

**Tier III Land Management Plan  
BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE  
LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**TIER III**

**CITY OF AUSTIN  
COMMONS FORD METROPOLITAN PARK  
SOUTH LAKE AUSTIN MACROSITE**



**August 2007**

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON COMMONS FORD**

All previous background information for the Commons Ford tract can be found in the first five-year set of three volumes entitled *Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Land Management Plans* (August 1999). The property is dedicated City of Austin parkland. All Deeds of Record are on file at the City of Austin’s Austin Water Utility Wildland Conservations Office, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department Office, and the Travis County Courthouse

## **2.0 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

### **2.1 Plan Administration**

See Tier II-B Plan Administration for the description of City of Austin’s Austin Water Utility, Wildland Conservation Division as a managing entity, staffing levels, equipment inventory, budget and annual reports as they pertain to the City of Austin’s management of the BCP.

### **2.2 Management Goal**

#### **2.2.1 Primary Management Goal**

##### *2.2.1.1 Golden-cheeked Warbler*

- Protect and manage 115 acres of habitat for golden-cheeked warblers.

##### *2.2.1.2 Black-capped Vireo*

Not applicable.

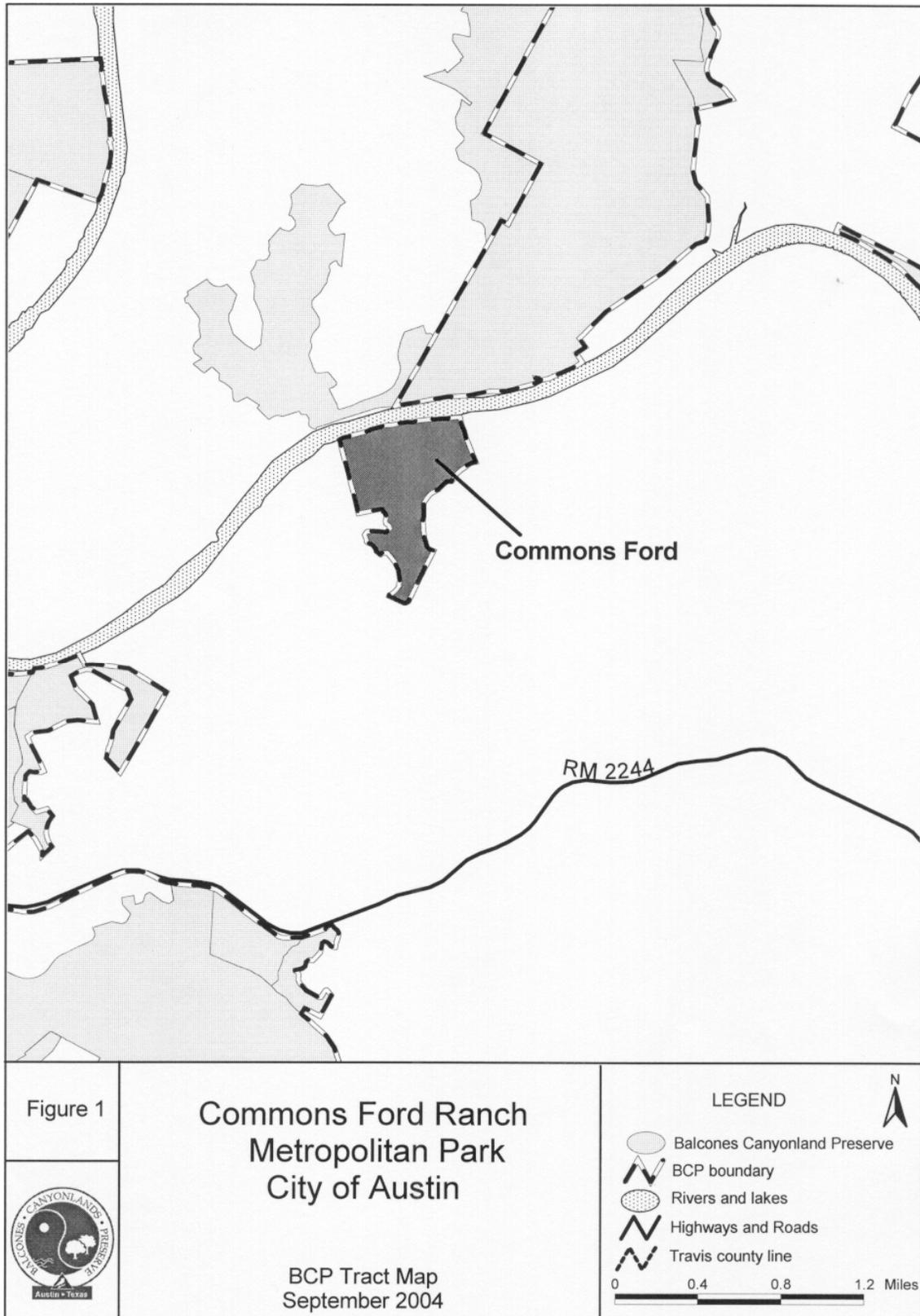
##### *2.2.1.3 Federally Listed Karst Species*

Not applicable.

#### **2.2.2 Secondary Management Goals**

- Cooperate with other entities and individuals managing acreage adjacent to or near Commons Ford by participating in agreements and memoranda of understanding, sharing pertinent information, and cooperating in accomplishing management plan objectives.
- Protect water quality.

**FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP**



### 2.3 Issues

Since its purchase in 1983, funding of the Park has only been adequate for basic maintenance and operation of the facility. No major improvements have been made. The Park needs master planning and development funding.

### 2.4 Management Objectives

Tier II objectives for the South Lake Austin Macrosite include protection of endangered species, and species of concern and their habitats. This will be accomplished by: (1) enforcing regulations and securing boundaries; (2) management of habitat through managing public access and vegetation and through water quality protection; (3) monitoring; (4) enhancement of habitat and (5) public education and outreach. The goals and objectives of the Macrosite and this unit will be implemented through the activities listed below.

**TABLE 1: OBJECTIVES**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>
<b><i>Vegetation Management</i></b>					
Survey and suppress oak wilt	X	X	X	X	X
Control non-native plant species	X	X	X	X	X
<b><i>Animal Management</i></b>					
Monitor for presence of GCWA	X	X	X	X	X
Monitor White-tailed deer, feral hogs and cowbirds	X	X	X	X	X
<b><i>Physical and Cultural Management Procedures</i></b>					
Close unauthorized trails		X	X	X	X
Restrict trail access in BCP portion	X	X	X	X	X
Develop fire plan	X	X	X	X	X

### 2.5 Specific Implementation Strategies

All implementation will follow applicable BCP guidelines and other accepted procedures in use by USFWS, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Structural Pest Control Board of Texas, City of Austin's Austin Water Utility, and the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. All pesticide applications are performed under the direction of a licensed non-commercial pesticide applicator.

### 2.6 Public Access

The BCP portion of the Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park is open to the public. Recreational use is restricted to use of designated trails only. Hiking and biking on these

trails are the only permissible activities. (See Tier II-A, Chapter 12: Public Access, for more information and definitions.

### **3.0 MONITORING**

The City of Austin will monitor and evaluate habitat management in accordance with procedures defined in Tier II-A Management Handbook. Evaluation and reporting procedures will comply with applicable portions of the Tier II-B Plan Administration.