BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2025 First Quarter (Oct.– Dec.) & Second Quarter (Jan.-March)

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

1st and 2nd Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners*)

Q1 & Q2 data for Baker Sanctuary (Travis Audubon) and The Nature Conservancy was not provided.

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	447	12782	6200	749.5
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	28	1209	1261	22
	Onsite	33	334	960	201.5
Visiting Group/Educators	Onsite	19	141	318	25
Land Stewardship	Onsite	169	81	1281	3325.25
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	104	0	99	682
Administration	Onsite	5	23	46	24
Training	Onsite	11	0	204	114.5
Campouts	Onsite	0	00	0	0
October-March Total		**816**	**14570**	**10369**	**5143.75**

Monetary value of volunteer work ($31.80/hour): $163,571.25

*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS (Estimated Annual Visitation)

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Hamilton Pool: 30,000+

Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve: 8,906

Baker Sanctuary: 558

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CITY OF AUSTIN





- Over 1,000 trees and shrubs were planted by staff and volunteers on the JJ&T and Vireo Preserves as part of juniper-oak woodland restoration efforts, which also included erosion control, soil improvement, and native seeding along bioswales.

- Invasive privet removal continued on the Long Canyon tract, and 58 volunteers began Golden-cheeked Warbler resighting surveys, identifying 13 banded birds.

- Collaborative training events were held, including cave rescue training with the Austin Fire Department for over 120+ Special Operations firefighters. We also partnered with Travis County Parks and several Travis County Emergency Services Districts to host the S-215 Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface training.

- Wildlands staff engaged the public by tabling at the Austin Public Library Roots & Wings event, Barton Springs University Day, and UT's Hot Science Cool Talks series. Additionally, they led tours for the National Parks Service Superintendents to Grassy Cove Cave and for the Camacho Activity Center's Varsity Group on a Golden-cheeked Warbler hike.

- Wildlands supported CaveSim at McBee Elementary School in partnership with Austin Watershed Protection Department reaching 147 students.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2025 First Quarter (Oct.– Dec.) & Second Quarter (Jan.-March)

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

TRAVIS COUNTY





- Travis County extended our outreach efforts to include other Travis County groups, such as the Green Team. We had them out on a guided hike on our Snowden and Bunten tracts and were joined by County Commissioner (Precinct 3) Ann Howard. We also had an Open House at our Snowden house, which offered self-guided hikes on both our Collins and Snowden outreach trails.

- We continued to expand education efforts by partnering with Laurel Mountain Elementary for in-class programs. Our Woodland Wonders event included tree planting with children, a story walk, and crafting. Other outreach events that have brought in numerous attendees include Astronomy Nights, and nature-themed crafting days that included family-friendly tree planting.

- Volunteers continued vital restoration activities, including reforesting swales and berms at the Medway tract. Notably, our Pride on the Preserve event garnered great volunteer turnout. We planted 3,019 trees this year in total!

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2025 First Quarter (Oct.– Dec.) & Second Quarter (Jan.-March)

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

WILD BASIN





Fall 2024 Artist in Residence: Alicia Philley

- Provided two art workshops for the public
- Artwork was on display in visitor gallery from Dec - Mid January

Speaker and Social Series: This monthly in person speaker and social event allows the public to participate in a relaxed atmosphere learning opportunity. Q1 & Q2 topics included:

- Wildfire: Rhetoric, Reality and the Practical Solutions; Glen Gillman; TC Fire Marshal's Office
- Welcoming Wildlife; Natasia Moore; TPWD
- Rewilding Wellness; Moira Martin Ph.D; SEU Faculty
- An Evening of Storytelling about Land Stewardship by our Stewardship Volunteers
- Long Term Monitoring of the endangered Golden-Cheeked Warbler at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve: Darrell Hutchinson

Wild By Wild Basin WXWB (Spring Break):

- 300 guests interacted with trailhead popup tent organizations
- 770 visitors during the nine days of spring break

Tacos and Trash Service Day (February)

We had 20 students and a couple of staff from St. Edward's University eat breakfast tacos and pick up trash along the Hwy. 360 boundary of Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve. They collected 15 bags of loose trash with a focus on micro trash. We also recycled two bags worth of plastic, aluminum cans and glass bottles, and a five-gallon bucket full of metal.

Stewardship Highlights

Volunteers continue to restore several sections of degraded trail by laying down mulch and setting rock steps. The mulch is from working with Travis County TNR crews to chip vegetative debris removed from the trail and boundary at Wild Basin. In addition to restoring the trail, this helps reduce the fuel load in the preserve and improve erosion control measures along the trails. One big highlight is the demo of the old footbridge and then the building of a new footbridge on the Arroyo Vista Trail.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2025 First Quarter (Oct.– Dec.) & Second Quarter (Jan.-March)

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

WESTCAVE





- From October 2024 to March 2025 we had 40 experiential learning field trips, engaging 1,508 students in nature, creating lasting memories, broadening horizons, and inspiring future leaders.

- From March 8th-23rd 2025 our educator staff welcomed over 1,724 visitors from around the world on 53 guided hikes.

- Westcave was recognized by the Hill Country Master Naturalist (HCMN) chapter for our partnership with their organization over the years. It has been a valuable and encouraging relationship for both parties. We are grateful for all the conservation volunteers that we have had from the HCMN group each season.

Photos above:

- HCMN sign that is now posted at Westcave's new Environmental Learning Center. *(left)*
- We have recently restarted our "Anything With Wings" surveys and this is one of winged friends that we have been seeing. *(right)*

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2025 First Quarter (Oct.– Dec.) & Second Quarter (Jan.-March)

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 2025 Third Quarter (April– June) & Fourth Quarter (July- September)

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

3rd and 4th Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	479	2342	6752	543.75
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	27	930	1417	5
	Onsite	28	418	862	185
Visiting Group/Educators	Onsite	24	20	321	19
Land Stewardship	Onsite	168	45	1259	2884.5
Ecological Monitoring	Offsite	7	0	15	91
	Onsite	395	0	244	1447.5
Administration	Onsite	10	30	97	49.5
Training	Offsite	5	0	95	0
	Onsite	17	2	91	110.5
Campouts	Onsite	1	18	3	0
April-September Total		**1161**	**3805**	**11156**	**5335.75**

Monetary value of volunteer work ($34.79/hour): $185,630.74

*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS (Estimated Annual Visitation)

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Hamilton Pool: 30,000+

Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve: 8,906

Baker Sanctuary: 558

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2025Third Quarter (April– June) & Fourth Quarter (July- September)

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

FY2025: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	929	15124	12957	1293..25
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	55	2139	2678	27
	Onsite	69	752	1864	386.5
Visiting Group/Educators	Onsite	45	191	717	44
Land Stewardship	Onsite	357	126	2593	6367.75
Ecological Monitoring	Offsite	7	0	15	91
	Onsite	499	0	343	2129.5
Administration	Onsite	15	53	143	73.5
Training	Offsite	5	0	95	0
	Onsite	28	2	302	225
Campouts	Onsite	2	41	10	
October-September Totals		**2011**	**18428**	**21717**	**10637.5**

Monetary value of volunteer work ($34.79/hour): $370,078.63

*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

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BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

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CITY OF AUSTIN



Celebrating Golden-cheeked Warbler volunteers at the recognition event in July.



Planting and mulching pollinator gardens during a volunteer workday at Vireo Preserve.

- 60 Golden-cheeked Warbler resighting volunteers dedicated more than 1,200 hours to monitoring endangered warblers on Travis County and City of Austin BCP properties this nesting season (March – May).
- Volunteers connected members of the community to the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve through 16 guided hikes.
- Staff and volunteers restored oak-juniper woodland through planting, seeding, removing invasives, improving soil, and controlling erosion during 81 workdays at the Vireo Preserve, JJ&T, and Long Canyon.
- Wildlands staff engaged the community by participating in events like ESD #4's Town Hall on Wildfire, World Migratory Bird Day, projections of BCP species at the Long Center, and a presentation to the City of Austin's Environmental Commission. We welcomed groups including Texas State University, Austin Community College, City Council Member Marc Duchen and City of Austin law clerks to the BCP through on-site tours and class sessions.
- Staff partnered with Austin Watershed Protection to train more than 30 City of Austin employees on safe cave facilitation in the classroom and in the field at Whirlpool Cave.

BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2025 Third Quarter (April– June) & Fourth Quarter (July- September)

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

TRAVIS COUNTY



Mulching and brush berm building at a volunteer workday on our Medway tract.



Attendees gather around a mothing station during our August After Dark series.

- Social media platform views surged from 13,000 to over 36,000. Facebook followers reached 2,601, and Instagram grew over 15%.
- Expanded the Volunteer Hike Guide program to 11 trained or in-training guides and established a new Night Sky Volunteer Program, training 22 volunteers.
- Hosted collaborative night hikes and introduced the Fall Open House (featuring nature journaling and a story walk). Night sky events attracted 231 participants and highlighted light pollution impacts using high-powered telescopes.
- Reached 466 students through interactive school programs on the BCP's mission and habitat resources and connected with 70 participants from an English immersion class using nature journaling to enhance language skills.
- Planted over 3,000 trees and significantly expanded restoration efforts through crucial seed collection, processing, and propagation.
- Provided key assistance for field programs, including bat monitoring and live fuel moisture data collection.
- Built strong partnerships via successful events with organizations like Local Queer ATX, Outdoor Afro, and the Hispanic Access Foundation (Latino Conservation Week).

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WILD BASIN



Tacos and Trash 9/20/25



Westlake Senior Service Day 4/30/25

- **Artist in Residence:**

  Linda Wandt completed her residency in May.
  Sarah Cypher started her residency in September.
- **Speaker and Social Series:**

  This in person speaker and social event allows the public to participate in a relaxed atmosphere learning opportunity. Q3 & Q4 Topics Included:
  - Mycology 101 by Angel Schatz; Leads Education for Central Texas Mycological Society.
  - Beauty and the Bees: Understanding Pollinators and Designing a Landscape to Support Them. Speaker was Andrea DeLong-Amaya; Director of Horticulture, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center,The University of Texas at Austin.
- **Monthly Guided Hikes:**
  - ❖ First Friday Guide Hikes with Wild Basin Staff
  - ❖ Second Saturday Guided Hikes
  - ❖ Walk to the Waterwall Wednesday (June and July only)
- **Stewardship Highlights:**
  - **Westlake High School Senior Service Day (4/30/25)** 18 seniors from Westlake High School were out at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve to help stage material for a hiking trail stair restoration project. 10 logs weighing nearly 280 lbs each and a cubic yard of stone were carried 1,500 feet down trail.
  - **Tacos & Trash Service Day (9/20/25)** 25 students and staff from St. Edward's University met at Wild Basin for breakfast tacos and to pick up trash along the Capital of Texas Hwy boundary of the preserve. 17 bags of trash, three dumped landscape plants, one blown out tire, four traffic lane marker poles and other assorted items were collected. We also recycled several aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles and an assortment of metal objects.
  - **Tricknee Trail Stair Rebuild** Working with volunteers, interns and crews from Texas Conservation Corps, 18 new juniper log steps were installed along a degraded section of the Tricknee Trail. Several weekly and monthly volunteer days were dedicated to this project.

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WESTCAVE



Field trip down to the Westcave grotto.



Since installing Feather Friendly markers in August 2024, Westcave is thrilled to report zero bird strikes.

- Since installing Feather Friendly markers in August 2024, Westcave is thrilled to report zero bird strikes. It's clear that this simple, effective solution is making a real difference - helping keep birds safe, one window at a time. Westcave has been recognized for its leadership in bird conservation through the Feather Friendly Project Recognition Program, in partnership with USFWS, Audubon, and the National Bird Conservancy.

- Data for Summer Visitation 6/1-8/31
  - 10 Summer Camp Field Trips with 185 Student campers
  - 3 of those dates was El Ranchito with 90 campers served
  - 182 Guided Hikes with 2,653 Adults and 431 kids raising $56,500
  - 2 Education Interns, Dani and Emerson, worked over 200 hours

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