Endangered and Threatened Species

As one of the few remaining areas of undisturbed Texas Hill Country land, Scenic Loop Valley provides habitat for two endangered bird species; the Black-capped Vireo and the Golden Cheek Warbler. Both have been observed in the area.

Golden Cheek Warbler



Black-capped Vireo



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The Black-capped Vireo migrates through Leon Creek Watershed , thanks to the abundant low cover and scattered hardwood. The Golden Cheek Warbler habitat requires old-growth cedar and live oak that thrive in the valley, having survived the urban sprawl plaguing the rest of Bexar County.

Endangered species unique to the Helotes area include a group of cave-dwelling insects. Helotes Hilltop Cave contains the endangered species Rhadine exilis and Batrisodes venyivi (Helotes mold beetle.) Other invertebrates for the area are Cicurina madla (Madla’s cave spider), Cicurina venii, and others. Other surrounding caves are believed to shelter at least four types of endangered karst invertebrates.

Physostegia correllii (False Dragonhead) : A water-loving perennial, listed by the Center for Plant Conservation in Missouri, as “in peril” with an extremely limited habitat (a few sites in Texas Louisiana, and Mexico). Helotes Creek is one of the few remaining habitats in Bexar County, Texas