

# 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.

## A Bridge is Born



Since Lake Ralph Hall broke ground, construction has begun on the Hwy 34 bridge over the future lake. Flatiron Constructors, Inc. is the contractor and Lamb-Star Engineering will oversee construction on over three miles of new bridges and surrounding roads. A portion of FM 1550 will be relocated, and portions of FM 2990 will be closed in the future.

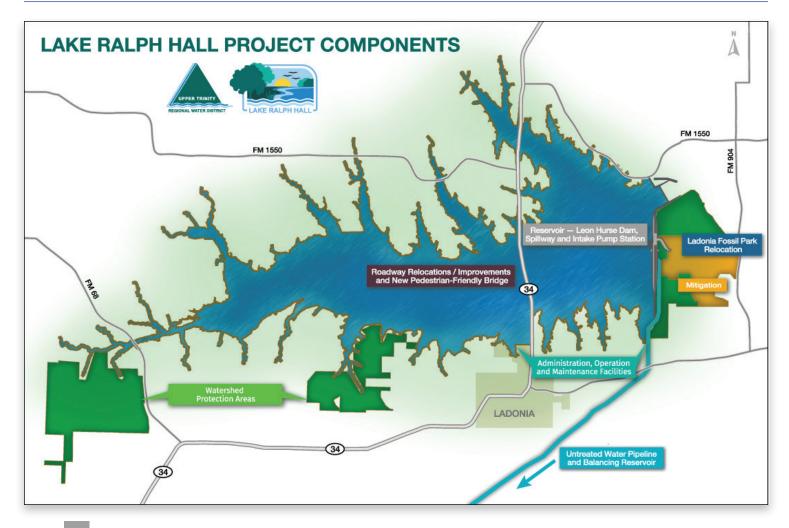
Work is underway on the bridge's embankment and support structures. Around 60 construction workers are currently completing each section of the bridge's essential support structure (also known as "bents") before going on to the next section. The bents are comprised of a footing, steel & concrete columns and a top cap (being formed in the photo above). Two crawler cranes capable of lifting up to 115 tons at a time have been assembled to place support beams on top of the completed bents.

This is no small project, and it will continue throughout the building of the reservoir and dam. For scale, consider that:

- Crews will pour over 80 million gallons of concrete enough to fill over 121 Olympic sized swimming pools.
- The project's rebar alone will weigh almost as much as 200 elephants.
- Each bridge beam weights over 50 tons, and together all the beams will clock in at over 20 thousand tons (weight of approx. 1,000 fire trucks).
- The tallest column will be about as tall as a 10-story building.
- Construction crews will lay over 6.5 football fields worth of bridge deck by the time they are done.



### 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.

• Construction on the dam began with the reservoir's groundbreaking on June 16, 2021. Work continues to clear the dam and spillway construction areas.



Site clearing continues on Leon Hurse Dam.

#### **Roadway and Bridge Improvements**

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

- Work continues on the Hwy 34 bridge. Large beams will soon arrive and will be laid on top of the concrete bents to form the new roadway.
- Flatiron will continuing forming and pouring the additional support structures needed for the new bridge.

#### **Administration, Operation and Maintenance Facilities**

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

• Procurement is ongoing to select a firm to design these 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 balancing reservoir.
- Final selection of a design consultant is expected soon.

#### **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. • UTRWD is reviewing proposals for a full service provider to complete this work.



#### **SPOTLIGHT**

### Planning Underway for Land Around Lake

Even as construction continues on Lake Ralph Hall, work is already underway to plan the future land use within 5,000 feet of its shore. Fannin County Commissioners Court and Lake Ralph Hall Zoning Commission are developing a Comprehensive Plan to guide future land development decisions around the new lake. Over the next year, Fannin County will host a variety of meetings, events and engagement opportunities open to the public—with the first one held middle of last month. Their goal? To ensure development supports a thriving recreational destination and water source for years to come. Learn more and provide input on the plan at <a href="https://freese.mysocialpinpoint.com/ralphhall/home">https://freese.mysocialpinpoint.com/ralphhall/home</a> (see the "Get Involved" page for a survey and more).



