# Crescent Bend Nature Park Pedestrian Survey, Bexar County, Texas

*by*
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Texas Antiquities Permit No. 5053

*Prepared for*:
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233 N. Pecos, Ste. 420
San Antonio, Texas 78207

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Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
Technical Report, No. 15

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# Abstract

The Center for Archaeological Research at The University of Texas at San Antonio performed an intensive pedestrian survey of the Crescent Bend Nature Park, Bexar County, Texas. The work was conducted for Bexar County Infrastructure Services. The project area was once a residential neighborhood that had been destroyed during the 1998 flooding of Cibolo Creek in the Schertz area. During the 41-acre pedestrian survey conducted by CAR, 38 shovel tests and nine backhoe trenches were excavated. No sites were identified within the project area and the CAR recommends that the improvements for the Crescent Bend Nature Park can proceed as planned. The project was performed under Texas Antiquities Permit # 5053 with Jennifer L. Thompson serving as Principal Investigator and Antonia L. Figueroa serving as Project Archaeologist.

All materials recovered during the investigations and all project related documents are curated at the Center for Archaeological Research.

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# Acknowledgements

The pedestrian survey could not have been completed without the field crew that included Sara Bodah, Cyndi Dickey Jon Dowling and Jason Perez. Thanks to Betty Bueché, the Facilities Division Manger with Bexar County Infrastructure Services. Thanks to the contractors, Land Design Partners, that made the backhoe equipment and operator available during the archaeological investigations. Laboratory duties were conducted by Jason Perez under the direction of Marybeth Tomka (laboratory director). Thanks to Steve Tomka (director) for his aid with field logistics and providing comments on the draft report. Thanks to Principal Investigator Jennifer L. Thompson for aiding with the project, prior to giving birth to twin girls. Drafting of report figures and the editing of the final report was completed by Bruce Moses.

# Chapter 1: Introduction

In October 2008, the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) completed a pedestrian survey for the proposed Crescent Bend Nature Park, along the Cibolo Creek in Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1-1). The Bexar County Infrastructure Services contracted with the Center for Archaeological Research at The University of Texas at San Antonio to complete an inventory evaluation of archaeological sites in the previously undisturbed portion of 41 acres on Cibolo Creek near Schertz, Bexar County, Texas. The archaeological investigations conducted by CAR included the excavation of 38 shovel tests and nine backhoe trenches. No archaeological sites were identified during the survey and the CAR recommends that plans associated with the Crescent Bend Nature Park can proceed as planned.

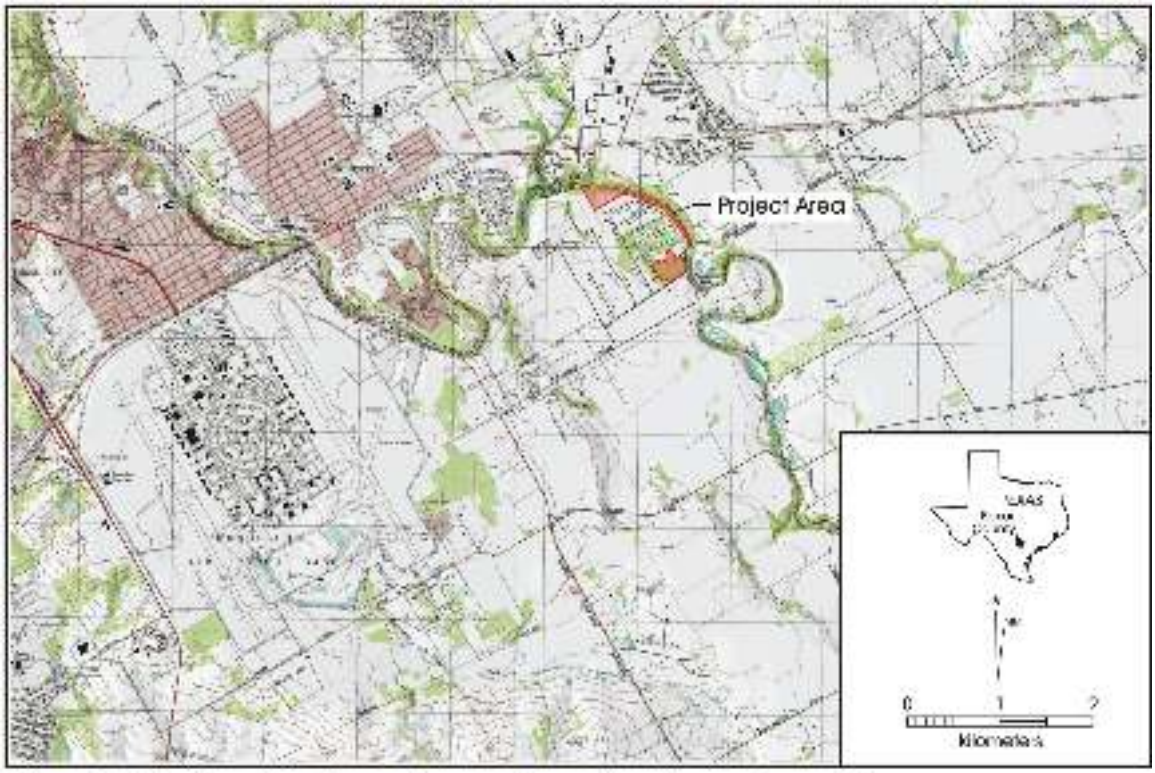


Figure 1-1. *The location of the project area in northeast Bexar County, Texas.*

Bexar County is developing the area as Crescent Bend Nature Park across land that was once a residential neighborhood destroyed by flooding. Given that the proposed work takes place on land owned by Bexar County, a political subdivision of the state of Texas, and is receiving grant funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), a state agency, the project falls under the jurisdiction of the Antiquities Code of Texas. The principal oversight agency is the

Archaeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission. The project was completed under Texas Antiquities permit# 5053 with Jennifer L. Thompson serving as Principal Investigator and Antonia L. Figueroa serving as Project Archaeologist.

# Chapter 2: Project Background

## Project Area and Area of Potential Effect

The project area is depicted on the Marion Quadrangle and is located northeast of Randolph Air Force Base on Cibolo Creek near Schaefer Road in northern Bexar County. This portion of Bexar County is rapidly growing along Loop 1604 and IH35. In the vicinity of the project area, residential properties on large tracts are most common. The project area was formerly a residential neighborhood that was destroyed by flooding in 1998. Homes were not rebuilt and the immediate area is now undeveloped and sparsely wooded. The project area and the Area of Potential Effect (APE) consist of northern and southern tracts which are less developed. The two tracts of land are joined by a narrow section of land that runs between the Cibolo Creek and a newly installed trail. The northern section of APE is 15 acres while the southern section is 17 acres. The narrow section that spans between the two larger areas is 9 acres. The entire APE totals 41 acres (Figure 2-1).


Figure 2-1. *Aerial photograph of the Area of Potential Effect (APE).*

CAR director, Dr. Steve A. Tomka, visited the property on September 11, 2008 to discuss the archaeological pedestrian survey with Bexar County officials and representatives of the construction contractor. Prior to the site visit, a 4-6-foot wide easement had been graded to a depth of 4-6 inches for a trail planned east of the eastern-most street in the old development (Figure 2-2). During grading for the trail, top soil was removed and spread along one and in some cases both sides of the trail. Dr. Tomka walked the graded and exposed easement and observed only modern debris and no historic and/or prehistoric materials were identified. This easement fell outside of the area recommended by Texas Historical Commission (THC) reviewers (Debra Beene) for archaeological investigation. The narrow 9-acre area is located between this easement and the creek.

Figure 2-2. *Trail easement that was graded prior to archaeological investigations northeast of the old development.*

## Environment

Topography in the immediate project area has little relief as it is in the floodplain of Cibolo Creek, which is the closest named water source and serves as the boundary between Bexar and Guadalupe Counties (Figure 2-3). Cibolo Creek originates ten miles away in southwest Kendall County and

runs southeast 100 miles. It forms the Bexar-Comal County and the Bexar-Guadalupe County lines and then crosses Wilson County to the mouth of the San Antonio River (HTO 2008).

The project area has a modified subtropical and subhumid climate with cool winters and hot summers (Norwine 1995). The hot weather is persistent from late May through September. The cool season begins about the first of November and extends through March. Winters are typically short and mild with light precipitation. Rainfall reported for San Antonio International Airport averages about 32.92 inches a year (SRCC 2008; based on monthly averages from 1971 to 2000). Monthly temperature averages range from 50°F in January to 84 °F in August.

Figure 2-3. *Cibolo Creek adjacent to the project area, view to the northwest.*

Bexar County is part of three major geographic regions that include the Edwards Plateau, the Blackland Prairie and the South Texas Brush Country (Nickels et al. 1997). The northern portion of the county is within the Edwards Plateau geographic region that gradually slopes to the southeast and ends in the Balcones Escarpment (Black 1989).

The Edwards Plateau vegetation regime includes bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*) and several species of grasses that include bluestem (*Shcizachyrium and Andropogon nutans*), common curly mesquite (*Hiaria belanger*), buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*) and Canadian wild rye (*Elymus Canadensis*).

Three soil units are found in the project area. Trinity and Frio soils (Tf), 0 to 1 percent frequently flooded, are mapped in the southern portion of the project area and common in northern and central Bexar County (Taylor et al. 1966). Trinity soils are Holocene aged clayey alluvium common on flood plains. A typical profile shows clay from 0 to 80 inches. Frio soils are also common on floodplains. These are loamy alluvium and Holocene aged. A typical Frio soil profile consists of silty clay loam to 50 inches over clay loam to 80 inches.

Venus series soils are nearly level or gently sloping, deep and moderately dark in color. They usually occur on terraces or alluvial fans along main rivers and streams across Bexar County. Venus loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, (VaA) are mapped along Cibolo Creek in the project area. These are common to stream terraces. A typical profile includes loam from 0 to 62 inches with lower levels containing more clay and upper levels more loam. Venus loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes (VaB) is likely to be encountered in the northern portion of the project area. These have similar properties to Venus loam, 0 to1 percent slopes.

## Culture Chronology

Bexar County is divided into the Central Texas and South Texas archaeological regions. Northern Bexar County falls into the Central Texas region. The culture chronology for Central Texas is divided into four periods: Paleoindian, Archaic, Late Prehistoric and Historic. This section gives a brief summary of each period, including historical background on the community of Schertz.

### Paleoindian Period (11500-8800 BP)

This period, associated with the earliest documented presence of humans in Bexar County, is typically divided into early and late segments. Populations at this time consisted of mobile groups that hunted large, highly mobile mega fauna coupled with the exploitation of a variety of small game. Evidence from the Wilson-Leonard site also suggests the exploitation of riparian forest and grass species (Bousman et al. 2004).

The early segment is that represented by Clovis and Folsom adaptations. Meltzer and Bever (1995) have documented 406 Clovis sites in Texas. Clovis age sites usually consist of kill localities, quarry/workshops, residential camps, burials and caches, which are indicative of repeated return to the same locations (Collins 1995). The earliest documented Paleoindian site is the Aubrey site in Denton County, with radiocarbon assays of 11542 ± 111 BP and 11590 ± 93 BP (Bousman et al. 2004:48).

In the later portion of the period, there were stylistic changes in projectile point technology seen in Dalton, Scottsbluff, and Golondrina traditions. While widespread in geographic range, these types occurred in high densities in the High Plains and Central Texas (Meltzer and Bever 1995). As the climate warmed, megafauna gradually died off, and subsistence patterns shifted.

### Archaic (8800-1200 BP)

This period is subdivided into the Early, Middle and Late subperiods. The subperiods are distinguished by differences in climate conditions, resource availability, subsistence practices and diagnostic projectile points (Collins 1995). Plant gathering appears to have become an important part of subsistence strategies during this time and was probably even more important during xeric periods. This may explain the appearance of burned rock earth ovens. They were used to cook a variety of plant foods that were otherwise inedible, such as the roots of sotol and yucca (Collins 1995: 383).

In the Early Archaic (8800-6000 BP), there was a shift in subsistence from large game hunting to plant foods and medium and small species (Collins 1995). Projectile point styles include Angostura and Early Split Stemmed forms. Task-specific tools include Clear Fork gouges and Guadalupe and Nueces bifaces (Turner and Hester 1992:246, 256). Early Archaic sites are located along the eastern and southern portions of the Edwards Plateau in areas with reliable water sources (McKinney 1981). Population densities were relatively low during this subperiod and consisted of small highly mobile bands (Story 1985:39).

The Middle Archaic spans from 6000 to 4000 BP (Collins 1995). Diagnostic projectile points from this period include Bell, Andice, Taylor, Nolan, and Travis. According to Collins (1995), during the Middle Archaic there was a focus on the hunting of bison. However, recent studies suggest an absence of bison during the Middle Archaic (Mauldin and Kemp 2005). Climate was gradually drying as the onset of the Altithermal drought began. Demographic and cultural change likely occurred in response to these hotter and drier conditions.

The last subperiod of the Archaic is the Late Archaic that spans 4000 to 1200 BP (Collins 1995). Dart point diagnostics of the Late Archaic are triangular points with corner notches that include Ensor and Ellis (Turner and Hester 1992:114,122). Other Late Archaic projectile points are Bulverde, Pedernales, Marshall, and Marcos types (Collins 1995). Evidence from the Thunder Valley sinkhole cemetery suggests that territoriality may have established during the Late Archaic, possibly as a result of population increase (Bement 1989). Some researchers state that the accumulation of burned rock middens ceased at this time though current research has challenged this notion (Black and Creel 1997; Mauldin et al. 2003).

### Late Prehistoric (1200-350 BP)

The Late Prehistoric period is marked by the Austin and Toyah phases. During the Austin Phase, the bow and arrow was introduced. Nickels and Mauldin (2001) suggested at the beginning of this period environmental conditions were warm and dry. More mesic conditions appear to accelerate after 1000 BP. Subsistence practices remain relatively unchanged, especially during the Austin Phase. The Austin Phase of the Late Prehistoric may represent the most intensive use of burned rock middens (Black and Creel 1997) and includes diagnostic point types Scallorn and Edwards (Collins 1995; Turner and Hester 1993).

The presence of bone tempered ceramics (Leon Plain) during the Toyah Phase suggests interaction between Central Texas and ceramic producing traditions in East and North Texas (Perttula et al. 1995). Ceramics were in common use in East Texas by 2450 BP, but the first Central Texas wares did not appear until ca. 650-700 BP. Other technological traits of this phase include the diagnostic Perdiz point and beveled bifaces. These specialized processing kits are thought to be an adaptation to flourishing bison populations by some (Ricklis 1992) and a sign of intensification of declining bison populations by others (Mauldin and Kemp 2005).

### Protohistoric (ca. 1528-1700)

The Protohistoric period is a term typically used to describe the transition between the Late Prehistoric and the Colonial period. This period is not well documented archaeologically in Texas. Some researchers (Wade 2003), argue that the Protohistoric period may coincide with the end of the Late Prehistoric Toyah Interval, spanning the period of A.D. 1250/1300 to A.D. 1600/1650 (Hester 1995). For the purposes of this report, we define the period as beginning with the Early Spanish explorations in Texas (ca. 1528) and ending with the establishment of a strong Spanish presence in the region in the late 1600s and early 1700s.

During this period, there was intermittent contact between the native groups and Spanish explorers. It was a time before the Spanish economy significantly impacted the indigenous groups in the area. A number of encounters between the indigenous communities and Europeans were recorded during this period, including those of Cabeza de Vaca (1528-1536) and the French settlement established by Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle (1685-1689). The Spanish sent General Alfonso de Leon into the area in 1689, and in 1691 the area of present-day San Antonio was first visited by Domingo de Teran.

Archaeologically, the time period is poorly documented but has been identified at several sites in south Texas counties (e.g., Hall et al. 1986; Inman et al. 1998; Mauldin et al. 2004). A problematic issue concerning this time period is that there is not a clear material culture associated with the period. Therefore, it is difficult to document this time period archaeologically without absolute dates. Sites that have been deemed as "Protohistoric" may have Late Prehistoric and/or Historic artifacts associated with them, and in several cases radiocarbon dates confirm their Protohistoric designation (Mauldin et al. 2004).

### Historic Period and History of Schertz

The Historic period is characterized by European contact with Native cultures in the Americas. While Spanish explorers had established their presence in Texas since the 1500s, European settlements, the Spanish in particular, became part of the Texas landscape beginning in the late 1600s. Mission settlements began to be established in Bexar County in 1718 with Mission San Antonio de Valero (Chapa 1997).

German immigrants began to arrive in Texas about 1830, and by 1850, five percent of the population of Texas consisted of German immigrants (Jordan 1977). Between 1844 and 1847, 7,000 German immigrants had reached Texas, including the San Antonio area (Jordan 1977). The community was settled my German immigrants. The first settlers to the Schertz area arrived around 1843 and included the following families; Boettigers, Schertzs, Schneiders, Seilers, Maske, and Mergele (Kramer 2008). Early settlers were dependent on an agricultural economy of wheat, oats, corn and cotton. Two cotton gins operated in the community, the first being established in 1870 by the Schertz family. The community of Schertz was established in 1884 with the opening of the Cutoff post office.

In 1899, the community name officially changed to Schertz, named after Sebastian Schertz who had a store there in 1875. The population of Schertz was estimated at 200 in 1890 and the

community consisted of a grocery store and cotton gin. The first school was set up around 1890, across Cibolo Creek, where the Randolph stables are now located (Kramer 2008).

The Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad was built through the town in 1876 and marked an important event for the Schertz community. The establishment of Randolph Airforce base in the 1920s was the biggest economic boom to Schertz and other surrounding communities (Kramer 2008). The population of Schertz was around 300 in 1950 but increased significantly due to IH-35 and the expansion of San Antonio. In 2000, the population of Schertz was estimated at over 18,000 (Smyrl 2008).

## Previous Archaeological Investigations

Two archaeological sites, two historical markers, and three previous archaeological surveys are on record in the Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas (THC 2008). Sites 41BX565 and 41BX566 were both recorded by Daniel Fox in 1982. Site 41BX565 was described as a lithic scatter, with burned rock and mussel shell scattered for 2.7 km along Cibolo Creek. Fox recommended future avoidance of the site and more investigations to assess the significance of the deposits. Fox recorded 41BX566 as an 80-x-100 m site with only two pieces of debitage. Site size was based on the size of the knoll on which the site was located. He also recommended avoidance of this site and recommended further work to assess its significance.

In 1982, The EPA and the Texas Department of Water Resources conducted large areal surveys near the project area. No reports of their findings are listed on the Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas. Two linear surveys were conducted in Guadalupe County across Cibolo Creek from the project area. One was performed by Hayden Whittsett in 2002 for Texas Water Development Board (TWDB); the other was conducted in 1992 for the Federal Highways Administration. No reports could be found for these surveys.

The first historical marker commemorates the founding of the town of Cibolo in Guadalupe County. The text of the marker reads:

> A town began to grow here after the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad built a line through western Guadalupe County in 1875. A general store, operated by George Schlather and Ernst Jenull, was opened the following year to serve the predominantly German population. A post office was established in 1876, and the town was named Cibolo from an Indian word for buffalo. The

> community was also known as Fromme's Store after Charles Fromme purchased the general store in 1882. Cibolo was officially incorporated in 1965. Texas Sesquicentennial 1836-1986.

The second marker is also in Guadalupe County across the creek from the project area. It marks the St. Paul Church and it reads:

> This congregation began about 1876 with German Lutheran worship services conducted by the Rev. T. Frehner and Oscar Samuel in private homes and a schoolhouse. A congregation, called St. Paulus Kirche, was formally organized and a church structure built on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. George Schlather in 1877. The congregation organized affiliate churches in the nearby communities of Marion in 1890 and Zuehl in 1900. A new church building was erected in 1905. Services were held exclusively in the German language until 1923. A third sanctuary was completed in 1959 (1993).

# Chapter 3: Field and Laboratory Methods

CAR conducted a pedestrian survey on 41 acres of the proposed Crescent Bend Nature Park. Shovel testing and backhoe trenching methods were implemented during the archaeological investigations. This chapter describes the field and laboratory methods followed during this project.

## Shovel Tests

According to the Minimum Survey Standards set by the Texas Historical Commission, a pedestrian survey of approximately 41 acres requires one shovel test every 2 acres. CAR excavated a total of thirty eight shovel tests in the north and south portions of the project area in settings with a potential for undisturbed buried cultural materials and less than 30% ground surface visibility. The northern and southern sections of the project area were traversed using transects spaced 30 meters apart.

All shovel tests were 30 cm in diameter and excavated to 60 cmbs in 10-cm levels. Excavated soils were screened through .25-in. mesh. Field crews recorded the location of all excavated shovel tests with GPS units and plotted their locations on aerial photos. A shovel test form was completed for each unit and included observations of soil texture and color, artifact counts and depth, excavation depth, and other surveyor notes.

Positive shovel tests were those that contained cultural material at least 50 years old and therefore represented either historic or prehistoric components. Upon identification of a positive shovel test, additional shovel tests were excavated at decreased intervals 15 m in each cardinal direction from the original test in order to determine whether a site was present or the materials represented isolated finds. Additional shovel tests were excavated until no cultural materials were recovered in two consecutive tests.

Although no new sites were documented during this project, establishing what was to constitute a site prior to field work was important. The definition of a site for this project was as follows: 1) locations with at least five surface artifacts within a 30 $m^2$ area or; 2) a location containing a single cultural feature such as a hearth, either on surface or exposed in a shovel test or; 3) a location with a positive shovel test containing at least three artifacts within a given 10-cm level or; 4) a location with a positive shovel test containing at least five total artifacts or; 5) two positive shovel tests

located within 30 m of each other. All surface artifacts or artifacts found in positive shovel tests that do not meet the site definitions presented above were classified as isolated finds.

Artifacts collected from the shovel tests were analyzed, and processed in the CAR laboratory with photographs and paperwork generated during this project for permanent curation.

## Backhoe Trenching

The portion of the project area that follows the creek and was identified for investigation by the THC was not shovel tested. Upon Dr. Tomka's field visit to the project area, it was established that this area represented the sloped bank of the creek and the slope angle was greater than 20 percent. However, the portion of the bank that extends from the trail easement to the edge of the sloped bank of Cibolo Creek is covered in thick alluvial deposits, where there was a potential for deeply buried deposits. This area was examined through backhoe trenching.

Nine backhoe trenches were excavated to depth of 1.5 meters below surface and perpendicular to Cibolo Creek. All backhoe trenches were five meters long and about a meter wide. Field personnel created measured drawings of the stratigraphy revealed in the trenches including a description of soil types and any artifacts within the matrix or wall of the trench. Only those trench walls that revealed unique stratigraphy, were profiled to avoid redundancy. All trench walls were photographed and all trench locations were collected with a GPS unit as well as hand-plotted on aerials maps.

## Laboratory Methods

All cultural material collected during the survey was prepared in accordance with federal regulation 36 CFR part 79 and in accordance with current guidelines of the Center for Archaeological Research. Artifacts were processed in the CAR laboratory where they were washed, air-dried, and stored in archival-quality bags. Acid-free labels were placed in all artifact bags. Each label displayed provenience information and a corresponding lot number laser printed or written in pencil. Artifacts were stored in acid-free boxes identified with standard labels. The data was entered into a Microsoft Access database. All artifacts were permanently curated at CAR. Field notes, forms, and hard copies of photographs were placed in labeled archival folders. All field forms were completed in pencil. Documents and forms were printed on acid-free paper and any soiled forms were placed in archival-quality page protectors. A copy of the final report in Adobe Acrobat® file format and all digital material pertaining to the project, including

photographs, was burned onto a CD and permanently curated with the field notes and documents at the Center for Archaeological Research.

# Chapter 4: Results of the Archaeological Investigations

During October of 2008, the CAR completed a pedestrian survey for the proposed Crescent Bend Nature Park, along Cibolo Creek in Bexar County, Texas. Bexar County Infrastructure Services contracted CAR to complete an inventory evaluation for archaeological sites in the previously least disturbed portion of the proposed park consisting of 41 acres. The archaeological investigations resulted in the excavation of 38 shovel tests and nine backhoe trenches (Figure 4-1).

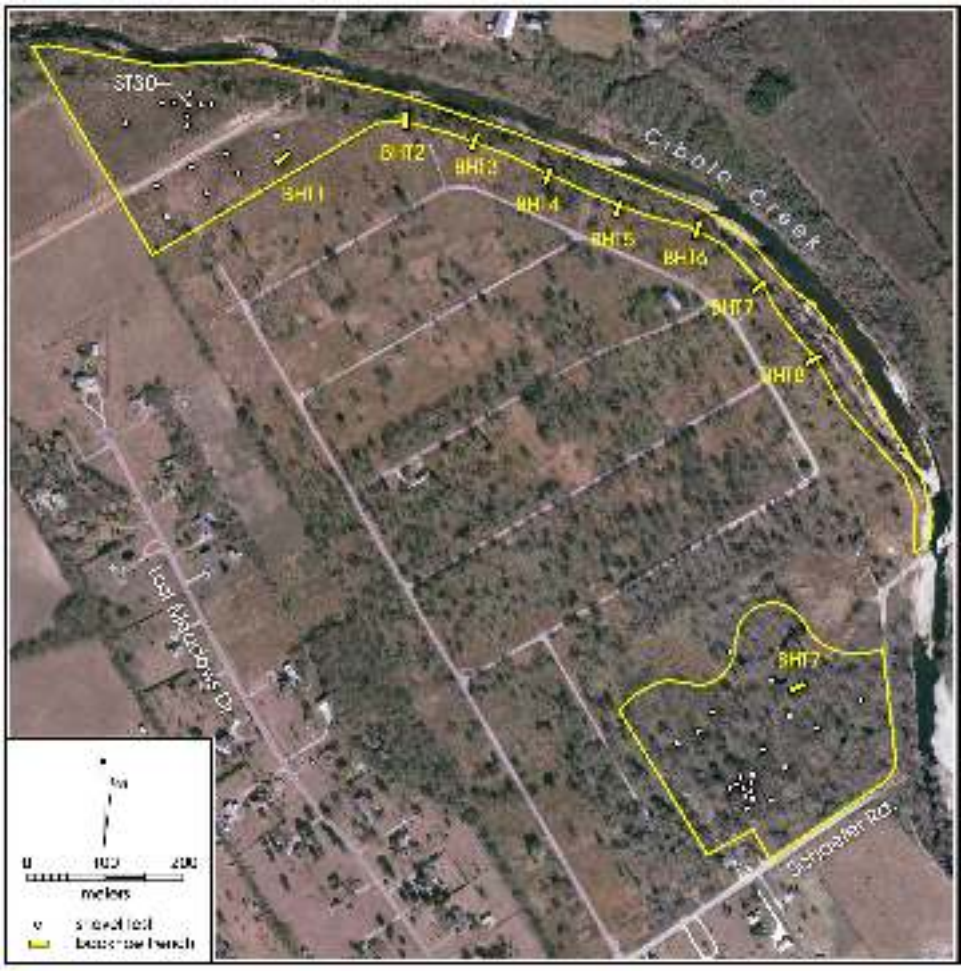


Figure 4-1. *Map depicting APE, shovel tests and backhoe trenches.*

## Shovel Tests

Thirty-eight shovel tests were excavated as part of the pedestrian survey conducted by CAR. All shovel tests reached depths no greater than 60 cmbs. Shovel test excavations were distributed between the northern and southern tracts of the APE. No shovel tests were excavated along the narrow strip that was situated immediately along the creek.

In the southern portion of the project area 22 shovel tests were excavated (Figure 4-2). Only two (9%) of the excavated shovel tests contained cultural materials. Soils in this portion of the project area consisted of brown (10YR 4/3) silty sand with sparse rabdotus snail and gravel inclusions (<1%). Shovel Test 6 contained porcelain (n=1) and three pieces of glass (clear, aqua and brown) in Level 3 (Table 4-1). White earthen ware (n=1) and clear glass (n=2) was recovered from Shovel Test 21, Level 2. Cultural material was confined to the upper 30 cm of shovel tests. Additional shovel tests excavated (STs 7, 16, 22, 15, 14 and 13) 10 to 15 meters from Shovel Tests 6 and 21 revealed modern debris that was not collected. The two shovel tests were more than 30 meters apart and the artifacts were identified as isolated finds.

Figure 4-2. *Shovel Testing in the southern portion of the project area.*

Table 4-1. Cultural Material Recovered from Shovel Tests

| Shovel Test | Level (cmbs) | Cultural Material | Count |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 (20-30) | porcelain | 1 |
| 6 | 3 (20-30) | glass | 3 |
| 21 | 2 (10-20) | white earthenware | 1 |
| 21 | 2 (10-20) | glass | 3 |
| 30 | 3 (20-30) | debitage | 1 |

In the northern portion of the project area, 16 shovel tests were excavated. Soils in this area were a pale brown (10YR 6/3) silty sand. One piece of lithic debitage was recovered from Shovel Test 30 in Level 3 (20-30 bs). Seven shovel tests were excavated in the four cardinal directions from the positive shovel test, at 15 meter intervals. All seven were negative for cultural material. The debitage was identified as an isolated find and the location of the shovel tests was not defined as an archaeological site.

## Backhoe Trenches

Nine backhoe trenches were excavated during CAR's investigations (see Figure 4-1). Seven of the backhoe trenches (2-8) were dug perpendicular to Cibolo Creek between the graded trail and the edge of the creek channel at 100 meters apart. As noted in Chapter 2, the trail was graded prior to CAR's investigations. One backhoe trench (BHT 1) was excavated in the northern portion of the project area and BHT 9 was excavated in the southern portion. Not all backhoe trenches were profiled if soils were redundant. All backhoe trenches were negative of cultural material, with the exception of the modern material encountered in BHT 4.

BHT 1 was located within the northern part of the APE. Two zones were observed in the profile. The eastern trench wall was profiled (Figure 4-3). The uppermost zone (Zone 1) consisted of a dark grayish brown humus layer only 5 cm thick. Zone 2 occupied the remainder of trench and was a brown (10YR 5/3) sandy loam with gravel inclusions (<10%). BHT 2 was located 160 m northeast of BHT 1 and exhibited a similar soil profile to BHT 1. Therefore, BHT 2 was not profiled.

BHT 3 was located 100 meters east of BHT 2. Two soil horizons were identified in the backhoe trench. The west wall of the trench was profiled (Figure 4-4). Zone 1 consisted of dark grayish brown (10 YR 4/1) silty sand with >50% gravels. This zone appeared to represent a fill layer (60

cm thick) that also contained chunks of asphalt. Zone 2 was a brown (10YR 5/3) sand and occupied the remainder of the trench.

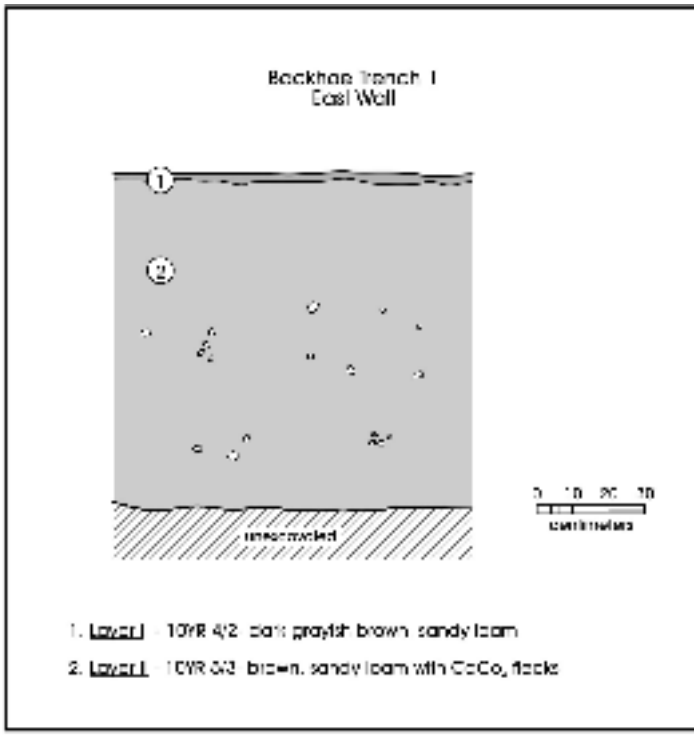


Figure 4-3. *Backhoe Trench 1, east wall profile.*

Figure 4-4. *West wall profile of Backhoe Trench 3.*

BHT 4 was excavated 100 meters east of BHT 3 and consisted of three soil zones. The eastern wall of the trench was profiled (Figure 4-5). Zone1 consisted of a grayish brown (10YR 5/3) silty loam with root inclusions. Zone 2 was a brown (10YR 5/3) silty sand with a thin lens of faunal material at 60-70 cmbs and 5 to 10 cm thick. The faunal material appeared to be remnants of a horse cranium. Zone 3 was a burned layer that extended from top of the trench to 125 cmbs and was only 28 to 30 cm wide. It contained ceramic tile, brown bottle glass and metal throughout. The material encountered in this backhoe trench represents modern refuse possibly associated the previous residential occupation of the area.

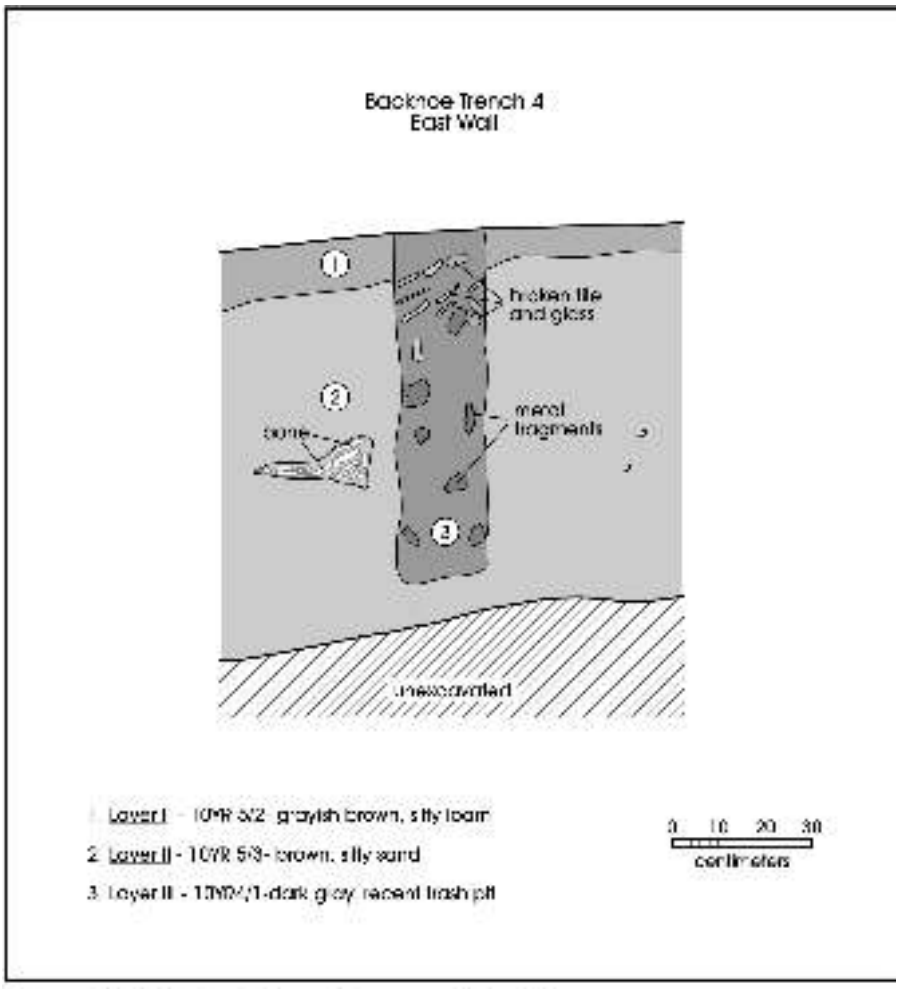


Figure 4-5. *Backhoe Trench 4, east wall profile.*

BHT 5 was excavated 100 meters east of BHT 4. It exhibited similar stratigraphy to BHT 3, with two soil zones, and it was not profiled.

BHT 6 was located 100 meters east of BHT 5. This backhoe trench exhibited two soil zones and the east wall of the trench was profiled (Figure 4-6). The upper zone (Zone 1) was a brown (10YR 4/3) silty loam that was 70 to 80 cmbs. Zone 2 was beneath Zone 1 and consisted of the remainder of the trench. Zone 2 was a pale brown (10YR 6/3) silty sand.

Figure 4-6. *East wall profile of Backhoe Trench 6.*

BHT 7 was 100 meters southeast of BHT 6. The soils observed in BHT 7 were similar to BHT 6 that consisted of two zones. No profile was drawn of this trench.

BHT 8 was located 100 meters southeast of BHT 7. Two soil horizons were observed in the trench and its southern wall was profiled. Zone 1 consisted of a brown humus layer (10 YR 4/2) with root inclusions. Zone 2 was a pale brown (10 YR 5/3) silty sand.

BHT 9 was excavated in the southern tract of the project area. The southern wall of the trench was profiled and two soils were noted (Figure 4-7). Zone 1 extended to 30 cmbs and was a dark grayish brown (10 YR 4/2) silty loam with <20% gravels. Zone 2, occupied the remainder of the trench profile and was a grayish brown (10YR 5/2) silty loam.

Figure 4-7. *South wall profile of Backhoe Trench 9.*

## Summary

CAR conducted a pedestrian survey of 41 acres for the proposed Crescent Bend Nature Park, located along Cibolo Creek in Schertz, Bexar County, Texas. The purpose of the survey was to complete an inventory evaluation of archaeological sites in the project area. Shovel testing and backhoe trenching in the project area revealed sandy soils and no archaeological sites were identified. Three isolated finds were identified. Ceramics (white earthen ware (n=1) and porcelain (n=1) were encountered in the southern portion of the project area but were associated with modern materials and were defined as isolated finds. In the northern portion of the project area there was one positive shovel test containing a single piece of lithic debitage. Additional shovel tests excavated around the positive shovel test were negative and the debitage was identified as an isolated find.

Backhoe trenching was conducted in the northern and southern tracts, one in each section. The majority (n=7) of the trenching however occurred along the creek between the northern and southern parcels. Of the nine excavated backhoe trenches, only one trench (BHT 4) contained cultural material. However, the material observed in BHT 4 consisted of modern debris. No archaeological sites were identified on the 41 acres of least disturbed land that will be part of the proposed for the Crescent Bend Nature Park.

# Chapter 5: Conclusions and Recommendations

The CAR conducted a pedestrian survey and an inventory of archaeological resources for the proposed Crescent Bend Nature Park in October 2008. The work was carried out on behalf of the Bexar County Infrastructure Services. The proposed park is located in Schertz, Bexar County, Texas along the Cibolo Creek. The project area was a residential neighborhood that was devastated by the 1998 flood. All that remains in the area consists of paved roads and sparse vegetation. Archaeological investigations conducted by CAR included shovel testing and backhoe trenching. Shovel tests (n=38) were excavated in the northern and southern areas of the APE. Backhoe trenches (n=7) were dug along the south bank of Cibolo Creek and in the northern and southern tracts.

Shovel testing revealed three isolated finds. Two of these isolated finds were recovered in the southern tract and consisted of ceramics associated with modern materials. The third isolated find consists of one piece of debitage encountered in an shovel test in the northern tract.

Backhoe trenches excavated in the southern and northern tracts were negative of cultural material. The backhoe trenches excavated along the creek bank also were void of cultural material, with the exception of BHT 4 that only revealed modern debris and faunal material. No historic or prehistoric properties were identified during the survey. CAR does not recommend further archaeological work and we suggest that the development of the proposed Crescent Bend Nature Park can proceed as planned.

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