

CARING FOR OUR WATERSHED PROTECTS OUR WATER

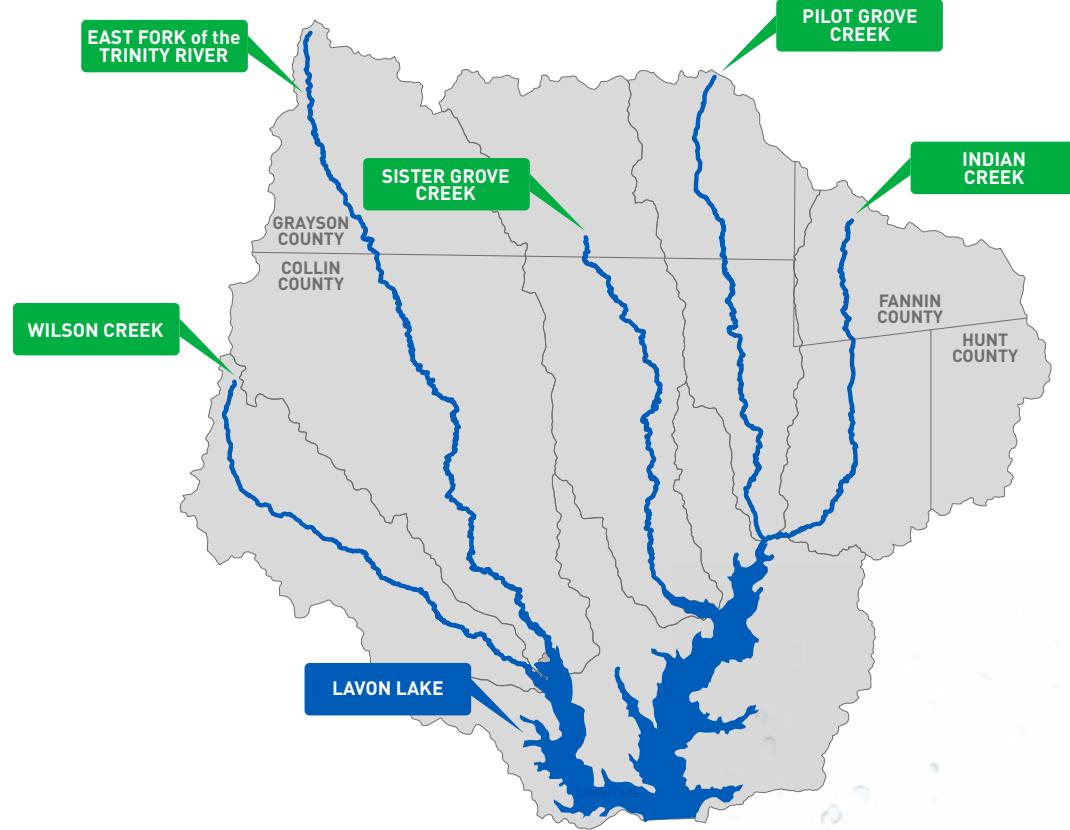


NORTH
TEXAS
MUNICIPAL
WATER
DISTRICT

Regional. Reliable. Everyday.

LOVE LAVON LAKE

Lavon Lake provides drinking water, habitat for wildlife and a place for recreational fun in North Texas. When the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers first planned the reservoir in the 1940s, its sole purpose was to control flooding. Thanks to forward-thinking leaders who saw the lake's potential to supply drinking water as well, the necessary water rights were secured by the time the reservoir was filled in 1953.



Today, Lavon Lake is the primary source of drinking water for about 1.8 million North Texans. It is one of four lakes that the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) uses to provide water for up to 80 communities.



The Lavon Lake watershed encompasses about 492,095 acres (768 square miles) and stretches across parts of Grayson, Collin, Fannin and Hunt counties. The lake is fed by five major streams and rivers: East Fork of the Trinity River, Wilson, Sister Grove, Pilot Grove, and Indian Creeks.

PROTECTING OUR SOURCE WATER

Before water comes out of your tap, it flows over a watershed to one of NTMWD's water supply reservoirs, where it can be collected for treatment and delivery to homes and businesses. A watershed is all the land where rainwater runs off into a stream, river or lake. How we use this land can impact water quality. As the North Texas population grows and our land uses dramatically change in the coming years, it is more important than ever that we protect the Lavon Lake watershed.



Stormwater that flows across land that is used for agriculture, industry, and housing can carry pollutants from the land into Lavon Lake. Most of the Lavon Lake watershed is agriculture, but new growth in the area could increase the amount of pollutants that travel into the lake.

WATERSHED PROTECTION

In 2010, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) identified elevated levels of bacteria in Wilson Creek and the East Fork of the Trinity River. The streams were subsequently placed on the Texas 303(d) List of impaired waters because they did not meet Texas Surface Water Quality Standards for Primary Contact Recreation (swimming or wading).

Treated water from Lavon Lake is safe to drink and use. Bacteria are removed at the NTMWD water treatment plant. However, it is still very important to protect the source water in the lake. Watershed and source water protection provide the first barrier against contamination. Removing pollutants at the source not only reduces treatment costs, it benefits the environment. That's why NTMWD formed the Lavon Lake Watershed Partnership to help protect water quality in the Lavon Lake watershed. The Partnership consists of NTMWD, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Texas A&M AgriLife and local stakeholders including citizens, civic organizations, businesses, municipalities, county governments, river authorities, soil and water conservation districts, agricultural committees, nonprofit organizations and state and federal agencies. Participation is voluntary and open to any individual or group affected by water quality or watershed protection activities.

CURRENT LAND USE



In 2016, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board awarded NTMWD a grant to help fund water quality monitoring and to develop a watershed protection plan for Lavon Lake.

Based on water quality data, modeling, land uses and stakeholder input, the Partnership identified potential sources of pollution and recommended specific management measures aimed at protecting water quality. Implementing these voluntary management measures will help Wilson Creek and the East Fork of the Trinity River meet criteria for primary contact recreation and improve water quality in the Lavon Lake.

The watershed protection plan is available online at www.ntmwd.com/watershed-planning.

The Environmental Protection Agency accepted the Lavon Lake Watershed Protection Plan in 2017, opening the door for federal and state funding of water quality improvement projects. Grants and in-kind donations have totaled more than \$560,000 to fund key projects including:

Working with farmers and ranchers to develop and implement **WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS** on agricultural lands

MONITORING water quality

Creating "green" stormwater infrastructure **DEMONSTRATION SITES**

Hosting **WORKSHOPS** on low impact development and stream restoration

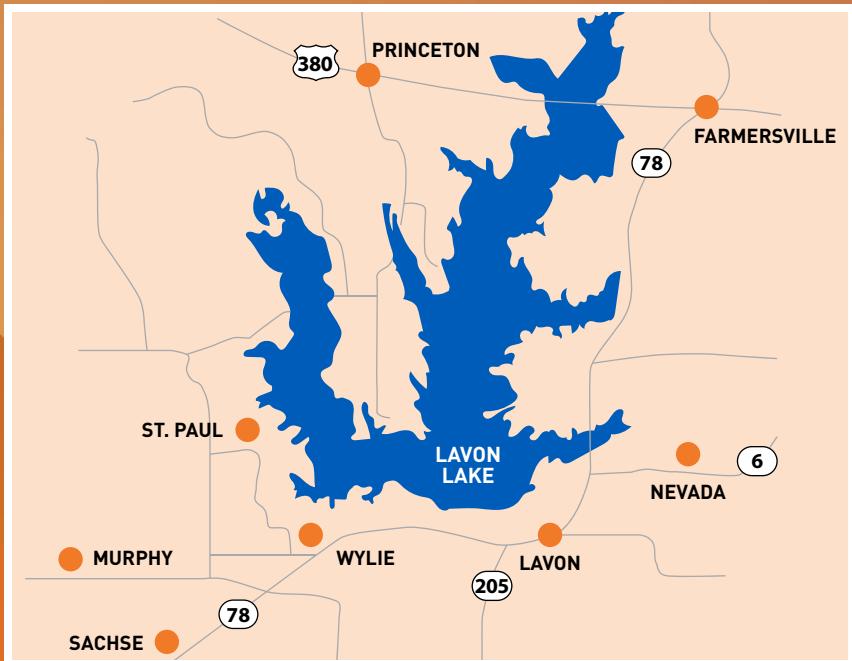
Creating **OUTREACH** signage and videos

EDUCATING about hydrology with a mobile classroom stream demonstration trailer



For more information, visit
www.ntmwd.com





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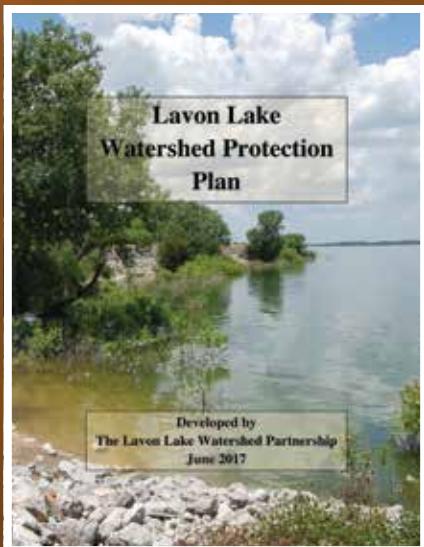


Lavon Lake is the primary source of drinking water for about 1.8 million North Texans.



Because North Texas is a great place to live and work, the Lavon Lake watershed is in one of the fastest-growing regions in the nation. Everyone needs to do their part to help protect the Lavon Lake watershed because it ultimately protects our drinking water.

Visit www.ntmwd.com/watershed for more information or to participate in the Lavon Lake Watershed Partnership.



The Lavon Lake Watershed Protection Plan outlines ways to improve water quality in Lavon Lake and the rivers and creeks that flow into it.

The plan is available at www.ntmwd.com/watershed-planning.



Over \$560,000 in grant and matching funds have been awarded to implement the Lavon Lake Watershed Protection Plan and improve water quality.

Funding for this brochure is provided through a Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.