

Rancho Diana Summary

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

- Total acreage: **1,409** acres located over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge & Contributing Zones
 - City Council authorized the purchase of **1,074** acres in separate transactions in 2001 and 2002 totaling \$9.3M with Edwards Aquifer Protection Program Proposition 3 funds
 - 640 acres acquired in March 2001
 - 434 acres acquired in March 2002
 - City Council authorized the purchase of **240** acres adjacent to Rancho Diana which was acquired in May 2001 for \$1.9M with Prop 3 funds
 - The Edwards Aquifer Authority and San Antonio Water System donated to the City an additional **78** acres in November 2002 expanding the Rancho Diana footprint
 - City Council authorized the purchase of an additional **17** acres adjacent to the property as part of a larger 327-acre parcel which was acquired in December 2003 for \$3.7M with Proposition 3 funds (310 acres adjacent to Friedrich Wilderness Park).

PROPERTY FILE

- Rancho Diana is managed by the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department's as a natural area preserve for protection of Edwards Aquifer recharge quality and quantity.
- The United States Geological Survey (USGS) geological assessment for Rancho Diana identified numerous fractures, caves and sinkholes which likely contribute to Edwards Aquifer groundwater recharge.
- The property contains habitat for the Golden Cheeked Warbler, a federally endangered migratory songbird, as well as the Black-capped Vireo bird, which was recently delisted from the endangered species list. Surveys for bird presence and activity is conducted annually on site by Parks and Recreation staff.
- Staff also manage a section of the property for the Bracted Twistflower, which has been petitioned and is currently under consideration for federal endangered species listing.

DEVELOPMENT

- There are no current plans for future development of the Rancho Diana property and no master plans have been created.
- To date, no commitments have been made for funding improvements or opening the property for public recreation.
- Rancho Diana remains closed to the public due to the number of sensitive recharge features; endangered bird habitat; public accessibility issues; historic structural remains; lack of public facilities; and deferred maintenance needs.

