

An Intensive Archaeological Survey of the French Creek Greenway Trail, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

by
José E. Zapata

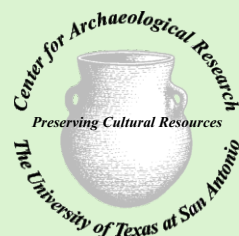


Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8518

REDACTED

Principal Investigator
Leonard Kemp

Prepared for:
Bain Medina Bain, Inc.
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San Antonio, Texas 78216



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Technical Report, No. 79

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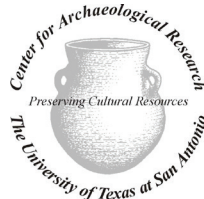
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Abstract:

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), in response to a request from Bain Medina Bain, Inc. (BMB), conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the proposed French Creek Greenway Trail in northwest San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The project area consists of 2.1 km (1.3 miles) of proposed trail and trail connectors with a 15.2 m (50 ft) easement. The trail will generally run north to south in close proximity to French Creek, from Nani Falcone Park and meander south to the Leon Creek Greenway at Ebert Road. The work was completed between August 7 and 9, 2018. Subsequently, there were several alterations to the trail. These were surveyed in May of 2021. The French Creek trail segment is owned and construction is being funded by the City of San Antonio and thus falls under the guidance and review authority of the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation (COSA-OHP). As such, the project also falls under the Texas Antiquities Code and was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8518. Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux, former CAR Director, served as the Principal Investigator, with José Zapata serving as the Project Archaeologist. Leonard Kemp served as the Principal Investigator following the departure of Dr. Marceaux. No new sites were located; however, the pedestrian survey did result in the location of two cores, within a meter of each other, deemed an isolated find. The isolated finds were collected and are curated at CAR according to Texas Historical Commission guidelines. All project documentation, including photographs and field forms, are also curated at the CAR facilities in accession file number 2108.

All 27 shovel tests were negative. CAR recommends that the construction of the French Creek Greenway extension from Nani Falcone Park to Ebert Road proceed as it will not impact any previous or new archaeological sites or features. However, in the event that construction reveals archaeological deposits, work should cease and the City Archaeologist with the COSA-OHP and representatives of the THC should be notified.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), in response to a request from Bain Medina Bain, Inc. (BMB), conducted

an intensive pedestrian survey of the French Creek Greenway Trail in northwest San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1-1). Since the project involved city-

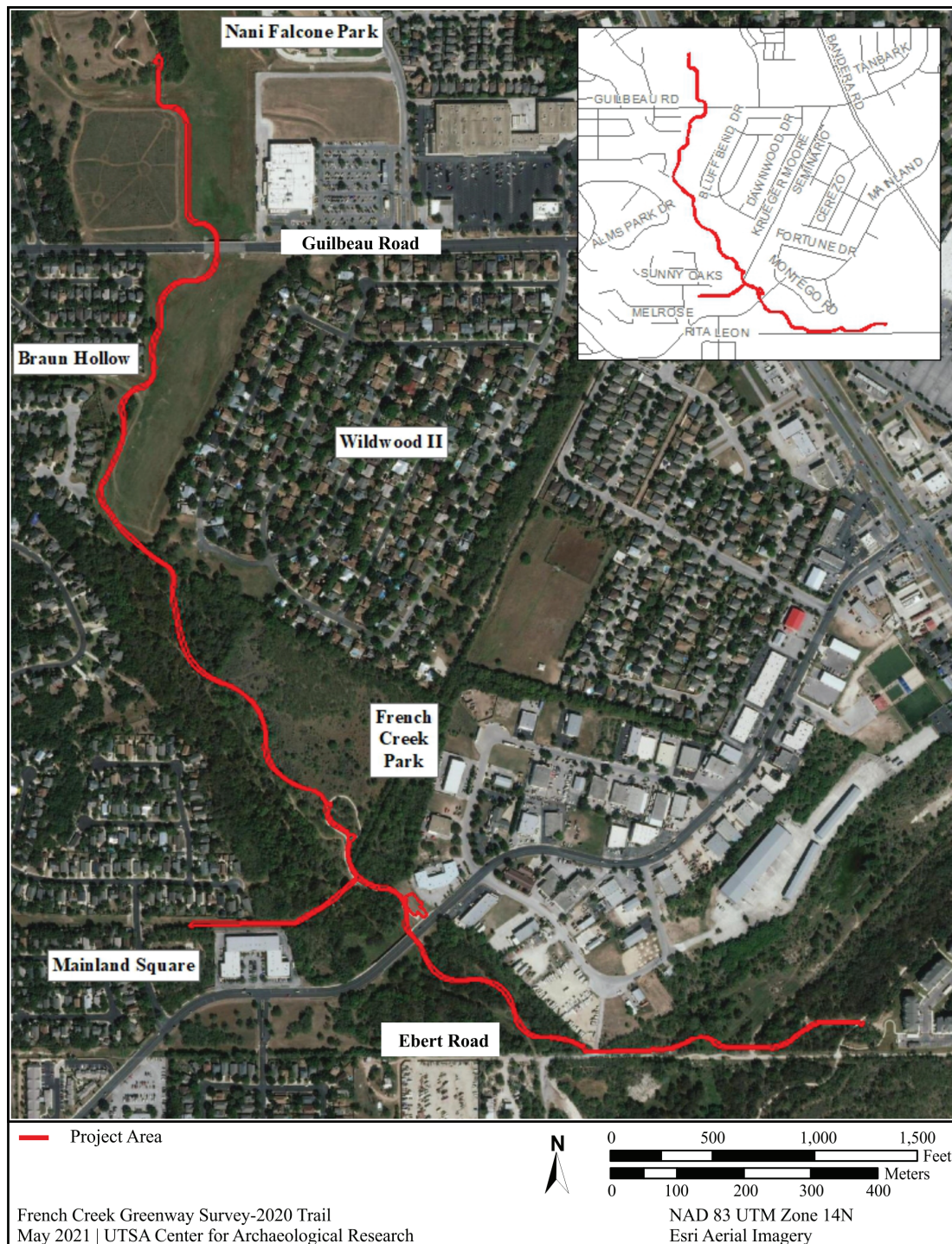


Figure 1-1. The French Creek Greenway Trail project area on satellite imagery.

owned property, work on the trail was completed under the guidance of the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation (COSA-OHP). As such, the project fell under the Texas Antiquities Code and was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8518.

The principal goal of the survey was to identify and document all prehistoric and/or historic archaeological sites that may be impacted by the proposed trail. To accomplish this goal, CAR staff completed a combination of background research, pedestrian survey, and shovel testing across the project area. The area consists of 2.1 km (1.3 miles) of proposed trail and trail connectors with a 15.2 m (50 ft) easement. The trail will generally run north to south in close proximity to French Creek from Nani Falcone Park, west of Mystic Park Drive, and meander south to the Leon Creek Greenway just south of Ebert Road. The completed

project will produce a concrete walking/bike trail that is consistent with the current grade.

Survey and testing along the proposed trail was completed between August 7 and 9, 2018. The Principal Investigator was Paul Shawn Marceaux, CAR Director; José Zapata served as the Project Archaeologist. With the exception of two isolated surface finds, nothing of note was encountered. No new sites were recorded, and all 23 shovel tests were negative. No additional archaeological investigations are recommended for this project.

The following chapter presents the project setting and includes a summary of the work completed along the project area and of previous investigations. Chapter 3 provides the field and lab methods, and Chapter 4 follows with the results of the pedestrian survey and shovel testing. The report summary and recommendations are presented in Chapter 5.

Chapter 2: Project Setting

The French Creek project area is located in northwest San Antonio, in south central Texas). The area falls in the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau/Balcones Escarpment (Wermund 1996). Located just inside Loop 1604 and west of Bandera Road, the area surrounding the project has been extensively developed and is dominated by single-family residential neighborhoods. Based on a random sampling of property records available online, the neighboring homes were built beginning in the early 1980s (Bexar County Appraisal District 2018). At the south end, nearer to Leon Creek, development, primarily consists of commercial properties, such as warehousing, vehicle storage, and construction yards.

The proposed trail is anchored on the north by Nani Falcone Park and on the south by the Leon Creek Greenway Trail. Several neighborhoods are located on either side of the proposed trail. Trail connectors are planned for Braun Hollow, Wildwood II, and Mainland Square (Figure 2-1). The trail segment between Nani Falcone Park and the Wildwood II and Braun Hollows neighborhoods is periodically mowed and, except for some areas around Falcone Park, very few trees and tall grasses are evident. However, the area between the Wildwood II and the Braun Hollow trail connectors and the Leon Creek Greenway Trail is wooded, with hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), Spanish dagger (*Yucca gloriosa*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia*), and greenbrier (*Smilax*). Signs of wildlife in this wooded area are abundant, and CAR staff spotted several deer (*Cervidae*) during the project. The north end of Nani Falcone Park features a 1.8 km (1.1 mile) walking trail. The proposed French Creek trail will link to this trail and then meander south along the creek drainage towards the Leon Creek Greenway Trail.

From the Nani Falcone Park, the trail will continue toward and beneath the Guilbeau Road Bridge and continue along the drainage, east of the Braun Hollow neighborhood. The trail continues toward and east of the Mainland Square neighborhood and along an undeveloped wooded area where numerous deer were observed. The CAR archaeologists were able to follow the trail south along a gravel road, which stopped 150 m (492 ft) north of Mainland Road. This wooded area is littered with household trash and dead foliage, which appear to be remnants of flooding episodes. Surveying in this area encountered the recently constructed French Creek Park trail, which was surveyed and tested in 2014 by Pape-Dawson (Nichols 2014).

Access to a wooded area south of Mainland Road was made by means of backtracking to Bandera Road by vehicle,

then going onto Mainland Road, jumping the curb across from the French Creek Park and driving down into the drainage on a dirt road. This wooded area was also littered with household trash and dead foliage, but littering in this area was a bit more severe than the wooded area north of Mainland Road. The proposed trail continued southeasterly toward Ebert Road, east along the north side of the same road, and then across and towards an existing segment of the Leon Creek Greenway Trail. The north side of Ebert Road had piles of household and industrial trash, as well as brush (probable episodes of illegal dumping).

Figure 2-2 shows the soils within the project area. The dominant soil in the area is Lewisville silty clay (LvB, 1-3 percent slopes), with the trail itself primarily falling in the Tinn and Frio (Tf) and Patrick (PaB, PaC) soils. Lewisville soils are well drained, calcareous, clayey sediments. Tinn and Frio soils are similar to the Lewisville series. Formed in calcareous clayey alluvium and associated with stream floodplains, they are described as frequently flooded. Patrick soil series is a clayey/ sandy alluvium derived from Quaternary age deposits (United States Department of Agriculture 2021). The Tinn and Frio soils have the highest potential to contain Holocene age archaeological deposits given the context and frequent flood deposition.

Culture History

This section focuses on the prehistoric component of culture history as the only artifacts collected were from that time frame. The prehistory of Texas is divided into three broad temporal periods: the Paleoindian, the Archaic and Late Prehistoric periods. The area encompassing the project area falls within the southern portion of the framework developed for Central Texas by Collins (1995; 2004).

The Paleoindian period is divided into two sub-periods: Early (11,500 to 10,900 RCYBP) and Late (10,900 to 8800 RCYBP) periods. While it was once assumed that the diet of Paleoindian people consisted of megafauna, it is now believed that it was quite broad and included small and medium game. The Early Paleoindian period is defined by the presence of lanceolate-shaped, fluted Clovis and Folsom points. Late Paleoindian points are both lanceolate-shaped such as St. Mary's Hall and Golondrina/Barber and stemmed/corner-notched points such as Wilson and San Patrice. While rare, Paleoindian sites found in Bexar County include the Pavo Real (41BX520 and St. Mary's Hall (41BX229) sites (Collins et al. 2003; Hester 2010).



Figure 2-1. The French Creek project area with adjoining parks and neighborhoods.

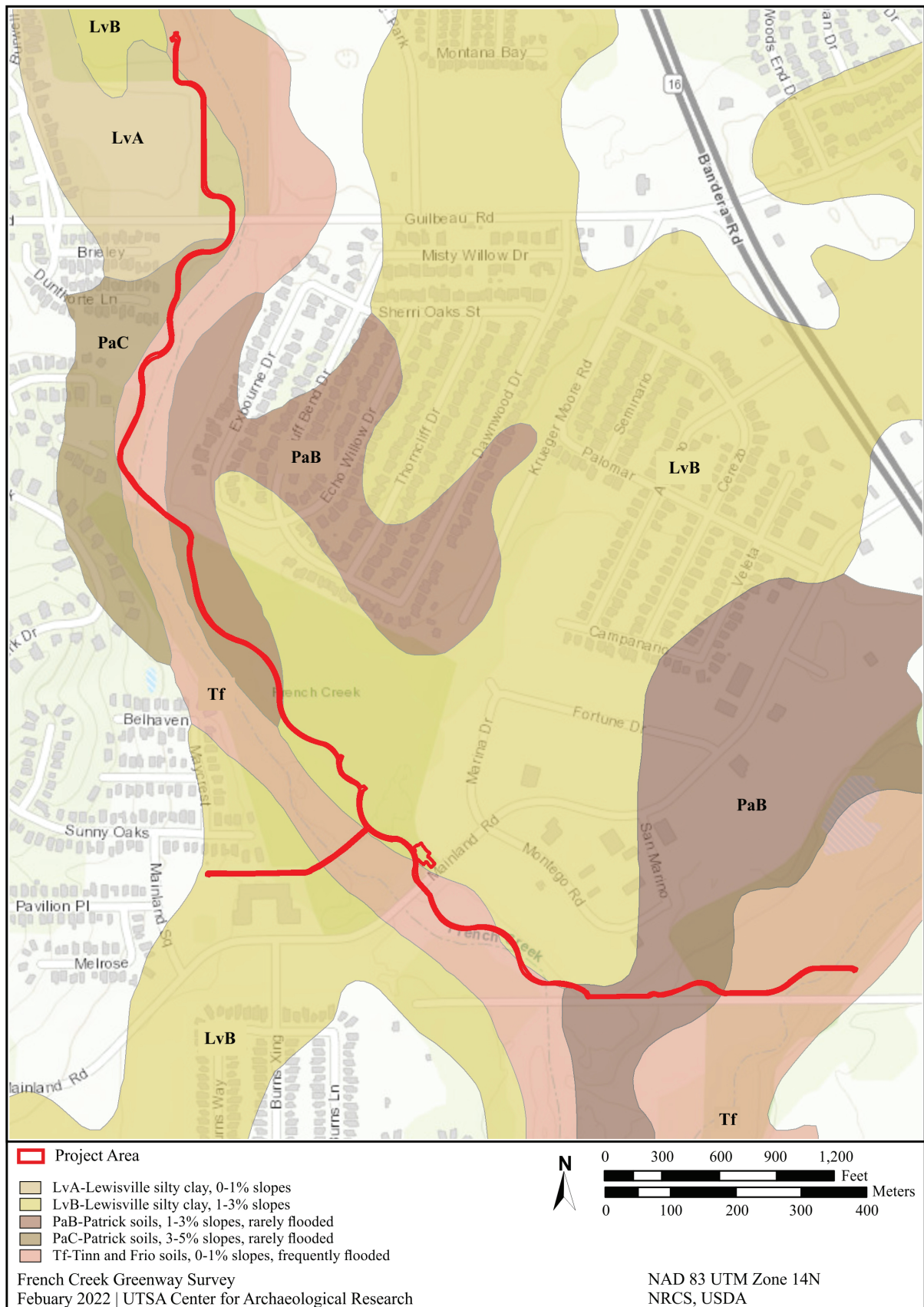


Figure 2-2. Soils of the project area (USDA 2021).

The Archaic period is longest of the three prehistoric periods lasting over 6000 years and divided into three sub- periods: Early, Middle, and Late. Overall, the Archaic period is characterized by a wide variety of point styles, and the increased use of plant processing technologies that included ground stone and burned rock middens (see Acuña 2006; Black 2003; Thoms and Claybaugh 2011).

The Early Archaic (8800 to 6000 RCYBP) is the least known of the three sub-periods of the Archaic period. Projectile points associated with the Early Archaic period include Angostura, Early Split Stem, and Martindale-Uvalde points. The Richard Beene (41BX831) site found in south Bexar County contains an Early Archaic component (Carlson et al., eds 2008; Thoms and Claybaugh 2011).

The Middle Archaic period 6000 to 4000 RCYBP) is characterized by the appearance of Bell-Andice, Taylor, and Nolan-Travis projectile points. The Middle Archaic period is characterized by an early mesic period in which bison may have flourished followed a more xeric climate that necessitated plant intensification. The Granburg site (41BX17/271) in central Bexar County dates in part to the Middle Archaic period (Munoz et al. 2011).

The early Late Archaic period (4000 to 1300/1200 RCYBP) is characterized by the Bulverde and Pedernales points followed by a wide variety of points style that included Lange, Marshall, Marcos, Castroville, Ensor, Frio, Fairland, and Darl. Late Archaic sites are ubiquitous and often have artifacts and features in stratified contexts. It is thought that there is an increase in population density leading to territoriality. The Olmos Dam (41BX1) site is one of many Late Archaic sites in Bexar County (Lukowski 1988).

The Late Prehistoric period is subdivided into two periods: an early period called Austin (1200 to 700 RCYBP) and the late period known as Toyah (700 to 350 RCYBP). The characteristics of the Austin period overlap with the Late Archaic, but with the addition of the bow and arrow. Scallorn and Edward points are indicative of the Austin period. The Toyah period is associated with the Perdiz point

and other small arrow points. In addition, bone-tempered ceramics known as Leon Plain is found at Toyah sites.

Previously Recorded Sites

A search of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Archeological Sites Atlas indicated no previously recorded sites are within the project area nor within 500 m (1,640 ft) of the project area. However, Pape-Dawson (Nichols 2014) did complete an archaeological survey adjacent to the project area, north of Mainland Drive (Nichols 2014). This work consisted of a pedestrian survey and shovel testing for the French Creek Park project. No sites were recorded during this investigation, and all shovel tests were negative (Nichols 2014:14).

In 1977, the CAR completed an archaeological survey and assessment ahead of the “San Antonio 201 Wastewater Treatment Facilities Project” (Fox 1977:1). This survey included the French Creek drainage, and a lithic scatter site (41BX325) was recorded approximately 610 m (2,000 ft) north of the Nani Falcone Park (Fox 1977:5). Although not recorded as a site, additional lithic scatter was located approximately 200 m (656 ft) north of the project area’s north end. This 1977 survey did not include any testing or collection of observed artifacts. The field notes relating to the survey state that the “finds include scrapers, edge altered flakes, and other lithic debris” (Jaquair 1977). According to the field notes, “this area was not recommended for further archaeological work because of the high degree of disturbance by cultivation” (Jaquair 1977). It is important to note that owing to urban sprawl, this area has been dramatically altered over the past 41 years.

A review of the available United States Geographical Survey (USGS) topographic maps of the Helotes quadrangle noted a gradual urbanization of the project area between 1953 and 1992 (Texas Topographic Maps [TTM] 2018). Figure 2-3 shows the significant changes that occurred in the area surrounding the project area, between 1973 and 1992 (TTM 2018). The 1973 map was used since it more closely represents what the area would have been like in 1976-1977, when the 201 wastewater survey was completed (Fox 1977:1). The 1992 map shows significant urbanization over a period of 19 years (TTM 2018).

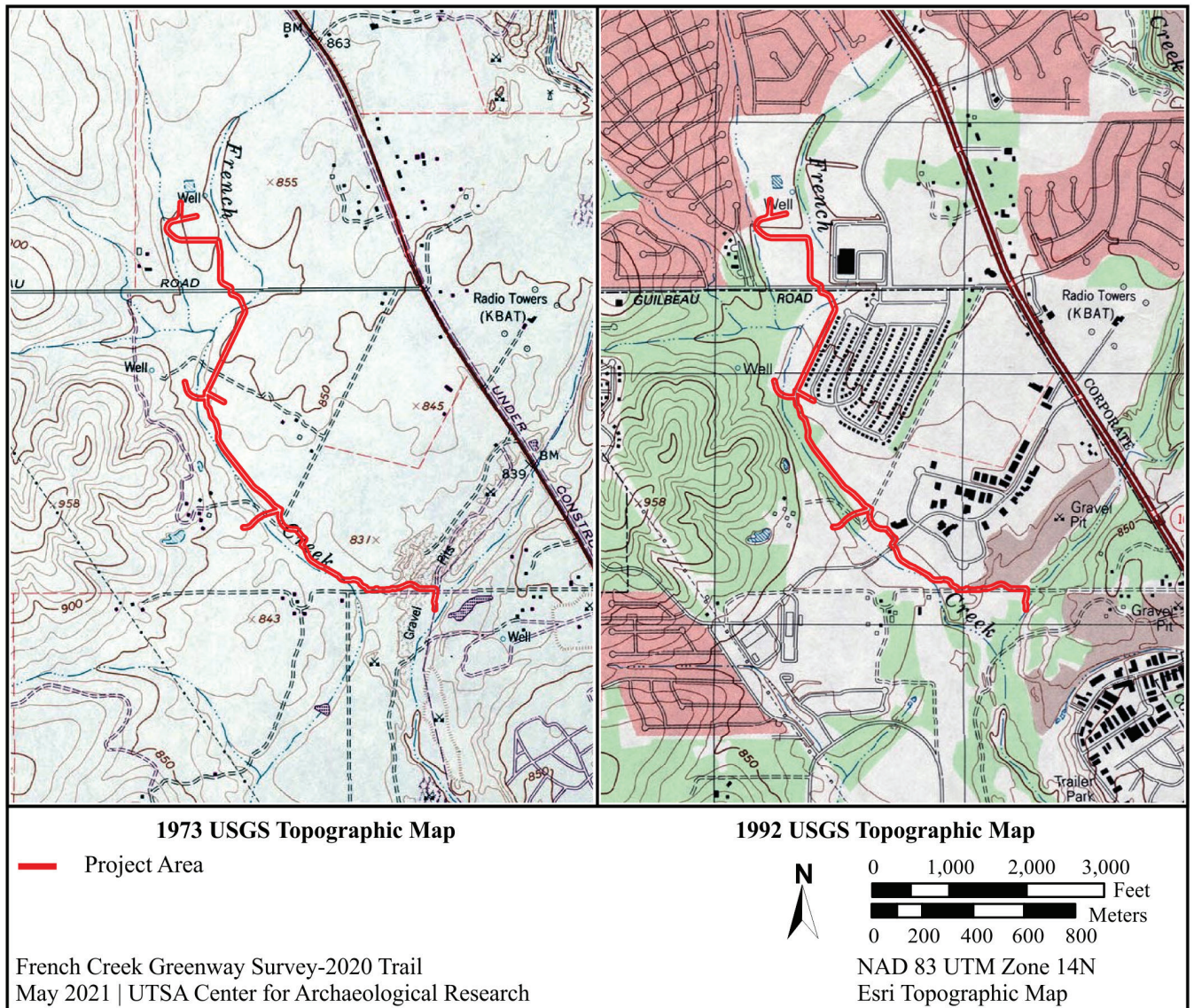


Figure 2-3. Comparison of project area showing development over the 19-year period between 1973 and 1992 (TTM 2018).

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Chapter 3: Field and Lab Methods

This section covers the archaeological services provided for the project. Prior to the fieldwork, CAR staff reviewed extant literature and documents relating to the project area. Background research consisted of reviewing all previous archaeological investigations within 500 m (1,640 ft), as well as relevant reports, maps, and publications related to the project area.

Pedestrian Survey and Shovel Testing

In order to identify and document prehistoric and historic properties, the fieldwork consisted of a pedestrian survey and shovel testing. CAR staff completed a 100 percent pedestrian survey of the 2 km (1.3 mile) trail corridor with a 15.2 m (50 ft) easement. A handheld Trimble Juno GPS unit, with an uploaded shapefile of the trail, was used to plot a course along the unmarked trail, while a Trimble Geo XT unit was used to record surface finds and shovel test locations. CAR staff began by locating the trail segment on the Juno and proceeded to survey the easement from north to south.

Planning for the placement of the shovel tests began with a desktop review of the proposed trail, overlain on satellite imagery. The planned shovel tests were plotted on the map at intervals of between 100 and 150 m (328 and 492 ft). These proposed locations were then added to the trail shapefile and located as the pedestrian survey progressed from north to south. CAR staff excavated 23 shovel tests, a rate just below the number recommended by the THC guidelines. The CAR had proposed to excavate 21 shovel tests, but once in the field, CAR staff abandoned two shovel tests, due to their proximity to the French Creek Park, which Pape-Dawson had already surveyed and tested (Nichols 2014). CAR staff added one shovel test to the west of French Creek Park, in order to compensate for the two that were discarded. Given the length of the French Creek Park survey (250 m or 820 ft), CAR staff did not see a need to add one more shovel test.

The shovel tests were 30 cm (11.8 in) in diameter and were to terminate at 60 cm (24 in) below the ground surface. Several were terminated before the desired 60 cm (24 in) when CAR staff encountered obstructions, such as bedrock and roots. All of the shovel tests were excavated in arbitrary levels of 10 cm (4 in) and soils were screened through one-quarter inch hardware cloth. At the conclusion of each shovel test, CAR staff recorded the natural stratigraphic levels, such as texture and color, and refilled the hole with the screened soil.

The Project Archaeologist maintained a daily log, and all archaeologists completed a standard shovel test form.

Activities and discoveries were documented and supported by digital data, including photographs. CAR staff also recorded the location of each shovel test with a GPS unit and identified the shovel with his/her initials and in sequential order (e.g., Peggy Wall excavated PW1, PW2, PW3, ...).

Site Recording and Collection Policy

For the purposes of this survey, an archaeological site must contain cultural materials or features that are at least 50 years old within a given area. The definition of a site used for this project is as follows: (1) five or more surface artifacts within a 15-m (49.2-ft) radius (ca. 706.9 m²), or (2) a single cultural feature, such as a hearth, observed on the surface or exposed while shovel testing, or (3) a positive shovel test containing at least three artifacts within a given 10-cm (3.9-in) level, or (4) a positive shovel test containing at least five total artifacts, or (5) two positive shovel tests located within 30 m (98.4 ft) of each other.

If evidence of cultural materials meeting the minimum criteria for an archaeological site was encountered in a shovel test or on the surface, shovel tests would be excavated at close intervals to define the extent of the distribution. Site boundaries were to be plotted on aerial photographs and a topographic quadrangle map, and location data was collected using a GPS unit.

The CAR staff members were to collect all artifacts recovered from shovel tests. During the pedestrian survey, archaeologists were to document and collect diagnostic artifacts associated with sites. At the discretion of the Project Archaeologist, non-diagnostic artifacts were documented in place and collected. Any artifact observed on the surface that is not associated with a site was to be recorded as an isolated find. The location of all isolated finds were to be plotted with a GPS unit and plotted on an aerial map.

Lab Analysis, Curation Preparation, and Final Curation

The analysis and organization of records, artifacts, and daily logs was ongoing throughout the project. All records generated during the project were prepared in accordance with THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections and Federal Regulations 36 CFR Part 79. Field forms were printed on acid-free paper and

completed with pencil. Artifacts collected were brought to the CAR laboratory, washed, air-dried, and stored in 4-mil zip-lock, archival-quality bags. Any materials needing extra support were double-bagged, and acid-free labels were placed in the artifact bags. Each laser printer generated label contains provenience information and a corresponding lot number.

All field notes, forms, photographs, and drawings were placed in labeled archival folders. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper and placed in archival-quality page protectors. Following completion of the project, all recovered artifacts and project-related materials, including the final report, will be permanently stored at the CAR's curation facility under accession file number 2108.

Chapter 4: Results of the Fieldwork

Planning for this project began with a desktop review of the proposed trail overlain on recent satellite imagery. The planned shovel tests (ST) were plotted onto a shapefile map at intervals of between 100 and 150 m (328 and 492 ft). CAR staff used a handheld Trimble Juno GPS unit, with an uploaded shapefile of the trail and proposed ST locations, to plot a course along the unmarked trail. The survey and shovel

testing began at the Nani Falcone Park on the north end of the trail and followed the trail as it meandered southeast for 2 km (1.3 miles). Most of the field work was completed in August 2018. An additional three STs (JZ9, JZ10, and JZ11) were completed in November 2018, when the planned trail was realigned along the right bank of the drainage, between the Braun Hollow and Wildwood II neighborhoods (Figure 4-1).

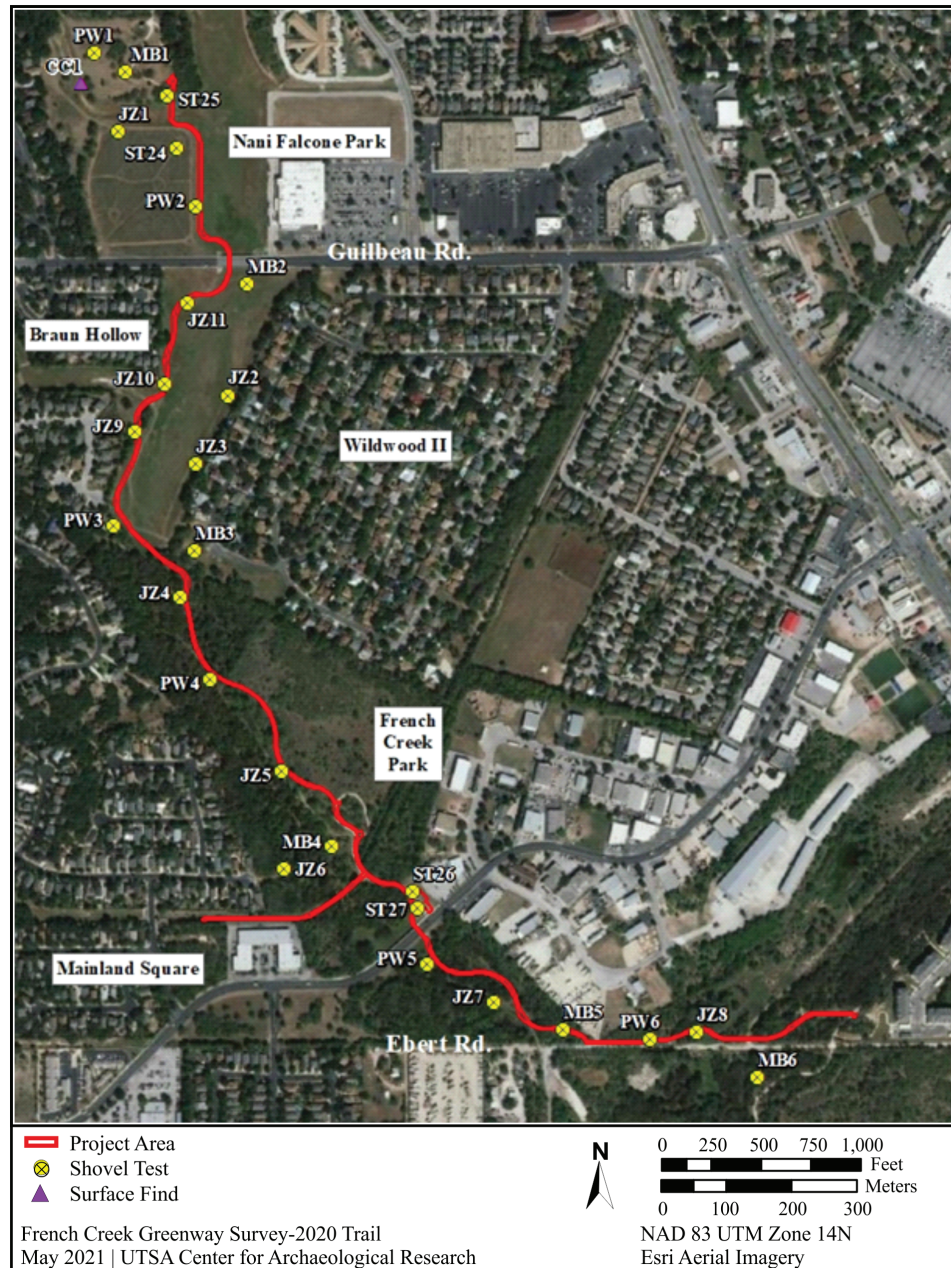


Figure 4-1. The project area showing locations of 27 shovel tests and the isolated surface find (CC1); note that trail modifications resulted in a few shovel tests being outside the final trail footprint.

In May 2021, further modifications caused CAR staff to carry out additional testing and surveying. At the far north end, the trail shifted east and away from shovel tests PW1, MB1, and JZ1. A second modification was off Mainland Drive, where a small parking lot will be developed. Two additional modifications involved trail connectors. One of the new trail connectors was just north and west of the above noted parking area. This area had been surveyed previously by Nichols (2014). A revisit of this area by CAR in May 2021 noted that construction had already begun. This was also the case on the second trail connector, at the far south end of the French Creek Trail.

Pedestrian Survey and Shovel Testing

CAR staff surveyed a 15.2-m wide (50-ft wide) path along the length of the project area and stopped to excavate shovel tests along the way. A few of the shovel tests were relocated 1-2 m (3.3-6.6 ft) from their planned locations, due to visible disturbances or potential obstructions. A Trimble Geo XT was used to record shovel test locations as they were completed. Table 4-1 presents the 27 shovel tests in sequence from north to south. Figure 4-1 indicates the placement of the 27 shovel tests and the location of the isolated surface find (CC1). As a

Table 4-1. Summary of Shovel Tests

Shovel Test	End Level	Depth (cmbs)	Depth (inches)	Reason for Termination	Results +/-
PW1	5	47	18.5	Rocks	Negative
MB1	6	60	23.6	Completed	Negative
JZ1	6	60	23.6	Completed	Negative
ST25	6	60	23.6	Completed	Negative
ST24	6	60	23.6	Completed	Negative
PW2	2	20	7.9	Rocks	Negative
MB2	2	17	6.7	Rocks	Negative
JZ2	3	24	9.4	Rocks	Negative
JZ3	1	10	3.9	Rocks	Negative
PW3	6	55	21.7	Rocks	Negative
MB3	5	47	18.5	Rocks	Negative
JZ4	5	50	19.7	Tree roots	Negative
PW4	4	33	13.0	Rocks	Negative
JZ5	6	60	23.6	Completed	Negative
JZ6	5	42	16.5	Rocks	Negative
MB4	5	43	16.9	Rocks	Negative
PW5	4	32	12.6	Rocks	Negative
MB5	4	40	15.7	Hard/compact sediment	Negative
JZ7	4	38	15.0	Rocks	Negative
PW6	1	10	3.9	Rocks	Negative
JZ8	1	10	3.9	Rocks	Negative
MB6	3	22	8.7	Rocks	Negative
JZ9	3	23	9.1	Rocks	Negative
JZ10	2	15	5.9	Rocks	Negative
JZ11	2	14	5.5	Rocks	Negative
ST26	3	30	11.8	Sterile clay	Negative
ST27	2	20	7.9	Sterile clay	Negative

point of reference, three of the neighboring communities are indicated in the figure. In addition, as shown in Figure 4-1, each of these three neighborhoods will have a trail connector.

Recent modifications to the trail included two trail connectors. One of these was north and west of the new parking area (location of ST 26 and ST 27). This area had been previously investigated by Nichols (2014:12) who excavated several shovel tests, all of which were negative. The footprint for this connector had already been graded when we surveyed, so while this segment was walked, it was not tested. A second trail connector, just north of Ebert Road, had also been graded at the time of our revisit. As with the first section, the area was walked but no shovel tests were excavated.

Six shovel tests were placed inside Falcone Park with the first two (PW1 and MB1) located at what was the start of the trail, on two separate trail connectors. Shovel test PW1 was excavated to 47 cm below the surface (cmbs; 18.5 in) and terminated due to large rocks (Figure 4-2). The excavated soils were a very dark grayish brown, hard clay. Shovel test MB1 was a very dark brown, hard clay. The CAR staff moved away from the first two shovel tests and, in the process of surveying, collected two cores (CC1) on the surface (Figure 4-3). The cores were approximately 1 m (3.3 ft) apart and at the top edge of an embankment of an unnamed creek. The unnamed creek runs along this area, between the Braun Hollow neighborhood and Falcone

Park. The area within 8 m (26.2 ft) of the find was visually surveyed in all directions with negative results.

Two additional shovel tests (JZ1 and PW2) were located within the park boundary, and the results were negative. Shovel test JZ1 was placed in an open area just above the right bank of the unnamed creek, which had been recently mowed. This shovel test was excavated to 60 cmbs (23.6 in), and three strata were identified. Generally, the sediments were described as being dark to very dark brown, compact to hard clay. The trail continued east for about 100 m (328.1 ft), then turned south above the right bank of the French Creek. The area was surveyed as CAR staff followed the trace of the trail on the Juno GPS with no additional finds. Shovel test PW2, also within Falcone Park, was placed approximately 75 m (246.1 ft) north of Guilbeau Road. Shovel test PW2 was terminated within 20 cmbs (7.9 in) due to a heavy concentration of gravel (Figure 4-4).

Because the first trail connector shifted to an area east of MB1 and JZ1, two additional shovel tests were completed. ST25 was located at the far north end of the new trail connector, under a grove of mesquite trees. The soil was moist and consisted of a clay loam to 44 cm (17.3 in) and then a dark clay to 60 cm (23.6 in). The strata had little gravel, with no artifacts in either layer.

Figure 4-5 is a photograph taken from the PW2 location, looking south toward Guilbeau Road. The approximate location of the trail is highlighted as it tracks south above the French Creek drainage, and then crosses the drainage to the southeast.

Having completed shovel test PW2, CAR staff continued south and then southeast along the drainage. Nothing of note was observed on the surface, and the surveying continued south along the proposed trail. The approximate location of the trail is highlighted as it tracks north along the right bank of the French Creek drainage (Figure 4-6). Three shovel tests (MB2, JZ2, and JZ3) were located along the left bank of the drainage. All three were terminated above 30 cmbs (11.8 in) as a result of hitting dense gravel and rocks. The realignment of the planned trail to the opposite side of the drainage required three additional shovel tests (JZ9, JZ10, and JZ11). The realignment is highlighted in Figure 4-6. As in the case of STs MB2, JZ2, and JZ3, these additional tests were also terminated above 30 cmbs (11.8 in). Two trail connector areas, at Braun Hollow and Wildwood II, were also tested with negative results. These were shovel tests MB3 and PW3, which were excavated to 47 and 55 cmbs (18.5 and 21.7 in), respectively.

As shown in Figure 4-1, the area south of shovel test JZ4, extending to Ebert Road, is an undeveloped and



Figure 4-2. Shovel test PW1 terminated at 47 cmbs; note rocks at bottom.

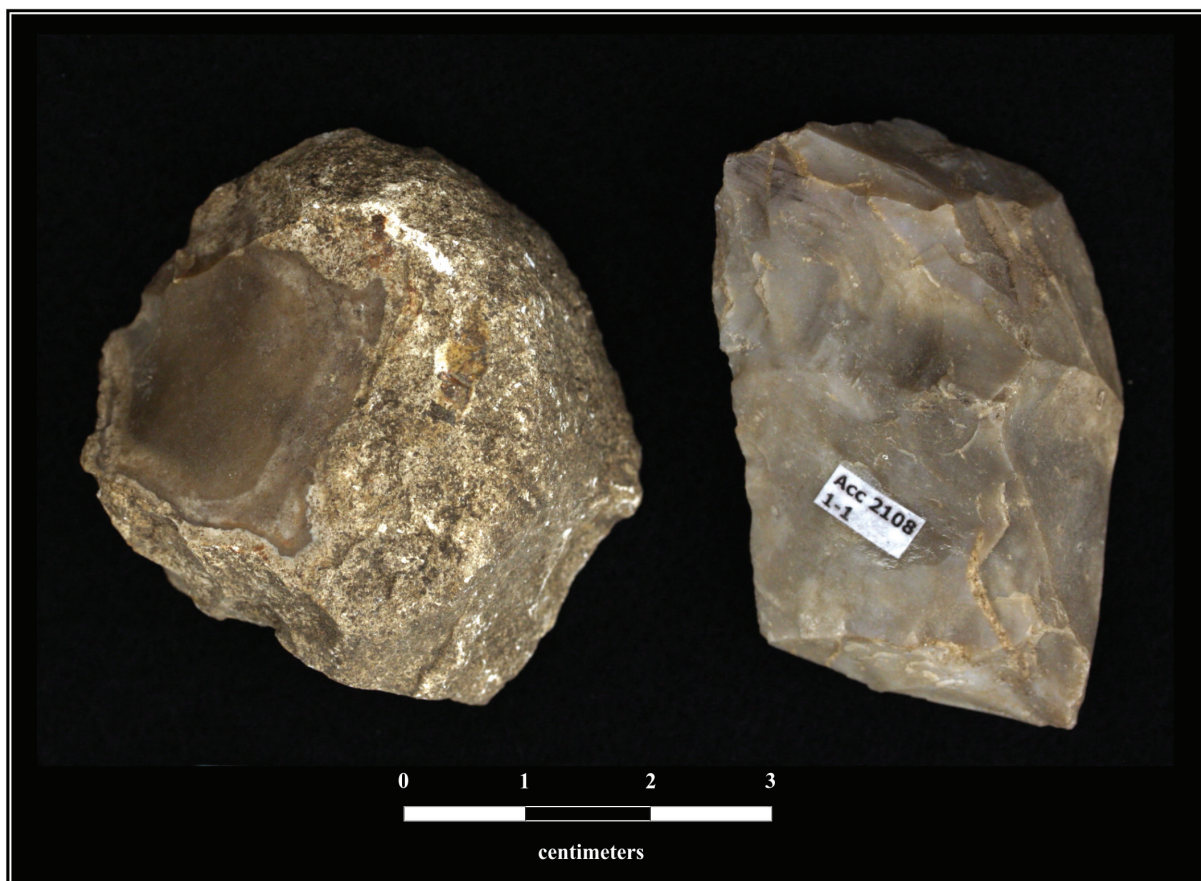


Figure 4-3. Two chert cores recovered on the surface in the northern portion of the project area.

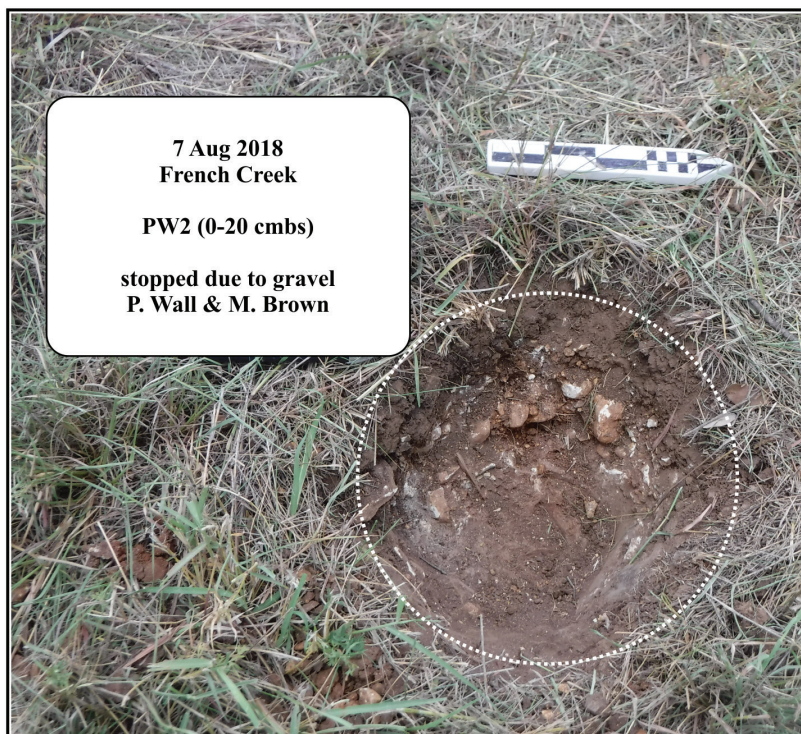


Figure 4-4. Shovel test PW2 terminated at 20 cmbs; note concentration of gravel at bottom.



Figure 4-5. View of the proposed French Creek Greenway Trail (looking south toward Guilbeau Road).



Figure 4-6. View of the proposed French Creek Greenway Trail (looking north toward Guilbeau Road).

heavily wooded area. This area, south of the Woodlands II neighborhood, is littered with household trash and brush piles that are attributable to flooding events. Household furniture and makeshift shelters were also observed along the proposed trail. The soils in the area south of the Woodlands II and leading up to French Creek Park were deeper. Of the five shovel tests excavated in the area, four (JZ4, JZ5, JZ6, and MB4) were excavated to between 50 and 60 cmbs (19.7 and 23.6 in), but the results continued to be negative. The area between shovel test MB4 and Mainland Road, west of French Creek Park, had been surveyed and shovel tested by Pape-Dawson in 2014 (Nichols 2014).

The trail continued south of Mainland Road through a wooded area that was also littered with household trash and brush piles. Shovel test PW5 was located approximately 50 m (164 ft) south of Mainland Road (Figure 4-7).

Surveying and testing along the French Creek drainage, between Mainland Road and Ebert Road continued with negative results. Two (PW6 and JZ8) of the five shovel tests terminated at 10 cmbs (3.9 in) due to rocks, and the other three (PW5, MB5, and JZ7) were excavated to between 32 and 40 cmbs (12.6 and 15.7 in). Five shovel tests were located along this last stretch of a heavily wooded area, and notable signs of illegal dumping were present along the north side of Ebert Road. The last shovel test excavated (MB6) was located approximately 30 m (98.4 ft) south of Ebert Road (Figure 4-8). Shovel test MB6 terminated at 22 cmbs (8.7 in) due to large rocks.

All 27 shovel tests were negative. The only cultural material recovered from the shovel tests consisted of post-1950 glass, paper, and plastic. The soils varied considerably in color and texture (see Table 4-2). In terms



Figure 4-7. Excavation of PW5; proposed French Creek Greenway Trail south of Mainland Road (view south).

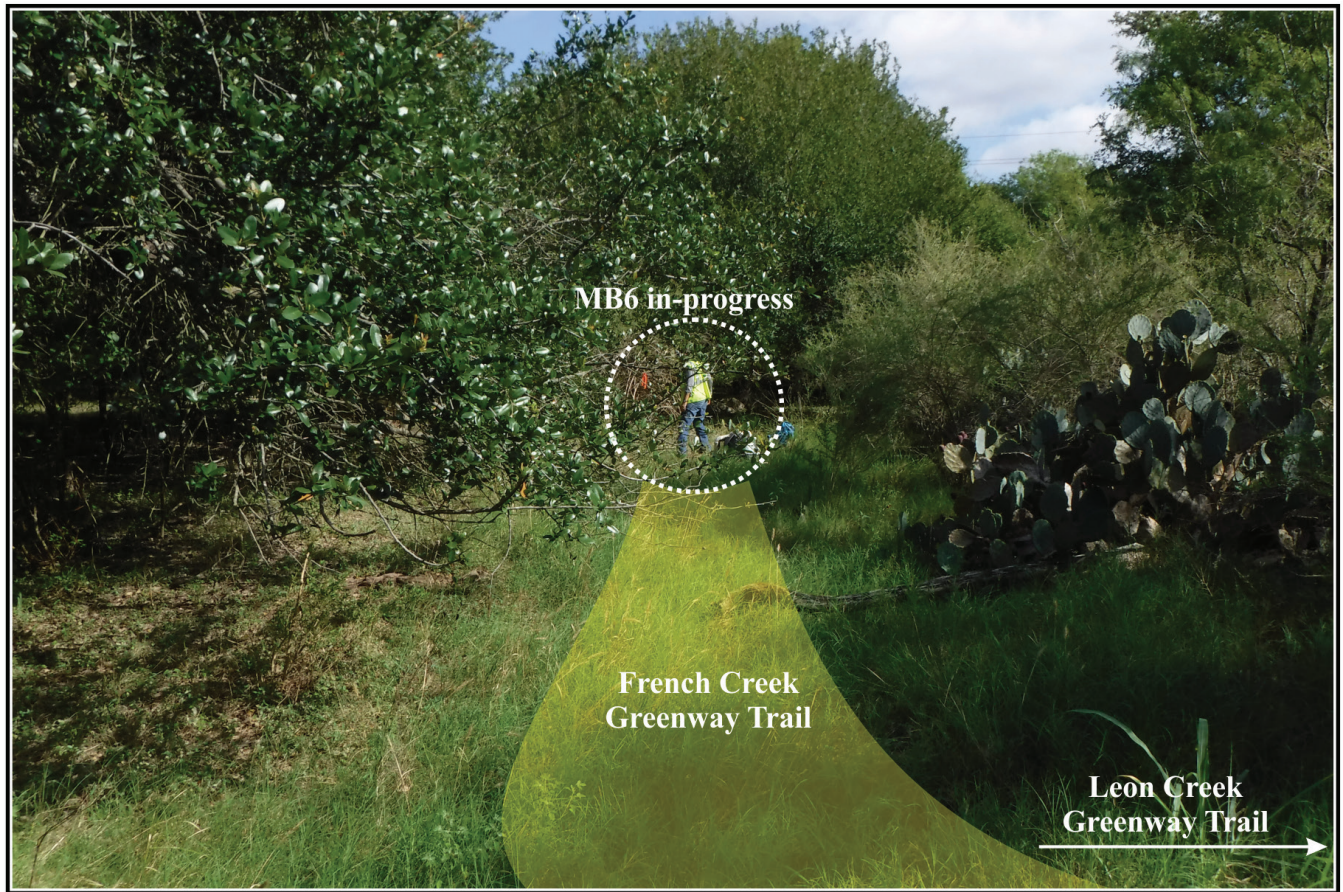


Figure 4-8. Excavation of MB6; proposed French Creek Greenway Trail, south of Ebert Road (view north); this segment was modified so that the revised trail does not cross Ebert Road.

of soil depth, nine of the 23 shovel tests were shallow (PW2, MB2, JZ2, JZ3, PW6, JZ8, MB6, ST 26 and ST27), as these terminated between 10 and 24 cmbs (3.9 and 9.4 in). Four of the seven (PW2, MB2, JZ2 and JZ3) were located on the French Creek drainage where the grass is kept short and is susceptible to erosion. The depth of the shovel tests were just as shallow at the far south end, on

either side of Ebert Road and within 150 m (492 ft) of the confluence of French Creek with Leon Creek. The deeper soils were found to be on the terrace above the French Creek, at the far north end and in the wooded area south of the Wildwood II neighborhood. The increased depth of soils is likely due to the dense shrubs and grasses that serve to retain alluvial sediments.

Table 4-2. Shovel Testing Strata

Shovel Test	Depth (cm)	Munsell Color	Soils
PW1	0 - 15	10YR3/2 very dark grayish brown	Hard clay
	15 - 47	10YR2/2 very dark brown	Compact silty clay; large cobbles at 47 cmbs - Stopped
MB1	0 - 14	10YR2/3 very dark brown	Very hard clay
	14 - 26	10YR4/2 dark grayish brown	Very hard silty clay
	26 - 60	10YR4/3 brown	Compact clay
JZ1	0 - 13	10YR3/2 very dark grayish brown	Compact silty clay
	13 - 23	10YR3/3 dark brown	Compact silty clay
	23 - 60	10YR3/3 dark brown	Hard silty clay
PW2	0 - 10	10YR3/3 dark brown	Hard clay/sand
	10 - 20	10YR4/2 dark grayish brown	Very hard clay/sand; large cobbles at 20 cmbs - Stopped
ST25	0 - 44	10YR3/2 very dark grayish brown	Clay loam
	44 - 60	10YR4/2 dark grayish brown	Clay loam with gravels
ST24	0 - 60	10YR4/4 dark yellowish brown	Compact silty clay with gravels to 60 cm
MB2	0 - 6	10YR4/2 dark grayish brown	Hard clay/sand
	6 - 17	10YR4/3 brown	Hard clay/sand; large cobbles at 17 cmbs - Stopped
JZ2	0 - 11	10YR4/3 brown	Very hard clay/sand
	11 - 20	10YR4/6 dark yellowish brown	Compact clay/sand with 60% gravel and calcium Carbonate flakes
	20 - 24	10YR6/6 brownish yellow	Very hard clay/sand; 90% eroded limestone gravel - Stopped
JZ3	0 - 3	10YR4/3 brown	Compact silty clay
	3 - 10	10YR6/8 brownish yellow (gravel)	Very hard and dense gravel - Stopped
PW3	0 - 10	10YR3/3 dark brown	Soft silty clay
	10 - 19	10YR4/3 brown	Soft silty clay
	19 - 55	10YR4/4 dark yellowish brown	Compact clay; large cobbles at 55 cmbs - Stopped
MB3	0 - 9	10YR2/2 very dark brown	Compact silty clay
	9 - 18	10YR3/2 very dark grayish brown	Compact clay
	18 - 47	10YR2/1 black	Hard clay; large cobbles at 47 cmbs - Stopped
JZ4	0 - 12	10YR5/2 grayish brown	Soft silty clay
	12 - 50	10YR4/2 dark grayish brown	Compact silty clay; 50% gravel at 20-30 cmbs, decreased to 30% at 30-40 cmbs then 20% at 40-50 cmbs; tree roots in the way at 50 cmbs - Stopped
PW4	0 - 9	10YR4/3 brown	Very hard silty clay
	9 - 16	10YR3/1 very dark gray	Very hard clay
	16 - 33	10YR3/2 very dark grayish brown	Very hard clay; dense cobbles at 33 cmbs - Stopped
JZ5	0 - 9	10YR5/4 yellowish brown	Soft silty clay
	9 - 31	10YR6/2 light brownish gray	Soft silty sand
	31 - 57	10YR3/3 dark brown	Compact clay; eroded limestone gravel at 57 cmbs - Stopped
JZ6	0 - 5	10YR7/1 light gray	Silty clay
	5 - 40	10YR3/2 very dark grayish brown	Compact to hard clay with 5% rocks
	40 - 42	10YR4/4 dark yellowish brown	Dense layer of limestone gravel at 42 cmbs - Stopped

Table 4-2. Shovel Testing Strata (continued)

Shovel Test	Depth (cm)	Munsell Color	Soils
MB4	0 - 16	10YR3/3 dark brown	Soft silty clay
	16 - 43	10YR3/4 dark yellowish brown	Very hard silty clay; large cobbles at 43 cmbs - Stopped
PW5	0 - 15	10YR4/2 dark grayish brown	Soft silt
	15 - 32	10YR2/2 very dark brown	Compact clay; large cobbles at 32 cmbs - Stopped
MB5	0 - 40	10YR4/6 dark yellowish brown	Compact to very hard sand; cement-like at 40 cmbs - Stopped
JZ7	0 - 9	10YR4/2 dark grayish brown	Compact silty clay
	9 - 19	10YR3/2 very dark grayish brown	Compact silty clay with 20% gravel
	19 - 38	10YR3/1 very dark gray	Compact silty clay; 30% gravel at 20-30 cmbs then increased to 80% at 38 cmbs - Stopped
PW6	0 - 10	10YR5/3 brown	Very hard clay/sand; dense gravel at 10 cmbs - Stopped
JZ8	0 - 9	10YR5/2 grayish brown	Hard clay/sand
	9 - 10	10YR6/3 pale brown	Dense layer of limestone gravel at 10 cmbs - Stopped
MB6	0 - 22	10YR5/3 brown	Compact silt; large cobbles at 22 cmbs - Stopped
JZ9	0 - 10	10YR3/2 very dark grayish brown	Clay loam
	10 - 20	10YR4/2 dark grayish brown	Clay loam with gravels
	20 - 23	10YR4/2 dark grayish brown	Clay loam - cobbles at 23 cm -- Stopped
JZ10	0 - 10	10YR3/2 very dark grayish brown	Clay with gravels at 9 cm
	10 - 15	10YR3/2 very dark grayish brown	Mostly gravel and cobbles at 15 cm -- Stopped
JZ11	0 - 14	10YR3/3 dark brown	Dark silty clay with dense cobbles at 14 cm -- Stopped
ST26	0 - 20	10YR5/3 brown	Hard silt with gravels
	20 - 30	10YR6/6 brownish yellow	Very hard sterile clay - Stopped at 30 cm
ST27	0 - 10	10YR5/3 brown	Hard silt with gravel
	10 - 20	10YR6/6 brownish yellow	Very hard sterile clay - Stopped at 20 cm

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Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

The CAR archaeologists completed a 100 percent pedestrian survey and shovel testing of the French Creek Greenway Trail. The principal goal was to identify and document all prehistoric and/or historic archaeological sites that may be impacted by the proposed trail. The project area consisted of 2.1 km (1.3 miles) of proposed trail and trail connectors with a 15.2 m (50 ft) easement. The trail will generally run north to south in close proximity to French Creek from Nani Falcone Park to the west of Bandera Road and meander to the southeast toward the Leon Creek Greenway Trail connecting north of Ebert Road.

The pedestrian survey resulted in locating two cores, but no other artifacts or features were near these isolated finds. In addition, 27 shovel tests were completed along the project area and all were negative. Only four (MB1, JZ1, ST25, and ST24) were excavated to the terminal depth of 60 cmbs (23.6 in), and twelve of the 27 (PW2, ST 25,

ST 24, MB2, JZ2, JZ3, PW6, JZ8, MB6, JZ9, JZ10, and JZ11) were terminated within 30 cmbs (11.8 in). The soils across the project area were wide-ranging, which would be attributable to a combination of cultivation, urban sprawl, and deposition resulting from periodic flooding.

In conclusion, the results of the pedestrian survey and testing along the project area were negative. No new sites were encountered, and with the exception of an isolated find, no historic or prehistoric cultural material was encountered. Previous surveys in the area (see Nichols 2014) yielded similar results. Therefore, the CAR recommends no additional archaeological work associated with the construction of the French Creek Greenway Trail is necessary. However, in the event that construction of the trail reveals archaeological deposits, work should cease and the THC as well as the COSA-OHP should be notified.

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