cuts off root contact between infected and uninfected trees to prevent further spread of the disease.



Many uprooted trees and broken limbs caused by the February winter storm needed to be cleared from BCP fences, roadways, and trails.

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY2021 Quarter 3 Update: 1 April 2021 – 30 June 2021

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Twelve BCCP applications were received and processed from April 1st – June 30th, 2021. Two Participation Certificates were issued for a total of $160,875.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Personnel	Seasonal Natural Resources Techs, Kaitlin Lopez and Rebecca Woodward, resigned in June after accepting permanent positions. Mickey Leland intern Madison Ebest began her summer position in June.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked warblers	Golden-cheeked warbler enumeration surveys and band resighting concluded by the end of May and intensive plot surveys concluded on June 15.
Black-capped vireos	Black-capped vireo surveys began in April and will continue through the summer.
Karst invertebrates	Spring season faunal surveys were performed at five BCCP-listed caves, one potential substitution cave on the Scott & White tract, and a recently discovered cave on the Paladino tract. Spring season cave cricket exit counts were performed at four BCCP-listed caves. Samples of karst invertebrates were sent off to experts for identification and genetics study. One identification resulted in a new confirmed locality for *Texella reddelli* at Hammett's Cave at Westcave Preserve.
Jollyville Plateau salamanders	City and County staff completed Jollyville Plateau salamander occupancy surveys on Bull and West Bull creeks, including the mainstem of Bull Creek.
Plant and Animal Control	
Feral hogs	Staff removed three hogs from the BCP: two from the Kotrla Unit and one from the Medway tract.
Brown-headed cowbirds	Staff trapped and removed 155 cowbirds from Travis County BCP tracts. Sixty-five additional cowbirds were captured at Milton Reimers Ranch Park and Pogue Springs Preserve.
Tawny crazy ants and Red imported fire ants	Staff completed canopy arthropod surveys as part of a study looking at the impact of tawny crazy ants on golden-cheeked warblers. Dr. Ed LeBrun, with the University of Texas, continued his research on tawny crazy ants at the Anderson Mill/Collins tract population and other sites in Travis County. Red imported fire ant surveys and treatments were conducted at two caves.

Invasive Plants	Travis County was awarded a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service grant to help fund a Native Plant Exchange Program. This program will promote the use of native plants in residential landscaping by replacing invasive trees and shrubs with native varieties for eligible BCP neighbors. The goal is to reduce invasive plant species on the BCP by removing seed sources from neighboring properties. Staff hosted community volunteers to hand-pull vinca from the Bunten tract. Approximately one acre of Johnson grass was treated with herbicide on the Snowden and Nootsie tracts.
Land Stewardship	
Fence Construction and Repairs	Fence repairs were made at multiple locations where trees had fallen during the winter storm and caused damage.
Wildfire Preparedness	Staff began field assessments of winter storm damage to shaded fuel breaks.
Buildings	Travis County issued an RFQ for a design team to provide architect, landscape architect, engineering, and interpretive design services for the BCP Building/Visitor Center. The contractor will work with County architects, Natural Resources staff, and TNR engineers to design the center. The Snowden House is currently under renovation.
Conservation Easements	Staff conducted annual conservation easement monitoring on three privately-owned properties managed by Travis County through conservation easement agreements. All were in good standing.
Patrol and Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Property Damage	One new incident of tree cutting was documented on a Travis County BCP tract and is being investigated. Settlement agreements were reached on three previous tree cutting cases. Trespass and property damage occurred on several tracts. A gate was damaged on the Steiner Ranch conservation easement to gain access by vehicle. A fence was cut at the Vireo Ridge tract for pedestrian access. Access by ATV occurred on the Fyffe tract. A back-of-lot shooting range was discovered on the Vista Point tract. One case of yard waste dumping was documented on the Endres tract. Surveillance cameras documented additional trespassing incidents on several different tracts.
Outreach/Volunteers	
See *BCP Partner Education Summary Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2021*	

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Eleven BCCP applications were received and processed in the 4th quarter. Six Participation Certificates were issued for a total of $176,250.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Personnel	Environmental Specialist for BCCP Administration, Amanda Wood, resigned in August. Mickey Leland intern, Madison Ebest, completed her summer position in August. Seasonal Natural Resources Tech, Annalily Lopez, completed her temporary position in September.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked warblers	Staff entered data from the 2021 Golden-cheeked warbler survey season and began initial data analysis.
Black-capped vireos	Black-capped vireo surveys concluded in August and a record number of 28 territories were documented on Travis County BCP tracts.
Karst invertebrates	Summer season faunal surveys were performed at eight BCCP-listed caves, one other endangered species cave, and two potential substitution caves. Summer season cave cricket exit counts were performed at six BCCP-listed caves and one other endangered species cave. *Tayshaneta* were collected from Hammett's, Stark's North Mine, Geode, New Comanche Trail, and McDonald caves. These specimens were deposited with Zara Environmental and Joel Ledford for an ongoing genetic analysis.
Salamanders	Staff completed surveys for Jollyville Plateau salamanders on the Upper and Lower Ribelin sites in August. On September 20th, several environmentalists filed a formal petition with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to list the Pedernales River springs salamander as "endangered" or "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act. This salamander has a limited range focused on springs and water-filled, underground spaces near the Hamilton Pool Road crossing of the Pedernales River. This salamander is known to occur on one BCP tract and at two nearby County Park locations.
Rare plants	Staff started conducting Texabama croton surveys at Pace Bend Park in September. Early assessment indicates that the colonies remain in good health, most have expanded in numbers, and at least eight new colonies have been discovered.

Plant and Animal Control	
Feral hogs	Staff removed four feral hogs from the Sam Hamilton East tract.
White-tailed deer	Eleven trail cameras were stationed on the Jollyville Unit to assess deer population data.
Tawny crazy ants and Red imported fire ants	Dr. Ed LeBrun, with the University of Texas, continued to research tawny crazy ants at the Anderson Mill/Collins tract site and other locations in Travis County.
Invasive Plants	Staff removed more than 6,600 non-native invasive plants from the BCP this quarter. Approximately 2.5 acres of Johnson grass were treated with herbicide at the Snowden, New Life, The Crossings, and Blackmore tracts.
Land Stewardship	
Habitat Restoration	On September 23rd, Natural Resources and Parks staff conducted a prescribed burn on approximately 13 acres of the Nootsie tract that was dominated by King Ranch bluestem, an invasive grass. Native grasses and forbs will be planted in the area to return it to a more natural state. City and County staff coordinated with TreeFolks and collected native seeds from the BCP that will be used for future restoration projects.
Water Quality	Staff monitored water quality at five sites using Environmental Integrity Index methodology. A sewage leak occurred on September 25th when a force main broke and spilled about 100,000 gallons near the Concordia tract. Most of the sewage was contained in a detention pond and pumped into a sewage line, but water samples taken from Tributary 7 of Bull Creek on the Concordia tract did show reduced levels of dissolved oxygen and elevated levels of *E. coli* briefly after the spill. Levels returned to normal after a few days.
Fence Construction and Repairs	Boundary fence repairs were made at several locations due to damage caused by fallen trees (1 site), vehicle collisions (3 sites), and cutting by trespassers (1 site).
Wildfire Preparedness	Staff completed field assessments of Winter Storm Uri damage to shaded fuel breaks. Staff gave a presentation at the Austin-Travis County Wildfire Coalition meeting in July describing how certain wildfire messaging can cause unintended consequences to the BCP in the form of illegal clearing. Landowners sometimes clear vegetation on the BCP behind their lots thinking it reduces wildfire risk. Often it increases wildfire risk by increasing fine fuels and eliminating shade. Staff reviewed the Austin-Travis County Wildfire Coalition's "Ready, Set, Go!" document which is being updated in an 8th edition.

Buildings	Four architecture firms submitted responses to a Request for Qualifications issued by the Purchasing Office for architectural, landscape architectural, engineering, and interpretive design services for a Visitor Center at Wilson Parke Ave. The selected design team will work with County architects, Natural Resources staff, and TNR engineers to design the center. Most of the renovations on the Snowden House have been completed. Both the interior and exterior have been painted, a back porch was added, rooms were renovated to be more functional and ADA accessible, and a rainwater collection system was installed (see photos).
Utility Infrastructure Corridors	Austin Energy and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) conducted inspections on some of their utility lines which traverse the BCP. LCRA conducted an archeological survey that crossed the Karnik and Richards II tracts. In September, LCRA started drilling soil borings for geotechnical investigations along the T197 (Marshall Ford to McNeil) Transmission Line which crosses through the BCP. The drillers hit several voids and bait traps were deployed to check for karst invertebrates. Mitigation measures were taken to cover the voids.
Patrol and Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Property Damage	A settlement agreement was reached on a previous tree cutting case on the Lime Creek Unit. Several incidents of trespass and encroachment occurred this quarter. A trampoline was found on the Steiner Ranch conservation easement. Loose horses were documented on the Lime Creek Unit. One trespasser was encountered on the Webb tract and surveillance cameras documented trespassers on several different tracts.
Outreach/Volunteers	
See *BCP Partner Education Summary Fourth Quarter: July 1 – September 30, 2021*	



Before Renovation



After Renovation

Before and after photos of the Snowden House renovation. As shown in the bottom photo, a back deck was added, the building was painted, and a rainwater collection system was installed. In the foreground is a bat-friendly native garden that was recently planted in coordination with Bat Conservation International. This building is used for volunteer and outreach events.