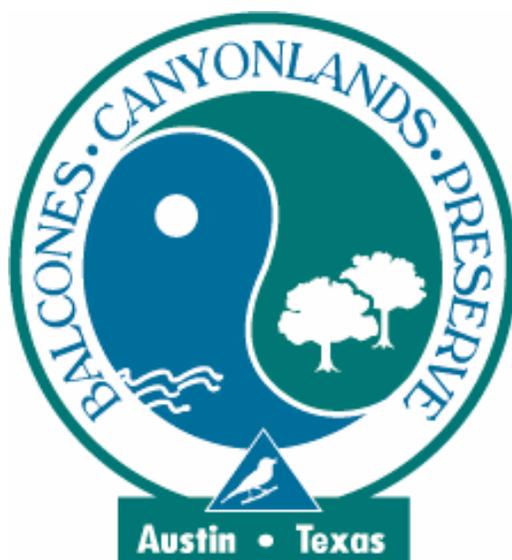


**BALCONES CANYONLANDS PRESERVE
LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

TIER III

**CITY OF AUSTIN
WATER TREATMENT PLANT #4 SITE
BULL CREEK MACROSITE**



August 2007

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1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A 138 acre (56 ha) portion of the 240 acre City of Austin's proposed Water Treatment Plant No. 4 (WTP No. 4) is dedicated to the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP). This tract is one of six contiguous City of Austin properties (Canyon Creek, Hanks, Franklin, Gardens at Bull Creek, Lanier, and WTP No. 4) lying within the uppermost unit of the Bull Creek macrosite. The Bull Creek watershed is thought to contain the largest contiguous area of Golden-cheeked warbler habitat in Travis County.

The future water treatment plant site is the property of the City of Austin. A fourth water treatment plant drawing raw water from Lake Travis will be constructed on the remaining 102 acres of this tract to be operational in the year 2011. A City of Austin fire station was constructed at the terminus of River Place Boulevard. These uses were approved in 1993 when the infrastructure planning guidelines were negotiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

All background information for the Water Treatment Plant #4 tract can be found in the first five-year set of three volumes entitled Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Land Management Plans (August 5, 1999).

2.0 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

2.1 Plan Administration

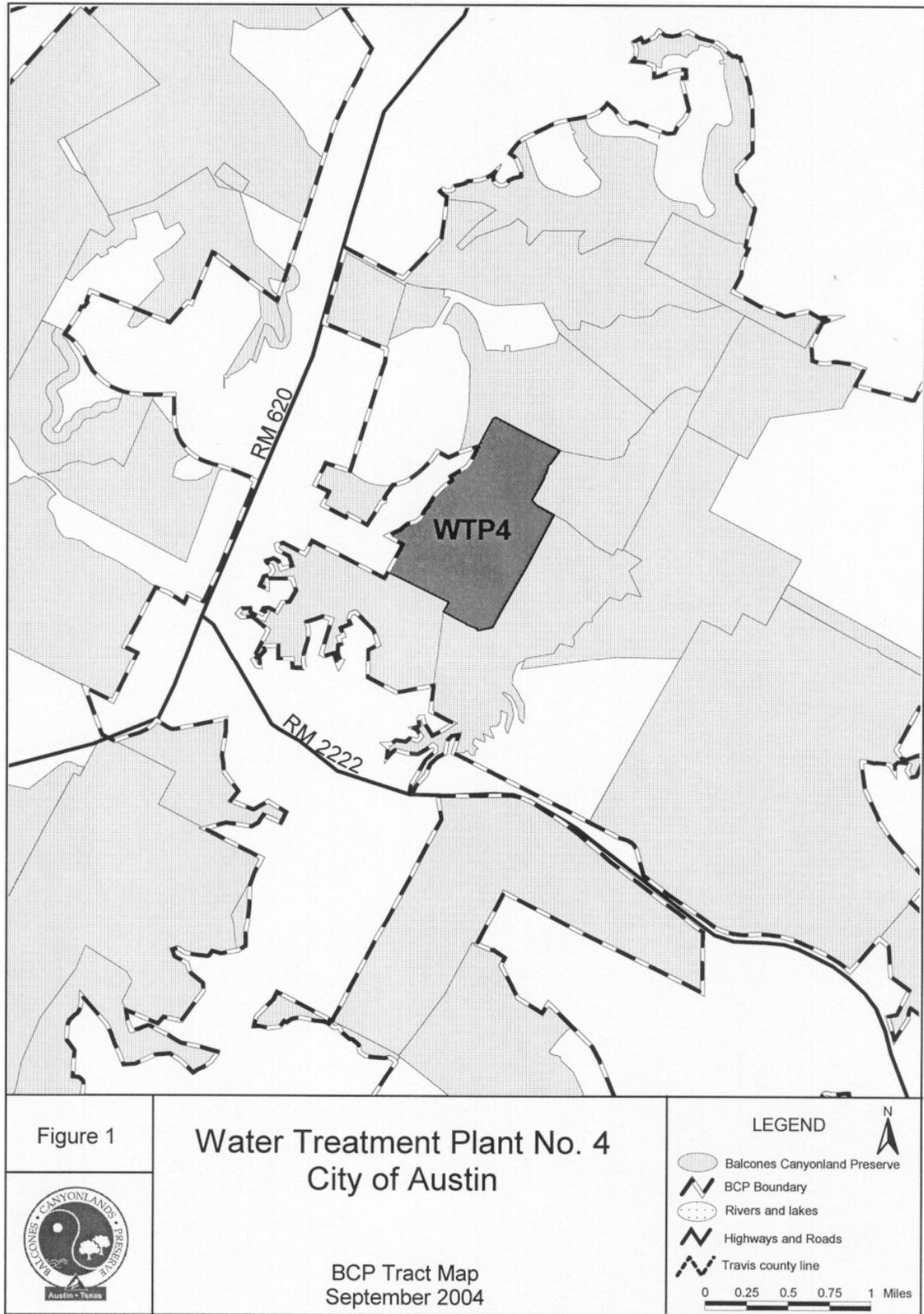
The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve manager of the Austin Water Utility is responsible for plan administration at this site. Details regarding staffing levels, equipment inventory, budget and report requirements can be found in the Tier II-B document.

2.2 Management Goals

2.2.1 Primary Management Goal

- Protect and maintain habitat for golden-cheeked warblers.
- Protect and cooperatively monitor Jollyville Plateau salamander populations.
- Protect and monitor the Bull Creek watershed's water quantity and quality.

FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP



2.2.1.1 Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA)

The Austin Water Utility will protect and manage the 138 acres of habitat in its natural state, limiting access to the preserve tract, and by working cooperatively with other BCP partners in regional solutions to common problems such as preservation of GCWA habitat, wildfire, oak wilt, deer management, brown-headed cowbirds, and non-native species, including red imported fire ants, and non-native invasive vegetation.

2.2.1.2 Other Species of Concern

City of Austin BCP and Watershed Protection and Development Review Department (WPDRD) staff that has been monitoring the Jollyville Plateau salamander in nearby springs and watercourses will be encouraged to expand their study area to include the WTP No.4 site. In the next five years, the Austin Water Utility 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 BCP portion of the tract that may be suitable for introduction of the plant.

2.2.2 Secondary Management Goals

The Austin Water Utility will manage this property for water quality and quantity benefits in the Bull Creek watershed by improving native habitats and reducing erosion. When the Water Treatment Plant No 4 construction begins, all mitigation efforts will be taken to reduce erosion and non-point source pollution from adversely affecting the designated preserve area and the tributary to Bull Creek.

2.3 Issues

Some illegal dumping continues at the end of RiverPlace Boulevard outside of the property gate. However, AWU personnel have cleaned up most of this trash and debris immediately. This site has a new eight foot game fence to help prevent past illegal activities such as trespass, vandalism, and poaching. This also provides the first perimeter of security for Water Treatment Plant 4.

2.4 Management Objectives

The Austin Water Utility plans to leave the plant site in its current unimproved state until needs for a water treatment plant are realized. During the planning/design phase for the planned infrastructure, every effort will be undertaken to ensure co-existence between the developed acreage and that dedicated to the BCP.

The Austin Water Utility is aware of the important Tier II objectives for the Bull Creek macrosite. It will act cooperatively with other preserve partners to protect endangered species and species of concern, to manage public access, habitat, and water quality, and to monitor resources. Because of the intended future use as an operational water treatment plant, public access will not be encouraged. The management goals here will be implemented through the objectives and activities listed below.

1. Protect natural resources from unauthorized human activities.
 - a. Continue to keep the area closed to unauthorized personnel to protect resources.
 - b. Restrict access to authorized monitoring personnel.
 - c. Routinely inspect perimeter fence and make repairs as needed.
 - d. Cooperate with law enforcement on regional enforcement activities.

2. Participate in a cooperative fashion on monitoring efforts of land and water resource management success, as staff and funding assistance is available.
 - a. Cooperate on regional deer surveys and control efforts.
 - b. Identify study sites for cooperative biological and vegetation monitoring.

3. Manage land and water resources by the following means as staffing and funding permit.
 - a. Cooperate in regional oak wilt surveys and suppression of diseased trees.
 - b. Passively manage GCWA habitat per Tier II Management Handbook protocols.
 - c. Periodically survey for non-native species and control them as appropriate using methods endorsed by COA Integrated Pest Management Committee and USFWS.
 - d. Participate cooperatively in a regional wildfire control plan.

2.5 Specific Implementation Strategies

All implementation will follow applicable BCP guidelines and other accepted procedures in use by the USFWS, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Structural Pest Control Board of Texas, City of Austin Watershed Protection and Development Review, and Texas Commission on

Environmental Quality. All pesticide applications will be performed under the direction of a licensed applicator.

Table 1: Objectives

Objectives:	04	05	06	07	08
Vegetation Management					
Survey for Oak Wilt annually and suppress as needed	X	X	X	X	X
Manage selected portions of GCWA habitat per BCP protocols	X	X	X	X	X
Survey for and control invasive non-native plant species as needed.	X	X	X	X	X
Plant Canyon Mock-orange seeds and protect them from herbivory as part of regional effort			X	X	X
Animal Management					
Monitor cooperatively for GCWA and other songbirds	X	X	X	X	X
Survey potential occurrence of karst and BCVI species	X	X			
Monitor Jollyville Plateau salamanders in cooperative program	X	X	X	X	X
Monitor and control white-tailed deer	X	X	X	X	X
Control feral hogs	X	X	X	X	X
Physical and Cultural Management Procedures					
Develop and implement cooperative fire control plan			X	X	
Visitor Management					
Restrict access to monitoring personnel	X	X	X	X	X

COA staff may monitor water quality at springs and watercourses on the WTP No. 4 site using physical, chemical, and biological indicators. Staff may document the presence of Jollyville Plateau salamanders and associated macroinvertebrate fauna. Only authorized personnel will be permitted to access creek segments and springs, and such access is for monitoring purposes only.

The plant site is entirely surrounded by an eight-foot game fence with two vehicular access gates. The property is posted with signs at the front gate and along the property lines prohibiting trespassing, hunting, etc. A large sign at the front gate identifies that the property is owned by the Austin Water Utility and provides a contact phone number for further information. Additional internal signage may be erected to distinguish between the plant site and natural areas, as onsite development nears.

3.0 MONITORING

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