



Lake Ralph Hall

Water Security, Economy and Environment



Lake Ralph Hall will provide water to one of the fastest growing regions in North Texas and supply water to future generations.

The potential benefits from the construction of Lake Ralph Hall and associated raw water pipeline include employment opportunities; increased tax revenue; roadway improvements; and new recreation opportunities including fishing, boating and nature viewing. These benefits will also provide commercial opportunities to attract locals and visitors alike.

WATER FOR THE FUTURE

As the populations of Denton and Collin counties grow, so does their demand for water. While Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD) members and customers continue to reduce their water use, our 25 communities are growing at such a rapid rate that their water needs cannot be met by conservation and reuse alone. Lake Ralph Hall will provide an additional source of water to protect our region's water security and continued vitality.

UTRWD will own and operate Lake Ralph Hall. Owning the water rights will help reduce UTRWD's dependency on others and will provide water for generations to come. Once construction costs are paid, the lake will also yield long-term savings for our water customers.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

It is anticipated that lake construction will provide millions of dollars in economic benefits to the region, boosting the economies of both the City of Ladonia and Fannin County. This new water supply also will continue to support the growing economies of the communities UTRWD serves. Spending on materials, supplies and labor will account for the bulk of the immediate, direct and indirect benefits to the local area from the project and spending by workers will benefit local merchants/businesses through multiplier impacts. Recreation at the lake will benefit the region as well.

Construction benefits:

- Creation of approximately 290 new jobs to construct Lake Ralph Hall*
- Creation of approximately 95 new jobs to construct the pipeline to convey water from the new lake to UTRWD's treatment and distribution system*
- The net effect on sales of goods and services expended from Lake Ralph Hall amounts to about \$36 million in Fannin County*
- Improvements to some county roads are expected around the project area
- Creation of a temporary fossil park during construction of the dam and roadways and relocation of the Ladonia Fossil Park to a new, permanent location downstream

Post-Construction benefits:

- Onsite workforce to sustain and operate the lake
- Pedestrian-friendly SH 34 bridge spanning the reservoir that will connect to a planned visitors' center at the lake office
- Increased tourism to Ladonia/Fannin County due to recreational opportunities including fishing and boating
- Construction of boat ramp, dock and support parking area allow year-round access to lake
- Potential for new residential and commercial development including primary residences, weekend/second homes, retirement properties and businesses for recreators
- Increased tax revenues for Ladonia (estimated increase of \$400,000 30 years after project completion) and Fannin County (estimated increase of \$685,000 30 years after project completion)*

Right: By restoring a portion of the North Sulphur River downstream of the Leon Hurse Dam to its natural, meandering path, downstream erosion will be reduced.



Current photo of North Sulphur before environmental improvements. Massive erosion has expanded channel to 10 times its original size.



Benefits from constructing Lake Ralph Hall include employment opportunities; increased tax revenue; improved roadways; and, new recreation including fishing, boating and nature viewing.



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

In the 1920s, the natural path of the North Sulphur River was straightened and channeled to help protect farmland along the river from periodic flooding. The channel was originally 16–20 ft. wide and 10 ft. deep. Since that time, massive erosion has expanded the channel to approximately 350 ft. wide and over 60 ft. deep—nearly 10 times its original size. Lake Ralph Hall's construction and associated environmental improvements work will help reduce the impact of continued erosion of the North Sulphur River. A portion of the original river downstream of the Leon Hurse Dam is planned to be restored to its natural, meandering path.

Hundreds of acres of valuable land have been washed away by the main channel and tributaries, along with valuable trees and wildlife habitat. Because of the continuous erosion, state highway bridges have had to be replaced multiple times.

Simply put, slowing the flow of water slows the erosion process. Construction of Lake Ralph Hall will help slow down the flow of water above and below the reservoir. Flow of the North Sulphur Reservoir and its tributaries above the reservoir will be slowed by the presence of the reservoir, where it acts like a storage plug. Water flow downstream of the dam will be slower and more controlled.

Lake Ralph Hall provides an opportunity to turn this environmental problem into a healthy asset—providing a rich aquatic and terrestrial habitat in Fannin County and water for future Texans.

*Information from US Army Corps of Engineers Final Environmental Impact Statement swf.usace.army.mil/Portals/47/docs/regulatory/Permitting/Lake%20Ralph%20Hall/FEIS/Lake_Ralph_Hall_FEIS_Volume_1.pdf?ver=2019-09-27-101053-960

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