

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

**TIER III**

**CITY OF AUSTIN  
SENNA HILLS TRACT  
BARTON CREEK MACROSITE**



**August 2007**

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SENNA HILLS**

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

### **1.1 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.

### **1.2 Management Goal**

#### ***1.2.1 Primary Management Goal***

- Protect habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler

##### *1.2.1.1 Golden-cheeked Warbler*

- Limit access to the preserve unit
- Monitor GCWA population
- Control white-tailed deer population
- Manage all acreage per BCP protocols
- Work with adjacent property owners
- Conduct education and outreach programs
- Control problems such as wildfire, oak wilt, and non-native species

##### *1.2.1.2 Black-capped Vireo*

None

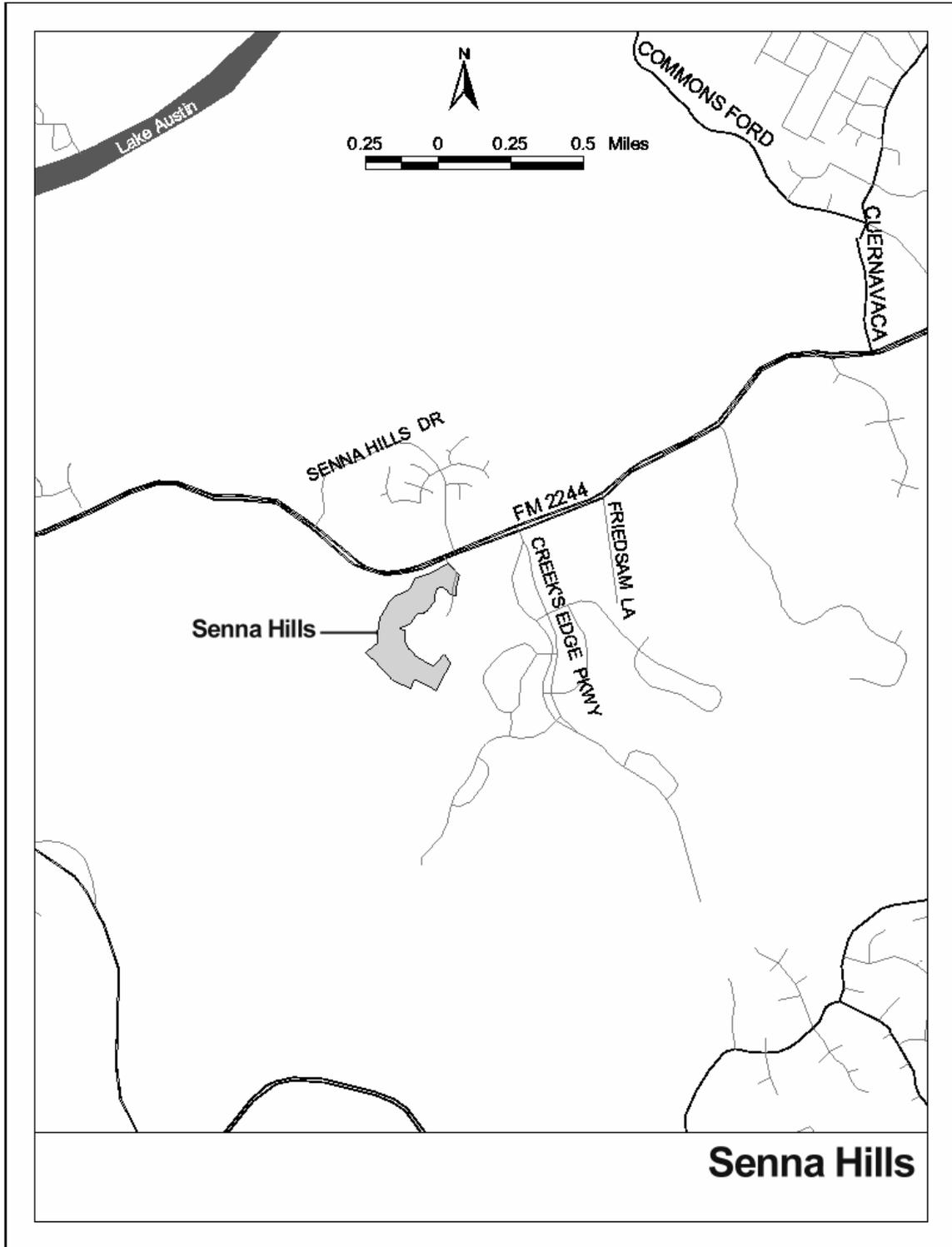
##### *1.2.1.3 Federally Listed Karst Species*

None

#### ***1.2.2 Secondary Management Goals***

- Manage for watershed protection

**FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP**



**2.0 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**2.3 Issues**

Currently there is no direct vehicle access to the preserve. This tract can only be accessed by vehicle through the Barton Creek Habitat Preserve or other neighboring tracts. Biologists currently enter the tract by parking on RM 2244 and crossing over the barbed-wire fence. Due to its isolation from other BCP units, Senna Hills is low priority for management and will receive staff attention mainly for monitoring GCWA, oak wilt suppression, and neighborhood education.

**2.4 Management Objectives**

Tier II objectives for the Barton Creek Macrosite include protection of endangered species and species of concern and their habitats by securing boundaries and managing fire; management of public access, habitat, and water quality; public education and outreach, monitoring and enhancement of habitat. The goals and objectives of the Macrosite and this unit will be implemented through the objectives and activities listed below.

- 1. Protect and secure the boundaries.**
  - a. Patrol the perimeter routinely.
  - b. Maintain existing fencing.
- 2. Suppress oak wilt.**
- 3. Control red imported fire ants and non-native vegetation as needed.**
- 4. Monitor GCWA and vegetation per BCP protocols.**

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: SENNA HILLS MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>
<b><i>Vegetation Management</i></b>					
Control non-native plant species as needed	X	X	X	X	X
Survey for and suppress oak wilt	X	X	X	X	X
Monitor vegetation per BCP protocols	X	X	X	X	X
<b><i>Animal Management</i></b>					
Monitor GCWA per established BCP protocols	X	X	X	X	X
<b><i>Physical and Cultural Management Procedures</i></b>					
Secure boundaries with fences, signs, and patrols	X	X	X	X	X
<b><i>Visitor Management/Education</i></b>					
Develop and implement educational, research and service activity protocols for adjacent neighbors, as needed	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, 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**

Senna Hills will be available for education, guided tours, and research purposes only and only upon prior approval and arrangement with the City of Austin's Wildland Conservation Division. See Tier II-A, Chapter 12: Public Access for more detailed information.

## **3.0 MONITORING**

The City of Austin will monitor and evaluate habitat management in accordance with applicable biological monitoring 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.

Authorized staff may access the preserve by the most appropriate method, including by foot, motorized vehicle, on horseback or bicycle. Vehicles are restricted to existing roads unless specifically approved by the land manager. Springs and spring runs are restricted to foot access only.