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Intensive Archaeological Survey Investigations of a Proposed 125-Acre Lakewood Community Park for the City of Leander, Williamson County, Texas

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Intensive Archaeological Survey Investigations of a Proposed 125-Acre Lakewood Community Park for the City of Leander, Williamson County, Texas

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Intensive Archaeological Survey Investigations of a Proposed 125-Acre Lakewood Community Park for the City of Leander, Williamson County, Texas

Prepared by
Deidra A. Black and James W. Karbula

Prepared for
City of Leander Parks and Recreation Department
P.O. Box 319
Leander, Texas 78646



View of lake in Lakewood Community Park project area

**Intensive Archaeological Survey Investigations of a
Proposed 125-Acre Lakewood Community Park for
the City of Leander, Williamson County, Texas**

Prepared by

Deidra A. Black and James W. Karbula

Submitted by

James W. Karbula
Principal Investigator

Prepared for

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P.O. Box 319
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August 2015

WSA Technical Report No. 2015-21



WSA, Inc.
206 W. Main Street, Suite 111
Round Rock, TX 78664

ABSTRACT

Report Title: *Intensive Archaeological Survey Investigations of a Proposed 125-Acre Lakewood Community Park for the City of Leander, Williamson County, Texas*

Report Date: August 2015

Report Number: WSA Technical Report No. 2015-21

Agency: none

Permit Number: Texas Antiquities Code Permit 7296

Project Description: WSA, Inc. (WSA) conducted a 100% pedestrian archaeological survey with shovel testing for the proposed City of Leander, Lakewood Community Park in Williamson County, Texas. The project is sponsored by the City of Leander Parks and Recreation Department and owned by the City of Leander and the investigations are subject to the Texas Antiquities Code (TAC) and TAC permitting. The project was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit 7296. A total of 27 pedestrian transects were surveyed at 30 m intervals, and two additional transects were conducted parallel to the shoreline. A total of 40 negative shovel tests were excavated in compliance with the THC minimum survey standards for acreage based projects. One prehistoric lithic scatter archaeological site was identified during the investigations (41WM1308). The site consists of a low density, displaced area of tested chert cobbles and flakes confined to the ground surface. No subsurface artifacts were present and no artifacts were collected. No other cultural resources were observed or identified in the project area. Previously recorded prehistoric archaeological site 41WM1159 overlaps the eastern border of the proposed project. The site was not revisited due to the construction of a bermed earthen dam and gravel road in the site area and inundation. This site was previously recorded as a surficial lithic scatter with no observed features and recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP or as a SAL.

Acres Surveyed: 125

Project Number: WSA 2015-27

Project Location: City of Leander, Williamson County, Texas

Unevaluated Properties: 0

NRHP Eligible Properties: 0

NRHP Ineligible Properties: 1 (41WM1308)

NRHP Listed Properties: 0

Isolated Occurrences: 0

Total Project Resources: 1

Recommendations: Site 41WM1308 is recommended as not eligible as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL) nor as eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). WSA requests THC concurrence that site 41WM1308 is not SAL or NRHP eligible and that the site does not warrant any further archaeological investigations. WSA concludes that there exists a low probability that cultural resources eligible for SAL or NRHP listing exist on the surveyed property based on pedestrian survey and negative shovel testing. WSA respectfully requests THC concurrence with the conclusion that there exists a low probability that significant NRHP- or SAL-eligible cultural resources will be impacted by the proposed project. WSA recommends and respectfully requests THC concurrence that with regards to SALs, project construction within the areas of proposed ground disturbance be allowed to proceed under the TAC, and that all TAC permit consultation for the proposed project be considered concluded and complete. All project records will be submitted for professional curation and permanently housed at the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL) of the University of Texas at Austin, in partial completion of TAC Permit 7296.

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CHAPTER 1. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

WSA, Inc. (WSA) conducted a 100 percent pedestrian archaeological survey with shovel testing for the proposed City of Leander, Lakewood Community Park in Williamson County, Texas (Figure 1). WSA conducted project cultural resource investigations consistent with the requirements of the Texas Natural Resources Code Title 9, Chapter 191 (Antiquities Code of Texas) and the accompanying Rules of Practice and Procedure (Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Chapter 26) for the code. The project is sponsored by the City of Leander Parks and Recreation Department and owned by the City of Leander and the investigations are subject to the Texas Antiquities Code (TAC) and TAC permitting. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recommended an archaeological survey for the proposed project in a coordination letter dated December 10, 2014 (THC #201502988). The project was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit 7296.

Survey of the approximately 125-acre project consisted of 27 pedestrian transects conducted at 30 m intervals, two transects conducted parallel to the shoreline, and 40 negative shovel tests in compliance with the THC minimum survey standards for acreage based projects. One prehistoric lithic scatter archaeological site was identified during the investigations (41WM1308). The site consists of a low density, displaced area of tested chert cobbles and flakes confined to the ground surface. The site is recommended as not eligible as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL) nor as eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No subsurface artifacts were present and no artifacts were collected. WSA requests THC concurrence that site 41WM1308 is not SAL- or NRHP-eligible and for no further archaeological investigations. No other cultural resources were observed or identified in the project area. Previously recorded prehistoric archaeological site 41WM1159 overlaps the eastern border of the proposed project. The site was not revisited due to the construction of a bermed earthen dam and gravel road in the site area and inundation. This site was previously recorded as a surficial lithic scatter with no observed features and recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP or as a SAL.

WSA concludes that there exists a low probability that cultural resources eligible for SAL or NRHP listing exist on the surveyed property based on pedestrian survey and negative shovel testing. WSA respectfully requests THC concurrence with the conclusion that there exists a low probability that significant NRHP- or SAL-eligible cultural resources will be impacted by the proposed project. WSA recommends and respectfully requests THC concurrence that with regards to SALs, project construction within the areas of proposed ground disturbance be allowed to proceed under the TAC, and that all TAC permit consultation for the proposed project be considered concluded and complete. All project records will be submitted for professional curation and permanently housed at the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL) of the University of Texas at Austin, in partial completion of TAC Permit 7296.

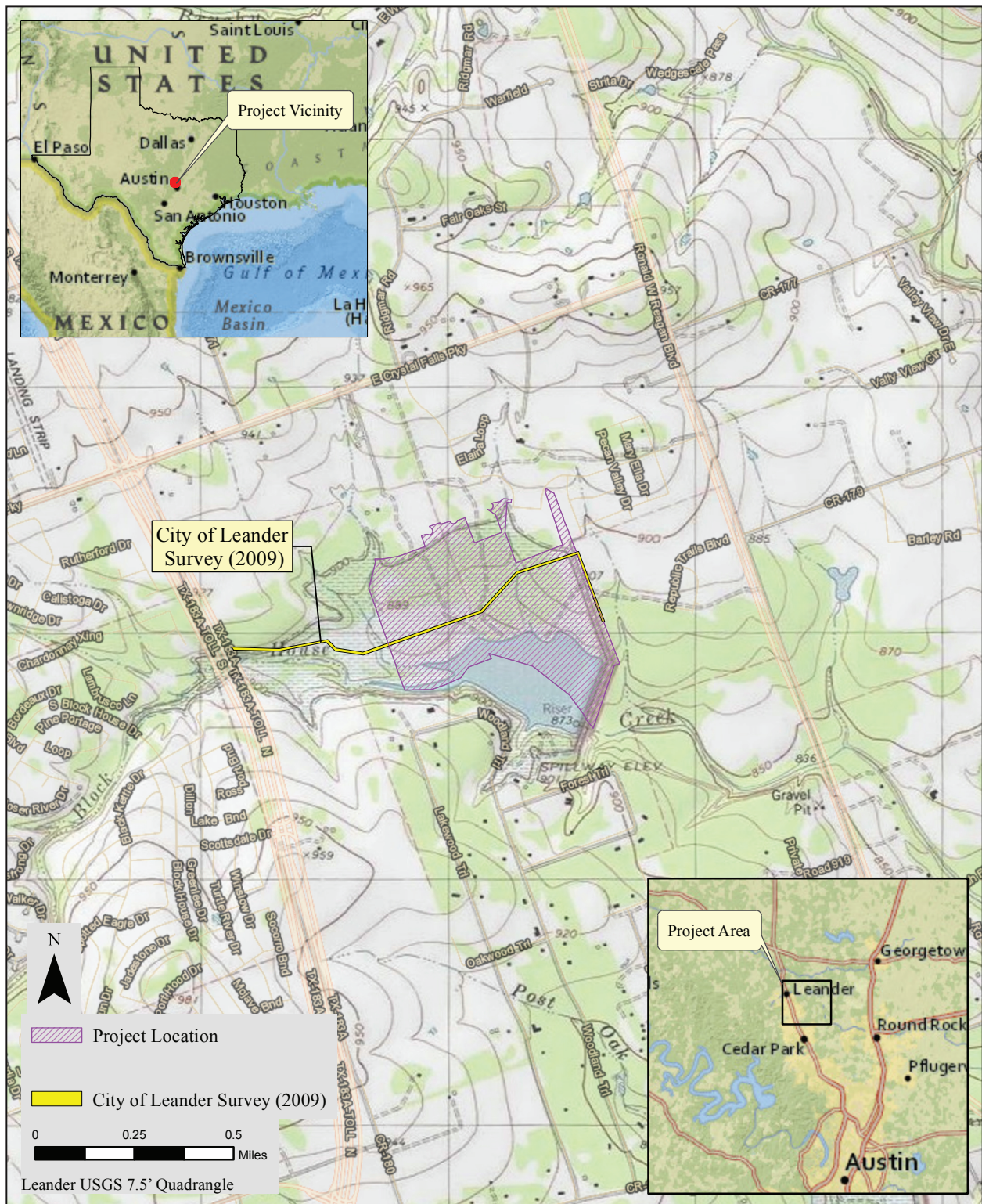


Figure 1. Project location map.

CHAPTER 2. INTRODUCTION

WSA conducted a 100 percent pedestrian survey with shovel testing of the proposed 125-acre Lakewood Community Park for the City of Leander Parks and Recreation Department, Williamson County, Texas (see Figure 1). Survey investigations were conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit 7296, and within the requirements of the Texas Natural Resources Code Title 9, Chapter 191 (Antiquities Code of Texas), and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716-44742). The investigations were conducted in accordance with the Archeological Survey Standards for Texas, the guidelines established by the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA).

Project Area Description

The project is located within the City of Leander on Blockhouse Creek generally located near the southeast corner of East Crystal Falls Parkway and Ronald Reagan Boulevard and between Grand Lake Parkway and Woodland Trail, in Williamson County, Texas.

Summary of Archaeological Work Performed

WSA conducted background research of available publications, manuscripts, site records, and the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas. The purpose of the archival research was to identify any previously recorded archaeological sites, cemeteries, historic structures, markers, properties, and districts listed on the NRHP, as well as SALs located in the proposed project area. In addition, prior to fieldwork, WSA examined U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil maps and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) geologic maps to determine the probability and relative depth of Quaternary or Holocene alluvial deposits in the proposed project area.

WSA conducted a complete, 100 percent pedestrian inventory that included systematic shovel testing of undisturbed areas within the proposed project area. The pedestrian survey was conducted along multiple 30-m transect intervals and parallel to the shoreline within the approximate 125-acre project. During survey, the archaeological crew used a Trimble handheld GPS unit to map and place shovel tests and to map the shoreline of the man-made lake filled by Blockhouse Creek. The project area largely exists on ancient landforms. The area consists entirely of very shallow Holocene age soils overlying caliche and limestone bedrock with observed extensive outcroppings of bedrock exposures.

The archaeological survey was performed in two visits in May and June 2015. All work met acceptable professional and safety standards. WSA personnel met all requirements necessary to carry out archaeological investigations in areas subject to TAC jurisdiction, including the requirements of Section 106, as well as those listed under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation. One low density, prehistoric archaeological lithic scatter site was recorded in the west project area. The site (41WM1308) consists of a surface scatter of tested chert

cobbles and few large chert flakes representing the early stages of stone tool manufacture. Surface drainage patterns in that area indicate the artifacts may have washed into their location by rains and flooding. The site is not recommended for any further archaeological investigations and does not contain any buried artifacts. No other cultural resources were observed.

Typically, projects that are subject to TAC permit and Section 106 of the NHPA require collection, analysis, publication, and professional curation or accession of all temporally diagnostic artifacts found in surface contexts, and all subsurface artifacts from excavated shovel test units, whether located within archaeological sites or encountered as isolated finds, as well as project records at a recognized state or federal repository subsequent to reporting. During the reported investigations, no artifacts were found in any shovel tests and no cultural features were observed on the surface. Therefore, in the absence of collected artifacts, WSA will curate all project notes, photographs, maps, and records in-house at the WSA Austin office.

Personnel Commitment

The survey was conducted on May 29 and June 15, 2015 by Principal Investigator James Karbula, and WSA staff Deidra Black and Edward Arevalo. The report was prepared by Deidra Black and James Karbula. WSA editor Lindsay Wygant was responsible for assembling the draft into InDesign and for quality control. Nazih Fino, WSA cartographer and GIS technician, is credited with GIS production of the report illustrations and plates.

Report Organization

The orientation sections of the report are organized into an Abstract, Management Summary, and Introduction. Subsequent sections include Environmental Setting, Previous Investigations and Archaeological Background, the Results of Field Investigations is presented from west to east in three different zones. These sections are then followed by a Summary and Recommendations section detailing TAC recommendations for the project area, followed by References Cited.

CHAPTER 3. ENVIRONMENT, SOILS, AND GEOLOGY

The environment and surface geology of the proposed project area was also reviewed to examine the nature of the potential survey as well as to determine the likelihood of buried cultural resources.

Stream

There is one major stream in the project area, Blockhouse Creek, a major tributary to Brushy Creek. It is dammed and forms the Soil Conservation Service Site 3 Reservoir (Google Earth 2015; Topozone 2015). The creek and lake form the southern boundary of the project area. An ephemeral stream that flows south into Blockhouse Creek forms a portion of the western edge of the project area.

Surface Geology

The topography of the project area is mapped as mostly flat, with a general downslope to the south and east, in the direction of Blockhouse Creek, with a fairly steep drop into the creek valley (USGS 1987). Impoundment has significantly changed the shoreline and flow of the creek. Visual observation of the project area confirmed the topography and also revealed there are a number of areas of exposed bedrock.

Soils

The project area is mapped as entirely on the Cretaceous-age marls and clays (BEG 1981). This indicates there is a very low chance of deeply buried Holocene deposits, and any Holocene deposits are likely a thin veneer.

All soils mapped in the project area are ancient in sedimentation and most are fairly shallow. The majority of the project area is mapped as Eckrant soils. These are a very shallow, upland soil with frequent stone inclusions in a dark gray to black clay. Bedrock exposures are common in areas of Eckrant soils. The north side of the project area is mapped as Doss soils. These relatively shallow soils consist of a dark grayish brown silty clay to clay over caliche, limestone bedrock, and marls. The very eastern side is mapped as Georgetown clay, a brown to red clay loam over caliche and limestone. The margin and west side of the lake when it is at normal height is mapped as Fairlie clay. This clay is a deep but ancient gray to black clay with increasing calcium carbonate inclusions with depth that belie the ancient age of the soil (USDA 2015a, b).

Environment

The proposed project area is located in the Brazos River basin (BEG 1996), within the flood plain of Blockhouse Creek. The surrounding ecoregion is the Balcones Canyonlands of the Edwards

Plateau (BEG 2010). The mapped vegetative cover spans Oak-Mesquite-Juniper Parks/Woods and Live Oak-Mesquite-Ashe Juniper Parks (BEG 2000).

Disturbances

There were several disturbances noted in the area. The most significant is the construction of a large berm dam that composed the eastern edge of the project area and creating the reservoir on the lake. There is also a previously constructed wastewater line that runs east to west roughly through the middle of the project area. Additional disturbances were observed in the form of two-track roads and cedar removal. There was also evidence of pasture and ranch activities in the form of barbed wire fences and worn cattle paths. Of note, the two-track roads were in the process of being made deeper at the time of survey as they served as manmade ephemeral drainage streams from uphill to the creek.

CHAPTER 4. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

In preparation for conducting the survey, research was carried out at the WSA office utilizing digital and physical resources. These included the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas and U.S. Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) maps of Texas.

Archival Research

WSA conducted a record and literature search for the proposed location of proposed project. This included a search of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas, an online resource hosted by the THC that contains restricted cultural resources information. The Texas Archeological Sites Atlas and WSA project files were consulted for information on previously conducted surveys or the presence of previously discovered prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, including properties or districts listed on the NRHP, as well as SALs, historic markers, and Registered Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs) that may be located within or adjacent to the proposed project area. WSA also examined USGS topographic maps for existing cemeteries and historic sites. In addition, the soils in the area were examined for the potential for deeply buried cultural resources.

The cultural resources research for the proposed project was conducted within the proposed project block, as well as a 500-foot buffer surrounding it. This research found one previously recorded archaeological site and one previously conducted survey within 500 feet of the proposed project (see Figure 1). There are no NRHP properties or districts, SALs, RTHLs, historic markers, or cemeteries within 500 feet of the proposed project area (Atlas 2015).

Sites

Surveys

There is one previously conducted survey within the archival corridor. It is linear in nature and cuts east to west through the middle of the project area. The survey was conducted prior to construction of a wastewater line.

Culture History

The project area is located in the Central Texas Archeological Region, north of the center of the Central and Southern Planning Region (Collins 1995; Mercado-Allinger et al. 1996). The culture history of the area can be broadly divided into prehistoric and historic time periods. The prehistoric period begins with the first introduction of humans in the area; the historic period begins with the first well-documented European arrivals in the area (Mercado-Allinger et al. 1996).

Prehistoric Period

The Prehistoric designation for this region is generally discussed in temporal-cultural units of Paleoindian, Archaic, Late Prehistoric, and Protohistoric (Collins 1995). As of publication, no pre-Clovis sites have been identified in this area. Considering the sheering of valleys that occurred across North America in the time period preceding Clovis, such a site is high unlikely to exist (Collins 1995). The Protohistoric is the time when European explorers or their influence has entered an area but there is little to no record and no European attempts at settlement.

Paleoindian

The cultural period known as Paleoindian is the earliest identified human use of the area and spanned from circa 11,500 to about 8800 B.P. in the area (Collins 1995). This period occurred during the terminal Pleistocene and is commonly associated with the presence of megafauna, high human mobility, and the earliest known human occupations of in the region (Collins 1995). The cultures associated with Clovis, Folsom, and Plainview projectile points inhabited the general area at this time; transitional/ late Paleoindian cultures projectile points found in the area include San Patrice, Big Sandy, St. Mary's Hall, Barber, and Golondrina (Shiner 1983; Collins 1995). Clovis sites in Central Texas include burials, campsites, caches, kill-sites, and quarries (Collins 1995). Though most Paleoindian sites in Central Texas consist of upland surface lithic scatters (Black 1989), buried sites have also been. Examples of buried Central Texas Paleoindian sites include Berclair Terrace in Bee County (Sellards 1940), Berger Bluff in Goliad County (Brown 1983), Kincaid rockshelter in Uvalde County (Collins et al. 1988), Wilson-Leonard in Williamson County (Collins et al. 1988; Collins 1998), and Gault in Williamson County (Collins and Brown 2000).

Archaic

The Archaic stage spanned from 8800–1200 B.P. in Central Texas and constitutes roughly two-thirds of Texas prehistory (Collins 1995). This period represents a probably reduction in hunter-gatherer range and human cultural adaptation to local conditions as the climate swung between extremes of mesic and xeric conditions (Collins 1995). Evidence for this change includes less frequent use of exotic lithic materials than in the Paleoindian; new technologies enter the archaeo-

logical record, such as milling implements, baking pits, and hearths; and sites in general have a larger accumulation of anthropogenic debris (Story 1990). The Archaic also marks the recognized beginning of burned rock middens, one of the most common types of site in Central Texas (Weir 1976; Collins 1995). The Central Texas Archaic is divided into three periods, Early, Middle, and Late (Collins 1995). These periods are largely defined by changes in projectile point styles; some research sub-divides these periods into projectile point style phases (Collins 1995). In addition, these periods act as culturally-based demarcations along continuums of climate and possibly cultural changes.

Early Archaic

The Early Archaic period dates from 8800–6000 B.P. (Collins 1995). This period is a time of increased exploitation of local resources such as deer, fish, and plant bulbs, a trend that likely began in Paleoindian times (Weir 1976), and coincides with a general drying trend in the region (Story 1985; McKinney 1981; Collins 1995). Early Archaic sites in Texas in general are fairly sparsely distributed and rather small in size; it is assumed groups were likely small bands of related individuals with an economy based on the utilization of a wide range of resources (Story 1985). In particular, the distribution of known sites during this dry period in Texas prehistory indicates a concentration around reliable water sources, such as those available on the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau (McKinney 1981; Collins 1995). Projectile points associated with this period include Angostura, Gower, Uvalde, and Martindale (Collins 1995). Recorded Early Archaic sites lay thinly scattered throughout the region just as in the rest of Texas (Weir 1976); this may be an effect of small, highly mobile groups moving widely across the landscape, landform erosion and/or truncation, lack of investigations that would uncover such sites, or a combination of these factors.

Middle Archaic

The Middle Archaic period dates from 6000–4000 B.P. (Collins 1995). This period is a time of many changes in human utilization of Central Texas resources. First of all, the increase in numbers of sites and the appearance of cemeteries in the archaeological record has been interpreted as indicating a likely increase in population and decrease in mobility, possibly even a move towards territorialism (Weir 1976; McKinney 1981; Story 1985). Projectile points associated with this period include Andice, Bell, Early Triangular, Nolan, and Travis (Collins 1995). During the early part of the Middle Archaic, mesic conditions were present and bison were hunted with specialized toolkits that originated in the prairies and prairie margins west of the Ozarks (Prewitt 1981; Johnson and Goode 1994; Wyckoff 1995; Collins 1995). During the latter half of the Middle Archaic, humans in the region experienced the most xeric conditions known during the human habitation of the area (Collins 1995), commonly referred to as the Altithermal or the Hypsithermal. Burned rock middens, which were in use by 8000 B.P., appear to increase in number during the xeric times, suggesting an adjustment in subsistence strategy and utilization of more diverse edible resources

(Weir 1976; Bousman 1993; Collins 1995). This cannot be certain, however, as more recent data on formation studies (Leach and Bousman 1997), have called into question the dating methods of burned rock middens dated to the Middle Archaic.

Late Archaic

The Late Archaic period dates from 4000–1200 B.P. (Collins 1995). If the number of recorded sites is relatively indicative of human population size, then the Late Archaic was a time of increased population in Central Texas (Weir 1976; Prewitt 1981; Collins 1995). Burned rock middens, a continuation of cultural tradition from the Middle Archaic, reached their peak size and distribution during the Late Archaic (Collins 1995). Towards the end of the Late Archaic, a reduction in the recorded number of burned rock middens likely accompanied a return to more mesic conditions (Prewitt 1981; Collins 1995). It has also been proposed that the hunter-gatherers of the region began to exhibit influences from the agrarian societies of the American Southwest and Southeast (Prewitt 1981), and may have even engaged in trade with the same (Johnson and Goode 1994). Projectile points associated with this time period include Bulverde, Pedernales, Castroville, Fairland, Frio, Ensor, and Darl (Collins 1995).

Late Prehistoric

For the sake of ease of definition, the Late Prehistoric spans the time between the appearance of the bow and arrow and early European contact. This generally dates from 1200–300 B.P., and is divided into two general phases: the Austin Phase and the Toyah Phase (Prewitt 1981; Collins 1995).

Austin Phase

The Austin Phase spans from 1200–900 B.P. This time period has a similar assemblage to the Late Archaic, with the addition of arrow points; this similarity has prompted some researches to place the transition between the Archaic and the Late Prehistoric after this phase (Johnson and Goode 1994). However, the obvious presence of arrow points (Prewitt 1981), indicating a transition to bow and arrow from the atlatl, traditionally places this phase in the Late Prehistoric (Collins 1995). The named styles of the Austin Phase arrow points are Scallorn and Granbury (Prewitt 1981). In addition to this transition in projectile technology, this phase is also defined by a greater utilization of cemeteries, both non-cremated and cremated remains, and increased hostilities evidenced by arrow-wound fatalities in humans (Prewitt 1981).

Toyah Phase

The Toyah Phase marks a strong, easily distinguished cultural horizon in the region and dates from 800–300 B.P. (Collins 1995). The most prevalent cultural remains of this phase include Perdiz and

Cliffton arrow points, plain and brushed pottery, four-bevel bifaces, cane arrow-shafts, wooden arrow foreshafts, bone beads, large thin bifaces, end scrapers, prismatic blades, imported Caddoan goods, and a general adaptation to the exploitation of bison (Prewitt 1981; Collins 1995). Cemeteries, burial practices, and human on human violence appear to continue from the Austin phase (Prewitt 1981). Whether the widespread presence of these goods represents a single ethnic group or a quick spreading techno-complex is still up for debate (Johnson 1994; Ricklis 1994; Collins 1995).

Protohistoric/ Early Historic

The Protohistoric Period of the region begins with the early Spanish explorers in the seventeenth century (Bolton 1915; Newcomb 1961; Berlandier 1969). However, this is not a uniform time across the region, so the term “Protohistoric” is used to designate that time period when Europeans began to record their travels in the areas, and European influences, such as disease, trade goods, refugees, and political repercussions begin to impact the native inhabitants, sometimes in advance of the actual contact with Europeans. The term Protohistoric is also used for when first contact is not precisely known. Alternatively, the term early historic is used to describe the time of the earliest European contacts (Collins 1995). The Protohistoric/ Early Historic period in the region began with the five year journey of Cabeza de Vaca through Texas and Mexico in 1528 (Hallenbeck 1940). The earliest known accounts of the native inhabitants of Central Texas describe groups feeling the pressures of Spanish settlement to the south and Apache encroachment to the north (Wade 2003). The people were reported to travel in small bands, sometimes utilized large multi-group camps, hunted deer and bison, and used and traded in bison products (Collins and Ricklis 1994). In addition, the horse began to be used, especially by bison hunters (Collins and Ricklis 1994; Collins 1995). There is also evidence, in the form of historic written accounts and the presence of Caddoan ceramics, of interaction with the Hasinai Caddo, an agrarian group from East Texas, who would travel to Central Texas to hunt bison and live with local groups (Foster 1995). In particular to Williamson County, tribes recorded as historically inhabiting the area include Tonkawa, Lipan Apache, Comanche, Kiowa, Yojuane, Tawakoni, and Mayeye. The tribes had largely been forcibly removed by the mid nineteenth century (Odintz 2015).

Historic Period

This Historic Period begins during the seventeenth century in this area, the time when the first Spanish explorers enter the region. The period is discussed in terms of Early Exploration and Missions through Independence, Statehood through Civil War, and Reconstruction through World War II. The discussion will generally be limited to Williamson County.

Early Exploration and Missions through Texas Independence

It is possible that Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca traveled through the area that is now Williamson County in the sixteenth century, but the earliest recorded European exploration is in the seven-

teenth century. Captain Alonso De León crossed Brushy Creek and the San Gabriel River in his search for an alternative route to the Camino Real between San Antonio and East Texas. His route was followed in 1716 by the Spaniards Louis Juchereau de St. Denis and Domingo Ramón. By the middle of the eighteenth century, the San Xavier missions had been established in east Williamson County along the San Gabriel River, which was then named Rio San Xavier. After the Mission Period in Williamson County there were several Mexican land grants, including Robertson's Colony, mapped in the county but no permanent settlement of European or European-descent persons was established (Odintz 2015).

After Texas Independence, the area now in Williamson County was part of Milam County in the Republic of Texas. Anglo settlement in the area started around 1835, on the eve of nationhood, in the form of frontier military posts and Texas Ranger garrisons. The first civilian Anglo settlement was founded in 1838 when Dr. Thomas Kenney and other settlers built a fort on Brushy Creek. There were other, shorter-lived settlements along Brushy Creek and the San Gabriel River in the next decade, but frequent violent interactions between indigenous peoples and Anglo settlers kept Anglo occupation of the area fairly muted until Texas became part of the United States (Odintz 2015).

Statehood through Civil War

Texas statehood brought an influx of Anglo settlers to the area that is now Williamson County. By 1848, over 250 Anglo settlers were in the area, and petitioned for a new county to be formed from Milam County, named Williamson after judge and soldier Robert M. Williamson, with Georgetown as the county seat. By 1850, the population of Williamson County included 1,379 Anglos and 155 slaves. At the time, the county economy was largely agricultural, and focused on the areas near Brushy Creek and the San Gabriel River. By the eve of the Civil War, Williamson County was home to six times as many slaves and three times the amount of Anglos. The agricultural economy relied heavily on corn and wheat, and also included cattle and cotton (Odintz 2015).

During secession, the county was deeply divided but ultimately voted against the ordinance of secession. However, during the Civil War at least five companies formed from the citizens of the county, including a company of Texas Rangers. The citizens of the county that opposed secession largely left for Mexico, the North, or enlisted in the Union army (Odintz 2015).

Reconstruction through World War II

After the Civil War, former slaves in Williamson County formed a number of new communities; although racism and violence still prevailed, Williamson County had much less racial strife in the decades following the Civil War than many other parts of Texas. In the 1860s and 1870s, the Chisholm Trail cattle drive passed through Williamson County, representing a significant era in the economy of Texas. Railroads were established in the county in the 1870s, and also played a part in the cattle trade. Horse and cattle thieves, cattle ranches, and other cattle trade industries generally thrived in Williamson County from the 1860s through the mid twentieth century. Starting in

the early twentieth century, sheep and goats were added to the cattle industry. Alongside cattle, cotton also became a significant industry in Williamson County from the 1870s through the 1950s, though began to decline after the influx of boll weevils in the late 1920s (Odintz 2015).

The Great Depression had the strongest effect on crop growers in Williamson County, especially cotton, and was felt strongest by minority citizens of the county. Following the Great Depression, the county became more diverse, and agriculture diversified in crops and poultry. In general, Williamson County has had a growth in population and industry that coincides with the growth of the nearby state capital of Austin (Odintz 2015).

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CHAPTER 5. RESULTS OF FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The proposed project area consists mostly of overgrown pasture and woody uplands located between a reservoir lake and housing developments (Photo 1). The area is fairly undisturbed, aside from the dam lake, a wastewater line, fences, and two-track ranch roads. The roughly 120-acre property can be described in four sections: the lake; the eastern third, situated south of the existing developed park; the middle third, situated south of a sizable water catchment; and the western third. At the time of survey these divisions were demarcated in the field by fence lines. Survey results are described in relation to this division, the lake and then from west to east. Shovel test data for 40 negative shovel tests are depicted in Figure 2 and Table 1. In depth discussion of the pre-historic site recorded follows the field survey narrative. All transects were oriented to the western project boundary line at approximately 341-degree orientation and spaced 30 m apart. All shovel tests were negative for cultural materials.

The lake is an artificial body of water created by a dam on Blockhouse Creek. The lake typically occupies approximately 25 acres of the 120-acre project area. However, at the time of initial investigation several weeks of heavy rains had swelled local streams including the lake, which had grown to cover roughly 50 acres of the 120-acre project area. There were also a number of ephemeral streams sheeting across the whole of the project area toward the lake. A second round of investigations was conducted once the floodwaters receded along the shoreline.



Photo 1. Project area consists of overgrown pasture and woody uplands located between a reservoir lake and housing developments.

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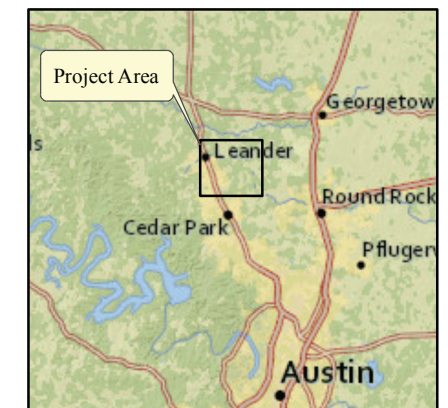
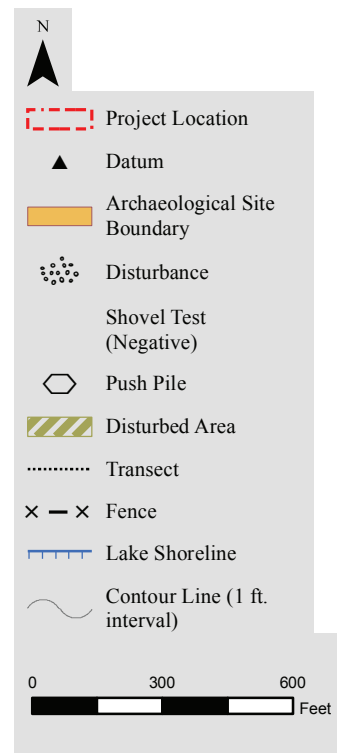


Figure 2. Results of survey investigations and site mapping of 41WM1308.

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Table 1. Results of shovel tests.

ST No.	Profile	Depth	Reason for Termination	Pos/Neg	Site Assoc.
A1	0–30 cmbs 10YR 3/1 very dark gray silty clay, saturated	30 cmbs	ancient clay	Neg	n/a
A2	0–5 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	5 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A3	0–5 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	5 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	41WM1308
A4	0–5 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	5 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	41WM1308
A5	0–5 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	5 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	41WM1308
A6	0–5 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	5 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	41WM1308
A7	0–5 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	5 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	41WM1308
A8	0–10 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	10 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	41WM1308
A9	0–10 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	10 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	41WM1308
A10	0–3 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	3 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	41WM1308
A11	0–5 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	5 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A12	0–30 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	30 cmbs	water table	Neg	n/a
A13	0–3 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	3 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A14	0–10 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	10 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A15	0–20 cmbs 10YR 3/2 very dark brown silty clay; 20–25 cmbs 10YR 5/3 brown clay	25 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A16	0–10 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	10 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A17	0–20 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	20 cmbs	water table	Neg	n/a
A18	0–3 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay, saturated	3 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A19	0–20 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	20 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A20	0–2 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	2 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A21	0–30 cmbs 10YR 3/1 very dark gray silty clay, saturated	30 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A22	0–10 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	10 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A23	0–10 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	10 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A24	0–10 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black clay	10 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A25	0–20 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	20 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A26	0–25 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	25 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A27	0–3 cmbs 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish brown silty clay loam	3 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A28	0–5 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	5 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A29	0–20 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	20 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A30	0–10 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	10 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A31	0–10 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	10 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A32	0–20 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	20 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A33	0–5 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black clay loam	5 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A34	0–10 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	10 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A35	0–5 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	5 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A36	0–10 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black clay	10 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a

Table 1. Results of shovel tests (continued).

ST No.	Profile	Depth	Reason for Termination	Pos/Neg	Site Assoc.
A37	0–30 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	30 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A38	0–30 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	30 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A39	0–30 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	30 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a
A40	0–30 cmbs 10YR 2/1 black silty clay	30 cmbs	bedrock	Neg	n/a

The western third segment of the project area was investigated with 12 transects and 23 shovel tests (STs A1–A23). The vegetation in this area was moderately dense, with a mature but spotty live oak canopy with small stands of cedar and islands of wildflowers, pasture grass, and exposed bedrock. Ground surface visibility in this segment ranged from 10 to 100 percent, but averaged around 75 percent. The ground surface here contained the highest concentration of limestone cobbles observed in the project area, and the only significant occurrence of chert cobbles. There was a slight hindrance to survey in the western third in the form of large piles of cut cedar piled up just inside tree lines. Shovel tests in this area typically revealed 5 to 10 cm of black silty clay underlain

The middle third segment of the project area was investigated with seven transects and 11 shovel tests (STs A24–A34). This segment was the most open in terms of vegetation. There was very little cedar and most of the trees were composed of small stands of live oak with a woody understory, interspersed between pasture grasses and wildflowers. Ground surface visibility in this segment ranged from 10 to 90 percent but averaged around 25 percent. This segment had the most amount of flowing water through it, largely originating from the overflow drain of the existing stormwater catchment pond. This water proved the greatest hindrance to survey in this segment of the project area. The middle third segment of the project area contained the deepest sediments observed during field survey, as much as 30 cm of dark brown to black silty clay to clay over bedrock, with an average depth of 15 to 20 cm to paralithic contact (see Table 1). Small, medium and large limestone rocks were exposed at the surface of this heavily washed area and eroding out indicating

The eastern third segment of the project area was investigated with eight transects and six shovel tests (STs A35–A40). The west-most transect in this segment proved to be a ditch with running water, and the east-most transect was at the base of the large dirt berm that provides endament of the creek in the project area. This segment had the densest vegetation, largely consisting of mixed hardwoods and cedar with a light woody understory and minimal ground level growth (Photo 2). Ground surface visibility in this segment ranged from 20 to 100 percent and averaged around 75 percent. This area contained piles of cut cedar similar to the western third but in lower density, generally situated near the observed lake bank. This segment also contained the highest degree of exposed bedrock. Shovel tests in the eastern third segment generally showed very shallow black silty clay over bedrock. Termination depths ranged from 3 to 15 cmbs with an average depth of 5 cm be-



Photo 2. Dense vegetation, broken cedar trees, brush and flood debris characterize the eastern portion of the project.

Multiple additional 30 m transects, and two shoreline transects were conducted by the principal investigator, the latter parallel to the shoreline once the floodwaters receded (Photo 3). One transect was conducted immediately adjacent to the shoreline, and one approximately 30 m inland, and also parallel to the shoreline. These areas are characterized by extensive flood debris from recent flooding of all varieties, small furniture, ice chests, clothing, household items, and large numbers of broken and busted trees, and cedar brush. In particular, the eastern portion of the project near the shoreline is extremely disturbed, eroded, and covered with a very high density of flood debris both natural and man-made (Photo 4). No cultural resources were observed during the additional survey. In general, there is an extremely low possibility of intact archaeological sites located near the lake and adjacent shoreline area due to frequent inundation, ancient soils, shallow indurated, exposed bedrock, heavy erosion, and a long history of recreational use in the park and lake area.

Site Discussion

The newly recorded site is 41WM1308, a prehistoric lithic scatter

. The site consists of roughly a dozen tested chert cobbles, two large cortex flakes, and one medial single margin fragment of an early stage biface with stacked hinge terminations evident on one face (Photo 5). There were a number of untested cobbles present. The ground surface visibility at the site ranged from 50 to 100 percent, averaging over 75 percent ground surface visibility (Photo 6). As such, and per the rules outlined in the THC survey standards, shovel tests were not conducted in a cruciform pattern with site edges defined by two negative shovel



Photo 3. Areas close to the lake were subject to pedestrian shoreline transects after the floodwaters receded.



Photo 4. Shoreline area adjacent to dam in heavily disturbed eastern portion of the project.



Photo 5. Artifacts of Site 41WM1308 consist of broken and tested chert cobbles and large primary flakes.



Photo 6. Area of Site 41WM1308. Note exposed limestone bedrock and ground surface visibility.

tests in each direction. Instead, tightly spaced (5 m) investigational transects were implemented to search for the edges of the surficial component of the site and eight shovel tests (STs A3–A10) were utilized to test for depth of components within the observed site boundary and then outside the site boundary to confirm the site boundaries.

areas of trapped flood debris, suggesting the site area is frequently swept with swift moving water in a sheet wash. Due to this it is possible the site may be washed in and not a primary deposit. Because of the lack of diagnostics, depth, and features, plus the likelihood of secondary deposition, the site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP or as a SAL.

There was one previously recorded site recorded -

This site was previously recorded as a surficial lithic scatter with no observed features and recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP or as a SAL.

CHAPTER 6. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

WSA conducted a 100 percent pedestrian archaeological survey with shovel testing for the proposed City of Leander, Lakewood Community Park in Williamson County, Texas. The project is sponsored by the City of Leander Parks and Recreation Department and owned by the City of Leander and the investigations are subject to the TAC and TAC permitting. The project was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit 7296. A total of 27 pedestrian transects were surveyed at 30 m intervals, and two transects were conducted parallel to the shoreline. A total of 40 negative shovel tests were excavated in compliance with the THC minimum survey standards for acreage based projects. One prehistoric lithic scatter archaeological site was identified during the investigations (41WM1308). The site consists of a low density, displaced area of tested chert cobbles and flakes confined to the ground surface. No subsurface artifacts were present and no artifacts were collected. No other cultural resources were observed or identified in the project area. Previously recorded prehistoric archaeological site 41WM1159 overlaps the eastern border of the proposed project. The site was not revisited due to the construction of a bermed earthen dam and gravel road in the site area and inundation. This site was previously recorded as a surficial lithic scatter with no observed features and recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP or as a SAL.

Site 41WM1308 is recommended as not eligible as a SAL nor as eligible to the NRHP. WSA requests THC concurrence that site 41WM1308 is not SAL or NRHP eligible and that the site does not warrant any further archaeological investigations. WSA concludes that there exists a low probability that cultural resources eligible for SAL or NRHP listing exist on the surveyed property based on pedestrian survey and negative shovel testing. WSA respectfully requests THC concurrence with the conclusion that there exists a low probability that significant NRHP- or SAL-eligible cultural resources will be impacted by the proposed project. WSA recommends and respectfully requests THC concurrence that with regards to SALs, project construction within the areas of proposed ground disturbance be allowed to proceed under the TAC, and that all TAC permit consultation for the proposed project be considered concluded and complete. All project records will be submitted for professional curation and permanently housed at the TARL of the University of Texas at Austin, in partial completion of TAC Permit 7296.

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