



EAGLE MOUNTAIN

Lake

Thursday, February 22, 2024

PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS RODEN

Happy centennial, TRWD!

SUBMITTED BY TARRANT REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT

Water district celebrates 100 years of service in 2024

Tarrant Regional Water District, one of North Texas' largest wholesale raw water providers, is celebrating 100 years of public service this year. The district was originally established in 1924 after massive floods devastated the Fort Worth community in 1922. Now, TRWD provides water to more than 2.3 million people in 11 North Texas counties, including Tarrant County, as well as owns and maintains the 27-mile Fort Worth Floodway levee system. The district has also built and manages several

recreational facilities, including much of the Trinity Trail System in Fort Worth and three parks — Airfield Falls Trailhead and Conservation Park, Twin Points Park and Eagle Mountain Park. "We are excited to celebrate this momentous occasion," TRWD General Manager Dan Buhman said. "For 100 years, this agency has ensured the public has an ample water supply, vital flood protection and excellent recreation opportunities, all of which improve the quality of life for

millions of North Texans. We look forward to serving the community for another 100 years." The district plans to commemorate the historic event through numerous community events and activities, as well as web-based educational resources, archival photography, historical timelines and current stories. The public is encouraged to participate in the district's first Earth Day photo contest,

PLEASE SEE 100 | C4

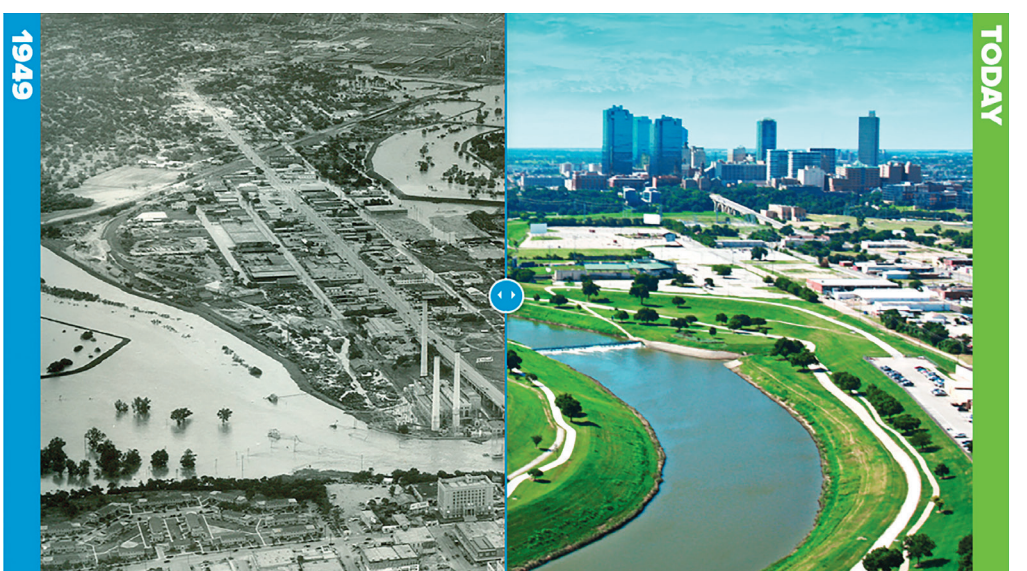


PHOTO COURTESY TRWD WEBSITE

In honor of its centennial anniversary, Tarrant Regional Water District's website allows viewers to compare a photo of the Trinity floodway from 1949 to present day. Photo comparisons are also available for Airfield Falls Trailhead and Conservation Park, Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake and Richland-Chambers Reservoir.



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TRWD Board of Directors for 2024



Leah M. King

President, Term 2021-2025

Mrs. King joined the TRWD Board of Directors in 2017. She is currently the president and chief executive officer for United Way of Tarrant County. Mrs. King is very active in the community, and serves on many boards and committees throughout Fort Worth and Tarrant County. She is also a member of the Leadership Fort Worth 2010 and Leadership North Texas 2011 classes. She and her husband, Barry, have one son.

James Hill

Vice President, Term 2021-2025

Mr. Hill was elected to the TRWD Board in 2017. Born and raised in Fort Worth, he is a graduate of the Business Honors Program at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition, he received his MBA in the Accelerated Program at TCU. A banking executive with significant experience in finance and real estate, Mr. Hill is also very active in the community. He and his wife have two kids and live in Fort Worth.

Mary Kelleher

Secretary, Term 2021-2025

Mrs. Kelleher lives in east Fort Worth along the Trinity River where she and her husband, Larry Langston, operate a cattle ranch. She became interested in TRWD after their farm flooded from the Trinity River. Mary served on TRWD's board from 2013 to 2017 and is passionate about water issues. Mary strives to provide citizens with information and insight into TRWD policies and business practices.

C.B. Team

Term 2023-2027

C.B. is a 5th generation and lifelong Fort Worth resident. He is a Partner and Principal at Ellis & Tinsley, Inc. He holds both Texas and Colorado Real Estate Brokers Licenses. C.B. takes his profession a step further investing his time into community development. C.B. has volunteered as a Livestock Department Superintendent at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo every winter and was appointed to its Board of Directors in 2021. He is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, serves on numerous local boards, and is a commercial-rated pilot. C.B. lives in Fort Worth with his wife and their two children.

Paxton Motheral

Term 2023-2027

Paxton Motheral was elected to the TRWD board in 2023. A Fort Worth native, he graduated from Trinity Valley School and earned a B.B.A. in Finance with an emphasis in Real Estate, as well as a B.S. in Ranch Management from Texas Christian University. He also attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he pursued a Master of Science in Real Estate Development. Mr. Motheral serves as Vice President of Cassco Development Co. He is also involved in many civic and real estate industry specific organizations including the boards of Streams & Valleys, the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo and the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth. He is also actively involved in the Urban Land Institute and the Real Estate Council of Greater Fort Worth.



Celebrating 100 years of public service

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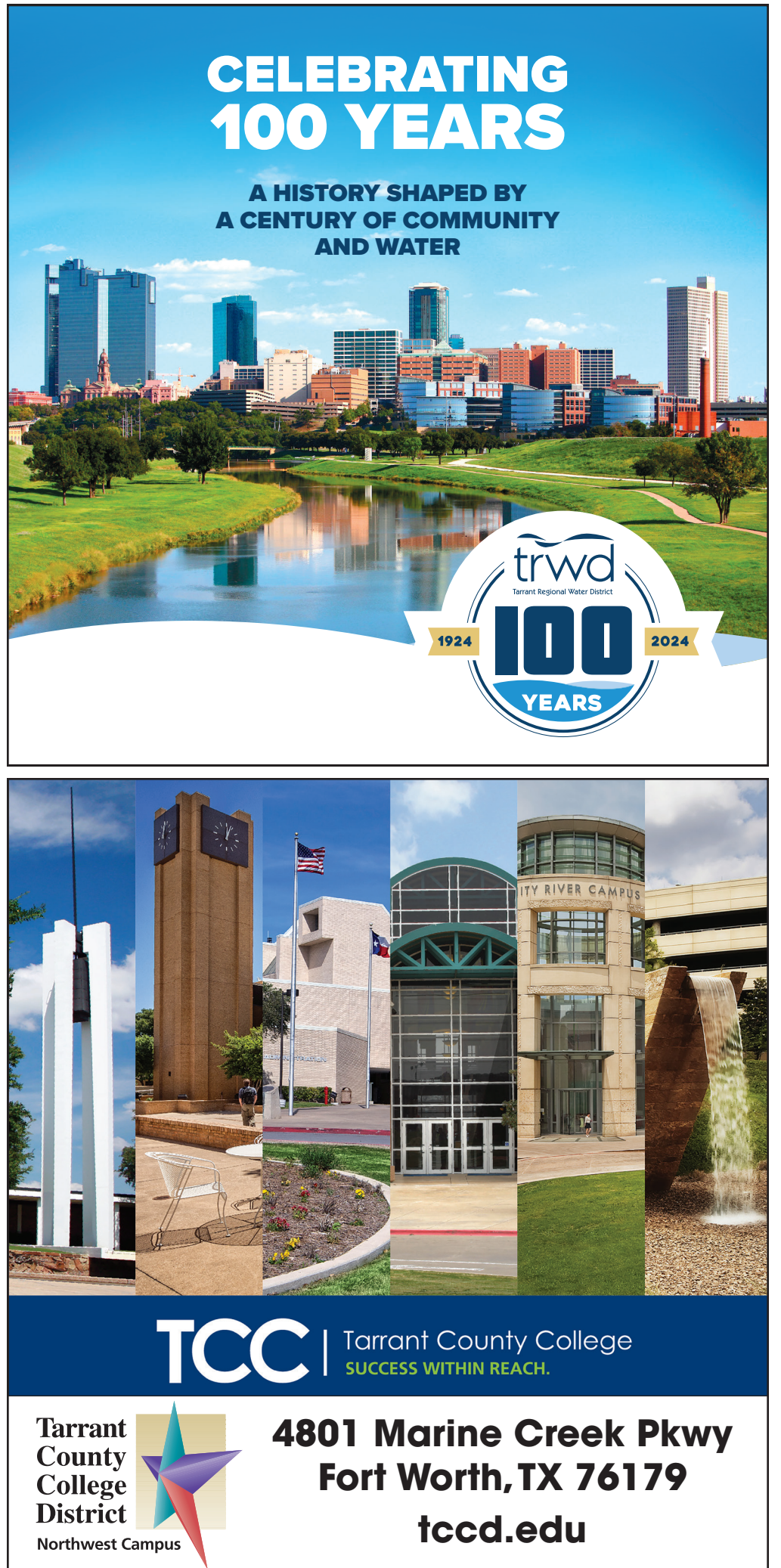
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TRWD employee celebrates 50 years of memories, friendships and milestones

COURTESY TRWD

It was a natural for William Fruhwirth to get into the water business. He was practically born into the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) back in 1954. His dad, Eugene Fruhwirth, was chief of operations at what was then called Tarrant Water Control Improvement District Number 1. It was a much smaller enterprise in the 1950s, with probably only 15-20 employees. What would become today's TRWD, providing water to more than 2.1 million people across 11 North Texas counties, started with humble beginnings, just like William's career in the organization.

This September, William celebrates his 50th anniversary with TRWD. He has many great memories from over the years and many great friends that make his job enjoyable and worthwhile.

Ask a person why they have stayed with an organization for so long, and you're likely to hear good words about the way people are treated, the opportunities for growth, the feeling that you're doing something that really matters, and the people who make things work day-by-day together. It's rare in today's world to find employees who still enjoy their jobs and remain committed after 50 years — for William and several other longtime TRWD staffers with anniversaries coming up, this milestone is a true celebration.

William started working with the water district not long after graduating high school. He worked some odd jobs at first, including being part of the asphalt crew when the first runway was built for the new Dallas/Fort Worth airport. That was a pretty significant time for North Texas.

From that job, he joined TRWD. "The year was 1973," he said. "I started with TRWD's

Eagle Mountain operations, doing everything from mowing to fence building and concrete work, and from carpenter's helper to general maintenance. I learned as I went along."

He moved from Eagle Mountain to TRWD's Fort Worth operations in 1974, where he did everything from mechanic and carpentry work to pouring concrete.

"The floodway levee system was just built, so a lot was involved with those operations, like construction of flume channels and drop inlets that funnel water through pipes into the river," he said.

Starting around 1976, William worked on the mechanic truck crew. He became vehicle maintenance supervisor in the mid '80s and then switched to floodway supervisor. By 1998, he had returned to Eagle Mountain to do permitting work on both new construction and modifications to the district's public water supply facilities, and this is the job he remains in today. His current title is permitting supervisor.

A typical day in his world involves permitting docks, surveying retaining walls, keeping up with raw water usage on golf courses, reading meters for the city of Azle and surrounding municipalities, monitoring oil and gas lease properties from Lake Bridgeport to Eagle Mountain, and overseeing everything in between that runs along the river. His job is mostly out in the field, so on most days, you'll find William in his TRWD truck, driving from location to location on inspections.

Things have come a long way since William was born. The water district was just 30 years old when he was a toddler, and the Eagle Mountain and Bridgeport lakes were about that young as well.

If you'd like to learn about Tarrant County history over the last 50 years, William is

the man to ask. He saw the old Leonard's Department Store parking lot go up on the Trinity River's West Fork and Clear Fork confluence as a kid in the '50s, along with construction of the subway from Leonard's to the former Fort Worth Tandy Center. The water district's office was also located downtown back then. All that has changed now, yet it remains in his mind very clearly as part of the community's old days that helped shape Tarrant County and North Texas in significant ways.

He remembers a boat called the Trinity Belle, sometimes used for delivering payroll to TRWD Cedar Creek employees in the '50s. He witnessed construction of the Marine Creek and Cement Creek dams before Interstate 820 was even on local community planners' radar. He was just a kid at the time, before the highways and other transportation conveniences we take for granted today were around.

"It was a whole different time — I remember when the water district vehicles came with only a heater. There was no radio, no air conditioning or power steering. The heater was a real luxury," William said.

William remembers bits and pieces of the 1957 Texas drought and flood from his childhood.

"The water lines were so low, they were dynamiting tree stumps in the Eagle Mountain Lake basin to clear the lake bottom of potential hazards," he said.

He witnessed construction of the Trinity levee system on 27 miles of flood plain from the mid-1950s up to its completion around 1975. His grandfather, Ashby Turner, was also a water district employee, starting in 1958 with the Cedar Creek Lake project until its completion in the 1970s.

Ashby retired in his late



Left to right, Darrell Beason, William Fruhwirth, and Alan Thomas.

PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

'60s, and William's dad worked for the water district until his passing at age 66.

It's easy to see that the rolling waters run deep in this family's roots.

Looking back over his 50 years with TRWD, William says he especially values all the friends he's made and the support his colleagues have given him.

Of all the TRWD jobs he's taken on, William says he considers tractor mowing to be the most satisfying, "because you can look back behind you at the end of the day and see what you've accomplished."

Looking back with pride — and looking forward with more still to do — is how William sees his life and his

TRWD work history. "There are days that challenge you, there are days that really give you a whipping, and there are just plain good days — it's all part of the job," he said.

And it seems that William wouldn't trade a single day for anything in the world.

TRWD begins testing North Texas' first aquifer storage and recovery project

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

For much of DFW's early history, the underground Upper Trinity Aquifer was the largest source of water for the metroplex. As the cities grew, so did demand. Communities soon abandoned their old artesian wells to drill deeper and pump up the vanishing groundwater supplies. Beginning in the 1930s, the Tarrant Regional Water District began focusing on another alternative by creating more surface water sources like Eagle Mountain Lake and Lake Bridgeport.

Today, TRWD is setting its sights back underground to the depleted pockets

"It never has been done in this area of North Texas..."

ZACH HUFF

TRWD's director of water resources engineering

of the Trinity Aquifer. In 2023, TRWD directors partnered with the Trinity River Authority and approved a \$3.5 million contract to drill a 1,500-foot demonstration well to test the potential of a local aquifer storage and recovery system, or ASR.

This project, which recently began drilling, has been a long time in the making. For

two decades, TRWD has been evaluating the feasibility of an ASR in the region. Around 2016, it conducted a business case to see if it could be cost and resource effective. El Paso, San Antonio and Kerrville have had successful aquifer storage for decades. It's been done all over, but it's never been done here. The success of the project is heavily dependent on local hydrogeology, TRWD engineers say.

"It never has been done in this area of North Texas," Zach Huff, TRWD's director of water resources engineering said. "There are a lot of interested folks and entities who we're anxious to share the information with so that the entire region can benefit

from what we find out. We'll get some answers and it very likely will lead to some other wells. We'll take what we learn from our first well and try to learn from that."

The district hopes to conduct short cycle testing to see if it can store and recover water from the aquifer. It will gradually increase the length of time the water remains underground as the tests go on. Water migrates, whether above ground or below. As part of its testing, TRWD needs to first ensure that water stored in selected parts of the northern Trinity Aquifer will remain there long enough to rely on as a backup resource.

This experiment is yet an-

other example of TRWD's culture of innovation, officials said.

"We think outside the box on these things," Chad Lorange, TRWD public affairs officer said. "Like building two lakes in East Texas, right, and pumping it up here. We do those things as an entity outside the box because we know you can't just build a lake anywhere, so we have to think about conservation."

"(TRWD) has a wonderful track record of innovative and forward-thinking ideas," Huff agreed. "Staff and leadership are looking at strategies for the future to figure out problems before they happen, decades down the line."

With recent rapid popula-

tion growth in North Texas, water tables and aquifers have seen significant drops in volume. Houses on wells use approximately three times as much water on average as those who receive water from municipalities or other entities. Parker County, which has been a top contender for the number of wells drilled in the last few years, could see a 50-million gallon a day shortage by 2080, Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District officials said.

ASRs and other innovative methods may be a key tool in not only preserving current water supplies, but also replenishing diminishing groundwater resources in North Texas's future.

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The unsung hero of water quality: watersheds

TRWD speaks on protecting natural resources through watershed protection plan

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

From tarn to tap, watersheds play a critical role in how people everywhere access our most vital resource. The Eagle Mountain Lake watershed is 869 square miles in size and includes parts of Tarrant, Parker, Wise, Jack, Montague and Clay Counties. Along with a growing suburban population, the watershed is made up of rural range and grasslands. A watershed isn't just a wet shack in your back yard, it's also an area of land that drains into a body of water, like Eagle Mountain Lake. The Earth naturally forms bowls where all the rainfall passes through into local water sources. These waterbodies often then flow into larger watersheds, which eventually empty into the ocean.

Management and protection of these natural resources is often led by cities, counties, regional water entities, or nonprofit organizations. The biggest watershed group in the tri-county area is the Tarrant Regional Water District, which oversees the management of the West Fork water systems and their watersheds.

"This voluntary stewardship effort seeks to tackle watershed-level concerns using local stakeholder input from both urban and rural areas," TRWD Watershed Program Manager Aaron Hoff said. "More often, these groups choose to unite with the common goal of restoration/protection of their shared waterbody, creating a watershed-based plan to act as a roadmap. These groups utilize the knowledge of municipal staff, resource agencies, and local landowners to determine the best path to achieving their shared water quality goals. Project recommendations are assembled into a timeline, with milestones along the way to check progress. If water quality issues persist, stakeholders can re-evaluate their roadmap, identify and account for changing conditions, and adapt their plans to meet new

needs."

Human activities, like industry and agriculture, are the biggest contributor to water quality concerns in watersheds. These concerns are differentiated by TRWD and water experts as "point source" and "nonpoint source" pollutant issues.

"Point sources are things you can literally 'point' at, like a factory outfall pipe or break in a sewer line," Hoff said. "Nonpoint sources are harder to pinpoint. They arise from the soil erosion throughout the watershed that happens during storms. As rain falls, it erodes the landscape, carrying soil particles and other debris with it to the nearest body of water. Pollutants often attach to these particles, creating higher loads of pollutants as more of the landscape is eroded away. Proper land management is the key factor for managing nonpoint source pollution, and this responsibility is as important in urban areas as it is on rural farm and ranch lands."

Pollution may restrict what water can be legally suitable for. Polluted water may no longer be safe for drinking, recreation, aquatic life, fish consumption or general use. TRWD evaluates each use with corresponding metrics to determine if they are supported. If not supported, they are deemed "impaired" and put on the Clean Water Act 303(d) list. One common example in Texas is a recreational use impairment.

"If water tests show excessive levels of bacteria, that could mean the water is unsafe to swim or wade in, with a higher percentage of people getting sick from ingesting the water," Hoff said. "Another important consideration is excessive algae growth, which is caused by too many soil nutrients (yes, too much of a good thing can be bad) entering a lake from stormwater. If the surrounding watershed is poorly managed, these nutrients get leached from fertilizers used on farmlands, residential yards, golf courses and other greenspaces, and instead

cause algae to grow at higher rates. If left unchecked, this growth can cause fish kills, unsafe swimming conditions, and taste/odor concerns in drinking water."

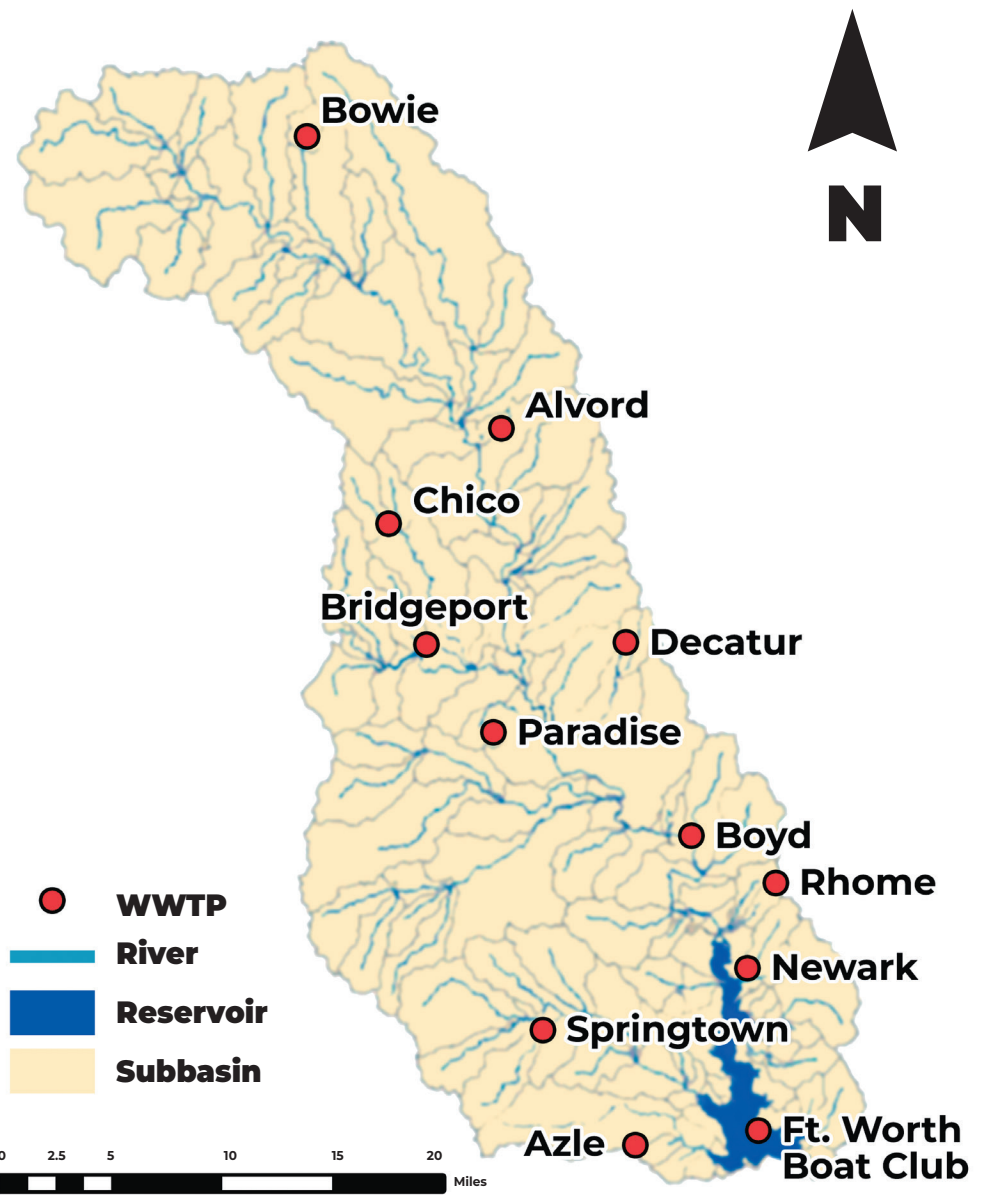
The Eagle Mountain Lake watershed has several examples of these types of use impairments, as of the 2022 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Texas Integrated Report. While there may be some point sources out there, TRWD research and watershed modeling shows that most watershed pollution comes from nonpoint sources driven by stormwater erosion. As a raw water supplier, TRWD has an interest in reducing erosion to keep pollutants and sediment out of reservoirs so that they stay deep and clean.

"We work toward that common goal with our Eagle Mountain Lake watershed stakeholders and will soon resume public meetings to gather input on an update to the existing Eagle Mountain Lake Watershed Protection Plan," Hoff said. "It is only through this coordinated effort that we will be prepared to address the concerns and impairments in the watershed, and hopefully achieve our shared goals."

Eagle Mountain Lake's watershed was one of the first under TRWD's purview with landowner agreements dating back to 1956 in the Big Sandy Creek watershed. TRWD supports and funds effective, scientifically-sound land management practices in its watersheds through agreements with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and provides financial support for small, urban, green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) projects as well. Hoff's team also staffs a fleet of education trailers it uses for hands-on illustration of watershed stewardship goals at public events and have developed many virtual resources to support education programs.

To learn more and see Eagle Mountain Lake's Watershed Protection Plans, go to www.trwd.com/watersheds/.

Eagle Mountain Watershed Wastewater Treatment Plants



COURTESY TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

The Eagle Mountain Lake watershed

100 FROM PAGE C1

which will focus on the appreciation of water, as well as conserving and protecting this valuable resource. This

contest allows kindergarten through 12th grade students to share their talents by taking photos that represent the importance of water and the vital role it plays in our lives. The contest starts March 1 and closes April 8. The results will be announced on

Earth Day, April 22. Find the contest rules at <https://www.trwd.com/centennial-earth-day/> online.

More information on TRWD's centennial activities can be found at <https://www.trwd.com/centennial>.

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Dos and don'ts of lake safety

STAFF REPORTS

Not following safety procedures while boating can turn a good lake experience into a bad one.

To be safe on the lake, consider these dos and don'ts:

- Do have the proper safety equipment for your boat, such as a fire extinguisher, sound producing device, a throwable device and at least one personal flotation device for each person on board, including children. Life jackets need to fit the person wearing them and be in good working condition.
- Don't operate a watercraft while intoxicated. Like driving while intoxicated, boating while intoxicated is against the law. Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.
- Do know what temperature the water is. Water colder than 77 degrees can affect breathing, and temperatures between 50-60 degrees are dangerous and life-threatening.
- Do educate yourself on boater safety. If you were born on or after Sept. 1, 1993, and you plan to operate certain vessels on public waterways in the state, you are required to take a boater education certification course. These classes can be taken online or in-person. For more information, visit Texas Parks and Wildlife's website at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/boater-education>

tion online.

- Don't leak fuel and/or septic into the water. Overall, boats and their anchors need to be in good working condition, and most boats must be currently registered with Texas Parks and Wildlife. Certificates of number (registration) need to be carried on board while the watercraft is being operated.
- Do know the age requirements for operating a boat. Kids under 13 years old cannot operate a motorboat or personal watercraft by themselves and need adult supervision. Children 13 and older can operate a boat unsupervised as long as they've taken the required boater safety course. "I think that's one of the biggest ones we see is people just not knowing that little Sarah or little Jimmy can't drive the jet ski by themselves," Tarrant Regional Water District Law Enforcement Division Sgt. Rick Odom said.
- Do maintain your dock and prevent it from becoming dilapidated.
- Do ask for help when needed. For emergencies, call 911. The Tarrant Regional Water District's Communication Center can be reached at 817-720-4584. More information about safety can be found on the district's Law Enforcement Division website at <https://www.trwd.com/led/> online.



PHOTO COURTESY SALINA GIBSON

TRWD encourages safe and responsible consumption of alcohol. Don't operate a watercraft while intoxicated. Like driving while intoxicated, boating while intoxicated is against the law. Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.

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TRWD wetlands project aims to recycle water

MADELYN EDWARDS
springtownreporter@tricityreporter.com

Project to add billions of gallons of water to TRWD's supply

Tarrant Regional Water District is preparing for a new wetlands project that will add water supply to the Cedar Creek Reservoir.

So, what's a wetland? There are two kinds — natural and constructed. TRWD's project involves making a wetland near the Cedar Creek Reservoir, which is southeast of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, to recycle water.

After water is used and goes to wastewater treatment plants, it is discharged

into the Trinity River. In the wetlands project, treated wastewater will be diverted to sedimentation basins and wetland cells where most of sediment as well as at least half of phosphorus and nitrogen loads are removed, according to TRWD's website. After moving through the wetlands, the water is deposited back into the reservoir — a manmade lake — where

it is utilized by water providers that send it to treatment plants and then to customers before the cycle repeats itself.

"It's an additional supply to that reservoir," TRWD Environmental Director Darrel Andrews said. "It pulls water from the Trinity, which is high in phosphorus and nitrogen sediment, and the wetland cleans that water, and then we move that clean wa-

ter back into the reservoir."

Andrews estimated the wetlands project will deliver about 100-150 million gallons of water to the reservoir per day. Additional water supply in the reservoir means there's more water for surrounding entities that buy raw water from TRWD to supply to their customers.

The wetlands project will make the water supply in the reservoir more resilient to droughts.

"This is a drought-proof project because it's dependent on treated wastewater," Andrews said.

Wetlands are also beneficial because they keep the water in the reservoir at a high quality for those visiting reservoirs for recreational purposes, Andrews said. He added that the high-quality water may not have to be treated as heavily before being sent to homes and businesses, which will allow water providers to save on treatment costs. The wetlands serve as a wildlife habitat, mainly for waterfowl, as well.

Andrews said the project is currently in the design phase and will be operational in about six years.

The Cedar Creek wetlands will be on about 3,000 acres. Construction will involve building an intake on the Trinity River to deliver water to the sedimentation basins, wetland cells and another pump station to deliver the water to Cedar Creek Reservoir.

Once it's finished, the new wetlands are expected to add 28 billion gallons to the district's supply, according to TRWD's website. With the district's other wetland near Corsicana, TRWD will use the wetlands to serve another one million people.

Big fish



Shawna Matteson with a 17lb Blue catfish from Eagle Mountain Lake.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB MATTESSON.

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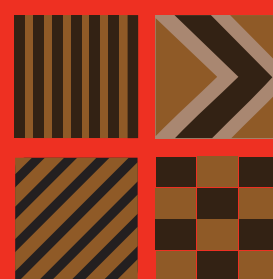
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Recreation on Eagle Mountain Lake



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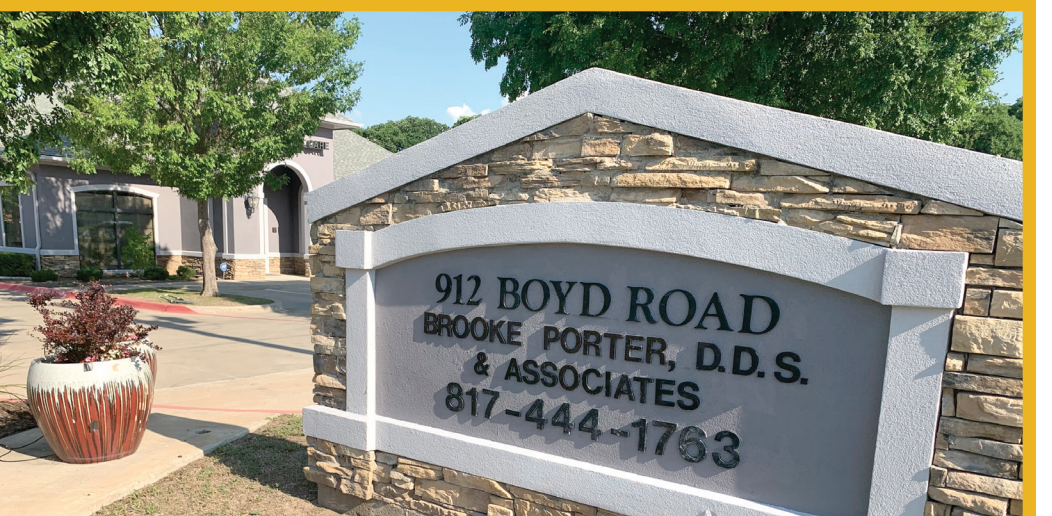
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Mary's Creek Connection to bring water to EML

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

TRWD and Fort Worth team up to strengthen local water supply

In 2020, when the City of Fort Worth proposed the creation of the Mary's Creek Water Reclamation Facility, local water officials and citizens alike had concerns about the project's downstream effects. A water reclamation facility or wastewater treatment plant recycles water used by homes and businesses for irrigation, landscaping and commercial purposes. A not insignificant remainder of the treated water is also released into local waterways, like Mary's Creek in this instance.

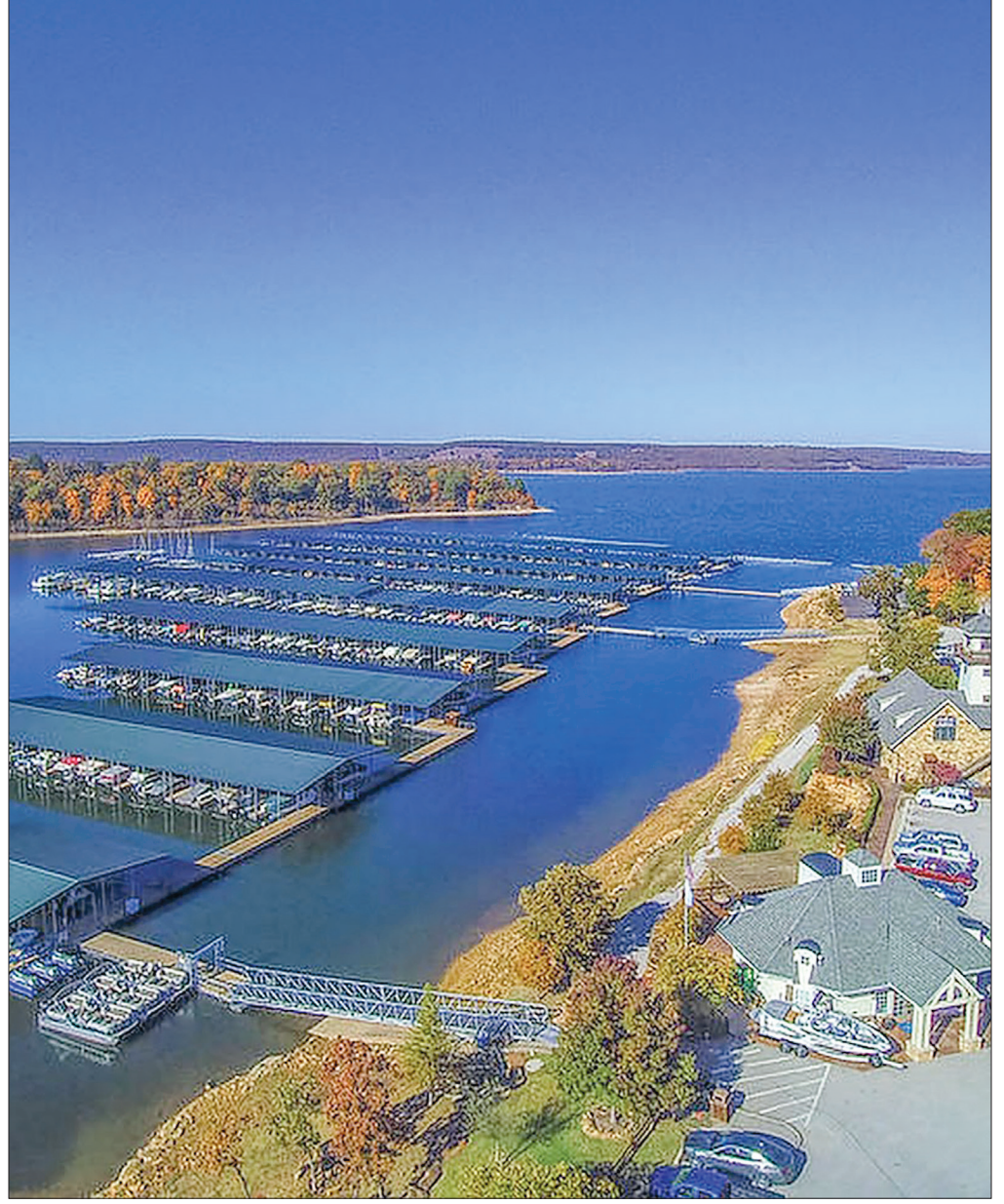
Today, the project is viewed in a more favorable light after the City of Fort Worth entered into an agreement with the Tarrant Regional Water District. After airing grievances and a period of discussion, TRWD and the city reached a mutual agreement. Instead

of letting the plant's effluent run its course in Mary's Creek, the treated water would instead be transported by TRWD pipelines to Eagle Mountain Lake. In doing so, TRWD would be able to better manage the situation and dilute water from the reclamation facility into the much larger lake.

"It's much more efficient," Zach Huff, TRWD's director of water resources engineering said. "Instead of letting that water run 70 miles downstream and 300 feet down and having to pick it up, we partner with (Fort Worth) to be able to drop it off in the creek and then just right downstream we'll pick it up and be able move it back into our water system."

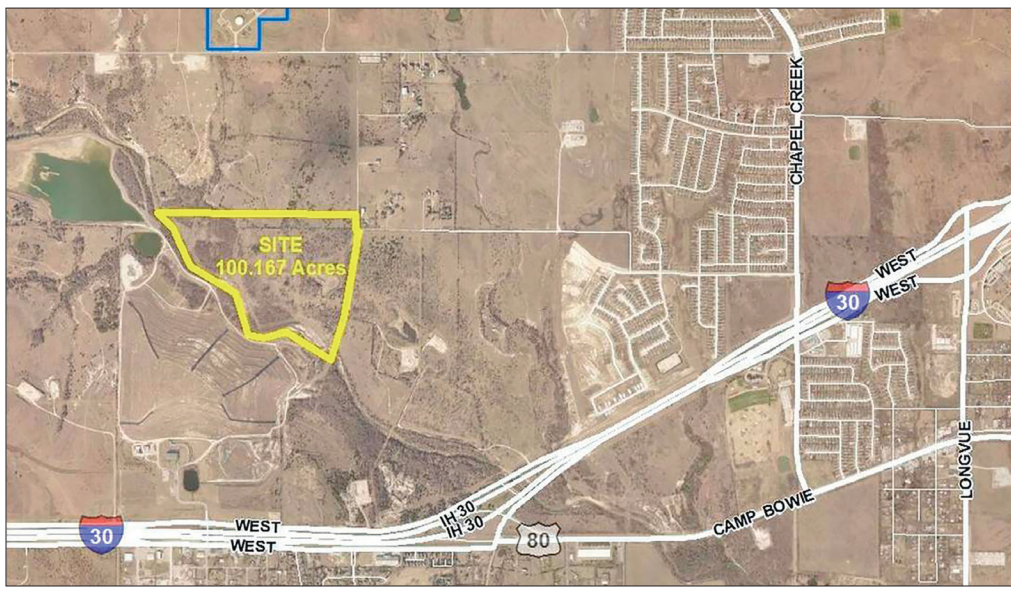
Huff says by transporting the plant's discharge closer to its source the district will be able to reduce evaporation and ground infiltration, saving precious water and applying it where it is most needed much faster. The project will tie into the Eagle Mountain Connection, which was completed 15 years ago. This connection brings water from the Richland-Chambers reservoir and Cedar Creek into Eagle Mountain Lake. The Mary's Creek Connection will run just downstream of the planned wastewater treatment to a location near TRWD's offices and Eagle Mountain Marina.

The new pipeline is expected to come online by 2028 after the projected



COURTESY EAGLE MOUNTAIN MARINA

The Mary's Creek Connection will let out in an area near Eagle Mountain Marina and the TRWD office.



COURTESY CITY OF FORT WORTH

Site plans for the reclamation facility and areas where Mary's Creek flows.

completion of the wastewater treatment plant. As with this project, the Eagle Mountain Connection was built to bolster the West Fork water system by introducing water into Eagle Mountain Lake. The connection has already proven vital in maintaining water levels during recent historic droughts. The amount of water pumped into Eagle Mountain Lake in 2022 and 2023 is roughly equal to the lake's current volume, Huff

said. In 2022, TRWD pumped 55,395-acre feet of water into Eagle Mountain Lake; last year, it pumped 79,199-acre feet. These amounts more than replaced what was released from Eagle Mountain Lake into Lake Worth in that time. Huff hopes the proposed Mary's Creek Connection will provide a largely constant flow from the wastewater plant, unlike other connections which are

toggled on and off. Based on the amount of water needed in the past two years, the new connection is expected to account for 10% to 20% of all water pumped into Eagle Mountain Lake.

With increasing supplies, Azle and Eagle Mountain Lake residents may find respite from recent droughts and catch a break with a full lake for a change.

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Trash Bash

Volunteers are needed to take the Trash Bash Challenge by using the Litterati app and the Adopt-a-River program to keep North Texas waterways beautiful year-round

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Since the early 1990s, Tarrant Regional Water District's Trash Bash has been a yearly community clean-up effort for some of North Texas' most important waterways. Starting as an Earth Day celebration with just the Trinity River, the Trash Bash has grown to include events in cities and near bodies of water throughout North Texas. Today, multiple Trash Bashes are held on weekends throughout the spring and fall across the area.

Students, scouts, businesses and environmentalists alike participate in the bashes with thousands volunteering every year. Eagle Mountain Lake's Trash Bash, which sees between 700 and 800 volunteers per year, removes about one Smart Car worth of trash, between 1,000 and 2,000 pounds, from the lake, its shores and nearby trails.

Eagle Mountain Lake's 2023 Trash Bash in September was

also special in that Save Eagle Mountain Lake, a recently revived nonprofit, held its own Lake Bottom Cleanup, where divers removed trash from some of the harder-to-reach areas for volunteers. TRWD has also implemented other innovative new Trash Bash auxiliary projects like Adopt-a-Trail and Adopt-a-River as well as the new app Litterati.

"We've had great success with the program here," Recreation and Events Specialist Hermilo Munoz said. "The greatest benefit of the Trash Bash is that everyone in the community gets a stake in contributing to local waterways because ultimately, this is the water that is provided to people's homes. If it's outside, it ends up in the water at some point. (The cleanups) just make for a more beautiful space for people to enjoy."

Adopt-a-River allows organizations and individuals to volunteer time or resources to clean up sections of the Trinity River for one to two

years at a time. Munoz said trail users often contact TRWD to dedicate special sections to loved ones, to earn community service hours or just clean up the spaces they utilize every day. TRWD has recently expanded the program by allowing people to adopt sections at Marine Creek Lake and Munoz hopes to one day expand an Adopt-a-River type system to Eagle Mountain Lake.

Litterati started in 2021 after COVID-19 lockdowns prevented groups from gathering for the usual yearly Trash Bashes. It works by having users photograph any trash they see near North Texas waterways, listing different categories, materials, brands, etc. TRWD hopes to one day publish this data and use it to better understand what kinds of trash are most prevalent in particular sections of the waterways.

Last year, Fort Worth reached out to TRWD to place trash cans at strategic spots. TRWD used its Litterati data

to determine that creeks in the Lower West Fork near the stockyards were the areas most in need. Every little bit adds up. Litterati has collected data for nearly 40,000 pieces of litter since release.

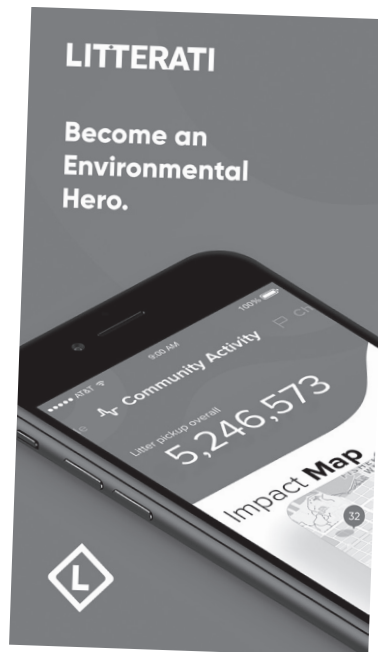
TRWD Reservoirs Director and Chief of Law Enforcement David Geary said he is proud of the accomplishments of Munoz and recent cleanup projects, and that Munoz' dedication is what makes it come together every year. Part of the benefits of bashes is getting people together to know what programs are going on, Geary said. With the numbers going up every year, Geary wants to give every community its own Trash Bash.

"It takes a village here at TRWD that helps put this on," Munoz said. "We work with the regional lake offices and make sure their staff is ready. Ultimately, it's the volunteers who make it such a great event. They are giving their personal time to clean up our waterways. It takes the

strength of the community to come together and really create change."

After each Trash Bash, TRWD will hold a local afterparty with food, entertainment and raffles. Registration for the spring Trash Bashes will open soon and will end one week before each event. Lake Bridgeport, the starting point for TRWD's water system, will be one of the sites for April's Trash Bash Saturday, April 13. Registration ends Monday April 8 for Lake Bridgeport. Volunteers can register for this and other upcoming cleanup events at www.trwd.com/trashbash.

Munoz wants more volunteers to take the Trash Bash Challenge by using the Litterati app and Adopt-a-River program to keep North Texas waterways beautiful year-round. Enter the code "jointrwd" to enter the challenge on Litterati.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY

Litterati (12+) is available for free via the Apple store. Enter the code "jointrwd" to enter the Trash Bash Challenge on Litterati.

TRWD offers facts and tips for water level wary

ZACH FREEMAN

azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

With water demand doubling by 2060, the Tarrant Regional Water District always has to be several steps ahead when planning for the future.

North Texas has suffered historic levels of drought in the recent past, with 2023 being the driest year going back to 2000. The prior year, 2022, was also in the top four driest years in that time. When

droughts stack from year to year, they only become more impactful. In these situations, water suppliers may enter the summer with already depleted resources.

With the region currently tracking right along average rainfall amounts, TRWD officials are cautiously optimistic about the chances for spring to provide a much-needed boost in water after a disappointingly dry El Nino climate pattern. The district

offers resources like online for those who want to keep up-to-date with local water levels, rainfall and similar information. The site offers statistical model forecasts for four months, compares past predictions with reality and offers all the information you could want to know about both sides of water extremes. Go to TRWD's main website, www.trwd.com and explore, or go directly to one of these links: www.trwd.com/category/lake-level-blog/, www.trwd.com/resources/water-supply/ or www.trwd.com/onerain.com/.

"Every drought ends with a flood," Zach Huff, TRWD director of water resources engineering said.

Drought management goes hand-in-hand with many other aspects of TRWD's work. After a long period of drought, watersheds may soak up rain like a sponge instead of depositing it back into the water system. Overgrazing, exposure to

chemicals and pollutants, erosion and displacement of soil from construction can also impair waterbodies' ability to recover from drought.

Homeowners can take action to help conserve water during and before droughts as well. Check and repair any leaky pipes, sprinklers or faucets as quickly as possible. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year. Practice good lawn care by planting native and

drought-resistant plants and grasses and only apply fertilizers with a slow-release water insoluble form of nitrogen. Avoid ornamental water features that don't recirculate water. Raise lawnmower blades to at least three inches to encourage grass to grow deeper roots and require less water. You can find more helpful tips and water facts on sites like www.ready.gov/drought as well as www.trwd.com.

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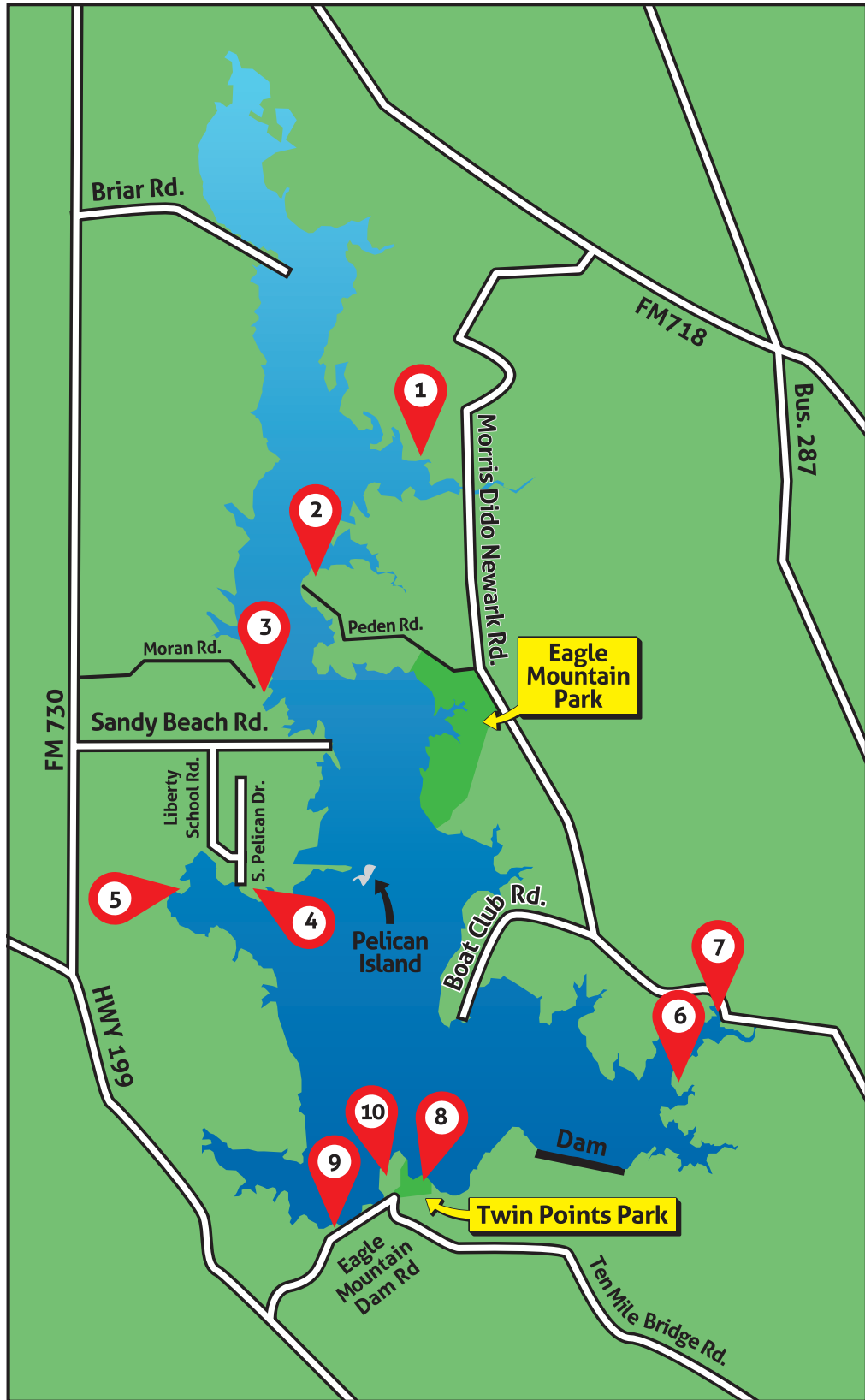
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	Park Boundary

EAGLE MOUNTAIN LAKE TRAILS

The trails at Eagle Mountain Park are some of the best you will find in North Texas. These trails aren't made for biking, but are instead for hiking, walking, and sometimes running. The Eagle Mountain Park trails are well maintained and are mostly between 5 and 10 feet wide. The trail system in this park is about 5 miles long with six distinct trails. Wildlife are abundant throughout the trail system. You will also find picnic tables, benches, water fountains, and sometimes restrooms.

You will also see some of the most beautiful views of Eagle Mountain Lake that you can find anywhere. The trails are open from sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset seven days a week and are completely free.

RULES:

- Day Use Only—Gates close 30 minutes after sunset
- No motorized vehicles off designated roadways
- No campfires
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