

City Council – Item 24

January 26, 2023

Crane Bat Cave

Presented by:

Michael Shannon, PE, CBO
Director



**DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES**

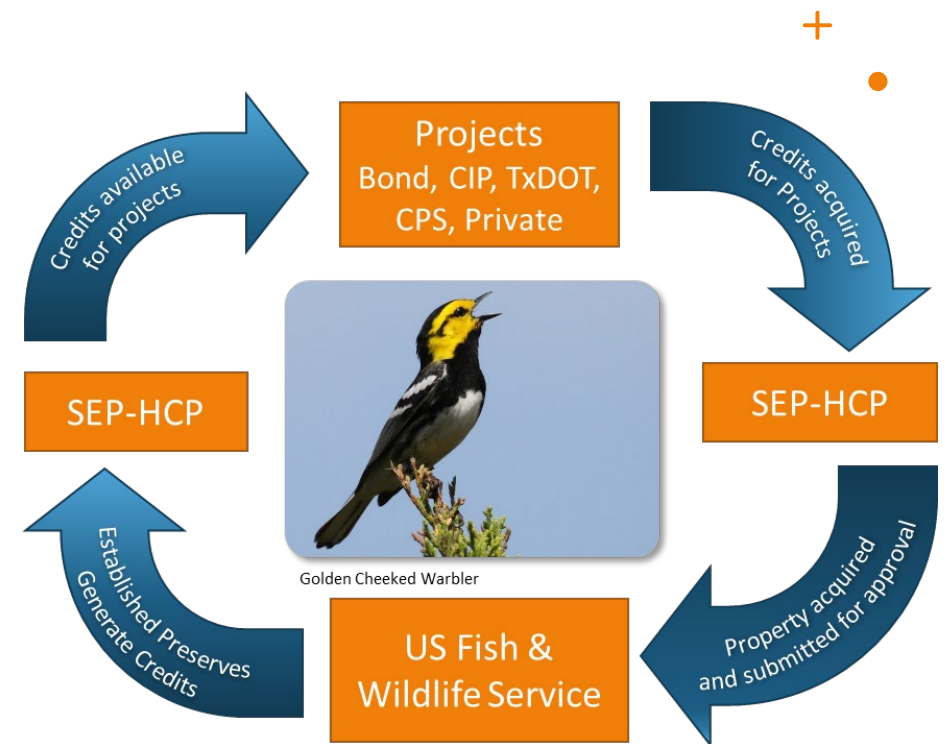


Crane Bat Cave

- Requesting transfer of management and monitoring from Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) to SEP-HCP
 - Located outside city limits (northwest Bexar County)
 - Purchased for \$2.01 million in 2020 (Prop. 1)
 - 75 acres eligible for KFA establishment
 - 40 acres to TxDOT for LP 1604 project
 - Mitigates impact of Loop 1604 expansion projects
 - 35 acres available for SEP-HCP
 - Generate ~358 enrollment acres

SEP-HCP Background

- Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan (SEP-HCP):
 - Voluntary program providing alternatives to comply with Endangered Species Act
 - Promotes regional conservation
 - Supports Camp Bullis
 - Involves local stakeholders in conservation planning
 - Streamlines endangered species permitting
 - Implements locally appropriate and cost-effective permitting and conservation strategies
 - Assists with mitigation of covered species (Golden Cheeked Warbler, Black Capped Vireo, and Karst species)
 - Have created 3 Karst Preserves and sold 581 credits to protect the Golden Cheeked Warbler



SEP-HCP Timeline

2005

- Defense Base Realignment & Closure Commission

2008

- City Council approved several initiatives to support and protect Camp Bullis (such as Military Lighting Overlay District)

2009

- Camp Bullis final Joint Land Use Study was accepted by City Council
- Coordination begins with Bexar County

2011

- First draft

2015

- Final draft
- December – USFW approval

2016

- USFW issued 30-year permit

2017

- City Council approved Interlocal Agreement

Current SEP-HCP Preserves

KARST PRESERVE	TOTAL KARST ENROLLMENT ACRES AWARDED	TOTAL ENROLLMENT ACRES SOLD (TO DATE)	REMAINING ENROLLMENT ACRES
Government Canyon (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 acres • satisfied Initial Conservation Actions Requirement to start enrollment 	0	0
Northern (2017)	678.52	677.67	0.85
Panther Springs (2018)	471.00	404.69	0.69 (65.62 reserved for Parks Dept. project)
Proposed - Crane Bat Cave	767.6	0	358.00

Proposal

- SEP-HCP proposing:
 - Transfer of management and monitoring from Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (Parks and Recreation Department) to SEP-HCP (Development Services)
 - One-time lump sum reimbursing full initial investment amount
 - Preserve acquired in 2020 for \$2.01 million
 - Plan has \$10 million from TXDOT MOU for transfer of management and monitoring
- Acceptance of conservation easement placed on property by EAPP for aquifer protection
 - In addition to more restrictive requirements for habitat conservation plan management sand monitoring



Process



MAY 2022

- SEP-HCP recommended approval
- Written support from U.S. Fish & Wildlife



MAY 2022

- Conservation Advisory Board recommended approval



DEC. 13

- Proposal presented to CHECC



JAN. 26, 2023

- Item to City Council for consideration and approval

Recommendation

- Staff recommends moving forward with transfer of the Crane Bat Cave property for SEP-HCP

STAMP OF
APPROVAL

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