NRCS Assisted Watershed Dams in Texas
12th Congressional District

In the mid-1930s, Congress began looking at ways to complement the downstream flood control program of the Corps of Engineers. It passed flood control acts in 1936, 1944, and 1954 and assigned responsibility of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program to the USDA Soil Conservation Service, now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Since that time, NRCS has assisted watershed sponsors in construction of nearly 2,000 floodwater retarding structures (dams) in 145 watershed projects across Texas. In addition, NRCS has assisted watershed sponsors in installation of land treatment practices, channel improvements, and dikes for watershed protection. Texas watershed projects provide over **$131 million** in annual benefits.

The dams in the 12th Congressional District provide nearly **$9.6 million** in annual benefits, as well as capturing over 1.9 million tons of sediment annually. Over 650 bridges and numerous county, state, and federal roads are also protected. *See the back of this page for the annual benefits provided by these watershed projects.*

There are **116 constructed watershed dams** in 4 watershed projects in the 12th Congressional District. Eighteen dams in the district remain to be built.

The thirty-four existing dams in the Clear Fork of the Trinity Watershed located in Parker County provided over $2.5 million in flood damage reduction benefits during the flood events of April, May, and June 2007.

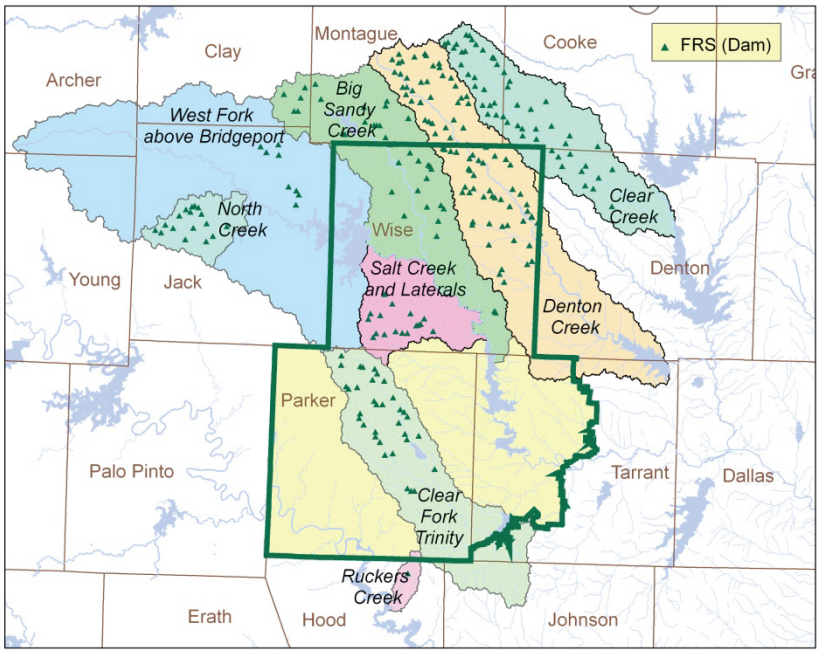
Operation and Maintenance of Watershed Projects

The annual operation and maintenance of dams and their components is the major responsibility of project sponsors (local units of government, usually conservation districts, city and county governments, and special purpose districts).

See the back of this page for a list of the watershed sponsors in the 12th Congressional District.

Operation and maintenance of watershed dams can be expensive and labor intensive, but is necessary to ensure the dams function as designed and remain safe. Maintenance work includes clearing trees from dams and spillways, repairing soil erosion damage, repairing damages after heavy storm events, and keeping the principal spillway inlet clear of debris.

Seven dams in the 12th Congressional District are in need of funding for repairs, at an estimated cost of $1.4 million.



Rehabilitation of Aging Dams

NRCS assistance is available to rehabilitate aging watershed dams. A typical candidate site for rehabilitation was constructed between the late 1950's to the middle 1960's, and no longer meets current safety criteria.

There are 33 dams in the 12th Congressional District that are over 50 years old; 55 dams that are 40-49 years old, and 10 dams that are 30-39 years old.

The majority of this area was in a rural setting when the watershed projects were planned. Conversion from agricultural to urban land use has taken place and is intensifying. Many dams originally constructed as low hazard are now classified as high hazard, or will soon be high hazard as a result of downstream urbanization.

Eighteen dams in the 12th Congressional District are classified as high hazard dams. These dams need to be upgraded to high hazard criteria, at an estimated cost of $27 million, including over $9 million in sponsor's cost.

One rehabilitation plan has been developed for a dam in the Salt Creek and Laterals Watershed.

Information about watershed projects and other conservation programs is available at the local conservation district or NRCS offices. For further information refer to the Texas NRCS website located at; www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watersheds

Annual Watershed Benefits in 2010 Dollars
(Entire Watersheds)

Watershed	Dams Constructed	Dams in District 12	Monetary Benefits	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Created/Enhanced (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Big Sandy Creek	34	17	$1,224,000	178	687	161,300
Clear Creek	52	0	$1,611,000	124	1,052	475,700
Clear Fork of the Trinity	34	34	$1,006,000	73	674	701,500
Denton Creek	87	47	$3,631,000	183	1,600	381,600
North Creek	17	0	$334,000	16	379	55,800
Ruckers Creek	1	0	$36,000	12	33	6,300
Salt Creek & Laterals	17	17	$420,000	63	269	60,600
West Fork Above Bridgeport	8	0	$1,303,000	4	268	59,700
Total	250	115	$9,505,000	653	4,962	1,902,500

Monetary benefits include reduction in flood damages to agricultural lands, and rural and urban infrastructure including roads and bridges. Other benefits include soil erosion control, recreational areas, irrigation water, municipal and industrial water supply, and wildlife habitat.

Listed below are the sponsors for watersheds located in the 12th Congressional District.

City of Bowie
Clay County Commissioners Court
Dalworth Soil and Water Conservation District
Denton County Commissioners Court
Denton County Soil and Water Conservation District
Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District
Little Wichita Soil and Water Conservation District
Montague County Commissioners Court
Parker County Commissioners Court
Parker County Soil and Water Conservation District
Tarrant Regional Water District
Upper Elm-Red Soil and Water Conservation District
Wise County Commissioners Court
Wise County Water Control and Improvement District
Wise Soil and Water Conservation District

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