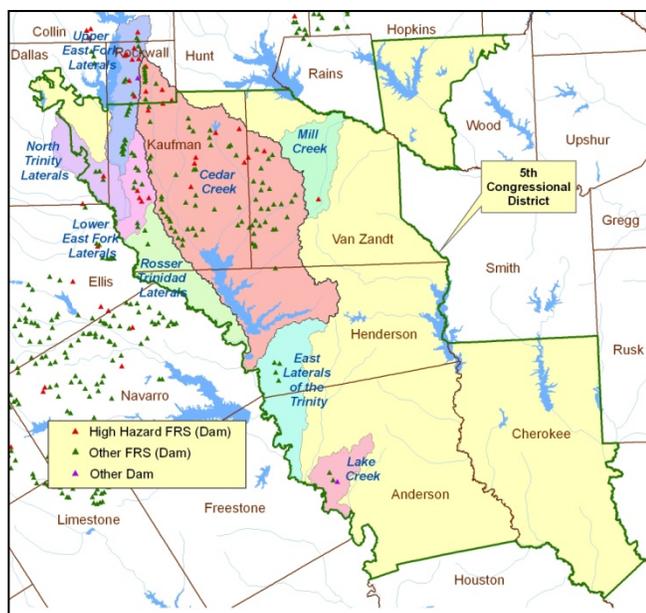




## NRCS Assisted Watershed Dams in Texas 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

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 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District provide **\$11.5 million** in annual benefits, as well as capturing over 1.1 million tons of sediment annually. Over 280 bridges and numerous county, state, and federal roads are also protected.

There are **116 dams in 8 watershed projects** located within the district.

*See the table on the back of this page for the annual benefits provided by watershed projects in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.*

### Operation and Maintenance of Watershed Projects

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

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.

Twenty-eight dams in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District are in need of funding for repairs at an estimated cost of \$4.3 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 27 dams in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District that are over 50 years old, 52 dams that are 40-49 years old, and 27 dams that are 30-39 years old.

The majority of the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District 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.

Rehabilitation of these dams is needed to protect lives and downstream property. Sixteen dams in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District are classified as high hazard dams. Fourteen of these dams need to be upgraded to high hazard criteria at an estimated cost of \$20 million, including \$7 million in sponsor's cost.

Annual Watershed Benefits in 2011 Dollars  
(Entire Watersheds)

Watershed	Total Dams Constructed	Dams in District 5	Monetary Benefits	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Created/Enhanced (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Cedar Creek	91	78	\$8,340,000	210	3,672	749,000
East Laterals of the Trinity	4	4	\$336,000	2	223	96,900
Lake Creek	3	3	\$90,000	1	84	4,200
Lower East Fork Laterals	13	13	\$783,000	21	470	98,200
Mill Creek	1	1	\$585,000	9	256	19,800
North Trinity Laterals	4	4	\$345,000	3	29	10,300
Rosser Trinidad Laterals	2	2	\$161,000	2	82	35,700
Upper East Fork Laterals	28	11	\$1,100,000	38	547	150,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>\$11,542,000</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>5,363</b>	<b>1,164,700</b>

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 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District:*

*Anderson-Houston Soil and Water Conservation District  
City of Canton  
City of Kaufman  
City of Terrell  
Collin County Commissioners Court  
Collin County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Dalworth Soil and Water Conservation District  
Ellis-Prairie Soil and Water Conservation District  
Freestone County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Henderson County Commissioners Court  
Henderson County Levee District #3  
Kaufman County Commissioners Court  
Kaufman-Van Zandt-Rockwall Soil and Water Conservation District  
Purtis Creek State Recreation Area  
Rockwall County Commissioners Court  
Trinity-Neches Soil and Water Conservation District  
Van Zandt County Commissioners Court*

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](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/planning/wpfp)

