

Travis County Environmental Programs



In Travis County we value our rich natural resources and environmental quality. The County government provides a wide range of environmental services and programs for residents.



Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) – The BCP is one of the nation’s largest urban preserves, covering more than 32,000 acres in western Travis County. It was created to protect habitat for endangered and rare species like the golden-cheeked warbler while also providing a streamlined process for new development that is compatible with the preserve. About 3,500 acres of the BCP is regularly open to the public. Other areas of the 32,000+ acre preserve can be accessed by joining a guided hike or volunteering.

Visit traviscountytx.gov/tnr/nr/bcp/hikes-vol or call (512) 854-1688 to learn about guided hikes, volunteer opportunities, and other nature-focused events throughout the year. Also, check out the interactive preserve map (traviscountytx.gov/bcpmap) to find out what areas of the BCP are open regularly, including popular destinations like Hamilton Pool Preserve and Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve.

Household Hazardous Waste and Recyclables – The City of Austin Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Recycling Drop-off Facility is open to all Travis County residents to safely dispose of hazardous waste and recyclable items. You can find more information, including a list of accepted items, on the City’s Web site: austintexas.gov/dropoff. You can also call the facility at (512) 974-4343.

Reducing Wildfire Risk – Wildfire risk is highest in the Wildland-Urban Interface, where development meets natural areas. Travis County actively works to reduce the risk of wildfires by creating and maintaining “shaded fuel



breaks” and conducting prescribed burns in County preserves and parks. More than 95% of wildfires are caused by people or man-made infrastructure, so practicing fire-safe behavior can go a long way towards preventing wildfire. Learn more about activities to avoid and how to create defensible space around your home from the Ready, Set, Go booklet at traviscountytx.gov/fire-marshall/prevention/wildfire-preparedness

Report Illegal Dumping– Whether you see leftover tires thrown down a ravine; old furniture, plastics, and chemicals tossed in a field; or other suspicious activity, report illegal dumping anonymously anytime. Call 1-877-NO-DUMPS (1-877-663-8677) or complete the online form at: capcog.org. (-> Economic Development -> Report Illegal Dumping) The Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) forwards dumping complaints to the appropriate jurisdiction for investigation.

Storm Water Management – The County Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) is a comprehensive, long-range plan to prevent and reduce storm water pollution to our streams and lakes. The SWMP includes: Public Education, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Runoff Controls, and Post-Construction Storm Water Management. Many development permits require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). For more information visit: traviscountytx.gov/tnr/environmental-quality/stormwater

