

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM
ARCHEOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) Ronald Reagan Boulevard (Segment C2) Improvements Project
County (ies) Williamson
USGS Quadrangle Name and Number Leander NE, TX (30097-F7)
UTM Coordinates Zone 14 R E 613287.5 N 3400827.6
Location 1.7 miles (2.8 kilometers) of Ronald Reagan Boulevard beginning at County Road (CR) 289 and extending west to Ranch-to-Market (RM) 2338
Federal Involvement ☐ Yes ☒ No
Name of Federal Agency _____
Agency Representative _____

II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)

Owner Williamson County
Representative Presiding Officer
Address 710 S. Main St. Suite 101
City/State/Zip Georgetown, TX. 78626
Telephone (include area code) 512.943.1100 Email Address ctyjudge@wilco.org

III. PROJECT SPONSOR (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)

Sponsor Same as Owner
Representative _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone (include area code) _____ Email Address _____

PROJECT INFORMATION

I. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (ARCHEOLOGIST)

Name Joey O'Keefe, M.A., RPA
Affiliation SWCA Environmental Consultants
Address 4407 Monterey Oaks Boulevard, Suite 110, Bldg.1
City/State/Zip Austin, Texas 78749
Telephone (include area code) 512-475-0891 Email Address joey.okeefe@swca.com

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork August 2025
Requested Permit Duration 5 Years Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provided an Outline of Proposed Work) See attached scope of work

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility SWCA Austin Office
 Permanent Curatorial Facility Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University

I, _____, as legal representative of the Land Owner, Williamson County, do certify that I have reviewed the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be performed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Owner, Sponsor, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of the permit.

I, _____, as legal representative of the Sponsor, _____, do certify that I have review the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be performed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Sponsor, Owner, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.

I, Joey O'Keefe, as Principal Investigator employed by SWCA Environmental Consultants (Investigative Firm), do certify that I will execute this project according to the submitted plans and research design, and will not conduct any work prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Principal Investigator (and the Investigative Firm), as well as the Owner and Sponsor, are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.

Principal Investigator must attach a research design, a copy of the USGS quadrangle showing project boundaries, and any additional pertinent information. Curriculum vita must be on file with the Archeology Division.

Reviewer _____ Date Permit Issues _____
 Permit Number _____ Permit Expiration Date _____
 Type of Permit _____ Date Received for Data Entry _____



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Sound Science. Creative Solutions.®

July 10, 2025

Rebecca Shelton
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

Re: Request for Antiquities Permit to Conduct Cultural Resources Investigations for the Ronald Reagan Boulevard (Segment C2) Improvements Project, Williamson County, Texas / SWCA Project No. 87699-012

Dear Rebecca Shelton:

This letter is a request for a Texas Antiquities Permit (TAP) to conduct cultural resources investigations for the Ronald Reagan Boulevard (Segment C2) Improvements Project (project) in Williamson County, Texas. The project consists of ground disturbing activities along approximately 1.7 miles (2.8 kilometers) of Ronald Reagan Boulevard beginning at County Road (CR) 289 and extending west to Ranch-to-Market (RM) 2338. The proposed right-of-way (ROW) for the project is generally 300 feet (91.4 meters [m]) wide. Overall, the project encompasses approximately 81 acres (32.8 hectares [ha]) and includes 57.2 acres (23.2 ha) of existing ROW, 4.5 acres (1.8 ha) of new ROW along the north side of the existing Ronald Reagan Boulevard, and 19.3 acres (7.8 ha) of new ROW along the south side of the existing Ronald Reagan Boulevard (project area). The maximum depth of impact for the project is 10 feet (3 m) below surface.

According to the attached cultural resources background review conducted for the project area, the northern ROW was previously investigated for cultural resources in 2007 (TAP No. 4381), and portions of the northern ROW were previously surveyed in 2022 (TAP No. 30750) and 2024 (TAP No. 32029). Each of the previous investigations recommended that no additional work was needed within the ROW. Therefore, SWCA proposes to conduct cultural resources investigations only within the 19.3 acres (7.8 ha) of the unsurveyed proposed new southern ROW for the project.

As the proposed project is being undertaken by Williamson County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, a Texas Antiquities Permit is required in accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas (Texas Natural Resource Code, Title 9, Chapter 191) and accompanying Rules of Practice and Procedure (Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Chapter 26). Based on the current project understanding, no federal regulatory compliance is anticipated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (512) 476-0891, extension 111236, or joey.o'keefe@swca.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joey O'Keefe", is written over a horizontal line.

Joey O'Keefe, M.A., RPA
Principal Investigator

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION FOR THE RONALD REAGAN BOULEVARD (SEGMENT C2) IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

*Project Landowner and Sponsor – Williamson County
Project Consultant – SWCA Environmental Consultants
Principal Investigator – Joey O’Keefe, M.A., RPA
Date – July 10, 2025*

INTRODUCTION

At the request of Williamson County, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) proposes to conduct cultural resources investigations for the Ronald Reagan Boulevard (Segment C2) Improvements Project (project) in Williamson County, Texas. The project consists of ground disturbing activities along approximately 1.7 miles (2.8 kilometers [km]) of Ronald Reagan Boulevard beginning at County Road (CR) 289 and extending west to Ranch-to-Market (RM) 2338 (Figures 1 and 2). The proposed right-of-way (ROW) for the project is generally 300 feet (91.4 meters [m]) wide. Overall, the project encompasses approximately 81 acres (32.8 hectares [ha]) (project area).

As the proposed project is being undertaken by Williamson County, a subdivision of the state, the project will be subject to review under the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT), and the archaeological field investigation will require a Texas Antiquities Permit. At this time, there is no federal nexus for the project; therefore, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 United States Code 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800) are not applicable to these investigations.

According to the cultural resources background review conducted for the project area (see *Background Review*), the northern ROW was previously investigated for cultural resources in 2007 (Texas Antiquities Permit [TAP] No. 4381) (Lawrence 2007), and portions of the northern ROW were also surveyed in 2022 (TAP No. 30750) (Nichols and Shipp 2022), and in 2024 (TAP No. 32029) (Brownlow and Berube 2025). Each of the previous investigations recommended that no additional work was needed. Therefore, SWCA proposes to conduct an intensive archaeological pedestrian survey with systematic shovel testing only within the 19.3 acres (7.8 ha) of the unsurveyed proposed new southern ROW for the project (see Figure 2).

The goal of the work will be to identify any previously recorded prehistoric and historic-age archaeological sites in the project area; locate any previously undiscovered archaeological sites; establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries, as appropriate with regard to the project area; and evaluate the significance and eligibility of any site recorded for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and for designation as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL). All work will be conducted in accordance with the ACT.

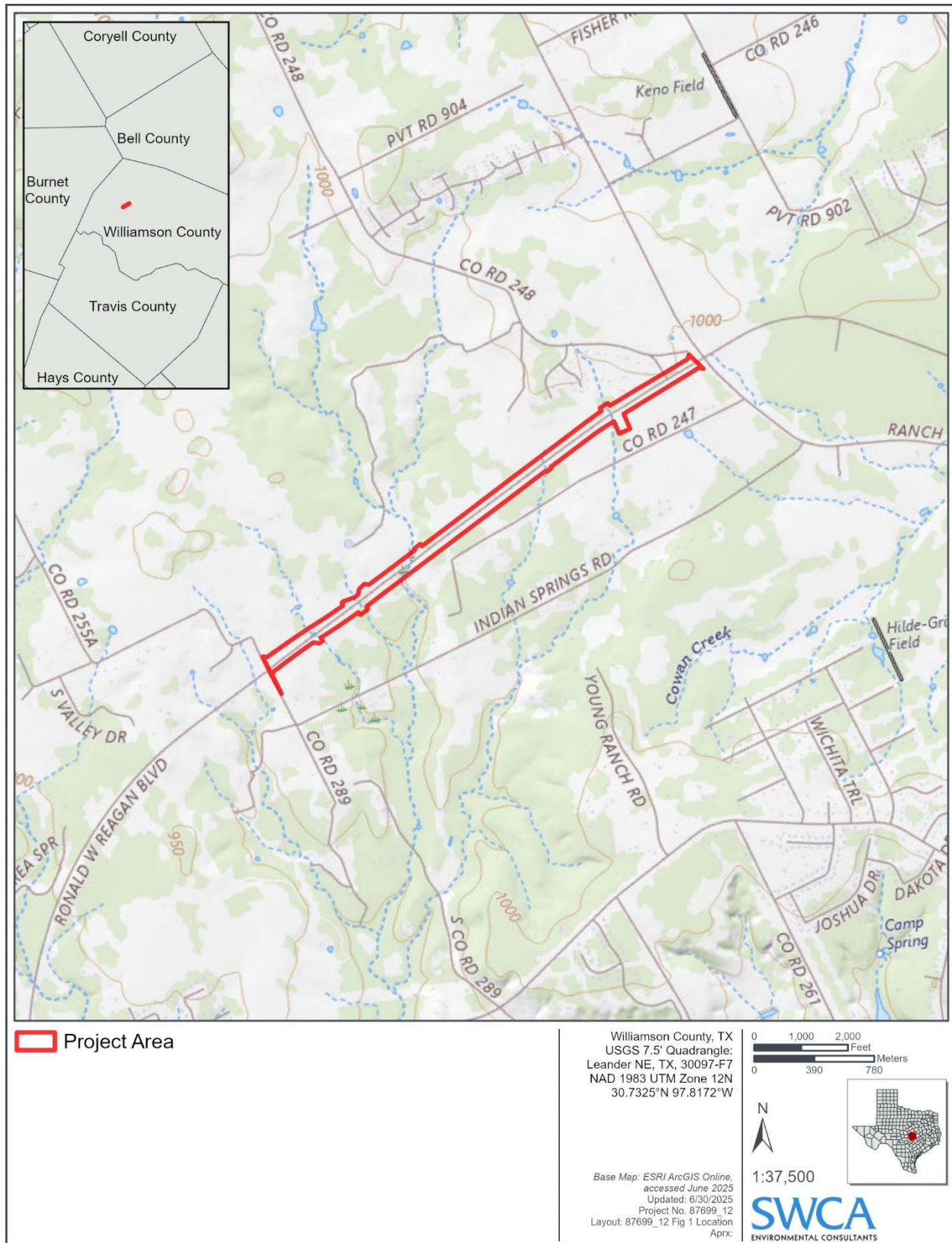


Figure 1. Project location map.

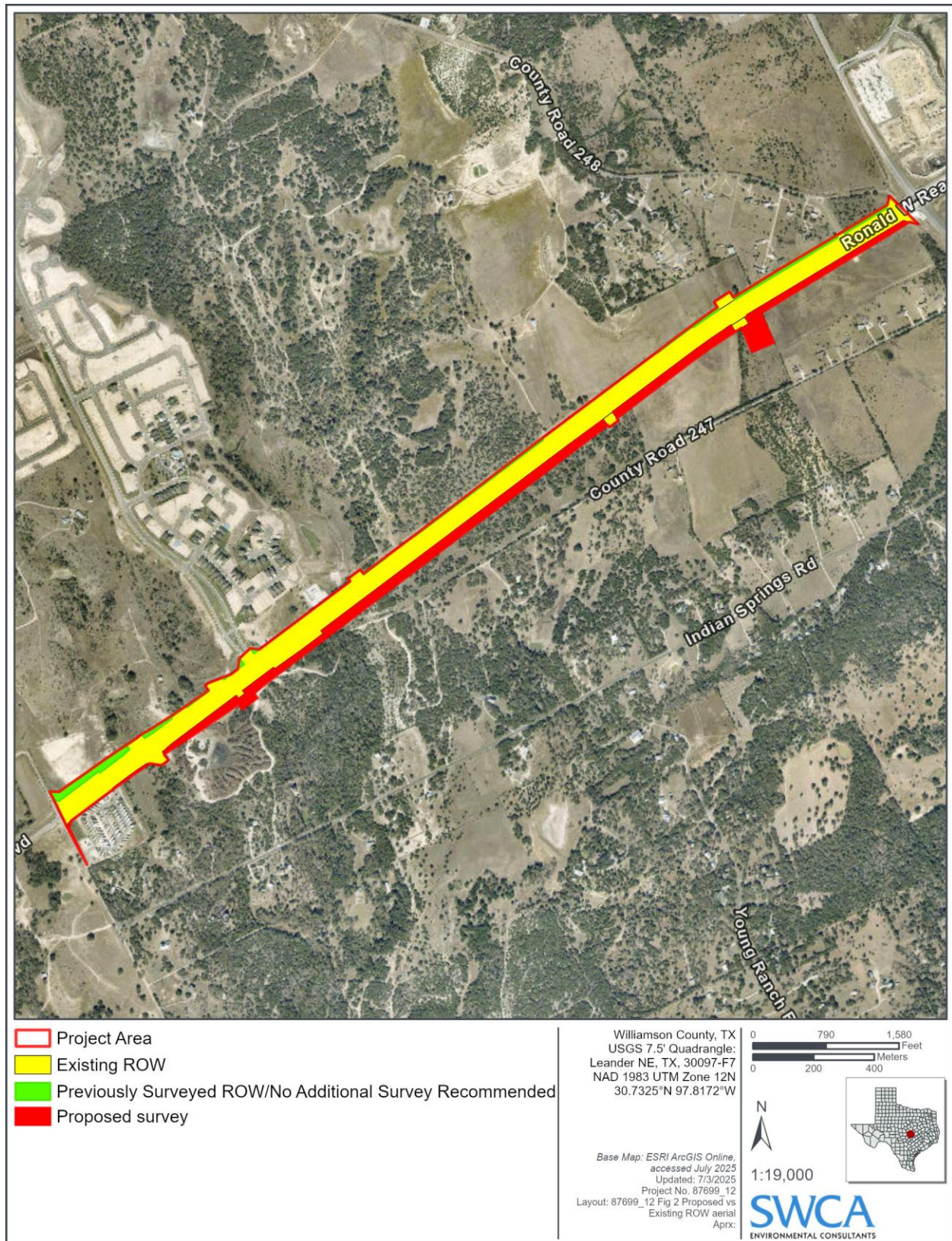


Figure 2. Project area overview map.

Project Description

The project area appears on the *Leander NE, Texas* (3097-324), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS 1962) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map. The project area is located approximately 3.9 miles (6.3 km) south of Andice in Williamson County, Texas. The proposed project includes construction of a new two-lane roadway adjacent to the existing roadway that will serve as southbound lanes for Ronald Reagan Boulevard. The newly constructed roadway will consist of 12-foot (3.7-m)-wide lanes, 4-foot (1.2-m)-wide shoulders, turn lanes, and intersection improvements. The existing Ronald Reagan Boulevard roadway will be overlaid and restriped to serve as the northbound lanes with added shoulders. Additionally, the project will include turn lanes at Benton Lane and three bridges, multiple staging areas, and locations for side streets, driveways, and reconstruction of existing transportation infrastructures extending from the ROW.

Overall, the project encompasses approximately 81 acres (32.8 hectares [ha]) and includes 57.2 acres (23.2 ha) of existing ROW, 4.5 acres (1.8 ha) of new ROW along the north side of the existing Ronald Reagan Boulevard, and 19.3 acres (7.8 ha) of new ROW along the south side of the existing Ronald Reagan Boulevard (see Figure 2). The maximum depth of impact for the project is 10 feet (3 m) below surface.

Project Setting

The project area crosses the Balcones Canyonlands subregion within the Edwards Plateau ecoregion (Griffith et al. 2007). The physiography of the area is described as dissected plateaus and escarpments with stair-stepped topography. Additionally, physiography includes moderate to high gradient streams with bedrock, cobble, and gravel substrates (Griffith et al. 2007:63).

Geology

The underlying geology throughout the project area consists of Cretaceous-age Walnut Clay formations including Bee Cave Marl (Kbc) (51.4 acres [20.8 ha]), Keys Valley Marl (28.8 acres [11.7 ha]), and Upper Glen Rose Limestone formation (0.8 acre [0.3 ha]) (Table 1; Figure 3) (Barnes 1974; USGS 2025a). These formations are typically soft, white marls, limestone, and dolomite, and contain megafossils (USGS 2025a).

Table 1. Geology in the Project Area (listed in order of prevalence)

Symbol	Name	Period	Epoch or Series	Group	Acres	Percentage of Project Area
Kbc	Bee Cave Marl	Cretaceous	Comanchean	Fredericksburg Group	51.4	63.4
Kkv	Keys Valley Marl	Cretaceous	Comanchean	Fredericksburg Group	28.8	35.6
Kgru	Upper Glen Rose Formation	Cretaceous	Comanchean	Trinity Group	0.8	1.0
Total					81.0	100.0

Sources: Barnes (1974); USGS (2025a).

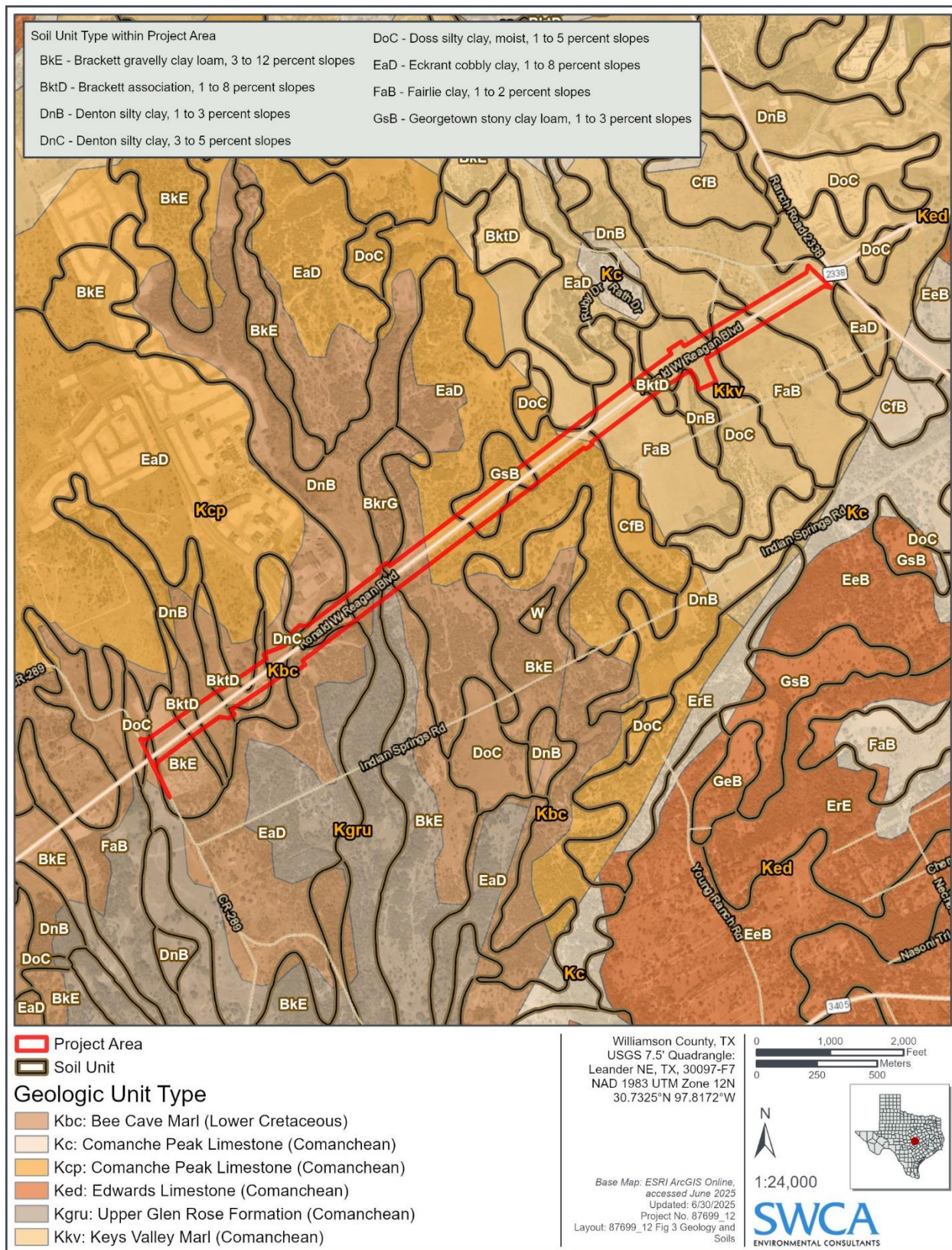


Figure 3. Project area soils and geology map.

Soils

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS 2019), there are nine soil series mapped within the project area (Table 2; see Figure 3). The mapped soils within the project area are formed from Cretaceous age limestone and limestone residuum with A-horizons that terminate between 6–12 inches (15–30 centimeters [cm]) below surface. Additionally, none of the mapped soils are alluvial or aggrading, suggesting the project area possesses a low potential to contain buried archaeological resources. The soil and geologic data together suggest the project area has a low probability of containing buried cultural materials.

Table 2. Soils in the Project Area (listed in order of prevalence)

Soil Name	Symbol	Age/Formation/ Parent Material	Thickness of A-horizon	Acres	Percentage of Project Area
Eckrant cobbly clay, 1 to 8 percent slopes	EaD	Limestone residuum	0–12 inches (0–30 cm)	20.6	25.5
Doss silty clay, moist, 1 to 5 percent slopes	ErE	Limestone and marl residuum	0–8 inches (0–20 cm)	15.2	18.7
Fairlie clay, 1 to 2 percent slopes	FaB	Upper Cretaceous	0–12 inches (0–30 cm)	9.9	12.2
Denton silty clay, 3 to 5 percent slopes	DnC	Cretaceous age limestone	0–6 inches (0–15 cm)	8.4	10.4
Denton silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	DnB	Cretaceous age limestone	0–6 inches (0–15 cm)	8.2	10.1
Brackett association, 1 to 8 percent slopes	BktD	Cretaceous age limestone	0–6 inches (0–15 cm)	7.2	8.9
Georgetown stoney clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	GsB	Cretaceous age limestone	0–7 inches (0–18 cm)	6.9	8.5
Brackett gravelly clay loam, 3 to 12 percent slopes	BkE	Cretaceous age limestone	0–6 inches (0–15 cm)	4.6	5.7
Brackett-Rock outcrop-Reak Complex, 8 to 30 percent slopes	BkrG	Cretaceous age limestone	0–6 inches (0–15 cm)	<1.0	<0.1
Total				81.0	100.0

Source: NRCS (2019)

Note: Totals may not sum exactly due to rounding.

BACKGROUND REVIEW

An SWCA archaeologist performed a background review in July 2025 for cultural resources within a 0.6-mile (1.0-km) buffer surrounding the project area (study area) (Figures 4 and 5). SWCA reviewed the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas), a restricted, online database maintained by the THC and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, for any previously conducted archaeological surveys and previously recorded historic-age or prehistoric archaeological sites located in or near the project area (THC 2025a). The Atlas also provides data on NRHP properties and districts, SALs, Official Texas Historical Markers (OTHMs), cemeteries, historic trails, and local neighborhood surveys. Listings are limited to projects under purview of the ACT or the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966; therefore, all previous work conducted in an area may not be available.

Restricted Information
Not for Public Disclosure

Figure 4. Cultural resources background review results map.

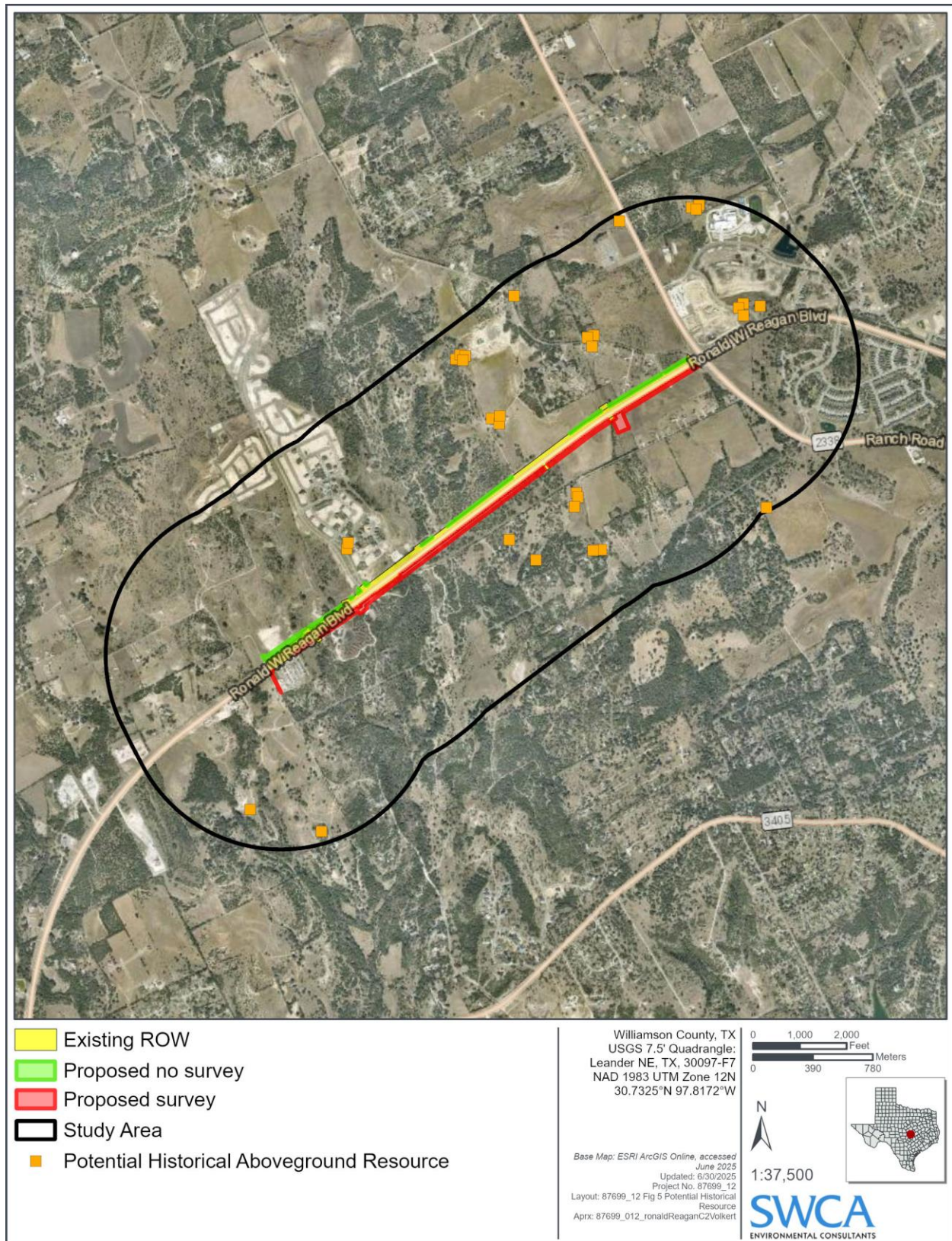


Figure 5. Potential historical aboveground resources map.

An SWCA architectural historian examined the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Historic Resources Aggregator (Aggregator), which maps properties and districts determined eligible for the NRHP, National Historic Landmarks, and local historic districts (TxDOT 2025). The Aggregator also has a data set for the 1936 Texas Centennial Markers, a type of OTHM eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for Social History in the *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial Multiple Property Submission Documentation Form* (TxDOT 2025; Wilson and Smith 2018). Additional review of historical properties included examination of the Texas Freedom Colonies Project and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Family Land Heritage Centennial Farms (TDA 2025; Texas Freedom Colonies Project 2025).

As part of the review, SWCA also examined the TxDOT Historic Overlay, a mapping/geographic information system (GIS) data set with historical maps and resource information covering most portions of the state (Foster et al. 2006), historical USGS quadrangle maps available on the USGS TopoView website (USGS 2025b), and historical aerial photography contained on the Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) Historic Aerials website (NETR 2025) to determine if any historic-age resources such as potential historic resources (PHR) and/or features are located within the project and study areas.

The review determined that 12 previously conducted cultural resources investigations, 11 previously recorded archaeological sites (i.e., 41WM511, 41WM512, 41WM689, 41W1117, 41WM1160, 41WM1161, 41WM1386, 41WM1387, 41WM1402, 41WM1431, and 41WM1559) and two known cemeteries (one of which is part of an NRHP district and has an OTHM [Marker No. 13762] are within the study area (see Figure 4). No SALs, NHLs, RTHLs, local historic districts, recorded freedom colonies, or FLH Centennial Farms were identified within the project or study areas. Additionally, a total of 31 PHRs are within the study area; none of which are within the current project area (see Figure 5).

Previous Cultural Resources Surveys

During the background review, 12 previously conducted cultural resources surveys were identified within the cultural resources study area, three of which intersect the project area (Atlas No. 8500013832, 8500082327, and 8500083389) (Table 3) (see Figure 4).

Table 3. Previous Cultural Resources Surveys Within the Study Area

Survey Date	Location	Project name	Sponsor / Agency	Investigating Firm	THC Atlas Number	TAC Permit	Sites Recorded Within Study Area
–	Within study area	–	–	–	8500080420	–	None
2003	Within study area	Parmer Lane	Williamson County	Archaeological and Cultural Sciences Group	8500018304	2752	None
2006	Within study area	Municipality of Williamson County	TxDOT	Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.	8500013823	4273	None
2007	Within project area	Ronald W. Reagan Boulevard North Phase II	Williamson County	SWCA	8500013832	4381	41WM512, 41WM1160, 41WM1161
2007	Within study area	Ronald W. Reagan Boulevard North Phase III	Williamson County	SWCA	8500015334	4475	None

Survey Date	Location	Project name	Sponsor / Agency	Investigating Firm	THC Atlas Number	TAC Permit	Sites Recorded Within Study Area
2017	Within study area	Survey of the Fisher Tract	Georgetown Independent School District (ISD)	Terracon Consultants, Inc.	8500080422	8094	None
2017	Within study area	Survey of the Willrae Tract	City of Florence	Terracon Consultants, Inc.	8500080580	8232	41WM1386
2019	Within Study area	Georgetown Independent School District (ISD) Elementary School	Georgetown ISD	Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.	8500081015	8796	None
2020	Within study area	Parmer Ranch Middle School	Georgetown ISD	Terracon Consultants, Inc.	8500081740	9429	41WM1431
2022	Within project area	Benton Tract Lift Station and Force Main	Williamson County	aci consulting	8100022845	30750	41WM512, 41WM1160, 41WM1161
2023	Within project area	Proposed 524-acre Nolana Development	Municipal Utility District	LJA Environmental Services, LLC	8100024107	32029	None
2024	Within study area	CR 255 Roadway Improvement Project	Williamson County	SWCA	8500082773	30858	None

Sources: Brownlow et al. (2025), Lawrence (2007), Nichols and Shipp (2022), THC (2025a).

Note: Bold rows indicate previously recorded surveys within project area.

In 2007, SWCA conducted a cultural resources investigation for the Ronald W. Reagan Boulevard North Phase II Roadway project under TAP No. 4381 (Lawrence 2007; THC 2025a). The investigations were conducted within an approximately 4.9-mile (7.9-km)-long by approximately 200-foot (61-m)-wide corridor for the now constructed Ronald Reagan Boulevard. During the investigation, a total of 37 shovel tests were placed in areas suggested to have the highest potential for intact cultural materials, all of which were negative. One previously recorded site, 41WM512, was revisited, and two historic-age archaeological sites (41WM1160 and 41WM1161) were newly recorded as a result of the investigations. Each of the sites were recommended as ineligible as a SAL and for listing in the NRHP, and no additional cultural resources work was recommended (Lawrence 2007; THC 2025a). The 2007 SWCA survey encompasses the entirety of the proposed new ROW on the north side of Ronald Reagan Boulevard.

In 2022, aci consulting (aci) conducted cultural resources investigation for the Benton Tract Lift Station and Force Main project under TAP No. 30750 (Nichols and Shipp 2022; THC 2025a). During the investigations, eight shovel tests were conducted within the project area, one of which was positive for cultural materials. Sites 41WM512, 41WM1160, and 41WM1161 were revisited during the investigation. Due to the amount of disturbance from previous road construction and utility installation, each of the sites were recommended as ineligible as SALs and for listing in the NRHP, and no further work was recommended (Nichols and Shipp 2022; THC 2025a). The previous investigation intersected with and overlapped the eastern extent of the proposed new northern ROW for approximately 1.1 miles (1.8 km).

In 2023, LJA Environmental Services, LLC, conducted cultural resource investigations for the Nolana Development project located north of Ronald Reagan Boulevard under TAP No. 32029 (Brownlow and Berube 2025; THC 2025a). Site 41WM1559 was recorded as a result of the investigation. However, the archaeologists determined the site had been previously disturbed and possessed minimal research value. The site was recommended ineligible as a SAL and for listing in the NRHP, and no further work was recommended (Brownlow and Berube 2025; THC 2025a). The investigations intersect the northern ROW near the intersection of Ronald Reagan Boulevard and Wild Nolana Way.

Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites

The background review identified 11 archaeological sites within the study area, three of which (i.e., 41WM512, 41WM1160, and 41WM1161) intersect the project area (Table 4; see Figure 4).

Table 4. Recorded Sites within the Study Area

Trinomial	Date Recorded	Location	Time Period	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility/ Comments
41WM511	–	Within study area	Not available on the Atlas	Not available on the Atlas	Not available on the Atlas
41WM512	1985	Within project area	Early to Middle Archaic	Lithic scatter	Ineligible (2022)
41WM689	1985	Within study area	Archaic to Late Prehistoric	Open campsite, burned rock midden	Not available on the Atlas
41WM1117	2005	Within study area	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	Ineligible (2022)
41WM1160	2007	Within project area	Early to Middle Twentieth Century	Historic-age refuse scatter	Ineligible (2022)
41WM1161	2007	Within project area	Early Twentieth Century	Historic-age well and refuse scatter	Ineligible (2007)
41WM1386	2017	Within study area	Early to Middle Twentieth Century	Homestead	Ineligible (2018)
41WM1387	2017	Within study area	Early to Middle Twentieth Century	Homestead	Ineligible (2018)
41WM1402	2019	Within study area	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	Ineligible (2019)
41WM1431	2020	Within study area	Late 19 th to Early Twentieth Century	Historic-age stacked stone walls	Ineligible (2020)
41WM1559	2024	Within study area	Early to Middle Twentieth Century	Historic-age stacked stone wall	Not available on the Atlas

Sources: Lawrence (2007), Nichols and Rice (2022a, 2022b, 2022c), THC (2025a, 2025b, 2025c, 2025d).

Site 41WM512 was originally recorded in 2007 by SWCA during the Ronald W. Reagan Boulevard North Phase II Roadway project (Lawrence 2007). The site was recorded as a surficial lithic scatter with late-stage reduction debitage. No diagnostic artifacts were observed during the recording of the site. SWCA recommended the site as ineligible as a SAL and for listing in the NRHP and no additional cultural resources work was recommended. The site was revisited in 2022 by aci during the Benton Tract Lift Station and Force Main project (Nichols and Rice 2022a). Archaeologists with aci encountered a surficial lithic artifact scatter with a minor subsurface component. However, no diagnostic materials were identified, and the site was recommended ineligible as a SAL and for listing in the NRHP within ROW and no additional cultural resources work was recommended (Nichols and Rice 2022a). The THC determined the site to be ineligible as a SAL and for listing in the NRHP in 2022 (THC 2025b).

Site 41WM1160 was originally recorded in 2007 by SWCA during the Ronald W. Reagan Boulevard North Phase II Roadway project (Lawrence 2007). The site was recorded as a surficial historic-age artifact scatter comprised mainly of domestic debris consisting of tin cans and glass fragments, 10 sanitary cans, amorphous metal fragments, a few bottle glass fragments (colorless and aqua), a milk can, and a hole-in-cap tin can. SWCA recommended that the site was ineligible as a SAL and for listing in the NRHP and no additional cultural resources work was recommended (Lawrence 2007). The site was revisited in 2022 by aci during the Benton Tract Lift Station and Force Main project (Nichols and Rice 2022b). Archaeologists with aci relocated the historic-age artifact scatter and recorded various automotive parts and a dispersed scatter of domestic debris. The site was recommended ineligible as a SAL and for listing in the NRHP within that project's ROW and no additional cultural resources work was recommended (Nichols and Rice 2022b). The THC determined the site to be ineligible as a SAL and for listing in the NRHP in 2022 (THC 2025c).

Site 41WM1161 was originally recorded in 2007 by SWCA during the Ronald W. Reagan Boulevard North Phase II Roadway project (Lawrence 2007). The site was recorded as a historic-age water well with a single course of limestone blocks and an associated sparse surficial historic-age artifact scatter. SWCA recommended that the site was ineligible as a SAL and for listing in the NRHP and no additional cultural resources work was recommended (Lawrence 2007). The site was revisited in 2022 by aci during the Benton Tract Lift Station and Force Main project (Nichols and Rice 2022c). No evidence of the site was observed during the site revisit. As a result, aci recommended that the site was ineligible as a SAL and for listing in the NRHP and no additional cultural resources work was recommended (Nichols and Rice 2022c). The THC determined the site to be ineligible as a SAL and for listing in the NRHP in 2007 (THC 2025d).

Cemeteries/ NRHP District/ OTHM

The Rocky Hollow Cemetery (WM-C056) and associated NRHP-eligible district are located just south of the eastern extent of the project area. The cemetery also has an OTHM (Marker No. 13762) (see Figure 4). The Rocky Hollow Cemetery is approximately one acre in size with burials dating from 1865 to present. In the 1850s, a group of pioneer Black slaves came to this area from Union County, Arkansas, and founded what is now known as the Rocky Hollow Community. This cemetery was soon established on land given by Thomas P. Chapman. Although it was used before the Civil War began, the first marked grave, that of Confederate veteran William Bacon Tucker, is dated 1865. Known in earlier times as Bullion and as Little Arkansas, Rocky Hollow Cemetery continues to be maintained by descendants of the community's founders and of many ex-slaves (THC 2025a, 2025e). The project will not impact the cemetery, NRHP district, or OTHM.

The Fore Cemetery (WM-C055), also known as Wiley Fore Cemetery and/or Fore Graveyard, is located southwest of the project area along CR 289 (see Figure 4). The cemetery contains a minimum of 188 interments dating from 1884 to present (THC 2025a; THC 2025f). The cemetery was designated as a Texas Historical Cemetery in December 2024. The project will not impact the cemetery.

Historical Map Review

The historical map review identified 31 PHRs within the cultural resources study area, none of which intersect the project area (see Figure 4). Current aerial imagery indicates that few of these PHRs are extant. All PHRs are depicted on the 1962 *Leander NE, Texas*, USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map, many of which are located near the periphery of the study area (see Figure 4) (Google Earth 2025; NETR 2025; USGS 1962, 2025b).

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

Once an Antiquities Permit has been obtained, SWCA will conduct an archaeological field survey within the 19.3 acres (7.8 ha) of the unsurveyed proposed new ROW along the southern side of the existing Ronald Reagan Boulevard (survey area). The field survey will be performed by a team of SWCA archaeologists walking the proposed survey area. SWCA will incorporate approximately 100-foot-wide (30.5-m-wide) transects with archaeologists examining the ground surface for artifacts and features. The survey will be of sufficient intensity to determine the nature, extent, and, if possible, potential significance of any cultural resources located within the proposed survey area. Subsurface explorations will be accomplished through shovel testing. The placement and quantity of these excavations will depend on the level of disturbance within the proposed project boundary and the nature of the soils, geology, and topography.

Shovel tests will be excavated according to the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) standards (CTA 2020) promulgated by the THC. For linear projects, THC standards require a minimum of 16 shovel tests per linear mile of approximately 100-foot-wide (30.5-m-wide) ROW. Based on these standards, a minimum of 28 shovel tests will be required within the proposed survey area for this project. Any deviations from these standards will be clearly discussed and explained in the resulting report for the investigation. Shovel tests will be approximately 12 inches (30 centimeters [cm]) in diameter and excavated in arbitrary 8-inch (20-cm) levels to 31 inches (80 cm) below surface or culturally sterile deposits, whichever comes first. The matrix will be screened through ¼-inch mesh. The location of each shovel test will be plotted using a sub-meter accurate global positioning system (GPS) receiver, and each test will be recorded on appropriate project field forms. Areas with previously recorded sites or other cultural resources revealed in the background review will require additional shovel testing to explore the nature of the cultural deposits. In the event that shovel test excavations determine the potential for cultural deposits deeper than 31 inches (80 cm) below surface, SWCA will make recommendations for any areas that would require deep testing (i.e., backhoe trenching) if future impacts from the proposed project are anticipated to be deeper than 31 inches (80 cm) below surface.

Potential Deep Testing Area Review

SWCA geoarchaeologist, Analise Hollingshead, M.A., reviewed the survey area to determine if deep mechanical investigations (i.e., backhoe trenching) are warranted and, if so, to what extent. The soils, geology, and lack of significant terrace development along the adjacent first-order creek in the survey area preclude the likelihood of intact, deeply buried cultural deposits; therefore, deep testing investigations are not warranted within the survey area, as currently defined. In the event that shovel test excavations determine the potential for cultural deposits deeper than 31 inches (80 cm) below surface, SWCA will make recommendations for any areas that require deep testing (i.e., backhoe trenching). If deep testing is determined to be necessary, an ACT permit amendment detailing this proposed methodology will be submitted to the THC for review and approval.

Site Documentation

If an archaeological site is encountered during the investigation, it will be explored as much as possible with consideration to land access constraints. All recorded sites will be mapped in detail and plotted on USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps with a hand-held, sub-meter accurate GPS unit and appropriate project maps for planning purposes. All discovered sites will be assessed regarding potential significance so that recommendations can be made for property management (i.e., avoidance, non-avoidance, or further work).

All discovered cultural resources will be delineated and recorded following CTA standards. An archaeological site is defined as physical evidence of human activity that is at least 50 years old and contain, or are characterized by, one or more of the following criteria:

- Ten or more artifacts (of any class and type) within a 50-foot (15-m) diameter area. Fire-cracked rock or artifacts that all appear to originate from a single source (e.g., one ceramic pot drop, one broken glass bottle) are not considered a site; however, discrete, single knapping episodes (activity areas) are also treated as a site.
- One or more datable archaeological features (with or without associated artifacts);
- Two or more undatable archaeological features within 100 feet (30.5 m) of each other; or
- A single undatable feature with associated artifacts.

If an archaeological site is discovered during the investigation, SWCA will excavate a minimum of six shovel tests within the site to define horizontal and vertical site boundaries. Site delineation shovel tests will be excavated in a cruciform pattern at 50-foot (15-m) intervals or less until two negative shovel tests are encountered in each direction or landform limits are reached. Cultural manifestations observed greater than 100 feet (30.5 m) apart will be considered spatially unrelated, and cultural materials that do not fit within the aforementioned archaeological site criteria will be considered Isolated Occurrences (IO). As such, occurrences will be recorded, noting the type and quantity of materials, as well as the size and shape of any features, architectural/construction details, possible function, and any potential relationship to nearby cultural materials. Additionally, guidelines set forth by the THC's *Guidance for Studying Late 19th-Century and Early 20th-Century Sites* (THC 2025g) will be followed for any historic-age sites documented within the project area.

SWCA proposes a non-collection survey. Artifacts will be tabulated, analyzed, and documented in the field, but not collected. Temporally diagnostic artifacts will be described in detail and photographed in the field. This policy will reduce curation costs once the fieldwork is concluded; however, as per the stipulations of the Antiquities Permit, all paperwork and photographs generated during the field investigation must be curated at an approved repository.

Reporting and Curation

SWCA will prepare a draft report of the investigation detailing the results of the archaeological survey. The report will conform to THC and CTA reporting standards (CTA 2024). The report will document the general nature of the survey area, the methodology used in the investigation, the presence and condition of any previously recorded sites revealed in the records review, the general nature and extent of cultural resources encountered during the archaeological survey, recommendations on the need for further work, and the potential significance of the cultural resources regarding future development and NRHP/SAL status.

SWCA will submit a digital draft copy of the report to Williamson County for review and comment. Once this has been accomplished, SWCA will incorporate any appropriate edits and will submit a final draft report to the THC for review and comment. As part of completing Antiquities Permit requirements, SWCA will furnish two electronic copies of the final report on a tagged PDF formatted CD, as well as project area shapefiles, to the THC, and complete an Abstracts in Texas Contract Archeology Summary form and abstract text online. Field records will be curated at an approved curatorial facility, which in this case, is the Center for Archaeological Research at The University of Texas at San Antonio, per requirements of the ACT.

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