



EAGLE
MOUNTAIN

Lake

Thursday, February 13, 2025

PHOTO COURTESY HUNTER DAVIS

TRWD law enforcement, EML fire partner to enhance public safety on Eagle Mountain Lake

JOLEE SKINNER
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The Tarrant Regional Water District has significantly strengthened its emergency response capabilities on and around Eagle Mountain Lake this year through its partnership with the Eagle Mountain Fire Department. This collaboration is part of an initiative to enhance public safety in terms of the recreational areas on Eagle Mountain Lake, which are frequently visited by boaters and people who are fishing.

The TRWD Law Enforcement Division is led by Sgt. Rick Odom, who oversees security across 14 counties through the district's jurisdiction. Odom is also responsible for maintaining the safety of the district's vast water resources including dams and water facilities.

In addition to criminal investigations and patrol operations, one of the law enforcement team's top duties is responding to lake emergencies like boat accidents, medical emergencies and drownings.

Until recently, TRWD was the only agency equipped to handle these emergencies on the lake. Police officers, many trained as EMTs, responded to calls and provided medical aid plus they transport victims to ambulances. However, these emergency calls grew, especially during the summer season, and TRWD recognized the value of collaboration with the Eagle Mountain Fire Department to enhance response times. The new partnership brings big improvements to the lake.

"That obviously helped tremendously with the response

times," Odom said. "Because anything out in the lake, you're going to have delayed response from getting the ambulance to the marina and then getting the patient to the ambulance."

TRWD has donated to Eagle Mountain Fire Department a 24-foot center-console boat with emergency response tools, including a fire pump and transport capabilities. This investment helps with visibility on the lake.

"You want to be able to keep your eye on everything," Odom said. "While most people are out to have fun and we encourage people to come out and enjoy the lake, we want them to be safe about doing so."

Improving water rescues, the TRWD LED and the EMFD have incorporated cutting-edge technology into the boat like sonar.

Sonar systems help detect objects like sunken boats or missing people and provide evidence in boat accident investigations.

"We utilize sonar and then other methods of diagramming and investigating crimes," Odom said.

In addition to the technological upgrades, the TRWD LED and EMFD teams will engage in joint training exercises to improve coordination during emergencies. These rescue training scenarios, which focus on removing injured people from the water, will ensure first responders are prepared for unpredictable lake incidents.

"Everything on the water is more difficult," Odom said. "On the water, everything is moving. The training is more intense because you're work-



PHOTO COURTESY JAMIE STEPICH
Kyle Stepich, 13, of Azle, spends an afternoon wakeboarding with his family on Eagle Mountain Lake.

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A close-up of a black lawn sprinkler head with a yellow top, spraying water in several directions. The background is a lush green lawn.

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The logo for the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD). It features the letters "trwd" in a stylized, lowercase font, with a blue wave-like graphic above the "d". To the right of the logo, the full name "Tarrant Regional Water District" is written in a smaller font.

A scenic view of a lake at sunset. The sky is a vibrant orange and red, with the sun low on the horizon. Bare trees are silhouetted against the sky in the foreground, and a metal railing is visible in the lower part of the frame.

Enjoy scenic views at Eagle Mountain Park.

The logo for the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD). It features the letters "trwd" in a stylized, lowercase font, with a blue wave-like graphic above the "d". Below the logo, the full name "Tarrant Regional Water District" is written in a smaller font.

Enriching Communities. Improving the Quality of Life.

TRWD’s Trash Bash: 30 years of keeping Texas water clean

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For over three decades, the Tarrant Regional Water District has led one of the largest volunteer-driven environmental cleanups in North Texas called the “Trash Bash.” This biannual event brings in thousands of volunteers to remove litter from local lakes, rivers and reservoirs, aiming to help preserve the region’s waterways while creating community engagement.

The first Trash Bash event was in 1990 and focused on cleaning up the Trinity River and Eagle Mountain Lake. Over the years, it has expanded to fit all TRWD-managed waterways, including Lake Bridgeport, Marine Creek Lake and Richland-Chambers Reservoir.

The driving force behind

the Trash Bashes are coordinators Hermilo Munez and Robbie Tompkins.

Each year, TRWD hosts two sets of Trash Bash events, one in the spring and another in the fall. However, the Trinity River cleanup is held both in the spring and in the fall.

“The Trinity River, we do that one twice a year,” Munez said. “Because this is our largest service area. The Trinity River we get maybe annually over 10,000 volunteers total.”

Meanwhile, lake cleanups, like Eagle Mountain Lake and Lake Bridgeport, are purposefully scheduled in different seasons to increase community engagement across the district.

The Trash Bash has grown into more than just a cleanup effort — it has become a huge community tradition. Tompkins, who has been

involved for over 30 years, credits the event’s success to the dedicated volunteers.

“People tell their family and friends to come out,” Munez. “And, of course, it’s the ones that have done it for years and continue to do it as well.”

To encourage participation, TRWD employs a range of outreach strategies, including newspaper advertisements, billboards on highways, school flyers and online promotions. High school kids even play a significant role in the Trash Bash events.

“We get a lot of volunteers from Saginaw High School kids,” Tompkins said. “Those kids like to do it. It is a good opportunity for student groups and organizations to get their community service hours.”

After the big clean up, volunteers can interact with local fire and law enforcement



PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

Families gather to participate in the Tarrant Regional Water District Trash Bash.

departments and explore the watershed education trailer, which is a mobile trailer that educates the public about the watersheds and how to protect them. The after party is a celebration for all the volunteers’ hard work done that day.

A major part of the Trash Bash is the partnership with the Literati app. This app allows volunteers to document and categorize litter collected, providing data on the pollution patterns.

“This app is the future of cleanups,” Munez said. “Each person, through their phone, can now document litter data. We’ve started amassing data over a lot of litter that people pick up at all of our waterways. We’ve amassed litter data from over 52,000 individual’s litter pieces. We

try to publish that data and tell people here’s what you’ve helped pick up.”

TRWD tracks these numbers to assess the event’s impact and continuously upgrade its approach to the waterways.

Looking ahead, TRWD wants to increase volunteer turnout at new cleanup sites, particularly at Marine Creek Lake and Richland Chambers Reservoir. Beyond picking up trash, TRWD wants to create long-term environmental responsibility. Munez hopes this will increase the program’s environmental impact over the next five years.

“Something we like to preach about is we are stewards creating more stewards,” Munez said. “But not only are we trying to give these communities an op-

portunity to contribute to their neighborhoods. They use these waterways recreationally. It all comes back to benefit themselves. We’re hoping that they become not just stewards who are trying to help prevent litter wherever they live, but hopefully this also teaches, especially the younger generation, how to be a good public citizen.”

Whether you’re a student earning service hours, a family looking for a meaningful weekend activity or a resident invested in preserving local waterways, Trash Bash offers a way to make a difference.

To learn more about upcoming events and how to get involved, visit www.trwd.com/trashbash/.

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In recent decades, Tarrant Regional Water District's Law Enforcement Division has grown and branched out, improving the agency's efficiency and ensuring the safety of local water resources, like Eagle Mountain Lake and those who use it.

Lt. Randall Cocke is one of the many dedicated public servants who have shaped the department into what it is today. While he retired from his full-time position in November, he remains a part-time employee to guide TRWD through its transition.

Randall began his employment with the district in 1995 as a general repair technician. By 2005, he had attended the Tarrant County College Police Officer Academy and transferred to the district's Law Enforcement Division as a patrol officer.

Retiring TRWD lieutenant speaks on impact, future of law enforcement division

"My family were always in public safety," Cocke said. "I had a father and brother, both at Fort Worth Fire Department. My dad was a battalion chief there for almost 30 years, so it was kind of a natural fit just to move over into public safety. In my early days, it's not something I looked at, doing law enforcement, but once I got into it, it seemed like it was a great fit for me. It allowed me to help people and actually make a difference."

TRWD's Law Enforcement Division Chief David Geary said Cocke's leadership abilities and constant desire to improve facilitated his promotion to sergeant in 2009 and lieutenant by 2014.

"He was the driving force behind the scenes that trans-

formed the Law Enforcement Division into the highly regarded professional agency of today," Geary said. "His drive and thirst for knowledge coupled with his ability and demand for excellence not only created a great staff but the policies and procedures to support it. His leadership helped to build every aspect of what is now a fully functional multi-talented group dedicated to excellence and service."

Geary credits Cocke with the creation of its recovery dive team, the establishment of the TRWD Communication and Dispatch Center, integration of the computer-aided dispatch system and the implementation of emergency watercraft training.

Geary said, "his leadership ability, integrity and overall masterful skillset," were Cocke's greatest contributions to TRWD. "He set the bar for excellence."

In the past, Cocke said, TRWD was reliant on other agencies, groups and individuals to complete certain tasks and always behind the bell curve when it came to getting responses that it needed. Over the course of his career,

Cocke decided that if he couldn't get the results he wanted, it was better if his own agency could do these jobs itself.

"With anything, if you actually take ownership of a program, you get to actually benefit the most from it," Cocke said. "We were on the water all the time and if we had to wait on divers to make recoveries or look for evidence, we wait a half a day or a day, or maybe two days to get that accomplished. It's mission effective, really. So, we came up with the idea to just do it ourselves. It's the same with the dispatch center. That was probably one of my biggest goals before I retired, was to create a fully functioning communication center. We had services from other departments and you don't get full service if you don't own the program."

Cocke said seeing the communications center realized was one of his career's two biggest accomplishments. The center started from scratch and took years of planning to achieve. With his time at TRWD now coming to an end, Cocke said he feels secure in its future.



Randall Cocke

PHOTO COURTESY TRWD

"We hired a really good group of people," Cocke said. "It was time, and it felt right to hand the torch over. The people that came up, especially Vicki and Chris, are perfect for the job. They know what they're doing, which always helps and they're responsible, they're motivated. If I really, truly had to pick one of my best accomplishments, it's really not the programs that I started, it's the people that I hired and hopefully motivated and mentored."

One of the things that Cocke loved most about his job was getting to spend most of his days outdoors and having the freedom to explore and patrol such a

large jurisdiction by foot, bike, all-terrain-vehicle and boat. Once his part-time role is over, Cocke looks forward to being back outdoors, hunting, hiking and fishing.

Cocke stressed that he couldn't have done it without the 30 years of guidance and leadership from his chief.

"You don't see a lot of agencies that have chiefs that last as long as they do. If you look at any municipality, they go through chiefs every five or seven years and we've had one for close to 30 years now. You don't see that very often. So, it's a credit to David on being a good person first, and a great chief and a great friend."



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TRWD Master Recreational Plan

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The Tarrant Regional Water District is charting a new course for outdoor recreation with a first-ever Recreation Master Plan. Designed to enhance access to parks, trails and open spaces, the plan will balance recreation with TRWD’s mission of water supply and flood control. Lexi McCalip is the floodway and construction director at TRWD.

We really want to be a good steward of the property and the resources that we own by making it available to the public, so they feel safe to recreate there,” McCalip said. “That’s the general theme of the whole entire document.”

McCalip explained the master plan’s creation.

“The district decided we

wanted to have our first ever recreation master plan,” McCalip said. “This is the first one that we’ve ever done, although recreation has been a part of our mission for years.”

In the last year, TRWD created its recreational goals by holding 10 public meetings across Tarrant County, including sessions at Lighthouse Fellowship Church, Northwest Library and Azle City Hall. Additionally, an online survey gathered nearly 1,000 responses from residents.

“We had a lot of public input from there,” McCalip said. “This feedback helped shape the plan.”

The plan includes improvements to existing recreational sites like Eagle Mountain Park, Twin Points Park and Walnut Creek near Azle High School. The district also

manages a loop trail around Marine Creek Lake and plays a role in Fort Worth’s extensive Trinity River trails.

Because easily accessible trails have already been developed, the focus is now on improvements that need to be made to the trails. One major initiative includes lighted loop trails along the Trinity River, providing a safe, illuminated space for early morning and evening recreation. The district is also prioritizing trail stripping and improving signs to enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety in high-traffic zones.

Additionally, the district is pursuing a forestry grant to plant more trees and expand wildflower areas, that will enhance erosion control while maintaining responsible land stewardship.

The master plan outlines



Large mouth bass caught in Eagle Mountain Lake, out from Shady Grove park.

PHOTO COURTESY JULIE INCE



Family dog enjoying a day on Eagle Mountain Lake.

PHOTO COURTESY SARA DYGERT

short, mid and long-term projects with a three to five-year focus. Implementation depends on available funding and partnerships with local entities such as the City of Fort Worth, Tarrant County and the school districts.

“The big aspirational project would be developing the Walnut Creek property into a nature reserve area,” McCalip said. “That area is going to be hard to develop. We’ll have

to have significant partners with the city and the county, possibly even the school district.”

While some projects may have temporary trail closures or detours, the district will aim to minimize the disruptions.

“We always try to offer a detour of some sort to go around the construction while its happening,” McCalip said. “We try to work through

the progress and let people still have access around the site. But when it is under full construction, we can’t let the public in there when we have big heavy equipment.”

As funding becomes more available and partnerships are formed, residents can expect to see more state-of-the-art enhancements to the local parks and trails — giving the community better access to outdoor recreation.

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“Pushing the envelope”

Lt. Chris Akers speaks on continuing improvements in TRWD law enforcement

ZACH FREEMAN
azlereporter@tricityreporter.com

AZLE — Whether it's managing clowns or cops, Lt. Chris Akers can do both.

He joined TRWD as a general repairman 25 years ago at age 19 and moved around to several different roles. While working at its Fort Worth operations, Akers changed his career trajectory. Having some interest in the job, Akers got the opportunity to do a ride-along with then-patrolman Randall Cocke, who later become a lieutenant. Cocke officially retired in November 2024 but remains on a part-time basis to guide TRWD as it transitions.

“Throughout that, the teamwork, the camaraderie, which is really something we have throughout the district, I really fell into that.”

Akers put himself through college and the police academy at night while working for the water district during the day and eventually he was qualified to join TRWD's

Law Enforcement Division as a patrolman. Over the years, Akers worked his way up to sergeant where he was responsible for a supervising a team that protects TRWD employees, infrastructure and resources, as well as supporting safe recreational activities.

“Our officers are widely trained in a lot of specific areas, watercrafts and underwater investigations,” Akers said. “We're always pushing that envelope so that we're the experts to not only perform, but also to help train and mentor other departments throughout the state.”

As a certified public safety diver, he has also investigated underwater search and rescue calls and water fatalities. In addition to his thousands of hours of on-the-job training, Akers has continued his education by pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice supervision at Tarleton University.

“I've always kind of been a, I would say (in) 'air quotes,'

like a peacemaker growing up and stuff like that,” Akers said. “I never really had the whole strong 'I want to be a cop' thing but as I grew into the job I found that's what I want. That's what I am. They say if you do what you love, it won't ever be work. This is the one job where it doesn't feel like I'm going to work every day.”

With the November retirement of Cocke, Akers was promoted to lieutenant. Some of his new duties as lieutenant include maintaining TRWD's budget, personnel and equipment. Akers said his biggest career goal is to continue the improvement and growth pushed by his predecessor.

“I have big shoes to fill,” Akers said. “I've worked alongside or under Randy for four years and watched him take his goals and what he hopes our department becomes. I want to continue that, the momentum that he pushed and seeing the growth and what we've done,



Tarrant Regional Water District Lt. Chris Akers

COURTESY PHOTO

and the professionalism and what we've become, I want that.”

Along with being one of the newest lieutenants at Tarrant Regional Water District, Akers also heads the clown unit for local Shriners hospitals, where he volunteers with his wife and kids. He said it is always extremely gratifying to see the immediate happiness and help that his work as “Kranky the Clown” can have for patients and their families. He has also volunteered at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, reuniting lost children with their families and other security matters.

TRWD Board of Directors for 2025



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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Tarrant Regional Water District’s Law Enforcement Division Chief David Geary called 2025 a “new era of leadership and responsibilities.” Among the new leaders of the agency’s growing departments is Emergency Management and Security Operations Coordinator Lt. Victoria Bailey.

Formerly an Azle Police Department dispatcher and patrol officer, in June 2015 she was approached about working for TRWD as a patrol officer. Today she oversees her own team of dispatchers.

For most of her life, law enforcement has been close to Bailey’s heart. Growing up, she was often near her father,

who was a police officer in a small Nevada town, while he was writing reports or training. She eagerly joined her high school’s police work study program where she got a glimpse into the day-to-day duties of an officer.

After high school, she joined the United States Marines and then went to college to pursue criminal justice. When Bailey moved to Texas in 2006, she secured a job at Azle’s 911 dispatch center for police, fire and EMS. The APD sent her to the police academy where she graduated in 2009. She then moved to the criminal investigation division and managed APD’s community outreach program. At the time, Azle managed the dispatch services for TRWD, so Bailey came

to know the organization and its employees.

Under the leadership of Geary and Lt. Randall Cocke, TRWD began its own dispatch center in 2019. By that time, Bailey had risen through the ranks and was working on a master’s degree in disaster management. She quickly became the most qualified and capable candidate to head up the new department as coordinator. On top of her responsibilities as a lieutenant, Bailey now heads a six-person dispatch team answering calls around the clock, serves on the security planning team and safety steering team.

“My career path is neat to reflect back on; day to day I don’t recall any catalyst career moments, but I was clearly blessed with direc-

tional opportunities—I’m appreciative for sure! Of course I can’t take credit for the TRWD Communications Center, inception was prior to my involvement—Lt Cocke, who your article is featuring, gets the accolades,” Bailey said.

Bailey and her team serve as the bridge between TRWD other agencies, first responders and contractors. As part of her job duties, she’s established the necessary relationships and planning to ensure that all parties can more quickly react and recover in the event of a major emergency. The department operates much like a 911 dispatch office, while also receiving and disseminating water district-related community concerns.

During the city of Fort



PHOTO COURTESY TRWD
Tarrant Regional Water District Lt. Victoria Bailey

Worth’s Fourth of July celebration, Bailey coordinates and trains local agencies in emergency response and how to handle the event’s nearly 100,000 annual attendees. Bailey said her role requires constant flexibility with no two situations ever being exactly the same.

“Motivating others through mitigation efforts and training in scenario-based conver-

sation can be a bit cumbersome,” Bailey said. “So, I get the most geeked-out when what would otherwise be a disastrous event ends up as merely unscheduled tasks for all involved... Because everyone did their preparedness part prior.”

Outside of work, Bailey and her family enjoy the outdoors, beekeeping and traveling.



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SAFETY

FROM PAGE B1

ing on a body of water. People don't realize how much harder it is."

Public education about lake safety is a key focus for the TRWD law enforcement division. Officers regularly visit schools and host water safety training sessions for local communities to reduce accidents and educate people about regulations. Officers also stress the importance of having the correct navigation lighting, as bright lights can confuse other boaters and create safety hazards.

"The trend that we see increasing is these boats are

coming from the factory with these LED dock lights on them and they are extremely bright," Odom said. "They are brighter than car headlights."

The TRWD regularly conducts safety inspections to ensure that boats comply with regulations. The overall goal is to create a safe environment for everyone using the lake.

With the partnership with TRWD LED and EMFD, the departments are poised to deliver a higher level of service to residents and visitors to Eagle Mountain Lake. The combined expertise of both agencies will ensure a quicker, more efficient response to emergencies.



Kayaking down Walnut Creek off Eagle Mountain Lake.

COURTESY PHOTO

Hiles

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AZLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Calendar of Events

- Monthly Luncheons
1st Tuesday of Each Month,
Location: 404 Main St.
- Ambassadors Meet 1st
Thursday of Each Month

Clay Shoot

March 21, 2025

Chamber Golf Tournament

May 9, 2025

Sting Fling

September 13, 2025

Christmas On Main Street

December 6, 2025

817-444-1112
404 W. Main, Suite 102
Mon - Thurs 8 am - 5 pm,
Fri 8 am - 4 pm
www.azlechamber.com



The Azle Area Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization of business owners and individuals who invest their time and money in a community development program – working together to improve the economic, civic and cultural well-being of the area.

If you are interested in being a part of your growing community, we encourage you to become a member of your Chamber of Commerce.

Be part of the future home of the Azle Area Chamber of Commerce!

We are excited to announce that our chamber is working to build its permanent home at 256 W. Main Street in Azle, and we want you to “leave your mark” with us by purchasing a brick for your family or business! These special bricks will be part of the walkway from Main Street to our office door. Two brick sizes are available:

- 4” x 8” with three lines of engraving
(up to 16 characters, including spaces) for **\$300**
- 8” x 8” with seven lines of engraving
(up to 16 characters, including spaces) for **\$500**



Your brick can:

- memorialize a loved one or your family name
- honor a member of the community
- celebrate your graduating class or show off your school pride
- recognize your favorite nonprofit organization
- show your love for shopping local

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Ready to purchase your brick? You can get started by scanning the QR code!

Protecting Eagle Mountain Lake

JOLEE SKINNER
jolee@tricountyreporter.com

Eagle Mountain Lake is a vital water source and a popular recreational area in North Texas, but it faces ongoing challenges due to stormwater runoff and sediment accumulation. The Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) program has taken an active role in advocating for the lake's protection. Created by the North Central Texas Council of Governments, this advocacy group works alongside municipalities and governments to implement the best management practices for stormwater control.

While it doesn't have direct jurisdiction over stormwater management, the orga-

A collaborative approach to stormwater management

nization collaborates with cities that oversee these regulations. iSWM's focus is on developments near the lake that could significantly impact water quality due to stormwater runoff. Jennifer Owens is an environmental technician at the Tarrant Regional Water District and a spokesperson for the iSWM program.

"Our role is to really advocate for the lake and work in partnership with the cities that do have authority over stormwater control," Owens said.

One of iSWM's primary

roles is visiting sites after significant rainfall on the lake. iSWM personnel inspect developments like houses or businesses and assess the stormwater control measures. Then, the information is shared with the residing municipalities to ensure compliance with stormwater management regulations.

"We're not enforcing regulations, but we provide supplemental information to local authorities so they can take appropriate action," Owens said. "That's really what our effort is about."

A key concern of iSWM is

sediment runoff, which can reduce the lake's water storage capability and decrease the water quality.

"By keeping the sediment on site, keeping it from coming into the lake, by maintaining our water capacity, it keeps us from having to develop a new reservoir," Owens said.

To achieve this, iSWM encourages quality maintenance of stormwater control measures, such as sediment barriers and erosion control. This advocacy group also educates the public on these overlooked problems.

"Our watershed group does a lot for education," Owens said. "The more we can protect the water quality, that helps improve the function of the lake."

Public engagement is another important aspect of iSWM's efforts. The organization educates residents about stormwater management and addresses concerns in regard to new developments near the lake. iSWM emphasizes that stormwater infrastructure is designed to handle runoff from normal rain but could be overwhelmed during heavy rainstorms.


"That first inch-and-a-half of water that runs off the site is really the most critical in terms of the water quality coming off the site," Owens said. "It's an important thing for people to understand."

iSWM also supports green infrastructure initiatives, including permeable pavements and rain gardens. However, since participation

is voluntary, implementation depends on a developers' willingness to participate in these practices

"We have resources available for those interested and we encourage municipalities to incorporate these methods," Owens said.

As Eagle Mountain Lake continues to see rapid development, maintaining water quality remains a top priority. The ongoing collaboration between municipalities, developers and residents is helping to reduce stormwater impact. Looking ahead, iSWM is working on the Watershed Protection Plan which, if approved, could lead to more funding and initiatives to further protect Eagle Mountain Lake.



EAGLE MOUNTAIN PARK

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Bike Racks

Bollards

Drinking Fountains

Emergency 911 Signs

Mile Markers

Park Benches

Pedestrian Bridges

Picnic Tables

Restrooms

Shelters and Pavilions

Trail Signs

Main Park Trail - 1.79 Miles

Northwest Trail - 0.92 Miles

Ridge Loop Trail - 0.89 Miles


South Overlook Trail - 0.52 Miles

Overlook Trail - 0.24 Miles

Shoreline Trail - 1.46 Miles

Park Entrance - 0.19 Miles

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
- No dogs • No horses
 - No bicycles
 - No firearms, hunting or fireworks
 - No public consumption or display of alcoholic beverages
 - No littering—Carry out all trash





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