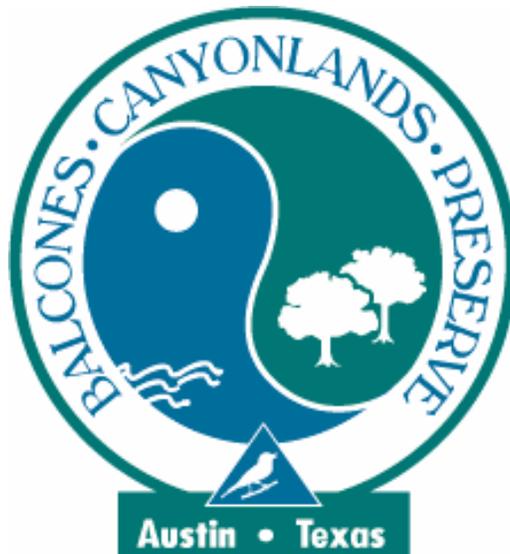


**Tier III Land Management Plan
BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE
LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

TIER III

**CITY OF AUSTIN
MT. BONNELL PARK
WEST AUSTIN MACROSITE**



August 2007

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1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MT. BONNELL

All previous background information for Mt. Bonnell Park can be found in the first five-year set of three volumes entitled *Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Land Management Plans* (August 5, 1999). All Deeds of Record and other documents pertaining to this tract are on file at the City of Austin's Austin Water Utility Wildland Conservation Division Office and the Travis County Courthouse.

2.0 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

2.1 Plan Administration

See Tier II-B Plan Administration the description of the 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

The primary management goal for the BCP acreage of Mt. Bonnell is to protect and manage habitat for *Streptanthus bracteatus*.

2. 2.1.1 Golden-cheeked Warbler

Not applicable

2. 2.1.2 Black-capped Vireo

Not applicable

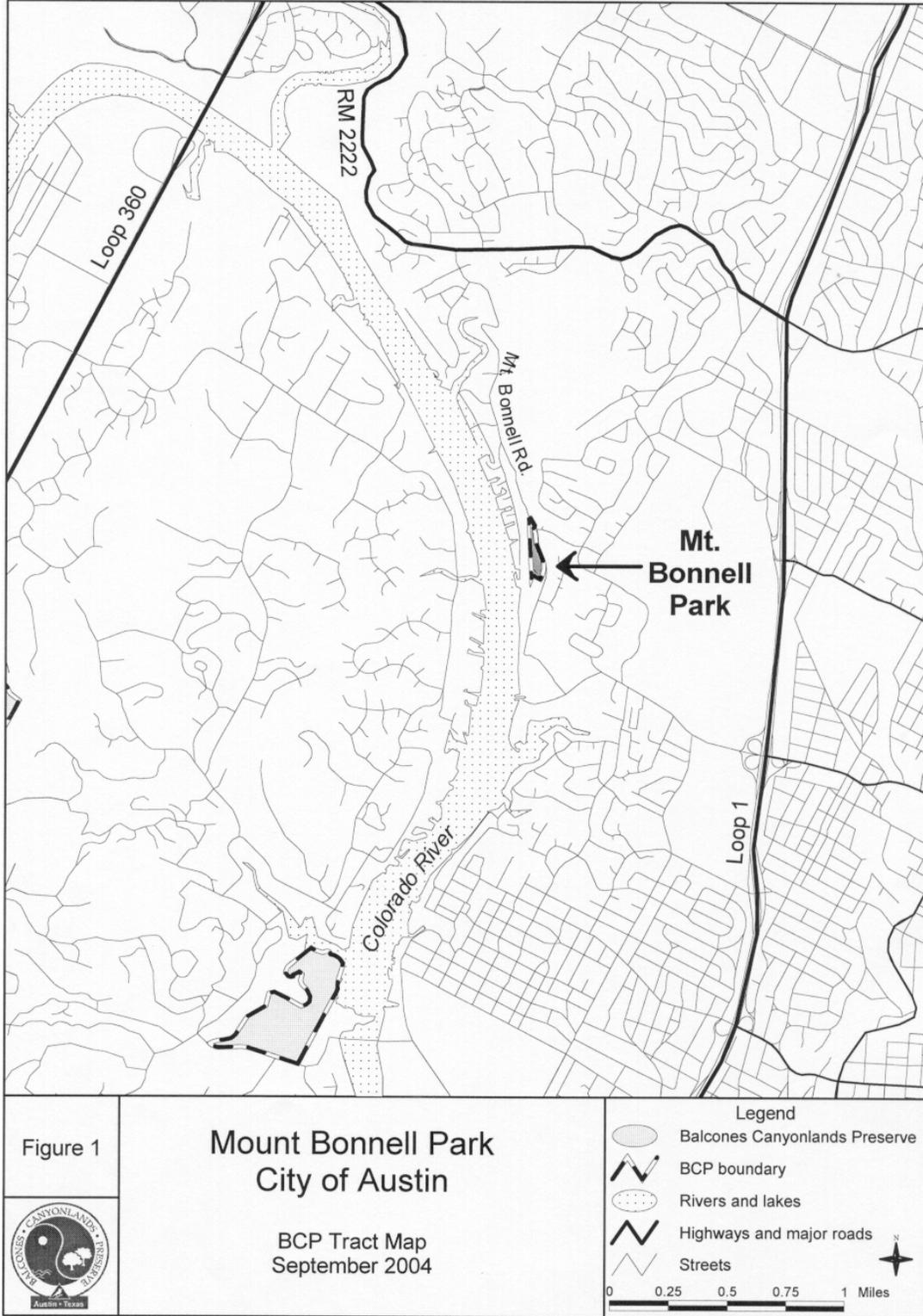
2.2.1.3 Federally Listed Karst Species

Not applicable

2.2.1.4 Species of Concern

(See 2.2.1)

Figure 1: Location Map



2.3 Issues

The Mount Bonnell *Streptanthus* population needs protection from deer browse and foot traffic. Park users have established unauthorized trails into *Streptanthus* habitat. Previously, such trails were closed off only once annually. Signs have been posted directing individuals to use the main stairwell, but in the absence of a fence, this problem continues to occur.

In the past the majority of the *Streptanthus* population was often assumed to be on parkland but was actually on private property. The property owners have recently developed the lots thus effectively removing the plants.

The Lady Bird National Wildflower Research Center has contacted the two property owners regarding the fact that their properties contain this rare plant. The response was very favorable with one property owner, allowing volunteers to collect seed from the site. Unfortunately the vast majority of *Streptanthus bracteates* was limited to these two lots and therefore the majority of the habitat and plants now no longer exists.

In the past, property owners living below Mount Bonnell had complained about rocks thrown onto their homes from above. Signs were posted prohibiting this activity; and a four foot ornamental iron fence was installed. Automobile break-ins are common in the parking lot. Park police are sensitive to these issues, and have responded with extra patrols and strict enforcement of park curfews. Signs have also been posted to warn park users not to leave valuables in their vehicles. Litter and graffiti are daily problems.

2.4 Management Objectives

Tier II objectives for the West Austin Macrosite include protection of endangered species and species of concern and their habitats, enforcing regulations, management of public access, habitat, and water quality, and monitoring. The goals and objectives of the Macrosite and this unit will be implemented through the objectives and activities listed below.

1. Stop unauthorized foot traffic into *Streptanthus* habitat with warning/educational signs.
 - a. Install warning signs at unauthorized trails by March 1, 2006.
 - b. Close unauthorized trails as needed, using temporary fencing materials or brush.
2. Cooperate with Austin Water Utility Balcones Canyonlands Preserve staff to monitor and increase the *Streptanthus* population.
 - a. Train selected City staff and volunteers to assist BCP staff in annual spring monitoring of *Streptanthus*.
 - b. Conduct annual spring monitoring of *Streptanthus*.
 - c. Increase population per BCP protocols.
3. Survey for and suppress oak wilt.
4. Work with adjacent property owners regarding protection and management of nearby *Streptanthus* population.
5. Remove non-native invasive vegetation per BCP protocols.

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

TABLE 1: OBJECTIVES

Activities	04	05	06	07	08
<i>Vegetation Management</i>					
Cross train Operations staff to recognize <i>Streptanthus bracteatus</i>	X	X	X	X	X
Assist in Spring survey of <i>Streptanthus</i> .	X	X	X	X	X
Survey and suppress oak wilt	X	X	X	X	X
Augment <i>Streptanthus</i> population per BCP protocols	X	X	X	X	X
Remove non-native invasive vegetation		X			
<i>Physical and Cultural Management Procedures</i>					
Close unauthorized trails	X	X	X	X	X
Work with adjacent property owners to protect <i>Streptanthus</i> population on private land.	X	X	X	X	X

2.5 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, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Structural Pest Control Board of Texas, City of Austin Watershed Protection and Development Review Department, and the City of Austin, Austin Water Utility. All pesticide applications are performed under the direction of a licensed non-commercial pesticide applicator. Due to the small size of the preserve and its urban location, no special fire control plan will be drafted. The Austin Fire Department will be called upon by citizens to suppress any fires as needed.

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-B Plan Administration.