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Short Report On The Intensive Archeological Survey For Johnson City's Proposed New Skateboard Park, Blanco County, Texas

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SHORT REPORT ON THE INTENSIVE ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR JOHNSON CITY'S PROPOSED NEW SKATEBOARD PARK, BLANCO COUNTY, TEXAS

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Submitted to:
The City of Johnson City and
GrantWorks, Inc.

Antiquities Permit #7558
Hicks & Company Archeology Series #278

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF APPENDICES

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INTRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

On February 17, 2015, Hicks & Company conducted an intensive archeological survey of the proposed Johnson City's (the City's) New Skateboard Park location in Blanco County, Texas. The project will consist of a new concrete skate park that will be constructed on an approximately 0.66-acre area of potential effects (**Figure 1**). In addition to any necessary land-clearing and leveling, proposed impacts will include the laying of about 93 square meters (1,000 square feet) of concrete, four pairs of 1-meter by 1.5-meter (3-foot by 5-foot) washer pits, and a native plant garden with a 30 centimeter (12-inch) depth of impact. This new skate park will be located immediately adjacent to an existing park playground and baseball fields. As the City will receive funding through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, an entity of the state of Texas, the City has contracted with Hicks & Company to conduct Antiquities Code of Texas Coordination (ACT) with the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Since this project lacks federal permitting or funding, it is not subject to coordination under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. All work was coordinated with the THC and performed under Texas Antiquities Permit #7558.

No newly recorded sites were documented during the current investigation, which consisted of pedestrian survey supplemented by shovel testing. A total of two shovel tests were excavated during the survey, neither of which was positive for cultural materials (see **Appendix A** for **Shovel Test Locations** and **Appendix B** for **Shovel Test Data**).

Josh Haefner, the Principal Investigator for the project, conducted the survey with Will Pratt. Will Pratt authored the report. A total of four field hours were spent on the archeological investigations. Jerod McCleland conducted Geographic Information Systems (GIS) processing and map production, and Anna Holley aided in report formatting and production. As no artifacts were observed during survey all project-related documents, forms, and photographs will be permanently curated at the Center for Archeological Studies (CAS) in San Marcos, Texas. This report serves as partial fulfillment of the requirements of Antiquities Permit #7558.

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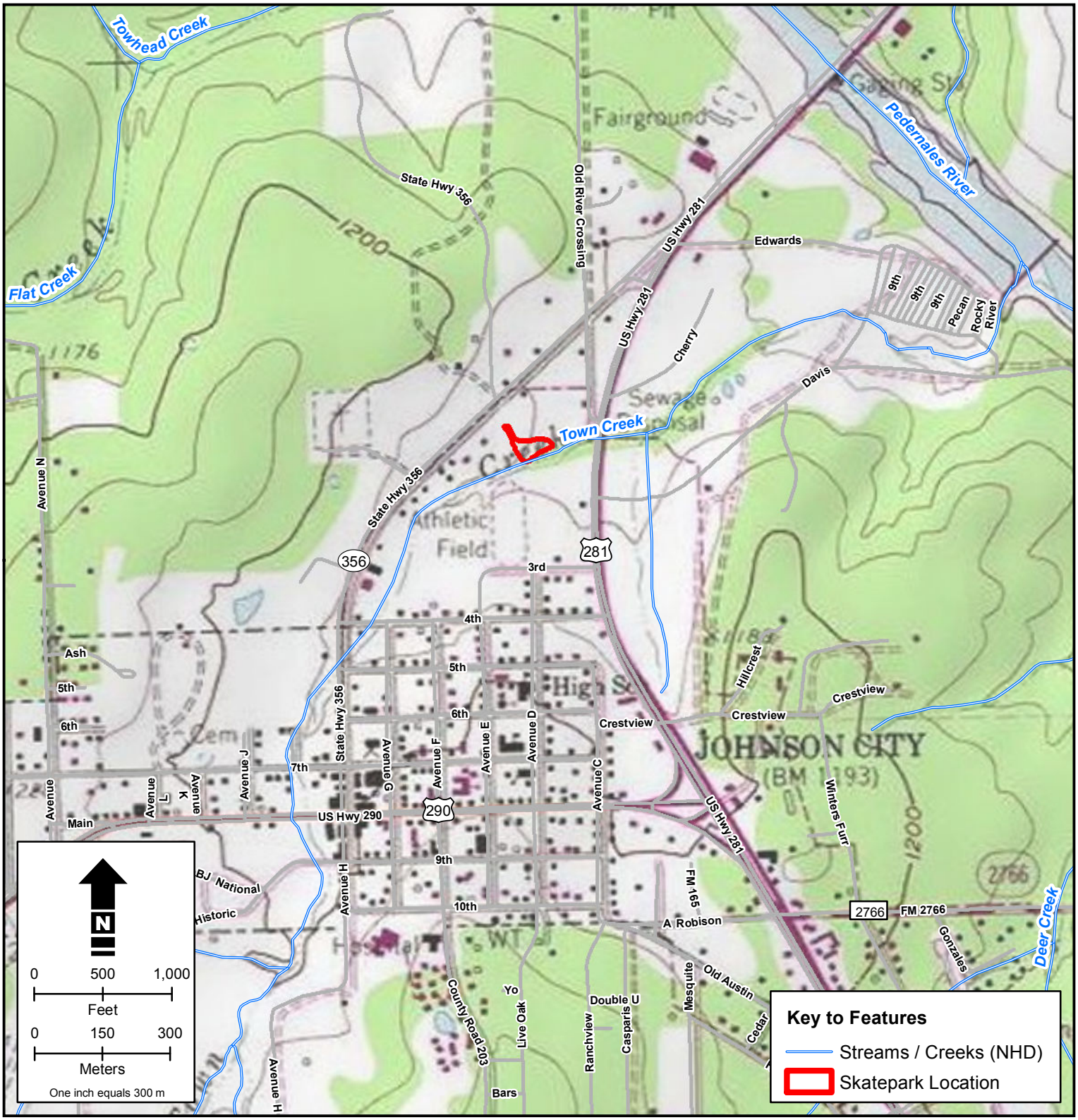

Figure 1

Project Location

Johnson City Skate Park

USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle:
Johnson City (USGS# 30098-C4), TX

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METHODOLOGY

Hicks & Company archeologists conducted the intensive archeological survey of a 0.66-acre tract for the proposed Johnson City's New Skateboard Park in accordance with the minimum standards established by the THC for areal projects measuring up to two acres in size (at a rate of three shovel tests per acre), excavating a total of two shovel tests. Shovel tests were excavated to approximately 40-50 centimeters below existing ground surface (cmbs), 10-20 centimeters below the anticipated depth of impacts of 30 centimeters, terminating within thick clays. All sediment was screened through quarter-inch hardware mesh or hand-sorted when dry clay content prevented efficient screening. All relevant shovel test information was recorded on standardized shovel test forms. Photographs were taken to document the project area condition and to aid in reporting.

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RESULTS OF FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The intensive archeological survey revealed no artifacts or cultural features within the proposed project area. The project area is bounded on the south by Town Creek, a two-meter-wide tributary of the Pedernales River. To the north, the project area is bounded by a park parking lot and baseball fields (**Figure 2** and **Figure 3**). Topography within the area is generally flat, slightly sloping east to southeastward.

During survey, ground visibility was varied but typically ranged from 15–80 percent. All shovel tests conducted during the investigation were negative for cultural materials and contained clay loams terminating at hard, impenetrable clay at a maximum depth of 50 cmbs. Observed Munsell values were consistent with the Lewisville soil series mapped for this area (Barnes 1981). Small-to-medium-sized sandstone gravel was reported within one of the shovel tests (see **Appendix A** for **Shovel Test Locations** and **Appendix B** for **Shovel Test Data**). Additionally, nor artifacts or cultural features greater than fifty years in age were observed on the surface during survey.

Figure 2: Overview of the project area, facing west from east edge of project area.

Figure 3: Overview of project area from existing parking lot, facing south.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On February 17, 2016, Hicks & Company archeologists conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the 0.66-acre tract to be used for construction of the New Skateboard Park by Johnson City. The planned improvements will be located adjacent to existing park facilities including baseball fields and a playground. A total of two shovel tests were conducted within the project area, both of which were negative for cultural materials. During survey, the project area was found to be devoid of prehistoric or historic archeological sites, features, or artifacts. Therefore, the project is recommended to proceed to construction with no further coordination required for compliance with the ACT. In the unlikely event that archeological resources are identified during the course of construction, all work in the immediate vicinity should cease until the THC is notified and appropriate actions are determined. Hicks & Company offers this report in partial fulfillment of Antiquities Permit #7558. All project-related materials will be permanently curated at CAS in San Marcos, Texas.

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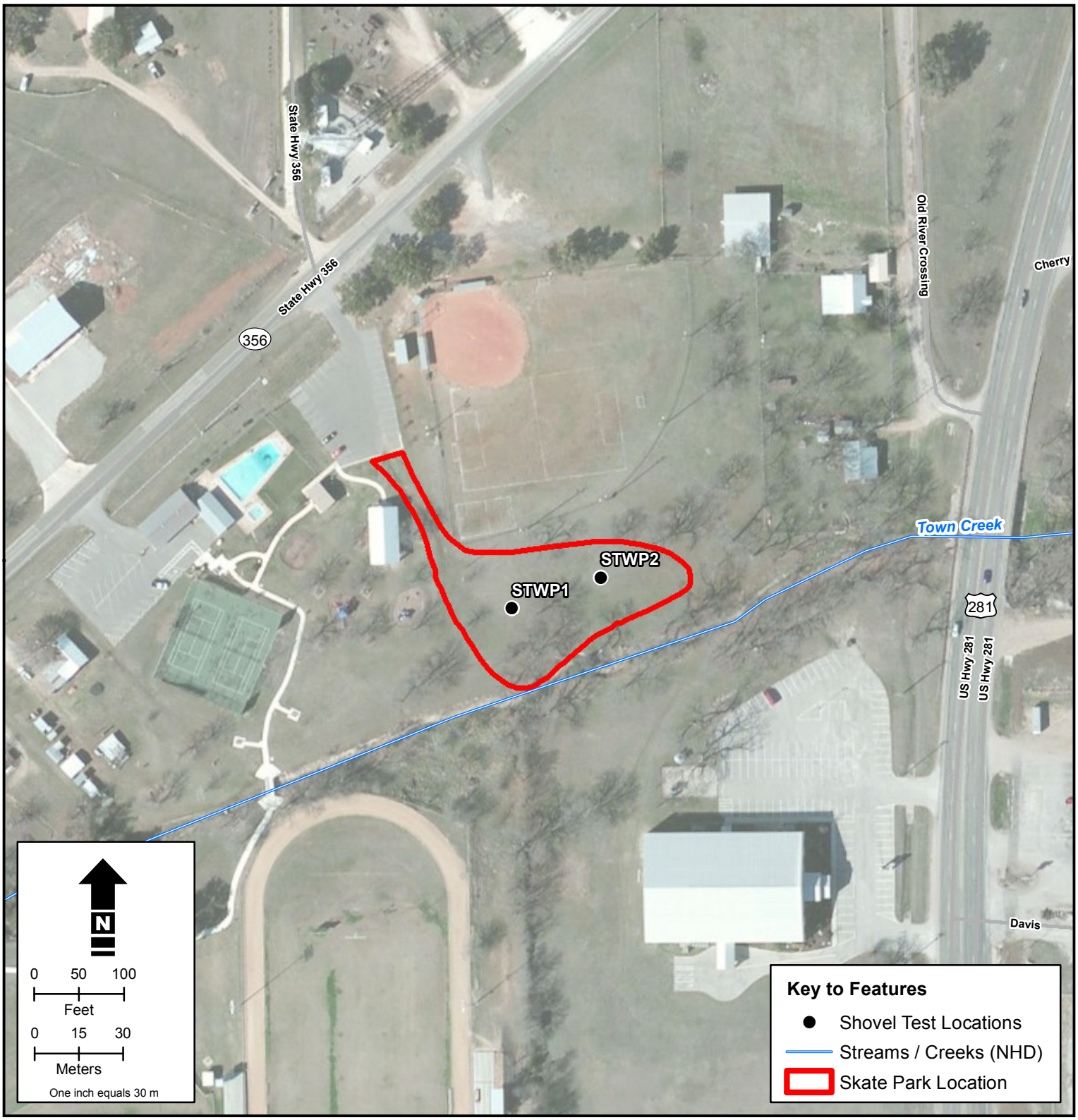
REFERENCES

Barnes, V.E.

1981 *Geologic Atlas of Texas, Llano Sheet*. Bureau of Economic Geology, the University of Texas at Austin.

APPENDIX A

SHOVEL TEST LOCATIONS

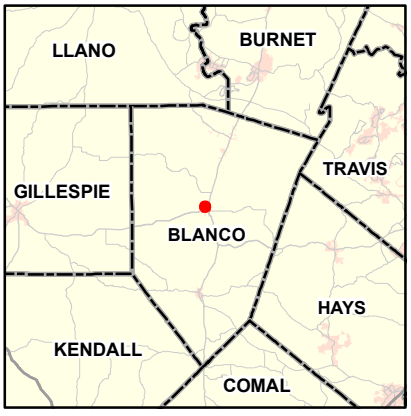


Appendix A

Shovel Test Locations

Johnson City Skate Park

USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle:
Johnson City (USGS# 30098-C4), TX



APPENDIX B

SHOVEL TEST DATA

Shovel Test Results					
Shovel Test	**Positive?**	**Depth (cmbs)**	**Location**	**Ground Surface Visibility**	**Results**
ST1	No	45	West-center of project area.	80%	10YR 3/3 clay loam increasing in clay density from 0 to 45 cmbs.
ST2	No	40	East-center of project area.	15%	10YR 3/3 clay loam with sandstone gravel inclusions. Increasing in clay density from 0 to 40 cmbs.