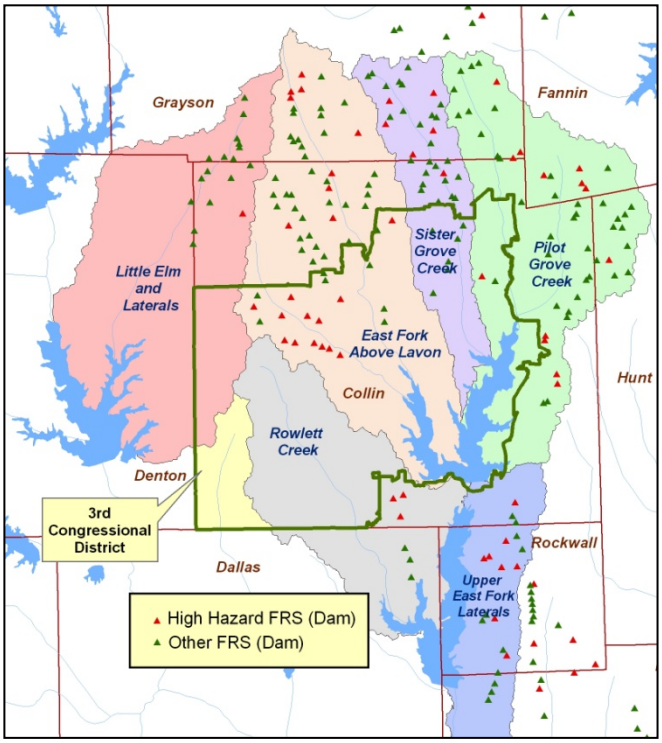
NRCS Assisted Watershed Dams in Texas
3rd Congressional District

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 with the installation of land treatment practices and channel improvements for watershed protection. Texas watershed projects provide **$150 million** in annual benefits.



The watershed projects which impact the 3rd Congressional District provide **$7.2 million** in annual benefits, as well as capturing over 834,000 tons of sediment annually. Over 530 bridges and numerous county, state, and federal roads are also protected.

There are **twenty-nine dams in three watershed projects** in the district.

See the table on the back of this page for the annual benefits provided by watershed projects in the 3rd Congressional District.

The impact basin at East Fork Above Lavon Site 5A minimizes erosion on the principal spillway outlet and allows non-turbulent flow to be introduced to the channel. The site functioned as designed following high rainfall in McKinney.

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 3rd 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.

Five dams in the 3rd Congressional District need repair at an estimated cost of $1.5 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 nineteen dams in the 3rd Congressional District that are over 50 years old, and ten dams are 40-49 years old.

The majority of the 3rd Congressional District was in a rural setting when the watershed projects were planned. Conversion from agricultural to urban land use has taken place and development 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.

Rehabilitation of these dams is needed to protect lives and downstream property. Fourteen dams in the 3rd Congressional District are currently classified as high hazard dams. Seven of these dams have recently been upgraded under the Rehabilitation Program. Seven dams still need to be upgraded to high hazard criteria at an estimated cost of $10.5 million, including $3.7 million in sponsor's cost.

Annual Watershed Benefits in 2011 Dollars
(Entire Watersheds)

Watershed	Total Dams Constructed	Dams in District 3	Monetary Benefits	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Created/Enhanced (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
East Fork Above Lavon	64	21	$3,966,000	332	1,344	515,800
Pilot Grove Creek	52	2	$1,971,000	128	978	159,200
Sister Grove Creek	37	6	1,283,000	77	675	159,700
Total	153	29	$7,220,000	537	2,997	834,700

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 3rd Congressional District:

City of McKinney
Collin County Commissioners Court
Collin County Soil & Water Conservation District
Fannin County Commissioners Court
Fannin County Soil & Water Conservation District
Grayson County Commissioners Court
Hunt County Commissioners Court
Upper Elm-Red Soil & Water Conservation District
Upper Sabine Soil & Water Conservation District

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.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/planning/wpfp

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NRCS