



River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Public Information Session

May 23, 2024
TriPoint 6-7:30pm



Agenda

- Welcome
- Bexar County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez
- San Antonio Councilwoman Dr. Sukh Kaur
- Project Presentation
- Q&A – Please complete question cards provided at sign-in table

Team members are located throughout the room for conversations on:

- ecosystem restoration, cultural survey, and project delivery team



The River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project

will leverage full federal funding as part of the Current Administration's Initiatives Pilot funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to implement channel restoration activities, improve fish passage, and mitigate erosion.



How to stay informed

- Engagement opportunities at each design phase
 - 30%, 60% and 90%
 - Notifications made by mail and on social media
- Project website includes project information and presentations from past meetings
 - www.bexarcip.org/project/river-road-restoration/
- FAQ document to be posted on project website
- Reach out directly to USACE
 - RiverRoadER@usace.army.mil



Partners & Stakeholders

- San Antonio River Authority: non- federal sponsor (NFS)
- US Army Corps of Engineers: Federal agency
- Stakeholders:
 - Bexar County
 - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
 - City of San Antonio Parks, Public Works and Office of Historic Preservation
 - River Road Neighborhood Association
 - Centro San Antonio
 - Audubon Society
 - Texas Forest Service
 - Tribal Nations
 - Brackenridge Park Conservancy
 - Brackenridge Park Stakeholder Advisory Committee
 - Brackenridge Golf Course
 - And others...

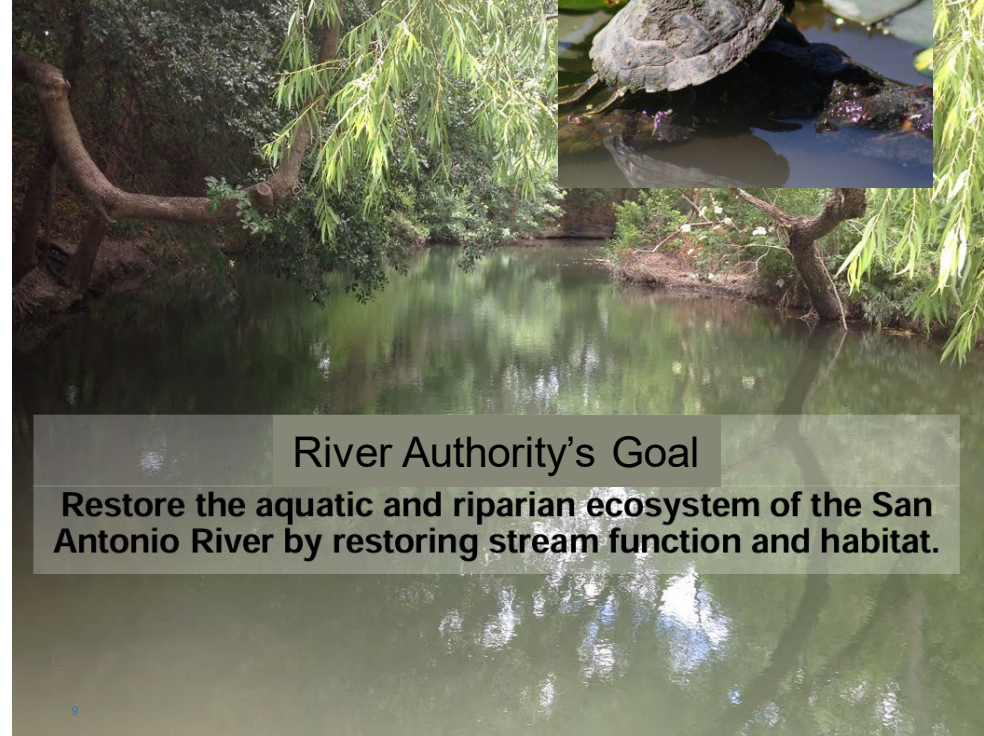


River Authority's Role

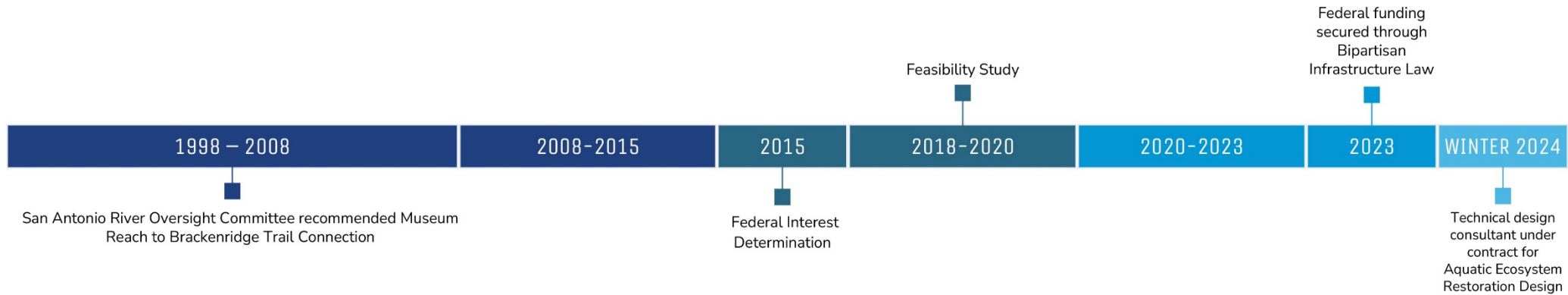
As the non-federal sponsor the River Authority is

- Responsible for real estate property interests and relocations, if required
- Committed to the operations and maintenance of this project including implementation of “adaptive management plan”

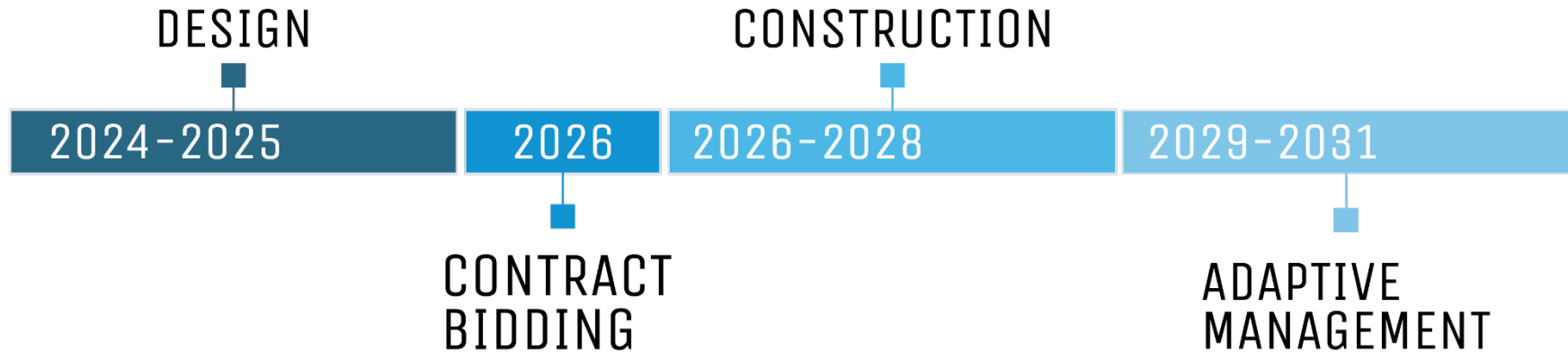
The River Authority is committed to timely and transparent project communication



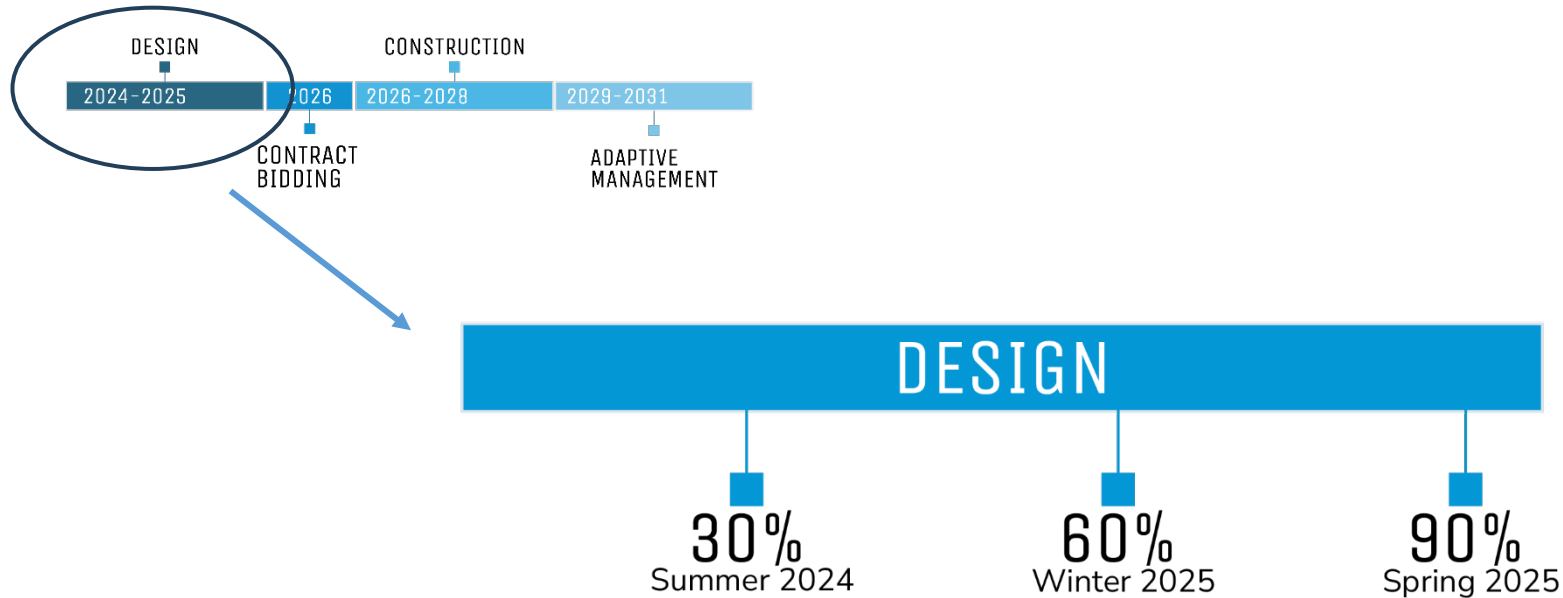
Historical Timeline



Current Base Project Schedule



Base Project Design Phase Schedule



RIVER ROAD AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

Danny Allen
Regional Planning and & Environmental Center
(RPEC)

23 May 2024



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USACE Vision

Engineering solutions for the Nation's toughest challenges.

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ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND OBJECTIVES



- Problems
 - Stream degradation due to excessive erosion
 - Stream degradation due to excessive sedimentation
 - Riparian habitat constrained and degraded
- Objectives
 - Restore aquatic ecosystem structure and function
 - Restore and maintain riparian habitat
 - Reduce the erosive threat to the roads that parallel the river

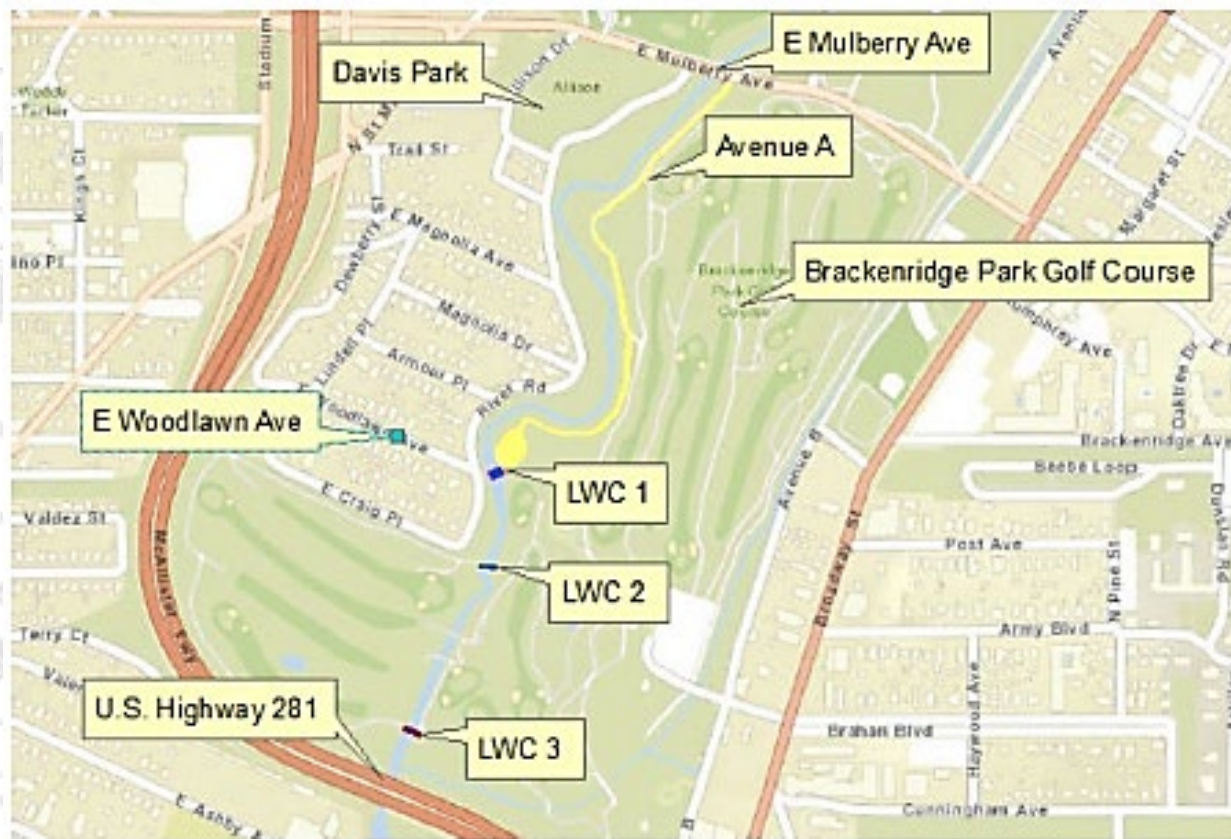


ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION MEASURES

- Removal of low water crossings 1, 2, and 3
- Installation of in-stream structures to balance sediment transport of the site
- Construction of bridges at low water crossing sites
- Removal of Avenue A
- Construction of a trail on the Avenue A side
- Removal of non-native invasive species
- Planting of native plant species plantings in park



MAP OF PROJECT AREA





CURRENT CONDITION AND EXAMPLE RESTORATION

75



Figure 1:
Existing
Erosion in
Project
Area



Figure 2:
Existing
Project
Area

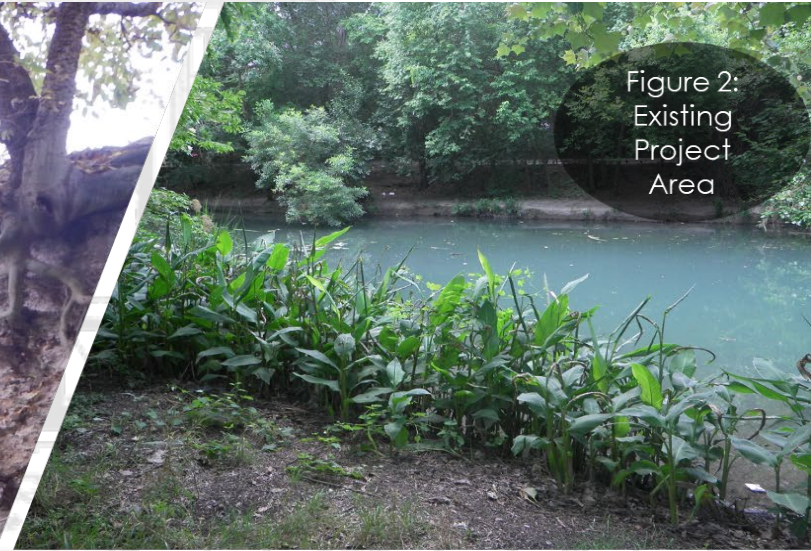


Figure 3:
FWP
Example
(Instream
Structures)



CURRENT CONDITIONS



Using stream restoration techniques, the project will remove non-native and invasive species and reestablish native aquatic plants, improving quality of migratory and resident avian habitats.



CURRENT CONDITIONS



The River Road section of the San Antonio River has experienced long periods of significant erosion, sedimentation and changing riparian habitats.



ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS

- **Low water crossing removal/Instream structures**
 - In combination with the installation of instream structures, will balance the sediment transport dynamics of the river.
 - Create a more diverse aquatic ecosystem by restoring the natural pool/riffle/run sequences in the river.
- **Removal of Avenue A**
 - Provides room to widen the riparian width by planting native riparian trees and woody vegetation along the eastern bank of the river.
 - Planting of native riparian trees on west bank and where invasive species occur.



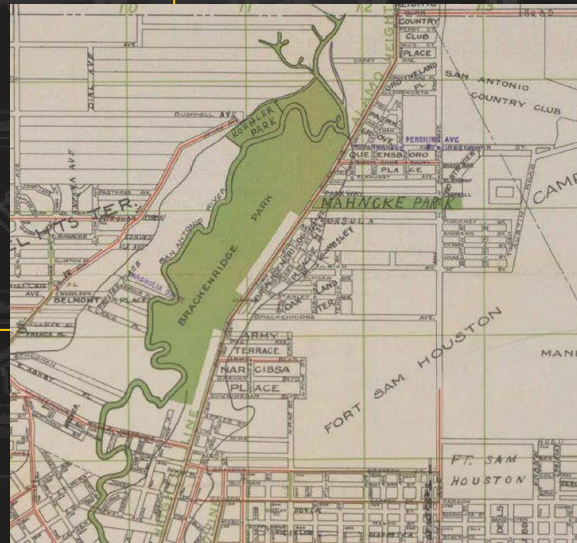
RECREATION

- Avenue A will be replaced with a trail set back from the river
- Bridges will be constructed at low water crossing removal sites to provide connectivity
- Fishing access points
- Bird blinds
- Access controls

RIVER ROAD AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT – CULTURAL RESOURCES

Christopher G. Davies
Regional Planning and & Environmental Center
(RPEC)

23 May 2024



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Section 106 Review Process

36 CFR § 800.3-7



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INITIATE the process

- Determine undertaking
- Coordinate with other reviews
- Identify SHPO/THPO, Indian tribes/NHOs, and other parties
- Plan to involve the public

No undertaking with potential to affect historic properties?



IDENTIFY historic properties

- Determine APE and scope of effort
- Make reasonable and good faith effort to identify
- Determine National Register eligibility
- Consult SHPO/THPO, Indian tribes/NHOs, and other parties
- Involve the public

No historic properties present or affected?



ASSESS adverse effects

- Apply Criteria of Adverse Effects
- Consult SHPO/THPO, Indian tribes/NHOs, and other parties
- Involve the public

No historic properties adversely affected?



RESOLVE adverse effects

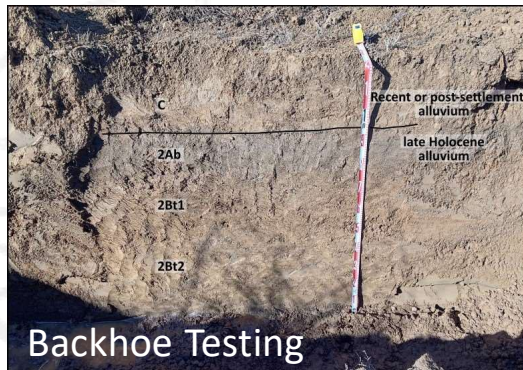
- Develop and consider alternatives or modifications to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects
- Notify the ACHP
- Consult SHPO/THPO, Indian tribes/NHOs, and other parties
- Involve the public

AGREEMENT or Council Comment

PROCEED



Cultural Resources Activities



- Field work scheduled to begin in the next few months.
- Shovel Testing
 - Minimally invasive method for providing data to determine how viable an area is for further archaeological testing.
- Backhoe Testing
 - Used to expose the stratigraphy of a landform, therefore exposing its formation processes.
- Engineering/Architectural Survey
 - Inventory and evaluate all buildings, structures, or objects in Project Area.



Cultural Resources Activities

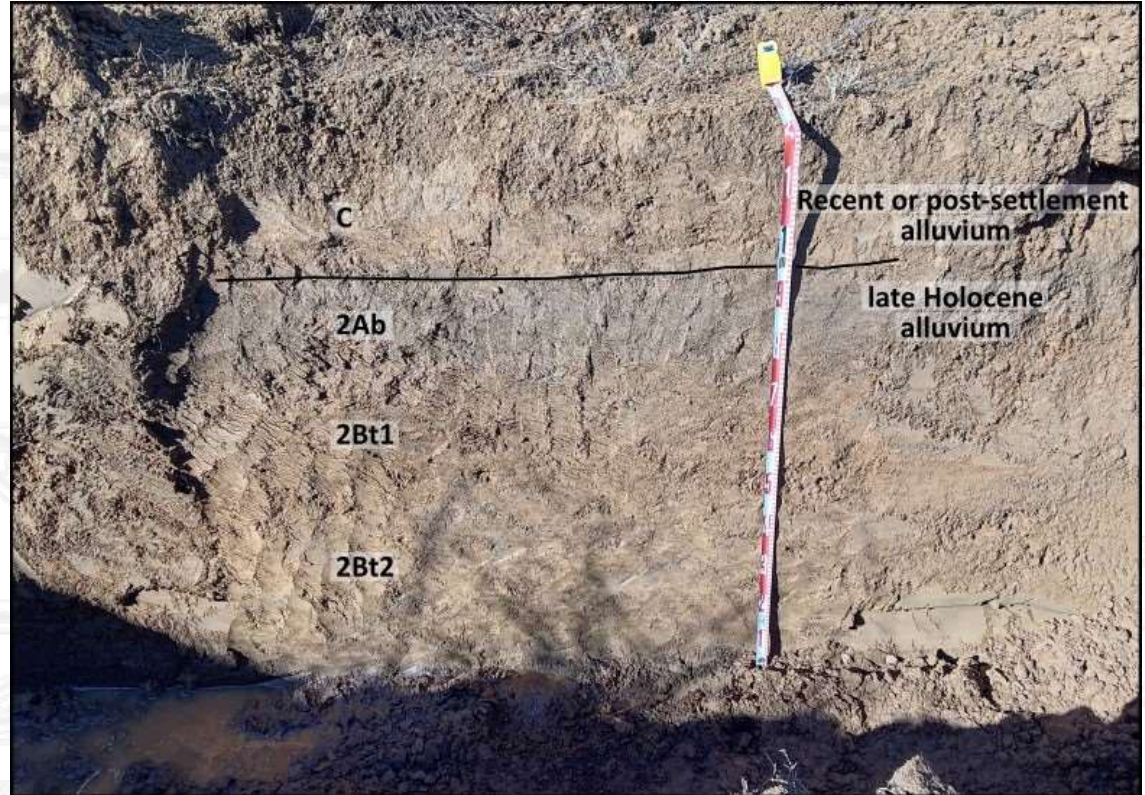
Example: Shovel Testing





Cultural Resources Activities

Example: Backhoe Testing





Cultural Resources Activities

Example: Architectural/Engineering Survey

- Inventory and evaluate all buildings, structures, or objects in Project Area.
- Indirect APE = a buffer for indirect impacts to standing structures or buildings. because of new construction, improvements to existing facilities, and/or maintenance of existing facilities.
- Survey and Photography done from Public Right of Way.





Next Steps

- USACE Contractor to conduct Fieldwork
- Draft Report with recommendations submitted to USACE
- Contractor makes edits (if needed)
- Report findings are coordinated with Texas Historical Commission and other stakeholders
- Contractor makes edits (if needed)
- Depending on findings, additional archaeological testing may be needed

Question & Answer

Please write your questions on your question card and hand them to a staff member

You can also email your questions to
RiverRoadER@usace.army.mil

