WILD BASIN WILDERNESS PRESERVE

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY

Wild Basin Creative Research Center



Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve
2025 Annual Report

(October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)

Submitted by

Wild Basin Creative Research Center and St. Edward's University

to

Travis County Commissioners Court
and Transportation and Natural Resources

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Overview of Preserve Mission, Management, and Operations

Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve is jointly owned and managed by St. Edward's University (SEU) and Travis County (Appendix A). Wild Basin's mission is to protect and maintain its urban wilderness, and to promote the importance of environmental education, research, conservation, and preservation.

Situated at the edge of the Texas Hill Country and surrounded by commercial and residential growth in west Austin (Appendix B), Wild Basin is a unique conservation property for Travis County and the larger Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) system. As an urban and publicly accessible preserve, Wild Basin provides authentic environmental education, recreation, volunteering, and research experiences for the community. The preserve's location near a major urban area also brings challenges in the form of invasive species, water pollution, noise pollution, and litter. Wild Basin strives to incorporate these challenges into learning opportunities about our urban environments for students and the public.

Since its merger with St. Edward's University in 2009, Wild Basin remains an important resource to the local community and continues to build on its rich history of promoting conservation, research, and environmental awareness. Wild Basin aspires to become a model for urban preserves, a hub for stewardship, creative research, and environmental education, and a gateway to the BCP.

In addition to helping implement preserve management and manage recreational access, St. Edward's University operates the Wild Basin Creative Research Center ("the Center") based at the preserve, which houses a Visitor Gallery with environmental exhibits, staff offices, an Artist in Residence space, a classroom, a computer lab, and meeting spaces. The Center is a key resource for educating university level as well as K-12 students and provides a platform for public outreach and engagement.

The Center's education, art, research, and preserve management programs are designed to promote conservation and environmental awareness, while encouraging and demonstrating sustainable land stewardship practices. During the reporting period, the Center coordinated student internships and research activities, hosted undergraduate and graduate classes, maintained public trails, managed invasive species, performed restoration work, monitored, and reported on water quality, hosted public and inter-agency meetings, workshops, and trainings, and hosted an Artist in Residence Program.

Wild Basin Vision

The vision of Wild Basin is to inspire conservation by connecting communities to a dynamic urban preserve. Together with our partners, we focus on the following goals for Wild Basin:

- Managing and restoring a mosaic of habitats native to Wild Basin, including oak-juniper woodlands, riparian corridors, semi-open grasslands and cedar breaks;
- Protecting native biodiversity;
- Protecting habitat for the federally endangered Golden-cheeked warbler;
- Protecting habitats to support threatened and rare plant and animal species;
- Controlling non-native and invasive species;
- Protecting soil profiles and unique geologic features;
- Monitoring water quality relative to watershed inputs, runoff, and erosion;
- Protecting prehistoric and historic cultural sites;
- Managing a trail system that presents the regional flora and fauna, while minimizing impacts to the preserve's biotic community and inherent beauty; and
- Providing stewardship, research, and educational opportunities and resources for students and the community.

Trail Maintenance, Restoration, and Construction

Wild Basin has 2.5 miles of trails that are monitored, maintained, and improved by Center staff throughout the year with assistance from trained stewardship volunteers and interns.

Trail Maintenance and Monitoring Activities:

- Staff, volunteers and interns monitored the trails during weekly patrols to assess conditions and address potential hazards. Patrols were documented in quarterly land management reports submitted to Travis County TNR.
- In addition to the work of the Wild Basin Preserve Manager, trail maintenance was accomplished during regular volunteer stewardship workdays throughout the year.
- The Wild Basin Preserve Manager lead weekly stewardship workdays for a crew of trained volunteers on Thursday mornings. Land management interns joined the Thursday stewardship crew, when their work schedules align. The Thursday workday was also open to members of the public who were interested

in supporting land stewardship activities at the preserve. During these workdays, the crew addressed safety hazards, trail erosion issues, cleared vegetation growing into the hiking trail corridor, repaired trail tread, removed trash from the trails and boundary, assisted with the removal and treatment of non-native invasive plants (NNIP) and assisted with construction projects.

- Staff also provided a monthly weekend volunteer workday for the general public, typically on the morning of the third Saturday. These workdays were filled through an online signup and focused on more basic trail maintenance and preserve operation needs.
- Stewardship workdays were subject to cancellation or rescheduling due to weather and other operational considerations.
- Wild Basin visitation numbers are logged by two trail counters on Arroyo Vista Trail, one near each trail head, as well as by manual counts from the Wild Basin Security Officer and supporting interns. The estimated hiker county for the 2025 reporting year is 16,634.

Trail Restoration and Construction Activities:

- The 55’ long boardwalk on the lower section Arroyo Vista Trail was rebuilt in FY25. The demolition and removal of the existing boardwalk began with help of volunteers and interns in November of 2024. Crews from the Texas Conservation Corps started the rebuild of the boardwalk in December. The rotting wooden retaining wall on the uphill landing of the boardwalk was also rebuilt with a chopped limestone block wall. The project was fully completed and opened to the public on February 14, 2025.
- 18 new Ash juniper steps were installed along a severely degraded section of Triknee Trail. The work was accomplished with assistance from Texas Conservation Corps crews, volunteers, and interns. An estimated four cubic yards of loose limestone rock was collected and used as backfill and crush for the restoration. Most of this collected material was from eroded exposed limestone tread on the upper sections of Wild Basin’s trails. An additional three cubic yards of larger rocks were collected from across the preserve for anchoring steps and armoring along the new stair edge for erosion control and curbing.
- Two-hundred feet of tread were restored by laying down juniper mulch along previously untreated degraded sections of Triknee and Possum Trails. Approximately 100 feet of tread was retreated with more mulch during FY25.

- Social trails and trail edge degradation continued to be restored. Controlled access through the reservation system helped keep congestion and hiker impact on the trails low. Vegetative barriers and stone markings of trail edges continue to discourage off-trail hiker activity. Maintaining efficient drainage along the trails mitigates flooding and tread erosion.

Boundary Management

The Wild Basin Preserve Manager monitors the preserve's entire boundary at least twice annually (Appendix C). Some sections are monitored more frequently as needed due to concerns or other issues.

Boundary Management Activities:

- Section A (northern boundary shared with City of Austin's Vireo Preserve) Nothing of significance to report from monitoring this section of boundary in FY25. Because this is a shared boundary with another BCP tract, there is little concern along this section.
- Section B (southeastern boundary including the back gate, in-holding, and several residential neighboring properties)
    - Native woody plants growth continues to crowd the fence line along this section. Staff are working to clear vegetation as needed for efficient monitoring and maintenance.
    - Several broken branches and some uprooted trees have fallen on the boundary fence due to damage from previous year's winter storms and stress from summer extremes. Staff clear impacts and repair fence damage when possible. Some areas of steep terrain and understory growth make maintenance of the fence line difficult in this section of boundary.
    - The introduction of non-native invasive plants from neighboring residential properties is an ongoing issue along this boundary section.
    - The shaded fuel break along Wild Basin Ledge is functional. Continued maintenance is needed as delayed impacts are seen from previous years' winter storm damage and stress of summer extremes.
- Section C (eastern portion of south-central boundary)
    - The shaded fuel break along this section of boundary is functional. Continued maintenance is needed as delayed impacts are seen from previous years' winter storm damage and stress of summer extremes.

    - Native woody plant growth continues to crowd section of the fence line. Staff are working to clear vegetation as needed for efficient monitoring and maintenance.
- Section D (western half of the southern boundary)
    - This boundary section has the areas with the greatest amount of damage from previous years' winter storms and impacts of stresses from summer extremes. The shaded fuel breaks along Section D are severely impacted by Ashe junipers and oaks that have uprooted or have broken canopy branches. Retreatment and maintenance of the hardest impacted sections is difficult because of the terrain and lost access from neighboring properties due to new development.
    - In previous years, Section D had the highest observed instances of fence manipulation/damage, signs of trespassing or impacts from residential properties. Significantly less issues were observed in FY25.
    - The introduction of non-native invasive plants from neighboring residential properties is an ongoing concern along this boundary. Treatment along this section is difficult due to dense living and damaged vegetation.
- Section E (along Loop 360 highway)
    - Loop 360 is the biggest source of litter and trash entering the preserve. Staff led several volunteer trash pick-up workdays along the Loop 360 right-of-way.
    - TxDOT's gabion structures along the Loop 360 banks and drainage continue to help mitigate erosion damage. Future maintenance is recommended to maintain effectiveness and longevity of these features.
    - Staff continue to monitor non-native invasive plants along this section, which are mainly introduced through the Bee Creek culverts and highway drainage.

Additional notes about boundary conditions:

- There is no fencing and minimal signage along Section E of Wild Basin's boundary, which leaves the preserve vulnerable to trespassing from the highway. Additional BCP signage may help mitigate future issues of trespassing or dumbing.
- Native woody plant growth along the fence line is an ongoing issue, especially in areas of steep terrain in Sections B and D. Vegetation clearing is a staff priority for efficient fence monitoring and maintenance.

- Treatment of tree damage from extreme weather events continues to be a priority for staff along the boundary.

Vegetation Management

Vegetation Management Activities:

- Vegetation Mapping: Center staff, volunteers and researches use the citizen science platform iNaturalist to map the distribution of plants within the preserve. See "Community Science" below for the FY25 report on iNaturalist observations.
- Rare Plant Species: All rare plant locations are document in the iNaturalist WBCRCMapping Project. If off-trail observations are recorded using geographic coordinates, exact location is obscured from public viewing to protect the plant. The report from specialized volunteers monitoring rare plant species at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve can be found below in the scientific research sections (Barr et al.). The following rare plant species are on the Wild Basin monitoring list.
    - Primary Species of Interest
        - Naked broomrape (Orobanche uniflora)
        - Shooting-star (Primula meadia)
        - Texas madrone (Arbutus xalapensis)
    - Secondary Species of Interest
        - Canyon mock-orange (Philadelphus ernestii)
    - Tertiary Species of Interest
        - Glass mountain coralroot (Hexalectris nitida)
        - Crested coralroot (Hexalectris spicata)
        - Heller's marbleseed (Onosmodium helleri)
        - Buckley tridens (Tridens buckleyanus)
        - Louisiana broomrape (Aphyllon ludovicianum, Orobanche ludoviciana)
        - Ladies' tresses (Spiranthes magnicamporum)
        - Sticky liatirs (Liatris glandulosa)
        - Virginia snakeroot (Endodeca serpentaria)

- Invasive Species Management:
    - Center staff and Travis County TNR personnel continued the work of mapping, monitoring, and removing non-native invasive plant species from the preserve. The main plant species included in this work in FY25

were Japanese privet (Ligustrum japonicum), Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica), and Common periwinkle (Vinca minor).

- Non-native invasive plant (NNIP) species at Wild Basin were managed by either manual removal or selective use of herbicide. Manual removal includes the use of tools, such as a weed-wrench, or hand pulling plants to remove as much of the root system as possible. After pulling the plant out off the ground, the root system is left exposed to UV radiation from the sun to ensure full death of the roots. Herbicide application is done in collaboration with Travis County TNR staff. Wild Basin staff used either a "cut and paint" or "girdle and treat" method with Garlon 3A herbicide. These treatments are used on plants too large to be removed manually. Chemical treatments are performed under supervision of Julie Murray, Travis County BCP Natural Resource Specialist, a licensed applicator through the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- NNIP species are mapped and monitored by Center staff using the GIS collector app ArcMap in cooperation with Travis County TNR.
- During FY25, 2,315 individual NNIP stems were removed by staff, interns and volunteers (See Appendix D).

- <u>Wildfire Fuel Management:</u>
  - Beginning in 2017, Travis County TNR coordinated with the City of Westlake Hills to cut shaded fuel breaks along terrain appropriate sections of Wild Basin's boundary with adjacent residential properties. Where possible, the shaded fuel breaks were cut on both the residential and preserve sides of the boundary. In fiscal years of 2017 and 2018, a total of 2.2 acres of shaded fuel breaks were established. No additional fuel breaks have been established since the initial treatments were completed.
  - The cycle of extreme summer conditions and late winter storms have impacted some sections of the shaded fuel breaks at Wild Basin. The areas of most concern are noted in the above boundary management section. Maintenance of the shaded fuel breaks is done outside of the bird season due to management plans noise restrictions.
  - A lot of vegetative debris is generated maintaining Wild Basin's hiking trails, driveway, parking lot, and boundary. To reduce the wildfire fuel load this creates, the Preserve Manager has been coordinating annual

chipping operations with Travis County TNR crews. The chipped material is then used in trail restoration and erosion control projects at Wild Basin.

Wildlife Management

- Golden-cheeked Warbler: Surveys were conducted at Wild Basin and in the adjacent Vireo Preserve between early March and mid-June, by Darrell Hutchinson, Lisa O'Donnell, Sheila Ellwood, and Gary Sertich. Between the two preserves ten separate males were detected during the breeding season and all ten males established territories. Nine males paired and six of the nesting pairs reproduced successfully. Although plot density was slightly lower than 2023 and 2024, overall reproductive success was high. Nine males and three females were color-banded. Four males were banded returns. During 2025, one male was banded as an after second-year (ASY) bird, and four males and three females were banded as second-year (SY) birds. This marks a shift in age structure with a greater number of older (ASY) males occupying the plot compared to previous years. Banding was accomplished by John Chenoweth.
- Feral Hogs: (Sus scrofa) No evidence of hog activity has been observed or reported at Wild Basin in FY25.
- River Otters: No river otters were captured on the motion-triggered game cameras monitoring the preserve in FY25.
- Wildlife Activity: Motion-triggered cameras are used to monitor activity along Wild Basin's trails, driveway, parking lot, and some parts of the boundary. Cameras are regularly maintained and data is collected. Monitoring shows an abundance of wildlife at Wild Basin that is adapted to preserve activity; maintaining a healthy avoidance of hikers.

Water Quality

- Center staff continue to conduct monthly water quality monitoring of Bee Creek above the waterfall at the western intersection of the Creek and Yaupon Trails. LCRA's Colorado River Watch Network (CRWN) test kit and monitoring protocols are used to measure multiple parameters including; pH, nitrates, water transparency, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, and field observation of the testing site. E. coli sampling is still temporarily suspended with the CRWN program due to issues with the testing material's supplier. Periodic upstream and downstream photos of the testing site are also uploaded through the online reporting portal. Water quality testing date from Wild Basin can be found on the CRWN website at: https://crwn.lcra.org/Site/72

- Permanent water monitoring stations are installed at the Bee Creek and North Hollow culverts. An online dashboard provides staff with real time information about water level and turbidity at the culverts. The Bee Creek sampler can pull up to eight water samples from the sampling culvert pool is specific protocol conditions are met. These water samples are taken to the LCRA Environmental Lab for deeper analysis than the CRWN monthly monitoring provides. The sampling trigger protocols were suspended in FY25 due to equipment maintenance. The two monitoring stations still provide Center staff with a better ability to monitor Bee Creek in real time remotely and be better informed to respond to concerns more promptly.
- Center staff continue to monitor Bee Creek and North Hollow for impacts from upstream activity, such as sediment pollution or algae blooms fed from commercial and residential runoff into the watershed. No significant pollution incident was observed this year.
- The Wild Basin Research Director began the “Bee Creek Initiative” in FY25. This initiative worked with student interns to examine the adverse effects of urbanization on stream quality and the macroinvertebrate community in Bee Creek through frequent water quality sampling efforts at multiple points along the entire expanse of creek. Sampling efforts included areas both within the preserve and those upstream and downstream. The aim of this plan is to collect stream data under a variety of weather, environmental, and land use conditions. Results from the two-year initiative will serve to inform agencies charged with enforcing water quality regulations about issues and areas of concern, as well as to educate landowners and the general public about the status and importance of Bee Creek. Further details can be found in the “Scientific Research” section of this report.

Outreach, Education, and Volunteer Coordination

The Center actively provides environmental educational opportunities and volunteer stewardship opportunities for the community. A total of 1260 volunteer hours were logged at Wild Basin on various outreach-related activities, including trail maintenance and stewardship (described above), environmental education, public engagement, and art in nature experiences. The events and programs held at Wild Basin between October 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025 are summarized below.

Educational Permits

Four permits for educational activities were issued during the reporting period. The

description and progress of each project is provided below.

(1) Willette, J., Sivo, B., O'Leary, B., Pritchard, M., Trevino, M., and Jeffrey, K., REI Star Walks, REI Night Sky Hiking Tour at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve

Project Description: This event involves an introduction to the night sky through a hike and a guided exploration of the constellations, as well as exploring night sounds while hiking in a night time environment. Guides will also educate guests on the history and purpose of Wild Basin. Permittee and/or sub-permittees will lead up to 24 attendees on a two-hour hike staying on public trails. Permittee is responsible for assuring all participants leave Wild Basin and gate is locked after the hike.

Progress Report: We led 14 hikes this year: 11 public hikes, two private girl scout hikes, and one free community hike. We brought 122 hikers total to Wild Basin: 80 paying public hikers, seven joined for the free community hike, and 35 girl scouts and parents.

(2) Green, M. BIOL 1108 - Gen Bio Lab

Project Description: As part of the process of learning about scientific research, students will collect water samples from Bee Creek in Wild Basin and then conduct analyses in the St. Edward's labs to evaluate water quality parameters (nitrates and chlorophyll a). Water samples will be collected from three locations in Wild Basin where Bee Creek intersects a trail (three locations on Creek Trail and one location on Yaupon trail). At most, 144 students will collect 500 mL samples (one sample per four students) over a two-week span (10/27-11/6/25). NOTE: The number of students and sampling sites was reduced this year (see below).

Progress Report: No activities under this permit were conducted in FY25. However, activities were scheduled and carried out in late fall (early FY26) and will be reported in next year's BCCP Annual Report.

(3) Furey, R. FRSC Forensic Entomology Lecture 4349 and Lab 4249, and Complementary Independent Study

Project Description: One of the most important aspects of forensic entomology is calculating PMI using insect life cycles and development times. To this end we have

established three “feeding” stations where we place fresh roadkill. Observations were set up on a daily at our Wild Basin Preserve locations. We avoided trafficked areas and selected for open spots with some low canopy. Our first site was overrun by buzzards and disappeared, bones and all, within the first 24 hours. As a result, we built wood-framed wire cages to restrict access by vertebrate scavengers for all subsequent placements. We plan to continue roadkill observations for data covering complete annual cycles.

Progress Report: We recorded local conditions and the decomposition state for the duration of each roadkill. Over the course of the work to date, we have used two white tail deer, a fox, a racoon, a porcupine, an opossum, and a boar. Decay stages and forensic insect community succession depended on the size of the animal and the weather conditions. Larger animals taking longer and cooler temperatures extending the observation periods.

We found expected insect arrival times with Blowflies (Calliphoridae) and Flesh flies (Sarcophagidae) arriving as we placed our roadkill, with subsequent arrivals dependent on size and weather conditions. We observed mass aggregations of lethargic blowflies and flesh flies on three of the seven observations. We also found fungus infected individuals in two of those groups. After looking at the overall data, we will be able to see the effects of infection, but at this point I suspect one epidemic and two mass eclosion events.

Sampling throughout the process of succession on the carrion provided us with a list of local forensic insects. House Flies (Muscidae) arrived early, with beetles later as conditions became more conducive to their success. Skin beetle (Dermestidae), Rove beetles (Staphylinidae), and Hide beetles (Trogidae) were present, with dermestids in particularly high numbers.

We hope to continue regular placements and observations throughout the coming year. We will be making sure our picture of the forensic insects is complete for the Texas Hill Country. But even more interesting, we will be looking deeper into the aggregations of lethargic flies around carrion. The coming year will include students from formal classes to independent study projects to work on this project as we open new questions.

(4) Ledesma, D. Wild Basin Vegetation survey (9/22/2025 – 12/10/2025)

Project Description: This project engages students in course-based undergraduate research focused on long-term ecological monitoring at Wild Basin. Using established vegetation survey protocols, students collected non-destructive data such as plant composition, canopy and ground cover characteristics, tree size, soil moisture, and soil pH. Research conducted by students advances the larger "Wild Basin Now" initiative aimed at monitoring the long-term anthropogenic impacts in the area amid increasing urbanization in west Austin. The data collected by students will be used to understand both current and contextualize future vegetation dynamics at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve. This information can be used by land managers to better protect this habitat in the future. Additionally, the project included a comparative study site near St. Edward's campus—Blunn Creek Preserve—which represents a more disturbed urban habitat. Students collected vegetation and environmental data at both locations to compare the urban site (Blunn Creek) with Wild Basin, a more natural habitat located on a wilderness preserve outside of Austin.

Progress Report: No activities under this permit were conducted in FY25. However, activities were scheduled and carried out in late fall (early FY26) and will be reported in next year's BCCP Annual Report.

Environmental Education and Interpretive Programs

- School Programs – School field trips occurred in both the fall of 2024 and spring of 2025. A total of 21 school field trips occurred and 503 students participated. 10 volunteers donated 189 hours of their time to support these offerings. Guided program group size is restricted to a maximum of approximately 40 students per day to control impact on the preserve and ensure volunteer guides have a manageable group size.
- Tiny Footprints – This program is targets toward some of the youngest explorers (3-7yrs old). In FY25 six programs occurred with 61 children and 38 parents attending.
- Requested Hikes – 188 youth and 109 adults attend a guided hike with an organized group other than a school such as Girl Scouts our Scouting America.
- Public Programs – REI led 14 hikes in FY25 (see permit report above). These hikes included 11 public hikes, two private girl scout hikes, and one free community hike. REI brought 122 hikers total to Wild Basin: 80 paying public

hikers, seven joined for the free community hike, and 35 girl scouts and parents.

- Public Programs – The Artist in Residence program offered two youth and two adult workshops, as well as two final public art receptions (see below).
- Artist in Residence – In 2025, Wild Basin welcomed Linda Wandt as the spring Artist in Residence. Wandt is a representational oil painter and instructor, and her final show *"A Spring of Stillness – Observations of Narrowing Focus"* featuring diverse works, oil paintings, photographs, crayon sketches, and studies designed to encourage deeper observation through stillness. Her collection illustrates a visual journey, from broad concepts to detailed focus. During her residency, she developed a native plant sketchbook, explored color with crayon studies, and deepened her connection to nature through quiet observation, sitting still listening to birds in a way she had never done before. Wandt presented public programs focused on sketching and identifying bumble bees and outdoor sketching with crayons. Wild Basin welcomed Sarah Cypher as the fall 2025 Artist in Residence. Cypher is a published author, writer and wildlife photographer. Her show was *"On Their Level: Micro Photography and Nature Writing in Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve"*. Her public programs were focused on writing and nature journaling.
- Trail Guide Training - New guides were welcomed in as their schedules allowed. Orientation, training, shadowing and co-leading is available during each guided hike experience. In February, March and August trail guides participated in a half day training workshop where they learned and participated in a Wild Basin Creative Research Center's new Art in Nature curriculum. This curriculum has been incorporated into the guided hike program options.
- Second Saturday Guided Hikes – Trail guide volunteers provide a monthly guided hike to the public. In FY25 a total of nine hikes occurred. Another one was canceled due to weather and two hikes did not occur because no one made a reservation to attend. Thirty-nine adults and three children participated in these hikes.
- Speaker and Social Series – This in-person, speaker and social series event occurred in Oct., Nov. 2024, Jan, Feb, March, April and June 2025. In FY25, 183 adults and one child attended this series.
- First Friday Walk and Talks with Wild Basin Staff – this public offering occurs on the first Friday of each month or reschedule for the second Saturday due to a holiday or other operational conflict. In FY25, ten hikes were provided and 53

adults participated. Weather or no reservations cancelled hikes that were offered in Dec. 2024 and Jan. 2025.

- Wild by Wild Basin – During spring break 2025, the Center offered programs each weekday. One public guided hike with a focus on the Bee Creek watershed occurred and had five adults and five children participated. Travis Audubon provided a guided bird walk for seven adults and six children. GCWA were observed on the hike. Space was also provided at the parking lot trailhead for the Austin Paleo Society, Travis County BCP education staff and the Texas State Research Ranger Team with Hays County Master Naturalist. The Central Texas Herpetological Society also participated with an indoor educational table as well as staff lead activities that involved seed ball making and a picture scavenger hunt.
- Walk to the Waterfall Wednesdays – During the months of June and July, a public guided hike was provided every Wednesday morning. Twenty-seven adults and no children attended five hikes.
- A Photo Hike with a Naturalist was attended by six adults in spring 2025.

Environmental Education Resources for the Public

- Interpretive Visitor Gallery. Visiting groups and the public have access to the Wild Basin Visitor Gallery on Monday-Friday, 8am - 3pm year-round, except major holidays. The visitor galley has also been open from 8:30-11:30am with volunteer support the first and second Saturday of each month for FY25. Visitors can explore the educational exhibits, including projector microscopes to view natural science specimens, interactive bird calls and binoculars, as well as look up trail sightings using iNaturalist data on two touch screen monitors. Exhibits also include information on the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve and the protection of endangered species, and interpretive slideshow of wildlife photos from a trail camera research project. The touch table was created to provide visitors with a tangible experience with provided items including bones, fossils, wasp nests, and other items from nature. During the months of December 2024 and June 2025 the Artist in Residence artwork was displayed in the Center.
- Public Visitation. Wild Basin visitation numbers are logged by two trail counters on Arroyo Vista Trail, one near each trailhead, as well as by manual counts from Center security staff. The estimated visitor count for this fiscal year was 16,634.
- The FareHarbor reservation system was operational during FY25 on weekends & federal holidays. The system caps daily visitation at 78 cars (3 hiking sessions with 26 parking spaces each). After 5:30pm, reservations are not required.

Community Science

- eBird quarterly walks - Wild Basin volunteers coordinated quarterly bird surveys to participate in the community science program. eBird is a global citizen science program established and run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society. Three sections of Wild Basin's trail systems are included in separate survey locations (Loop 360 Segment, Bee Creek Segment, and North Hollow Segment), and all birds seen or heard during the quarterly walks were recorded in the eBird database. In FY25, the number of bird species observed in each quarter were: 15 (winter), 26 (spring), 25 (summer), and 21 (fall). Twenty-one bird species and 408 birds were observed/heard across all quarters. See full report in Appendix F.
- iNaturalist - Students, volunteer land stewards, and the public are encouraged to participate in the Wild Basin Biodiversity Project and community science project on the iNaturalist platform. (https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/wild-basin-biodiversity-project).

  This project allows users to submit observations of flora and fauna, supported by photos and sound recordings, using either their mobile device or desktop computer. The community of members on iNaturalist then helps to determine or confirm the identity of the animal or plant and it becomes a valuable data point for our natural resource management efforts as well as broader scientific research. iNaturalist allows users to view observations uploaded by other visitors to the preserve. A total of 1,683 observations documenting 489 species have been reported by students, volunteers, and visitors in the Wild Basin Biodiversity Project on iNaturalist as of FY25. The Open Space report, which includes all observations from Wild Basin, has 6,581 observations of 987 species.

Volunteer Stewardship

Volunteer Stewardship Workdays provided opportunities for the community to engage with the land management activities of Wild Basin. They also allowed volunteers to learn about the BCP conservation practices and issues unique to the Texas Hill County. Altogether, stewardship volunteers contributed 717 hours in FY25.

- Regular weekday stewardship workdays are led by the Preserve Manager and Center staff on Thursday Mornings. The Thursday crew is mostly made up of regular long-term volunteers. During these workdays, the crew assisted with a variety of land management projects over the course of the year and are an

indispensable resource to maintaining Wild Basin. Their efforts are also noted in the above “Trail Maintenance and Monitoring Activates” section.

- Monthly weekend workdays are also led by the Preserve Manager and Center staff on typically the third Saturday morning each month. These events are open to the general public, with a focus on engaging Wild Basin neighbors and the SEU campus community. In FY25, these workdays mainly focused on supporting the major trail restoration projects undertaken this year.
- Volunteers also help with the weekly monitoring of the hiking trail conditions through the Trail Patrol Program. Trail monitoring activities are recorded and given to Travis County TNR in quarterly land management reports.
- Westlake High School Senior Service Day: A group of 18 students and two school staff worked with Center staff to move and stage material for the Triknee Trail stair rebuild.
- Wild Basin was a site for Whole Foods corporate staff during community volunteer events twice in FY25.
- Center staff coordinated two Tacos and Trash Service days for the SEU campus community in FY25; one in each of the spring and fall semesters. During these events students, staff, and faculty help remove trash along the Loop 360 preserve boundary.

Public events, meetings, workshops, and conferences

*If not reported above under educational permits

- In January 2025 Wild Basin Creative Research Center was the host site for a bee identification training course. Dr. Gabriella Pardee, research director, coordinated the event with local bee taxonomist, Dr. Jack Neff who led the event.
- Dr. Pardee also provided a Wild Basin Creative Research Center outreach booth at the July 2025 Native Plant Conservation Conference. This multi day event occurred at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas.
- Paul Vickery, Environmental Education Coordinator, was a guest speaker to an Eanes History Group for their May 2025 meeting. Paul also spoke to the Brookdale Senior Living – Westlake Hills in Sept. 2025. Both events focused on the history of Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve.
- Wild Basin Creative Research Center supported the Groundwater to the Gulf Teacher Institute in June 2025 by having Paul Vickery participate in the planning committee and hosting day two of the Institute at St. Edward’s University.

- Trevor Rice, Preserve Manager, attended the summer Certified Arborist Prep Course that was hosted by the City of Austin in partnership with Texas A&M Forest Service and Arborholic, LLC.
- Trevor Rice, Preserve Manager, attended a National Wildfire Coordinating Group course during the 2025 Capital Area Interagency Wildfire & Incident Management Academy. The completion of the course helps deepen the Preserve Managers knowledge of wildfire management practices and move them towards FFT2 certification.
- Wild Basin CRC had a public outreach table at the University of Texas at Austin Hot Science Cool Talks event in March 2025. Discussion was focused on watershed education.
- Three SEU students presented results of their research conducted at Wild Basin at SEU's SOURCE Symposium in April 2025:
    - Author: Ana Sanchez
      Title: Tracking Two Decades of Water Quality in Bee Creek: Insights from Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve
      Poster presentation for St. Edward's University SOURCE 11 April 2025

    - Author: Corina Collard
      Title: Influence of Urbanization on Riparian Vegetation Community Structure in Austin, Texas
      Oral presentation for St. Edward's University SOURCE 11 April 2025

    - Author: Ava Perry and Amelia Valencia
      Title: Seasonal Dynamics of Anuran Skin Microbiomes at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve: A Longitudinal Metagenomic Study
      Oral presentation for St. Edward's University SOURCE 11 April 2025

- During FY25, six events for foster youth and their families or underserved youth occurred at Wild Basin on six separate dates. These events provided guided hikes, food at the Creative Research Center, fellowship with other participants, and art in nature activities.
- The Wild Basin CRC was used by Plumbing Outfitters, Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center, Central Texas Herpetological Society, Travis County Commissioners, El Buen Samaritano and the Balcones Canyonlands Master Naturalist Chapter for their own meeting or training.

St. Edward's University Events

- St. Edward's University events – Center staff participated in SEU student involvement fairs, spring and fall career fairs, Earth Day, Unwind Before the Grind

Employee Appreciation, Homecoming, Explore SEU, tabling at two health fairs and two student job fairs, Common Ground Movie Night, Groovy Goat Music Festival, Roots & Wings, Lucian Symposium, and one Live Well involvement fair. These events highlight internship and volunteer opportunities for students and event opportunities for faculty and staff.

- Staff Retreats and Meetings – Center staff met at least twice each month during FY25. The Center was also used for meetings and/or retreats by several SEU departments including the Student Financial Aid Dept., the American Association of French Teachers with SEU Faculty, SEU Student Women's Retreat, Women's Volleyball Team Building retreat, Admissions Staff Retreat, Resident Assistants team building retreat, School of Behavioral and Social Sciences Retreat, SEU ISS Picnic and Hike, BSS Graduate Program retreat, SEU Big Event (student/staff volunteer event), Tacos and Trash service event, and Student Yoga on the Porch. In addition, several SEU courses utilized the preserve for classes, training, or lab work (see Table 1).
- Appreciation Events – In October 2025, the Center hosted a "Friends of Wild Basin" dinner for donors.
- Meetings of businesses and government entities – During FY25, the Center hosted meetings for the following entities: a monthly book club, quarterly meetings between Travis County TNR and Center staff, the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center executive team, Groundwater to the Gulf, El Buen Samaritano Summer Camp, and a quarterly meeting of the BCP Education and Outreach Partners that includes personnel from the City of Austin, Travis County, Travis Audubon, Wild Basin Creative Research Center, and Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center. In addition, Artist in Residence workshops and receptions were held in the Center.
- Wild Basin Internship Program – The Center provided internships for 17 undergraduate students. The focus of these internships included: land management, research, invasive species monitoring and control, environmental education, media arts, and outreach/public relations. Projects included water quality testing, invasive species removal, trail maintenance, sediment monitoring, monitoring animal behavior with camera systems, butterfly garden maintenance, tabling events, trail patrol, photography, public outreach via social media, and curriculum development.

Table 1. Undergraduate and graduate classes taught at Wild Basin FY25

Course #	Title	# Students	Semester
BIOL 2423	Ecology and Global Change	15	Fall 2025
BIO 1107	Biology (Green)	18	Fall 2025
MARK 3336	Marketing Research	8	Fall 2025
JOUR 4331	Environmental Journalism	13	Fall 2025
BIO 1107	Biology (DeWhatley)	25	Spring 2025
FRSC 4349	Forensic Entomology	10	Spring 2025
FRSC 4249	Forensic Entomology Lab	10	Spring 2025
MARK 3336	Marketing Research	8	Spring 2025
	TOTAL	**107 students**	**8 classes**

Publications

No publications related to Wild Basin were published in FY25.

Scientific Research

During the 2025 reporting period, ten permitted research projects were approved to conduct research at the Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve. Five of these permits were granted in 2024 and still active, while five of the permits were new in 2025. Project participants included one Wild Basin CRC staff, three faculty from St. Edwards University, four undergraduate students from SEU, one undergraduate from UT Austin, one researcher at UT Austin, and two community partners/volunteers. Excluding Wild Basin CRC staff and contractors, over 1,000 hours were expended on research at Wild Basin during the reporting period.

Research Permits

Ten permits for research activities were issued during the reporting period. The description and progress of each project is provided below.

(1) Pardee, G. and Kirk, L. Environmental Filtering of Streams by Nature Preserves

Project Description: The goal of this project is to sample water quality indicators and macroinvertebrate communities of streams that run through a preserve and streams that do not run through a preserve. We will then compare the data to determine if there the preserve streams have stronger water quality characteristics.

Progress Report: No activities under this permit were conducted in FY25. However, activities were scheduled and carried out in late fall (early FY26) and will be reported in next year's BCCP Annual Report.

(2) Odom, A. Land Use/Land Cover Changes and Habitat Quality Analysis in Wild Basin: Assessing Impacts and Changes and Land Cover, Vegetation Density, and Watershed Boundaries from 1980 to 2025.

Project Description: This research project had two components: (a) Land classification analysis of Landsat imagery from 1980 to 2025, including NDVI vegetation density if possible, and (b) Mapping the Wild Basin section of Bee Creek using ground-truthed data gathered from a GPS mapping unit, in order to determine accurate creek width and boundaries.

(a) Land classification analysis of study area Landsat imagery from 1980 to 2025
Project Description: This study uses Landsat imagery of the Wild Basin and the surrounding study area to classify the landscape into six different land classes, using an ArcGIS Pro Support Vector Machine classifier that was trained by me. I hope to expand the land classifications into a NDVI (vegetation density) analysis of the classified forest cover areas.

Progress Report: The land classifications as well as the zonal statistics calculations (land class area) have been completed for all years between 1980 and 2025. A t-test was conducted using the data from 1980 and 2025, yielding no statistically significant value, but I am hopeful that using the land class area data from every study year in the statistical analysis will yield a different result. Even if not, the descriptive/visual analysis of the classification map shows significant fragmentation of vegetation/forest cover, and huge increase in developed areas (see Figure 1). Figure 2 also shows the numerical data in a double bar chart format, comparing the land class areas in 1980 to the areas in 2025. Figures can be found on the next page. A. Odom presented results of her study, "Land Use/Land Cover Changes and Habitat Quality Analysis in Wild Basin: Assessing Impacts and Changes and Land Cover, Vegetation Density, and Watershed Boundaries from 1980 to 2025", at the November 2025 Texas Society for Ecological Restoration conference in a poster presentation and received second place for the student research poster category.

(b) Bee Creek ground-truth mapping

Project Description: This section of the project involves using a Garmin GPSMap 367 to take waypoints of the creek edges, in order to create an accurate line and polygon that shows the length, width, and area of the Wild Basin section of Bee Creek

Progress Report: All the data was collected between August and September of 2025 in three separate trips out to the preserve. There were a few issues with blockages in the creek that made it difficult to get around to the next section of the creek, as well as some dry sections of the creek where there was no data to collect; in these instances, a single point was collected so I could mark and remember where the dry sections were. All the waypoint data has been imported to an ArcGIS project, where you can see that the creek follows the topographical contour of the landscape, and is not represented accurately by any basemap in ArcGIS or Google/Apple maps.

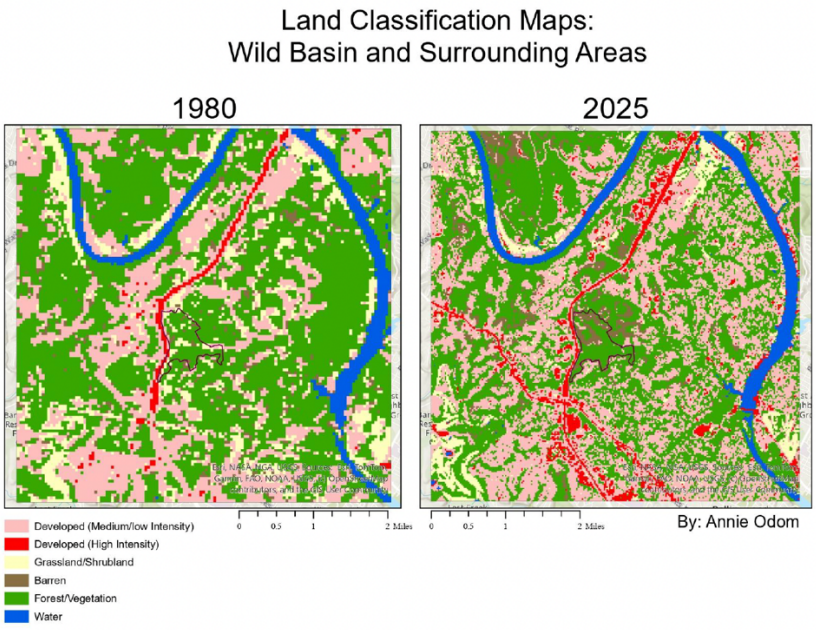


Figure 1: 1980 land classification map compared to the 2025 land classification map. Wild Basin Preserve boundaries outlined in black.

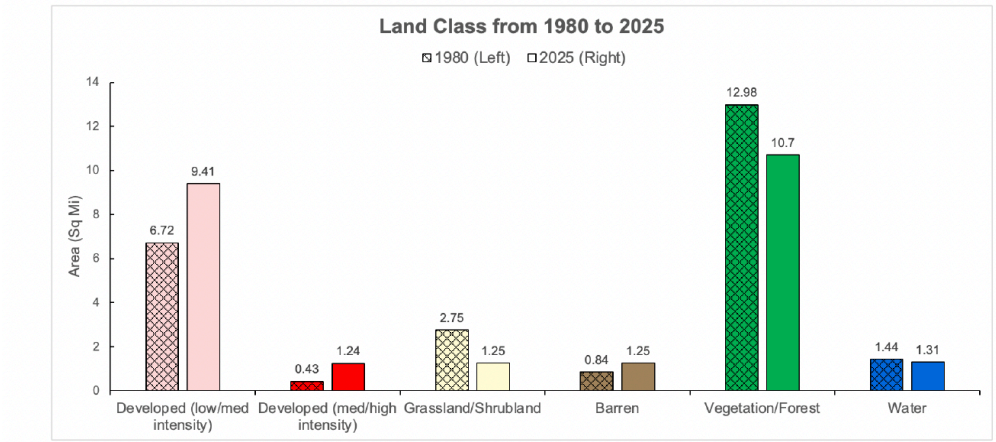


Figure 2. Double bar chart representing the land class area (mi²) in 1980 compared to 2025.

(3) Vibhuti, H, Maharaj, A, Concilio, A., Monitoring and Managing Trees in the Wildland-Urban Interface for Climate Resilience

Project Description: The goal of this project is to measure moisture stress in Ashe juniper (*Juniperus ashei*) and Texas live oak (*Quercus fusiformis*) trees at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve to better understand wildfire risk in the face of climate change. As droughts become more frequent, water-stressed trees can become significant fuel sources. This study utilizes high-resolution dendrometers to track trunk-diameter fluctuations, correlating this growth data with microclimate and soil moisture variables. A key objective is to determine if there are critical thresholds where trees transition from normal daily cycles to dangerous water stress. Additionally, the project compares trees in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) that have been treated with shaded fuel breaks against those in interior forests to evaluate if fuel mitigation treatments impact tree resilience to drought, heat, and freeze events.

Progress Report: The project has successfully initiated the monitoring phase. At the beginning of the semester, we visited Wild Basin with personnel from the St. Edward's University Office of Information Technology (OIT) to visit the site and install the SenseCAP M2 wireless gateway. After installing the gateway, we configured the connection between the gateway with AWS (Amazon Web Services). This involved setting up the SenseCAP M2 Multi-Platform Gateway to communicate via AWS IoT Core, ensuring that the high-resolution data from the dendrometers regarding trunk expansion and contraction is securely transferred and stored for analysis on the ePlant dashboard.

The internet connection maintains stable connectivity to the network server, ensuring continuous data flow from field sensors to our AWS cloud infrastructure. All monitored trees across the six sites maintain active status, providing comprehensive spatial coverage of both WUI-treated and interior forest locations.

The dendrometers were active and collecting data locally during the early summer, although the new gateway connection was not fully connected until the beginning of the semester. We kept in communication with the team at ePlants to access and retrieve this stored data from June, to ensure we have a continuous dataset covering the critical summer heat period. We have studied and analyzed Sites 1, 2, 3, and 4 so far and found that the sensors are accurately recording distinct diurnal cycles, showing trunk contraction during the heat of the day and expansion at night and discovering moisture stress trends across different sites. The equipment is currently functioning to capture daily fluctuations, which we will continue to use to assess vulnerability to environmental stressors. We are currently manipulating our available variables to explore different angles of our data. As the active monitoring period for this project occurred after the end of FY25 due to challenges establishing a reliable cellular connection, results of this study will be reported in next year's BCCP Annual Report.

(4) Wostl, E., Herpetological Surveys of Wild Basin Nature Preserve

Project Description: This report details the activities and findings associated with herpetological research conducted at Wild Basin by the author and his students in 2025. The work largely represents the results of a long-term study of the herpetological communities This report also includes notes and observation made while working on those studies.

Progress Report:

New Species Recorded at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve

This season we observed two species not previously recorded on the preserve. On 31 May 2025 an adult male eastern narrow-mouthed toad (*Gastrophryne carolinensis*) was captured in a pit fall trap on the east side of the preserve. Additionally, we observed two western slimy salamanders (*Plethodon albagula*) along Bee Creek. This brings the total number of amphibians and reptiles observed on the property to 35.

Long term monitoring of herpetological communities

Between May 5, 2025 and June 2, 2025, we conducted herpetological surveys utilizing

six pit-fall arrays each consisting of four five-gallon pitfalls separated by 25' of metal flashing or arranged in either a linear or "Y" configuration. In total there were 29 days of sampling resulting in 631.53 "pitfall days" where one pitfall day is equal to one pitfall trap open for 24 hours.

Overall, we detected 52 individuals of nine species of amphibian and reptile and total catch per unit effort (CPUE) for Wild Basin was 0.082 captures per pitfall day. If metamorphic amphibians are excluded, 50 individuals were detected and the CPUE is 0.079. Table 2 provides a list of sites, their coordinates, configuration, sampling effort at each, and capture per unit effort.

Table 2. Drift fence arrays, effort, and CPUE on Wild Basin and Barton Creek Habitat Preserve May 5th - June 3rd '25.

Site	ID	Latitude	Longitude	Fence Configuration	Pitfall Days	CPUE
Wild Basin	WB04	30.30979	-97.82168	Linear	106.14	0.028
Wild Basin	WB05	30.30995	-97.81917	Linear	106.51	0.094
Wild Basin	WB07	30.30759	-97.82055	Linear	98.6	0.061
Wild Basin	WB08	30.30742	-97.81763	"Y"	108.52	0.083
Wild Basin	WB10	30.30511	-97.82072	Linear	106.89	0.102
Wild Basin	WB14	30.30553	-97.81363	"Y"	104.9	0.124

Comparing FY25 results to previous years in which the same arrays were open during the same timeframe, overall CPUE has dropped from 0.097 to 0.063. *Incilius nebulifer* and *Scincella lateralis* show marked declines in CPUE since 2022 while *Aspidoscelis gularis* is being detected at higher frequencies. Table 3 provides total captures for all species captured during weeks 19-23 for 2022–2024. Table 4 provides CPUE for all species during weeks 19-23 for 2022–2024. Figure 3 illustrates changes in CPUE for the most commonly encountered species.

Table 3. Captures of all amphibian and reptile species 2022-2024

Species	2022	2023	2024	2025
Aspidoscelis gularis	2	2	8	9
Eleutherodactylus marnocki	2	0	0	0
Gastrophryne carolinensis	0	0	0	1
Gerrhonotus infernalis	0	0	0	0
Incilius nebulifer	32	6	5	10
Lithobates berlandeiri	0	0	0	0
Nerodia erythrogaster	0	0	0	0
Pantherophis obsoletus	1	0	0	0
Peromyscus sp.	0	1	0	0
Plestiodon tetragrammus	0	1	1	2
Pseudacris streckeri	0	5	2	0
Rena dulcis	1	0	4	4
Salvadora lineata	0	0	0	1
Sceloporus olivaceus	5	15	15	17
Scincella lateralis	16	6	3	6
Storeria dekayi texanum	0	0	0	0
Tantilla gracilis	2	3	1	2
Thamnophis proximus	0	0	0	2
Total	61	39	39	52

Table 4. CPUE, in pitfall days, for all amphibian and reptile species 2022-2024

Species	2022	2023	2024	2025
Aspidoscelis gularis	0.003181421	0.003720446	0.012971851	0.014225
Eleutherodactylus marnocki	0.003181421	0	0	0
Gastrophryne carolinensis	0	0	0	0.001583
Gerrhonotus infernalis	0	0	0	0
Incilius nebulifer	0.050902728	0.011161337	0.008107407	0.012667
Lithobates berlandeiri	0	0	0	0
Nerodia erythrogaster	0	0	0	0
Pantherophis obsoletus	0.00159071	0	0	0
Peromyscus sp.	0	0.001860223	0	0
Plestiodon tetragrammus	0	0.001860223	0.001621481	0.003167
Pseudacris streckeri	0	0.009301114	0.003242963	0
Rena dulcis	0.00159071	0	0.006485926	0.006334
Salvadora lineata	0	0	0	0.001583
Sceloporus olivaceus	0.007953551	0.027903343	0.024322221	0.026917
Scincella lateralis	0.025451364	0.011161337	0.004864444	0.0095
Storeria dekayi texanum	0	0	0	0
Tantilla gracilis	0.003181421	0.005580669	0.001621481	0.003167
Thamnophis proximus	0	0	0	0
Total	**0.097033325**	**0.072548691**	**0.063237774**	**0.079168**

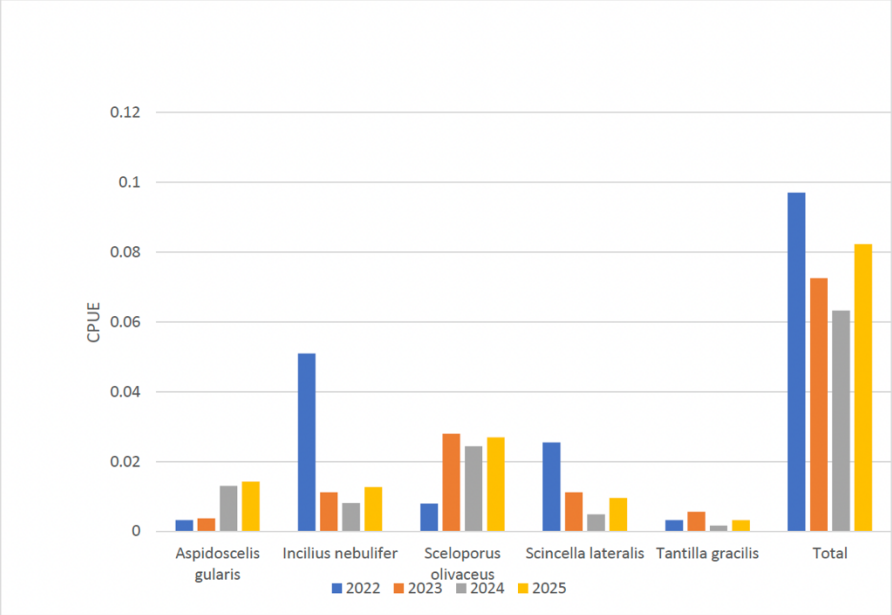


Figure 3. Total CPUE and CPUE for the most commonly encountered amphibian and reptile species at Wild Basin 2022 - 2025.

Note: Data excludes metamorphic amphibians and represents the same timeframe of each year (weeks 19-23).

In the course of conducting the research above, we also encountered several non-target reptiles and amphibians. All herpetological observations made at Wild Basin have been digitized and can be accessed by contacting wbasin@stedwards.edu.

(5) Barr, J., Fabre, C., Powers, M., Sertich, G., Rare Plant Monitoring

Project Description: Extreme weather events including long hot dry periods interspersed with heavy rain events, continue to impact the rare plants of Wild Basin and all Central Texas.

Background: Several rare and unusual plant species have been noted at Wild Basin. In the past, the presence of these species has been documented in Wild Basin newsletters, periodic surveys, and personal communication. Bill Carr's 1996 Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Wild Basin compiled all the previous documentation into one resource.

We continue to use iNaturalist as our favored method of documenting and tracking rare and unusual plant species. The exact location is included in iNaturalist, available to WB staff, approved volunteers, and outside researchers with permission, but *Obscured* to the public. This step inhibits poaching while promoting scientific sharing.

We have also created an annotated Google Calendar of bloom periods to assist with focusing our efforts.

Wild Basin's unique geographical location: Wild Basin is the extreme range limit of two plant species: 1) the southern-most individuals of the eastern shooting star (*Primula meadia*); and 2) the eastern-most individuals of Texas madrone (*Arbutus xalapensis*). As the global and local climate changes, the preserve's plants could be harbingers of the future. Continued monitoring is important.

Progress Report: The multi-year drought in Travis county that began in December 2021 has continued: 44 of the past 45 months have been in drought (NOAA National Integrated Drought Information System: Travis County). The current reporting period began in extreme drought, abated only due to exceptional flooding events in the first days of July, and returned to extreme drought at the end of the reporting period. The drought conditions have been exacerbated by hotter than normal average temperatures.

2024-2025 Survey Outings: We made six outings this year including four solo outings by the primary permittee, John Barr. Surveys included re-sightings of known populations and explorations for new populations in likely habitat.

Target rare and unusual plant species:

Primary Species of Interest

One-flowered cancer-root aka naked broomrape (*Aphyllon uniflorum,* formerly *Orobanche uniflorum*):

3/8/25: One outing during bloom period failed to find any plants.

Shooting-star (*Primula meadia*, formerly *Dodecatheon meadia*):

12/14/24, 3/8/25 & 7/12/25: Five plants with leaves in North hollow observed in March. No Bloom spikes. No visible plants on south ridge population on any of the three visits.

Texas madrone (*Arbutus xalapensis*):

3/19/25 & 7/12/25: Drought continues to negatively affect all the madrone trees with canopy losses at 25-50% for all trees. The smaller of the two eastern-most madrones is dead. The larger has lost about 50% of its canopy over the past several years. The large burn-scarred madrone nearest loop 360 (affectionately known as the Queen) appeared to be in fair condition. I hope to organize a re-survey of all the madrones in 2026. Last full survey was in 2022.

Secondary Species of Interest

Canyon mock-orange (Philadelphus ernestii):

- 7/12/25: The single plant that was given to Wild Basin and planted over 10 years ago on the hill south of the visitor's center remains alive, but it has put on little new growth over the years. It is inside a wire cage to protect it from herbivory.

Tertiary Species of Interest

Bletia species:

- **Glass mountain coralroot (Bletia (for. Hexalectris) nitida):**
- 1/11/15 & 7/12/25: None observed in Wild Basin this year.
- **Crested coralroot (Bletia (for. Hexalectris) spicata):**
- 1/11/15 & 7/12/25: None observed in Wild Basin this year.

Heller's marbleseed (Lithospermum helleri, formerly Onosmodium helleri):

- 1/11/15 & 7/12/25: The population appears stable. The canopy continues to adjust to the many downed trees and branches caused last year's ice storm.

Buckley tridens (Tridens buckleyanus):

- No Monitoring. No observations posted to iNaturalist.

Louisiana broomrape (*Aphyllon ludovicianum* formerly Orobanche ludoviciana).

- Because we do not have an exact location of previous plants, we monitor while surveying for other plants. None seen. No observations posted to iNaturalist.

Candidate Species

Lady's tresses orchids (Spiranthes Magnicamporum):

- 11/9/24 & 12/14/24 Less than ten stems reported along the overlook trail.
- 12/12/25: Scouted the north-hollow wet-footed spiranthes. This area has become overgrown and there does not seem to be any evidence of this small population persisting.

Sticky liatris (Liatris Glandulosa):

- No monitoring of the late summer blooming species.

Virginia snakeroot (Endodeca serpentaria):

- 7/12/25 Could not find any sign of the two known individuals. Last seen 5/19/24

Conclusions: The current drought has persisted for nearly four years. The drought has significantly impacted all the Texas madrone at Wild Basin. Several smaller trees have died, and the larger trees have lost up to 50% of their canopy. Both populations of shooting stars appear to be in decline with fewer plants observed each year. Assessing the long-term health of the *Bletia* species is difficult since they are only visible when they bloom, and the bloom cycle is highly dependent upon the health of their mycorrhizal fungi and tree partners. The Heller's marble-seed is the one bright note with the population appearing relatively stable.

Additional information:

iNaturalist data are collected in two different projects:

Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve (Place project) is an iNaturalist automatic collections project. Anyone who visits Wild Basin and posts a public observation is included in this data set (includes all forms of life: plants, birds, insects, herps, etc.), however if the visitor designates the observation as private or obscured, it will not be included. This data set continues to grow with nearly 100 new observers and 1,000 new observations including 137 new species. Stats last year / this year: Observers: 540/613; Observations: 5,782/6,856; and Species: 857/994. Unless a causal visitor sees a rare plant, it would not be included in this data set.

Wild Basin Biodiversity Project (Traditional project) was created specifically for use by trained staff and volunteers. Observations must be added individually to this project. Because observations are added to this project voluntarily, the exact locations of obscured and private observations are included, but they are not visible to the general public. We ask that anyone involved in the rare plant surveys obscure the location and add their observations to the WB biodiversity project, which limits access of the exact location to WB staff and trained volunteers. The use of this project has been evolving and is becoming more limited over the years to include primarily the rare plant observations. There are currently 1,683 observations of 489 species by 76 observers (only four observers this year).

(6) Pardee, G., Pete, N., Prestiglione, B., Sanchez, A., and Perry, A., Evaluating the conservation status of bumble bees in Travis County through an assessment of historic vs contemporary population size, genetic diversity, and pollen preferences, with an emphasis on the declining *Bombus pensylvanicus, Bombus morrisoni*, and *Bombus fraternus*

Project description: Permittee and sub permittees (researchers) will assess bumble bee presence by walking five meandering 50-m transects per survey site and will identify every bumble bee species encountered. They will record 1) which flowering species the bumble bee was visiting to gather information on foraging preferences, 2) the number of individuals detected per species to get an estimate of population sizes, and 3) a photographic representative of each species detected for species verification by taxonomic experts.

To assess contemporary genetic diversity, DNA from non-lethal tarsal snips will be collected from *B. fraternus* and *B. pensylvanicus*. To do this, a worker bumble bee will

be collected through hand netting, placed in a jar, and then chilled on ice for five minutes to anesthetize it. Once chilled, the tarsal segment will be removed from the middle leg with small scissors. Permittee will also scrap away the pollen load from the right corbicula using sterile forceps before releasing the bee back into the wild.

Following the bumble bee surveys, researchers will walk through the same transect for 30 minutes and will collect every bee that is actively foraging, excluding bumble bees, using hand nets. Each bee will be collected using a kill vial, and the flower it was collected from will be recorded. The bees will be pinned and identified to the lowest taxonomic record. Pan traps will also be deployed for a 24-hour period along each transect. Pan traps are three oz bowls that are filled with soapy water and painted UV blue, UV yellow, or white. After 24 hours, bees will be collected from the pan traps and identified to the lowest taxonomic level.

Progress Report: We did not use Wild Basin as a site in 2025, but did sample one BCP property, which was the TNC Barton Creek Preserve. We visited the site three times and collected ten individuals: five *B. sonorus* and five *B. pensylvanicus*

(7) Pardee, G., Restoration efforts at Wild Basin to improve plant and animal communities

Project description: Permittee and sub permittees will study the effects of restoration on plant and animal communities in two areas within Wild Basin. One area is in open savannah habitat along the Arroyo Vista, Ledge, and Triknee trails, which has become degraded over time. Plant and insect sampling will occur at this site before restoration efforts, then the site will be seeded with a native grass/forb mix or plant plugs in the fall of 2024 and then monitored again after reseeding to measure restoration success. The other site is at North Hollow where the retention pond has been restored. This area was sampled prior to restoration efforts but has not been resampled post-restoration. Permittee will conduct vegetation sampling, arthropod sampling, and bird surveys at this site to determine if restoration efforts have successfully restored the plant and bird communities.

Progress Report: No field data collection occurred at Wild Basin in FY25.

(8) Arrowsmith, K, Pabst., W. A conundrum of conservation: Measuring the impact of European Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) presence on wild bee populations and foraging patterns within the BCP

Project description: Bees and other pollinating insects play a vital role in maintaining biodiversity, both in natural and human-altered landscapes. Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) have often been used to ensure reliable pollination services are provided to economically important food crops. However, these non-native insects may threaten native populations of wild bees. Wild bee populations are in decline, likely due in part to competition from honey bees. In this project, we will examine the effects of honey bee abundance on wild bees in the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. We will also examine the foraging patterns of co-existing wild bees and honey bees using the pollen collected by these insects. We expect that honey bee presence will negatively impact the richness and abundance of wild bees, and that these populations will generally visit different subsets of the floral resources present at a site. These findings will provide empirical evidence of the possible detrimental effects of honey bees on wild bees—a topic that has been frequently discussed by pollination biologists but only rarely explicitly studied. We will also identify plants used preferentially by wild bees, which could inform restoration and planting targets for ongoing management of these and other natural areas in the Austin metro area.

Project summary: After a brief period of pilot data collection, the project did not progress at this site.

(9) Pardee, G, Kirk, L., Mavourneen, B., Sanchez, A., Perry, A., and Rusin, L., Examining stream health of Bee Creek

Project description: The research goal of the Bee Creek Initiative is to examine the adverse effects of urbanization on stream quality and the macroinvertebrate community in Bee Creek through frequent water quality sampling efforts at multiple points along the entire expanse of creek. Sampling efforts included areas both within the preserve and those upstream and downstream. The aim of this plan is to collect stream data under a variety of weather, environmental, and land use conditions.

To address the first two research questions, we began sampling water quality characteristics and macroinvertebrate communities along Bee Creek in April 2025. Sampling occurs at six sites positioned 0.5 miles apart, starting just west of Highway

360 and ending where the creek empties into Lake Austin. At each site, data is collected at three points, spaced 10 meters apart. We collect samples once every two to three months to better understand how stream characteristics change seasonally.

Progress Report: After working on research protocols, site selection, and methodologies during the winter of 2024–2025, we began our first round of sampling in April 2025. We completed our second and third rounds in July and October, respectively. Between sampling rounds, interns worked on identifying collected macroinvertebrates. To date, over 1,500 macroinvertebrate specimens have been identified from April and July sampling efforts. Additionally, Dr. Eric Johnson has been measuring land use change within a 50-meter radius around each of our six sampling sites.

(10) Flickinger, J., Ciognoli, A., White, J., and Griffin, S., Building Conservation Collections of *Prunus* spp. and Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Central TX

Project description: Permittee and sub-permittee will collect plant material (seeds, herbarium, specimens, and possibly cuttings) for conservation purposes. This project is part of a grant-funded effort to grow and distribute wild relatives of important fruit and nut tree crops identified as having significant conservation gaps, including *Prunus gracilis* (Oklahoma plum), *Prunus minutiflora* (Texas almond), and *Prunus serotina* var. *eximia* (escarpment black cherry). While working to collect these species, they will make additional collections of plant Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCNs) and other native species in line with the focus of their conservation program on seed banking of rare plant populations in Central Texas for long-term preservation of genetic diversity.

Project objectives are as follows:

1. Scout and collect seeds (or cuttings if necessary for *Prunus* spp., herbarium specimens, and associated field data
2. Bank seeds following best practices for conservation collections.
3. Develop germination, propagation, and nursery production protocols to grow and maintain *Prunus* spp. In conservation collections.
4. Distribute plant material, herbarium specimens, and associated information to other interested sites and collaborators, including USDA crop gene banks.

Field work will involve collection of plant material for one to four voucher herbarium specimens per taxon: fruits/seeds from a random sample of at least 50 individuals of a population by hand plucking, striping, or careful shaking of branches; and if necessary, short stem cuttings of *Prunus* spp. Seed collections will be processed and subdivided for seed banking at multiple institutions, with seeds grown out at the Wildflower Center's nursery, and voucher specimens will be prepared in the herbarium facility. Duplicate herbarium specimens, surplus living plants, and additional seed collections, especially material of *Prunus* spp., will be distributed to other botanic gardens and research institutions. No more than 10% of annual seed production of all SGCNs and other rare species (G1-G3/S1-S3 conservation status) will be collected in accordance with the Center for Plant Conservation Best Practices for Plant Conservation, and not more than 20% will be collected of any species.

Progress Report: No field collection was conducted at Wild Basin in 2025.

Facilities and Signs

Facilities

- The Wild Basin Creative Research Center building is monitored by a security system administered by the security company, ADT.
- Two composting toilet units are located in the Center. Tanks for the units are located below the building and are monitored and maintained regularly. Depending on weekly use, pine shavings and water are added to ensure that solids in the tanks break down properly. Tanks are turned monthly or as needed.
- Two evaporative toilet units located in the parking lot to provide guests with restroom access outside of the Center's operating hours. Center staff maintain the units weekly by raking contents and disposing of dried materials according to manufactures guidelines. Liquid levels are monitored and recorded to ensure units are functioning properly. Exhaust fans installed in the stacks help with the unit's evaporation performance during inclement weather conditions.

Maps and Signs

- A large weather-resistant trail map is mounted at the main trailhead and welcome kiosk. A digital map is available for hikers on the Wild Basin website or through a QR code posted on the main trailhead map. Paper maps are available for hikers in the Center or from the Security Officer upon request. The

website also provides interpretive information and resources for specific age groups.

- Signs for preserve rules and hours are posted at both trailheads. Additional “No Pets” and “No Fire/Smoking” signs are posted at the main preserve entrance and throughout the parking lot.
- Several interpretive and informational signs are mounted along the trail system to educate hikers outside of a guided experience. Wayfinding and directional signage are also posted along the trail to help hikers find their way through the 2.5 miles of hiking trails.
- “No Trespassing” signs are posted along the Wild Basin boundary fence line with neighboring residential properties. A single BCP Preserve boundary sign is posted on the western Loop 360 boundary. “No Trespassing” and other pertinent BCP information is posted at the preserve’s back gate on Wild Basin Ledge.
- “No Decorating Please” signs are temporarily tied to trees along the Loop 360 boundary during the Christmas season. Signs aim to prevent the tradition of decorating trees for the holidays. Such decorations pose the risk of contributing litter to Bee Creek or surrounding habitats. The posting of the “No Decorating” signs has almost entirely eliminated the practice of tree decorating from the Wild Basin and Vireo Preserve boundaries.

Security, Access, and Safety

Emergency Preparedness

Center staff continue to review and update the Wild Basin Emergency Response Plan (ERP) develop with St. Edward’s University Campus Safety personnel. This plan describes how staff, student interns, and volunteers should respond to emergencies, address various types of hazards, establishes policies and responsibilities, and operations with the goal of addressing incidents effectively and efficiently. All staff, interns, and volunteers have access to a copy of the ERP. A hard copy is stored in a labeled binder located by the printer in the central space of the admin office area. A digital copy is stored in the “Wild Basin Share” directory of the SEU online file hosting service, Box, filed under “Safety Resources and Emergency Response Plan.”

Security

Wild Basin is an urban wilderness in close proximity to a major city, Austin, TX. The preserve is open to the public most days during the year. Wild Basin’s hiking trails are available to the public outside of Center staff’s work schedules in the evening.

Occasional issues of trespassing, vandalism, littering, and violation of preserve rules are observed, when staff are and aren't present on site.

- Wild Basin has a dedicated SEU employee onsite five days a week serving as the Security Officer. The position is supported through the management agreement between SEU and Travis County TNR and provides site security on issues such as vandalism, car break-ins, and preserve rule violations. The Security Officer operates from a stand-alone office in the parking lot and maintains a digital security log of daily activities.
- Student interns serving as "Hospitality Rangers" assist the Security Officer on weekends and during peak seasons.
- Incidents of concern are reported by either the Security Officer or Center staff to the University Police Department, Travis County TNR, and Travis County Sherriff as needed. Written Incident Reports are kept as record when issues warrant a call to emergency services through 911, which are typically responded to by the Travis County Sherriff Department. No known calls to 911 were made by Center staff or hikers in FY25.
- The entrance to Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve from Loop 360 has a gate that opens and closes on a set schedule for weekday and weekend operations. The schedule is maintained through an online portal. Staff are able to control the arms through a mobile app and communicate with people at the entrance via the keypad after hours.
- A hiking reservation system was implemented in 2021 to control the flow of visitors on weekends and federal holidays, when visitation is at its highest. Having the dedicated Security Officer and the reservation system has been extremely helpful in maintaining the wilderness qualities and safety of the preserve.
- Wild Basin continues to face many of the issues mentioned above when staff are off duty in the evenings or the Security Officer is not present. Surveillance cameras and incidental observations show occasional dogs on trails, damage to preserve infrastructure, off-trail activity, and vandalism. Pets at the preserve, or the attempts to bring them in, is the most common violation of the Wild Basin rules observed.

Fire Safety and Preparedness

- SEU hires an outside contractor to conduct the annual fire inspection of the Center building, entry driveway, and parking lot. All issues were resolved in ensuring to keep the Center and other facilities up to code.

- The Wild Basin ERP addresses both structure and wildland fire and how staff, interns, and volunteers should respond in either scenario. Annual refreshers and drills should be conducted by staff.
- Center staff, interns, and volunteers trimmed vegetation back from the building as per Firewise recommendations.
- Partnering with Travis County TNR crews, Center staff chip vegetative debris generated from maintaining the Wild Basin hiking trails. Chipping happens annually and helps reduce some of the wildland fuel load in the preserve. The chipped material is used for trail and restoration projects on the preserve.
- The shaded fuel breaks along the preserve boundary are regularly monitored. Retreatments of impacted areas are done as resources and staff time allow.

Appendices

Appendix A: Map of Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve Trail System

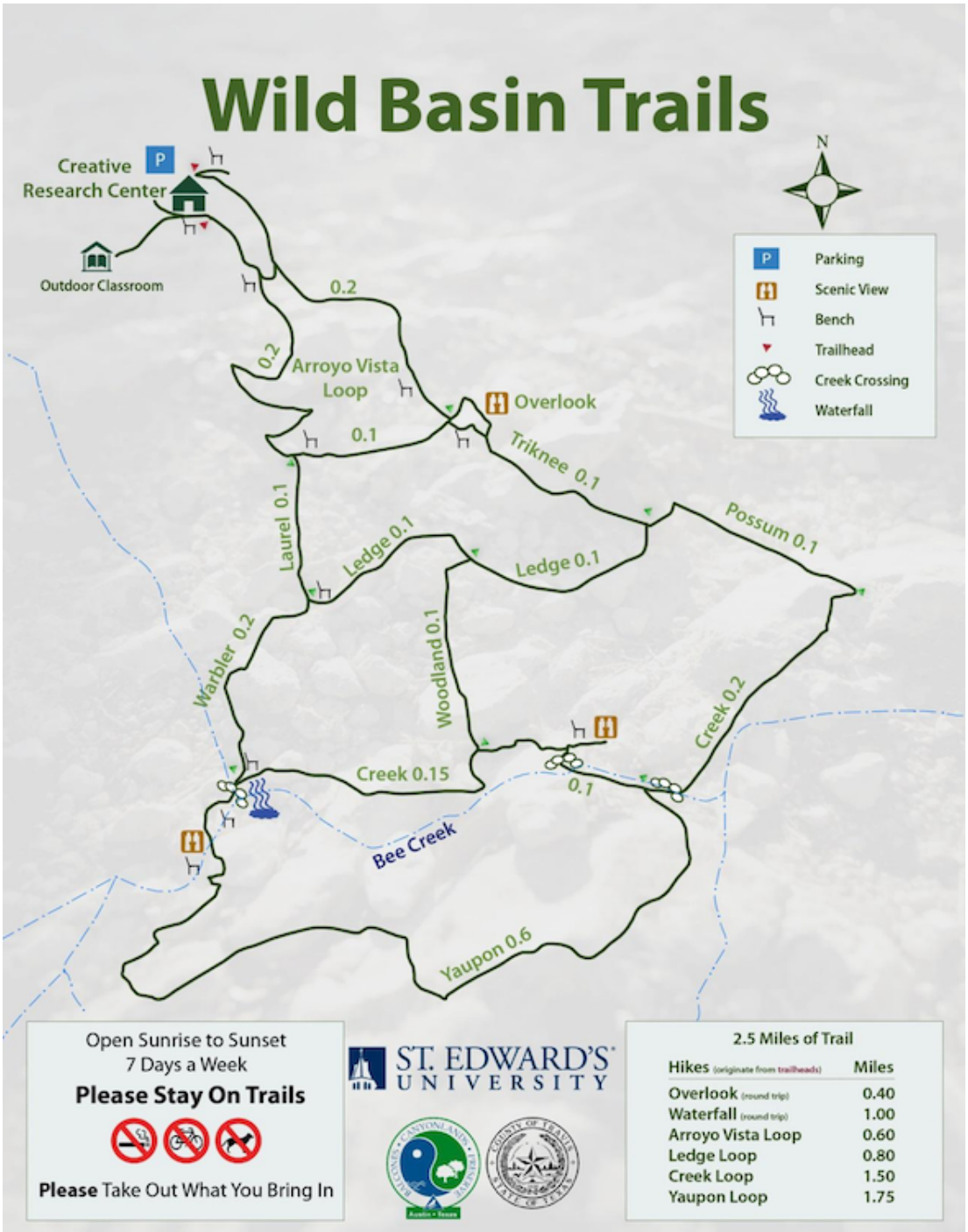


Figure A1. Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve Trail System

Appendix B: Aerial Map of Wild Basin and Residential Neighbors



Figure B1. Map of Wild Basin and Residential Neighbors

Appendix C: Wild Basin Boundary Map

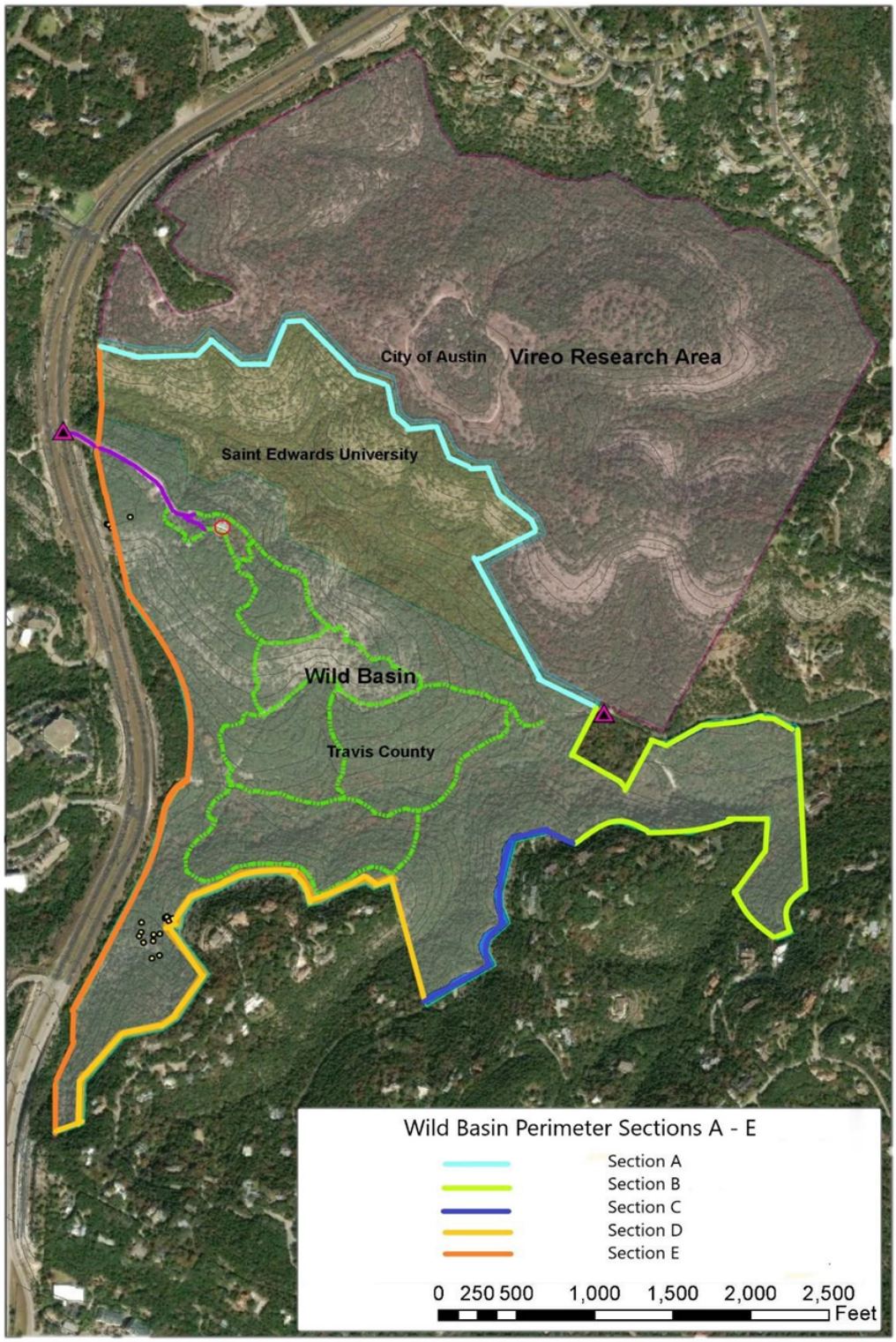


Figure C1. Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve Boundary Sections

Appendix D: Non-Native Invasive Species Removal at Wild Basin

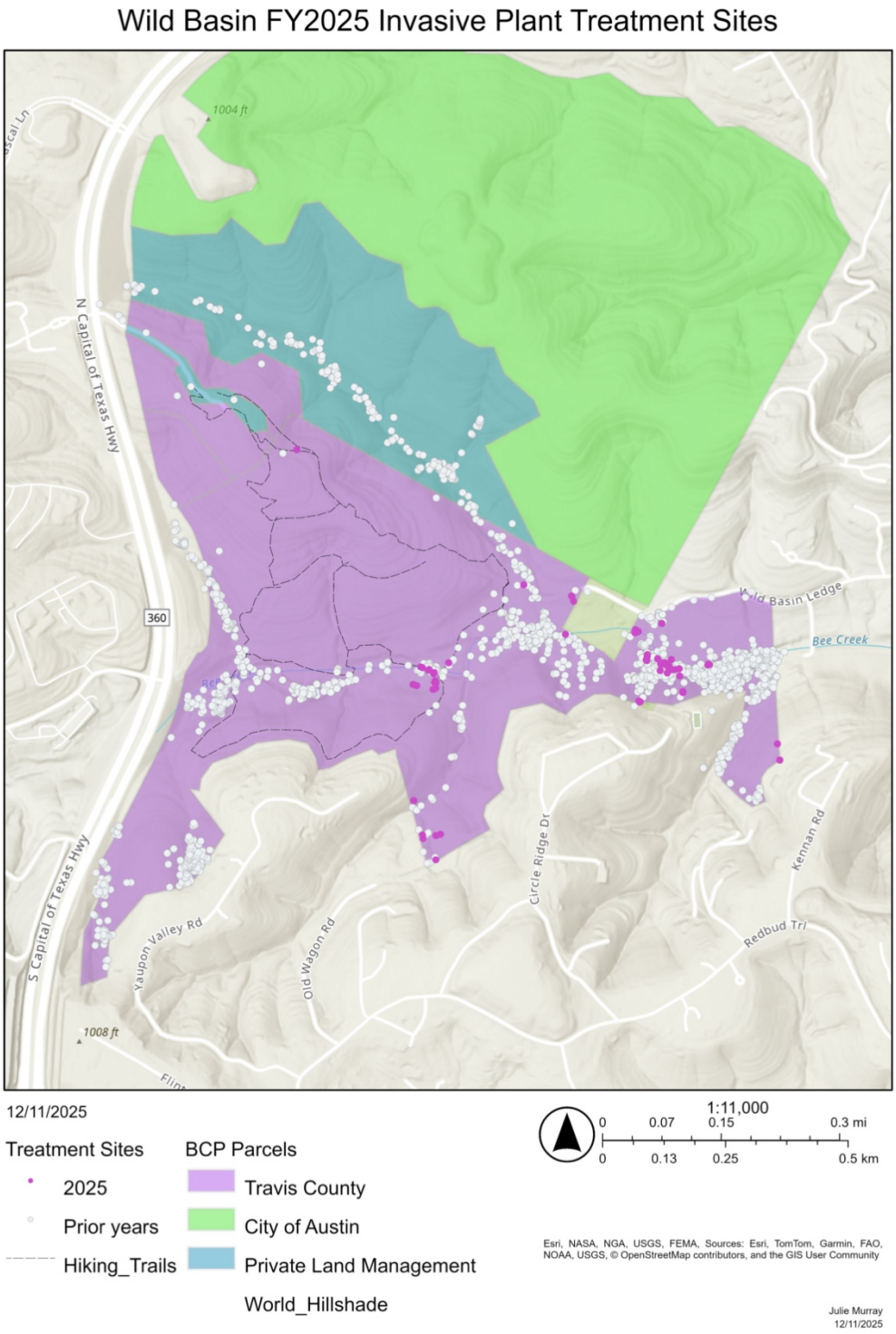


Figure D1. Wild Basin FY25 Invasive Plant Treatment Sites

Appendix E: Golden-cheeked Warbler Surveys at WB/VP

Summary of 2025 Golden-cheeked Warbler Surveys at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve
Investigator: Darrell Hutchinson

Surveys were conducted at Wild Basin and the adjacent Vireo Preserve between 11 March and 18 June by Darrell Hutchinson, Lisa O'Donnell, Sheila Ellwood, and Gary Sertich.

Between the two preserves, ten separate males were detected during the breeding season and all ten males established territories. Nine males paired and six of the nesting pairs reproduced successfully. Although plot density was slightly lower than 2023 and 2024, overall reproductive success was high.

Nine males and three females were color-banded. Four males were banded returns. During 2025, one male was banded as an after second-year (ASY) bird, and four males and three females were banded as second-year (SY) birds. This marks a shift in age structure with a greater number of older (ASY) males occupying the plot compared to previous years. Banding was accomplished by John Chenoweth.

YE/SI:MV/PI was banded SY at Vireo Preserve on 7 April 2021. He has returned each year to defend the same territory located in the north hollow between Wild Basin and Vireo Preserves. The male was most often detected below the second knoll at Vireo Preserve, however the pair's nest was located downslope in the north hollow at Wild Basin. The nest was found during late nestling stage and successfully fledged a full clutch of 4 on 23 April.

WH/SI:YE/DB was banded SY at Wild Basin on 12 April 2024. The male was most often detected near the Creative Research Center (CRC), which is upslope from the territory he defended last year in the west hollow. The pair's nest was found during nestling stage on the slope between the CRC and west hollow. They successfully produced minimum 3 fledglings on 30 April.

GR/WH:RD/SI was banded SY at Wild Basin on 10 April. He paired and occupied the territory in the west hollow along Warbler Trail. Their nest was not found but they successfully produced minimum 2 fledglings around 3 May.

Male PI/SI:DG/PI was banded ASY with SY female BK/OR:BL/SI at Wild Basin on 28 March. They occupied the territory along Possum Trail. Their first nest was found already predated on 13 May and their renest was not found. Since the male was detected throughout late May and early June but never observed with fledglings, it's assumed the pair failed to breed successfully.

MV/GR:RD/SI was banded SY at Wild Basin on 28 March. He paired and occupied the territory in the south hollow. Their first nest was not found and presumed predated.

The male was last observed on 11 April, so it's assumed the pair abandoned the plot after their first nesting attempt was unsuccessful.

Female DG/SI:MV/WH was banded at Vireo Preserve on 28 April. She paired with male UBVPWB1 and they occupied a territory around the back gate. This pair were detected very inconsistently and it's believed that they nested off plot. The female was observed on 4 June with two 28+ day old fledglings indicating their nest fledged minimum 2 in early May.

WH/SI:OR/DG was banded ASY at Vireo Preserve on 24 April 2024. The pair occupied the same territory as last year around the water tower. Their nest was not found but fledged minimum 1 around 3 April.

BK/YE:BK/SI was banded ASY at Vireo Preserve on 29 April 2024. The pair occupied the same territory as last year downslope from the water tower towards north hollow. Their nest was not found but they fledged a full clutch of 4 on 11 May. Males often return to the same breeding territory if they bred successfully during the previous breeding season.

Male MV/SI:DB/GR and female PI/SI:WH/BL were both banded SY at Vireo Preserve on 4 April. Their nest was not found and they failed to breed successfully.

BL/SI:DB/OR was banded SY at Vireo Preserve on 3 April. The male was detected between 30 March - 21 April and failed to pair.

In general, the year was characterized by low resource availability later in the breeding season due to lack of rainfall. Nevertheless, at Wild Basin/Vireo Preserve, overall productivity was one of the highest recorded since intensive monitoring surveys began in 2011. Male pairing rate was 90%, breeding success rate was 60%, and adjusted total number of fledglings was 22.4.

For the fourth year in a row, a pair of Black-capped Vireos occupied the territory at Vireo Preserve around the second knoll. This year, male DB/SI:DG/MV was banded SY on May 12. He paired and they successfully fledged 4 around 23 June. A second unbanded male was also detected but failed to pair.

Surveys were funded by City of Austin Wildlands Conservation Division and conducted according to City of Austin's Balcones Canyonlands Preserve GCWA demographic study protocols.

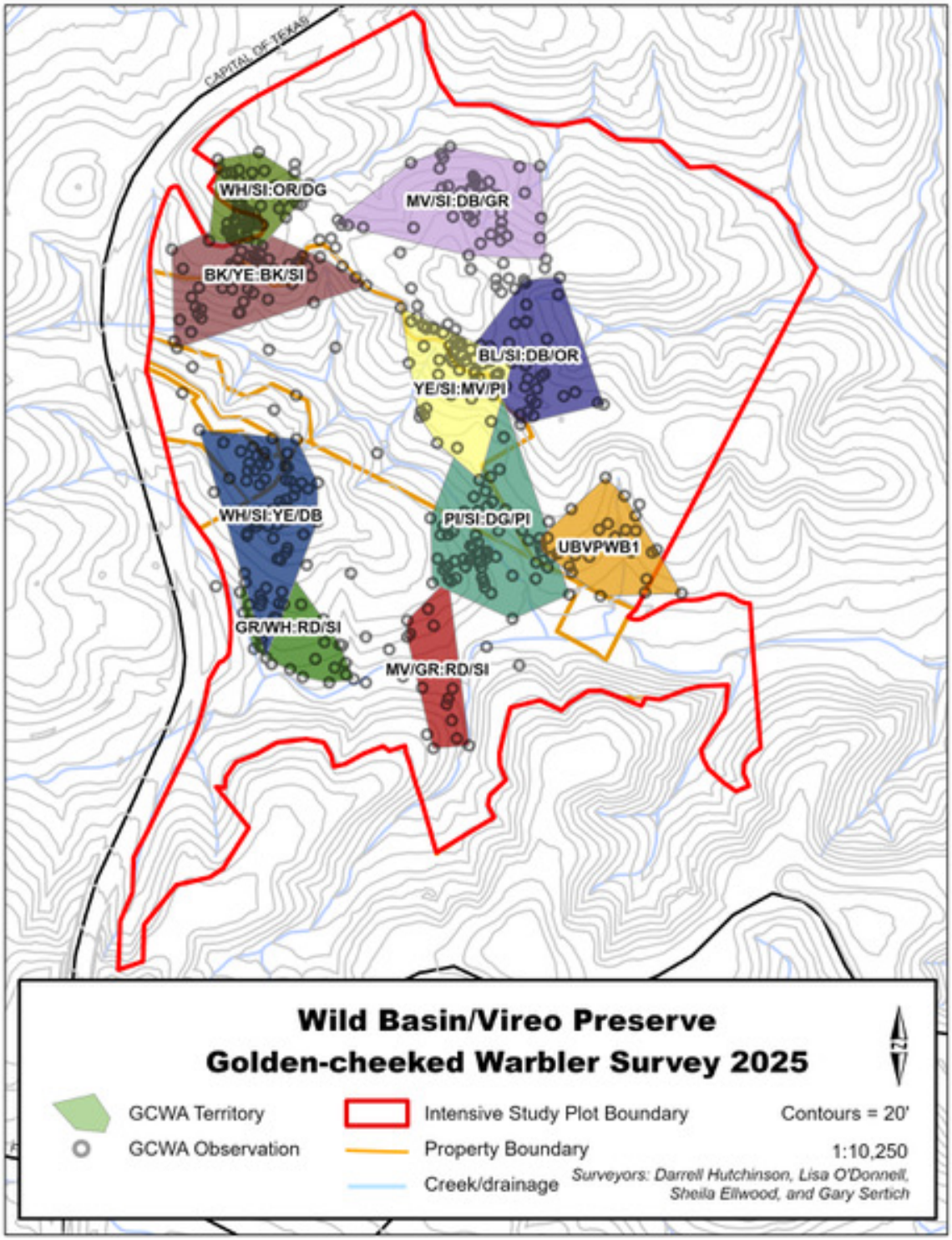


Figure E1. FY25 Golden-cheeked Warbler territories

Appendix F: FY25 Wild Basin Quarterly eBird Survey Report

Four quarterly eBird surveys were conducted at Wild Basin Preserve by Terri Siegenthaler and Carol Todzia (one survey date). Survey dates were chosen based on forecasts for no precipitation and low wind. Due to heavy woodland vegetation in many parts of Wild Basin Preserve, many of the bird observations are by ear.

Each of the four survey dates was logged in eBird as three segments: North Hollow, Bee Creek and Loop 360. An eBird copy of all three segments for each survey date is at the end of this report. The order of the surveys varies from year to year with Bee Creek always in the middle. Most years since these quarterly surveys were started by Alan Seils there have been four quarterly surveys per year. In 2025, four surveys were conducted.

Table F1. Summary of 2025 Bird Observations by Survey Date

Observations	2/3/25	4/10/25	6/9/25	12/6/25
# of birds	64	139	95	108
# of species	16	26	25	21

Table F2. Species Observations by Survey Date and Segment

Species	2/3/25				4/10/25				6/9/25				12/6/25			
	NH	BC	360	Totals	NH	BC	360	Totals	NH	BC	360	Totals	NH	BC	3(	Totals
white-winged dove					1			1								
mourning dove					2	2		4	1			1				
greater roadrunner					1			1								
chimney swift										2	3	5				
black-chinned hummingbird						1		1								
American woodcock																
great blue heron																
turkey vulture	1			1			1	1	1			1				
black vulture	4	1		5												
Cooper's hawk																
red-shouldered hawk																
red-tailed hawk														1		1
killdeer			1	1												
eastern screech-owl														1		1
great horned owl																
red-bellied woodpecker																
ladder-backed woodpecker									1	1		2				
downy woodpecker									1	1		2				
northern flicker													2			2
American kestrel																
eastern wood-pewee																
eastern phoebe															1	1
great-crested flycatcher										1		1				
white-eyed vireo					7	6	1	14	2	5	2	9				
blue-headed vireo																
red-eyed vireo										2		2				
blue jay		3		3	1	1		2	2	2		4		1		1
Woodhouse's scrub-jay																
American crow		1	1	2										2		2
common raven																

Species	2/3/25				4/10/25				6/9/25				12/6/25			
	NH	BC	360	Totals	NH	BC	360	Totals	NH	BC	360	Totals	NH	BC	360	Totals
purple martin									2			2				
no. rough-winged swallow									6			6				
cliff swallow									3	3		6				
Carolina chickadee		2	1	3		7	2	9	2	2		4	3	4		7
black-crested titmouse		8		8	6	4	2	12		1		1	4	3		7
house wren		1		1									1			1
Carolina wren		4		4	2	6	1	9	3	2		5		1	2	3
Bewick's wren					2			2	1			1	2		1	3
blue-gray gnatcatcher					7	9	4	20	7	3	6	16				
ruby-crowned kinglet		6	5	11	1	7	2	10					5	3		8
golden-crowned kinglet													3	1		4
hermit thrush		2		2			2	2					1	3	2	6
American robin			3	3									27	2		29
northern mockingbird										1		1				
cedar waxwing							7	7								
gray catbird																
house finch									2			2	3		2	5
lesser goldfinch	1	3		4	1		2	3	3		2	5				
spotted towhee		1		1												
chipping sparrow													4			4
field sparrow													1			1
rufous-crowned sparrow	1			1	2			2	2			2	2			2
Lincoln's sparrow					1			1								
savannah sparrow					1			1								
white-throated sparrow																
sparrow sp.																
brown-headed cowbird						1		1								
black-and-white warbler					1	3		4	1			1				
orange-crowned warbler						1		1								

Species	2/3/25				4/10/25				6/9/25				12/6/25			
	NH	BC	360	Totals	NH	BC	360	Totals	NH	BC	360	Totals	NH	BC	360	Totals
Nashville warbler					1		1	2								
yellow warbler						2		2								
yellow-rumped warbler													4	5	3	12
golden-cheeked warbler					3	1	3	7								
summer tanager									1	1	1	3				
northern cardinal	1	9	4	14	9	8	3	20	3	5	2	10	2	4	2	8
painted bunting									2		1	3				
TOTALS																
# birds per date	**8**	**41**	**15**	**64**	**49**	**59**	**31**	**139**	**46**	**32**	**17**	**95**	**64**	**31**	**13**	**108**
# species per date*	**5**	**12**	**6**	**16**	**18**	**15**	**13**	**26**	**20**	**15**	**7**	**25**	**15**	**13**	**7**	**21**

NOTE: bird observation date is shown in three segments: NH = North Hollow; BC = Bee Creek; 360 = Loop 360

*The total shown for **# species per date** (including all three segments) cannot be the combined total for the segments since many of the species were observed in more than one segment on each date.

Additional Details of 2025 eBird Reports for Each Segment

Wild Basin—360 Trail Segment, Austin, Travis, Texas, US
Feb 3, 2025, 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Protocol: Traveling; 0.5 mile
Checklist Comments: The 360 Trail Segment is approximately 0.5 mile in length from the Creative Research Center, the western portion of Arroyo Vista Trail, and continuing down Laurel and Warbler Trails to Bee Creek Waterfall. Temperature for this segment was 64F, winds SSW 0-3mph, sky overcast. Observer: Terri Siegenthaler

View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/checklist/S248306356

Wild Basin--Bee Creek Segment, Austin, Travis, Texas, US
Feb 3, 2025, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Protocol: Traveling; 0.45 mile(s)
Checklist Comments: The Bee Creek Segment is approximately 0.45 mile in length beginning at the Bee Creek Waterfall and following Creek Trail to its eastern end. This segment concludes at the intersection of Creek Trail and Possum Trail. Due to heavy woodland vegetation, most bird observations are by ear. Temperature ranged from 64-68F, winds SSW 0-3mph, sky overcast. Observer: Terri Siegenthaler

View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/checklist/S248308665

Wild Basin—North Hollow Segment, Austin, Travis, Texas, US
Feb 3, 2025, 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Protocol: Traveling; 0.5 mile(s)
Checklist Comments: The North Hollow Segment is approximately 0.5 mile in length beginning at the intersection of Creek Trail and Possum Trail, going up Possum and Triknee Trails, and continuing on the northern portion of Arroyo Vista. This segment concludes at the Creative Research Center and is roughly half open savannah and half dense woodland. Temperature 68F, winds SSW 3-7mph, sky overcast. Observer: Terri Siegenthaler

View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/checklist/S248310516

Wild Basin—North Hollow Segment, Austin, Travis, Texas, US
Apr 10, 2025, 7:30 AM - 8:20 AM
Protocol: Traveling; 0.4 mile
Checklist Comments: The North Hollow Segment is approximately 0.4 mile in length beginning at the Creative Research Center and the northern portion of Arroyo Vista Trail, continuing down Triknee and Possum Trails, and concluding at the east end of Creek Trail. This segment is roughly half open savannah and half dense woodland. Temperature ranged from 58-61F, winds calm, sky clear. Observer: Terri Siegenthaler

View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/checklist/S248315267

Wild Basin--Bee Creek Segment, Austin, Travis, Texas, US
Apr 10, 2025, 8:20 AM – 9:30 AM
Protocol: Traveling; 0.45 mile
Checklist Comments: The Bee Creek Segment is approximately 0.45 mile in length beginning at the intersection of Possum and Creek Trails and proceeding west along the creek. The segment concludes at the Bee Creek Waterfall. Due to heavy woodland vegetation, most bird observations are by ear. Temperature range 61-68F, winds calm, sky clear. Observer: Terri Siegenthaler

View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/checklist/S248331477

Wild Basin—360 Trail Segment, Austin, Travis, Texas, US
Apr 10, 2025, 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM
Protocol: Traveling; 0.5 mile
Checklist Comments: The 360 Trail Segment is approximately 0.5 mile in length from the Bee Creek Waterfall up Warbler and Laurel Trails and continuing on the western portion of Arroyo Vista Trail. This segment concludes at the Creative Research Center. Temperatures range from 68-76F, winds calm, sky clear. Observer: Terri Siegenthaler

View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/checklist/S248333147

Wild Basin--360 Trail Segment, Austin, Travis, Texas, US
Jun 6, 2025, 7:00 AM - 7:45 AM
Protocol: Traveling; 0.5 mile
Checklist Comments: The 360 Trail Segment is approximately 0.5 mile in length from the Creative Research Center, the western portion of Arroyo Vista Trail, and continuing down Laurel and Warbler Trails to Bee Creek Waterfall. Temperature for this segment was 69-72F, winds ENE 0-5mph, sky 50% overcast. Observers: Terri Siegenthaler and Carol Todzia.

View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/checklist/S248587823

Wild Basin--Bee Creek Segment, Austin, Travis, Texas, US
Jun 9, 2025, 7:45 AM - 8:45 AM
Protocol: Traveling; 0.45 mile
Checklist Comments: The Bee Creek Segment is approximately 0.45 mile in length beginning at the Bee Creek Waterfall and following Creek Trail to its eastern end. This segment concludes at the intersection of Creek Trail and Possum Trail. Due to heavy woodland vegetation, most bird observations are by ear. Temperature ranged from 72-74F. winds calm, sky 30% cloudy. Observers: Terri Siegenthaler and Carol Todzia

View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/checklist/S248591123

Wild Basin--North Hollow Segment, Austin, Travis, Texas, US
Jun 9, 2025, 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM
Protocol: Traveling; 0.4 mile
Checklist Comments: The North Hollow Segment is approximately 0.4 mile in length beginning at the intersection of Creek Trail and Possum Trail, going up Possum and Triknee Trails, and continuing on the northern portion of Arroyo Vista. This segment concludes at the Creative Research Center and is roughly half open savanna and half dense woodland. Temperature 74-76F, winds calm, sky 15% cloudy. Observers: Terri Siegenthaler and Carol Todzia

View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/checklist/S248594503

Wild Basin--North Hollow Segment, Austin, Travis, Texas, US
Dec 6, 2025, 7:30 AM - 8:15 AM
Protocol: Traveling; 0.4 mile
Checklist Comments: The North Hollow Segment is approximately 0.4 mile in length beginning at the Creative Research Center and the northern portion of Arroyo Vista Trail, continuing down Triknee and Possum Trails, and concluding at the east end of Creek Trail. This segment is roughly half open savannah and half dense woodland. Temperature ranged from 42-44F, winds calm, sky clear. Observer: Terri Siegenthaler.

View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/checklist/S288732804

Wild Basin--Bee Creek Segment, Austin, Travis, Texas, US
Dec 6, 2025, 8:15 AM – 9:15 AM
Protocol: Traveling; 0.45 mile
Checklist Comments: The Bee Creek Segment is approximately 0.45 mile in length beginning at the intersection of Possum and Creek Trails and proceeding west along the creek. The segment concludes at the Bee Creek Waterfall. Due to heavy woodland vegetation, most bird observations are by ear. Temperature range 44-49F, winds calm, sky clear. Observer: Terri Siegenthaler

View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/checklist/S288740568

Wild Basin--360 Trail Segment, Austin, Travis, Texas, US
Dec 6, 2025, 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM
Protocol: Traveling 0.5 mile
Checklist Comments: The 360 Trail Segment is approximately 0.5 mile in length from the Bee Creek Waterfall up Warbler and Laurel Trails and continuing on the western portion of Arroyo Vista Trail. This segment concludes at the Creative Research Center. Temperatures range from 49-55F, winds calm, sky clear. Observer: Terri Siegenthaler
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View this checklist online at https://ebird.org/checklist/S288741560