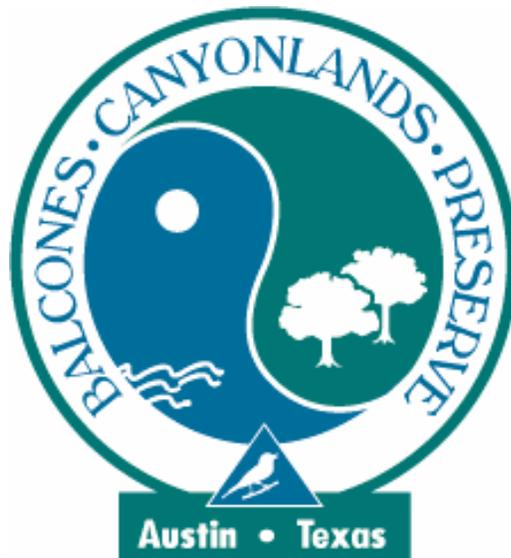


**BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE
LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

TIER III

**CITY OF AUSTIN
LOWER BULL CREEK
BULL CREEK MACROSITE**



August 2007

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1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON BULL CREEK UNIT

This document pertains to the following tracts in the Bull Creek Macrosite:

- 3M Mitigation – 215 acres (87.04 ha)
- Beard Family Tract – 54 acre (21.9 ha)
- Bull Creek District Park on Lakewood Drive – 28 out of 50 ac.
- Bull Creek Greenbelt – 197 acres (79.8 ha).
- Forest Ridge – 410 acres (166 ha)
- Hilltop – 50 acres (20.23 ha)
- Ivanhoe – 942 acres (381 ha)
- Jester-Burris – 294 acres (119 ha)
- St. Edwards Park (also called Upper Bull Creek District Park) – 50 acres of 78 ac.
- Hillier – 17 acres (6.88 ha)
- Kruger – 95 acres (38.46 ha)

All previous background information for Bull Creek can be found in the first five-year set of three volumes entitled *Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Land Management Plans* (August 1999).

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.

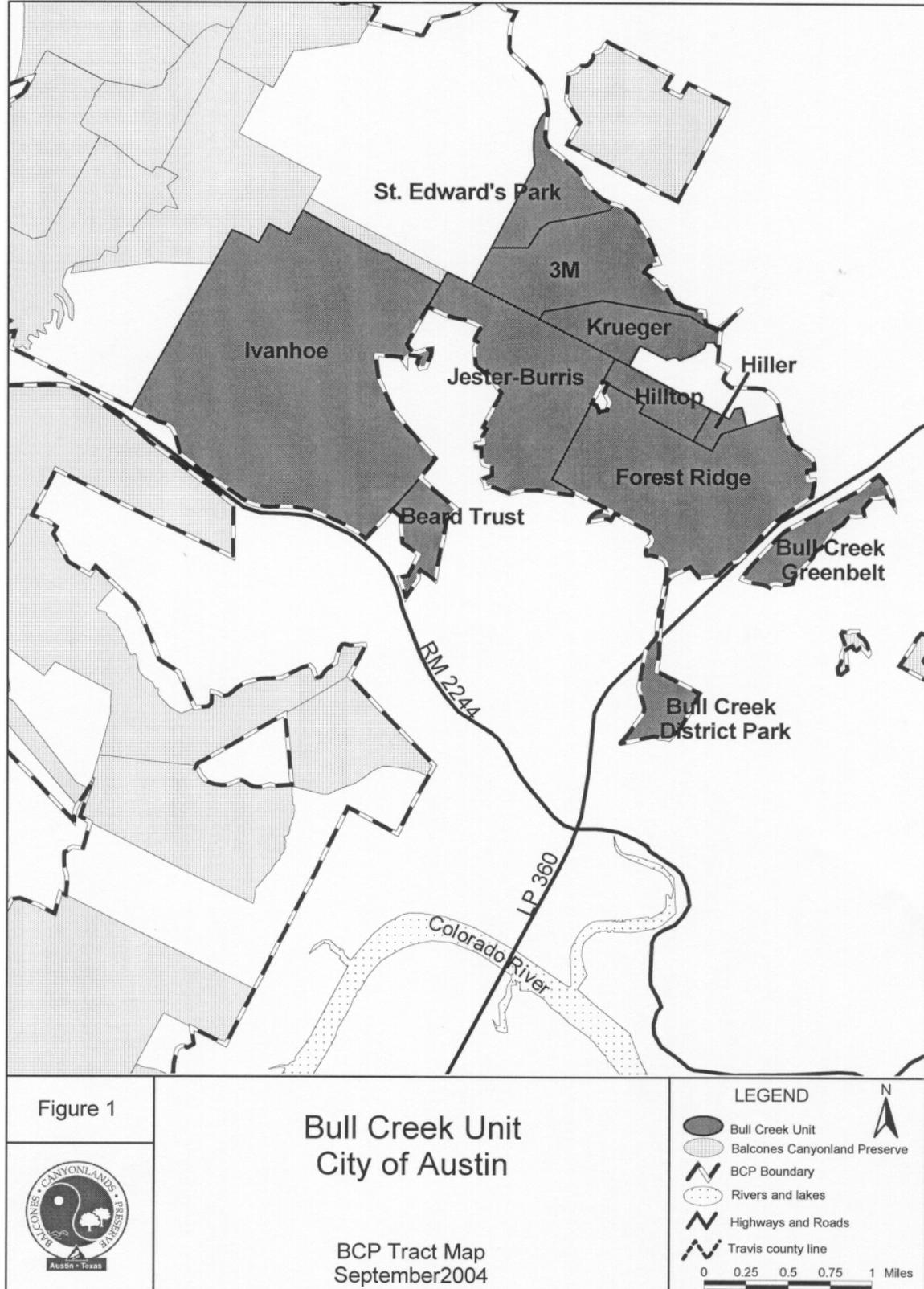
2.2 Management Goal

2.2.1 Primary Management Goal

A primary goal for the Bull Creek portion of the preserve is to maintain and improve habitat for golden-cheeked warblers and for protection of karst species. In addition, COA-BCP will meet obligations delineated in land transfer agreements between City of Austin and 3M Corporation.

Another primary goal for the Bull Creek tracts is to manage the land in its natural state for the purposes of watershed protection, including protection and improvement of water quality and water supplies, reduction of erosion, and increasing water infiltration to reduce flooding, by using habitat-improvement techniques, such as re-vegetation and access control.

Figure 1: Location Map



2.2.1.1 Golden-cheeked Warbler

The City of Austin will limit human disturbances of GCWA habitat, restore/improve habitat and monitor the results. Specific procedures are addressed in section 2.4 below.

2.2.1.2 Black-capped Vireo

Not Applicable

2.2.1.3 Federally Listed Karst Species

Protect Jett John Cave and Jester Pit Cave by limiting disturbances and by monitoring the caves annually

2.2.1.4 Canyon Mock orange

In the next five years, the COA BCP Program will develop a specific, management and monitoring/research plan for the Canyon Mock-orange at this site. Until developed, this site will be surveyed for existing locations of Canyon Mock orange and for appropriate areas of honeycomb rock in the tract that may be suitable for introduction of the plant.

2.2.2 Secondary Management Goals

The City of Austin will provide safe public access compatible with the primary BCP goals.

2.3 Issues

2.3.1 3M Tract

Of particular concern for Bull Creek is meeting the Section Seven consultation requirements for the 3M parcel while addressing the impacts of public access on endangered species in this metropolitan unit.

2.3.2 Public Access

Recent studies indicate that public access may have an effect on GCWA abundance and productivity in BCP. Until more is understood about the over-all biology of the GCWA, access to portions of the Bull Creek preserve will be limited and restricted to insure the protection and conservation of habitat and the GCWA (Refer to Section 2.6 below and Tier II-A, Chapter 12: Public Access).

2.3.3 Law Enforcement and Vandalism

Insufficient funding for parkland over several years in Bull Creek have resulted in a pattern of various unlawful disturbances, such as unauthorized four-wheel driving in the Greenbelt and thence into adjacent parcels, as well as transient camps, unauthorized trail construction throughout the area, bonfires and dumping. PARD's first two years' efforts to control these problems have been successful in severely decreasing these incidences. The determination of a few lawless individuals has been demonstrated in the past two years of management by

battering and removal of gates, rock barriers and signs with four-wheel-drive vehicles and winches; however, incidences of this sort are decreasing steadily under the pressure of law enforcement patrols.

2.4 Management Objectives

Tier II objectives for the Bull Creek Macrosite include protection of endangered species and species of concern and their habitats, enforcing regulations; management of public access, habitat, and water quality; monitoring, and public education and outreach.

2.4.1 Objectives

The goals and objectives of the Macrosite and this unit will be implemented through the activities listed below.

These objectives and activities are grouped into four categories (vegetation, animal, physical and visitor-related) and assigned action dates in the following five-year timeline:

TABLE 1: OBJECTIVES

Objectives	04	05	06	07	08
<i>Vegetation Management</i>					
Survey for oak wilt annually and suppress as needed	X	X	X	X	X
Control non-native species as needed	X	X	X	X	X
Restore closed trails and roads and restore per BCP protocols.	X	X			
Attempt to establish populations of <i>Philadelphus ernestii</i> in potentially appropriate habitat.			X	X	X
Monitor vegetation and habitat via LCTA transects study	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Animal Management</i>					
Control imported fire ants as needed	X	X	X	X	X
Manage white-tailed deer population	X	X	X	X	X
Monitor karst species per BCP protocols	X	X	X	X	X
Monitor JP salamanders per BCP protocols	X	X	X	X	X
Monitor GCWA per BCP protocols	X	X	X	X	X
Control BHCO as needed	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Physical and Cultural Management Procedures</i>					
Manage and monitor caves per BCP protocol	X	X	X	X	X
Work with Travis County to consider closing creek crossing between parking areas west of Loop 360		X			
Monitor and protect springs	X	X	X	X	X
Develop fire control plan	X	X	X	X	X
Maintain designated emergency access routes	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Visitor Management</i>					

Objectives	04	05	06	07	08
Manage public access	X	X	X	X	X
Develop and maintain partnerships	X	X	X	X	X
Provide educational outreach to trail users, adjacent neighborhoods, and local businesses		X	X	X	X
Conduct service outings	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.. All pesticide applications are performed under the direction of a licensed non-commercial pesticide applicator.

2.6 Public Access

Current recreational uses may continue at no more than current levels on the Bull Creek Greenbelt, Bull Creek District Park at Lakewood, and at St. Edwards Park. New trail construction is discouraged, and may only be constructed with concurrence of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office in Austin, Texas.

DURING THE NON-NESTING SEASON only hiking is authorized on the trail system delineated for Forest Ridge, Jester and 3M, between the Bull Creek Greenbelt and St. Edward's Park. Visitors will be limited to crossing the 3M parcel only along a fence line shared with the privately-owned Neal property.

DURING THE NESTING SEASON, hiking access to the authorized trails on Forest Ridge, Jester and 3M will be BY PERMIT ONLY. Permits will be granted to adults who successfully complete an eight hour class sponsored by the Austin Water Utility's Wildland Conservation Division. (See Tier II-A, Chapter 13: Education and Outreach.)

The designated entryways to the Preserve are

- St. Edwards Park along the authorized trail
- Bull Creek Greenbelt parking area
- Aralia and Amelia streets at Arterial Eight

These entryways are posted with user rules and restrict non- authorized uses. Access to other portions of Bull Creek Preserve is limited at this time to approved guided educational tours and service outings.

3.0 MONITORING

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