



NRCS Assisted Watershed Dams in Texas 4th 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 4th Congressional District provide **\$21.9 million** in annual benefits, as well as capturing over 2.5 million tons of sediment annually. Over 1,000 bridges and numerous county, state, and federal roads are also protected.

There are **293 dams** in **fifteen watershed projects** located within the 4th Congressional District. *See the table on the back of this page for the annual benefits provided by these watershed projects.*

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).

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.

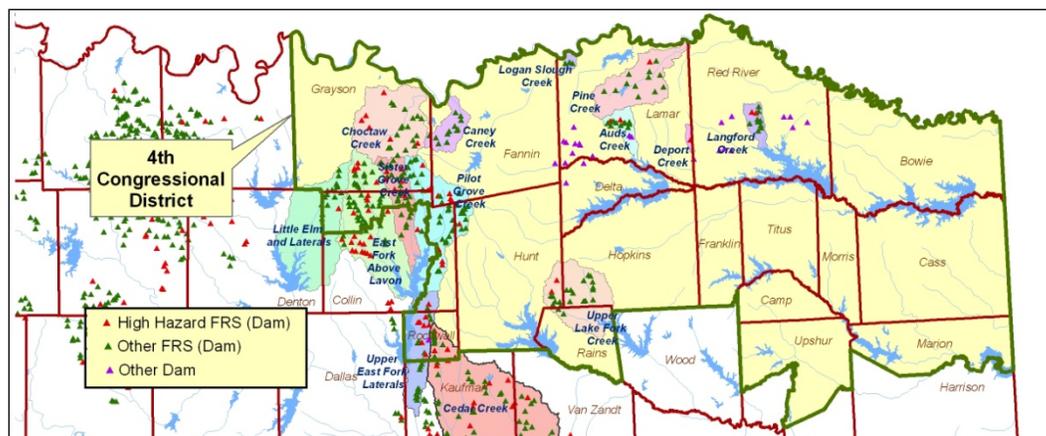
Thirty-one dams in the 4th Congressional District need repair at an estimated cost of \$7.4 million.

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 80 dams in the 4th Congressional District that are over 50 years old, 146 dams that are 40-49 years old, and 44 dams that are 30-39 years old.

The majority of the 4th 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. Fifty-four dams in the 4th Congressional District are classified as high hazard dams. Forty-seven of these dams need to be upgraded to high hazard criteria at an estimated cost of \$70 million, including \$24.5 million in sponsor's cost.



Annual Watershed Benefits in 2011 Dollars
(Entire Watersheds)

Watershed	Total Dams Constructed	Dams in District 4	Monetary Benefits	Bridges Benefited	Wetlands Created/Enhanced (acres)	Reduced Sedimentation (tons of soil)
Auds Creek	13	13	\$250,000	15	272	56,100
Caney Creek	12	12	\$279,000	13	513	109,000
Cedar Creek	91	13	\$8,340,000	210	3,672	749,000
Choctaw Creek	23	23	\$2,234,000	45	580	206,700
Deport Creek	1	1	\$174,000	5	70	2,100
East Fork above Lavon	64	43	\$3,966,000	332	1,344	515,800
Langford Creek	11	11	\$269,000	30	304	25,400
Little Elm and Laterals	17	16	\$313,000	34	483	95,500
Logan Slough Creek	3	3	\$457,000	12	52	32,700
Pilot Grove Creek	52	50	\$1,971,000	128	978	159,200
Pine Creek	13	13	\$565,000	34	329	91,900
Sister Grove Creek	37	31	\$1,283,000	77	675	159,700
Upper East Fork Laterals	28	17	\$1,100,000	38	547	150,600
Upper Lake Fork Creek	23	23	\$703,000	75	727	156,400
Dams built under RC&D	39	24	*	*	*	*
Total	427	293	\$21,904,000	1,048	10,546	2,510,100

* Benefits data not available. 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 4th Congressional District:

Choctaw Watershed Water Improvement District

City of Clarksville

City of Denison

City of Deport

City of Kaufman

City of McKinney

City of Sherman

City of Terrell

Collin County Commissioners Court

Collin County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Dalworth SWCD

Denton County Commissioners Court

Denton County SWCD

Fannin County Commissioners Court

Fannin County SWCD

Fannin County Water Control & Improvement District (WCID) #1

Grayson County Commissioners Court

Henderson County Commissioners Court

Hopkins-Rains SWCD

Hunt County Commissioners Court

Kaufman County Commissioners Court

Kaufman-Van Zandt-Rockwall SWCD

Lake Fork Creek WCID #1

Lamar County Commissioners Court

Lamar County WCID #1-Auds Creek

Lamar County WCID #3 - Pine Creek Watershed

Lamar SWCD

Logan-Slough Creek Improvement District 2

Purtis Creek State Recreation Area

Red River County Commissioners Court

Red River County SWCD

Red River County WCID #1, Langford Creek

Rockwall County Commissioners Court

Trinity-Neches SWCD

Upper Elm-Red SWCD

Upper Sabine SWCD

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

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