

The **Balcones Canyonlands Preserve** was created to protect eight federally listed endangered species: two songbirds and six invertebrates. In addition to protecting these especially vulnerable animals, the Preserve protects habitat for other native plants and animals of the Hill Country and contributes to clean air, clean water and quality of life for all Central Texas residents.

The **Golden-cheeked Warbler** nests nowhere in the world except in the oak-juniper woodlands of Central Texas. This migratory songbird builds nests of bark strips from mature Ashe juniper (or “cedar”) which it binds with collected spider webs. These colorful native Texans winter in Central America. Loss of suitable habitat is the main threat to the survival of this species.

The **Black-capped Vireo** is a migratory songbird that nests in very specialized habitat just a few feet off the ground. Historical records show that this bird once nested throughout Central Texas and as far as Oklahoma and central Kansas. Today, central Texas provides habitat for the last viable populations of this species. Habitat loss, cowbird parasitism, and predation are the primary threats to this native songbird.



The **Tooth Cave Pseudoscorpion** is an endangered cave invertebrate that resembles a tiny, tailless scorpion that lacks eyes and a stinger. Reaching a size of 4 millimeters, it preys on small insects by seizing them with its pincers. It is threatened by loss of habitat, changes in hydrology, and pollution.

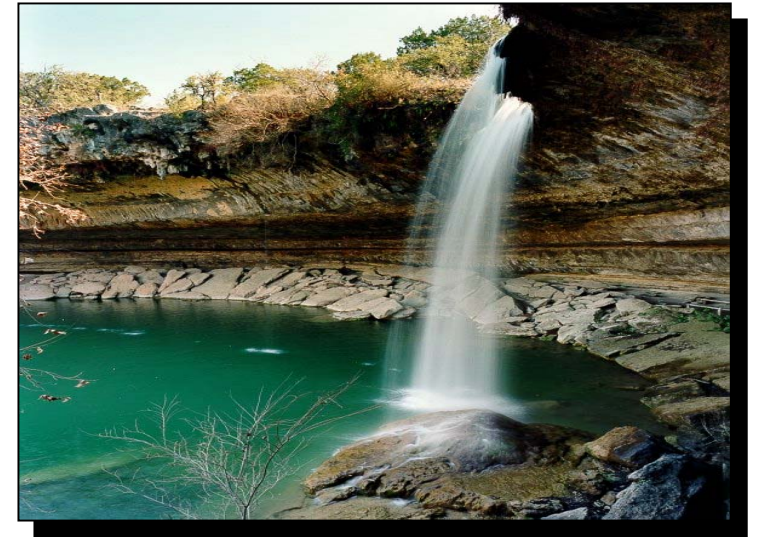


The **Jollyville Salamander** is a unique species that is not listed as endangered, but which benefits from the habitat protection provided by the preserve. Though little is known of their life history, almost all specimens of these karst-associated amphibians have been found within the boundaries of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve.

The **Bracted Twistflower** is another Texas Hill Country species that is not listed as endangered, but which benefits from the habitat protection provided by the preserve. Habitat loss and grazing pressure by white-tailed deer are the primary threats to the remaining populations of this rare plant.



**ACCESS** to the Preserve is carefully considered for each parcel. The priority objective of the Preserve is to permanently conserve and facilitate the recovery of the populations of target endangered species. Staff limitations and the delicate nature of the ecosystem currently necessitate limited access. Travis County Preserve sites with recreational access includes Hamilton Pool Preserve and Wild Basin Preserve. With prior arrangement, however, other preserve tracts are available for educational purposes.



**Hamilton Pool Preserve** is located on Hamilton Pool Road (FM 3238) in southwest Travis County. Permitted activities include hiking, picnicking, nature study and swimming. *Please call (512) 264-2740 for current swimming and trail conditions.* Call (512) 854-9437 for information about Travis County Parks.

**Wild Basin Preserve** is located just east of Loop 360 south of Lake Austin. It is managed by the non-profit Committee for Wild Basin Wilderness, Inc. and offers numerous educational programs for all ages. Call (512) 327-7622 for more information.

## The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve

The Balcones Canyonlands area in western Travis County provides habitat for a number of rare and endangered plant and animal species found nowhere else on earth. Above ground are unique woodlands, wetlands and grasslands. Below ground is a honeycomb of caves, sinkholes and springs containing highly specialized animals adapted to these unique environments. Still deeper is the Edwards Aquifer, the primary drinking water source for over 1.5 million Central Texas residents.

For centuries, the Texas Hill Country supported a thriving community of wildlife including species such as the golden-cheeked warbler and the black-capped vireo. Unfortunately, urban expansion and changing patterns of land use fragmented natural habitats and populations of these species declined. When scientists and community leaders called for a plan to protect this natural heritage, the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve was created. This community-based effort protects native wildlife including eight endangered species while also providing options for landowners wishing to develop their property. The managing partners have currently acquired a total of about 27,000 acres in western Travis County. Ultimately, the Preserve will set aside over 30,000 acres of prime habitat, making it one of the nation's largest urban preserves.



**The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve is managed under the terms and conditions of a regional 10(a) permit issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and jointly held by Travis County and the City of Austin.**

A number of cooperating partners own and manage lands dedicated to the Preserve, including the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Nature Conservancy of Texas, Travis Audubon Society, and several private landowners

For more information about  
The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve  
please call:

Travis County – (512) 854-9383  
The City of Austin – (512) 402-0781  
LCRA – (512) 473-3531  
Travis Audubon Society – (512) 347-7572  
The Nature Conservancy of Texas – (512) 263-8878

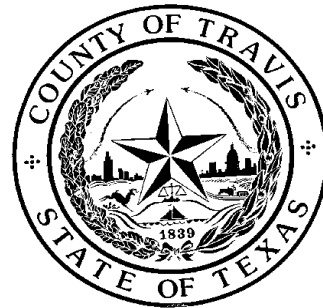


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