

An Intensive Pedestrian Survey for the Proposed Salado Greenway Trails-Rogers Ranch Connection, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

by
Sarah Wigley and David Burns



Texas Antiquities Permit No. 31308

REDACTED

Principal Investigator
Cynthia Munoz

Prepared for:
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13032 Nacogdoches Road, Suite 214
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Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
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San Antonio, Texas 78249-1644
Archaeological Report, No. 504

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Abstract:

On August 23, 2023, the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the proposed City of San Antonio (COSA) parks project, Rogers Ranch Connection to the Salado Greenway Trails network. This trail connection is located in the Rogers Ranch neighborhood in north San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The work was conducted in response to a request from Adams Environmental, Inc. (AEI), which is an environmental subcontractor to the project engineering team, Bain Medina Bain. The project took place on land that will ultimately be an easement controlled by a subdivision of the State of Texas, and therefore the project required review by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) under the Antiquities Code of Texas, as well as by the COSA Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) under the Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-630 to 35-634). The planned modifications also potentially impact Waters of the United States, which would trigger provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and regulatory review by the Fort Worth District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). CAR obtained Texas Antiquities Permit No. 31308 prior to the commencement of fieldwork. Cynthia Munoz, CAR Interim Director, served as the Principal Investigator for the project, and Sarah Wigley served as the Project Archaeologist.

CAR excavated 18 shovel tests within the project area, which included an approximately 1 kilometer long, 3-meter wide trail alignment, a proposed trail head measuring approximately 0.1 hectare (ha [0.25 acres]), and two proposed staging areas measuring approximately 0.4 ha (0.9 acres) for a total of 8 ha (19.8 acres). Four shovel tests were positive for cultural material, including chipped stone and burned rock and were ultimately included within the boundaries of newly recorded site 41BX2552. The CAR recommends that site 41BX2552 is not eligible for designation as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL) or listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and CAR also recommends that construction proceed as planned. All artifacts collected and records generated during the course of this project are permanently curated at the CAR under accession number 2773.

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Acknowledgements:

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Jason Perez, David Burns, and Sarah Wigley of the CAR. Cynthia Munoz, CAR Interim Director, served as the Principal Investigator and oversaw lab processing and curation of the artifacts and records associated with this project. David Burns and Jason Perez processed the artifacts. Peggy Wall processed the GIS data and produced maps for the fieldwork as well as the final report. Thank you to Sable Kitchen of Adams Environmental, Inc., who helped facilitate the project and answered questions, and to Adams Environmental, Inc. for the opportunity to work on this project.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

On August 23, 2023, CAR-UTSA staff conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the Rogers Ranch Connection Trail Segment of the Salado Creek Greenway Trail in north

San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas (Figures 1-1, 1-2). The Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System consists of a network of approximately 132 kilometers (km) of trails



Figure 1-1. The project area (including proposed staging areas) on an aerial map.

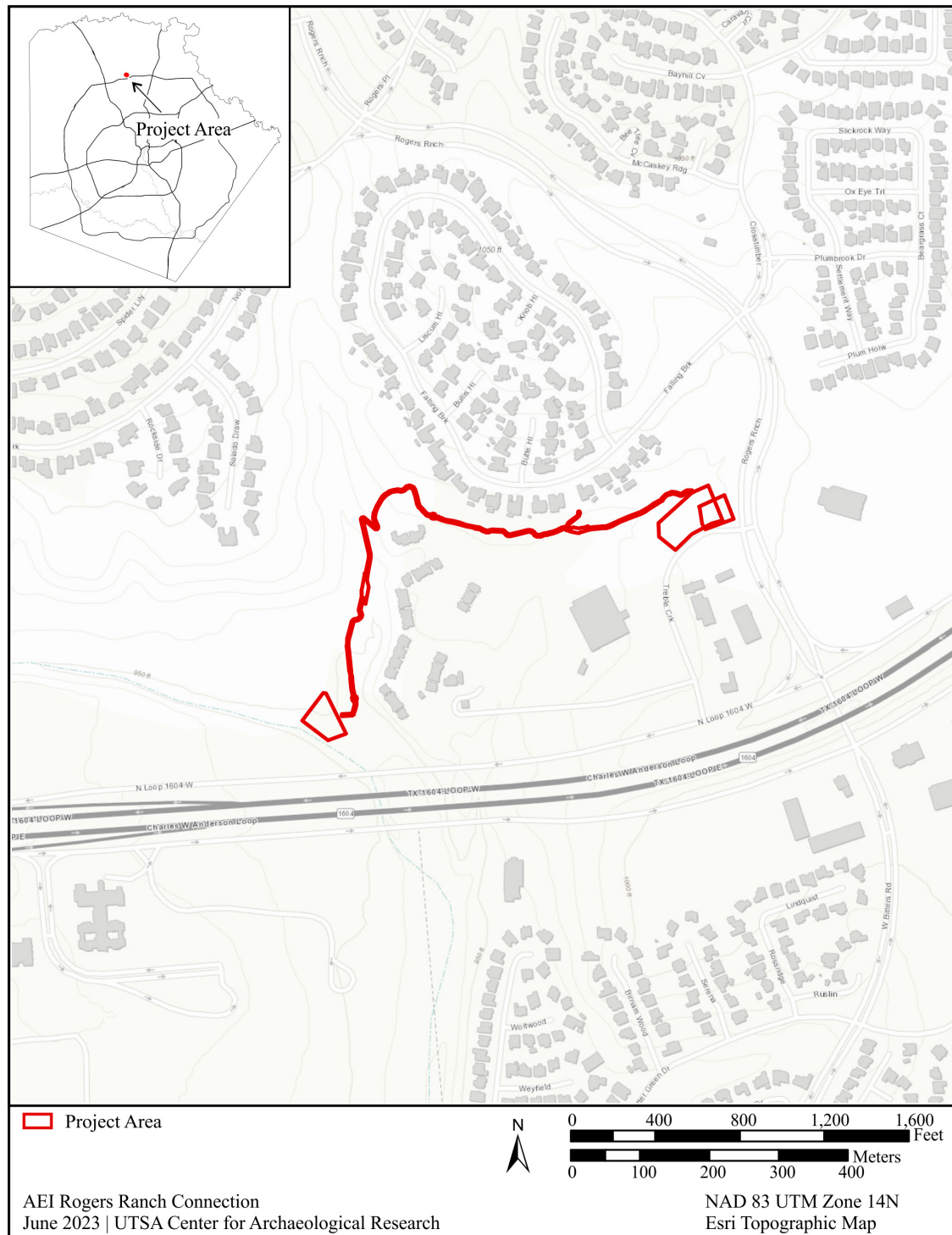


Figure 1-2. The project area (including proposed staging areas) on a topographic map.

located along waterways throughout the city, developed for hiking and biking (San Antonio Parks and Recreation 2023). The CAR conducted the work in response to a request from AEI to provide services to COSA through the project engineering team, Bain Medina Bain. As the project would take place on an easement controlled by a subdivision of the State of Texas, the project requires review by the

Texas Historical Commission (THC) under the Antiquities Code of Texas as well as COSA-OHP under the Unified Development Code (UDC; Article 6 35-630 to 35-634). Because of potential impacts to Waters of the United States, the project may trigger provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and regulatory review by the Fort Worth District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

(USACE). CAR obtained Texas Antiquities Permit No. 31308 prior to the commencement of fieldwork. Cynthia Munoz served as Principal Investigator, and Sarah Wigley served as Project Archaeologist.

CAR staff excavated 18 shovel tests (STs) within the 8 ha (19.8 acre) project area, which includes approximately 1.0 km of proposed trail connection, a trail head/parking lot, and two construction staging areas located in wooded areas near the Salado Creek. The goal of the project was to identify and assess cultural resources that may be impacted by the proposed trail construction. Four STs were positive for prehistoric cultural material, which was concentrated in the upper 20 centimeters (cm) of deposits. One previously unrecorded prehistoric site, 41BX2552, was recorded. Site 41BX2552 contained sparse, shallow deposits of chipped

stone and burned rock. No cultural features or temporally diagnostic material was documented. CAR recommends that the site is not eligible for listing in the NRHP or designation as a SAL. All records generated and artifacts collected during this project are curated at the CAR in accordance with THC guidelines under accession number 2773.

This report includes five chapters. Following this introductory chapter, Chapter 2 provides project background information, including a brief overview of the project environment, the regional culture history, and previous archaeological work conducted in the area. Chapter 3 presents a discussion of the field and laboratory methods used to complete this project. Chapter 4 provides a discussion of the results of these investigations, and Chapter 5 presents a project summary and CAR's recommendations.

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Chapter 2: Project Background

This chapter presents a background discussion of the project area. This discussion includes the project area's natural environment, a brief summary of the region's culture history, and a review of the previous archaeological investigations conducted in the vicinity.

Project Environment

The project area is in northern Bexar County, Texas. The proposed trail connects the Rogers Ranch neighborhood with the existing Greenway trail along the Salado Creek, just north of Loop 1604. The Salado Creek watershed runs for 61 km southeast across San Antonio, from where it originates in the Fair Oaks subdivision in northern Bexar County to its mouth at the San Antonio River in south San Antonio (TSHA 1995). The trail is found within wooded areas that intersperse residential and commercial development in the area. The southern trail connection is just north of the creek, which curves to run north-south below the highway in this area. Several unnamed ephemeral drainages also dissect the project area (Figure 2-1).

The city of San Antonio is located where the southernmost Great Plains meet the Gulf Coast (Petersen 2001). The Balcones Escarpment, which demarcates the southern end of the Great Plains, is the result of a series of faults found between the Edwards Plateau and the Gulf (Eckhardt 2023). The city is also near a significant climate boundary, partitioning a humid-subtropical from an arid zone (Petersen 2001). San Antonio's location near these significant geological and climactic boundaries results in a varied resource base which attracted settlers to the region (de la Teja 2001). The area has a number of reliable freshwater sources, including the San Antonio River and a variety of freshwater artesian springs associated with the Edwards Aquifer. The growing season, on average, lasts 270 days (Petersen 2001:22). The average annual rainfall is approximately 76 cm with peaks in the spring and fall. Precipitation is highly variable both seasonally and annually (Petersen 2001:22). The project area is within the Balconian Biotic Province, described as an intermediate ecological area between the eastern forest and the western desert (Blair 1950). Elevations within the project area range between 320-290 m above sea level.

Soils within the project area consist primarily of Crawford, stony and Bexar soils (Cb) of zero to five percent slopes (Figure 2-1). These soils are formed on hillslopes and

are not prime farmland. They are made up of stony clays which extend 53-114 cm before reaching bedrock (NRCS 2023). The southernmost stretch of the project area, a proposed staging area, encroaches on a section of Tinn Clay (Tc) associated with Salado Creek, with zero to one percent slopes. These soils are formed on flood plains (only occasionally flooded) and are not prime farmland. They are well drained and reach depths of more than 200 cm (NRCS 2023). The trail also touches an area of Eckrant very cobbly clays (TaC) on the west side. These soils are formed on ridges of five to 15 percent slopes. They are well-drained and reach depths of 25-51 cm before hitting bedrock. They are not considered prime farmland (NRCS 2023). Just north of the project area lies a section of Eckrant cobbly clay (TaB). These soils are formed on ridges of one to eight percent slopes and extend for 10-50 cm before encountering bedrock (NRCS 2023).

The project area falls within the Redland and Deep Redland ecological zones, with the primary distinction being that the Redland site has shallower soils. Vegetation consists of oak savannah, which includes oak species (*Quercus stellate*, *Quercus fusiformis*, *Quercus marilandica*) and a variety of grasses, including little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), and Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*). These plant communities vary greatly dependent on grazing, fire, and rainfall. Historical accounts suggest that these areas were preferred bison habitats, and today they are preferred locations for grazing of livestock. Historical records suggest that approximately half of these plant communities were heavily wooded in the past (NRCS 2023).

Culture History

The project area is near several prehistoric and historic sites. A brief review of both periods is provided here to provide context for the project results.

Texas Prior to European Contact

The prehistoric record in Texas is generally divided into the Paleoindian, Archaic, and Late Prehistoric periods. Bexar County's archaeological record has been included in reviews of both Central (Collins 2004) and South (Hester 1980) Texas, as the county is near a commonly drawn cultural area boundary. The summary below follows a Central Texas chronology.

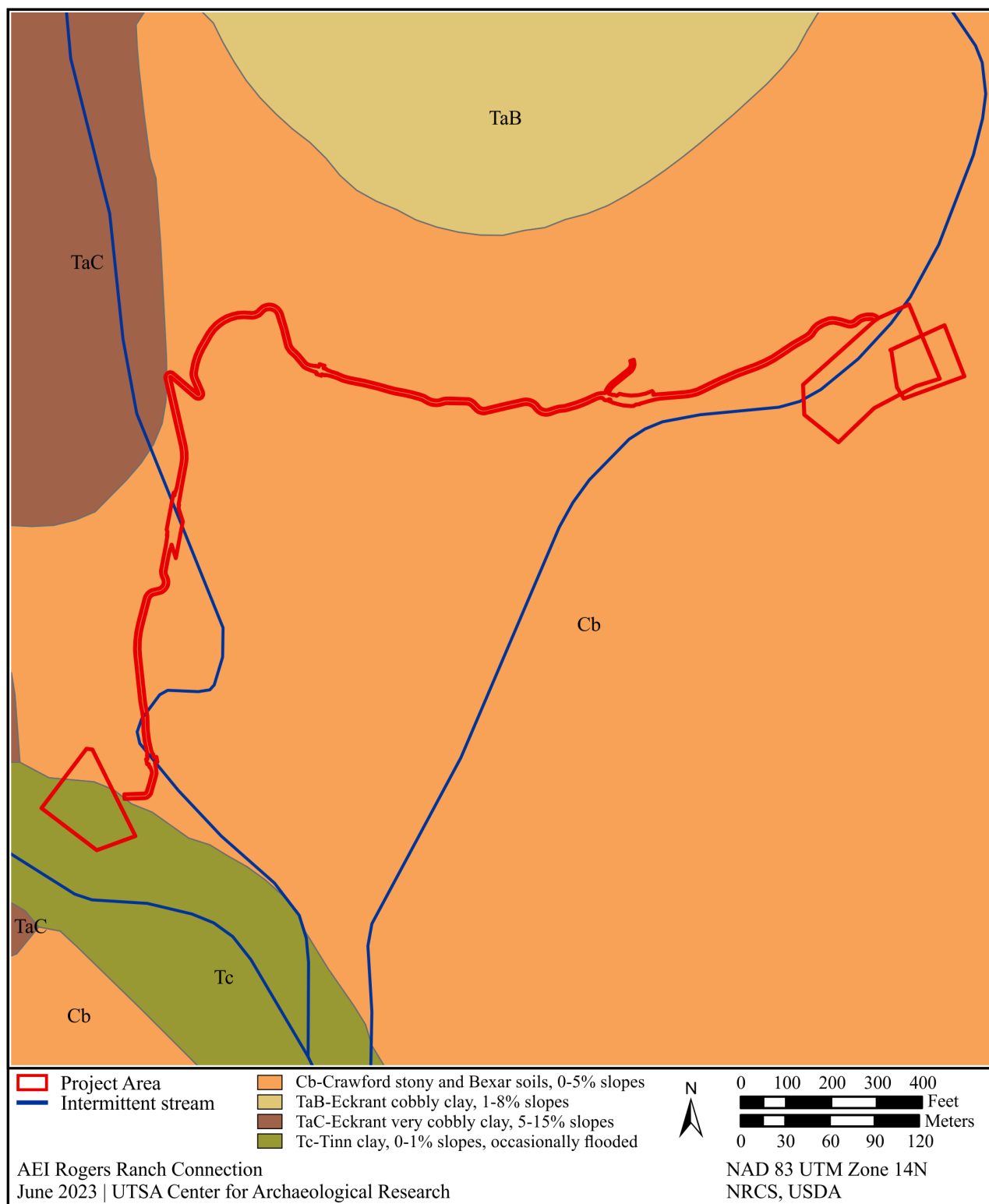


Figure 2-1. Map of soils within the project area.

The Paleoindian period in Central Texas spans 13,000-9000 before present (BP). Several in-depth reviews of this period are available, including Bousman and colleagues (2004). Groups inhabiting the area during this period are generally characterized

as highly mobile (Bousman et al. 2004). Temporally diagnostic artifacts from the period include Folsom and Clovis points, among others (see Turner et al. 2011). Faunal remains from Paleoindian components on sites such as Lubbock Lake

(41LU1) and Wilson-Leonard (41WM235) suggest a broad subsistence base (Bousman et al. 2004). Within Bexar County, there are multiple sites that have Paleoindian components. These include the Pavo Real site (41BX52; Collins et al. 2003) and the St. Mary's Hall site (41BX229; Hester 1995). The St. Mary's Hall site is associated with the Salado Creek watershed.

The Archaic period in Central Texas ranges from 9000-1200 BP. The period is characterized by several technological developments, including an increased diversity of material culture and the use of heated rock technology (Carpenter and Hartnett 2011; Collins 2004; Johnson and Goode 1994; Thoms and Clabaugh 2011). The period is often subdivided into Early, Middle, and Late Archaic periods (see Collins 2004; Hester 2004). Temporally diagnostic artifacts from the Early Archaic period (9000-6800 BP) include Angostura, Early Split Stem, and Martindale-Uvalde dart points, as well as Guadalupe tools (Collins 2004). The Middle Archaic spans 6800-4200 BP. Temporally diagnostic artifacts from this period include Calf Creek, Bell-Andice, Nolan, and Travis points, among others (Collins 2004; Houk et al. 2008; Turner et al. 2011). The Late Archaic spans 4200-1200 BP. Temporally diagnostic artifacts from the Late Archaic include a wide variety of types, with Pedernales, Ensor, and Frio points dominating assemblages (Collins 2004). Archaic period components in Bexar County are common. Some of the more important sites include the Granberg site (41BX17), with multiple excavations (see Munoz et al. 2011; Schuetz 1966; Wigley 2018) and Panther Springs (41BX228; Black and McGraw 1985), both of which are in the Salado Creek watershed.

The Late Prehistoric period begins at 1200 BP and ends around 350 BP (see Carpenter 2017; Kenmotsu and Boyd 2012). The period is divided into two intervals, Austin (1200-750 BP) and Toyah (750-350 BP). The period is characterized by a shift to bow and arrow technology, evidenced by arrow points such as Scallorn and Perdiz (Collins 2004). The Toyah style interval of this period also includes the adoption of ceramic technology (Collins 2004). There is evidence that burned rock middens increased in use (Black et al. 1997; Mauldin et al. 2003). Bison remains are common on Late Prehistoric sites (Mauldin et al. 2012), and they may have been more intensively exploited toward the end of this period (Lohse et al. 2014). In Bexar County, sites with Late Prehistoric components are often continued occupations from the Archaic period or earlier, including sites 41BX19 (Mauldin et al. 2015), site 41BX229 (Hester 1995), and site 41BX323 (Figueroa and Dowling 2007; Houk et al. 1999; Katz and Fox 1979; Miller et al. 1999).

Historic Texas

The end of the Late Prehistoric Toyah, at 350 BP (AD 1650), overlaps with the beginning of the Historic period that is

usually thought to begin with the arrival of Europeans in the region in AD 1528 when Cabeza de Vaca and other survivors of the Narvaez expedition washed up on the Texas Coast (see Krieger 2000). Early interactions between the indigenous population and the Spanish appear to have been infrequent. However, even prior to the establishment of settlements in the area, Native American populations were impacted by invasive disease and the arrival of groups that had been displaced by European settlement to the north, south, and east (Kenmotsu and Arnn 2012). Spain made little attempt to establish settlements in Texas prior to 1700 (Chipman and Joseph 2010). However, motivated by concerns about the French encroachment into Texas in 1685 by Robert Cavalier Sieur de la Salle's expedition, and colonization in Louisiana in the early 1700s, the Spanish government tried to strengthen its hold on Texas, which previously was sparsely populated by Europeans (Cruz 1988). Missions founded in East Texas in the early 1700s were attempts to secure Spain's hold on the area (Cruz 1988).

Colonial Period (AD 1700-1824)

The area that would become San Antonio was first explored in 1691 by a Spanish expedition led by Domingo de Teran (Cox 1997). Spanish occupation of the region began when San Antonio was founded in 1718 (Jasinski 2023) with the establishment of the San Antonio Bexar Presidio, intended to provide a waystation between the Rio Grande and east Texas missions (Cox 1997). Five Spanish missions were located along the San Antonio River during this time period. In San Antonio, some Native Americans sought refuge within the missions, which required some adaptation to Spanish Colonial customs as well as changes in mobility patterns (Cargill 1996). Many of the Native Americans who inhabited the missions had been displaced from other parts of Texas as well (Campbell and Campbell 2004). The city expanded with Spain's charter of the Villa San Fernando de Bexar in 1731 (Jasinski 2023).

By 1775 populations in all San Antonio missions had declined considerably (Campbell and Campbell 2004), and in 1793 the secularization of the missions began (Chipman and Joseph 2010:214). The land owned by the missions was divided and distributed among the mission residents (de la Teja 1995).

Archaeological sites dating to the colonial period in San Antonio are often characterized by the presence of cobble limestone architectural features, Spanish Colonial ceramics, Native American ceramics, and faunal bone (Figueroa and Mauldin 2005; Hanson 2016; Kemp et al. 2020; Mauldin and Kemp 2016). Sites in San Antonio dating to this period include 41BX2170, a multicomponent site with features related to the Siege of Bexar; the Veramendi site (41BX2164), a historic home dating to the Spanish Colonial period (Kemp et al. 2020); and the various missions (Ivey 2018).

Mexican Period (AD 1821-1836)

Unrest in Mexico began with a failed rebellion against the Spanish in 1810 (Chipman and Joseph 2010; Cox 1997). San Antonio participated in another failed rebellion in 1812-1813, which resulted in retaliation against its citizens by the Spanish. Spanish executions and fleeing citizens led to significant depopulation of the city during this period (Chipman and Joseph 2010; Cox 1997). After years of unrest, Texas ceased to be ruled by Spain and became part of Mexico with the adoption of the Constitution of 1824 (Cox 1997). Under this constitution, Texas became part of the state of Coahuila and a system which gave land to settlers was created (Campbell 2003). This policy played a role in an influx of settlers from the United States during this period, until immigration from the United States was prohibited in 1830 (Campbell 2003). Conflict within the newly formed Mexican government, as well as conflict between the existing inhabitants of Texas and the new arrivals, resulted in instability and unrest in the region (Campbell 2003).

Republic of Texas and Statehood (AD 1835-1950)

The period beginning with the Texas Revolution until after the Civil War included multiple periods of conflict. During the Texas Revolution (1835-1836), San Antonio was the site of numerous battles, including the Battle of the Alamo, which took place at the site of the Mission de Valero (41BX6). The population of the city was decimated by the warfare. Texas established the Republic of Texas in 1837. War with Mexico broke out following Texas's statehood in 1846, which ultimately resulted in setting the Rio Grande as the state's southern boundary, as well as the acquisition of considerable western territory by the United States (Bauer 2023). The number of people living in San Antonio grew rapidly after Texas became part of the United States in 1846, and in 1860, it was the largest city in Texas (Jasinski 2023). Texas joined the Confederacy in 1861 and San Antonio served as a Confederate depot during the Civil War (Jasinski 2023). Confederate forces

in Texas surrendered on June 2, 1865 (Wooster 2023). Union forces arrived and declared freedom for all enslaved people on June 19, 1865 (Acosta 2021).

After the Civil War, San Antonio served as a cattle, military, and mercantile center due to its proximity to the border and the southwest (Cox 1997; Jasinski 2023). The arrival of the railroad in 1877 further increased growth in the city. San Antonio was once again the largest city in the state in 1900, 1910, and 1920 (Jasinski 2023) and was known for its unique mix of cultures due to Mexican and European, significantly German, immigration. Characteristic artifact assemblages from sites dating to this period include metal, glass, and white earthenware (Mauldin and Kemp 2016).

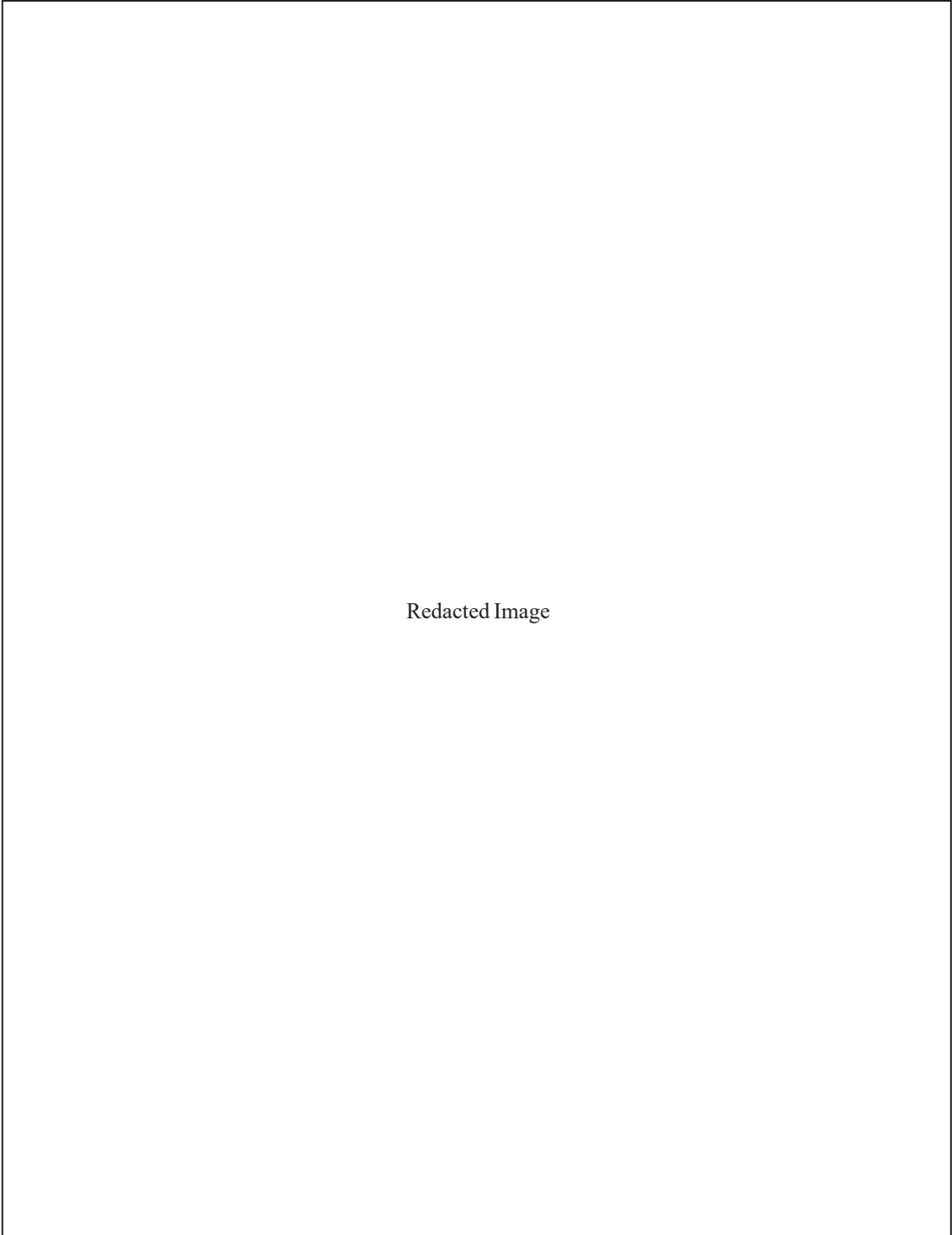
During the colonial and early historic period, northern Bexar County was primarily rural farm and ranchland located outside of San Antonio proper, including a number of German immigrant communities that developed in the nineteenth century. The introduction of stagecoach lines in the mid to late nineteenth century, and later railroads in the late nineteenth century, encouraged the growth of these communities and contributed to expansion of San Antonio's urban core (Thompson et al. 2008). Communities that developed near the project area include Shavano Park to the north, which was a stagecoach stop in 1881 that became a railroad stop in 1884 (Thompson et al. 2008), and Camp Bullis to the north, a twentieth century military installation.

Previous Archaeology

A review of the Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas (THC 2023) found six previously recorded archaeological sites within one kilometer of the project area (Table 2-1, Figure 2-2). All the sites include a prehistoric component with most deposits described as surficial to extremely shallow. Two sites (41BX875 and 41BX879) also include evidence of twentieth century disturbance (Cliff et al. 1990; Figueroa 2016; THC 2023; Zapata 2018).

Table 2-1. Summary of Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within 1 km

Site	Time Period	Site Type
41BX9	Prehistoric	Rockshelter
41BX22	Archaic to the Late Prehistoric	Cave site
41BX875	Prehistoric/historic	Surface artifact scatter/late historic to modern structures
41BX878	Prehistoric	Surface lithic scatter
41BX879	Prehistoric/historic	Surface lithic scatter/barbed wire pen
41BX2019	Prehistoric	Lithic procurement



Redacted Image

Figure 2-2. Previously recorded archaeological sites located within 1 km of the project area.

Site 41BX9 is a prehistoric rockshelter site recorded in 1970 by Paul McGuff and Bill Fawcett (THC 2023). A circular, polished stone pendant was reported as found at the site in a pothole by an informant, but no material was seen by the site recorders. A site revisit was attempted during a Greenway survey by the CAR in 2015 (Figueroa 2016). However, the site was not found.

Site 41BX22 (The Rogers Site) is a cave with associated deposits, including a burned rock midden, recorded by D. Fox during student test excavation in 1966 (Goode 1985). The THC site form is partially corrupted (THC 2023). Additional testing of the cave site was conducted by the State Department of Highways and Transportation (SDHT, now Texas Department of Transportation) in 1984 (Goode 1985).

The results of both testing projects suggest the most intensive use of the site occurred during the Late Archaic and Late Prehistoric periods. Chipped stone, including a Bulverde projectile point, was recorded during the SDHT testing (Goode 1985), which found that the site was potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP. A survey conducted by Geo-Marine in 1990 found potential for intact deposits (Cliff et al. 1990). The site was revisited by the CAR in 2006 and 2017 during surveys (Thompson et al. 2008; Zapata 2018). Both surveys failed to relocate the site, suggesting it may have been impacted by subsequent road construction.

Sites 41BX875, 41BX878, and 41BX879 were recorded during a survey conducted by Geo-Marine (Cliff et al. 1990; THC 2023). All three consist of shallow lithic scatters that were recommended as ineligible for listing in the NRHP. Site 41BX875 also includes a twentieth century shack, outhouse and two campfire areas. Site 41BX879 includes a small, barbed wire enclosure and scattered twentieth

century artifacts. Site 41BX875 was revisited by the CAR during a Greenway trail survey in 2017 (THC 2023; Zapata 2018). The revisit found that the structures had been partially burned. While scattered late historic material was seen, no evidence of prehistoric materials was observed during that revisit (Zapata 2018). Site 41BX879 was revisited by the CAR in 2015 (Figueroa 2016; THC 2023). Buried lithic material was recorded between 0-30 cm below surface (cmbs) during shovel testing. Impacts to the site by construction were noted. No additional work was recommended due to the sparse material and shallow nature of the deposits. No evidence of the previously recorded historic component was noted (Figueroa 2016).

Site 41BX2019 is a prehistoric site recorded by SWCA during a survey conducted in 2014 (THC 2023). The site consists of a shallow lithic scatter described as a procurement site, which was subsequently impacted by construction. The site is described as lacking in research value.

Chapter 3: Field and Laboratory Methods

This chapter provides a discussion of the field and laboratory methods used during the completion of this project. This includes discussion of excavation techniques, collection policy, site definitions, field documentation, and final curation.

Field Methods

Shovel testing was conducted following an initial pedestrian reconnaissance. For the proposed trail, based on the 1.0 km (0.6 miles) linear survey area, a minimum of 10 STs at a density of sixteen shovel per mile was required to fulfill THC minimum survey standards. Two more STs were excavated to provide coverage for the proposed trail head parking lot and the two staging areas, one of which overlapped with the proposed trail head area. Initial ST locations were evenly distributed throughout the project area. When a ST was positive, additional STs were excavated along the trail at intervals no greater than 15 m until two negative tests are found in each direction, or the linear corridor boundary was reached. Due to the narrow linear corridor (approximately 3 m), delineating STs were excavated parallel to the trail alignment, but not perpendicularly in a cruciform pattern.

Shovel tests were 30 cm in diameter and extended to a depth of 80 cm unless an obstruction was encountered. They were excavated in 20-cm increments with all soil from each level screened through ¼-inch hardware cloth. A form was completed for every excavated ST. Data collected from each ST included the final excavation depth, a tally of all materials recovered from each 20 cm level, and a brief soil description. The location of every ST was recorded with Trimble Geo XT GPS units. Shovel test locations were sketched onto topographic maps or aerial photographs as a backup to Trimble GPS provenience information. Any additional observations considered pertinent were included as comments on the standard ST excavation form. Each ST was photographed following excavation. All encountered artifacts were recovered with appropriate provenience for laboratory processing, analysis, and curation.

Site Recording and Identification

For the purposes of this survey, only cultural materials or features that dated before AD 1950 had the potential to be recorded as a site. Sites were defined if (1) four or more surface artifacts were seen within a three-meter radius, or (2) a single cultural feature, such as a hearth, was observed

on surface or exposed in shovel testing, or (3) a positive ST contained at least three artifacts within a given 20 cm level, or (4) a ST had three or more positive levels, or (5) a ST contained at least five total artifacts, or (6) two positive STs were excavated within 30 m of each other.

When evidence of cultural materials meeting the minimum criteria for an archaeological site was encountered in a ST or on the surface, additional STs were excavated at close intervals to define the extent of the distribution. A minimum of eight STs were excavated to define the site boundaries within the limits of the project boundaries. Site boundaries were then plotted on aerial photographs and a topographic quadrangle map, and location data was collected with a GPS unit. A datum was established near the center of the site. This datum location was also recorded with the GPS unit, along with any cultural features, surface artifact densities, and landmarks, such as fences. The crew also produced a sketch map of these elements to serve as a backup for the GPS site data. Digital photographs were taken of the site and a Texas Site Atlas form was prepared.

Any artifact observed on the surface that was not associated with a site was recorded as an isolated find. No temporally diagnostic isolated finds were encountered. Non-diagnostic isolated finds were not collected. The location of all isolated finds was plotted with a GPS unit and plotted on an aerial map.

Archaeological Laboratory Methods

All cultural materials and records obtained and/or generated during the project were prepared following federal regulation 36 CFR part 79, and THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Artifacts processed in the CAR laboratory were washed, air-dried, and stored in 4 mm zip locking archival-quality bags. Organic materials and materials needing extra support were double-bagged. Acid-free, laser printed tags, having provenience information and a corresponding lot number, were placed in all artifact bags. Artifacts were labeled with acid free printed labels over a clear coat of acrylic and covered by another acrylic coat when needed. Artifacts were separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper and labeled with archivally appropriate materials. All field forms were completed with pencil. Upon completion of the project, all collected materials were permanently housed at the CAR curation facility on the main campus of UTSA.

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Chapter 4: Results

On August 23, 2023, CAR conducted an intensive pedestrian survey with shovel testing of a proposed Salado Creek Greenway trail connection located immediately north of Loop 1604 in the Rogers Ranch neighborhood. This chapter provides the results of the investigation.

Results

CAR staff excavated 18 STs within the project area (Table 4-1, Figure 4-1). Twelve initial STs (STs 1-12) were excavated to explore potential cultural deposits within the project area, including 10 along the proposed trail segment, one in a proposed equipment staging area, and one in a proposed equipment staging area/trailhead. Six more STs (STs 13-18) were excavated to delineate a single positive (ST 5). Four STs (STs 5, 13, 14, and 15) were positive with prehistoric cultural material. This material was recorded as part of site 41BX2552. The remaining STs were negative (Table 4-1).

Soils in the initial STs were shallow, with an average terminal depth of 44 cmbs. No initial ST reached the full 80 cmbs; in all cases, either limestone bedrock or obstructive limestone cobbles was encountered (Figure 4-2). Delineating STs were

stopped at 30 cmbs due to the shallow nature (Level 1: 0-20 cmbs) of the initial positive ST 5. This finding is consistent with the results of past surveys in the area (Figueroa 2016; Zapata 2018). Soils ranged from black (10YR 2/1) to very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clays in the first 30 cm. Below 30 cmbs, soils ranged from dark reddish (5YR 3/3) or yellowish brown (10YR 3/6) cobbly clays from 30-60 cm. Below 30 cm, all STs encountered chert and limestone cobbles in silty clay. Depth of bedrock averaged 43 cmbs with a range of from 15-63 cmbs across the project area.

The project area is currently undeveloped, except for an asphalt trail associated with the Rogers Ranch neighborhood that partially follows the path of the proposed trail improvements. This trail is in the northern part of the project area (Figure 4-3). This trail and the project area diverge in the vicinity of ST 7 (see Figure 4-1). There is two-track dirt road in the southernmost portion of the project area and the proposed trail partially follows this dirt path, but the proposed trail diverges in the vicinity of ST 10 and passes through an undeveloped, brushy area to ultimately meet up with an extant paved trail associated with the Rogers Ranch neighborhood. Surface visibility in most of the project area is poor due to leaf litter and numerous

Table 4-1. Summary of STs Excavated within the Project Area

ST	Cultural Material Present	Termination Depth (cmbs)	Reason for Excavation	Reason for Termination
1	No	60	Initial	Limestone bedrock
2	No	25	Initial	Limestone bedrock
3	No	38	Initial	Limestone bedrock
4	No	45	Initial	Limestone cobbles
5	Burned rock	42	Initial	Limestone bedrock
6	No	26	Initial	Large limestone cobbles
7	No	44	Initial	Limestone bedrock
8	No	51	Initial	Limestone bedrock
9	No	39	Initial	Large limestone cobbles
10	No	63	Initial	Limestone bedrock
11	No	43	Initial	Large limestone cobbles
12	No	50	Initial	Limestone bedrock
13	Burned rock	30	Delineation	PA Decision
14	Burned rock	30	Delineation	PA Decision
15	Chipped stone	33	Delineation	PA Decision
16	No	30	Delineation	PA Decision
17	No	15	Delineation	Limestone bedrock
18	No	20	Delineation	Large limestone cobbles



Redacted Image

Figure 4-1. Shovel test distribution and isolated finds within the project area.

limestone cobbles scattered on the surface, as well as the existing asphalted trail. The area is dissected by ephemeral drainages, and along the paved portion of the trail, small concrete bridges have been constructed to allow hikers to cross. In some areas the extensive surface limestone as well as the concrete bridges prevented excavation of STs or necessitated that they be moved.

During the survey, isolated artifacts were documented in two locations on the surface (see Figure 4-1). Isolated Find 1 was a piece of burned rock intermixed with road gravels found in the two-track road, 11 m south of negative ST 11. Isolated Find 2 was a chert flake documented within gravel/cobbles deposits in a drainage 12 m east of negative ST 18, suggesting that material may be eroding or washing out in that area.



Figure 4-2. ST 5 termination. Note shallow, cobbly soils.



Figure 4-3. Existing trail, vicinity of ST 3, facing west.

41BX2552

Site 41BX2552 is a small (approximately 75 m wide), sparse, shallow lithic scatter, containing chipped stone and burned rock (Table 4-2, Figures 4-4, 4-5, and 4-6). The site was defined by four positive STs (STs 5, 13, 14 and 15), all of which were positive in the first 30 cm. ST 5 hit bedrock at 42 cmbs and encountered substantial limestone cobbles above 42 cmbs. No evidence of below-ground disturbance was noted aside from construction of the paved trail and roots. No cultural features, organic material suitable for absolute dating, or temporally diagnostic artifacts were recovered. In total, the artifact assemblage recovered from

41BX2552 consisted of two complete flakes, one chert core, and 23.3 g of burned chert.

While delineation was limited by the narrow width of the trail, negative results at ST 4 suggest the site does not extend to the north. The site may, however, extend to the south, although this area has been impacted by residential development. The site is bounded by negative STs 16 and 17 on west and by negative STs 4 and 18 and an ephemeral drainage on the east (Figure 4-6). The low density of artifacts, shallow nature of the deposits, the lack of diagnostics or other chronometric indications, the lack of features, and the constrained site extent indicate that the site has limited research value within the project area.

Table 4-2. Summary of Lithic Artifacts Recovered from 41BX2552

Provenience	Level	Depth (cmbs)	Class	Description	Count	Weight (g)
ST 5	1	0-20	Burned rock	Burned chert	N/A	22
ST 13	1	0-20	Burned rock	Burned chert	N/A	1.3
ST 14	2	20-30	Core	50-99% cortex	1	N/A
ST 14	2	20-30	Debitage	Flake, complete, 50-99% cortex	1	N/A
ST 15	1	0-20	Debitage	Flake, complete, 0% cortex	1	N/A



Figure 4-4. Artifacts recovered from 41BX2552. Left, burned chert recovered from ST 5, Level 1 ($n=3$); Center, debitage recovered from ST 14, Level 2, and ST 15, Level 1; Right, core recovered from ST 14, Level 2.

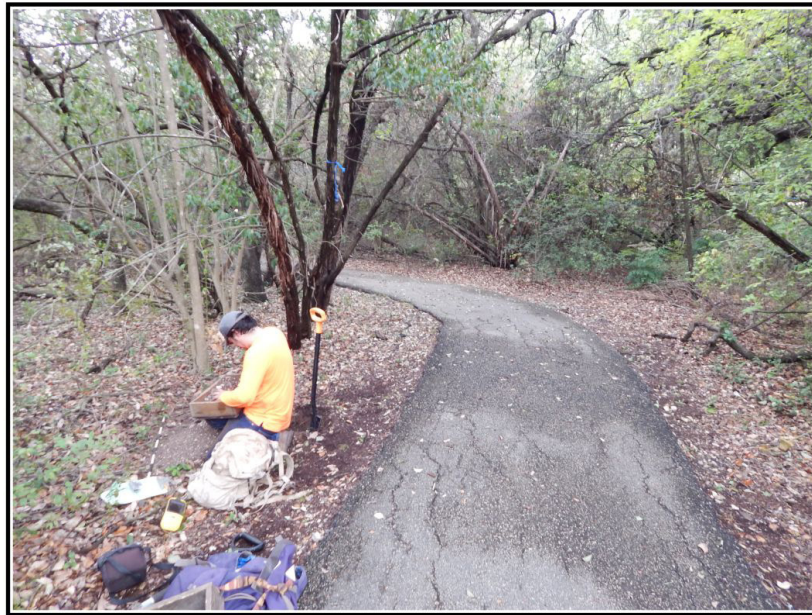


Figure 4-5. ST 5 area (41BX2552), facing west.

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Figure 4-6. Site 41BX2552 on an aerial map.

Summary

CAR staff excavated 18 STs within the project area, four of which were positive for cultural material. All four positive STs were associated with 41BX2552, a prehistoric site of

undetermined temporal association. Two isolated surface finds, not associated with any site, were also recorded. Due to the limited research value of site 41BX2552, CAR recommends that the site is not eligible for designation as a SAL or listing in the NRHP, and that construction proceed as planned.

Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

In August of 2023, CAR staff conducted a linear pedestrian survey of a proposed Greenway trail connection in the Rogers Ranch neighborhood of northern San Antonio, Texas. The survey consisted of a pedestrian survey with shovel testing along a one kilometer long, three-meter wide project area. The investigation was carried out in order to identify and record potential cultural resources within the project area and assess the potential impacts of the planned construction on any archaeological deposits that were documented.

Four of the 18 STs excavated within the project area were positive for cultural material, all of which were included in the boundaries of 41BX2552. Site 41BX2552 is a sparse, shallow prehistoric site having burned rock and chipped

stone. No cultural features or temporally diagnostic artifacts were found. Cultural deposits were restricted to the first 30 cm of deposits. The lack of cultural features or specific temporal association, shallow depth, and sparse cultural deposits indicate that site 41BX2552 is lacking in significance or research potential. Therefore, CAR recommends that site 41BX2552 is not eligible for designation as a SAL or listing in the NRHP within the project area, and CAR also recommends that construction proceed as planned. If cultural materials are found during project activities, work should cease in the immediate area and COSA OHP and the THC should be notified. All records generated and artifacts collected during this project are curated at the CAR as accession number 2773 following THC guidelines.

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