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***AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF THE PROPOSED
LYNN CREEK PARKWAY PROJECT,
GRAND PRAIRIE, TEXAS***

Texas Antiquities Permit Number 4741

Jesse Todd, MS, MA

submitted to:

TEAGUE NALL AND PERKINS

1100 Macon Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

AR CONSULTANTS, INC.
11020 Audelia Road, Suite C105
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Cultural Resources Report 2008-04
January 11, 2008

LYNN CREEK PARKWAY PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

The City of Grand Prairie intends to construct the approximately mile long Lynn Creek Parkway in Tarrant County. The proposed roadway runs generally east from SH 360 and terminates at Lake Ridge Parkway. During early January of 2008, AR Consultants, Inc. conducted an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of the proposed roadway for Teague Nall and Perkins which is doing the environmental permitting for the City of Grand Prairie. The portion of the survey on private land was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 4741 which is approximately one-fourth of a mile long. The rest of the route is on US Army Corps of Engineers land; therefore, no antiquities permit was required. No cultural materials were discovered during the survey in the upland setting and no buried cultural materials were found in the very narrow Lynn Creek floodplain. In all, sixteen culturally sterile shovel tests were excavated.

Based upon the absence of archaeological sites, AR Consultants, Inc. recommends that further cultural resource investigations are unwarranted and that the City of Grand Prairie be allowed to construct the parkway as planned. However, if buried cultural materials older than 50 years are encountered during construction, work should stop immediately in that area and the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission as well as the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers should be notified.

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INTRODUCTION

During early January of 2008, AR Consultants, Inc. (ARC) conducted an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of approximately one mile of the proposed Lynn Creek Parkway which is to be constructed by the City of Grand Prairie, Texas. The proposed parkway begins at SH 360 and proceeds in an easterly direction and terminates at Lake Ridge Parkway across from Lynn Creek Park (Figure 1). The archaeological survey was done for Teague Nall and Perkins which is doing the environmental permitting for the City of Grand Prairie. The purpose of the archaeological survey was to determine if cultural materials were present, and, if so, make recommendations about their significance and how they might be impacted.

The cultural resource investigation was required because the City of Grand Prairie is a political entity of the State of Texas and Texas Antiquities Permit Number 4741 was issued for the archaeological survey for that portion of the route on land owned by the City. Approximately three-fourths of the proposed parkway route crosses property owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Relevant federal legislation includes the National Historic Preservation Policy Act of 1966, as amended (PL-96-515), the National Environmental Act of 1969 (PL-90-190), the Archeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974, as amended (PL-93-291), the Clean Water Act, as amended PL92500 and the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission not only will review this report as the State Agency, but also as the Section 106 review agency.

This report is written in accordance with the guidelines for reports adopted by the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission, and developed by the Council of Texas Archeologists (N.D.). The following report presents a brief description of the natural setting of the project area, followed by a discussion of the cultural history of North Central Texas. A chapter on the research design and methodology employed in the investigation is then followed by the results of the field investigation. The report concludes with recommendations followed by the references cited.

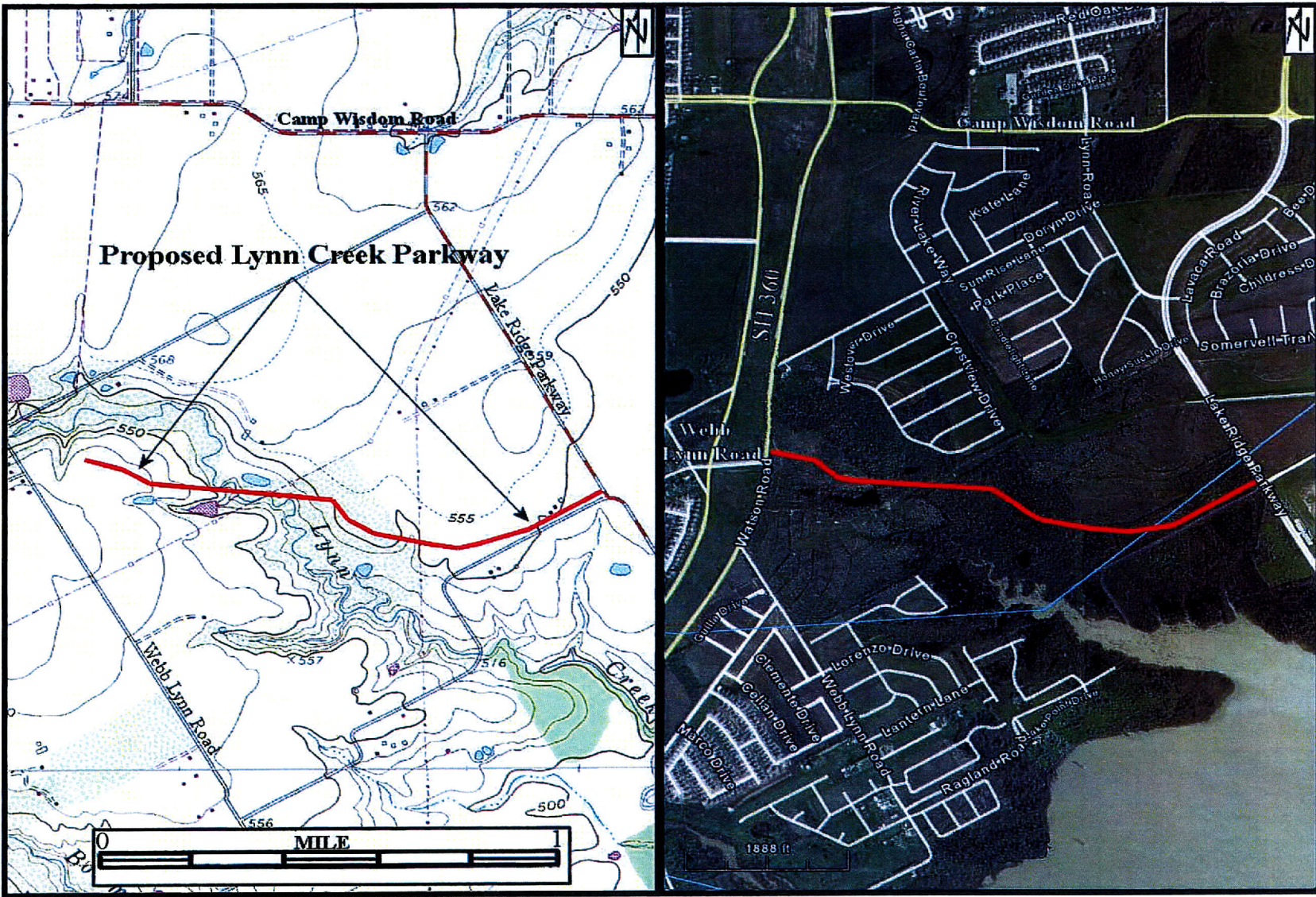


Figure 1. Proposed Lynn Creek Parkway plotted on a portion of the Arlington, Texas 7.5' USGS map and 2000 aerial map. The scale is the same on both maps.

Administrative Information:

Sponsor: City of Grand Prairie with Teague Nall and Perkins doing the environmental permitting
Review Agency: Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission and the Fort Worth District, U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers
Principal Investigator: Jesse Todd, MS, MA
Field Date(s): January 10, 2008
Field Crew: Jeff Craver and Todd
Field Man-day(s): 2
Acres Surveyed: approximately 12.4
Sites Investigated:
 Prehistoric: None
 Historic: None
Curation: No artifacts collected

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Tarrant County is located in North Central Texas. The county consists mainly of undulating to hilly land and vegetation consists of tall grasses and various species of trees such as mesquite, elm, oak, pecan and walnut. The sandy loams in the Western Cross Timbers drain into the West Fork of the Trinity River. Streams in the Fort Worth Prairie, (Dyksterhuis 1946:Figure 1), drain into the upper tributaries of the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. Tributaries to the West Fork of the Trinity River drain the Blackland portion of the county in which the study area lies. The southwestern portion of the county drain into the Brazos River (Dyksterhuis 1948:Figure 1). The study area lies in the east central portion of the county.

The proposed parkway is to be constructed within the Houston Black-Navo-Heiden Soils Association which consists of gently sloping upland clays and loams (Ressel 1981:General Soils Map). A variety of soils are present along the roadway but the major soil type is Navo clay loam with 1 to 3 percent slopes. Where the proposed roadway approaches Lake Ridge Parkway, the soil is Wilson clay loam with 0 to 2 percent slopes. Southwest of Lynn Creek's channel the soil is eroded Ferris clay with 5 to 12 percent slopes and northwest of the channel is Silawa fine sandy loam with 3 to 8 percent slopes. Lynn Creek's channel is mapped as containing frequently flooded Frio Silty clay (Ressel 1981:Sheet 46). The underlying bedrock consists of the Eagle Ford formation which consists almost totally of shale (Bureau of Economic Geology 1972).

Lynn Creek is mapped as being perennial on the USGS map but as intermittent on the soils book for Tarrant County (Ressel 1981:Sheet 46).

A consensus about the paleoenvironmental conditions of North-Central Texas over the past 12,000 years has not been reached. Discussions by Prikryl (1993), Ferring (1990), Humphrey and Ferring (1994) and Brown (1998) offer disparate interpretations based on different analytical approaches. The following discussion relies heavily on Ferring's investigations and focuses upon the past two thousand years. Correlating periods of rapid alluviation with higher precipitation and slow alluviation with drier conditions, Ferring has concluded that the Late Holocene [5000 yr B.P. to the present] was a wet period with moderate alluviation, except for a dry period between 2000 to 1000 yr B.P. [A.D. 1-1000]. It was during this dry period that the West Fork Paleosol was established on the stable surfaces of the river meanders along the Upper Trinity and its tributaries. This interpretation is supported by changing patterns seen in stable isotope analysis. Brown (1998) offers a different interpretation based on isotopic analyses of mussel shells from a prehistoric site (41DL270) on Denton Creek. He concludes that the period from 1500 to 2500 yr B.P. was cooler and/or wetter and that before and after that time period, the environment was warmer and drier. He points out, however, that this interpretation may only be applicable for the Elm Fork tributary and not the region.

CULTURAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Over the past several decades, cultural resources investigations in North Central Texas have varied due to the locations and types of projects being carried out. Therefore, the database of information to which new projects can be compared is limited. The following culture history is derived from the monograph *Lower Elm Fork Prehistory* by Daniel J. Prikryl (1990). Prikryl's framework includes the six prehistoric periods, to which the historic Native American and European periods have been added.

Using Prikryl's time framework, the following paragraphs present a brief description of the culture history of the region.

Historic European	AD 1800 to Present
Historic Native American	AD 1600 to AD 1850
Late Prehistoric II	AD 1300 to AD 1600
Late Prehistoric I	AD 700 to AD 1300
Late Archaic	2,000 BC to AD 700
Middle Archaic	4,000 BC to 2,000 BC
Early Archaic	6,000 BC to 4,000 BC
Paleoindian	ca. 11,000 BC to 6,000 BC

The Paleoindian period is distinguished by distinctive projectile point styles attributed to this period (Meltzer and Bever 1995:Table 1). Many of the points are made of exotic cherts that are not native to North Central Texas. The Lewisville site (Crook and Harris 1957) and the Aubrey Clovis (Ferring 2001) site in Denton County are the only excavated Paleoindian sites in the region. Surface artifacts generally come from deposits on stream terraces above the level of the active floodplain. This was a period when large mammals became extinct, and their extinction is attributed in part to a general drying of the environment.

During the Early Archaic, the general drying continued, and sites are found on stream terraces. There is a hint of population increase, and Lynott (1981:103) suggests that there was increased emphasis on the use of bottomland food resources. Prikryl (1990:71) can not confirm Lynott's suggestion, and in fact, he reports fewer bottomland sites than during the previous period. Middle Archaic sites are predominantly found on the first terrace above stream floodplains. As earlier, sites tend to be along the Elm Fork rather than along the smaller tributaries. It appears that population density continued to be low.

Late Archaic sites increase in number over the previous period, and sites are located both along the rivers and along tributaries. There appears to be a strong shift in site location to the tributary streams and a pronounced population explosion. Local Ogallala quartzite is being used prominently at this time, and this observation is taken by some authors as evidence of increased territorial restrictions (Prikryl 1990).

During the Late Prehistoric I period, the bow and arrow and pottery appear in artifact assemblages. Houses and probable evidence of agriculture first appear during this period, although none are known in the immediate area. Site locations mirror those of the Late Archaic, and quartzite continues as the common material used for chipped stone projectiles and tools. The West Fork Paleosol is dated to this period, and drying continued into the subsequent period (Peter and McGregor 1988; Ferring 1990).

The Late Prehistoric II is highlighted by the prominence of buffalo in archaeological sites and the appearance of tools normally expected to occur at sites on the High Plains of West Texas. It also appears that sites are once again located on sandy terraces above the floodplains (Peter and McGregor 1988).

Beginning in the 1830s and continuing into the 1840s, according to some historical documents, the aboriginal inhabitants of North Central Texas continued to play an infamous if not important role in the history of that region. Very little archaeological evidence, however, of historic Native American occupation has been found in the North Central Texas. This is a pattern seen throughout much of Texas, and one which has been suggested is due to the inability of the Native Americans to adapt to the changing climate (Skinner 1988).

The 1830s and 1840s were decades of Anglo expansion into North Central Texas. Garrett (1972:24), a well-respected Fort Worth historian, has stated that "Indian hostilities almost depopulated North Texas [of Anglo settlers] after 1839. It dwindled to less than half". According to tradition, many Indians of several tribes roamed the region until well into the 1860s. Strategies for dealing with the illusive aboriginal population ranged from armed confrontation and pursuit to across-the-table dialogue. Rising from a domestic background of dealing with Indians, President of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, realized rapprochement was preferable to direct confrontation. In the summer of 1843, a council with the Indians was called, and in September of that year ten tribes signed a treaty which was approved by the Senate the following January. The treaty provided the needed impetus for settlement of several counties in the North-Central Texas area. The earliest Anglo settlements in Tarrant County were Bird's Fort, established around 1840, and Lonesome Dove, settled in 1845. Lonesome Dove, located near present-day Grapevine, was the first permanent settlement in Tarrant County (Garrett 1972:55). The county itself was organized in 1850, but it was not until 1860 that Fort Worth was officially named the county seat, that designation having been transferred from Birdville (Webb 1952:708). Settlers, however, had been steadily arriving in the county during those 20 years. Many came through the auspices of Peters Colony land grants, although only 160 families and single pioneers took advantage of the grants (Garrett 1972:57).

In 1849, Major Ripley Allan Arnold was assigned to build a military post on the upper Trinity in the largely uninhabited geographical region of the Grand Prairie and the Eastern Cross Timbers. This encampment was established on a high bluff overlooking the confluence of the West and Clear Forks of the Trinity River. Within a short length of time, there were about 12 double log cabins near the fort, and life in Fort Town definitely had its refinements (Garrett 1972:80). The fort as a military post was relatively short-

lived due to the continual westward movement of the frontier. In September of 1853, troops abandoned the barracks and parade ground to the local population.

The Civil War took its toll on Tarrant County's population, as most of the able-bodied men left to fight for the Confederacy. Fort Worth's renaissance was motivated by growth of the cattle industry and the arrival of the railroad. By 1870, it is estimated that 300,000 head of cattle had been driven through Fort Worth. By the end of the nineteenth century, Fort Worth had shed its "six-shooter" culture for a more refined cow town culture which was beginning to use its past to advantage.

Fort Worth became the gateway to the West Texas oil fields (Knight 1953:192) and both fed the population and served as an impetus for post-World War II industrial development. The Convoir plant and Tarrant Field (later Carswell Field) had played an important role during the war, and rather than lose their jobs the employees were retained to work on a secret project, the B-36.

The community of Grand Prairie was organized in 1863. The original name of the community was Deckman but the name was changed to Grand Prairie to agree with the Texas Pacific Railway's name for the community in 1873. Supposedly, a lady had stepped off the train and stated, "What a grand prairie!" The town continued to grow, especially with road improvements and bridges constructed between Dallas and Fort Worth. In addition, the construction of Hensley Field in 1928 added to the economic base and the field was used during for a flight school in World War II. The economic base shifted from agriculture and ranching to manufacturing which has allowed the city to continue to grow today (Maxwell 2007:1-3).

Previous Investigations

Archaeological survey and testing have been conducted east and southeast of the study area. Southern Methodist University (Skinner and Connors 1979) conducted an archaeological survey of the proposed Lakeview Lake which is now Joe Pool Lake. Twenty-five historic and seventeen prehistoric sites were recorded along Mountain and Walnut creeks. Further research and testing was conducted during 1979 and 1980 by Southern Methodist University (Raab et al. 1982). Then intensive excavation was conducted by Southern Methodist University (Peter and McGregor 1988) of six prehistoric sites (41DL 148, 149, 184, 189, 199 and 41TR37). As a result of this testing, the Cobb-Pool site (41DL148) was further investigated and revealed a site that contained three house structures, Caddoan-looking pottery and a subsistence base that was dominated by maize. The Bagget Branch site (41DL149) appears to contain a more "Plains like" lithic assemblage. Further historical research was conducted by Jurney and others (1988) utilizing ethnoarchaeological investigations.

No archaeological sites are listed within or adjacent to the study area. No residences are shown on Sam Street's 1895 map of Tarrant County. However, a residence is shown adjacent to Ragland Road just southwest of the intersection of Ragland Road and Lake Ridge Parkway on the Soil Conservation Service's 1920 soils map for Tarrant County (Hawkins et al. 1920). The proposed parkway should impact this residence, if it still

exists. During the survey for Lakeview Lake (Skinners and Connors 1979), a single historic grave (site 41TR57), was recorded along Lynn Creek southeast of the study area.

RESEARCH DESIGN & METHODOLOGY

The Research Design and Methodology were created so that information derived from the intensive pedestrian archaeological survey would not only benefit the knowledge concerning the prehistory and history of Tarrant County, but the State of Texas as well.

Research Design

Although Lynn Creek is mapped as perennial, it was felt that prehistoric occupation would not occur along its banks after discussions with Sol Stigall of Teague Nall and Perkins who stated he walked across the creek when it was dry and the results of the archival research on the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas. Only one site out of nine, recorded on the Arlington, Texas USGS 7.5' USGS map was prehistoric, the rest were 19th and 20th century homesteads. In addition, it was felt that no prehistoric sites would be found in the upland setting due to the low biotic diversity and lack of perennial water.

With the above said, the potential for a historic site is at least moderate. The proposed parkway is adjacent to transportation routes and residences are plotted along Ragland Road, which is abandoned, on the 1920 Soil Conservation Service's map.

Methodology

With the above research design in mind, the staked 100 foot wide right-of-way was walked by the archaeologists spaced 15 meters apart going during the east-west transect and back to the beginning point. Shovel testing was conducted on a judgmental basis in the upland setting as recommended by the Council of Texas Archeologists (2002) and shovel tests were excavated to approximately 30 cm below the ground surface. The clay matrices were broken by hand and inspected visually for cultural materials as were the pit walls. Notes on the ground visibility, vegetation, terrain, soil color and other relevant data were made and photographs were taken. Backhoe trenching was not done in the upland setting due to the shallow depth to the subsoil.

RESULTS

The Results section is presented in three parts. The study area is described first and is followed by a description of the archaeological survey. The conclusions derived from the survey end this portion of the report. Shovel tests are discussed generally, but specific information is provided in Table 1. Shovel test locations are shown on Figure 4.

The archaeologists began at the east end of the existing Webb Lynn Road and went east to Lake Ridge Road and then returned to Webb Lynn Road. The route begins in unimproved pasture that consists of broom weed, tickle grass and other grass species (Figure 2). Ground visibility ranged from less than 10 to at least 80 percent (Figure 3). Eye-height visibility was very good. No shovel test was excavated on the crest of the ridge southeast of the Webb Lynn Road because a dirt two-track road was present and ground visibility was at least 80 percent. The first three shovel tests (1 through 3) were excavated along benches that sloped rather gently to the east. Shovel tests 1 and 2 (Figure 4) uncovered loamy clay to 37 and 35 cm below the ground surface. Shovel test 3 encountered loamy clay that contained abundant calcium carbonate nodules from the surface to 34 cm. The presence of calcium carbonate in the shovel test indicates the amount of erosion or possible disturbance along this portion of the proposed route. The shovel tests were culturally sterile and no cultural materials older than 50 years were seen on the ground surface along this portion of the proposed parkway route.



Figure 2. Beginning of proposed parkway route southeast of Webb Lynn Road which is at the center of the background. View is to the northwest.



Figure 3. Ground visibility on top of ridges in unimproved pasture southeast of Webb Lynn Road.

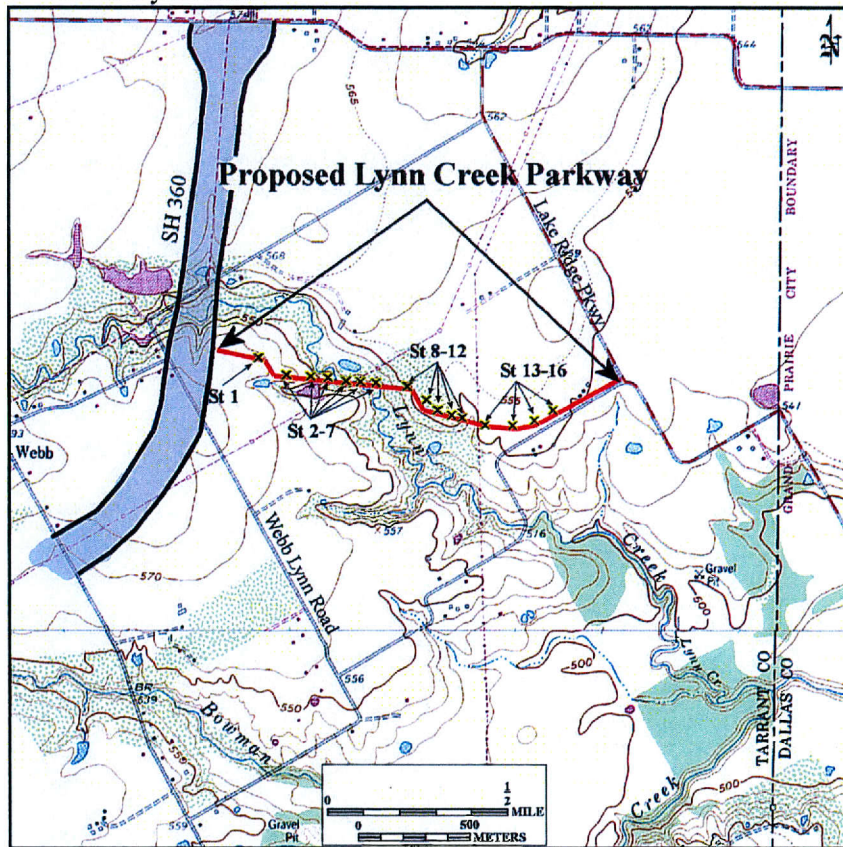


Figure 4. Shovel test locations plotted on a portion of the Arlington, Texas 7.5' USGS map.

The terrain drops rather steeply from the unimproved pasture to Lynn Creek. Shovel test 4 was excavated on the bank and uncovered 38 cm of wet loamy clay. Lynn Creek's channel is approximately 2.5 m wide and 2 m deep (Figure 5). Water was present and about a meter deep. Downstream, limestone gravel, cobbles and boulders were present in the creek's channel, but no knappable lithic materials were seen. No buried cultural deposits were seen in the creek's vertical banks. Shovel test 5 was placed in the creek's floodplain about 2 m east of the creek. The shovel test encountered laminated clay containing pea gravel. Vegetation was similar to that already described and ground visibility was less than 20 percent. Since the proposed parkway route runs across the floodplain for approximately 200 m, shovel test 6 also was excavated in the floodplain and uncovered 38 cm of moist clay. Shovel test 7 was placed at the floodplain/rise boundary and encountered 12 cm of sandy clay overlying loamy clay subsoil that extended to 36 cm below the ground surface. Shovel tests 4 through 7 were culturally sterile and no cultural materials older than 50 years were seen on the ground surface from shovel test 3 to 7.



Figure 5. Lynn Creek. View is to the west.

The terrain rises rather steeply to a generally level bench that continues to Lake Ridge Road. From east of Lynn Creek to Lake Ridge Road is forested (Figure 6) with an occasional grass patch. Trees include hackberry, elm and eastern red cedar. Understory vegetation includes bermuda grass, saw greenbriar, grape vine, prickly pear and other

grass and bush species. Ground visibility ranged from less than 10 to at least 70 percent. Eye-height visibility was good.



Figure 6. Vegetation on ridge east of Lynn Creek. View is to the east.

Shovel tests 8 through 11 were excavated along this portion of the route to a large gully just west of a north-south oriented power line corridor that shows in Figure 4. The shovel tests uncovered sandy loam, clay and sandy loamy clay that extended to at least 34 to 41 cm below the ground surface. All of the shovel tests were culturally sterile and no cultural materials older than 50 years were seen on the ground surface.

Shovel test 12 was excavated about a meter from the west bank of the gully and uncovered 34 cm of loamy clay. The gully is approximately 5 m deep and 10 m wide. Shovel test 13 was placed about a meter east of the gully and between the gully and power line route and encountered 31 cm of culturally sterile clay. No cultural materials were noted on both sides of the gully despite the good ground visibility and the shovel tests were culturally sterile.

Shovel test 14 was excavated about 100 m east of shovel test 13 and uncovered 38 cm of loamy clay. Shovel tests 15 and 16 were excavated between shovel test 14 and approximately 400 m west of Lake Ridge Road. Both shovel tests were culturally sterile and uncovered loamy clay that extended to 36 cm below the ground surface. From shovel

test 16 to Lake Ridge Road, the proposed parkway route parallels the abandoned Ragland Road and ground visibility was better than 50 percent.

According to the 1920 Soil Conservation Service Map for Tarrant County, Texas and the 1959 USGS map (Figure 4), a residence is shown approximately 200 m southwest of Lake Ridge Road. This portion of the proposed roadway route was intensely investigated for remains of the house structure and associated features such as a well, cistern, storm/root cellar or trash dump. None were found. The difference between this area and the route west is that mesquite trees and berry vines are prevalent. Therefore, from shovel test 16 to Lake Ridge Road, no cultural materials older than 50 years were seen on the ground surface.

Conclusions

As expected, no prehistoric archaeological sites were found. The lack of the prehistoric sites is attributed to the low biotic diversity and distance to perennial water. Water is present in the drainage during the time of the survey due to recent rains. Prehistoric sites are more likely to occur east where the present day Joe Pool Lake is. The absence of historic sites is problematic where the residence is shown on the USGS map. The residence shown on the 1920 Soil Map and 1959 USGS map has been removed for some unknown reason. The land owner may have preferred to use the land as pasture and removed the residence.

Table 1. Shovel test descriptions.

ST No.	Depth	Description *
1	0-37+	Brown (7.5YR4/4) loamy clay
2	0-35+	Dark yellowish-brown (10YR4/6) loamy clay
3	0-34+	Dark yellowish-brown loamy clay containing abundant CaCO ₃ nodules
4	0-38+	Yellowish-brown (10YR5/4) wet loamy clay
5	0-41+	Laminae of wet yellowish-brown and very dark gray (10YR3/2) clay containing pea gravel
6	0-38+	Brown (10YR5/3) moist clay, very plastic
7	0-12 12-36+	Yellowish-brown sandy clay Very dark grayish-brown (10YR4/2) loamy clay
8	0-37+	Brown (10YR4/3) sandy clayey loam
9	0-39+	Very dark grayish-brown sandy loam
10	0-41+	Dark brown (10YR3/3) sandy loam
11	0-36+	Black (10YR2/1) clay
12	0-34+	Very dark grayish-brown loamy clay
13	0-31+	Brown clay
14	0-38+	Yellowish-brown loamy clay
15	0-36+	Yellowish-brown loamy clay
16	0-35+	Brown loamy clay

* Note: Munsell Color Chart Numbers listed only first time used.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon our findings, AR Consultants, Inc. recommends that further cultural resource investigations are unwarranted and that the City of Grand Prairie be allowed to construct Lynn Creek Parkway. We further recommend that if buried archaeological materials should be encountered during construction, work should cease in that immediate area and the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission and the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers should be notified.

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