

Option 3:

The Edwards Aquifer Tour

The Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) covers the jurisdiction of the Edwards Aquifer Authority. The Plan covers several threatened and endangered species that inhabit the aquifer and spring systems. The first stop on this tour is a visit to the San Marcos Aquatic Resource Center (SMARC). Visitors will learn about husbandry and applied research of the EAHCP covered species, the Barton Springs HCP and freshwater mussel conservation efforts. Participants will also get the chance to have up-close observations of the endangered Houston toad, Texas blind salamander, Barton Springs salamander and propagation techniques for Texas wild-rice. Attendees will navigate through a series of stations throughout the refugia center and receive a brief lecture by USFWS staff.

The second stop of the Edwards Aquifer Tour is a visit to the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment near Texas State University. The Meadows Center tour will include a glass bottom boat ride over Spring Lake, a chance to view several threatened and endangered species up close in the aquarium facility and a walk along the wetlands educational boardwalk. To learn more about mission of the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, please visit:

<https://www.meadowscenter.txstate.edu/About.html>.

The Edwards Aquifer Tour is hosted by staff from USFWS, EAHCP, the City of San Marcos and the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment.

Participants should wear closed toed shoes that will fit into a shoe cover for biosafety protocols between USFWS refugia facilities.

