

PROJECT UPDATE

Lake Ralph Hall is a special place (a natural place, a quiet place, a hospitable place) both for people and for the environment, assuring a reliable water supply for generations to come.

On the Horizon — Looking Forward for Lake Ralph Hall



Rendering of the future pump station and the type of pipe that will be used to create the Lake Ralph Hall pipeline.

Recent months have brought progress on new bridges and roads and considerable progress moving dirt and pouring concrete at the reservoir site. In addition, several other key Lake Ralph Hall projects have been moving forward behind the scenes.

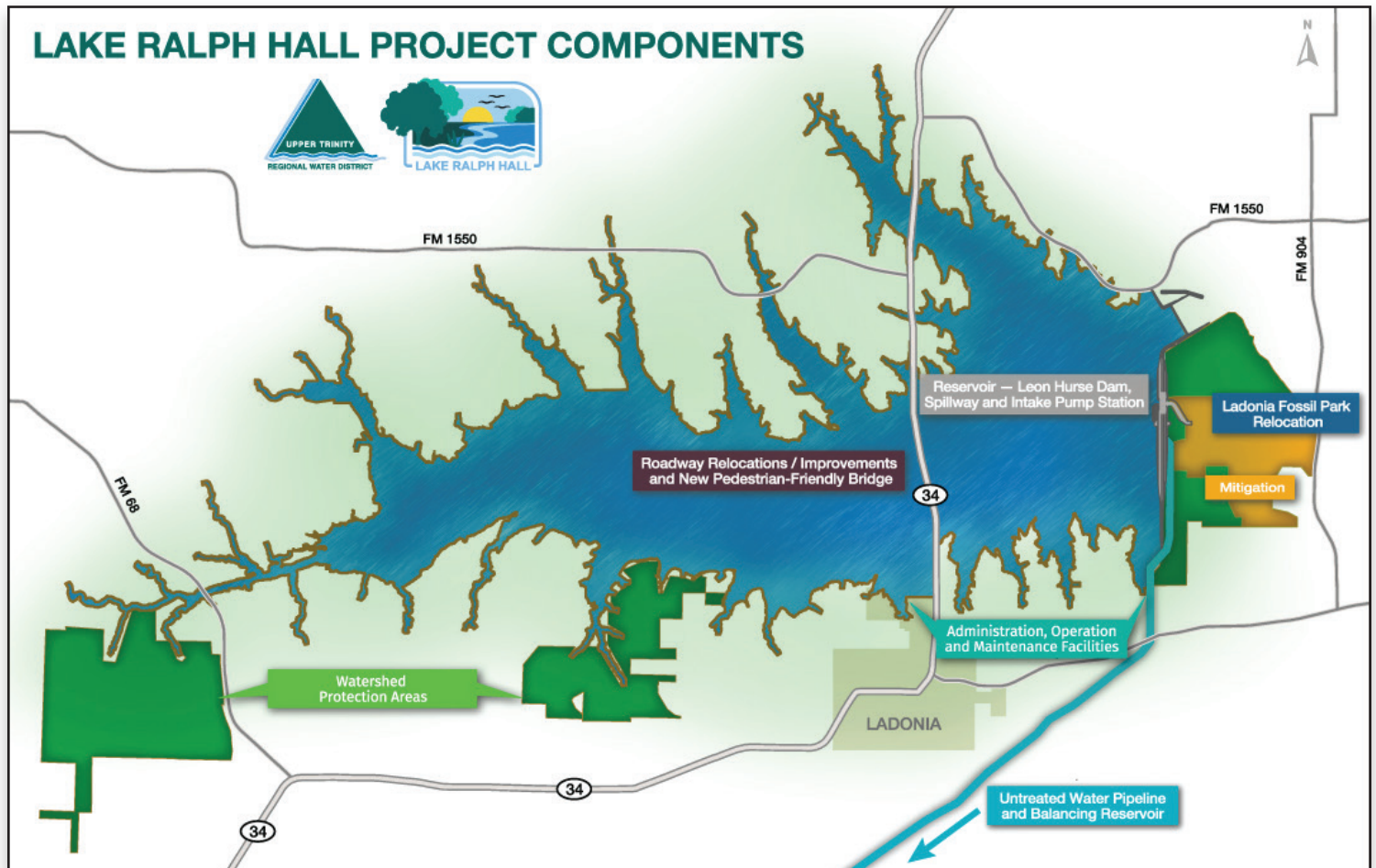
Designs are now nearly finished for the pump station, and the Upper Trinity Regional Water District (Upper Trinity) is preparing to procure the station's larger equipment including pumps, valves, and electrical gear. Archer Western, Upper Trinity's construction manager at risk for the pump station, will hire several construction companies to begin work on the project late next spring.

Similarly, designers are more than halfway finished on the 32-mile raw water pipeline needed to carry Lake Ralph Hall

water to Upper Trinity's water system. Bids were recently received for the pipe and large valves, and Garney will select construction contractors in April to begin installing the pipeline next year.

Work also continues to prepare for development and environmental improvements around the lake. The Fannin County Commissioner's Court approved the lake's Comprehensive Plan, which provides guidelines for land use around the lake. The plan will provide direction for the development of future zoning and regulations of the lake's shoreline. The project's mitigation contractor is also finalizing environmental improvement designs to mitigate impacts from the lake, and that work will also likely begin in the spring.

PROJECT COMPONENTS **UPDATE**



Reservoir, Leon Hurse Dam & Spillway

Constructing a 2.3 mile-long dam, intake pump station to pump water into the untreated water pipeline and spillway to release excess water back into the North Sulphur River.

- Around 70 construction workers are onsite placing and compacting dirt for the embankment on both sides of the dam.
- Crews are finished removing debris from 900 acres for the dam and will begin work to clear the general reservoir area next.
- Excavation for the spillway is mostly finished, and crews are about to begin pouring concrete.
- Work continues to install the slurry trenches to prevent seepage under the dam.

Roadway and Bridge Improvements

Constructing a new pedestrian-friendly SH 34 lake bridge, relocating part of FM 1550 and improvements and closures to various county roads.

- Crews will begin to pour the top of the bridge decking this month, after which they will only need to finish the bridge barriers.
- Workers are erecting the columns for Merrill Creek bridge, which will provide access over a finger of the future lake.
- Construction continues on new sections of FM 1550 to accommodate the future lake shoreline. All state roadway work is scheduled to finish in March.

Administration, Operation and Maintenance Facilities

Building facilities for the lake's day-to-day operation, management and maintenance facilities.

- Halff Associates and Freese & Nichols are currently planning/designing all lake facilities.

Pipeline

Installing a 32-mile underground pipeline and creating a balancing reservoir to provide water to Upper Trinity's water system for treatment and delivery.

- UTRWD continues the process of acquiring the necessary land for the pipeline and has acquired the property for the balancing reservoir.
- The designs for the pipeline are over halfway finished, and those for the pump station are nearly complete. The District will shortly begin the process of acquiring the necessary pumps, pipes and valves so they can begin construction on these components spring/summer of next year.

Mitigation/Watershed Protection Areas

Returning a portion of the former North Sulphur River to its natural, meandering path. Leaving other areas in their natural condition to protect water quality in the lake.

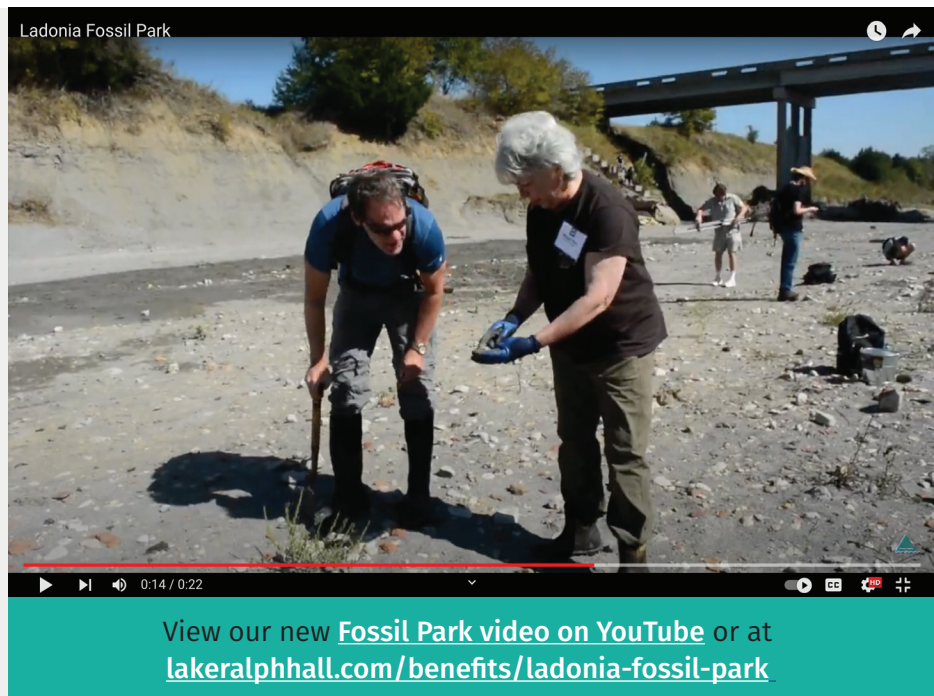
- Designers are preparing final plans for mitigation, with plans to begin construction next spring.
- The temporary fossil park continues to attract fossil hunters from all around.

SPOTLIGHT

Educating the Educators

Educators and master naturalists alike are taking unique opportunities to learn more about Lake Ralph Hall.

This fall, members from Upper Trinity presented to the Bois D'Arc chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists about the new lake and the District's Water Conservation and Watershed Protection Programs. In addition, teachers from the Region 8 Teacher Training Center visited Ladonia to hunt for fossils in the North Sulphur River. At the same time, they had the opportunity to learn about Lake Ralph Hall and the three environmental education lesson plans that Upper Trinity has developed for educator use in cooperation with University of North Texas.



Lake Ralph Hall

Project Schedule

