



## The Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan

The Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (or BCCP) was created to assist Travis County landowners comply with the requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act. The Plan is a voluntary, streamlined *alternative* to obtaining an “Incidental Take” or “10(a)” permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The BCCP strikes a balance between community demands for growth and economic development and compliance with federal law by protecting over 30,000 acres to offset habitat impacts within the County.

### Species Covered by the Plan

The plan covers “take” of eight federally endangered species: the golden-cheeked warbler (GCWA), the black-capped vireo (BCVI), and six karst invertebrates. 25 karst species and two plants are also protected by the Plan. No aquatic vertebrate species are covered by the BCCP.

### Plan Participation

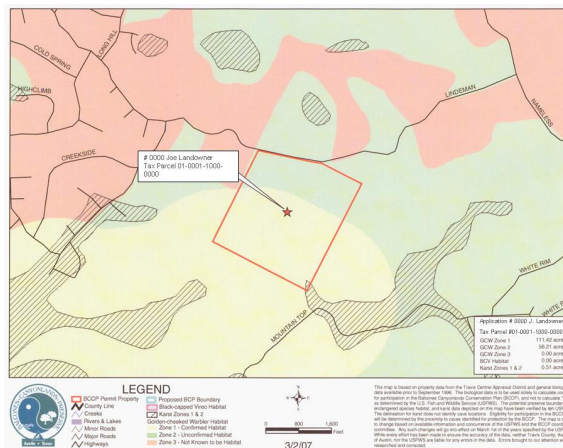
Landowners in Travis County that intend to develop land that provides endangered species habitat may comply with federal law through the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan.

Participation in the Plan is a voluntary alternative to obtaining a federal “Incidental Take” or “10(a)” permit under the Endangered Species Act. If the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has made a “take” determination for a particular property, participation in the Plan must be at the level required by the Service.

### Application Process

Participation applications may be downloaded from the County website, [www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/bccp/participating.asp](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/bccp/participating.asp) or obtained from Travis County’s Natural Resources Program located at 1010 Lavaca, 3rd floor, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. There is no application fee, and processing normally takes two to three weeks.

Once a completed application is received, Travis County staff will determine the cost to participate based on fee zone maps approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Assessments are based on the amount of fee zone acreage within the entire tract, rounded to the nearest 0.1 acre.



Sample BCCP Fee Zone Determination Map

### Standard Participation Fees

A revised fee structure is currently in place from **October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010:**

- GCWA (zone 1) \$5,500/acre
- GCWA (zone 2) \$2,750/acre
- BCVI Zone \$5,500/acre
- Karst Zone \$1,000/acre

Again Fee Zone determinations are rounded to the nearest tenth of an acre. Applicants who receive formal “take” calculations or Alternative Determinations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be assessed a participation rate at the USFWS level of \$6,500/acre

### Special Categories

- **Small landowners:** single-family home on up to 100 acre tract in existence before 5/4/90, or one home per 15 acres or more: \$2,000 per lot
- **Agricultural construction:** clearing for new structures (barns, paddocks, etc.) associated with current ranching or farming operations: \$1,500 per acre
- **Land in lieu of fees:** land that qualifies for transfer to the Preserve and is adjacent to or inside the Preserve acquisition area may receive mitigation credit to apply to land developed outside the Preserve.
- **Conservation Easements:** may be donated in lieu of fees on lands with appropriate habitat.

## Information required to complete an application

- Legal description of the property
- Tax parcel ID number(s)
- Survey data preferably in a .shp file in Texas Stateplane, central zone coordinates, *or* .dxf file with control points *or lastly* metes and bounds descriptions with distances and bearings.

## Application Timeframe

Once all the required application information is provided to the County, a determination of the cost for participation will be made within 15 working days. Participation Certificates are typically mailed to the participant within two weeks after receipt of payment. Tracts with complications may require Travis County staff to consult with USFWS and/or the Balcones Canyonlands Coordinating Committee, which could extend the turnaround time for processing an application. Applications for the Land In Lieu of Fees or Conservation Easement in Lieu of Fees Provisions will also require additional processing time.

## Participation Contract

Applicants who elect to participate enter into a participation contract with the Balcones Canyonlands Coordinating Committee. The contract will be recorded in Travis County's Real Property Records at the County Clerk's Office at no charge to the participant. Participation Certificates run with the land similar to an easement. Sample participation contracts are available by contacting the Travis County BCCP Administrator at the number below.

## Participant's Commitment

The participant is free to begin construction once the participation contract is signed and a

Participation Certificate is issued. Note that clearing is subject to the terms and conditions of the participation contract and may not be conducted from March 1 through August 31 on tracts containing habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler and/or the black-capped vireo.

Participation Certificates should be posted at the construction site from the time clearing begins until construction is completed.

## For More Information

Additional information and application forms may be downloaded from the County website, <http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/bccp/participating.asp> and is also available at the Development Permits desk located on the 8th floor at 411 W. 13th Street. Fee zone maps are available on the County website and may be downloaded for free or purchased at the address above for \$3 each. If you have additional questions about the public participation process, please contact the Travis County BCCP Administrator at the number below.



Travis County: (512) 219-6190 xt. 5  
Transportation & Natural Resources  
<http://www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/bccp/default.asp>



City of Austin: (512) 972-1686  
Wildlands Conservation Division  
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wildland/bcp.htm>



U.S. Fish & Wildlife: (512) 490-0057  
Austin Ecological Services Office  
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/AustinTexas/>

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## Public Participation Process

Travis County  
Transportation & Natural Resources  
411 W. 13th Street  
Austin, Texas

October 2009