



HEADWATERS
AT THE COMAL™

NBU Board of Trustees
Headwaters Quarterly Update
September 25, 2025

Presentation Overview



Phase II Construction Update



2025 On-going Programs



Archaeology Exhibits



Parking Area Educational Signage



Questions & Comments

Construction Update

Phase 2 Essential Visitor Services

September 25: Substantial Completion

October 3: Headwaters/One Water staff move

October 9: Opening Celebration

October 15 : Chamber Ribbon Cutting

Phase 3 Project Plan Completion

August 28: Final GMP #6 Approved

October 2025: Demolition begins

January 2027: Estimated substantial completion of Master Plan



2025 Programs



NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOP SERIES
Learn how to create a colorful, low water landscape that supports our local pollinators.

AUG 14	NATIVE PLANTS FOR CONTAINERS
SEP 27	NATIVES 101 WORKSHOP
OCT 16	GROWING TEXAS WILDFLOWERS
NOV 1	NATIVE SHADE TREES FOR COMAL COUNTY
NOV 13	MAINTAINING YOUR NATIVES

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- Current Headwaters Program Offerings
 - Reserved Group Tours
 - Homeschool Education Tours
 - First Saturday Tours
- Adult Wellness: Yoga
- Landscaping with Native Plant Series (1 class per month)
- Protecting Water Resources Course
- Youth Curriculum Driven Education (half day camps, homeschool groups)
- Youth Informal Education (preschool nature walks, SEAM series)

Volunteers and Community Research Programs

- 1,735 Hours – YTD
- 20 different activities
- Water Quality Testing
- Habitat Monitoring
- Restoration
- Maintenance
- Education
- Ambassadors





Archaeology Programs & Exhibits

Headwaters received \$115,500 in grants to develop programs & exhibits sharing the research from the 2018-2019

Archaeology excavation:

- Kronkosky - \$75,000
- Summerlee Foundation - \$12,500
- Humanities Texas - \$13,000
- Downtown Rotary - \$15,000



Headwaters Archaeology Exhibits

Archaeology Committee

Mindy Bonine, *Archaeologist, ERG*

Mason Miller, *Archaeologist, ERG*

Dr. Todd Ahlman, *Director, Center for Archaeological Studies, Texas State Univ.*

Rick Reed, *Comal County Historical Commission, Archaeology Committee*

Bobbie Garza-Hernandez, *Indigenous Cultures Institute, San Marcos*

Dr. Judith Dykes- Hoffmann, *PhD. Geography*

Victoria Broderick, *Watershed Educator*

Illiana Gonzales, *CISD Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator*

Linda Dreibrodt, *NBISD, Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator*



Stakeholder Experts Shaping Exhibits and Programs

Three New Exhibits

- Tactile and Interactive
- Spanish Bilingual
- Based on Interpretive Plan

New Programs

- Youth Camps
- Demos and Tours for Adults
- Staff and Volunteer Training

Timeline & Delivery

- Exhibit Installation: Fall '25
- Youth Camps: Fall '25, Jun '26
- Adult Programs: Fall '25
- Training: Spring '26

Exhibits Honor 10,000+ Years of Human Connection to the Comal Springs

300 Generations

Overview of archaeology findings, timeline of the site's rich history.



A Place to Make Tools

Focus on escarpment and variety of stone tools people learned to make.



Earthen Ovens

Cooking traditions and innovations, layering and construction of stone ovens.



HEADWATERS AT THE COMAL SUSTAINABLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Welcome to the Headwaters at the Comal!

The parking lot is more than just a place to park – it's a living example of how thoughtful landscape design can protect and restore our local waterways.



BIOSWALE - NATURE'S FILTER

At the heart of the parking lot lies a bioswale, a gently sloped vegetated channel designed to capture and treat stormwater runoff. As rainwater flows across the paving surfaces and concrete roadways, it is directed into the bioswale where native plants and engineered soil layers work together to slow, filter, and absorb pollutants.

PHYTOREMEDIATION - PLANTS WITH A PURPOSE

The bioswale is planted with species selected for their ability to phytoremediate—a natural process where plants absorb and break down contaminants. This green infrastructure ensures that all surface runoff is treated before it enters Blidens Creek, helping to reduce sediment and fuel residues.



Landscape architect will provide several species of plants that support this process (sedimentation, degradation, stabilization) and a potential list of pollutants they address. Stay tuned >

WHY IT MATTERS

Urban runoff is a major source of water pollution. By using Low Impact Development (LID) strategies like bioswales and phytoremediation, we reduce the environmental footprint of development and reconnect people with the natural systems that sustain us.



PROTECTING BLIDENS CREEK AND THE COMAL RIVER

Water treated in the bioswale flows into Blidens Creek, a tributary that eventually joins the Comal River, one of the most biologically diverse aquatic ecosystems in Texas. By intercepting and cleaning runoff, this system helps preserve water quality and supports the health of endangered species downstream.



ENGINEERED FOR IMPACT

The design integrates permeable gravel layers, bioswale soil mixes, and mulch layers, all working in tandem to maximize infiltration and pollutant removal. These features were developed in collaboration with Ten Eyck Landscape Architects, LakePlate Architects, Guidotti Engineering, and ecological consultants from Blackland Collaborative.

Parking Area Education Signage



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COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?