

**BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE
LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

TIER II A

**CHAPTER 12
PUBLIC ACCESS**



DRAFT October 2017

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (**BCCP**) and the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (**BCP**)

The **Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP)** is a federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) incidental “take” permit for 30 years issued to Travis County and the City of Austin on May 2, 1996 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Incidental take is the loss of federally listed species or their habitats in the course of (or “incidental to”) otherwise legal actions, like development. Such permitting is authorized under ESA Section 10(A)(1)(b), so sometimes the BCCP is called a “10A Permit.”

A collection of documents guides BCCP implementation: Endangered Species Act Permit No. TE 788841-2; BCCP Final Environmental Impact Statement and Habitat Conservation Plan; Travis County – City of Austin Interlocal Agreement – Shared Vision; Permit Area and Fee Zone Maps; and **tiered Land Management Plans**.

These documents together provide the permit term and conditions, mitigation requirements, land acquisition areas (the **Balcones Canyonlands Preserve** or **BCP**, and the **Permit Caves**), land management and permit administration guidelines, and mechanisms by which the City and County can cover the impact of endangered species habitat loss in western Travis County and expedite development projects within the Permit Area.

The Land Management Plans are a guide for all BCCP partners’ programs implementing the permit and provide “best practices” for managing BCCP-required conservation lands:

Tier I	Overview of the Preserve and Partner Responsibilities
Tier II A	BCP Land Management Guidelines (Specific Best Practices)
Tier II B	BCCP Administration
Tier II C	BCP Macrosite Requirements
Tier III	BCP individual tract plans

This plan outlines management guidelines and best practices for **Public Access, Tier II-A, Chapter 12**.

DRAFT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Beginning in the late 1980s, the presence of endangered species, increasing urban development pressures, and the desire to create a streamlined mitigation approach under the Endangered Species Act, led the Austin/Travis County community to work with the USFWS to develop the BCCP. The resulting permit that was issued to the City of Austin and Travis County (Permit Holders) in May 1996 authorizes “incidental take¹” associated with development activities in western Travis County of the Permitted Species: 8 endangered species (golden-cheeked warbler, black-capped vireo, and 6 karst invertebrates) and 27 species of concern (2 plants and 25 karst invertebrates). Several other BCP Partners including the Lower Colorado River Authority, Sunset Valley, Travis Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy and private landowners also hold and manage BCP land through formal agreements or individual permits with USFWS. Due to the successes of this locally developed, community-based conservation plan, the BCCP has served as a model for other communities across the country.

Within Travis County, the BCCP authorizes the loss of approximately 74% of the golden-cheeked warbler’s habitat, 50% of the black-capped vireo’s habitat, and 63% of the caves identified at the time of permit issuance. To mitigate for this habitat loss, the BCCP requires the perpetual preservation and management of large blocks of habitat for the primary benefit of the Permitted Species. In exchange for careful management of the BCP lands, the BCCP facilitates land development in western Travis County through its streamlined permitting process. The BCCP’s balance of economic as well as habitat benefits has garnered the support of landowners, developers, and the local business community as well as local, state and federal agencies. The BCP not only provides habitat and protection for the Permitted Species, but also provides important air quality, water quality, and open space benefits to communities in Central Texas.

The primary mitigation proposed in the BCCP for the incidental take of the Permitted Species and their habitats focuses on the establishment of the BCP. In the early planning process for the BCCP, a Biological Advisory Team developed a preserve design configuration that minimized fragmentation and promoted long-term population

¹ The Endangered Species Act defines "take" as "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect any threatened or endangered species." Harm may include significant habitat modification where it actually kills or injures a listed species through impairment of essential behavior (e.g., nesting or reproduction).

viability. It recommended the amount of acreage needed for each species and the locations of the best remaining habitat preserve blocks. The Biological Advisory Team recommended that 125,000 acres were needed to adequately mitigate for the expected habitat losses. However, following a fiscal and economic analysis, this recommendation was reduced by the BCCP planners to less than 75,000 acres, with a minimum of 30,428 acres to be managed by the Permit Holders as the BCP and 41,000 acres to be managed by USFWS within the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. The boundaries of the BCP occur in habitat blocks that extend from Austin northwest toward the refuge.

In exchange for these habitat losses, the BCCP states that the BCP is to be managed to permanently conserve and facilitate the recovery of populations of the Permitted Species. This priority objective is to govern preserve management activities to improve Permitted Species habitat, while protecting the BCP against degradation caused by urbanization of surrounding lands and increased public demand for recreational usage within the BCP. The BCCP specifically requires control of human activities to eliminate or mitigate any adverse impacts of human activities to the Permitted Species. The BCCP provides general land management guidelines for vegetation management, browse pressure, public access, problem animal control, management of springs and watercourses, research and monitoring, and species-specific management. Species-specific management strategies for all species emphasize strict regulation of public access, habitat protection and restoration, and minimizing threats from predators.

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this public access chapter is to summarize current public access on the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP), outline Permit requirements, and update guidance for those seeking approval for proposed changes in uses for certain lands within the BCP. This document addresses public access on BCP lands managed by the Permit Holders and BCP Partners (LCRA, Sunset Valley), but does not include private tracts covered under separate permits with the USFWS.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS GUIDELINES

To avoid “take” of the Permitted Species, the BCP must be managed in accordance with the BCCP permit and final environmental impact statement/habitat conservation plan (USFWS 1996). The BCP exists primarily as a mitigation measure for ongoing

development in western Travis County which would otherwise be restricted by the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The preserve is a requirement of the City of Austin/Travis County federal permit, obtained under the ESA. Some of the preserve units are dedicated parkland. Other units were purchased specifically to mitigate killing or harming-called "taking"-of federally protected species during the development of homes, businesses, and support infrastructure in western Travis County. Certain restrictions on these recreational uses-and requirements for their compatibility with endangered species management-were established by the City of Austin and Travis County in the EIS which is part of the regional permit.

The City of Austin bond election ballot, by which voters authorized purchase of the preserve lands, specified passive recreation as an additional use of the lands. Examples of active and passive recreation are found below.

- Active recreation within natural areas is herein defined as follows:
 - those activities requiring a vehicle or animal for transportation, such as bicycling, horseback-riding, and off-road vehicle-riding
 - exercise activities engaged in specifically for their aerobic and muscle strengthening benefits, such as jogging, cross-country racing, and mountain biking
 - faster-paced activities which can disturb fish and wildlife, such as swimming, jogging, racing and group sports
 - activities involving organized groups of greater than 10 people-unless guided by staff or other approved leader
 - noise-producing activities, such as music events and even bird-watching when birders use taped bird calls and other sounds to attract birds
 - resource extraction-when it is not an approved ecosystem management objective-such as, sport-fishing and hunting, as well as collecting or harvesting of plants or plant parts, animals or animal parts, and mineral or fossils
 - rock-climbing
- Activities considered to be "passive" are nature-viewing and contemplation, guided educational tours, and walking or hiking (see statement above regarding organized groups of people). The BCP encourages passive recreation.

A discussion of each activity is found in the management guidelines of USFWS (1996) and are terms of the BCCP permit which must be followed to ensure permit compliance. Section 2e of USFWS (1996) provides the following "Land Management Plans and Guidelines":

The preserve system may offer public access and recreational opportunities within the Austin and Travis County area where possible and manageable. Public access may be allowed where and when such access does not threaten the welfare of the target species of concern, which is the overriding goal of the preserve system, nor cause the degradation of soil, vegetation, or water resources.

The key to allowing public access which is non-threatening and non-damaging to preserve lands is implementation of effective management strategies to control such access and use. These management strategies must be specified in the individual land management plans and implemented by the preserve tract managers. Demonstration over time of effectively implemented management strategies on a preserve tract may justify increased public access opportunities. Demonstrated non-effectiveness or habitat degradation may justify less public access for a particular tract.

Effective management strategies can be any combination of, but are not limited to: fencing; signage; seasonally-restricted access; selected access to non-habitat areas of a tract only; careful trail and amenities location, design and relocation; ranger patrols and enforcement; or prohibited access to selected sensitive areas of a tract. Preserve managers are encouraged to consider creative plans that could increase public education and recreational opportunities while ensuring the welfare of the target species of concern.

Access to specific sites during specific seasons will be regulated to conserve target species and their associated communities. Creation of new roadways, trails, and cleared right-of-ways that open the canopies of woodland and shrubland communities, create additional impervious cover, or facilitate public use of preserve interiors or high quality sites occupied by target species should be discouraged. Access routes for preserve operation and maintenance can be rerouted if in an approved land management plan.

BASIC PRESERVE ACCESS CONTROL.

Provisions for adequate fencing and signage on all preserve components shall be undertaken by BCCP land managers. As preserve lands are acquired, upgrading of fencing along perimeter boundaries should be undertaken as soon as practical to achieve human access control. Interior fencing, if appropriate, should be established as a lower priority. Posting of signs should also be undertaken as soon as practical to identify the land as a preserve component or to prevent unauthorized use. These signs should be placed along perimeter fences, gates and other access points, and long trails and roads.

INDIVIDUAL OR INDEPENDENT GROUP USE.

It is necessary to avoid, detect, and reduce the types of localized detrimental impacts associated with human activity on the preserves. The following types of outdoor activities may be allowed if they do not conflict with conservation of target species as described in the individual preserve land management plans.

- (1) Walking/Jogging/Hiking. Unsupervised group access should not be allowed within 100 meters of occupied songbird habitat during the breeding/nesting season, unless such access can be documented to show no apparent degradation to the welfare of the species of concern. Relatively extensive trail networks along existing right-of-ways may have to be maintained and monitored if this activity is approved. Creation of new trails will be addressed in preserve land management plans and should leave woodland canopies intact. In golden-cheeked warbler habitat, new trails should not fragment woodland interiors or allow human use intensity that threatens this species.
- (2) Fishing. Fishing may be allowed where there is existing access to lake frontage that is not inhabited by target species. If allowed, fishing locations will be designated and fishing will not be allowed outside designated areas. Fishing in environmentally-sensitive springs and deeper spring runs, especially where rare salamander species are present, will be prohibited. Construction of new roads, access points and other support facilities for fishing must be approved in the preserve land management plans. Stocking of native or exotic species is prohibited unless specified in an approved land management plan.
- (3) Swimming/Boating/Rafting/Tubing. Designated water access areas may be available at selected locations, based on approved land management plans. Bank access restrictions may be necessary to protect adjacent target species habitats.
- (4) Bicycling. This activity is prohibited, except for selected sites designated as experimental sites, with appropriate monitoring for effects on the preserve and enforcement of all applicable rules. As part of an approved plan, creation of new trails should leave woodland canopies intact. In golden-cheeked warbler habitat, trails cannot fragment woodland interiors or allow human use intensity that threatens this species. Any new bicycle trails should be designed to minimize erosion, and existing approved trails exhibiting significant erosion should be closed and repaired. Any existing trails not approved by the Coordinating Committee Secretary will be closed.
- (5) Horseback Riding. This activity is prohibited, except for selected sites designated as experimental sites, with appropriate monitoring for effects on the preserve and enforcement of all applicable rules. Stables and similar facilities for the longterm (overnight or longer) maintenance of groups of horses shall not be constructed within any part of the preserve system. Contracts with private and commercial facilities on adjacent lands may be negotiated for use of tracts during the non-nesting and breeding season, provided that mitigation, clean-up, and cowbird trapping are implemented. However, horses may be used for appropriate preserve O&M activities.

- (6) Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Riding. This is prohibited as a recreational activity because it is not compatible with preserve management objectives and goals. Furthermore, appropriate barriers and enforcement penalties should be established to minimize trespass into preserve properties and subsequent damage by ORV users. However, these vehicles may be used for appropriate preserve O&M activities.
 - (7) Picnicking. This activity will require provision of trash receptacles and restroom facilities at staging areas located near the periphery of tracts. If preserve managers wish to allow this activity, preserve land management plans will designate picnic sites that can be easily maintained, to avoid creating focal centers for cowbird feeding activity.
 - (8) Camping. This activity is allowed only in designated areas and if related to O&M or guided educational activities. When allowed, camping should be restricted to minimum-impact camping. Preserve managers will designate suitable camping areas, and these minimum-impact camping areas should be rotated frequently to enable each site to recover from past use. Only closed-burning fires (such as camp stoves) will be allowed.
 - (9) Nature Viewing. Some examples of permitted nature viewing opportunities are designated viewing areas with blinds, trails with descriptive trail brochures, or guided tours. Educational tours should be encouraged but procedures for review of tour group activities will be established in land management plans, as discussed below. Attempts to artificially improve wildlife viewing by maintenance of supplemental feeding areas are prohibited.
- (10) Spelunking. All access to caves must be restricted to permits issued by the appropriate land management agency, based on an appropriate program in the land management plan for the preservation of the caves' ecosystem.
- (11) Rock Climbing. Rock climbing and related activities are prohibited, except for selected sites designated as experimental sites, with appropriate monitoring for effects on the preserve and enforcement of all applicable rules.

NON-COMMERCIAL GROUP USE. Non-commercial groups are nonprofit organizations, schools, and educational groups that request visitation to any tract for educational purposes or research. This use should be encouraged as long as it is monitored for possible habitat degradation and adverse impacts. These groups will be issued permits by the appropriate land management agency. The permit process should include user guidelines that protect target species and their respective habitats.

- (1) Educational Uses. Educational use is defined as those activities whose primary intent is to present or interpret information about the ecology of the preserve sites or the target species. Daytime field trips by school groups are typical of this public-use category.
- (2) Research Uses. Research use activities include those activities that will gather and interpret site-specific data in a way that improves understanding of the ecology of preserve species, plant communities, and aquatic and subterranean environments. Such activities will be coordinated through the appropriate preserve land manager.

COMMERCIAL USE

- (1) Guided Tours. Commercial tour groups are allowed to schedule tours of preserve sites, subject to the provision that such groups abide by prevailing visitation guidelines for that tract. The preserve land manager remains responsible for appropriate land management, including public access, regardless of whether operations, including private group tours, are accomplished by the land manager or through contractual arrangement. Contractual arrangements for guided tours will be non-exclusive with regard to public access.
- (2) Film-Making. Film production projects may be allowed subject to approval by the preserve manager and the Coordinating Committee Secretary. The film production process must not negatively impact the preserve environment.

4.0 PUBLIC ACCESS IN THE BCP BY SITE

Exhibit A updates the list of access activities allowed on individual BCP tracts that were identified in the 1999 version of this chapter. Public access areas and type of access are further described for individual tracts in the Tier III land management plans. All BCP tracts may be accessed via approved volunteer service outings and most are available for approved educational and scientific access.

For karst ecosystems, Permitted Species' needs, invasive species (e.g. white-nose syndrome, tawny crazy ant) and specific karst habitats are not well-understood; therefore, until sufficient monitoring and research are available to better determine the effects of human visitation on karst invertebrate species, most BCP cave managers assume that human visitation may adversely affect protected invertebrates and their habitats. BCP caves that are currently open to public access through controlled access and/or guided tours are considered as "experimental access caves". Regular biological

monitoring of karst invertebrates as well as human visitation counts are conducted at these sites to assess if impacts are occurring. Uncontrolled visitation may endanger sensitive features and habitats within the cave and may endanger inexperienced people. See the BCP Karst Management chapter of the Land Management Plan (Tier II-A, Chapter 9) for additional information on public access into BCP caves.

4.1 *Grandfathered Uses*

“Grandfathered uses” refers to activities that were specifically defined and allowed on BCP tracts that were dedicated as parkland or preserve prior to the issuance of the BCCP (Exhibit A). These uses are listed in Table 18 of USFWS (1996) and documented in the Tier III Land Management Plans. “Grandfathered” uses allow continued public access at the same levels as were occurring in 1996. However, as stated in USFWS (1996), “management plans for existing parks and preserves which will be included in the BCCP preserve system will need to conform with BCCP management guidelines, goals and policies.” These guidelines direct land managers to proactively increase management and access restrictions when monitoring or observation indicate this is needed for the benefit of the species and their habitats protected by the permit. It also specifies that the number of existing roads and trails on these “grandfathered” tracts may be decreased. Construction of any new trails or roads on “grandfathered” tracts must be approved through revision of the Tier III land management plan or, on City of Austin owned or managed BCP tracts, through the Trail Master Plan approval process..

4.2 *Properties Acquired Specifically for Preserve Land*

Properties that were acquired specifically for Preserve land or were previously preserve land contain much more restrictive public access policies. The tracts which are not grandfathered for pre-existing uses include the following tracts.

- The City of Austin Preserve lands include Forest Ridge, Jester, Hilltop, 3M Unit, Coldwater Unit, Cow Fork Unit (Long Canyon), Park West Unit, Cortana, DJ&T/Bohls/Reicher Ranch Units, Ivanhoe, Beard Trust, Lime Creek, Senna Hills, and the Upper Bull Creek Units. The Ullrich Water Treatment and Water Treatment Plant #4 have restrictive access due to COA policies for water treatment facilities.
- LCRA’s McGregor tract
- Future BCP acquisitions by the managing partners.

4.3 Managed Access

In addition to the grandfathered uses, managed access for volunteer activities, guided tours, educational events and classes, and scientific research are allowed on a case-by-case basis, generally through a registration, application or permit-approval/reporting process established by the BCCP Permit Holders and Partners. These activities may occur both on and off approved trails and are generally focused on certain tracts, species, habitats or systems, depending on the target audience, outreach intention or goal, or scope of the proposal. Most of the BCP is available for the public to access through an organized volunteer program and guided hikes.

The BCP managing entities rely on organized volunteer stewardship to patrol, manage, conserve and interpret values on preserves as part of a larger volunteer program that may also include office work and public outreach outside of the BCP system. Activities on preserves may include invasive species removal, fencing repair and installation, interpretive facility construction and management, karst feature stewardship, bird surveys (if state and federally permitted), habitat restoration, and trespass patrol and documentation.

With the exception of the “grandfathered” caves (Exhibit A), all caves owned or managed by public entities on the various units of the BCP are closed to unsupervised public visitation and may only be accessed via permit from the managing entity. Other caves and karst features protected within the BCP allow some level of guided public visitation either for volunteer stewardship, public outreach or monitoring activities. The BCP partners are collaborating to find suitable caves that can be used for education activities in lieu of using BCP caves. (See Tier II-A, Chapter 9 Karst Species Management).

4.4 Private Access Recreation Trails

Some tracts within the BCP are operated under individual ESA Section 10(a)(1)(B) permits (e.g. Travassa), ESA Section 7 consultations (e.g., River Place), or BCCP participation agreements approved by the USFWS (e.g. Steiner Ranch Conservation Easement (CE)) that allow some level of authorized *private* recreational access. Properties covered by such agreements will follow guidelines associated with these respective agreements.

Private cooperating BCP partners such as Travis Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy of Texas provide limited and managed access on their BCP tracts through member, volunteer, and education events as well as scientific research in accordance with the BCP goals and guidelines. Tier III individual tract land management plans address site-specific conditions.

5.0 APPROVAL PROCESSES FOR NEW TRAILS

Allowing public access to the BCP relies on several factors:

- Defensible evaluation to determine if a requested use is appropriate for the site and supports/does not threaten conservation goals;
- Implementation strategies to manage access in the way it was proposed;
- Monitoring and documentation to assess effects; and
- Sharing lessons learned and effectiveness strategies to evaluate continued access.

If these conditions can be met, proposals for new trails can be approved through revision of the Tier III land management plan or, on City of Austin owned or managed BCP tracts, through the Trail Master Plan approval process.

5.1 *Tier III Land Management Plans*

Section 2e of USFWS (1996) requires BCP managers to obtain Coordinating Committee Secretary approval of a land management plan for each tract within one year after permit issuance or land acquisition, whichever is later. These plans are included in the Tier III BCP individual tract plans. These plans should be reviewed every five years and can be revised as appropriate. Changes to the plans can be made provided no activity is allowed that would result in a “take” of an endangered species, or that would degrade or in any way harm the preserve. To ensure permit compliance, any new or revised Tier III plan that would include altering Permitted Species’ habitat (e.g., new road or trail) should be approved by the Coordinating Committee and USFWS prior to implementation.

5.2 *Trail Master Plan*

In 2007, the BCCP Coordinating Committee directed Travis County and City of Austin staff to explore and document a BCP Trail Master Plan (BCP TMP) process (Exhibit B).

This process provides the public an opportunity to submit proposals for new trails on certain tracts where consistent with the Permit conditions and BCP mission.

The City and County formed a 17-member public access stakeholder group; however, on January 8, 2008, Travis County Commissioners Court directed County staff to not implement this policy on Travis County BCP until preserve acquisition was complete, recreational management could be planned and programmed into the budget, and sufficient staff support could be provided. The stakeholder group held sixteen meetings between April 1, 2008 and October 21, 2008, and resulted in recommendations summarized below:

- proposals for building new trails, converting unauthorized trails to authorized trails, and improving sustainability of existing trails be limited to the following geographical groups of City of Austin BCP tracts:
 - *Barton Creek Greenbelt (East and West), Barton Creek Wilderness Park, Friesenhahn;*
 - *Bull Creek Greenbelt (Upper and Lower), Bull Creek District Park, Forest Ridge, Jester, St. Edwards Park;*
 - *Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve;*
 - *Cortáñez;*
 - *Emma Long Metropolitan Park;*
 - *Bohls Ranch, Reicher Ranch;*
 - *Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park; and,*
 - *Double J & T, Sansom.*
- Proposed trail uses on these sites would be limited to hiking, biking, and trail running as constrained by “grandfathered” uses and the BCP TMP Strategic Vision;
- Biking would be an experimental use only and should be accompanied by appropriate monitoring for impacts to covered species and habitats; and
- Hiking with dogs may be proposed to the BCCP Coordinating Committee and may require a permit amendment.

Stakeholders also agreed to a sponsor proposal and Memorandum of Agreement process and specific planning considerations that must be addressed when submitting trail proposals. The BCP TMP process was drafted by the stakeholder group, including both Permit Holder representatives, and presented to the Coordinating Committee on November 28, 2008.

Currently, the BCP TMP applies only to BCP tracts owned by the City of Austin or BCP Partners who choose to adopt this process. Any proposed plan under this process must be approved by the Coordinating Committee and USFWS prior to implementation. Land owned by other BCP partners and private permit holders who do not participate in that process are not affected by the BCP TMP unless they so choose to adopt the process.

6.0 LITERATURE CITED

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1996. Final Environmental Impact Statement/Habitat Conservation Plan for Proposed Issuance of a Permit to Allow Incidental Take of the Golden-cheeked Warbler, Black-capped Vireo, and Six Karst Invertebrates in Travis County, Texas. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, N. M.

7.0 EXHIBITS

7.1 EXHIBIT A. Public Access in the BCP by Site

“Grandfathered” tracts are shown in bold. Only tracts owned or managed by the City of Austin, Travis County, and LCRA are listed below.

UNIT	TYPE	PRIMARY MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY	TYPE OF PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE
Barton Creek Greenbelt (East and West)/ Wilderness Park/ Friesenhahn	park	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*, Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Grandfathered uses include hiking, swimming, tubing, mountain biking, rock climbing, picnicking, and spelunking. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, hiking with dogs on leash, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the BCP Trail Master Plan.
Black-capped Vireo Research Area	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Approved educational/research access, guided educational groups & tours.
Bull Creek Greenbelt (Upper and Lower) and Bull Creek District Park	park	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*	Grandfathered uses include hiking on marked trails, swimming, tubing, mountain biking, and picnicking. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, hiking with dogs on leash, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan.
Bull Creek Preserve (Forest Ridge)	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Public uses that existed prior to the BCP Trail Master Plan include hiking from March through July by permit, hiking without permit from August through February, and guided educational group tours. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the BCP Trail Master Plan.
Bull Creek Unit (Canyon Vista , Sam Hamilton Memorial Reserve East, Ribelin, and Concordia)	preserve	Travis County Natural Resources	Approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours.

UNIT	TYPE	PRIMARY MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY	TYPE OF PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE
Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park/ BCP portion	park/preserve	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*/Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Grandfathered uses include hiking and biking on marked trail. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, hiking with dogs on leash, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the BCP Trail Master Plan.
Cortaña	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Public uses that existed prior to the BCP Trail Master Plan include approved educational / research access and guided educational group tours. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the BCP Trail Master Plan.
Cow Fork/ Coldwater	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours.
Cypress Creek Unit	preserve	Travis County Natural Resources	Travassa: Sec. 10a Conservation Easement Agreement allows restricted hiking for landowner's guests on approved trail. Volente: Sec. 10a Permit will allow restricted hiking for residents on approved trail once development of that site is complete All Cypress Creek preserves: approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours
Double J&T/Reicher/ Bohls	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division; Reicher also Parks and Recreation Department	Public uses that existed prior to the BCP Trail Master Plan include approved educational / research access, guided educational group tours. On Reicher: reservations of facility may include unsupervised hiking on marked trails near facilities and outdoor education programs. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the BCP Trail Master Plan.

UNIT	TYPE	PRIMARY MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY	TYPE OF PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE
Emma Long Metropolitan Park	park	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*, Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Grandfathered uses include hiking on marked trails, mountain biking, motorbikes during the non-nesting season on specified trail. Emma Long is the only tract that allows hiking with dogs off-leash. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, hiking with dogs, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan.
Hamilton Pool Preserve	preserve	Travis County Parks and Natural Resources*	Grandfathered uses include hiking on marked trails, swimming, picnicking, guided tours, and fishing on river.
Ivanhoe/Beard Trust	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours.
Jester	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	New public access may be planned for hiking, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the BCP Trail Master Plan.
Jollyville Unit	preserve	Travis County Natural Resources	Grandview Hills Sec. 10a Conservation Easement Agreements allow some activities in buffer areas (Tier III Land Management Plans). Other tracts: approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours.
Lime Creek	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours.
McGregor Tract	preserve	Lower Colorado River Authority	Approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours.
Mt. Bonnell Park	park	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*, Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Grandfathered uses include hiking, viewing, picnicking, and mountain-biking.
Romberg Preserve	preserve	Travis County Parks and Natural Resources*	Approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours public access.
Sansom	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	New public access may be planned for hiking, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the BCP Trail Master Plan.

UNIT	TYPE	PRIMARY MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY	TYPE OF PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE
St. Edwards Park/ BCP portion	park/preserve	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*/Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Public uses that existed prior to the BCP Trail Master Plan include hiking on marked trails and mountain biking. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, hiking with dogs on leash, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the BCP Trail Master Plan.
Senna Hills	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours.
South Lake Austin Unit (Medway tract)	preserve	Travis County Natural Resources	Approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours public access.
Stillhouse Hollow (Spicewood Springs)/ Barrow Preserve	preserve	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*, Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Grandfathered uses include hiking on marked trails and mountain biking. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, hiking with dogs on leash, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the BCP Trail Master Plan.
North Lake Austin Unit (Steiner Ranch and Greenshores)	preserve	Travis County Natural Resources	Steiner Ranch Conservation Easement (CE) allows Steiner Ranch residents to hike on approved trails. Dogs are permitted only if on leashes. Greenshores Sec. 10a permit allows developer access. Outside these approved areas: approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours
Ullrich Water Treatment Plant	Austin Water Utility Facility	Austin Water Utility	No access; secure facility for public safety.
Upper Bull Creek Tract	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division;	Approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours.
Sam Hamilton Memorial Reserve West	preserve	Austin Water Utility= Wildland Conservation Division	Approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours.
West Cave Preserve	preserve	Lower Colorado River Authority	Approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours.
Wheless Tract	preserve	Lower Colorado River Authority	Approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours.

UNIT	TYPE	PRIMARY MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY	TYPE OF PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE
Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve	preserve	Travis County Natural Resources /St. Edward's University	Grandfathered uses include hiking on marked trails. Also approved educational/research access, guided educational group tours

* Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations do not manage for endangered species; they perform regular maintenance, i.e. mowing, trash pickup, and some trail management activities. Austin Water Utility Wildland Conservation Division staff supporting the BCP program provides BCP Endangered Species management activities. Additionally, Travis County Parks does not manage endangered species or their habitats; Travis County Natural Resources collaborates with Parks on those jointly managed sites to meet Permit requirements.

7.2 EXHIBIT B: BCP Trail Master Plan Process

Trail Master Plan
For
City of Austin
Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Lands



Approved by:

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Coordinating Committee
February 18, 2009

Submitted by:

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Trail Master Plan Committee

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Executive Summary

The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) was created in 1996 to secure habitat and protect populations of eight endangered species and 27 species of concern. Travis County and the City of Austin are joint permit holders of a 10(a)1(B) permit issued by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and own and manage BCP properties along with Lower Colorado River Authority, a Managing Partner, and other cooperating entities. On November 28, 2007, the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) Coordinating Committee issued a new policy to increase opportunities for recreational trails on the BCP.

The BCCP secretary initiated a public process to ensure that all interests in the community had the opportunity to participate in developing a recommendation for a Trail Master Plan. In April of 2008, the Trail Master Plan Committee was formed by 17 stakeholders representing various recreation advocates, environmental advocates, and neighborhoods. The Committee was charged with working collaboratively to reach consensus on a plan to implement the Coordinating Committee's November 2007 policy direction. The Committee held sixteen meetings between April 1, 2008 and December 2, 2008. The recommendations summarized below and detailed in the plan document represent the consensus of this diverse committee.

The Committee recommends that proposals for building new trails, converting unauthorized trails to authorized, and improving sustainability of existing trails be accepted for the following geographical groups of City of Austin Balcones Canyonlands Preserve tracts:

Barton Creek Greenbelt (East and West), Barton Creek Wilderness Park, Friesenhahn

Bull Creek Greenbelt (Upper and Lower), Bull Creek District Park, Forest Ridge, Jester, St. Edwards Park

Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve

Cortáñez

Emma Long Metropolitan Park

Bohls, Reicher

Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park

Double J & T, Sansom

The Committee recommends limiting proposed trail uses on these sites to hiking, hiking with dogs, biking, and trail running, as constrained by grandfathering² and the Trail Master Plan Strategic Vision³. Biking is recommended to be an experimental use only and should be accompanied by appropriate monitoring.

Stakeholders also agreed to planning considerations that must be addressed when submitting trail proposals. Required planning considerations are listed in detail in the Trail Planning section of this document and include specifics about the proposed trails, user facilities, and operations. Stakeholders also agreed to a proposal and Memorandum of Agreement process are also delineated in the Trail Planning section.

In addition to the submission of this Trail Master Plan to the BCCP Coordinating Committee, Chapter 12 of the 2007 BCP Land Management Plan will be revised to reflect the addition of the City of Austin BCP Trail Master Plan. The revised Land Management Plan will also be submitted to the BCCP Coordinating Committee and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approval. Once all approvals have been reached on the Trail Master Plan and the Revised BCP Land Management Plan, trail proposals will be accepted for City of Austin tracts included in the Trail Master Plan. If the Trail Master Plan changes in the future, a permit amendment will be necessary.

² As defined on page 5.

³ See pages 9-13.

History of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve

The Purchase of Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) Lands

In August 1992, City of Austin voters approved two separate utility bonds, Proposition 10 and 11, which made it possible to purchase lands “to protect water quality, conserve endangered species,... and provide open space for passive public use.” The City and County have since been purchasing BCP lands, and as of November 2008, the City of Austin owns full title to approximately 13,530 acres. Appendix A is a map of all City of Austin BCP tracts.

The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve was created in 1996 to secure habitat and protect populations of eight endangered species and 27 species of concern. Travis County and the City of Austin are joint permit holders of a 10(a)1(B) permit issued by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and own and manage BCP properties along with Lower Colorado River Authority, a Managing Partner, and other cooperating entities. The permit has a 30-year term, and BCP partners are to continue ownership and management activities in perpetuity.

BCP partners include the City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Lower Colorado River Authority, Travis Audubon Society, and private partners. BCP land is divided into seven macrosites: Barton Creek, Bull Creek, Cypress Creek, North Lake Austin, Pedernales, South Lake Austin, and West Austin. BCP partners have currently designated 28,329 acres of land as part of the BCP. This represents 93% of the permit goal of at least 30,428 acres to be set aside for the BCP.

The City of Austin’s BCP program was housed within the Parks and Recreation Department until April 2002, when the Wildland Conservation Division was created as part of Austin Water Utility. Since that time, the Wildland Conservation Division has included the City of Austin’s BCP and Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL) programs.

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan

In 1996, USFWS issued the joint permit for incidental take to the City of Austin and Travis County. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that established the BCP and set forth how it was to be funded and organized was called the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP). One year previously, the City of Austin and Travis County had signed an Interlocal Agreement, which became an appendix to the BCCP. The Interlocal Agreement described the implementation of terms of the pending HCP and served to outline future BCP partner roles and responsibilities. The Interlocal Agreement also created the BCCP Coordinating Committee as the managing entity of the BCP.

The members of the Coordinating Committee are:

Lee Leffingwell, Austin City Council Member

Gerald Daugherty, Travis County Commissioner Precinct 3

Adam Zerrener, Field Supervisor of Austin office of U.S. Fish and Wildlife

William Conrad, Division Manager of Wildland Conservation, Austin Water Utility (Secretary)

2007 BCP Land Management Plan Public Involvement

The City of Austin and its BCP partners are required to implement the Land Management Plans and Guidelines included in the BCCP when preparing the BCP Land Management Plan. Land Management Plans are created by land managers and submitted to the Coordinating Committee and USFWS for approval. The plans should be updated at least every five years, and

public input is encouraged during drafting of Land Management Plans. Newly acquired lands are managed under the HCP Land Management Plans and Guidelines until the land managers create an approved individual plan in accordance with the USFWS approved 2007 BCP Land Management Plan.

The City of Austin, Travis County, and other BCP partners held five public hearings to seek input on the 2007 BCP Land Management Plan. Initial public hearings were held November 10th, 2005 and February 15th, 2006, followed by a 120-day public review and comment period.

During this time, public comments were accepted by phone, email, and in person. A website was also created expressly to engage the public and receive their comments. During the public comment period, digital and paper copies of the Land Management Plan were made available at public libraries, in local print shops, on the Internet, and by request through BCP partners. During the public comment period, 294 comments were received. The Land Management Plan was updated and revised based on these public comments, and then published on August 15, 2007. Three additional public hearings followed. The Coordinating Committee held a public hearing on October 24, 2007, Travis County had a public hearing on November 6, 2007, and Austin City Council held a hearing to discuss the topic on November 8, 2007. The general comment from the public hearings was that the public wanted new trails and did not fully support the BCP staff recommendations in Chapter 12 of the BCP Land Management Plan.

Additionally, the COA Parks and Recreation Department organized a Turkey Creek Task Force in 2006 in an attempt to address concerns citizens raised about endangered species habitat destruction on the Turkey Creek trail in Emma Long Metropolitan Park. This process provided the basis for considerable public testimony in the public involvement process.

In response to public comments, the 2007 BCP Land Management Plan was approved by the Coordinating Committee with the exception of Chapter 12: Public Access. The Policy Statement Supporting Public Access Trails on the BCP (Policy Statement), released by the Coordinating Committee on November 28, 2007, directed BCP staff to implement the new policy and begin work on a trail master plan to increase public access. Chapter 12 of the BCP Land Management Plan will be resubmitted with the inclusion of the trail master plan at a later date. Chapter 12 is a consensus document, and revisions will require agreement among all BCP partners.

November 28, 2007 Policy Statement

The Coordinating Committee's Policy Statement (Appendix B) supported public access trails on the BCP with affirmative votes from both City of Austin Mayor Will Wynn, City of Austin's BCCP Coordinating Committee member at the time of the vote, and Travis County Commissioner Gerald Daugherty. The Policy Statement changed how the Coordinating Committee approaches the policies set forth in previous policy documents and dictated that City and County staff initiate the trail master plan process with stakeholder and user groups. The Policy Statement also dictated that the master plan be presented to the Coordinating Committee along with any suggested changes to the Land Management Plans and/or Guidelines by no later than November 28, 2008. On January 8, 2008, Travis County Commissioners Court directed staff to not implement this policy on county BCP property.

The Policy Statement called for increased public access beginning in 2009 and identified Canyon Vista, Forest Ridge, and Emma Long as priority sites for review. The Policy Statement also instructed that public access on PARD/BCP and Travis County "grandfathered" tracts continue.

“Grandfathered” tracts were defined in the 1999 BCP Land Management Plan as “recreation areas” owned or managed by the permit holders before the issuance of the BCCP. The BCCP Coordinating Committee’s November 2007 Policy Statement stated that all public access that currently exists on Travis County and City of Austin PARD/BCP “grandfathered” tracts shall continue. Willy Conrad, the BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary, interpreted this policy to mean that uses that were already happening before and up to 1992, when the BCP was initiated, would continue without respect to historic levels of use.

DRAFT

The Trail Master Planning Process

Formation of the Convening Committee

As secretary of the Coordinating Committee, Willy Conrad created the Convening Committee to organize the Trail Master Plan process. Willy contacted members of the public who had previously expressed interest in trails on the BCP and invited them to participate in Convening Committee meetings. Six meetings were held at City Hall beginning on December 14, 2007 and ending on March 18, 2008.

The following members made up the Convening Committee:

Organization	Committee Member
BCP Science Advisory Committee Chair	David Steed
COA BCP	Scott Rowin
COA Parks and Recreation Department	Ricardo Soliz
COA Wildland Division	Willy Conrad
Citizens Advisory Committee Chair	Ted Siff
Travis County BCP	Rose Farmer
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Bill Seawell

On February 8, 2008, the Convening Committee approved a document outlining the recommended Trail Master Plan process, goals, and objectives (Appendix C). This document provided guidance throughout the Trail Master Plan stakeholder process, but it is not intended to be guidance for the implementation of the Trail Master Plan.

Formation of the Trail Master Plan Committee

Interested parties were invited to participate in a facilitated stakeholder group that became the Committee. The Committee was formed to recommend what public uses and activities would be allowed on trails, where trails would be implemented, and how the trails would be funded and maintained. The qualifications for stakeholders are described in Appendix D. The stakeholder organization application to participate as part of the Committee is found in Appendix E, and completed stakeholder applications are found in Appendix F.

Through a separate agreement, Austin Water Utility (Utility) engaged Mike Hockmuller of City of Austin Human Resources to facilitate the Committee meetings using a consensus-based collaborative decision-making process that has resulted in the recommendations contained in this Plan.

These facilitated Committee meetings began April 1, 2008, and occurred approximately biweekly through December 2, 2008, the Committee's last meeting of this initial planning phase. Recommendations of the Committee are respectfully submitted to the BCCP Coordinating Committee. It is the intention of Utility staff that the involvement of stakeholders will continue into the next implementation phase.

Trail Master Plan Committee Participants

This plan would not be possible without the active participation of the Committee. The following citizens have participated in a consensus-based decision-making process representing their organizations:

Organization	Representative	Alternate(s)
2222 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations	Peter Torgrimson	Joe Konopka
Austin Metro Trails & Greenways	Jeb Boyt	Ted Siff
Austin Parks and Recreation	Jenna Neal	Randy Scott Ricardo Soliz
Austin Parks Foundation	Charlie McCabe	
Austin Ridge Riders	Judi Ronkartz	Cynthia Weisinger
Barton Creek Greenbelt Guardians	Glee Ingram	Yates Barreda
BCCP Citizens Advisory Committee	Mary Ann Neely	
BCCP Scientific Advisory Committee	David Steed	Clifton Ladd
City of Austin BCP	Scott Rowin	Lisa O'Donnell
Friends of Canyon Vista	Gary Rochelle	Jim Donahue
Friends of Turkey Creek	Sheila Holbrook-White	Allison Nagel Kristy Rollins Marie Francois Ertle
Hill Country Trail Runners	Gabe Ayson	Chris Chandler Robert Heynen Joe Prusaitis
Lower Colorado River Authority	Rusty Ray	Jarrod Depew
The Nature Conservancy	Valarie Bristol	
Save Our Springs Alliance	Mark Tschurr	Bill Bunch
Travis Audubon Society	Jeff Mundy	Sheila Hargis
Travis County	Rose Farmer	Kevin Connally
US Fish and Wildlife	Bill Seawell	Adam Zerrenner

Definition of Consensus

During its first few meetings, the Committee discussed the process by which it would attempt to come to agreement on its recommendations. With the skilled assistance of facilitator Mike Hockmuller, the Committee adopted this definition of consensus:

“a form of group decision-making in which every member of the group is involved in the discussion, can live with the decision, and can publicly support the decision.”

Committee Constraints and Guiding Principles

The Convening Committee developed a list of Constraints and Guiding Principles for the Trail Master Plan process. These were a condition to participate in the process as a stakeholder. They are as follows:

The charge of the stakeholder process is to develop a trail master plan. Whether or not additional BCP trail access should be allowed is not within the scope of this process.

The goal of the process is to identify opportunities to increase recreational access within identified Preserve land consistent with existing conditions of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan and associated permit.

The objective of the process is to complete a Trail Master Plan that would identify public access locations and activities within less sensitive areas of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve and ensure adequate monitoring and adaptive management.

All plans are constrained and must conform to both the federal permit and the BCCP Habitat Conservation Plan.

Planned actions must not create the need for permit amendment.

The represented constituency must have an interest in the charge.

Stakeholders must have an interest in developing a strategic vision for trails/access/recreation on BCP.

Stakeholders must have an interest in developing an operational trail(s) on a site(s).

A stakeholder organization must have a process in place to authorize a representative to make decisions on behalf of the organization.

Stakeholder organizations may authorize a representative and an alternate(s).

Stakeholders must represent a constituency and not an individual's personal self interest.

Stakeholders must bring resources to the process.

Stakeholders must agree to support consensus decision-making where all stakeholders agree to publicly support any decisions.

Committee Ground Rules

The Committee abided by the following ground rules at all meetings:

Focus on issues, not on people.

Speak your mind and get to the point.

Allow people to speak uninterrupted.

Point/ counter point runs through the facilitator.

Use discretion between meetings.

Stakeholders are encouraged to appoint multiple individuals as representatives in order to assure representation throughout the process. Only one representative should speak for the stakeholders in meetings.

When stakeholders support consensus decision-making they do so on behalf of their organization.

Decisions will not be revisited because stakeholders were not present or represented when a decision was made.

Process Goal

The goal of the Trail Master Plan process is to identify opportunities to increase recreational access within identified Preserve land consistent with existing conditions of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan and associated permit.

Committee Strategic Vision

After examining policy guidance, the Committee reached consensus on the mission of the BCP, the role of public access, trail activities that are allowed and not allowed, and the impact of the Policy Statement on previous policy guidance. The following BCP Trail Master Plan Strategic Vision is the result of the process.

BCP Trail Master Plan Strategic Vision

The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Trail Master Plan stakeholder committee agrees that:

What is the mission of Balcones Canyonlands Preserve?

Manage existing lands, and acquire and manage new land for the benefit, preservation, and recovery of eight listed endangered species and 27 species of concern.

What priority is recreation assigned in policy documents?

Public access is anticipated, expected, and permitted to be integrated in the management of the Preserve lands.

3. What are the standards that must be met when allowing access?

Access shall not result in take or threaten the welfare of target species of concern nor cause degradation of soil, vegetation, or water resources in order to preserve and/or enhance the integrity of habitat.

4. What public access may be specifically permitted?

Individual or Independent Group Use. It is necessary to avoid, detect, and reduce the types of localized detrimental impacts associated with human activity on the preserves. The following types of outdoor activities may be allowed if they do not conflict with conservation of target species as described in the individual preserve land management plans.

Walking/Jogging/Hiking. Unsupervised group access should not be allowed within 100 meters of occupied songbird habitat during breeding/nesting season, unless such access can be documented to show no apparent degradation to the welfare of the species of concern.

Relatively extensive trail networks along existing right-of-ways may have to be maintained and monitored if this activity is approved. Creation of new trails will be addressed in preserve land management plans and should leave woodland canopies intact. In golden-cheeked warbler habitat, new trails should not fragment woodland interiors or allow human use intensity that threatens this species.

Fishing. Fishing may be allowed where there is existing access to the lake frontage that is not inhabited by the target species. If allowed, fishing locations will be designated and fishing will not be allowed outside designated areas. Fishing in environmentally-sensitive springs and deeper spring runs, especially where rare salamander species are present, will be prohibited. Construction of new roads, access points and other support facilities for fishing must be approved in the preserve land management plans. Stocking of native or exotic species is prohibited unless specified in an approved land management plan.

Swimming/Boating/Rafting/Tubing. Designated water access areas may be available at selected locations, based on approved land management plans. Bank access restrictions may be necessary to protect adjacent target species habitats.

Bicycling. This activity is prohibited, except for selected sites designated as experimental sites, with appropriate monitoring for effects on the preserve and enforcement of all applicable rules. As part of an approved plan, creation of new trails should leave woodland canopies intact. In golden-cheeked warbler habitat, trails cannot fragment woodland interiors or allow human use intensity that threatens this species. Any new bicycle trails should be designated to minimize erosion, and existing approved trails exhibiting significant erosion should be closed and repaired. Any existing trails not approved by the Coordinating Committee Secretary will be closed.

Horseback Riding. This activity is prohibited, except for selected sites designated as experimental sites, with appropriate monitoring for effects on the preserve and enforcement of all applicable rules. Stables and similar facilities for the long-term (overnight or longer) maintenance of groups of horses shall not be constructed within any part of the preserve system. Contracts with private and commercial facilities on adjacent lands may be negotiated for use of tracts during the non-nesting and breeding season, provided that mitigation, clean-up, and cowbird trapping are implemented. However, horses may be used for appropriate preserve O&M activities.

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Riding. This is prohibited as a recreational activity because it is not compatible with preserve management objectives and goals. Furthermore, appropriate barriers and enforcement penalties should be established to minimize trespass into preserve properties and subsequent damage by ORV users. However, these vehicles may be used for appropriate preserve O&M activities.

Picnicking. This activity will require provision of trash receptacles and restroom facilities at staging areas located near the periphery of tracts. If preserve managers wish to allow this activity, preserve land management plans will designate picnic sites that can be easily maintained, to avoid creating focal centers for cowbird feeding activity.

Camping. This activity is allowed only in designated areas and if related to O&M or guided educational activities. When allowed, camping should be restricted to minimum-impact camping. Preserve managers will designate suitable camping areas, and these minimum-impact camping areas should be rotated frequently to enable each site to recover from past use. Only closed-burning fires (such as camp stoves) will be allowed.

Nature viewing. Some examples of permitted nature viewing opportunities are designated viewing areas with blinds, trails with descriptive trail brochures, or guided tours. Educational tours should be encouraged but procedures for review of tour group activities will be established in land management plans, as discussed below. Attempts to artificially improve wildlife viewing by maintenance of supplemental feeding areas are prohibited.

Spelunking. All access to caves must be restricted to permits issued by the appropriate land management agency, based on an appropriate program in the land management plan for the preservation of the caves' ecosystem.

Rock Climbing. Rock climbing and related activities are prohibited, except for selected sites designated as experimental sites, with appropriate monitoring for effects on the preserve and enforcement of all applicable rules.

Non-commercial Group Use. Non-commercial groups are nonprofit organizations, schools, and educational groups that request visitation to any tract for educational purposes or research. This use should be encouraged as long as it is monitored for possible habitat degradation and adverse impacts. These groups will be issued permits by the appropriate land management agency. The permit process should include user guidelines that protect target species and their respective habitats.

Educational Uses. Educational use is defined as those activities whose primary intent is to present or interpret information about the ecology of the preserve sites or the target species. Daytime field trips by school groups are typical of this public-use category.

Research Uses. Research use activities include those activities that will gather and interpret site-specific data in a way that improves understanding of the ecology of preserve species, plant communities, and aquatic and subterranean environments. Such activities will be coordinated through the appropriate preserve land manager.

Commercial Use

Guided Tours. Commercial tour groups are allowed to schedule tours of preserve sites, subject to the provision that such groups abide by prevailing visitation guidelines for that tract. The preserve land manager remains responsible for appropriate land management, including public access, regardless of whether operations, including private group tours, are accomplished by the land manager or through contractual arrangement. Contractual arrangements for guided tours will be non-exclusive with regard to public access.

Film-Making. Film production projects may be allowed subject to approval by the preserve manager and the Coordinating Committee Secretary. The film production process must not negatively impact the preserve environment.⁴

All activities that currently exist on Travis County and City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department/Balcones Canyonlands Preserve “grandfathered” tracts shall continue.

5. What public access is specifically not permitted?

Any use not specifically permitted (see #4).

6. How does the Policy Statement impact the interpretation of these documents?

The question is no longer if trails will be planned, but how and when trails will be planned, used, and managed consistent with the mission of the BCP. Hiking with dogs and running will be considered on a tract by tract basis.

Education and Information Process

Throughout the 16 Committee meetings, stakeholders reviewed the history of the BCP and policy guidance documents and then learned about each tract of city-owned land in BCP, the protected species and their habitats, and trail issues such as sustainability, management, and funding.

History of BCP

Committee meetings first focused on the history of the BCP and policy guidance documents including:

City of Austin 1992 Bond Resolution
City of Austin/Travis County Permit Application (EIS/HCP)
Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
BCCP Policy Statement Supporting Public Access Trails on BCP
Recovery Plans for BCP Endangered Species
Biological Opinion
Interlocal Agreement between City of Austin and Travis County
BCP Land Management Plans
Various correspondence from USFWS

⁴ BCP Habitat Conservation Plan, pages 2-37 to 2-39.

At this stage in the process, common ground was built and the facilitator ensured that all participants gained knowledge surrounding the purpose of the BCP and history of its creation and management.

BCP Land

Subsequent Committee meetings focused on gaining knowledge of BCP lands, boundaries, and constraints. The Committee analyzed each tract of land by macrosite, including:

South Lake Austin macrosite
North Lake Austin macrosite
Bull Creek macrosite
Barton Creek macrosite
Cypress Creek macrosite
West Austin macrosite

Dolph Scott, Environmental Program Coordinator for the Wildland Conservation Division, presented GIS maps for each tract of BCP properties showing topography, infrastructure, protected species sightings, karst areas, and other relevant information.

Protected Species and Habitat

The Committee also dedicated several meetings to learning about the golden-cheeked warbler, black-capped vireo, and karst invertebrates, their habitats, and the impact of recreation on their habitats. Outside scientists were invited to attend meetings and share knowledge on these science topics. The following science experts presented and answered questions at Committee meetings:

Karst Invertebrates

Andy Gluesenkamp, Texas Memorial Museum and independent biologist
Nico Hauwert, COA Watershed Protection and Development Review
Jean Krejka, Zara Environmental Consulting
Mark Sanders, COA BCP
Kemble White, SWCA Environmental Consulting

Black-Capped Vireo

Craig Farquhar, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Wildlife Diversity Program
Bill Reiner, COA BCP
Chuck Sexton, US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System

Golden-Cheeked Warbler

Clif Ladd, Loomis Austin
Lisa O'Donnell, COA BCP
Rebecca Peak, The Nature Conservancy
Chuck Sexton, US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System

Soil, Water, Plans, and Other Species

John Chenoweth, COA BCP

Trey Cooksey, Government Canyon State Natural Area

Walt Dabney, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Andy Gluesenkamp, Texas Memorial Museum and independent biologist

Steve Windhager, LBJ Wildflower Center

Trails on BCP Land

In addition to gaining common knowledge about BCP history, properties, and protected species, the Committee also dedicated time to learning about sustainable trail design, public access management, and trail funding. The following trail experts presented and answered questions at Committee meetings:

Hill Abel, International Mountain Biking Association

Tim Hayden, US Army Corps of Engineers Research Lab

David Mahler, Environmental Survey Consulting

Charlie McCabe, Austin Parks Foundation

Kevin Thuesen, COA Water Quality Protection Lands

Trail Planning Process

Following the education and information process, the Committee focused on trail planning. Meetings focused on gaining consensus on which tracts should be open to trail proposals, what trail uses should be permitted, planning considerations for sponsors, and what the proposal and MOU process should entail.

Tract Selection

Based on what Committee members learned about the land, protected species, trail sustainability, and access management, the group reached consensus to accept trail proposals for the following BCP tracts.

Group Name	Included Tracts
Barton Creek Greenbelt/Wilderness Park	Barton Creek Greenbelt (East and West), Barton Creek Wilderness Park, Friesenhahn
Forest Ridge/Bull Creek Preserve	Bull Creek Greenbelt (Upper and Lower), Bull Creek District Park, Forest Ridge, Jester, St. Edwards Park
Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve	Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve
Cortañá	Cortañá
Emma Long Metropolitan Park	Emma Long Metropolitan Park
Bohls/Reicher	Bohls, Reicher
Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park	Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park
Double J & T/Sansom	Double J & T, Sansom

Appendices G and H show maps of all BCP tracts on which sponsors may come forward with trail proposals. Trail proposals may include plans for new trails, conversion of unauthorized trails to authorized ones, or improving the sustainability of existing trails.

The Committee reached a general consensus that on tracts with many unauthorized and/or unsustainable trails, the primary expectation is to convert existing trails to authorized, sustainable ones. New trails may be considered on tracts unburdened by unauthorized and/or unsustainable trails.

Permitted Trail Uses

The Committee conceded that trail uses will be limited to hiking, hiking with dogs, trail running, and biking, as constrained by grandfathering and the Trail Master Plan Strategic Vision. Biking will be limited to experimental use and accompanied by appropriate monitoring. Appendix I shows types of activities that may be included in trail proposals on specific BCP tracts. Appendix J is an excerpt from the 1996 Habitat Conservation Plan that documents grandfathered uses on City of Austin BCP tracts.

Planning Considerations

The Committee identified planning considerations required to plan a trail on the approved tracts. The Committee reached consensus on the following considerations related to trails, uses, facilities, and operations. To more efficiently process trail proposals, each proposal should contain the following:

Planning Considerations for a BCP Trail Master Plan Proposal

Use

What uses are being sponsored?

Who is/are the sponsors?

What resources is/are sponsor(s) offering to provide?

What resources is/are the sponsor(s) seeking from the land manager?

How will this trail comply with the BCP (from TMP and Strategic Vision)?

How will user conflicts be avoided?

Trail

What is the approximate length of the proposed trail? (Please provide a map.)

What is the proposed surface of the trail?

Are there any potential structural components?

What is the type and expected extent of clearing created by the proposed trail?

What type of habitat is expected to be affected? (Use TMP process documents as a guide.)

Can occupied habitat, karst, springs, and plants be avoided by more than 100 meters?

If habitat cannot be avoided, what are the proposed actions to mitigate?

How will International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) design standards and specifications be met?

How will cultural and other sensitive resources be protected?

Facilities

Will parking be onsite or off BCP property?

If the parking is onsite, what is the proposed mitigation?
Is any impervious cover proposed?
Are structural facilities proposed?
Will they be located onsite or offsite?
If onsite, what is the proposed mitigation?
Is any impervious cover proposed?

Operations

User management

How will intensity of use be managed and/or maintenance be adjusted to address intensity?

How will enforcement and security be addressed?

What design and education components are proposed to keep users on trails?

Resource impacts (protected species, soil, water, and plant communities)

What design and/or management components are proposed to avoid impacts to protected species, soil, water, and plant communities?

How will uninterrupted preserve operations be provided for:

Species monitoring

Animal population management (deer, hogs, brown-headed cowbird)

Habitat manipulation

planting/restoration

burning

mechanical and chemical treatments

Safety of personnel and users

Other

How do you propose to provide long-term maintenance and repairs, enforcement, monitoring, and adaptive management?

How do you propose to support monitoring of the potential impacts from this trail on protected species, soil, water, and plants?

Trail Proposal and Memorandum of Agreement Procedure

The Committee reviewed the trail proposal and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) procedure followed in the WQPL trail planning process. An example MOA between WQPL and Bull Creek Foundation is found in Appendix K.

After reviewing the WQPL proposal and MOA process, the group created and agreed upon a process for the BCP Trail Master Plan, as listed below.

BCP Trail Master Plan Proposal and MOA Process

Sponsor request to plan a proposal

Sponsor obtains City of Austin access letter (for non park land).

City provides maps, monitoring data, natural resource information, and other documents to sponsor.

Proposal submission and review

Clarification and discussion between City of Austin (COA) and sponsor

COA proposes revisions to sponsor.

Acceptance

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Use Water Quality Protection Lands MOA as template.

Initial Trail Master Plan MOA will require revision to mutually agreed items (committees, reviews, administration, etc.).

MOA Approval

BCCP Coordinating Committee

Advisory Committee recommendations

Scientific Advisory Committee

Citizens Advisory Committee

USFWS concurrence or comment

City Council

Boards and Commissions recommendations

Water and Wastewater Commission

Environmental Board

Parks and Recreation Board (for grandfathered sites)

Initial design

Permitting

Revisions to design as required

COA Austin Water Utility/PARD general permits

Construction

Problem solving

Permit compliance certification

Recommendations

The following are consensus of the Stakeholder Steering Committee.

Proposals for new trails, improvement to existing trails, or conversion from unauthorized to authorized trails will be accepted for the following City of Austin BCP tracts:

Barton Creek Greenbelt/Wilderness Park – Barton Creek Greenbelt (East and West),
Barton Creek Wilderness Park, and Friesenhahn
Forest Ridge/Bull Creek Preserve – Bull Creek Greenbelt (Upper and Lower), Bull
Creek District Park, Forest Ridge, Jester, St. Edwards Park
Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve
Cortañá
Emma Long Metropolitan Park
Bohls and Reicher
Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park
Double J & T and Sansom

Trail uses will be limited to hiking, hiking with dogs, trail running, and biking, as constrained by grandfathering and the Trail Master Plan Strategic Vision. Biking will be limited to experimental use and accompanied by appropriate monitoring on new tracts. On tracts where grandfathered uses are provided for, those uses shall continue for any redefined public access recommended in this plan. Hiking with dogs on non-grandfathered tracts will require a proposal to the Coordinating Committee and may require a permit amendment.

Potential trail sponsors must address the issues outlined in the Planning Considerations for a BCP Trail Master Plan Proposal document when submitting a trail proposal.

Potential trail sponsors and Wildland Conservation Division staff will follow the process outlined in the Proposal and MOA Process document with trail proposals.

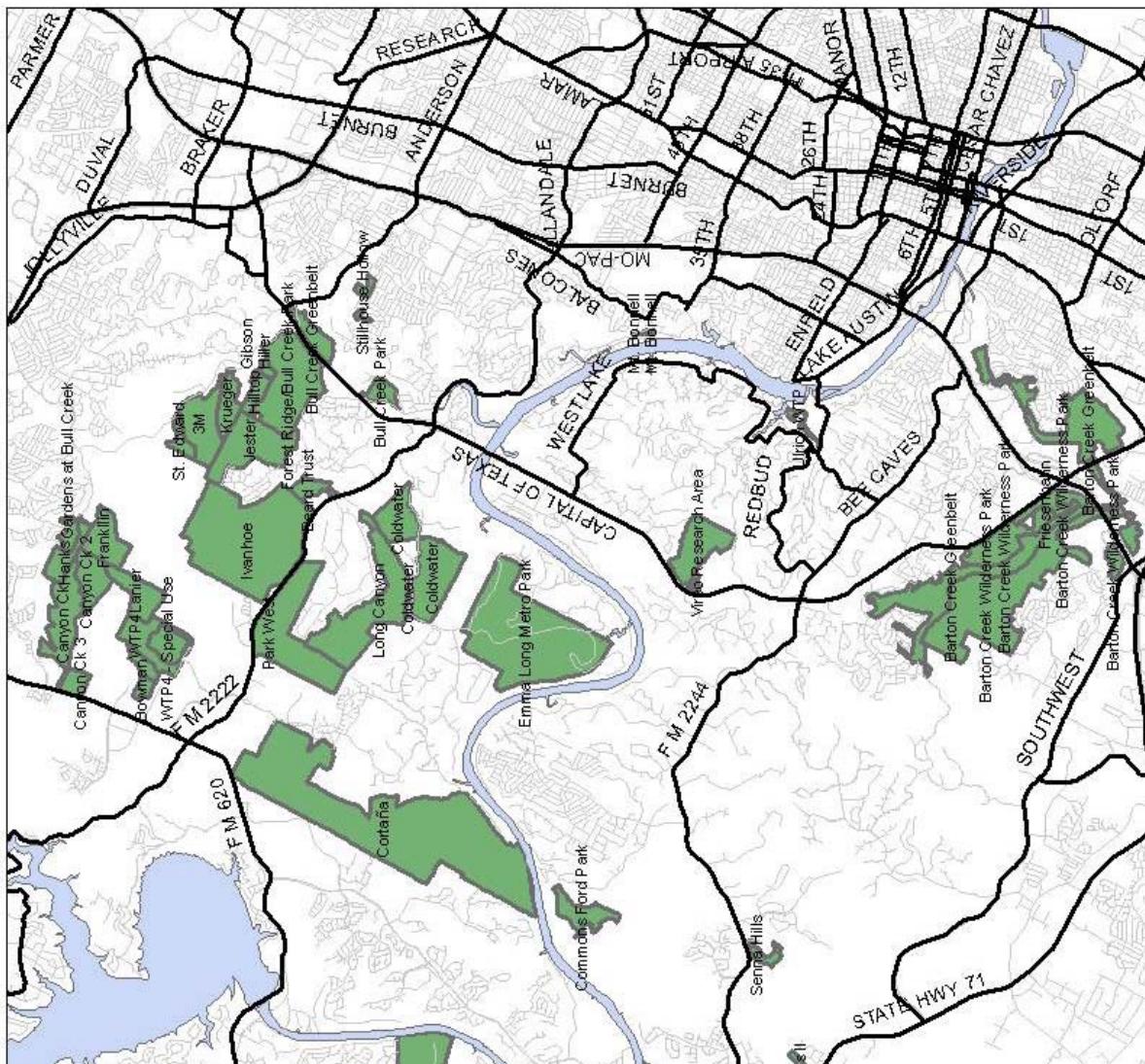
Future Trail Master Plan Process Efforts

Upon consensus agreement on the BCP Trail Master Plan, it will be submitted to the BCCP Coordinating Committee and Austin City Council. Chapter 12 of the 2007 BCP Land Management Plan will be revised to reflect the addition of the City of Austin BCP Trail Master Plan. The revised Land Management Plan will need to be approved by the BCCP Coordinating Committee and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Once all approvals have been reached on the Trail Master Plan and the Revised BCP Land Management Plan, the City of Austin BCP will accept trail proposals for tracts included in the Trail Master Plan. If the Trail Master Plan changes in the future, a USFWS permit amendment will be necessary.

Appendices

- APPENDIX A: MAP OF CITY OF AUSTIN BCP TRACTS [ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.](#)
APPENDIX B: NOVEMBER 28, 2007 POLICY STATEMENT [ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.](#)
APPENDIX C: CONVENING COMMITTEE TRAIL MASTER PLAN GUIDANCE [ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.](#)
APPENDIX D: STAKEHOLDER CRITERIA [ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.](#)
APPENDIX E: STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATION APPLICATION [ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.](#)
APPENDIX F: COMPLETED STAKEHOLDER APPLICATIONS [ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.](#)
APPENDIX G: MAP OF APPROVED TRACTS FOR TRAIL PROPOSALS [ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.](#)
APPENDIX H: DETAIL MAPS OF APPROVED TRACTS FOR TRAIL PROPOSALS [ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.](#)
APPENDIX I: ACTIVITIES THAT MAY BE PROPOSED ON COA BCP TRACTS [ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.](#)
APPENDIX J: HCP EXCERPT PROVIDING FOR USES NOW CONSIDERED AS GRANDFATHERED [ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.](#)
APPENDIX K: EXAMPLE WATER QUALITY PROTECTION LANDS MOA [ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.](#)

Appendix A: Map of City of Austin BCP Tracts



Appendix B: November 28, 2007 Policy Statement



Policy Statement Supporting Public Access Trails on The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve
November 28, 2007

The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Plan Coordinating Committee directs:

That public access trails, where consistent with the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve mission, shall be permitted within the preserve land owned and managed by City of Austin or Travis County; and That these trails shall be implemented using the standards (for trail design, permitting, construction, operation and maintenance) established by COA Water Utility Wildlands Division or equivalent standards set by the Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Department in accord with the requirements of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan; and

That public access may include any one or combination of the following recreational activities: hiking, hiking with dogs, running, and mountain biking. The appropriate recreational activities from the list above shall be determined on a tract-by-tract basis taking into consideration the season and the risk of a taking as defined by the BCCP. That all public access that currently exists on Travis County and City of Austin PARD/BCP "grandfathered" tracts shall continue; and

That City and County staff shall initiate, with public access stakeholder and user groups, the trail and public access master plan process they've requested, with the master plan to be completed and presented to the Coordinating Committee with suggested changes to the Land Management Guidelines and/or the BCP Land Management Plans, by no later than one year from the effective date of this resolution; and

That this master plan shall include trail and public access master plans for as many tracts within the BCP as practicable for increased access beginning in 2009. Tracts for priority review shall include the Canyon Vista, Forest Ridge and Emma Long tracts; and

Funding for acquisition of preserve habitat or species management within the preserve shall have priority over funding for recreational access within the preserve.

That in the event of a conflict between this resolution and the rest of the Balcones Canyonlands Land Management Plan, the remainder of this resolution shall continue in effect while the conflict is resolved in accordance with the requirements of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan.

*Approved by the BCCP Coordinating Committee November 28, 2007 on a motion from Chair Wynn,
second by Member Daugherty, carried 2/0.*

Appendix C: Convening Committee Trail Master Plan Guidance

Note: This document provided guidance throughout the Trail Master Plan stakeholder process, but it is not intended to be guidance for the implementation of the Trail Master Plan.

FINAL Increased Recreational Access within the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (02-08-2008)

On November 28, 2007, the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) Coordinating Committee directed City and County staff to develop a trail and public access master plan for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP). This plan is to be completed within one year with access to begin in 2009. It should be noted the Travis County Commissioner's Court rescinded the County's involvement in this process on January 08, 2008. Unless directed otherwise, the City's Wildland Conservation Division will continue with this endeavor.

The policy statement and other information received directs that this master plan is to be consistent with the current conditions identified within the BCCP and associated Federal permit. To ensure this, the master plan must be consistent with the BCCP Final Environmental Impact Statement and Habitat Conservation Plan (Also referred to as BCCP). BCP staff has identified the following key statements in the BCCP as critical guiding policy regarding public access, all of which are taken directly from the "Land Management Plans and Guidelines" section of the BCCP (pages 2-31 to 2-39). Any deviations from these key statements may require an amendment to the Federal permit and/or BCCP. As part of the stakeholder process, all stakeholders would be challenged to also provide their interpretations of existing policy. The sum of this information would then be considered with specific resource information to develop alternatives and make decisions for new trails.

- The BCCP preserve system is to be managed to permanently conserve and facilitate the recovery of the populations of target endangered species inhabiting western Travis County. This priority objective will govern preserve management activities to improve target species habitat, while protecting preserves against degradation caused by urbanization of surrounding lands and increased public demand for recreation usage within preserves.
- The welfare of target species (species of concern) will be the overriding influence on all decisions regarding activities on preserve lands. Decisions about activities within preserves should be made cautiously, so as to meet biological objectives to protect and enhance target species and minimize risk of damage to their habitat.
- No activity will be allowed which results in a "take" of an endangered species, or which degrades or in any way harms the preserve.
- A multiple-use management approach may be appropriate on some tracts, whereby other uses may be compatible with the primary habitat protection and species management goals, as long as these uses either benefit or have no negative effects on species of concern and do not significantly compete with other management efforts for

personnel or financial resources. (Note: This is also consistent with the November 28, 2007, policy statement which states, "funding for acquisition of preserve habitat or species management within the preserve shall have priority over funding for recreational access within the preserve.")

- Long-term monitoring of both the environmental quality of the preserve and the health of its populations of endangered species is a necessary part of this endeavor.
- The preserve system may offer public access and recreational opportunities within the Austin and Travis County area where possible and manageable. Public access may be allowed where and when such access does not threaten the welfare of the target species of concern, which is the overriding goal of the preserve system, nor cause the degradation of soil, vegetation, or water resources.
- The key to allowing public access which is non-threatening and non-damaging to preserve lands is implementation of effective management strategies to control such access and use. Demonstration over time of effectively implemented management strategies on a preserve tract may justify increased public access opportunities. Demonstrated non-effectiveness or habitat degradation may justify less public access for a particular tract.
- Creation of new roadways, trails, and cleared right-of-ways that open the canopies of woodland and shrubland communities, create additional impervious cover, or facilitate public use of preserve interiors or high quality sites occupied by target species should be discouraged.
- It is necessary to avoid, detect, and reduce the types of localized detrimental impacts associated with human activities associated with human activity on the preserves. The following types of outdoor activities may be allowed if they do not conflict with conservation of target species as described in the individual preserve land management plans. (Note: BCCP identifies 11 activities, some of which are prohibited or restricted, pages 2-37 to 2-39.)

The BCCP is the primary guidance document with respect to complying with the terms and conditions of the Federal permit and should form the basis for all other subsequent documents, such as Land Management Plans. While the statements above are specific to the BCCP, there are several other pieces of correspondence that provide further guidance regarding public access. Many of these are letters from Fish and Wildlife Service that help clarify certain points within the BCCP, but all are consistent with the statements above.

Goals and Objectives

Prior to developing the Trail Master Plan, the Convening Committee must identify what the goals and objectives of the Trail Master Plan are. To ensure compliance with the permit is maintained, and the Trail Master Plan process is focused and expedited, it is recommended the Convening Committee reach consensus on a set of goals and objectives. The City offers the following goals and objectives that it believes are consistent with the current guidelines contained within the BCCP.

Goal – To identify opportunities to increase recreational access within identified Preserve land consistent with existing conditions of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan and associated permit.

Objective – Complete a Trail Master Plan that would identify public access locations and activities within less sensitive areas of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve and ensure adequate monitoring and adaptive management, as identified below.

Trail Master Plan Process

The COA has identified the following process components that it believes will be necessary to complete the Trail Master Plan. The COA envisions stakeholders as being an integral part this process.

1. COA and stakeholders will identify and secure necessary funding/staffing resources needed to develop the Trail Master Plan, construct, manage, monitor and enforce the additional public recreation, and provide for additional public outreach/education.

2. With the assistance of the identified stakeholders, COA will develop a GIS database with the following data layers to identify endangered species habitat, non-endangered species habitat, and other sensitive areas:

- a. All existing City BCP properties
- b. All existing authorized trails and their current uses
- c. All existing and known unauthorized trails and their current uses
- d. All other authorized and unauthorized uses (e.g., camp sites, dumps, etc.)
- e. Current oak wilt locations
- f. GCWA habitat and observations, BCVI habitat and observations, rare plant locations, JPS locations, sensitive cultural resource sites, and sensitive karst features or karst geology. (Note: concerned about including karst feature locations because of possible release of this information)
- g. Creeks and other water features
- h. Topography, geology, and soils
- i. Other factor that must be considered when planning for specific trail access modes
- j. Other factors necessary for a meaningful trail experience

These data would be gathered and compiled through the stakeholder process. In this portion of the process, sharing of data will allow stakeholders to understand more about each other's needs as well as helping everyone understand any challenges with meeting the goals and objectives.

3. With the information above, the COA and stakeholders would identify the most appropriate site(s) to consider for providing increased public access through trails while ensuring compliance with the terms and conditions of the Federal permit, and the species and preserve needs are met. The goal of this effort would be to focus stakeholders on existing non-endangered species habitat areas and other less sensitive sites, while also meeting the needs of trail users.

4. COA would collaborate with stakeholders on a literature search and review of potential effects of recreation on natural resources (soil, vegetation, water, wildlife, species of concern), and contact other Federal/State agencies to determine how public

recreation is being managed in preserves with endangered species. Stakeholders would also be expected to contribute literature pertaining to recreation in sensitive natural areas. This could include beneficial uses from trails, methods to minimize impacts of trails, and methods of managing access.

5. All stakeholders would identify logistical constraints (physical access, parking, topography, public access/recreation on tracts with hog and deer management, etc.) for each site identified above.

6. COA and stakeholders would identify appropriate types of public uses for the identified sites.

7. To ensure impacts from the additional public recreation have insignificant impacts to the preserve and permitted species, it would be necessary to develop peer-reviewed scientific studies to test for potential adverse effects of recreation from:

a. Proposed trails within non-habitat areas. Monitoring should include baseline (pre-trail) conditions, control (no trail in similar area), and post "treatment" (post-trail) conditions to document any changes in soils, vegetation, water, and wildlife resources

i. Monitoring of vegetation should include at a minimum introduction of exotics, oak wilt, effects of trampling, species composition and cover, and regeneration of native woody species.

ii. Monitoring of soils should include at a minimum measures of soil compaction and erosion, and changes in amount and composition of litter.

iii. Monitoring water quality should include at a minimum turbidity/suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, temperature, nutrients, algal/plant communities, and introduction of pathogens and exotic species.

iv. Monitoring of wildlife species should include at a minimum changes in abundance of known predators (snakes, jays and crows, squirrels, red imported fire ants) and likely predators (free-roaming cats) to species of concern and avian communities. Should also include changes in abundance of species, such as deer and feral hogs that are known to be detrimental to the habitat of endangered species and species of concern.

b. Existing trails within habitat areas. Although monitoring baseline conditions is not possible, a research plan should be designed to isolate the effects of public recreation from the overriding influences of habitat loss from surrounding urbanization. At a minimum, monitoring in current habitat areas should include:

i. Effects on territory size, distribution, and productivity of GCWA and BCVI

ii. Effects on abundance of karst invertebrates and species upon which they depend

iii. Direct disturbance of rare plants and karst features

iv. All monitoring identified in #7a, focused on areas of public recreation and known locations of species of concern

8. Additionally, it would be necessary for stakeholders to collaborate to develop a monitoring plan to quantify the type and level of activity for all areas with public recreation to document the extent of authorized and unauthorized use.

9. Information from the scientific research in #7 and public recreation monitoring in #8 will be used to ensure that no activity results in a “take” of any species of concern, or degrades their habitat (soil, vegetation, water). This information would also be utilized to develop an ongoing adaptive management process, thus ensuring insignificant impacts to the preserve over the long-term. As identified in the BCCP, this must be adequately demonstrated prior to considering access to known endangered species habitat sites

10. COA and stakeholders would develop a trail system(s) for additional public access within non-habitat areas utilizing the best available knowledge to provide for increased trail access while avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating potential adverse effects of recreational activities.

Appendix D: Stakeholder Criteria

Stakeholders must have an interest in developing a strategic vision for trails/access/recreation on BCP.

Stakeholders must have an interest in developing an operational trail(s) on a site(s).

A stakeholder organization must have a process in place to authorize a representative to make decisions on behalf of the organization.

Stakeholder organizations may authorize a representative and an alternate(s).

Stakeholders must represent a constituency and not an individual's personal self interest.

Stakeholders must bring resources to the process.

Stakeholders must agree to support consensus decision-making where all stakeholders agree to publicly support any decisions.

Appendix E: Stakeholder Organization Application

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: _____

Address of organization: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: _____

What is the organization's mission or purpose? _____

What is your organization's interest in the BCP? _____

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access? _____

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process? _____

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes____ No____

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

Provide volunteers for clean-ups

Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring

Provide volunteers for other scientific research

Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)

Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides

Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)

Loan the use of construction equipment

Contribute construction materials

Other contributions_____

How many members does your organization have? _____

What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? _____

What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

General geographic scope description:

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	___	___
North Lake Austin	___	___
South Lake Austin	___	___
Barton Creek	___	___
Cyprus Creek	___	___
Other _____		
Not sure of specific watershed at this time	___	

**Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.**

Appendix F: Completed Stakeholder Applications

2222 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: Peter Torgrimson

Address: 6104 Maury's Trail, Austin, TX 78730

Phone: 338-4722 **Fax:** 338-4725

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent:

2222 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, Inc. (2222 CONA)

Address of organization:

P. O. Box 29602, Austin, TX 78755-9602

Phone: 338-4722 **Fax:** 338-4725 **E-mail:** info@2222cona.org

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: President

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

To represent neighborhood associations' interests on matters affecting development, environmental impact, natural resource preservation, and traffic and safety.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

BCP property surrounds and is intertwined with our member neighborhoods. Many of our residents literally have BCP property adjoining their property. We have a strong interest in maintaining the BCP and in defining appropriate use of BCP lands.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

As next-door neighbors of BCP tracts, our residents have a strong interest in the BCP and in any changes, particularly trails, which may be incorporated into neighboring BCP tracts.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

2222 CONA represents a large number of residents in the immediate northwest Austin BCP area. Our residents include many frequent trail users, environmentalists, and BCP adjacent neighbors who can provide comprehensive inputs to the planning process.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions

How many members does your organization have?

2222 CONA is an organization whose members are neighborhood associations. Our members are Austin City Park Neighborhood Association, Glenlake Neighborhood Association, Jester Homeowners Association, Long Canyon Homeowners Association, Long Canyon Phase II & III Homeowners Association, River Place Residential Community Association, and Westminster Glen Homeowners Association. Residents of member associations are associate members of 2222 CONA. 2222 CONA represents approximately 3,000 households.

What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership?

Membership fees for neighborhood associations vary with the number of lots in the associations. Many associations and individuals have made additional contributions to fund the activities of 2222 CONA.

What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

Watersheds in our area of interest are West Bull Creek, Bull Creek, Coldwater, Turkey, Panther Hollow, Steiner, Bear (West), Conners, Hog Pen and Lake Austin.

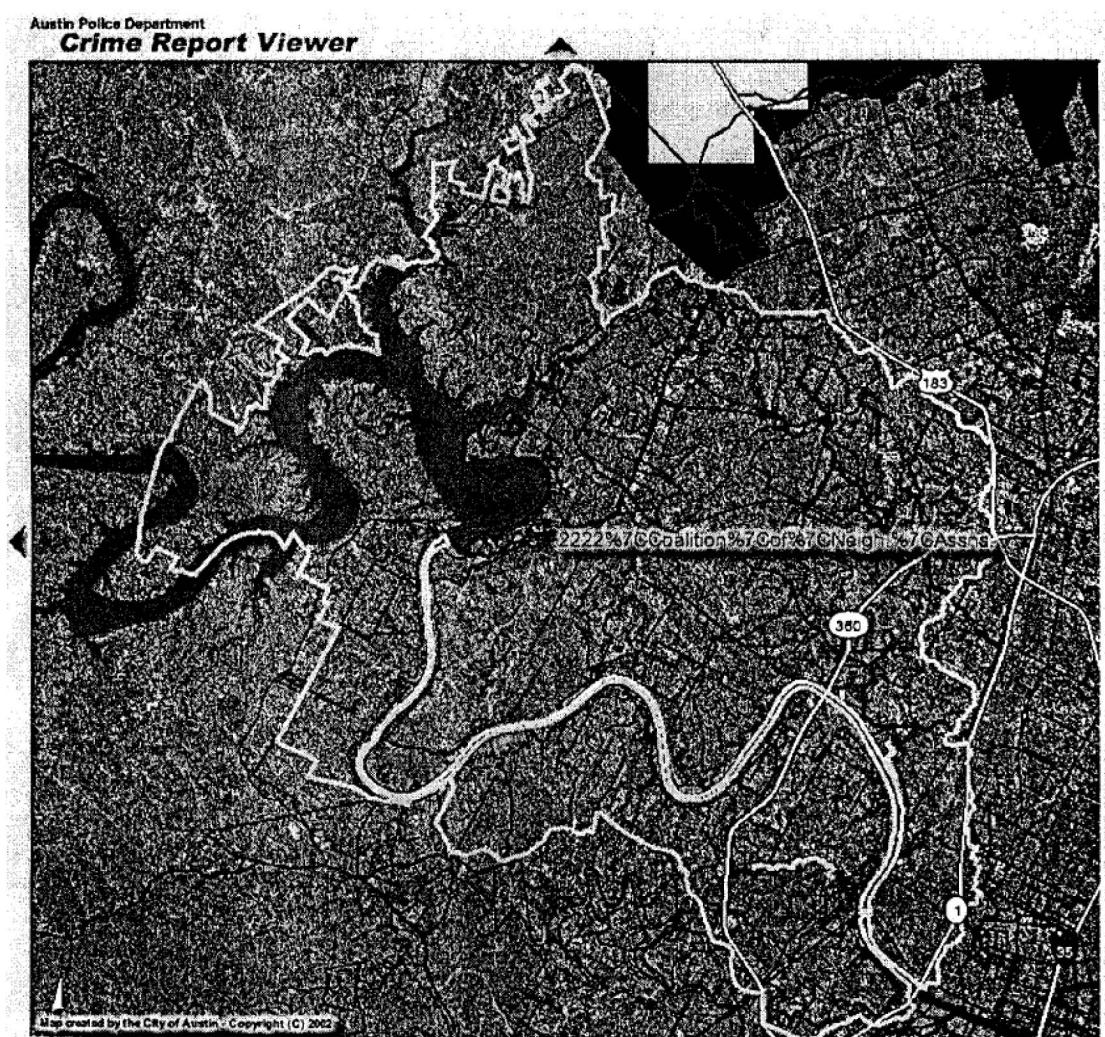
General geographic scope description:

A map of our area of interest is attached, as provided by the City of Austin.

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
North Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
South Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Barton Creek		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cyprus Creek		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other _____		
Not sure of specific watershed at this time	—	

Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.

2222 CONA Area of Interest



Austin Metro Trails and Greenways

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: Jeb Boyt

Address: 5423 Shoalwood, Austin, TX 78756

Phone: 680-1644 Fax:

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: *Austin Metro Trails & Greenways*

Address of organization: P.O. Box 685106, Austin, Texas 78768

Phone: Fax: E-mail:

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: President

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

AMTG is dedicated to the promotion and development of a regional network of greenways and trails for transit, recreational, and environmental benefits. Our goal is that everyone in Austin has a trail within ten minutes of their door.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

AMTG is interested in seeing the City and County fulfill on the promise made to the voters that portions of the BCP lands would be available for general public access.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

We are interested in the development and maintenance of environmentally responsible trails.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

Assisting in planning, land surveys, trail development, and fundraising.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)

- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions

How many members does your organization have? ~300

What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? \$25 / year

What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

General geographic scope description: *Austin and Central Texas*

Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites: Yes **No**

Bull Creek
North Lake Austin
South Lake Austin
Barton Creek
Cyprus Creek
Other _____

-
-
-

-
-

Not sure of specific watershed at this time _____

**Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.**

Austin Parks and Recreation

**BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES
TRAIL MASTER PLAN
COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS
Organizational Nomination Questionnaire**

Individual Contact Information:

Name: Ricardo Soliz, Randy Scott, and Jenna R. Neal

Address: 200 S. Lamar, Austin, TX 78704

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: *Austin Parks and Recreation Department*

Address of organization: 200 S. Lamar, Austin, TX 78704

Phone: *see above* **Fax:** **E-mail:** *see above*

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization:

Ricardo – Planning, Design & Construction Division Manager

Randy and Jenna - Planners

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, protect, and preserve a Park System that promotes recreational, cultural, and outdoor experiences for the Austin community.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

As mentioned in our mission's statement, PARD's interest in the BCP is to protect and preserve while providing outdoor experiences, via trails, for the Austin community. Such trails within BCP areas could be used to educate users by providing various education information signs/boards/kiosks.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

See above.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

PARD representatives are able to bring trail planning background/knowledge to the Trail Master Planning process along with expressing the needs of the community. (We are currently going through the public input meeting process of our Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities, and Programs.)

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions

How many members does your organization have? *N/A*

What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? *N/A*

What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

General geographic scope description: *city-wide*

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
North Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
South Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Barton Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Cyprus Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other _____		
Not sure of specific watershed at this time	—	

Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.

Austin Parks Foundation

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: Charlie McCabe

Address: c/o Austin Parks Foundation, 701 Brazos St, Suite 170, Austin TX 78701

Phone: 512-477-1566 Fax: 512-477-1586

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: Austin Parks Foundation

Address of organization: 701 Brazos St, Suite 170, Austin TX 78701

Phone: 512-477-1566 Fax: 512-477-1586

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization:

Executive Director

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

Austin Parks Foundation fosters collaboration, action and advocacy for our area parks and trails.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

The City of Austin BCP lands are an integral part of our preserve system and are literally made up of a number of grandfathered park land tracts. We have a number of volunteer groups who adopt and maintain those tracts, working with the parks department.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail Access?

A number of parks and popular greenbelts are also grandfathered BCP tracts. We're interested in designing, constructing and improving good sustainable trails in those tracts working with our volunteer network.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

We'd be interested in leading efforts to fund, design, build and maintain sustainable trails, repair flooding and erosion issues and combat the spread of invasive species, all activities we currently perform with volunteers on greenbelts and parks in Austin.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring

- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions: *Ability for groups to raise funds for trails and improvements under the foundation umbrella.*

How many members does your organization have? *over 500 paying members, more than 3,500 email mailing list subscribers*

What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? *\$35 and up for paying members, email mailing list subscription is free.*

What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.) *City of Austin and Travis County Parks, Preserves and open space (per foundation charter)*

General geographic scope description: *City of Austin, Travis County (per foundation charter)*

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
North Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
South Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Barton Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cypress Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other: <i>Eastern greenbelts and creeks outside BCP</i>		
Not sure of specific watershed at this time		_____

Austin Ridge Riders

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: Judi Ronkartz

Address: PO Box 300014 Austin, TX 78708

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: *The Austin Ridge Riders Mountain Bike Club*

Address of organization: *PO BOX 300014, Austin, TX 78703, www.austinridgeriders.com*

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail: arrprez@yahoo.com

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: *President*

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

Mission: To promote trail stewardship and the enjoyment of mountain biking in Central Texas.

Purpose: We are a non-profit, membership organization that promotes awareness of safe and environmentally conscientious off-road bicycling. We are committed to working with land managers, state and local government entities, and the public to promote responsible utilization of appropriate public and private lands for multi-use trails. The Ridge Riders actively participate in community trail development, trail maintenance, and cleanup projects as well as community rider programs.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

We are interested in increased public access on BCP lands. This project is a significant and unique model for a public-private partnership that serves the philosophies of environmental protection and public access on public lands.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

We believe that mountain biking can be accommodated on BCP properties without compromising the mission of the preserve to protect the endangered species and habitat. We want the opportunity to demonstrate this through sustainable trail designs and responsible trail use.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

Our organization has over 10 years of experience in building and maintaining trails in the Austin area through private/public partnerships with the City of Austin, LCRA, Army Corps of Engineers, Travis County Parks and Texas Parks and Wildlife and private land owners. We have participated in the stakeholder process on City of Austin Water Quality Protection Lands and have performed a leadership role in the development of the WQPL multi-use trail at Slaughter Creek. Our contributions would include sustainable trail design concepts, planning expertise, grant applications, hands on experience (process and actual implementation).

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
 - Maybe Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
 - Maybe Provide volunteers for other scientific research
 - Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
 - Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
 - Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
 - Loan the use of construction equipment (*hand tools*)
 - Contribute construction materials
 - Other contributions: *As a non-profit, the Ridge Riders could qualify for trail construction grants. We could also contribute trail building tools (McLeods/Polaskis/saws/loppers).*
- Note-The level of volunteerism will increase proportionate to the level of access, and vice-versa.*

How many members does your organization have? 170

What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? \$20 individual/\$35 family per year

What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

General geographic scope description: *We are interested in all BCP Geographies.*

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
North Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
South Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Barton Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Cyprus Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other _____		
Not sure of specific watershed at this time	—	

**Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.**

Barton Creek Greenbelt Guardians

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: *Glee Ingram*

Address: *1902 Airole Way*

Phone: *512-441-3278, 512-443-7522 wk* Fax: *512-443-3817*

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: *Barton Creek Greenbelt Guardians*

Address of organization: *Volunteer Coordinator's Office – 1906 Airole Way*

Phone: *443-7522* Fax: *443-3817*

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: *Founder and Volunteer Coordinator*

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

To provide a minimum of quarterly work days on a 3.5 mile segment of Barton Creek, focusing on trail repair, invasive species management, revegetation, erosion control, and trash clean-up. Educational information regarding the greenbelt is also a priority, as well as actively monitoring security issues (fires, drunkenness, abusive behavior, etc.) and reporting them to Parks Police.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

We share the care for and protection of the Barton Springs watershed. We want to use "best practices" for maintaining this popular public wild space.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

Many of our organizers and volunteers are avid outdoor people – bikers, hikers, climbers, and naturalists – and we desire responsible access to the Hill Country outdoors.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

We bring knowledge of and experience with high user traffic on the greenbelt park lands, the cautions and hard learnings, and we have experienced the care and enthusiasm that people have for our wildlands.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring

- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions: *I can envision collaborative educational ventures and perhaps coordinated management practices and events up and down the greenbelt.*

How many members does your organization have? *A core leadership team of 12 people, and volunteers for each work day ranging from 35-75 people. There are dozens of regular and repeat volunteers.*

What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? *None. We ask for their physical labor and efforts.*

What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

General geographic scope description: *The Greenbelt Guardians group was formed under the auspices of the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association. We adopted through a City of Austin PARD and Austin Parks Foundation program called Adopt-a-Park a 3.5 mile section of the greenbelt from Campbell's Hole to the Urban Assault Wall, including the trailheads at Homedale and Gus Fruh.*

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Lake Austin		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Lake Austin		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Barton Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Cyprus Creek		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other _____		
Not sure of specific watershed at this time _____		

**Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.**

City of Austin Balcones Canyonlands Preserve

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: *City of Austin BCP Representative (Scott Rowin or Lisa O'Donnell)*

Address: *Wildland Conservation Division, c/o Austin Water Utility, 625 East 10th Street, Austin, Texas 78701*

Phone: 512-263-6431 **Fax:** 512-263-1276

E-mail: scott.rowin@ci.austin.tx.us, lisa.odonnell@ci.austin.tx.us

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: *City of Austin, Balcones Canyonlands Preserve*

Address of organization: *Wildland Conservation Division, c/o Austin Water Utility, 625 East 10th Street, Austin, Texas 78701*

Phone: 512-263-6431 **Fax:** 512-263-1276 **E-mail:** scott.rowin@ci.austin.tx.us, lisa.odonnell@ci.austin.tx.us

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: *Scott Rowin-Program Manager for the City of Austin Balcones Canyonlands Preserve*

Lisa O'Donnell, Senior Biologist for the City of Austin Balcones Canyonlands Preserve

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

City of Austin holds the BCP Permit jointly with Travis County. Our mission/purpose is to maintain the permit and manage the preserve according to the terms and conditions of the permit requirements and the other associated legal documents.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

See above.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

See above. Also, on November 28, 2007, the Coordinating Committee for the BCCP directed City staff to develop a trail master plan for the City BCP properties consistent with the terms and conditions of the 10a permit and associated EIS/HCP.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

The City owns and manages the properties under consideration for trail access. It is likely we would be responsible for completing all necessary analysis, draft the plan, and be responsible for long-term research, monitoring, operation, and management of these trails. We would also provide information about the BCCP permit requirements, Interlocal

Agreement, Biological Opinion, BCCP Environmental Impact Statement/Habitat Conservation Plan. The City knowledge and experience is critical to this endeavor with respect to its expertise on the species contained within the preserve, constraints within the preserve, preserve management, location information, maps, identifying possible impacts of public access, monitoring needs, etc.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions

How many members does your organization have? N/A

What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? N/A

What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

General geographic scope description: BCP permit area and preserve

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
North Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
South Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Barton Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Cyprus Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other _____		
Not sure of specific watershed at this time	_____	

**Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.**

Friends of Canyon Vista

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: *Gary Rochelle*

Address: *10103 Vaquero Trail, Austin, TX 78759*

Phone: *258-7118*

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: *Friends of Canyon Vista*

Address of organization: *10103 Vaquero Trail, Austin, TX 78759*

Phone: *258-7118*

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: *President*

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

To facilitate and implement trail access to the Canyon Vista Tract of the BCP.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

We will represent the interests of potential users from the neighborhoods around the Canyon Vista tract of trails in the Bull Creek Watershed.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

We will advocate for responsible trails to be used by hikers, hikers with dogs, and mountain bikers.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

We will provide insights on access points, scientific constraints, experience with unsupervised access, and user expectations and behavior. Our members have also contacts with other volunteer groups including Boy Scouts.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides

- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions

How many members does your organization have? *10 active, 30 on our mailing list*

11. **What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership?** *none*

12. **What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)**

General geographic scope description: *Bull creek watershed, neighborhoods around Canyon Vista*

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Lake Austin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Lake Austin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Barton Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cyprus Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other _____		
Not sure of specific watershed at this time	—	

Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.

Friends of Turkey Creek

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: Sheila Holbrook-White
Address: 5616 Bull Creek Road, Austin, Texas 78756
Phone: 699-8136 **Fax:** 451-3578

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: Friends of Turkey Creek

Address of organization: 5616 Bull Creek Road, Austin, Texas 78756

Phone: 699-8136 **Fax:** 451-3578 **E-mail:** TurkeyCreekPups@gmail.com

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: Vice-Chair of the Friends of Turkey Creek; Communications-Membership Director, Primary Master; Planning Representative as elected by the members of the Friends of Turkey Creek; Past Friends of Turkey Creek Representative to the Parks and Recreation Turkey Creek Task Force

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

To promote, maintain, and sustain the quality and access to Turkey Creek Trail as a grandfathered multi-use area within the larger context of Emma Long Metropolitan Park and the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve.

To facilitate, organize, and catalyze volunteer financial and in-kind support and other resources for the promotion, maintenance, and sustainability of the Trail.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

As an organization that focuses on Turkey Creek Trail, a component of a grandfathered tract within the BCP, the Trail is a part of the BCP. Given its inclusion in the BCP Land Management Plan, the Friends of Turkey Creek have a vital interest in the BCP.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

As an organization that originally coalesced around concerns about ongoing access to a grandfathered tract within the BCP, our interest in access is both long-standing and continuing.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

As a highly-organized constituency, we expect to bring the collective knowledge, ideas, and efforts of our membership which includes a broadly-diverse membership of the greater Austin community. Already actively engaged in maintenance and construction, in collaboration with the Parks Department and Manger, we are the hands, eyes, and feet on the ground. To the extent that the Trail Master Planning process proves to be constructive, the Friends of Turkey Creek can serve as ambassadors for both the planning and/or for additional bonding propositions.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions: *Fund-raising, collaboration with other organizations*

How many members does your organization have? *700 plus*

11. What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? *We have not opted to charge a membership fee in order to make participation open to any interested member of the community, some of whom would otherwise be unable to actively engage in the Friends of Turkey Creek. That said, our membership has been consistently generous in their financial support of the Friends.*

12. What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

General geographic scope description:

Our membership is largely drawn from the Austin regionally.

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
South Lake Austin		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Barton Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Cyprus Creek		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other _____		
Not sure of specific watershed at this time	_____	

Hill Country Trail Runners

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: *Gabe Ayson*

Address: *4110 Paint Rock Dr*

Phone:

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: *Hill Country Trail Runners*

Address of organization: *P.O. Box 4432, Austin, TX 78765*

Phone: Fax: E-mail:

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: *Past President*

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

Promotion and encouragement of trail running and long distance running and the education of the public to the benefits of the same; engage in community activities, provide service to the trail running community and other organizations that support trail running, and to publicize by appropriate means the benefits of trail running as a means of physical fitness.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

Recognition of trail running as an acceptable activity that doesn't disturb and destroy existing natural environment within BCP parkland and preserves; increase public use and access of existing trails within BCP properties, assist in monitoring public use activities, work with BCP Partners and stakeholders in the development of a trail access plan.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

Increase public use of new and existing trails on BCP properties in a sensible, controlled method or design that doesn't interfere with environmentally sensitive habitat areas, possibly the creation of perimeter trail planning.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

Provide resource to manage, maintain and monitor parkland use, educate users of BCCP of the scope of environmental concerns within parkland and preserves.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? *Yes*

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring

- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions:

How many members does your organization have? *300+, 168 within Central Texas area*

11. What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? *\$15 individual, \$25 family per year annual membership*

12. What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

General geographic scope description:

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
North Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
South Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Barton Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Cyprus Creek		
Other _____		
Not sure of specific watershed at this time		

**Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.**

Lower Colorado River Authority

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: Rusty Ray

Address: 3700 Lake Austin Blvd

Phone: 473-3356 Fax: 473-3390

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: Lower Colorado River Authority

Address of organization: 3700 Lake Austin Blvd

Phone: 473-3356 Fax: 473-3390

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization:

Supervisor, Conservation Services. Our team helps manage LCRA lands, including LCRA BCP lands.

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

The mission of the Lower Colorado River Authority is to provide reliable, low-cost utility and public services in partnership with our customers and communities and to use our leadership role and environmental authority to ensure the protection and constructive use of the area's natural resources. The LCRA is a Texas conservation and reclamation district operating with no taxing authority.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

LCRA is a managing partner in the BCP and manages three LCRA tracts of land accordingly (McGregor, West Care and Wheless). LCRA also participates in the BCP Land Manager's, Coordinating Committee, Citizen's Advisory Committee and Scientific Advisory Committee meetings.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

As a managing partner, LCRA would like to audit the process to learn more about trail access in BCP lands as it relates to the permit.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

LCRA staff will provide insight and knowledge regarding the management of the BCP lands according to the permit and provide first hand knowledge of trail use on other LCRA properties that are not in the BCP.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? No

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions:

How many members does your organization have? *N/A*

11. What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? *N/A*

12. What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

General geographic scope description: *N/A*

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Lake Austin		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Lake Austin		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Barton Creek		
Cyprus Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other _____		
Not sure of specific watershed at this time	_____	

Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.

The Nature Conservancy

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: *Valarie Bristol*

Address: *816 Congress Ave, 920*

Phone: *494-9559 x 104* Fax: *494-9585*

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: *The Nature Conservancy*

Address of organization: *816 Congress Ave #920, Austin, TX 78701*

Phone: *494-9559 x 104* Fax: *494-9585*

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: *Director of External Affairs*

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

To preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

TNC is a partner and owns 4500 acres of BCP pledged land.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

The kind of access and any affect on the permit with emphasis on protection of species.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

Access to research and experience with land ownership.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)

- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions

How many members does your organization have? *32,000 in Texas*

What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? *\$50*

What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

General geographic scope description: *International*

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barton Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cyprus Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not sure of specific watershed at this time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.

Save Our Springs Alliance

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: Bill Bunch

Address: P.O. Box 684881, Austin, Texas 78768

Phone: 477-2320 Fax: 477-6410

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: Save Our Springs Alliance

Address of organization: P.O. Box 684881, Austin, Texas 78768

Phone: 477-2320 Fax: 477-6410

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: Executive Director

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

The Save Our Springs Alliance works to protect the natural and cultural heritage of Edwards Aquifer Ecosystem and the Texas Hill Country.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

We have long been involved in working to protect and enhance the BCP and the endangered species targeted for conservation by the BCP. Personally, I was on the original steering committee that launched the BCP.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

In our view of endangered species conservation in the Hill Country, and in Austin in particular, we must provide opportunities for citizens to enjoy BCP lands or else the lands will become targeted for development.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

As a stakeholder representative, and as a conduit of information to the community, primarily through our e-mail news system, which reaches more than 5,000 people.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)

- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions:

How many members does your organization have? *Approximately 2,000*

11. **What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership?** *We ask for a \$5 dollar donation or contribution of volunteer time.*

12. **What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)**

General geographic scope description: *Our primary focus is the Barton Springs watershed, however we have been active in protecting the larger Hill Country region, with specific efforts to protect the Bull Creek watershed.*

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
North Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
South Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Barton Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Cyprus Creek		
Other:		
Not sure of specific watershed at this time		

Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.

Scientific Advisory Committee to the BCP Coordinating Committee

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: *David Lewis Steed*
Address: *4008 Tejon Circle, Austin, TX 78734*
Phone: *266-3055* **Fax:** *266-3704*

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: *Scientific Advisory Committee to the BCP Coordinating Committee*

Address of organization: *Scientific Advisory Committee, Attn: BCP Coordinating Committee, W. Conrad; 3635 RM 620 South; Austin, TX 78738-6807*

Phone: *263-1276* **Fax:** *263-1276* **E-mail:** *William.conrad@ci.austin.tx.us*

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: *Chairman of the 5-member Executive Committee*

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

Advise the BCCP Coordinating Committee on issues of scientific/technical nature relating to species, habitat, preserve management, permit requirements, preserve configuration, HCP goals and objectives; etc.; interpretation and analysis of data, design and implementation of management, research, monitoring, education, and public access programs. Support BCCP staff in these regards.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

Sustain the protected species, compliance with the ESA permit requirements; adherence to HCP goals and objectives, Completion of the preserve system at earliest possible date. Each member of the Executive is a professional Scientist/ Resource Manager/ Consultant with decades of experience in formulation of, implementing, and sustaining the BCP Preserve system. The resurrected SAC (2003-4) has long supported access programs consistent with the ESA Permit and the HCP. This position is reflected in several of its communiqués to the Coordinating Committee in its comments and recommendations on the preserve land management plans and other issues.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

To achieve highest level of public participation in BCCP programs consistent with the permit and HCP while continuing all efforts to protect the species To achieve a Trail Master Plan that provides greatest level of public participation without additional threat to the species and avoiding any need for a permit amendment. Raise the level of education and public information programs to achieve greater public appreciation for the BCCP program which has been presented by some as a nation-wide model for endangered species protection.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?
Provide science-based background information on the species, habitat requirements, management measures, sensitivities, analysis and interpretation of data. Provide input on design of monitoring and mitigation measures as needed. Remind all of Preserve purpose under ESA permit requirements.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions: *Provide science-based input on all of above and other programs.*

How many members does your organization have? *There are currently five (5) members on our Executive Committee and some 30+ volunteers with varying professional expertise/ credentials from the public, private, and non-profit sectors.*

11. **What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership?** *None. Appointment to the Executive Committee is by City of Austin and Travis County with concurrence of the Coordinating Committee.*

12. **What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)**

General geographic scope description: *All the area and watersheds encompassing the Preserve boundaries, macrosites, and the currently proposed Preserve Acquisition areas.*

Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites: **Yes** **No**

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Bull Creek | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| North Lake Austin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| South Lake Austin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Barton Creek | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Cyprus Creek | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other: <i>Currently proposed and prospective Preserve acquisition areas.</i> | |
| Not sure of specific watershed at this time | — |

Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.

DRAFT

Travis Audubon Society

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: Jeff Mundy (*and Sam Fason, Alternate*)

Address:

Phone: 512-334-4300 (Jeff) 512-750-5913 (Jeff- cell)
512-474-1185 (Sam) 512-413-9308 (Sam- cell)

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: *Travis Audubon*

Address of organization: P.O. Box 40787, Austin, TX 78704

Phone: 300-2473 Fax: E-mail: www.travisaudubon.org

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization:

Board members (Jeff and Sam)

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

Inspiring conservation through birding.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

Partner and own 700 acres of land pledged to BCP.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

Want to learn what is possible without damage to bird habitat.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

Have experience with landowner and access issues; knowledge of bird research.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? Yes

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides

- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions

How many members does your organization have? 700

What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? \$12 students/\$25 regular

What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

General geographic scope description: *Travis County and surrounding counties.*

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barton Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cyprus Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not sure of specific watershed at this time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.**

Travis County BCP

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: *Travis County BCP Representative (Rose Farmer, Kevin Connally, Jennifer Brown, or Jon White)*

Address: *Travis County – TNR, PO Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767*

Phone: *(512) 854-7214* **Fax:** *(512) 854-6474*

E-mail: *rose.farmer@co.travis.tx.us Kevin.connally@co.travis.tx.us
Jennifer.brown@co.travis.tx.us jon.white@co.travis.tx.us*

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: *Travis County Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Program*

Address of organization: *Travis County – TNR, PO Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767*

Phone: *(512) 854-7214* **Fax:** *(512) 854-6474*

E-mail: *rose.farmer@co.travis.tx.us Kevin.connally@co.travis.tx.us
Jennifer.brown@co.travis.tx.us jon.white@co.travis.tx.us*

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: *BCP 10a Permit Holders, Rose Farmer – Program Manager Natural Resources, Jon White – Travis County Division Director Natural Resources and Environmental Quality, Kevin Connally – Senior Environmental Resource Management Specialist, Jennifer Brown – Environmental Specialist*

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

Travis County holds the BCP Permit jointly with the City of Austin. Our mission/purpose is to maintain the permit and manage the preserve according to the terms and conditions of the permit requirements and the other legal documents associated.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

See above.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

See above.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

Provide information about the BCCP permit requirements, Interlocal Agreement, Biological Opinion, BCCP Environmental Impact Statement/Habitat Conservation Plan. Expertise on the protected preserve species and preserve biology, preserve management, location information, maps, help with scientific impacts of public access, monitoring needs, etc.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance? No

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)
- Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
- Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
- Loan the use of construction equipment
- Contribute construction materials
- Other contributions

How many members does your organization have? N/A

What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? N/A

What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

General geographic scope description: BCP Permit area

<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
North Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
South Lake Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Barton Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Cyprus Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other _____		

Not sure of specific watershed at this time _____

Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to: BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.

US Fish and Wildlife Service

BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVES TRAIL MASTER PLAN COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROCESS Organizational Nomination Questionnaire

Individual Contact Information:

Name: Adam Zerrenner (*Bill Seawell will attend meetings*)
Address: 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78739

Phone: 490-0057 x248 **Fax:** 490-0974 **E-mail:** Adam_Zerrenner@fws.gov

Stakeholder Organization Information:

Organization you represent: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Address of organization: 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78739

Phone: 490-0057 x248 **Fax:** 490-0974 **E-mail:** Adam_Zerrenner@fws.gov

Your title or area of responsibility within the organization: Field Supervisor for all Austin office operations

What is the organization's mission or purpose?

Working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

What is your organization's interest in the BCP?

The Service is responsible for monitoring and oversight of the BCP permit.

What is your organization's interest in BCP trail access?

To provide input on the effect of trails and trail use on the take and mitigation under the BCP.

How do you envision your group contributing to the Trail Master Planning process?

See response under #7.

Would your organization be willing to contribute to development of, and/or ongoing trail operations and maintenance?

If yes, check which contributions your organization might be able to make:

- Provide volunteers for clean-ups
- Provide volunteers for water quality monitoring
- Provide volunteers for other scientific research
- Provide volunteers for construction of research facilities (for example: water qualities monitoring devices)

Provide volunteers for interpretative services, such as tour guides
Provide volunteers for construction of public amenities (for example: trails, interpretive signs, picnic tables, etc.)
Loan the use of construction equipment
Contribute construction materials
Other contributions

How many members does your organization have? *Currently 18 in the Austin Office.*

What, if any, fee or donation is required for membership? *N/A*

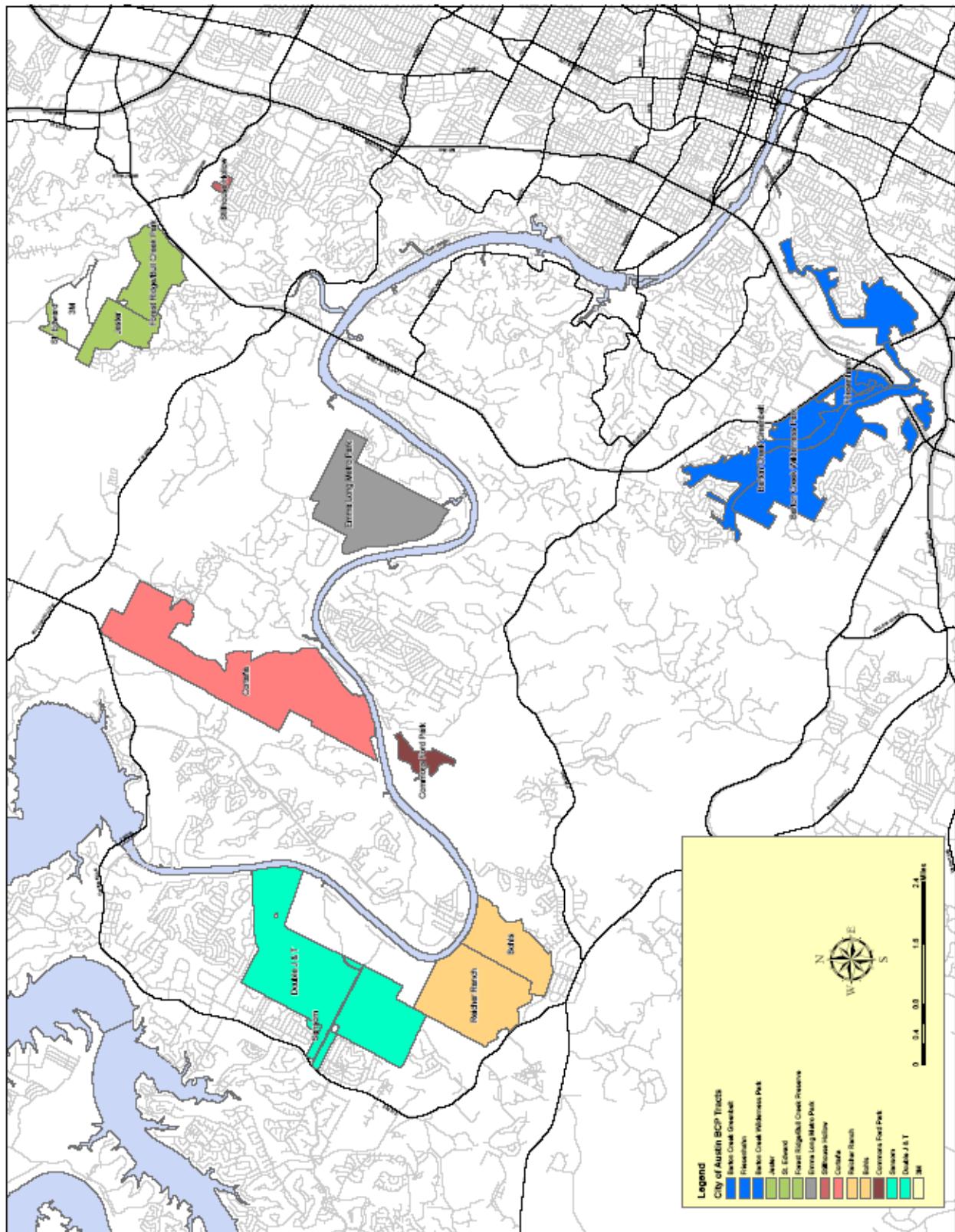
What is the geographic scope of your organization? (Please indicate the watershed(s) or macrosite that are of particular interest.)

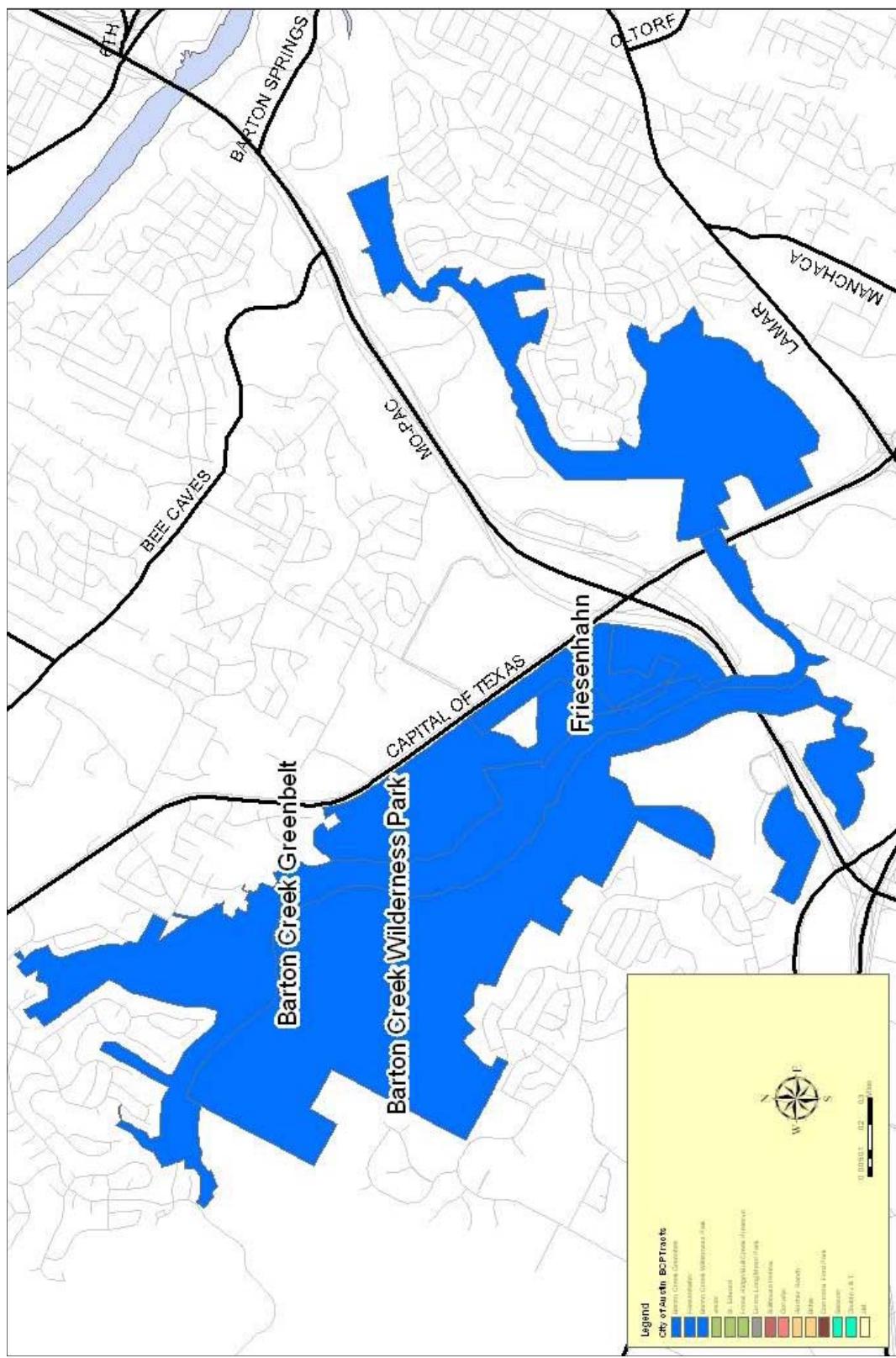
General geographic scope description: *Our office covers a large area of Texas, including all the BCP permit area. We have no particular interest in any single macrosite.*

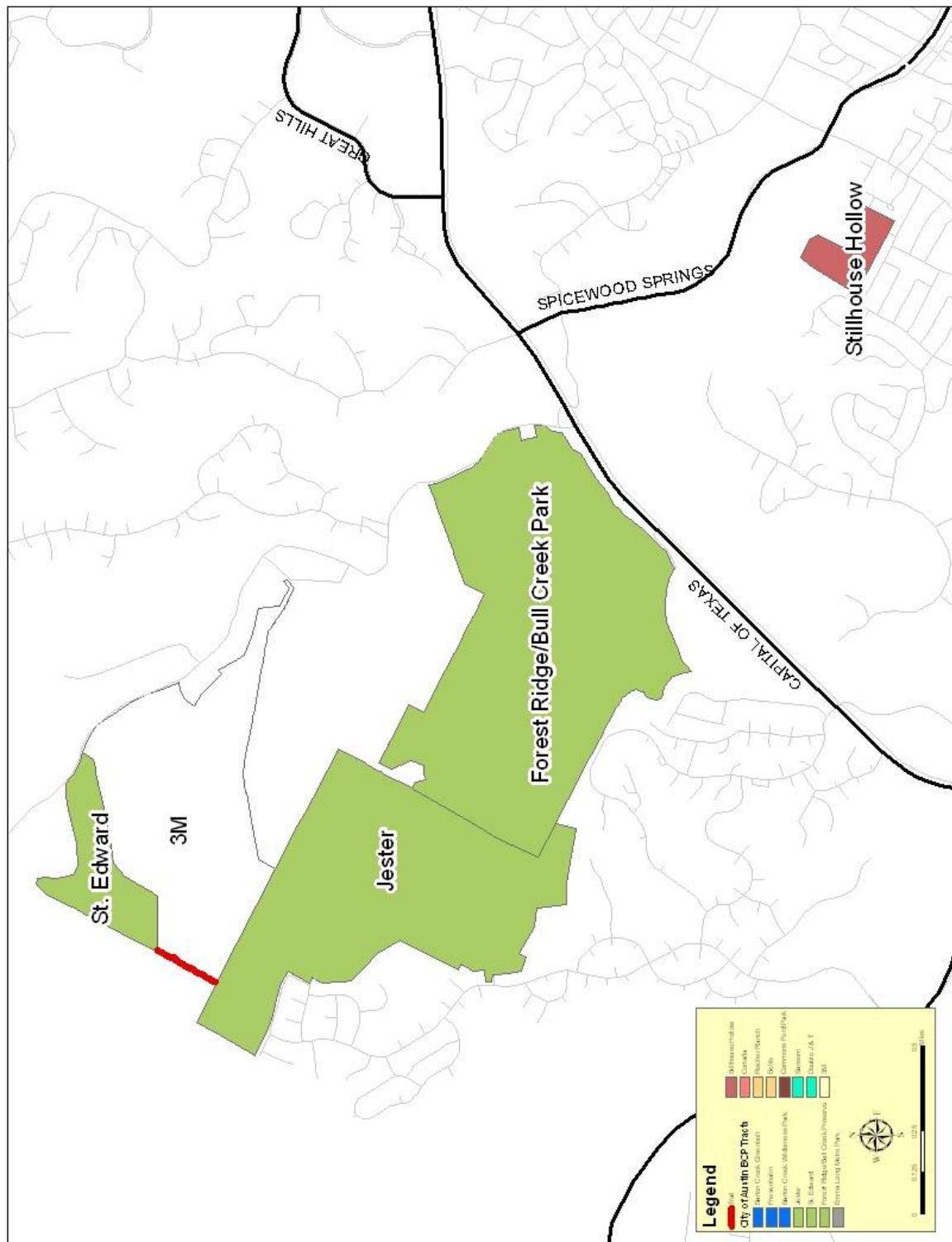
<u>Specific watersheds or BCP Macrosites:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Bull Creek	_____	_____
North Lake Austin	_____	_____
South Lake Austin	_____	_____
Barton Creek	_____	_____
Cyprus Creek	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____
Not sure of specific watershed at this time	_____	_____

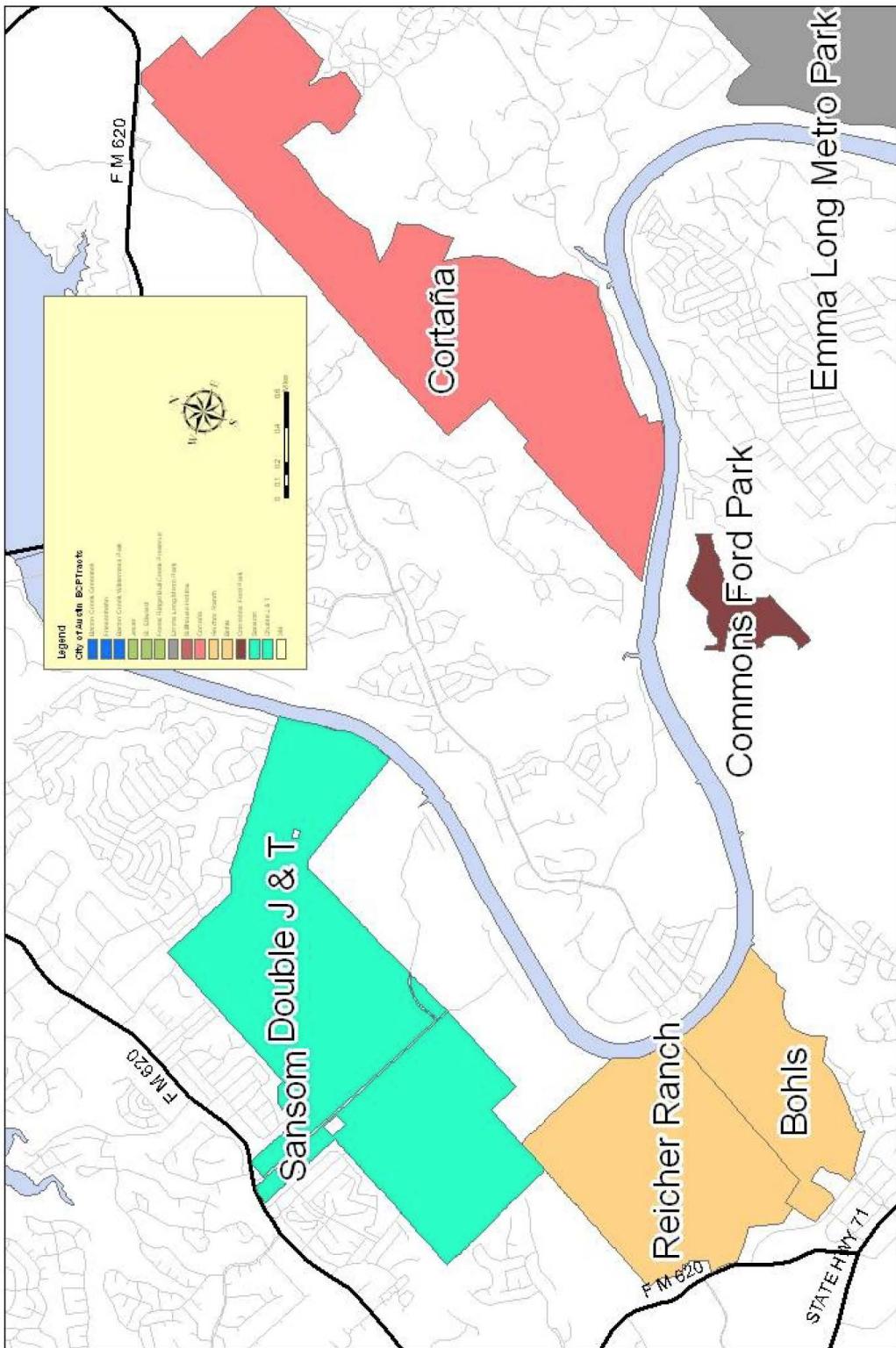
Please submit this questionnaire to the BCP no later than 5:00 PM February 29 via email to:
BCPTrails@ci.austin.tx.us.

Appendix G: Map of Approved Tracts for Trail Proposals

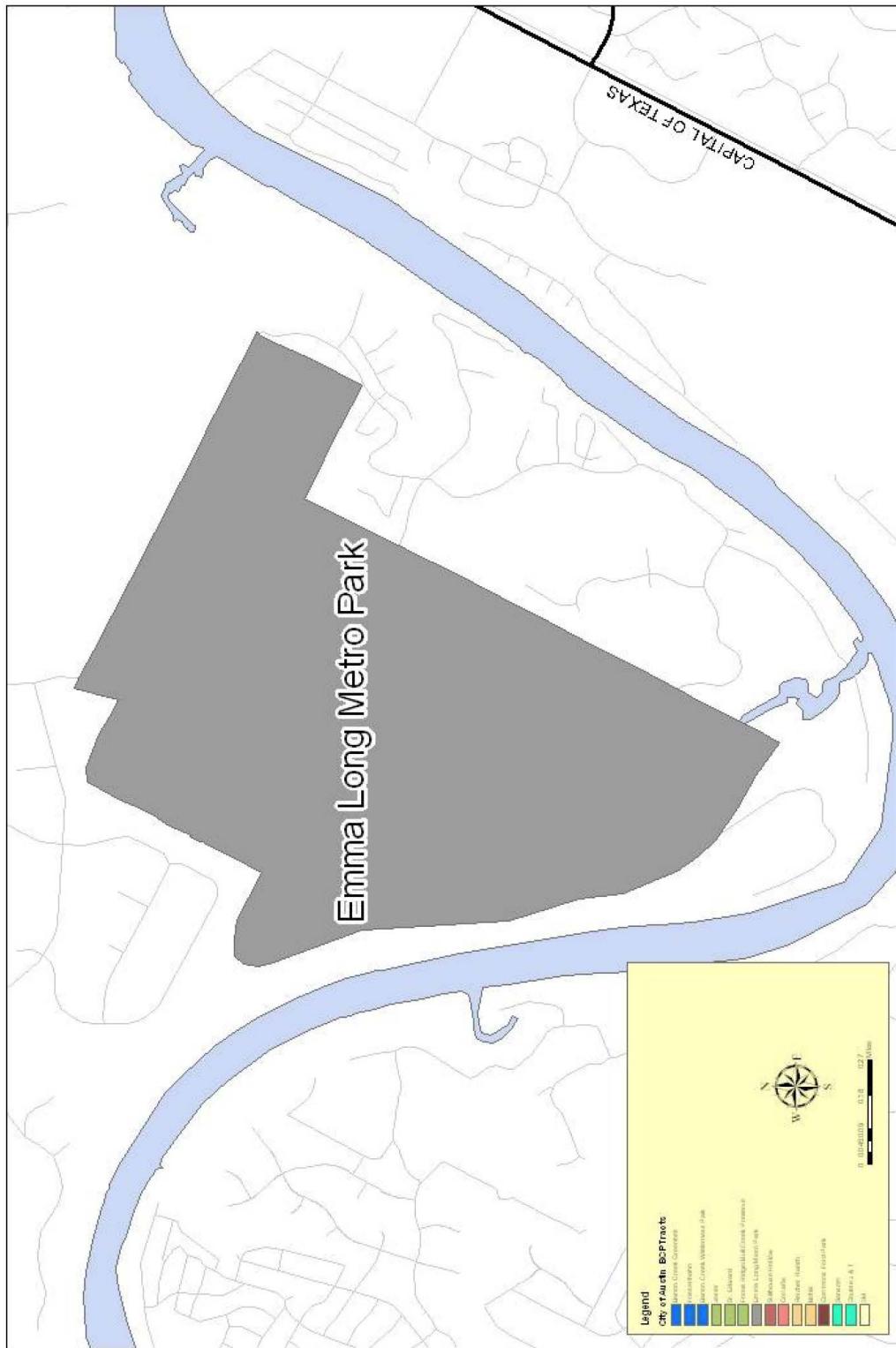








Appendix H: Detail Maps of Approved Tracts for Trail Proposals



Appendix I: Activities That May Be Proposed on COA BCP Tracts

COA BCP UNIT	TYPE	PRIMARY MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY	TYPE OF PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE
Barton Creek Greenbelt (East and West) / Barton Creek Wilderness Park/ Friesenhahn	park	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*, Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Grandfathered uses include hiking, swimming, tubing, mountain biking, rock climbing, picnicking, and spelunking. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, hiking with dogs on leash, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan.
Bull Creek Greenbelt (Upper and Lower) and Bull Creek District Park	park	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*	Grandfathered uses include hiking on marked trails, swimming, tubing, mountain biking, and picnicking. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, hiking with dogs on leash, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan.
Bull Creek Preserve (Forest Ridge)	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Public uses that existed prior to the COA BCP Trail Master Plan include hiking from March through July by permit, hiking without permit from August through February, and guided educational group tours. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan.
Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park/ BCP portion	park/ preserve	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*/Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Grandfathered uses include hiking and biking on marked trail. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, hiking with dogs on leash, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan.
Cortañá Tract	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Public uses that existed prior to the COA BCP Trail Master Plan include approved educational/research access and guided educational group tours. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan.
Double J&T/ Reicher/ Bohls Tracts	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division; Reicher also Parks and Recreation Department	Public uses that existed prior to the COA BCP Trail Master Plan include approved educational/research access and guided educational group tours. On Reicher, reservations of facility may include unsupervised hiking on marked trails near facilities and outdoor education programs. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan.

COA BCP UNIT	TYPE	PRIMARY MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY	TYPE OF PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE
Emma Long Metro Park	park	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*, Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Public uses that existed prior to the COA BCP Trail Master Plan include hiking on marked trails, mountain biking, motorbikes during the non-nesting season on specified trail. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, hiking with dogs, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan. Emma Long is the only tract that allows hiking with dogs off-leash.
Jester Tract	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	New public access may be planned for hiking, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan.
Sansom Tract	preserve	Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	New public access may be planned for hiking, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan.
St. Edwards Park/ BCP portion	park/ preserve	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*/Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	Public uses that existed prior to the COA BCP Trail Master Plan include hiking on marked trails and mountain biking. Redefined public access may be proposed for hiking, hiking with dogs on leash, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan.
Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve	park/ preserve	Austin Parks and Recreation Department Operations*/Austin Water Utility – Wildland Conservation Division	New public access may be planned for hiking, running, and experimental mountain biking as provided for in the COA BCP Trail Master Plan.

Note: Hiking with dogs on non-grandfathered tracts will require a proposal to the Coordinating Committee and may require a permit amendment.

Appendix J: HCP Excerpt Providing for Uses Now Considered as Grandfathered

Facility Name	Approx. Acres	Owner/Mgr	Type	RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WEST OF LOOP 1								Other										
				H	I	F	S	C	E	T	O	R	I	P	Z	W	B	S	H	G	F	
Allen Park	10	TC	CP										•			•	•					
Arkansas Bend Park	195	LCRA/TC	CG	•	•								•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Boat Ramp	
Austin Country Club	a	P	CC	•	•																	
Austin Nature Center	60	COA	PR		•																Educational Facility, Museum	
Austin Simon Ltd.	232	P	RA																			
Balcones National Wildlife Refuge	41,000	FED	R	•	•																Partially in Burnet & Williamson	
Balcones Country Club	a	P	CC	•																		
Balcones District Park	52	COA	DP										•	•	•	•	•	•				
Barrow Preserve	8	COA	PR			•																
Barton Creek Country Club	a	P	CC		•																	
Barton Creek Greenbelt	813	COA	GB			•																
Bee Creek Preserve	30	COA	PR		•																	
Bob Wentz Park at Windy Point	23	LCRA/TC	CP	•	•								•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Bull Creek District Park	48	COA	DP		•								•		•							
Bull Creek Greenbelt	120	COA	GB																			
Bull Creek Parkway	16	COA	GB																			
Bull Creek/Austin Hills Park	61	COA	GB																			
Camp Chautauqua	115	LCRA	PCG	•									•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Boat Ramp	
Camp Pedernales	a	P	PC										Private Camp									
Camp Texlake	475	P/LCRA	PC										Private Camp									
Canyon Vista Pool	1	COA	NP																			
Circle District Park	80	COA	D																			
Circle C Green Belt	332	COA	GB										•	•		•	•					
Commons Ford Metropolitan Park	215	COA	MP		•																	
Cypress Creek Park	15	LCRA/TC	CG	•									Primitive	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Cypress Creek Resource Area	37	LCRA/TC	RA/MA																		Size without Travis County Park	
Dave Reed Park	a	TC	CP											•	•	•						
Dick Nichols District Park	156	COA	DP											•								
Dick Pearson	4	TC	CG										Primitive	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Eagle Ridge Resource Area	69	LCRA	RA																		Private Boat Rental Dock	
Eilers Park	9	COA	MP	•										•	•	•	•	•	•		Fee for Swimming	
Emma Long Metropolitan Park	1,147	COA	MP	•	•	•							Improved	•	•	•	•	•	•		Archery, Motorcycle Track	
Fritz Hughes	5	TC	CP											•	•							
Gloster Bend Primitive Recreation Area (PRA)	586	LCRA	CG	•	•								Primitive			•	•	•	•		Boat Ramp	

Note: This table is excerpted in full from the 1996 HCP document. It describes all of the parkland within the USFWS permit area as of 1996. The seven dual-purpose City of Austin BCP/PARD properties are included, and the table documents activities on these properties at the time of the permit. Additional facilities and/or changes in use may have occurred since the list was compiled.

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Appendix J: HCP Excerpt Providing for Uses Now Considered as Grandfathered

Table 18
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WEST OF LOOP 1

Facility Name	Approx. Acres	Owner/Mgr	Type	H	I	R	S	C	P	F	F	E	R	H	G	P	Other
				I	S	T	O	R	C	A	S	T	H	I	K	G	
Great Hills Country Club	a	P	CC	•												•	
Hamilton Pool Preserve	232	TC	CP	•	•					•	•						
Highland Lake Campground	b	P	PCG														
Hippin Hollow Park	109	LCRA/TC	CP	•	•					•	•						
Johnson Creek Greenbelt	59	COA	GB														
Laura Reed Park	a	TC	CP							•	•						
Legend Oaks at Escarpment Blvd.	36	COA	NP														
Lions Municipal Golf Course	156	COA	GC	•													
Loop 360 Boat Ramp	5	TC	CP							•	•	•					
Lost Creek Country Club	a	P	CC	•													
Mansfield Dam (West)	5	LCRA/TC	MA									•					
Mansfield Dam Park	71	LCRA/TC	CG/MA	•	•	•				Improved	•	•	•	•	•	•	Private Marina
Mary Moore Seagirt District Park	345	COA	MP								•	•					Trailer Dump Station, boat ramp
Mary Quinlan	6	TC	CP								•	•	•				
Mayfield Park	23	COA	PR	•							•						
McGregor Resource Area	259	LCRA	RA		•												Size without Travis County Park
Mt. Bonnell	5	COA	GB	•	•						•						
Muleshoe Bend PRA	986	LCRA	RA	•	•												Partly in Burnet County
Murchison Pool	1	COA	NP								•						
North Cat Mountain	13	COA	GB														
Oakhill Park	15	COA	NP														
Oakview Park	7	COA	NP														
Pace Bend Park	1,336	LCRA/TC	CG	•						Primitive & RV	•	•	•	•	•	•	Trailer Dump Station
Perry Park	7	COA	NP														
Red Bud Isle	12	COA	MP								•	•					
Reed Park	6	COA	NP	•							•	•					
River Place Golf Course	a	P	CC	•													
Sandy Creek Park	25	LCRA/TC	CG	•	•					Improved	•	•	•	•	•	•	Trailer Dump Station
Schroeter Park	12	COA	NP								•						
Selma Hughes	5	TC	CP								•	•	•				
Spicewood Park	a	COA	NP														
Spicewood Springs Park	8	COA	RA		•												
Starnes Island	2	LCRA	RA														
Steck Valley Park	38	COA	GB														

Appendix J: HCP Excerpt Providing for Uses Now Considered as Grandfathered

Facility Name	Approx. Acres	Owner/Mgr	Type	Camping			Other						
				HISTORIC	FREE	STATE	FISHING	SWIMMING	BATHTING	BOATING	PIKING	GOLF	PETE
St. Edwards District Park	79	COA	DP		•							•	
Tarrytown (Triangle) Park	2	COA	NP							•		•	
Texas Nature Conservancy	160	P/NP	PR		•							•	
Tom Hughes	5	TC	CP	•					•	•		•	
Travis Audubon Sanctuary	680	P/NP	PR	•							•		
Travis Country Park	8	P	NP					•				•	
Vireo Preserve	212	COA	PR		•								
Westcave Preserve	29	TP/LCRA	PR		•								
Westenfield Park	11	COA	NP				•	•	•	•		•	
Wheless Resource Area	2,294	LCRA	RA	•									Size without Travis County Park
Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve	212	TC	PR	•						•			
Williamson Creek Greenbelt	123	COA	GB									•	
Windmill Run	50	TC	CP				•			•	•	•	
Yett Creek Park	41	COA	NP									•	
Zilker Park	291	COA	MP	•••				•	•	•••	•		

a - Size unknown

b - Area included in Pace Bend Acreage

PARK TYPES			
BR	BOAT RAMP	MP	METROPOLITAN PARK
C	CEMETARY	MU	MUSEUM
CC	COUNTRY CLUB	NP	NEIGHBORHOOD
CG	CAMPGROUNDS	PC	PRIVATE CAMP
CP	COUNTY PARK	PCG	PRIVATE CAMPGROUND
DP	DISTRICT PARK	PR	PRESERVE
GB	GREENBELT	RA	RESOURCE AREA
GC	GOLF COURSE	RC	RECREATION CENTER
MA	MARINA	SAC	SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER
		SP	SCHOOL PLAYGROUND
		TC	TENNIS CENTER

Appendix K: Example Water Quality Protection Lands MOA

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
CITY of AUSTIN
AUSTIN WATER UTILITY
WILDLAND CONSERVATION DIVISION
AND
BULL CREEK FOUNDATION**

**FOR CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ACCESS TRAILS
ON THE WATER QUALITY PROTECTION LANDS
BULL CREEK MANAGEMENT UNIT**

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to establish roles and responsibilities for parties engaged in implementing public access trails on the City of Austin's Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL). The Austin City Council approved trail recommendations for WQPL tracts on December 13, 2001.

This approval is meant to help implement the City's philosophy of accommodating the public with access to land in order for them to learn the importance of our watersheds, how these natural systems function and how we manage the land. This access will leverage the City's investment by educating our constituents so that they may protect sensitive watersheds near their homes and businesses.

The trail recommendations for WQPL tracts approved by City Council are the result of an extensive public participation where stakeholders agreed to provide resources to implement them. This Memorandum of Agreement will also serve to protect the interests of all stakeholders involved in this project, including the City. This relationship between the City of Austin and the stakeholders participating in this Memorandum will serve as a model for Public – Private partnerships in Austin and other communities.

The City of Austin Agrees:

1. To make the site on the Bull Creek Management Unit available for planning, construction, operation and maintenance of a public access trail suitable for hiking, and bicycle;
2. That prior to construction, the Environmental Conservation Program Manager or designated representative shall review and approve any plans for public access trails;
3. To move plans, etc. through the City's regulatory process by obtaining permits and approvals in cooperation with other signatories to this Memorandum of Agreement;
4. To provide technical assistance on issues related to sensitive and sustainable design, construction, operation, and management of a public access trail on this site;
5. To provide technical assistance to stakeholders on education actions related to the public access trail on this site;
6. To provide advance notice of temporary closures for management or emergencies to the Stakeholder Steering Committee, Trail Administration Subcommittee and the Trail Steward;
7. To keep partners informed of management or policy changes that would affect access, by notifying the Stakeholder Steering Committee, Trail Administration Subcommittee and/or the Trail Steward as appropriate.
8. To monitor public access effects on water quality and quantity, ecology, etc. and to inform partners and public of results.
9. To conduct research on effects of access on water quality and quantity, as appropriate, and inform partners or the public

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10. To evaluate whether constraints and guiding principles, which are the basis of the original trail recommendations, are being met. When deficiencies are noted the City shall notify the Stakeholder Steering Committee, Trail Administration Subcommittee or the Trail Steward as appropriate of any deficiencies or concerns.
11. Notify partners in a timely manner when conditions may lead to revocation of access so that corrective measures may be planned and implemented.

Bull Creek Foundation Agrees:

1. To serve as the sponsor and party responsible for the public access trail on Bull Creek Management Unit with primary fiduciary responsibility for the long term compliance with this memorandum of agreement and the constraints and guidelines contained in the approved public access recommendations;
2. To plan and develop trails for this site including preparation and submission of plans to City of Austin for approval;
3. To serve as the lead to secure and provide funding or other resources necessary to construct, operate, and maintain this trail;
4. To help plan and provide trail construction and maintenance training to stewards, volunteers, or others who work on the trails;
5. To provide volunteers and other inputs for trail work days or other trail related or educational events;
6. To provide leadership for planning and implementing educational components for the trail and other educational activities on the property;
7. To provide periodic reports documenting results of educational activities associated with the trail and other educational activities on the property;
8. To provide a representative to the Trail Administration Subcommittee;
9. To assure that trail construction, maintenance, education activities and other trail related projects are completed according to the terms of this memorandum and the constraints and guidelines contained in the approved public access recommendations;
10. To assist with trail education, construction, operations, and maintenance.

It is Mutually Agreed:

1. That a Trail Administration Subcommittee of the Stakeholder Steering Committee shall be organized. This subcommittee will serve as the entity that is accountable to the City of Austin for the construction, operation and maintenance of all public access trails on the Water Quality Protection Lands.
 - a. Purpose - Provide coordinated management for trail building, maintenance, and use policies and serve as a point of contact for trails.
 - b. Governance - the subcommittee shall conduct an annual meeting with additional called meetings as needed.
 - c. Organization and Individual Responsibilities
 - i. Chairperson
 1. Will lead subcommittee and represent the interests of the trail stewards
 2. Point of contact for all trail issues
 - a. Will handle trail issues directly or delegate
 - b. Will follow up on issues and be responsible for ultimate resolution
 - c. Will serve as single point of contact to the City of Austin regarding trail issues
 3. May direct volunteers to areas where help is needed.
 4. Assists with acquiring grants for trail maintenance, etc.
 5. Can call meeting when deemed necessary.

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6. Shall be elected annually from the subcommittee membership.
 - ii. Non-City MOA Signatory Representatives - represent interest of specific user groups who have agreed to participate in the MOA and be accountable for its implementation. Interests may include:
 - a. Equestrian
 - b. Mountain Bike
 - c. Hikers
 - d. Wildlife/native plants/birders/other signatories
 - e. Education
 - f. Others
 - iii. Stakeholder Steering Committee Representative - member of the Stakeholder Steering Committee which serves as the public oversight group responsible for assisting the City of Austin with planning public access on Water Quality Protection Lands
 - iv. Stewardship Committee Representative - member of the stewardship committee. This committee is organized to train and recruit trail stewards and other volunteer leaders assisting Water Quality Protection Lands.
 - v. Trails Stewards – are trained volunteer leaders who are responsible for the day-to-day operations and maintenance on individual trails. They only attend meetings or provide reports on an AS-NEEDED basis.
2. Closings –actions to close public access trails or segments of trails due to trail related issues, concerns or emergencies. Closings will be based on the following Grade/Priority of Threat:
 - A. Extreme/Severe = Spill, pipeline threat, natural disaster. An Immediate threat to life or public safety.
 - Requires immediate public notification (upon discovery)
 - Immediate closure of site or segment until resolved
 - City, signatory, or both are responsible to identify threats, assure they are addressed and provide notification.
 - The City, with the advice of trail steward, is responsible for making closure determination and providing notification.
 - These threats must be addressed before the trail or segment is reopened.
 - City of Austin representative and Trail Steward must be notified immediately.
 - B. Serious/High = Dangerous Trail Conditions. Trail use would cause damage or pose serious threat to public safety.
 - Requires immediate public notification (upon discovery).
 - Requires closure of trail or segment until grade or priority is reduced to lower level.
 - The City, with the advice of trail steward, is responsible for making closure determination and providing notification.
 - Mitigation or correction will initiate ASAP.
 - City of Austin representative and Trail Steward must be notified immediately.
 - C. Concern/Moderate = Trail Maintenance Needs. Observed Water Quality/Quantity Threats
 - Public Notification within 24 hours.
 - Notification of City or Trail Steward within 5 working days.
 - The City and/or the Trail Steward are responsible for making the closure determination and notification.
 - Corrected or mitigated in 14 days.

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- No closings unless further deterioration to next higher grade/priority is expected or occurs.
 - D. Routine/Preventative = Trail and Facility Management or Maintain Water Quality/Quantity Measures
 - Public notice as needed to avoid conflicts
 - The City and/or the Trail Steward are responsible for making the closure determination and notification
 - Address under routine maintenance schedule
 - Closure as needed to avoid conflicts
 - E. Closure notifications shall include as appropriate
 - City staff
 - Trail Administrative Subcommittee
 - Stakeholder Steering Committee
 - Trail Steward
 - MOA Signatories with impacted responsibilities
 - Media Outlets
 - Law Enforcement and Public Safety agencies
 - Trail Users through trail postings
3. Trail Rules – the Trail Administration Subcommittee shall develop rules governing public access and use of the trail supported by this MOA. They must support the constraints and guidelines contained in the public access recommendations. Draft rules shall be presented to the Stakeholder Steering Committee for ratification. Should the stakeholders fail to reach consensus to ratify these rules, the ratification process shall proceed to the second level of the appeals process. All signatories agree to enforce trail rules through monitoring, educational interactions with trail users, and reporting of violations to City of Austin staff. In situations where rules violations or emergencies pose a threat to public health or safety, an appropriate law enforcement agency shall be notified.
 4. Revocation – is a decision by the City of Austin to indefinitely close a trail and revoke public access privileges. Revocation shall be through written notification to all signatories of this MOA. This action shall be based upon non-compliance with this MOA, or the constraints, guidelines, or other provisions of the public access recommendations. Revocation will be enforced until non-compliance is corrected. Revocation may be appealed through the appeals process.
 5. Periodic review
 - a. The signatories of this agreement will meet to review the status of this agreement annually before its anniversary date. The annual review will confirm that all the obligations of this agreement are being met and that all trail activities are being conducted in compliance with the public access recommendations including the constraints and guidelines. The status of each signatory shall be confirmed. If a signatory organization is no longer able to meet its obligations under this memorandum, a substitute signatory must be added through modification of this agreement.
 - b. Following the annual review, the City of Austin shall notify the signatories to this memorandum of the results of the review in writing. Full compliance shall be so noted. Should deficiencies be revealed in the review, the City of Austin shall provide the signatories with written notice that shall also include a performance plan and schedule for correction of deficiencies.
 6. Appeals – any signatory to this memorandum of agreement may appeal revocation or decisions regarding trails rules. Appeals must be presented in writing to all memorandum of agreement signatories. The first level of appeal shall be to the Stakeholder Steering Committee. The Stakeholder Steering Committee may receive and consider any information from the City of Austin or other signatories to this memorandum regarding the revocation and appeal. An appeal may be decided using the Stakeholder Steering

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- Committee's normal decision-making process of consensus. If the appeal fails in the first level, the decision may be appealed to the City Manager, whose decision is final (Second Level).
7. That any actions must comply with all local, State and Federal regulations.
 8. This MOA may be revised or modified only with consent of all parties.
 9. Withdrawal – any signatory may withdraw from this agreement by providing 90 days notice to all other signatories. Furthermore, if the City of Austin withdraws from this agreement after the trail is constructed and begins operation, the City agrees to maintain public access and assume full responsibility for operation and maintenance. Should other signatories withdraw, they must provide a substitute for their organization who will join the MOA through modification and assume the obligations of the withdrawing signatory.
 10. The following are contacts regarding this MOA. For the purposes of notice, the addresses of the parties are as follows

The City:

Austin Water Utilities/Wildland Conservation Division
P.O. Box # 1088
Austin, Texas 78767-8839
Attention: Mr. William Conrad

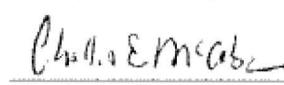
Bull Creek Foundation

Charles McCabe
1818 West 39th Street
Austin, TX 78731

SIGNATURES


Joe Canales
Deputy City Manager

Date 4-27-04


Charles McCabe
Bull Creek Foundation

Date 5-17-04