An Intensive Pedestrian Survey for the Proposed Rogers Ranch Segment of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

by
José E. Zapata

REDACTED

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8009

Principal Investigator
Paul Shawn Marceaux

Prepared for:
Adams Environmental, Inc.
12521 Nacogdoches Road #102
San Antonio, Texas 78217

Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, Texas 78249
Archaeological Report, No. 467

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Abstract:

In May 2017, CAR staff completed a 100 percent pedestrian survey of the proposed Rogers Ranch segment of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System for Adams Environmental, Inc. (AEI) on behalf of the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department. In addition to the pedestrian survey, the field crew was tasked with completing shovel tests along this 5.9-km segment or Area of Potential Effect (APE). The work was undertaken in order to identify and document all prehistoric and/or historic resources that might be impacted by the proposed trail, as required by the Texas Antiquities Code. Archaeological work was completed under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8009. In December 2017, the CAR was made aware of a trail modification that included the addition of a connecting trail in an area just northwest of the Loop 1604 and Salado Creek intersection. A pedestrian survey and two shovel tests were completed in this additional area. José Zapata served as Project Archaeologist, and Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux served as Principal Investigator.

Given that much of the trail extended very near or within the Salado Creek streambed, and that much of the area lacked soil deposition or was covered by heavy gravels, only 36 shovel tests were completed. Only two shovel tests were positive for cultural material, a lithic flake and burned rock. The 5.9-km trail segment included a 24.4-m wide easement, and the survey and testing was limited to the extent of this APE. Nevertheless, a review of the literature and Texas Historical Commission (THC) Sites Atlas noted 18 previously recorded sites within 500 m of the trail. The THC Site Atlas was used to produce a georeferenced map showing the 18 sites, of which seven appeared to be within the APE. As a result of this survey and shovel testing, CAR staff noted negligible traces of only two of the seven sites. A mid-twentieth-century wood-frame structure was noted at site 41BX875, and lithic flakes and a burned rock fragment were noted at opposite ends of 41BX920, an elongated lithic scatter site. Past and ongoing development along either side of the Salado Creek likely led to erosion or otherwise impacted the other five sites.

Of the seven sites within the APE, 41BX22 was the only one that was previously determined eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing when first recorded (THC 2017). Site 41BX22 is no longer recognizable, as it was likely impacted by the widening of Loop 1604. The CAR recommended that none of the seven sites are eligible for listing as NRHP or State Antiquities Landmark (SAL). The CAR also recommended no further archaeology in advance of the proposed Rogers Ranch trail segment.

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Table of Contents:

Abstract iii
List of Figures vii
List of Tables ix
Acknowledgements xi
Chapter 1: Introduction 1
Chapter 2: Project Area and Previous Archaeology 5
  Project Area 5
    Natural Setting 5
    Cultural Setting 5
  Previous Archaeology 6
Chapter 3: Field and Laboratory Methods 11
  Fieldwork 11
  Site Recording and Collection Policy 11
  Curation Preparation and Final Curation 11
Chapter 4: Results of the Fieldwork 13
  South End 13
  Middle Section 16
  North End 19
  Summary 21
Chapter 5: Conclusions and Recommendations 23
References Cited 25

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List of Figures:

Figure 1-1. Location of the Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment 1
Figure 1-2. Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment along the Salado Creek; note commercial and residential development on either side 2
Figure 2-1. Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment showing 18 archaeological sites within 500 m 7
Figure 4-1. South end of trail alignment, STs 1 through 12 13
Figure 4-2. Proposed trail route (red) along Medicine Wall Road and Salado Creek drainage, underneath Loop 1604 overpass (view north) 14
Figure 4-3. Shovel Test 4 (yellow circle) along old trail (view south) 14
Figure 4-4. Burned-out shack at 41BX875 15
Figure 4-5. Trail following path of active mountain bike trail (view north) 15
Figure 4-6. Connecting trail at south end of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System, Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment along Salado Creek 17
Figure 4-7. Middle section of trail alignment, STs 13 through 24 18
Figure 4-8. Trail following path of sewer line easement from view northeast (left), northeast (center), and northwest (right) 18
Figure 4-9. North end of trail alignment, STs 22 through 36 20
Figure 4-10. Trail along Marietta Materials gravel road; pit berm on left and Camp Bullis fence on right (view southwest) .. 20
Figure 4-11. Trail at CPS easement, impassable due to brush pile (view southwest) 21
Figure 4-12. Trail following electric line easement (view northwest) 22
Figure 5-1. Area A) Marietta quarry site; Area B) Shavano Ranch neighborhood; Area C) Rogers Ranch neighborhood; and Area D) apartments 24

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List of Tables:

Table 2-1. Inventory of Recorded Archaeological Sites within 500 m of the Trail Segment 8
Table 4-1. Shovel Tests Excavated at the South End* 16
Table 4-2. Shovel Tests Excavated at the South End Connecting Trail 17
Table 4-3. Shovel Tests Excavated within the Middle Section* 19
Table 4-4. Shovel Tests Excavated at the North End* 22

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Chapter 1: Introduction

In May 2017, the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) completed a 100 percent pedestrian survey and shovel testing along the proposed Rogers Ranch segment of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System. The work was completed on behalf of the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department (COSA PRD) and under contract with Adams Environmental, Inc. (AEI). The Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment is located in northwest San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1-1).

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) included a 5.9-km trail segment with a 24.4-m wide easement, comprising 14.4 hectares (35.6 acres). The proposed segment of the trail begins at N. W. Military Drive, across from Eisenhower Park, and proceeds east-northeast towards Salado Creek. The trail then meanders south, primarily along the left bank of the creek, towards Loop 1604 (Figure 1-2). In December 2017, the CAR surveyed and tested a short connecting trail, just northwest of the Loop 1604 and Salado Creek intersection.

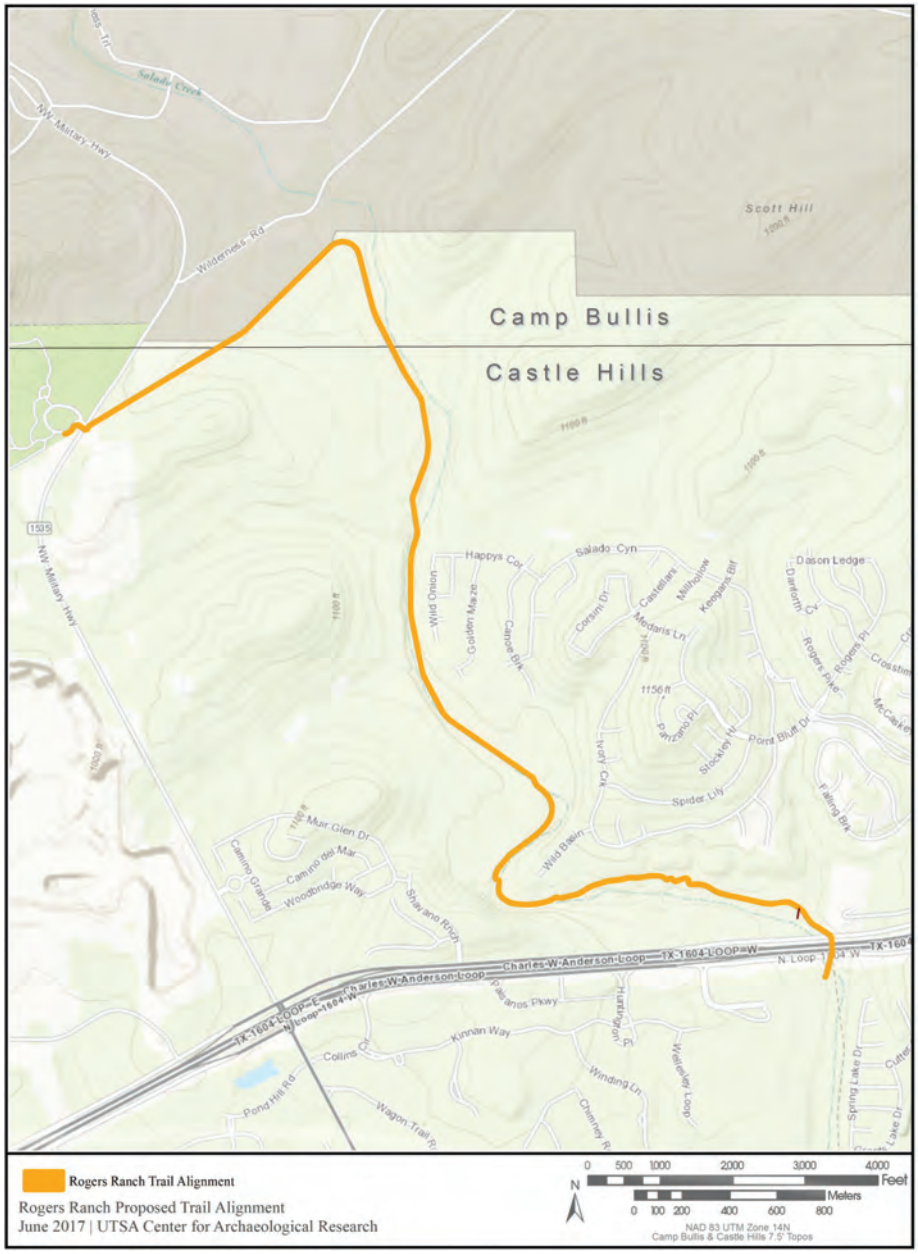

Figure 1-1. Location of the Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment.

Figure 1-2. Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment along the Salado Creek; note commercial and residential development on either side.

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, as required by Texas Antiquities Code and under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8009. To accomplish this goal, CAR staff completed a combination of background research, pedestrian survey, and shovel testing of the APE. The pedestrian survey and shovel testing was limited to path of the trail and easement. José Zapata served as Project Archaeologist, and Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux served as Principal Investigator.

Background research identified seven sites (41BX22, 41BX442, 41BX444, 41BX875, 41BX876, 41BX877 and 41BX920) within the APE. During the survey and shovel testing, CAR staff noted negligible archaeological traces of only two of the seven sites. At 41BX875, the charred remains of a mid-twentieth-century wood-frame structure were evident. Surveying and testing of the area of 41BX920, an elongated lithic scatter site, noted two lithic flakes at the site's southwestern end and a burned rock fragment at its northeastern end. A review of a series of Google Earth satellite images dating back to 199 and recent field observations,indicates that residential and commercial development along either side of the Salado Creek has likely eroded or otherwise impacted the other five sites. Based on these negligible findings, the CAR recommends no further archaeology in advance of the proposed Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment. CAR also recommends that none of the seven previously recorded sites within the APE are eligible for listing as NRHP or State Antiquities Landmark (SAL).

The following chapter summarizes the area's development, vegetation, hydrology, cultural history, and previous archaeological investigations. Chapter 3 outlines the project's field and laboratory methods, and Chapter 4 presents the results of the fieldwork. The conclusions and recommendations are provided in Chapter 5.

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Chapter 2: Project Area and Previous Archaeology

Project Area

Located at the far north end of San Antonio, the Rogers Ranch segment is part of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System, an extensive system of hike and bike trails. Launched in 2000, these greenway trails are an evolving network of multi-use trails that wind along the natural landscape of San Antonio's streams. To date, over 83.7 km of greenway trails have been completed (COSA PRD 2017).

Natural Setting

The APE lies within the southern Edwards Plateau and, more specifically, the Balcones Canyonlands ecoregion (Griffith et al. 2007:49-52). Salado Creek originates in the Fair Oaks Ranch subdivision in northern Bexar County, west of Camp Bullis. The elevation at the north end of the APE is approximately 350 meters above mean sea level (mamsl) and 290 mamsl at the south end (THC 2017). Because the streambed is wide and the stream flow is intermittent, this upper portion of the creek is generally dry (United States Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] 2002:3-16). The creek meanders through the city to the southeast for about 60 km, then empties into the San Antonio River about 4 km south of Loop 410 (Eckhardt 2017).

Soils at the north end of the APE and west of Salado Creek are of the Tarrant association (TaB), a gently undulating soil (National Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2017). Tarrant soils are a calcareous clay-to-clay loam that contain limestone gravel and pieces fractured limestone 18-30 cm in size. The creek drainage consists of Trinity and Frio soils (Tf). These drainage areas are flooded at least once a year and subject to thin deposition of sediments (NRCS 2017). Note that the trail enters the creek drainage from the west, off N. W. Military Drive, and the flora in this area consists of tall grasses with pockets of Ashe juniper. From N. W. Military Drive, the trail continues east-northeast for about 1.5 km, where it intersects with the creek drainage. The flora in the drainage transitions to dense pockets of Ashe juniper, hackberry, a few oak, some short grasses, and prickly pear cactus (Dibble 1979:5).

Cultural Setting

Situated on the southernmost extreme of the Edwards Plateau, the study area has been occupied by various cultures for over 11,000 years. Sites dating to the Paleoindian (11,550-8,800 yrs. before present [BP]) have been recorded along the nearby Leon Creek drainage (Perttula, ed. 2004:62).

Evidence for Archaic period (8800-1200 yrs. BP) occupation is common in the study area (see Cliff et al. 1990; Hester 1974; Pagoulatos 2008). The Archaic period is marked by less mobility and an increase in hunting and gathering of varied resources. Located in Camp Bullis and approximately 125 m north of the Rogers Ranch segment, survey and testing of 41BX918 produced several thousand Archaic period artifacts, including burned rock, groundstone, and diagnostic points, such as La Jita, Nolan, Pedernales, and Travis (Pagoulatos 2008:103). In close proximity to the current APE, the recorded sites date to the Late Prehistoric and Historic periods.

Late Prehistoric sites date to between 1200 and 350 yrs. BP. This period is noted for the introduction of agriculture, pottery, and the bow and arrow, but these new developments did not occur all at once. The bow and arrow, which required the production of smaller and lighter projectiles, made its way into Central Texas first. Whether locally produced or imported, pottery and agriculture were introduced into this area fairly late in the period (Perttula, ed. 2004:122-123).

The Historic period in this area began in the late 1600s and continued into the 1950s. As already noted, Native habitation of this area was prolonged and extensive. The historic record attests to the presence of Coahuiltecan groups, Apache, and Comanche. However, little is known of their predecessors who left an enduring footprint on this landscape (Perttula, ed. 2004:129). Although European settlement along the San Antonio River began in the early 1700s, Europeans did not settle the area that surrounds the APE in far northern Bexar County until the mid-1800s.

In the 1840s, the growing immigrant population in San Antonio spurred the establishment of small settlements along the Edwards Plateau. Most of these early settlers were Germans who began to purchase the land and establish stock farms and ranches. Encroachment into this area caused additional conflict with the Native inhabitants, who were pushed further west by the military beginning in the mid-1860s (Utley 1967:342-43). Settlers steadily populated the area throughout the mid-late 1800s and utilized it for small-scale farming and grazing (Hester et al. 1989). By the early 1900s, the federal government began to purchase thousands of acres to the immediate north of the APE to be used as

military training facilities (USACE 2002). In 1947, Wallace Rogers purchased the Stowers Ranch and later developed it as residential property, which was incorporated in 1956 as the City of Shavano Park (Kelley 2010). In December 1957, anticipating additional growth, Bexar County officials initiated the development of an outer loop by connecting a series of Farm-to-Market (FM) roads, namely FM 1604 or Loop 1604 (United States Department of Transportation [USDOT] 1978), which is still under development.

Previous Archaeology

A review of the literature and the THC Site Atlas identified 18 previously recorded archaeological sites within 500 m of the Rogers Ranch trail segment (Figure 2-1). Site summaries are provided in Table 2-1. In some cases, for lack of diagnostic material, these sites could not be attributed to a specific period. Only seven of the 18 sites are within the APE. The sites are noted in the table with an asterisk. As will be discussed in the results section, two of the shovel tests (ST 28 and ST 35) produced a small amount of cultural material in close proximity to 41BX920.

The Salado Creek drainage was surveyed at various times between 1965 and 2015. Fox and Uecker tested and recorded the Rogers Ranch site (41BX22), a multicomponent site, in the mid-1960s (Cliff et al. 1990). These excavations found evidence for Archaic and Late Prehistoric occupations (THC 2017). The site was revisited and tested in 1990, with positive results, and determined eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP; Cliff et al. 1990:13-16). SWCA staff revisited the site in 2005 and found that it had been heavily looted and impacted by Loop 1604 and the development of a nearby apartment complex (Miller and Wingate 2005:7).

CAR revisited 41BX22 in 2006 as part of a Loop 1604 improvement project. Nine shovel tests were excavated in the area of 41BX22, and all were negative. As noted by Thompson and colleagues,

> No cultural material was encountered within the shovel tests or noted on the surface. The results suggest that the site boundary may not have extended into the project ROW [right-of-way], or the site's deposits have been removed by road construction or buried below the road base. The portion of the site boundary that extends into the ROW is not eligible for listing on the NRHP [Thompson et al. 2008:116].

In 1974, CAR completed an archaeological survey of the Salado Creek watershed for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (Hester 1974). This survey was undertaken in anticipation of the construction of ten floodwater-retarding structures. Structure No. 3, the only one within the current APE, was to be located approximately 500 m east of the Medicine Wall. Five sites were located and recorded within this general area: 41BX442, 41BX443, 41BX444, 41BX445, and 41BX446 (THC 2017; see also Hester 1974). The first three lie within the Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment and were identified as lithic scatters, and 41BX444 included a burned rock feature. In 1977, CAR staff conducted additional work for this same USDA project (McGraw and Valdez 1978). Sites 41BX442 and 41BX444 were revisited and, although additional surface scatter was evident, both were found not to require further testing.

Geo-Marine staff extensively surveyed and tested parts of the current APE in 1990 (Cliff et al. 1990). This project required surveying a 61-m wide by 7.3-km long ROW to the south of Camp Bullis and along the Salado Creek drainage. Nine sites were identified, including a revisit of three previously recorded sites (41BX22, 41BX442 and 41BX446). The six new sites were 41BX874, 41BX875, 41BX876, 41BX877, 41BX878 and 41BX879 (Cliff et al. 1990:46).

As of 1990, site 41BX22 was still intact and recommended for additional testing and consideration for NRHP listing (Cliff et al. 1990:19). Site 41BX443 was reconsidered and deemed to be an extension of 41BX442. It was noted that the surface scatter was continuous between sites 41BX442 and 41BX443 and, therefore, should be combined into one site, designated 41BX442. The site is described as a long, narrow, medium-density lithic scatter situated on a gentle slope at the base of a hill slope on the right side of Salado Creek. A dense limestone rock layer, probably decomposing bedrock, occurs at 10-30 cm below the surface (cmbs). The large size of the site suggests that a long time span may be represented, although the potential for intact features was considered low (Cliff et al. 1990:20). Site 41BX444 was also revisited and tested in 1990. Even though some of the tests were positive, the cultural deposits were recovered from shallow sediments (<17 cmbs). It was determined that 41BX442 and 41BX444 had low research potential and required no additional work (Cliff et al. 1990:29).

Three of the six new sites recorded in 1990 are within the APE of the Rogers Ranch segment of the trail. Site 41BX875 was a prehistoric lithic scatter with a mid-twentieth-century component. Sites 41BX876 and 41BX877 were both lithic scatter sites. All three sites were determined to have low research potential and not eligible for NRHP listing (Cliff et al. 1990:35-36). In 2015, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) completed a pedestrian survey and revisit along the Loop 1604 ROW, between IH10 and IH35. This survey of a 91-137 m ROW failed to locate any trace of eight of 12 previously recorded sites, including 41BX875

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Figure 2-1. Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment showing 18 archaeological sites within 500 m.

Table 2-1. Inventory of Recorded Archaeological Sites within 500 m of the Trail Segment

Site	Site Type	Recorded by	Notes	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation
41BX9	small rock shelter	McGuff and Fawcett 1970 (unpublished); Figueroa 2016	Located along the east bank; private collector - circular polished stone pendant; no surface finds; CAR attempted to revisit site in 2015 without success.	No
*41BX22	Archaic and Late Prehistoric: multicomponent	D. Fox 1965 (unpublished); Goode 1984; Cliff et al. 1990; Miller and Wingate 2005; Thompson et al. 2008	Rogers Ranch Site is on a narrow terrace, on east side of Salado Creek; SWCA noted in 2005 that site has been impacted by area development. (NRHP eligibility may be in doubt)	Yes
41BX395	chert testing and core reduction site	McGraw and Valdez 1978	Located in Eisenhower Park - no soil, just limestone with extensive chert nodules; located along seasonal stream drainage in Salado watershed.	No
41BX404	surface scatter, lithic	McGraw and Valdez 1978; Cestaro et al. 2001	Located in Camp Bullis; lithic resource procurement area, quarry and primary reduction site.	No
*41BX442	Prehistoric: lithic scatter	Hester 1974; Cliff et al. 1990; Miller and Wingate 2005	Located along the creek bed in dense underbrush; recovered scraper, biface, and possible hammerstone.	No
*41BX444	lithic scatter	Hester 1974; Cliff et al. 1990	Located along the creek bed, on a terrace sloping towards creek and inside horseshoe bend in main channel; noted extensive lithic debris, biface fragment	No
41BX445	lithic scatter	Hester 1974; Miller and Wingate 2005	Located off N.W. Military and Loop 1604; heavy flaking debris and flint cobbles cover entire area.	No
41BX446	lithic scatter	Hester 1974; Miller and Wingate 2005	Located upstream, NE of Loop 1604 and N.W. Military; heavy rock and flint deposit and flaking debris.	No
41BX700	lithic workshop	McGraw 1986	Located in Eisenhower Park (missing site data form)	No
*41BX875	Prehistoric: lithic scatter and historic period shack	Cliff et al. 1990; Miller and Wingate 2005	Located along the creek bed; NW of Loop 1604 and Salado Creek; noted lithic tools, cores, and debitage (most of the observed lithics are tertiary flakes); many beer cans and broken beer and liquor bottles are abundant near the shack and campfires.	No
* 41BX876	Prehistoric: lithic scatter	Cliff et al. 1990; Miller and Wingate 2005	Located along creek bed; NW of Loop 1604 and Salado Creek; very long diffuse lithic scatter, mostly tertiary flakes and shatter, also observed blades, bifaces, hand-axe, cores, and scraper fragment.	No
*41BX877	lithic scatter	Cliff et al. 1990	Located along creek bed off NW Military and the southern boundary of Camp Bullis; site consists of a small diffuse lithic scatter, includes biface fragment, knife/projectile point fragment, possible core fragment and flakes.	No

*Site within the APE

Table 2-1. Inventory of Recorded Archaeological Sites within 500 m of the Trail Segment, continued....

Site	Site Type	Recorded by	Notes	NRHP Eligibility Recommendation
41BX879	Prehistoric, lithic scatter	Cliff et al. 1990; Figueroa 2016	Located along creek bed off Loop 1604 and Salado Creek, site consists of a very long, narrow diffuse lithic scatter; observed chert debitage (mostly tertiary), and some scrapers.	No
41BX918	campsite and burned-rock middens	Quigg 1988; Pagoulatos 2008	Located in Camp Bullis; extensive surface and subsurface finds - flakes, shatter, utilized flakes, burin-like utilized flake, spokeshave-like utilized flakes, blade-like flakes, resharpening flakes, unifacial end-scrapers, unifacial side scrapers, bifaces; drill/perforators, and varied projectiles.	Yes
*41BX920	lithic scatter	Quigg 1988; Kibler et al. 1998	Located in Camp Bullis, at the south-end fence between NW Military and Salado Creek; concentrations of chipped and tested cobbles along drainage with light to moderate scatter between concentrations; site appears to be a heavily used lithic procurement area that follows a chert outcrop that runs the distance of survey area.	No
41BX1010	lithic scatter	T. Dureka et al. for Prewitt and Assoc., Inc. 1994	Located in Camp Bullis; flakes, a few cores, and quarry blanks; rough bifaces; projectile point base (Castroville), and burned rock.	No
41BX1248	lithic scatter	Scott 1997	Located in Camp Bullis; collected one flake, observed distal biface fragments, primary flakes, secondary flakes, and tertiary flakes.	No
41BX2019	lithic scatter	R.D. Ward for SWCA 2014 (private/unpublished)	Located along creek bed in undeveloped private property; concentration chert flake and debitage refuse, with most of the flakes being small to medium tertiary and secondary flakes with few tested cobbles and primary flakes.	No

*Site within the APE

and 41BX879 (TxDOT 2015:9). However, the TxDOT survey does not mention sites 41BX9 and 41BX22, which are clearly within the Loop 1604 ROW (see Figure 2-1).

The area is replete with archeological sites, especially in Camp Bullis to the north. With over 11,000 hectares (27,994 acres), Camp Bullis has 106 previously recorded archeological sites, 88 of which are prehistoric (USACE 2002:3-69). Located at the extreme southwest corner of the Camp Bullis property, 41BX920 skirts the Rogers Ranch segment for 1.3 km.

Site 41BX920 lies near the footprint of the Roger Ranch trail easement. This site was recorded during an archeological survey of the Salado Creek at Camp Bullis and Fort Sam Houston (Quigg 1988). This 40-m^2 site was identified as a short-term activity area lacking diagnostic cultural material. The site was revisited in 1994 and reclassified as a lithic procurement site, with a site size of 190 m (northwest-southeast) by 1360 m (northeast-southwest) (Kibler et al. 1998:10; THC 2017). The area surveyed did not include the CPS easement and Marietta Materials property.

Twelve shovel tests were located within close proximity to the previously recorded sites. Shovel Tests 19, 20, and 21 were located near 41BX876, and STs 22, 23, and 24 were located near 41BX877. Shovel Tests 25 through 30, a total of six, were located near 41BX920. The results of all 12 of these shovel tests were negative (see Chapter 4).

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Chapter 3: Field and Laboratory Methods

Prior to initiating the fieldwork, CAR staff reviewed the literature and documented resources associated with the project area. This background research consisted of reviewing all previous archaeological investigations within 500 m, as well as relevant reports, maps, and publications related to the project area.

Fieldwork

In order to identify and document prehistoric and/or historic properties, the fieldwork consisted of a 100 percent pedestrian survey of the 5.9-km trail, closely examining ground surfaces within the APE and utilizing GPS mapping and photography to record any surface sites, standing architecture, or other features. The survey included shovel testing in order to locate and document subsurface cultural deposits. Shovel tests were approximately 30 cm in diameter and, when possible, were excavated to depths of 60 cm below the ground surface. Shovel tests were excavated in 10-cm arbitrary levels, and all soil matrixes were screened through 1/4-inch hardware cloth. At the conclusion of the shovel tests, natural stratigraphic levels were recorded, and the holes were refilled with the screened soil.

Daily field logs were maintained, and standard shovel test forms were completed. Activities and discoveries were documented and supported by digital data, including photographs, where appropriate. CAR staff recorded both positive and negative shovel tests and attributes specific to those tests with a GPS unit. A lab-based GIS Specialist supported the field crew.

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 radius (ca. 706.9 m^2); or (2) a single cultural feature, such as a hearth, observed on surface or exposed in shovel testing; or (3) a positive shovel test containing at least three artifacts within a given 10-cm level; or (4) a positive shovel test containing at least five total artifacts; or (5) two positive shovel tests located within 30 m of each other. None of the 36 shovel tests met these requirements, and no artifacts were collected.

Curation Preparation and Final Curation

All records generated during the project were prepared in accordance with Federal Regulations 36 CFR Part 79 and THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Field forms were printed on acid-free paper and completed with pencil.

All field notes, forms, photographs, and drawings will be placed in labeled archival folders. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper and placed in archival-quality page protectors to prevent accidental smearing due to moisture. All project-related materials, including the final report, will be permanently stored at the CAR's curation facility.

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Chapter 4: Results of the Fieldwork

A team of three CAR archaeologists completed fieldwork in early May 2017. Except for a 1.5-km stretch at the far north end of the APE, the trail meandered along the Salado Creek drainage. Surveying and shovel testing began at the far south end of the trail, just south of Loop 1604 at Salado Creek, and continued north-northwest along the Salado Creek drainage over three consecutive days. A Trimble Juno handheld GPS unit, with an uploaded shapefile of the trail, was used to plot a course along the unmarked trail, and a Trimble Geo XT was used to record shovel test locations.

South End

At the south end, the trail began at the right bank of the creek, just south of Loop 1604 and along Medicine Wall Road. The trail moved along the road and toward the creek drainage, continued on under the Loop 1604 overpass, and then diagonally shifted across and onto the left bank of the creek. CAR staff completed three shovel tests (STs 1-3) at the trailhead immediately south of Loop 1604 (Figure 4-1). This area was littered with household trash, discarded lumber, and brush. Medicine Wall Road runs beneath the Loop 1604 overpass and then meanders north-northwest along the creek's left bank (Figure 4-2). The road dead-ends to the east and across from the Medicine Wall, a 10- to 12-m high, sheer limestone cliff.

The east side of the Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment skirts along 41BX22, but evidence of this site was lacking. The surface consisted of caliche gravels, with large limestone rocks strewn about the area. A gravel service road leads up to and away from the creek bed and parallels the west-bound lanes of Loop 1604. This gravel road cuts through what would be the 41BX22 site boundary.

Surveying continued for about 150 m north-northwest of the Loop 1604 overpass, where another three shovel tests were completed (STs 4-6). Shovel Test 4 was located in an abandoned trail bordered by rocks (Figure 4-3). The crew then continued north for about 500 m, with the trail weaving

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Figure 4-1. South end of trail alignment, STs 1 through 12. Shovel Tests 37 and 38 for the second connecting trail surveyed in December 2017.

Figure 4-2. Proposed trail route (red) along Medicine Wall Road and Salado Creek drainage, underneath Loop 1604 overpass (view north).

Figure 4-3. Shovel Test 4 (yellow circle) along old trail (view south).

through site 41BX875. This is a multicomponent site, recorded in 1990, that includes a historic period structure (Cliff et al. 1990:31-33). The mid-twentieth-century structure is now in ruins, as it has been destroyed by fire (Figure 4-4). Historic-period artifacts, such as bottles, tin cans, and hardware, are strewn about. There was no evidence of prehistoric material or features. The proposed trail followed an established mountain bike trail for a distance of about 30 m (Figure 4-5). Surveying of the trail continued to the west-northwest for about 300 m to a stagnant pond. The trail maintained its course along the left bank of the creek and past the Medicine Wall. Another three shovel tests were completed north of the pond (STs 7-9). The crew then backtracked east-southeast towards 41BX875 where they completed an additional three shovel tests (STs 10-12). Soils along this route were, for the most part, too shallow and not suitable for testing.

Figure 4-4. Burned-out shack at 41BX875.

Figure 4-5. Trail following path of active mountain bike trail (view north).

The first day of surveying and shovel testing was well within the footprint of four previously recorded sites (41BX22, 41BX442, 41BX444, and 41BX875), but only one (41BX875) was observed. The ground cover was very dense, as a thick layer of leaves, twigs, and tree branches covers the APE in this area. Cedar dominates the landscape. Grasses, prickly pear, and a few strands of oak are scattered along the trail. The field crew did not observe any lithic material.

Twelve shovel tests were completed within the south end of the trail, and all were negative for cultural material (see Figure 4-1 and Table 4-1). The area north of the pond was scouted and another access point located in order to continue the survey the following day.

A second connecting trail was added to the south end of the APE in December 2017. The CAR surveyed and tested this

Table 4-1. Shovel Tests Excavated at the South End*

ST	Depth cmbs	Notes	Results	Site Revisit
1	0-45	organic material** 0-2 cm; reddish/brown silt clay (2-30 cm); some soil dominated by gravel below 30 cm, then bedrock at 45 cm	Negative	None
2	0-19	organic material 0-3 cm; brown silt clay (3-19 cm); hit gravel/ limestone outcrop at 19 cm	Negative	None
3	0-28	organic material 0-3 cm; brown silt clay (3-10 cm); gravel and large limestone cobbles to 28 cm; hit bedrock at 28 cm	Negative	None
4	0-26	organic material 0-2 cm; reddish brown silt clay (2-10 cm); some soil dominated by gravel (80%) below 10 cm, then bedrock at 26 cm; located inside old road approx. 3.3 m wide, limestone berm on either side of path	Negative	None
5	0-13	organic material 0-3 cm; brown silt clay (3-13 cm); hit gravel/ limestone outcrop at 13 cm	Negative	None
6	0-25	organic material 0-3 cm; brown silt clay (3-25 cm), dominated by gravel and large limestone cobbles; hit bedrock at 25 cm	Negative	None
7	0-60	organic material 0-2 cm; reddish brown silt clay (2-10 cm), fragments of Styrofoam and machine-cut wood, also *rabdotus* and *polygyra* (trash not visible nearby); brown, compact clay to 60 cm, with *polygyra* present; levels are culturally sterile; stopped at 60 cm	Negative	None
8	0-35	organic material 0-3 cm; brown silt clay (3-21 cm); gravel and cobbles to 35 cm; hit bedrock at 35 cm	Negative	None
9	0-60	organic material 0-2 cm; brown silt clay (2-30 cm); pebbles and gravel increased at lower depth, abundance of roots; levels are culturally sterile; stopped at 60 cm	Negative	None
10	0-18	organic material 0-2 cm; reddish/brown silt clay (2-18 cm); some soil dominated by gravel (80%); stopped at bedrock	Negative	None
11	0-5	organic material 0-2 cm; light brown silt/gravel to 5 cm; hit bedrock at 5 cm	Negative	None
12	0-28	organic material 0-2 cm; pale brown clay, compact, abundance of roots, pebbles, and gravel (2-28 cm); stopped at bedrock	Negative	None

*Note: four of the 12 shovel tests were shallow (<20 cm), and all were negative
**organic material = leaves and twigs

short connecting trail, just northwest of the Loop 1604 and Salado Creek intersection (Figure 4-6). The connecting trail begins off a new sidewalk and above an embankment just north of Loop 1604, off the right bank (west side) of the Salado Creek. The trail bends to the west-northwest down the embankment, bends again, east-southeast, onto the creek bed, and then cuts east to join the main trail on the left bank (east side) of Salado Creek. Two shovel tests were excavated in this area (Figure 4-6 and Table 4-2). Shovel Test 37 was excavated at the trailhead, just north of the sidewalk. The shovel test was excavated to a final depth of 45 cmbs, mostly through limestone cobbles. A charcoal fragment and a brown glass shard (beer bottle) were noted at 20-23 cmbs. A second shovel test (ST 38) was excavated near the northwest bend of the connecting trail in what appeared to be fairly deep sediments. This shovel test also had negative results, as only 10 cm of humus-rich sediment was excavated before hitting a limestone outcrop. About 90 percent of the trail is covered by cobbles and boulders with strands of cedar along the way.

Middle Section

Access to the middle section of the trail was from a Shavano Ranch subdivision that is still under development. The crew backtracked towards the pond and then surveyed back to the entry point. An area just east of the entry point was selected for testing (STs 13-15) with negative results (Figure 4-7).

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Figure 4-6. Connecting trail at south end of the Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment along Salado Creek.

Table 4-2. Shovel Tests Excavated at the South End Connecting Trail

ST	Depth cmbs	Notes	Results	Site Revisit
37	0-45	dark brown clay to 12 cm; brown silty clay with gravel 12-23 cm, beer glass shard and charcoal between 16 and 23 cm (not collected); limestone gravel in light brown silty clay 23-45 cm	Negative	None
38	0-10	organic material* 0-10 cm; brown soil, humus rich, mostly leaves and twigs; hit limestone outcrop at 8-10 cm	Negative	None

*organic material = leaves and twigs

The crew surveyed 200 m to the north-northwest and located another area to test (STs 16-18). For the next 600 m, the trail moved through a heavily disturbed area where a sewer line had been installed, and manholes were evident about every 50 m (Figure 4-8). No areas were shovel tested along this section of the trail.

An additional area suitable for testing (STs 19-21) was located just south of a series of east-west power lines. The area between the shovel tests and power lines was then surveyed without result. This part of the trail ran along a dirt road that followed a series of north-south electrical poles. The trail then shifted a few meters to the west and onto a gravel road. The survey crew continued along a 300-m stretch of gravel road before locating another suitable area to shovel test (STs 22-24). The survey crew then continued up the gravel road for about 600 m, coming to a bend where the trail moved away from the creek and towards the Marietta Materials gravel pit.

The second day of surveying and shovel testing was well within the footprint of two previously recorded sites (41BX876 and 41BX877), but no evidence of the sites was detected. The trail in this area is heavily disturbed by a sewer line install as well as dirt and gravel roads. All 12 shovel tests (STs 13-24) completed within this section of trail were negative (Figure 4-7 and Table 4-3).

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Figure 4-7. Middle section of trail alignment, STs 13 through 24.

Figure 4-8. Trail following path of sewer line easement from view northeast (left), northeast (center), and northwest (right).

Table 4-3. Shovel Tests Excavated within the Middle Section*

ST	Depth cmbs	Notes	Results	Site Revisit
13	0-44	organic material** 0-2 cm; dark brown silt clay (2-20 cm), *rabdotus* and large tree root, 6-7 cm thick and 17 cm long; soft brown soil 20-30 cm, *rabdotus* and *polygyra*; gravel and silt clay below 30 cm; 80% gravel to 44 cm; stopped at bedrock	Negative	None
14	0-26	organic material 0-4 cm; dark brown clay loam (4-10 cm); brown clay loam to 20 cm; brown silt clay (gravelly) to 26 cm	Negative	None
15	0-40	organic material 0-2 cm; brown clay loam to about 30 cm; pebbles and gravel to 40 cm, roots throughout	Negative	None
16	0-46	organic material 0-2 cm; brown silt clay (2-10 cm), *rabdotus* and *polygyra*; dark brown, compact soil 20-46 cm, *rabdotus* and *polygyra*; hit large limestone rocks at 46 cm and stopped	Negative	None
17	0-9	organic material 0-2 cm; gravelly clay (2-9 cm); hit bedrock at 9 cm	Negative	None
18	0-20	organic material 0-2 cm; gray silt clay (2-20 cm); hit bedrock at 20 cm	Negative	None
19	0-23	organic material 0-2 cm; gray silt clay (2-10 cm); brown silt clay with gravel and large root; hit bedrock at 23 cm and stopped	Negative	41BX876
20	0-51	organic material 0-2 cm; brown silt clay with pebbles and gravel to 51 cm; hit large rocks and stopped	Negative	41BX876
21	0-19	organic material 0-3 cm; brown clay, compact-hard (3-19 cm); hit gravel/bedrock at 19 cm and stopped	Negative	41BX876
22	0-23	organic material 0-2 cm; reddish clay (2-20 cm), encountered large root; hit bedrock at 23 cm and stopped	Negative	41BX877
23	0-33	organic material 0-2 cm; dark brown clay with roots, pebbles and gravel to 33 cm, hit large rocks and stopped	Negative	41BX877
24	0-18	organic material 0-3 cm; hard brown clay (3-18 cm); hit gravel/ bedrock at 18 cm and stopped	Negative	41BX877

*Note: four of the 12 shovel tests were shallow (<20 cm), and all were negative.
**organic material = leaves and twigs

North End

The north end of the trail at N. W. Military Drive was inaccessible due to it being fenced off. CAR staff coordinated with CPS and Marietta Materials staff to gain access to the area across from Eisenhower Park.

This last part of the survey and shovel testing occurred to the west of the Salado Creek juncture, where most of the trail follows a Marietta Materials gravel road (Figure 4-9). The road is bounded by the Camp Bullis fence line to the north and a 2-m high caliche gravel berm to the south (Figure 4-10). The berm acts as a barrier to a 10- to 12-m deep gravel pit. This 600-m stretch of trail is heavily disturbed. The last three shovel tests (STs 34-36) were completed about 30 m east of the Marietta Materials property.

The crew tested three areas (STs 25-33) within a 200-m stretch of trail in the CPS easement. The CPS easement was heavily wooded, mostly cedar. A lithic flake was noted on the surface a few meters southwest of ST 28 (see Figure 4-9). As can be seen in Figure 4-11, there was a 20-m area of trail that was inaccessible due to a pile of dead branches. The trail in this area follows a natural drainage that has exposed the underlying bedrock. Where present, the sediment in this area is dense, dark, and humus rich.

Surveying and shovel testing along the CPS easement and Marietta Materials property was in close proximity to the footprint of 41BX920, a lithic scatter site recorded in 1988 (Quigg 1988:14). The site is elongated and borders the Camp Bullis and Marietta Materials property line (see Figure 2-1). A faint trace, in the form of two lithic flakes, was detected

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Figure 4-9. North end of trail alignment, STs 22 through 36.

Figure 4-10. Trail along Marietta Materials gravel road; pit berm on left and Camp Bullis fence on right (view southwest).

Figure 4-11. Trail at CPS easement; impassable due to brush pile (view southwest).

at the southwest end of this section of the proposed trail. A flake was recovered from ST 28 and another recovered on the surface near this same shovel test, which is directly opposite the Camp Bullis property fence. A burned rock fragment was recovered from ST 35, located at the northeast end of this section of trail. The proposed trail area between the two positive shovel tests, along the Marietta Materials property line, is heavily disturbed by the gravel road and mining activity (Table 4-4).

Summary

Of the 5.9 km of trail, at least 4 km follow gravel and dirt roads that have been heavily impacted by power line and sewer line easements (Figure 4-12). This length of impacted APE begins at the northwest corner of the Marietta Materials gravel pit, follows the pit to the northeast where it cuts sharply to the south-southwest, and then parallels Salado Creek to the Medicine Wall. The only areas not as impacted are off N. W. Military Drive (CPS easement) and between Loop 1604 and the Medicine Wall. Much of the trail extends very near or within the creek bed, and these areas could not be shovel tested due to lack of soil deposition and heavy gravel.

The pedestrian survey and shovel testing within the 24.4-m easement of the 5.9-km long Rogers Ranch Trail Alignment failed to locate evidence of new archeological sites. Only two (41BX875 and 41BX920) of the seven previously recorded sites within the APE were identified, and both were minimally discernible. At the north end, beyond the fence and within Camp Bullis, site 41BX920 extends across most of the trail between N. W. Military Drive and Salado Creek. A faint trace, in the form of two lithic flakes, appears to be part of the 41BX920 lithic scatter. The burned rock fragment that was found in ST 35 is considered an isolated find and not part of 41BX920. None of the cultural material was collected. Survey and testing at the south end of the proposed trail located a known historic structure associated with site 41BX875. The trail at this south end is already being used for mountain biking, and two bicyclists were observed on the day this segment of trail was being surveyed and tested.

Table 4-4. Shovel Tests Excavated at the North End*

ST	Depth cmbs	Notes	Results	Site Revisit
25	0-5	organic material** 0-2 cm; reddish brown soil very shallow; hit bedrock at 5 cm	Negative	41BX920
26	0-16	organic material 0-2 cm; brown soil, very thin, mostly pebbles and gravel (2-16 cm); stopped at bedrock	Negative	41BX920
27	0-3	attempted to break through what appeared to be a thin layer of gravel over sediment and thick layer of organic material; hit bedrock	Negative	41BX920
28	0-24	organic material 0-4 cm; dark brown, humus-rich soil, soft (2-24 cm); hit large limestone rocks at 24 cm and stopped; recovered 1 flake approx. 25 m SW of this ST	Positive	41BX920
29	0-33	organic material 0-4 cm; dark brown, humus-rich soil, soft (2-33 cm); hit large limestone rocks at 33 cm and stopped	Negative	41BX920
30	0-22	organic material 0-4 cm; dark brown, humus-rich soil, soft (2-22 cm); hit large limestone rocks at 22 cm and stopped	Negative	41BX920
31	0-29	organic material 0-2 cm; reddish brown silt clay to 20 cm; reddish brown to dark brown silt clay to 29 cm; high silt content with dark clay nodules; hit bedrock at 29 cm	Negative	None
32	0-30	organic material 0-2 cm; brown silt clay (2-30 cm), pebbles throughout; hit bedrock at 30 cm and stopped	Negative	None
33	0-33	organic material 0-3 cm; dark brown clay (2-33 cm); hit bedrock at 33 cm and stopped	Negative	None
34	0-32	organic material 0-2 cm; reddish brown clay (2-10 cm); brown clay (10-23 cm) hit gravel at 23 cm and continued to 32 cm, stopped at bedrock	Negative	None
35	0-25	organic material 0-2 cm; brown clay (2-25 cm); roots and pebbles, hit bedrock at 25 cm and stopped; recovered a burned rock fragment	Positive	None
36	0-29	organic material 0-3 cm; dark brown clay (10-19 cm); light brown clay 19-29 cm; hit bedrock at 29 cm and stopped	Negative	None

*Note: three of the 12 shovel tests were shallow (<20 cm), and all but two were negative.
**organic material = leaves and twigs

Figure 4-12. Trail following electric line easement (view northwest).

Chapter 5: Conclusions and Recommendations

In May 2017, CAR archaeologists completed a 100 percent pedestrian survey and shovel testing of the Rogers Ranch segment of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System. The principal goal was to identify and document all prehistoric and/or historic archaeological sites that may be impacted by the proposed trail. The APE consisted of a 5.9-km long trail segment with a 24.4-m wide easement. A total of 18 previously recorded sites were located within 500 m of the trail, with seven of these (41BX22, 41BX442, 41BX444, 41BX875, 41BX876, 41BX877, and 41BX920) being within the 24.4 m-wide easement.

At the south end of the trail, site 41BX875 still has the previously recorded remnant of a mid-twentieth-century structure. The structure is heavily damaged by fire and should be extensively photo-documented then razed, as it lacks any potential for future research. The historic-period artifacts strewn about should be documented and discarded. The APE at the additional connecting trail at the south end has been impacted by a recent housing development. Modern litter is present along the creek bed and the creek's right embankment has been built-up with construction spoils (limestone rubble).

At the north end, beyond the fence and within Camp Bullis, site 41BX920 extends across most of the area between N. W. Military Drive and Salado Creek. A faint trace, in the form of two lithic flakes, appears to be part of the 41BX920 lithic scatter within the CPS and Marietta Materials easement of the proposed trail. The burned rock fragment that was found in ST 35 is considered an isolated find and not part of 41BX920. None of the cultural material from the surface or shovel tests was collected.

Of the seven sites noted above, 41BX22 was the only one that was determined eligible for NRHP listing when first recorded (THC 2017). Site 41BX22 is no longer recognizable, as it was likely impacted by the widening of Loop 1604. The CAR has determined that none of the seven sites are eligible for listing as NRHP or State Antiquities Landmark (SAL).

Development of the project area and its surrounds has been dramatic over the past 10 years. Figure 5-1 illustrates the land use, growth, and development in the area between 2006 and 2017. The proliferation of additional impervious cover shown in Areas B, C, and D is likely the cause of extreme storm water runoff and erosion of the creek bed (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 2017). Situated between 300 and 460 mamsl, Camp Bullis contributes a considerable amount of storm water runoff into the Salado Creek drainage (USACE 2002:4-37). As seen in the 2017 aerial (see Figure 5-1), Area A is not impervious cover but rather a 30-40 ft. deep quarry site.

In conclusion, the result of the pedestrian survey and testing along the APE was largely negative. It is likely that the previously recorded sites have eroded considerably over the past 10 years. It is possible they have disappeared altogether. As noted in Chapter 2, a recent TxDOT (2015) survey of the Loop 1604 ROW failed to locate any trace of eight of 12 previously recorded sites, including 41BX875 and 41BX879. Therefore, the CAR recommends no additional archaeological work in advance of construction of the proposed Rogers Ranch segment of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System.

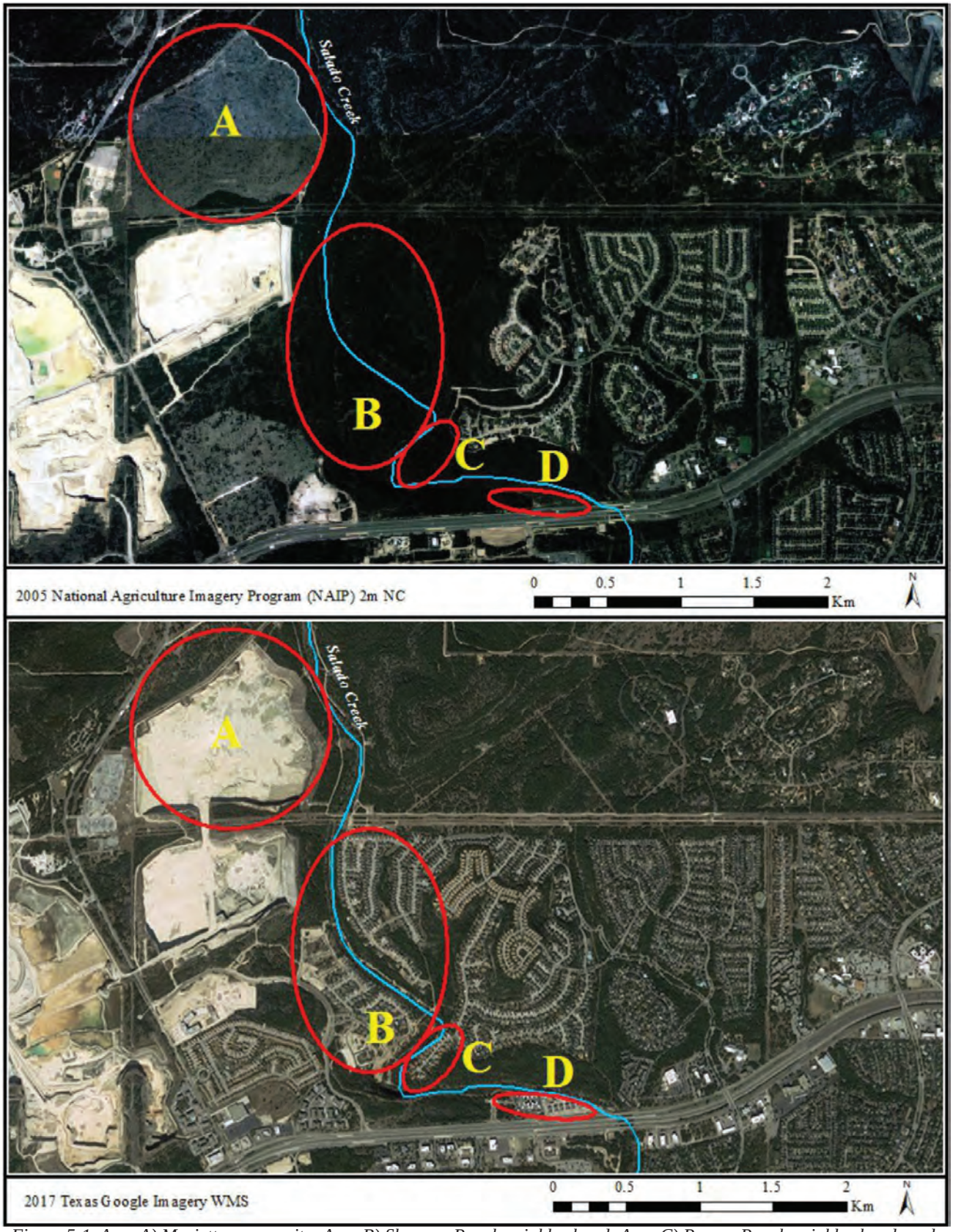

Figure 5-1. Area A) Marietta quarry site; Area B) Shavano Ranch neighborhood; Area C) Rogers Ranch neighborhood; and Area D) apartments.

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