

= Cibolo Creek =

Cibolo Creek is a stream in South Central Texas , United States that runs approximately 96 miles (154 km) from its source at Turkey Knob (in the Texas Hill Country) near Boerne , Texas , to its confluence with the San Antonio River in Karnes County . The creek serves as a tributary of the San Antonio River and forms the easternmost boundary of its watershed .

The stream is used for both recreational and political purposes , serving as the eastern boundary of Bexar County , Texas . A wide variety of fish and other wildlife are known to occupy the waters , and several parks have been established along its banks , including Cibolo Nature Center , Boerne City Park and Jackson Nature Center . Additionally , numerous human settlements have been founded on the creek , such as Boerne , Fair Oaks Ranch , San Antonio , Bulverde , Bracken , Selma , Schertz , Universal City , Cibolo , Zuehl , New Berlin , La Vernia , Cestohowa , Kosciusko , Sutherland Springs and Panna Maria .

= = Course = =

Cibolo Creek rises in the Texas Hill Country northwest of Boerne in Kendall County , Texas . Every second , approximately 30 cubic feet (850 L) of water pass through on its southeastern journey to the San Antonio River . It has been judged as a " scenic " and " picturesque " stream , especially in the upper reaches , as steady flows travel through deep canyons and rocky flats to form falls . Just ahead of its entry into Boerne , the stream is dammed to form Boerne City Lake , which provides drinking water for the town 's residents . In Boerne , the creek flows through the center of town before reaching the Cibolo Nature Center , noted for its shores lined with bald cypress trees . East of the nature center , the Cibolo Canyonlands begin , which features even deeper canyons and direct groundwater recharge . Part of this area is protected by the University of Texas at San Antonio for environmental research purposes .

Further downstream , the creek passes through Fair Oaks Ranch and Bulverde . The steady flow begins to dissipate in certain areas as it approaches Camp Bullis in northern San Antonio , leaving dry patches that reveal a rocky bottom . Such dry patches continue as it heads east , forming the boundary between Bexar and Comal Counties . Steady flows pick up on the boundary between Bexar and Guadalupe Counties , passing through Randolph Air Force Base .

At its lower reaches , the terrain grows flatter and less rocky , supporting oak , mesquite and juniper . As it meanders through Wilson and Karnes Counties , passing Zuehl , New Berlin , La Vernia , Sutherland Springs , and Cestohowa , Cibolo Creek meets with the San Antonio River near the ghost town of Helena .

= = Watershed = =

The drainage basin of Cibolo Creek is located in the lower reaches of the Cretaceous Glen Rose Formation along the southeastern edge of the Edwards Plateau . Many springs located in the upper and middle reaches of the watershed engage in karst activity in the limestone prevalent below the surface , forming such caves as Cascade Caverns and Natural Bridge Caverns . An exchange occurs between the stream and these numerous underground springs that serve as a recharge for the Edwards @-@ Trinity aquifer system . This system provides drinking water for millions of people in the surrounding area . Near the recharge zone , distributaries of the creek have carved deep canyons in the landscape of the Texas Hill Country , forming what is known as the Cibolo Canyonlands . The Cibolo Nature Center claims 1 @, @ 300 acres (5 @. @ 3 km² ; 2 @. @ 0 sq mi) of the watershed , to protect the water quality from the hazards of rapid development and population growth .

Several streams serve as distributaries and tributaries of Cibolo Creek , and are included in the watershed . Balcones Creek , a 13 miles (21 km) long stream that rises in Bandera County and acts as the boundary between Bexar and Kendall Counties , is a main tributary of Cibolo Creek that converges at the meeting of Bexar , Kendall and Bandera Counties . Tributaries in the lower

watershed include Martinez Creek , a 16 miles (26 km) long stream with a Mesquite tree @-@ supporting bed of clay and sandy loam , located near Windcrest in eastern Bexar County ; and Santa Clara Creek , 19 @. @ 5 miles (31 @. @ 4 km) long and Elm Creek , 14 miles (23 km) long , both streams in Guadalupe County near New Berlin that supports conifers along their shores .

= = History = =

Prior to European settlement , Cibolo Creek was referred to as Xoloton by the Coahuiltecan Indians . The Tonkawa called it Bata Coniquiyoqui , as noted by Father Damian Massanet , who referred to the creek as Santa Crecencia in 1691 . It is thought that Coahuila Governor Alonso de Leon had one of the earliest encounters with the creek in 1689 while on the first Spanish entrada to explore the French @-@ claimed lands believed to lie beyond the Nueces River . Records suggest a camp was set up on the creek , identified as Arroyo del Leon , coined from the discovery of a dead mountain lion along the banks . Explorer Domingo Terán de los Ríos named the creek San Ygnacio de Loyola in 1691 during an expedition and Domingo Ramón referred to it as San Xavier in 1716 . The first known use of the term Cibolo came from Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo who identified the stream as Río Cibolo , or Cibolo River , in 1721 . Cibolo is a Spanish and Native American term for American bison (buffalo) , which used to inhabit the area . The Native Americans are believed to have used the steeply banked bluffs along the creek as hunting grounds , chasing herds of buffalo into the bed where the creatures would fall to their deaths .

Marqués de Rubí included Cibolo Creek in his 1768 list of potential sites for posts to solidify the Spanish hold on Texas , and a fort called El Fuerte de Santa Cruz del Cíbolo , built along the banks of Cibolo Creek in 1734 to protect livestock from Apache Indian attacks , was resurrected in 1771 . However , the fort near Cestohowa was destroyed without a trace in 1782 @. @ and eventually the Spanish lost the creek and Texas following the Mexican Revolution . During the Texas Revolution , the creek was the site of two separate skirmishes . First , in October 1835 , at the beginning of the war , Captain Ben Milam was dispatched by Stephen F. Austin to survey the unfamiliar territory toward Cibolo Creek . Milam set up camp and soon discovered the tracks of a Mexican force of about a hundred cavalymen . Austin sent additional scouts , and one group was confronted by about ten advancing Mexican patrols . The group 's lieutenant led an offensive against the patrols , and forced the Mexicans to retreat to San Antonio , allowing the Texans to march to Salado Creek . One Austin aide remarked : " this little skirmish ... had a happy effect in the army ... [and] was regarded as a favorable omen . " The second skirmish occurred in April 1836 , outside Camp Houston , a post established by Juan Seguín on the creek banks near present day Stockdale . Seguín set the post after being ordered to withdraw from San Antonio , with a regiment that severely lacked resources , including clothing and horses . During an exploration of the creek to find wild horses , Seguín and six men met some hostile Tonkawas . In a brief skirmish , two of the Native Americans were killed , allowing Seguín and his men to return to camp with two additional horses .

Also in 1836 at the time of the Battle of the Alamo , during the Texas Revolution , the creek was the site of the temporary camps of the Alamo relief forces . On February 28 , Juan Seguin and his reorganized relief forces , waiting on the Cibolo Creek , encountered Fannin 's advance from Goliad led by Francis L. DeSauque and John Chenoweth , while near the Cibolo . On February 29 , the relief forces from Gonzales traveling with the Gonzales Company of Mounted Volunteers arrived at the Cibolo and entered the Alamo the next day . On March 7 , Gonzales relief force and former Alamo commander , James C. Neill with Edward Burleson gathered 50 men and headed for the Alamo . They reached the Cibolo and were heading for the Alamo but were repulsed by Mexican cavalry .

In the late 1840s and early 1850s , the communities of Selma , Sutherland Springs , Boerne , La Vernia , and Bulverde were established along the creek . Later on , Cibolo Schertz , and Universal City were founded . These settlements dealt with torrential floods that cost many their homes and lives in later years . The destruction was prominently witnessed during the October 1998 Central Texas floods , and four years later during the flood of July 2002 . The San Antonio River Authority authorized \$ 114 @, @ 599 to help clean debris from the creek in 2003 , hoping to improve water

quality . Above @-@ average levels of bacteria have been found in certain areas of the creek , leading to such initiatives as the Upper Cibolo Watershed Protection plan , which began in 2010 . Another plan to create a Cibolo Reservoir near Stockdale aimed to control flooding and provide fresh water met fierce opposition from local citizens concerned about the destruction of historic sites along the creek , and the loss of taxable land .

= = Recreation = =

Several areas along the creek have been established for recreational use . Boerne City Park provides trails for hiking , nature walks and horseback riding , and is a part of the larger Cibolo Nature Center . Camp Bullis , a military training ground found along the stream in north Bexar County , allows hunting for deer and other game , as well as separate locations for archery and fishing . An 18 @-@ mile (29 km) section of the creek , between Oak Village North and Luxello , is classified as a class two whitewater flow . The area is a popular camping destination , and is ideal for whitewater rafting and kayaking . Additional locations include Universal City Cibolo Creek Preserve area , where a frisbee golf course has been established for play . Between Stockdale and Floresville , Cibolo Creek forms the eastern boundary of Jackson Nature Park , a 50 @-@ acre (200 @,@ 000 m²) public park owned by Wilson County and operated by the San Antonio River Authority . The park offers a looped trail network showcasing south @-@ central Texas plants , animals , and geology .

Several locations are available for fishing . According to Texas Parks and Wildlife , the following fish have been caught in the stream : largemouth bass , bluegill , channel catfish , Rio Grande cichlid , longnose gar , green sunfish , sunfish hybrid , redbreast sunfish , and redear sunfish .

= = Climate = =

The climate in this area is characterized by hot , humid summers and generally mild to cool winters . According to the Köppen Climate Classification system , Cibolo Creek has a humid subtropical climate , abbreviated " Cfa " on climate maps .