



www.LakeRalphHall.com

AUGUST 2021

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.*

Lake Ralph Hall Breaks Ground



The UTRWD Board of Directors at Lake Ralph Hall's Groundbreaking.

On June 16, 2021 its 32nd anniversary, Upper Trinity Regional Water District commenced construction on Lake Ralph Hall, the newest reservoir to be built in Texas. The groundbreaking celebration at the site of the future Leon Hurse Dam, named for the City of Ladonia's former mayor. The lake is named after former U.S. Congressman Ralph Hall.

The event's theme—"Water for the People"—highlighted the decades of dedication by many to provide water for the region UTRWD serves in North Texas. Check out the [groundbreaking video here](#).

"An additional source of water is needed by the mid-2020s to meet Upper Trinity's anticipated water needs," Larry N. Patterson, Executive Director of Upper Trinity explained. "Lake Ralph Hall is the most feasible and lowest-cost source of new water available to Upper Trinity, and it can be built in time to avoid a water shortage."

More than 300 celebrants, including family members of Ralph Hall and Leon Hurse, and [local media](#) gathered together for the momentous occasion. Local children representing the multiple generations that will benefit from Lake Ralph Hall and representatives of Upper Trinity and

its member and customers cities, Fannin County, Ladonia and Texas Water Development Board assembled their respective logos onto a large wooden puzzle of the lake to depict the collaboration needed to build the project.

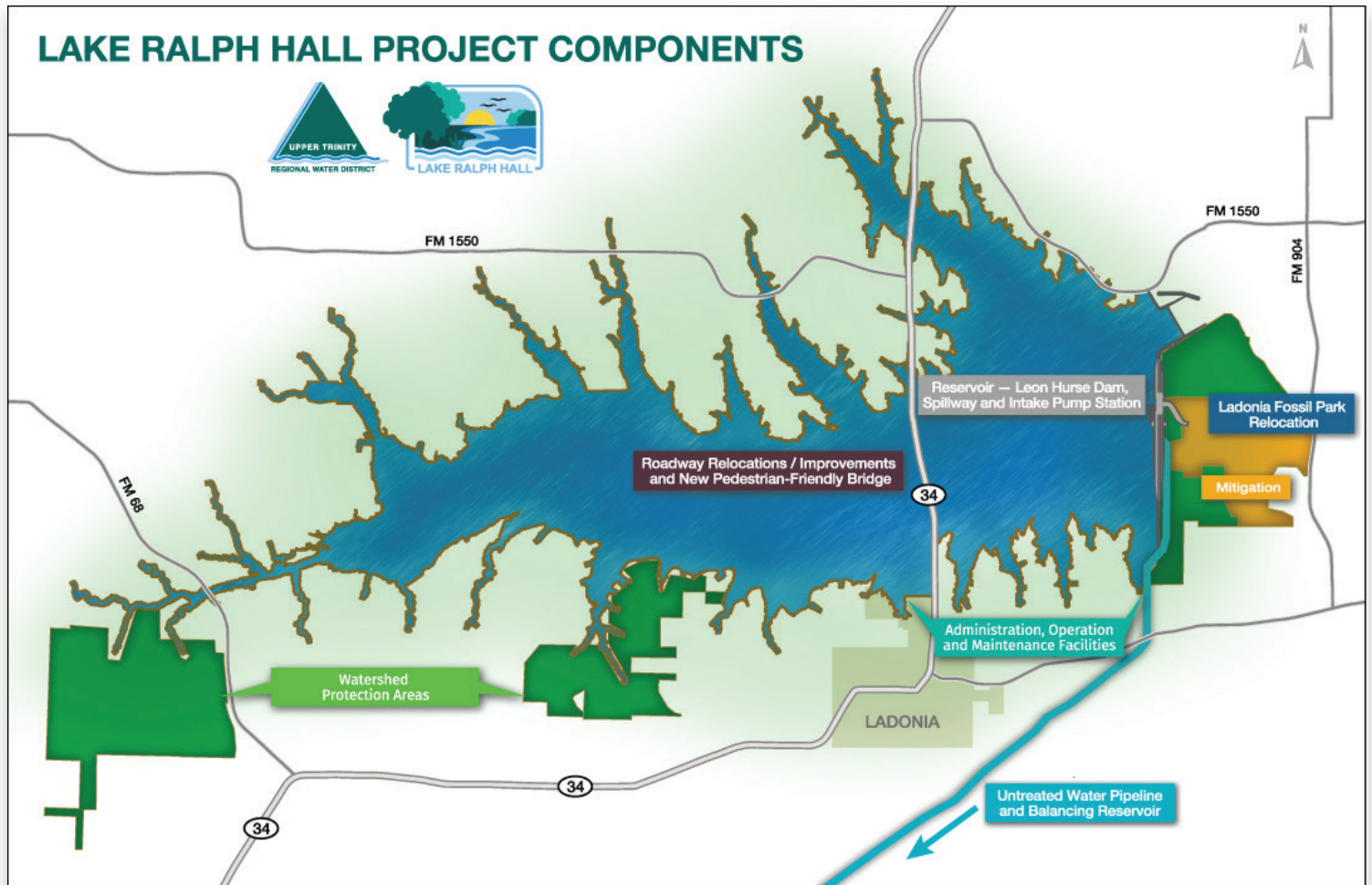
Board President Brian Roberson asked Granite Construction Company, the dam's primary contractor, and Flatiron Construction, the road and bridges contractor, to commence construction. Large earth-moving equipment began to turn dirt at the site of the future dam.

Since the groundbreaking, Flatiron has started building the future SH 34 bridge over the lake. Local roadway work includes relocating part of SH 34, rerouting approx. 2.5 miles of FM 1550 and closing a portion of FM 2990. Roadway relocation and abandonments have been coordinated with TxDOT and Fannin County. Regular construction updates, including road impacts, will be posted on the [Lake Ralph Hall website](#).

The lake is scheduled to provide up to 54 million gallons per day of water (with reuse) by 2026 and will provide recreational opportunities, such as fishing, boating, nature watching and hunting.



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.

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.



- The contract for the SH 34 and FM 1550 roadwork was approved by the Upper Trinity Board of Directors.

- Workers are beginning to clear a path where the SH 34 bridge will go and are drilling/pouring foundations and bridge columns.

◀ Progress on the SH 34 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 has begun the process of acquiring land for the pipeline and will select a final design consultant 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

Temporary Ladonia Fossil Park Opens

In July, the Ladonia Fossil Park on Highway 34 closed to allow for lake construction, and a temporary fossil park was simultaneously opened east of FM 2990 and north of the North Sulphur River. Many fossil hunting enthusiasts are already using the temporary access location and reporting fossil finds. The [Ladonia Fossil Park Facebook page](#) features many of the fossils discovered.

The new park offers access to a different location on the river with a parking lot and an easier to access and graded path to the river, providing the chance to hunt for untapped fossil discoveries. Signage has been installed at the old location to direct fossil hunters to the temporary park.

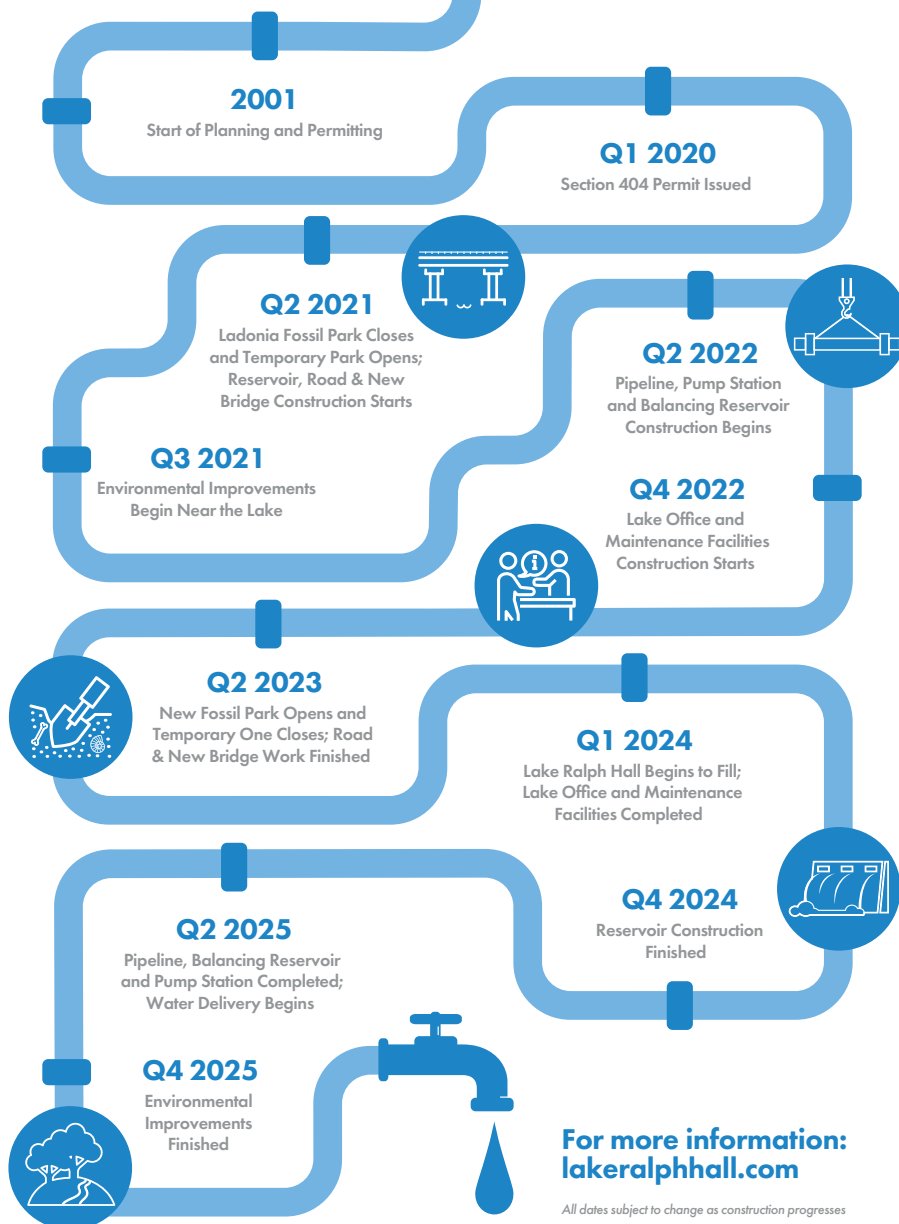
Upper Trinity plans to create a permanent new fossil park after the lake is completed and is working with paleontologists to preserve any significant fossils found during reservoir construction.

◀ *A new path to the North Sulphur River at the temporary fossil park makes public access easier.*



Lake Ralph Hall

Project Schedule



For more information:
lakeralphhall.com

All dates subject to change as construction progresses