

The Leader



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FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

On The Water

by Dave Smith

The months are rolling along, and by the time you receive this June copy of *The Leader*, Memorial Day will have passed. Hope everyone had a chance to be with family and friends during this time. Some of you may have had a chance to hit your special fishing spot. We have been blessed with rain the last month, and the ponds and lakes are up. The fish are moving into new areas now the water has made a new path for them. Now is the time to be on the water as the fish are active and waiting for you.

If you tie your own flies or want to learn, take advantage of the 3rd Tuesday class each month with Dan Montayne at Cabela's in Allen. I know you will have a great time and improve your tying skills.

Looking ahead to July some great events will be on the calendar. The July meeting will feature our own Bill Sargeant and a tie-along. I'm looking forward to that. Later in July the South Fork, CO outing will take place. A new event this year will be the Caddo Fly Fishing Expo in Jefferson, TX July 18-19th.

Be sure to check *The Leader* for information on events and outings on the calendar for the month.

Until next time, hope to see you on the water or at the tying bench.

Dave Smith
President, Dallas FlyFishers



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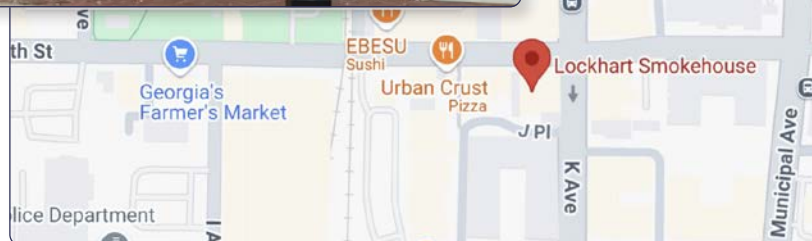
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DFF Program Schedule



Danny Soltau has got a new and exciting kind of DFF meeting. We are excited to offer a fun gathering for our June meeting - Swap Meet + Gear Check at Lockhart BBQ in downtown Plano!

Where: Lockhart Smokehouse, 1026 E 15th St., Plano

When: 6PM-8PM, June 2nd

What: Gear Maintenance - Members and non members can bring down reels and have us take a look at lines, leaders, and all the little things that ought to be functioning properly for your next day of fishing.

-Leader to Line connections, including nail knots/loops/loop knots

-Line Cleaning (will have bucket full of cleaner)

-Leader/Tippet Status and Strategy

Swap Meet - Bring down gear that you haven't been using enough and barter, trade, and deal to get that gear out and maybe find something that you would use more often from another patron.

-Gear could include rods, reels, lines, or any other viable tackle products

-We ask that folks bring cash or have the ability to use apps such as zelle, venmo, or apple pay. So, start looking through your stuff and see what you need or what you want to discard.

Dear Members, If you have been around someone who is ill, and exposure is 10 days or less from a DFF event, we are asking that you please enjoy the event via Zoom from home. We are trying to limit exposures to others, whether it is COVID-19, the Flu, the common cold, or any other communicable disease. We appreciate your help in working together to keep everyone healthy.

2025 Calendar

The 2025 Programs and major events calendar. We are having another great year at the Dallas Flyfishers. **Danny Soltau** has been hard at work setting things up.

June 2nd: Monthly Meeting, 6:00, Lockhart BBQ, Plano, 1026 E 15th St, Plano, TX 75074-6222

June 7th: Kid Fish, 11:00, Josey Ranch Park, open to all

July 7th: Bill Sargeant Tie Along Monthly Meeting, 7:00 FUMC Richardson, Ogden Room

July 12th – 19th: South Fork, CO Outing, lodging at Ute Bluff Lodge, Cabins, & RV Park

July 18th – 19th: Caddo Flyfishing EXPO, Jefferson, TX

August 4th: Katie Cowan & Dani Rose Tie Along Monthly Meeting, 7:00 FUMC Richardson

September 8th: Chase Smith of Fishchase Flies Monthly Meeting, 7:00 FUMC Richardson, Youth Room

September 26th – 27th: FFI Fly Fest, Grand Rapids, Michigan

October 6th: Monthly Meeting, 7:00 FUMC Richardson, Youth Room

October 31st – November 2nd: Toledo Bend Rendezvous, North Toledo Bend State Park, Zwolle, LA

November 3rd: Monthly Meeting, TBD

December 7th: Annual Holiday Party, TBD

2025 Newsletter Editor Needed

Due to health concerns, Marshall Baldwin has resigned his position as Newsletter Editor. We wish Marshall continued success in his health recovery. With Marshall's resignation, the DFF is in need of a Newsletter Editor. You will have help and be mentored for as long as you need to feel comfortable in the role. The Newsletter Editor is NOT responsible for designing and formatting the articles. We have a Graphics Designer that takes care of the look of the newsletter. The Newsletter Editor position entails:

- Communicating with various members for their monthly contributions
- Monthly deadline is the 23rd; newsletter is typically e-mailed to the membership on the 1st
- Forwarding all monthly content to the Graphics Designer and communicating any needed edits
- Emailing the completed newsletter from the Graphics Designer to the membership
- Attending the monthly Board meetings via Zoom, almost always the first Sunday of the month

If you would be interested in helping the club fill this vital service to the fly fishing community, as our readership extends well beyond our club membership, we would love to have you on the Board as our Newsletter Editor. Please contact Dave Smith at dave_maxsmith@yahoo.com.

Upcoming DFF Outings

Bonham State Park

Join us for the DFF June Outing on **Saturday, June 14th**, at Bonham State Park.

Details:

- **Location:** 1363 State Park 24, Bonham, TX 75418-9285
 - o Latitude: 33.546727
 - o Longitude: -96.144758
- **Entrance Fee:** \$4.00 per person (free with a State of Texas Parks Pass).
- **Meeting Point:** Fishing pier/boat house.
- **Time:** 6:00 AM (to beat the heat).

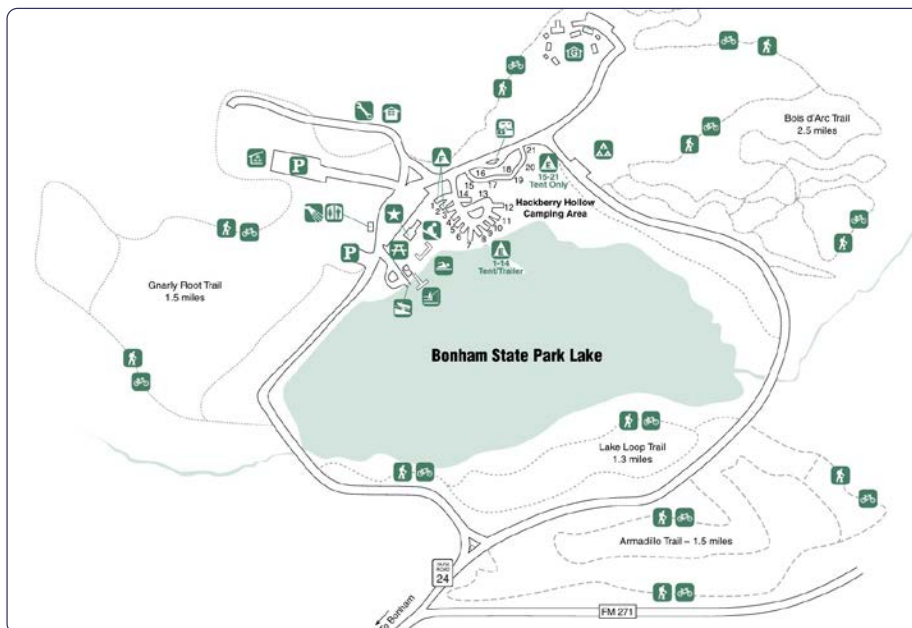
This scenic 65-acre lake is home to largemouth bass, bluegills, sunfish, and even a few carp. Recommended flies for the day include poppers and baitfish patterns, with sizes ranging from #12 to 0/1.

You can fish from the bank, a boat, canoe, or kayak. If you don't have your own, the State Park offers kayak rentals at the following rates:

- \$10 for one hour • \$15 for two hours
- \$25 for four hours • \$50 for 24 hours

RSVP: Please email Joel Williams at joel.williams53@gmail.com to RSVP or if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you there. Tight lines!



South Fork, Colorado

The Dallas Fly Fishers (DFF) and Fort Worth Fly Fishers (FWFF) will again be holding a joint outing to South Fork, Colorado this July. Dates for 2025 are July 12-19.

It is the responsibility of the attendees to make their own travel and hotel plans, and bring their own gear. There is fishing available that will satisfy most anglers; small creeks, large rivers, and high mountain lakes.

Our home base will be the Ute Bluff Lodge.

<https://www.uteblufflodge.com>

If they are full, there are many other lodging options in South Fork.

We meet informally every morning to discuss the day, and spread out nicely. Every evening there is an informal “where did you go today and how did you do?” gathering. The Ute Bluff Lodge has a great community room that can be used for our gatherings if weather conditions are inclement. Remember to bring a camping chair, as we gather outside if the weather is nice.

Most will leave on Saturday mid-morning and drive most of the way there, stopping somewhere between Amarillo, Tx and Walsenburg, Colorado. Spend the night and head on into South Fork Sunday morning. Fish Sunday



afternoon, and next 5 days, and return home the following weekend.

You can also fly to Denver, Colorado Springs, or Albuquerque, and rent a car.

Please let me know if you are planning on attending. If you have any questions, contact Jeff Ziehm, 214-202-2826, jziehm55@gmail.com.



Caddo Flyfishing Expo

When: July 18th & 19th, 2025 • Where: Historic Downtown Jefferson Texas (44 miles from Shreveport, LA)



Details:

You are an accomplished fly tyer. The North Louisiana Fly Fishers would like to invite you to be one a select group of fly tyers to participate in the first Caddo Fly Fishing Expo.

This will take place at the convention center in the quaint historic town of Jefferson Texas. Bring your wife or significant others. The town is buzzing with thrift shops and antique stores. Delightful cafe's and restaurants dot the red brick streets. The general store is a destination of it's own.

The event will offer:

- Incredible fishing on Big Cypress Bayou just steps from the front door of the convention center.
- Reserved tying spot for Friday afternoon and all day Saturday
- Dinner for invited tyers Friday night (plus complementary food Saturday)
- Seminars , bucket draws, and raffles all day Saturday

This will be the first Caddo Fly Fishing Expo.

If successful, we plan to offer the expo every odd numbered years. The success of this event depends on quality fly tyers like yourself. We would love for you to be a part of this successful event. Spots are limited. If you can participate please let us know. Email the club at: nlffclub@gmail.com

Please put "Caddo flyfishing expo" in the subject line of email. This will take place at the convention center in the quaint historic town of Jefferson Texas. Bring your wife or significant others. The town is buzzing with thrift shops and antique stores. Delightful cafe's and restaurants dot the red brick streets. The general store is a destination of it's own.

If you have questions feel free to contact Steve Oliver at: 318-349-6411 or Scott Irwin at 318-469-0854

An Average Angler's Blue Ribbon Tour

Adventure Log: Part 4

by Colby Burke

The itinerary:

Dallas, TX

Navajo Dam, NM

Gunnison Gorge, CO

Salida, CO

Rocky Mountain National Park, CO

Craig, MT

Yellowstone National Park, WY

Cascade, MT

Flaming Gorge, UT

Dallas, TX

I didn't get his name, but his dogs Omar and Annie were as friendly as he was. He told me that this river, while it's incredible, is not what it was 20 years ago. With the absence of crowds and as he called it "the Spanish Armada" of drift boats, the river fished like a dream. Hatches even thicker than they are now, and pods of hungry fish made the Missouri River world class. To say that it was even more prolific is saying a lot because the river is still world class. I went to bed at 10:15 covered in Tricos, with absolute storm clouds of Caddis surrounding my truck. This hatch was on par with the one I experienced in the Gunnison Gorge.

I woke up in the morning to a truck covered in Trico sheds. The fish, however, were not cooperating. Contrary to the 15th, July 16th was a terribly slow day, a day in which I caught only two fish, one of them being a true Montana

Craig & Cascade, MT: July 13-20

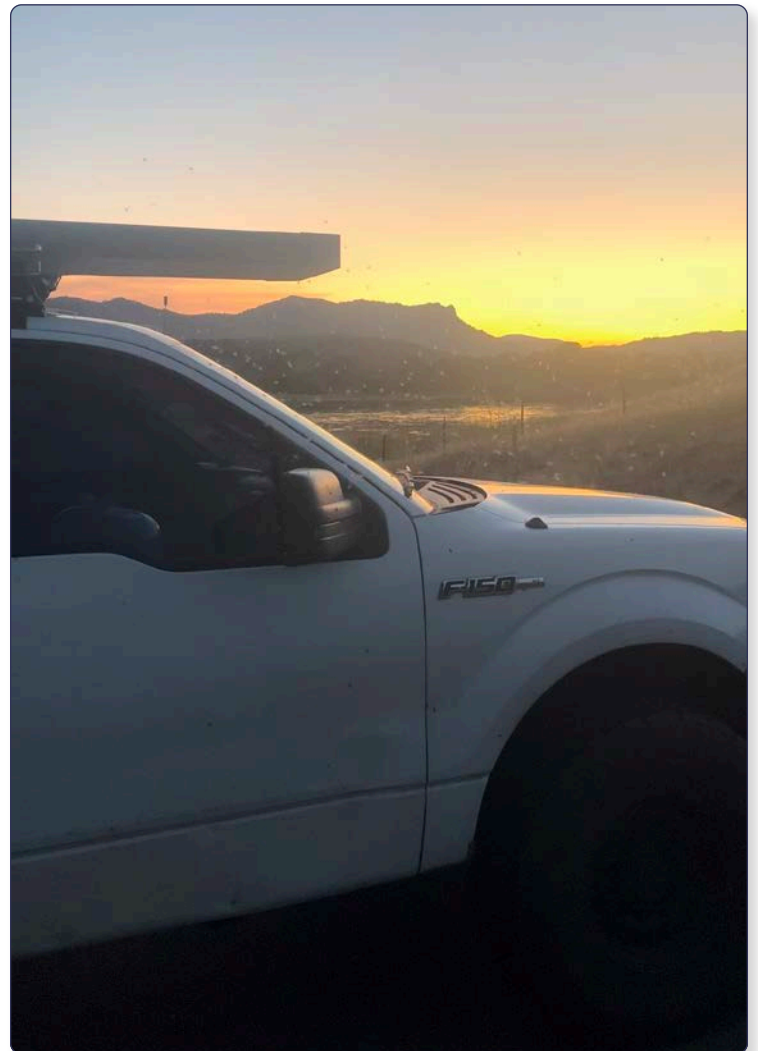
The next day was spent driving back into Craig, Montana. After arriving at my camp site, I retired early, but not before rigging up my trusty 5 weights for the next morning.

I woke up to a scorching Montana morning, with a high of 97 on the day. I saw few risers, so I began the day nymphing. I got a strike quickly, about 20 minutes in. I assume the fish took the small zebra midge because it came off at the hookset. I went the next six hours with no action. Then at around 6:30, the fish began rising. I tried fishing a Caddis down to a Trico, with no luck. Upon trading Trico for PMD, I hooked up on a nice brown trout on my second drift. I'd found the pattern. I caught one more fish, about a 14-inch rainbow, later that evening on the Caddis before stopping for the day.

I got a little earlier start than the day before, but not by much. After a relatively action free morning and afternoon, the trout woke up. The fish were feeding on the evening Caddis hatch, I was offering them Caddis, and they were not touching it. Not even a sniff. I tried presenting upstream, downstream, and straight across while using a reach cast. Nothing. I caught one small rainbow trout all day. I went to bed early, frustrated yet determined.

July 15th was a day of what I call "don't blink fishing", where your eyes water from the intense focus on your dry flies. With fish rising all around me, it was all I could do to focus on one spot at a time. They ate Caddis all day. I ended up catching a combined seven feet of trout.

After fishing, I made burgers and got to talk with a local.



monster. All of four inches long. I decided to head to Cascade to focus on a lower part of the tailwater tomorrow.

Following my underwhelming day of fishing, I met a man named Mike. I was unsure about Mike at first. He looked like a hard man, tattooed, wearing tattered clothes, and sporting a large earring. He is brand new to fly fishing and seeking advice. I only had about a 30-minute conversation with Mike, but he was one of the friendliest people I have ever met. He talks to everybody like they are lifelong friends of his.

I passed by Mike's campsite in the morning and told him I would be fishing at Mountain Palace and that he should grab his fly rod and come by.

Upon arrival, I spotted a large brown trout eating off the surface not 50 yards from the boat ramp. It was stationary in about a foot of water and rising consistently. I casted upstream of the fish from about 30-40 feet away and let my flies drift down to him. He struck at the PMD spinner right away, missing the fly. I worked that fish for 20 or 30 minutes after that, without taking a step until he fully committed. This time I got good hooks into him. He felt large, but I could tell quickly that he was fouled. I fought the fish for around 15 minutes before I decided to put an enormous amount of pressure on him to either net the fish or break it off. It was becoming a dangerous situation. I did not want the trout to become so exhausted that it could not recover. I got it to the net, bringing it in sideways. As the fish entered the jaws of the net, the fly that had hooked him got caught on the net and popped out. The fish swam off with one strong pulse of the tail. I had lost what would have been my personal best brown trout at the net.

After some sulking, I heard Mike yell "hey buddy" from the parking lot at the top of the embankment. I briefly forgot about the missed fish (although it now haunts me) and spent the rest of the day fishing with Mike. He was very complimentary of my casting, probably because he is new and unbelievably kind. But wouldn't you know it, Mike caught a fish! About a 10-inch rainbow trout ate his blow torch midge tied below an unseasonal hopper pattern. When the sun started to set, we headed back to our campsites.

At the campsite, Mike asked for casting tips and I of course obliged, albeit with limited knowledge myself. Then we started discussing our personal lives. Mike, the pierced man in the tattered clothing, is an attorney turned school superintendent. He works with children, and there is nobody better suited for such a position. His local school system is lucky to have such a kind, gentle man at the helm.

Having lost my personal best brown trout the day before I was determined to land a quality fish, so I headed for Pelican Point at 5:00 in the morning. Pelican Point is a spacious public access spot with plentiful islands creating mini rivers. Gorgeous runs of rivers abound, but I did not see many fish rising and could not reach the ones I did see. I walked for two miles downstream, keeping below the high-water mark and saw just one fish working the surface. I casted at it for a while but could not connect, so I headed back upstream to see if anything had changed. Nothing had, so I returned to Prewett Creek.



I wandered into a bar across from Prewett Creek to eat lunch and have a cold beer. There I met two older friends named Matt and Tom. As I told Tom about my adventure, he was blown away. He gave me his phone and asked me to put my number in. They had fished all day out of a drift boat and hauled in two fish between them both, and Matt was a guide in the past. The river was fishing tough. Tom told me that "I'd love to fish with more of my friends, but they keep effin' dying", with a sly smile. He revealed that he was 84 years old. I soaked up all the advice and information I could from them both. I had thought it before, but Matt fully convinced me that all this online research I had done,

around 150 hours, is great but I had left no time to discover hidden roadside gems. Tom invited me to his rooftop place in Great Falls, because he likes to have groups of “interesting” people over. It pained me to tell him I was meeting a friend in Utah to fish the Green River tomorrow. I am coming back to Montana in September, and Tom is the first person I’m calling.

As evening fell I had yet to have a quality strike. I ended my Montana run on my only skunk in the state. My first since Colorado. This sport does one hell of a job keeping you humble.

I ended my day on a high note, sitting at the campfire and telling stories with Mike. We exchanged contact information and went to bed at about 11:00.

Cascade, MT: Fishing: 7/10

Camaraderie: 10/10



June Conservation Corner

Water is the New Oil

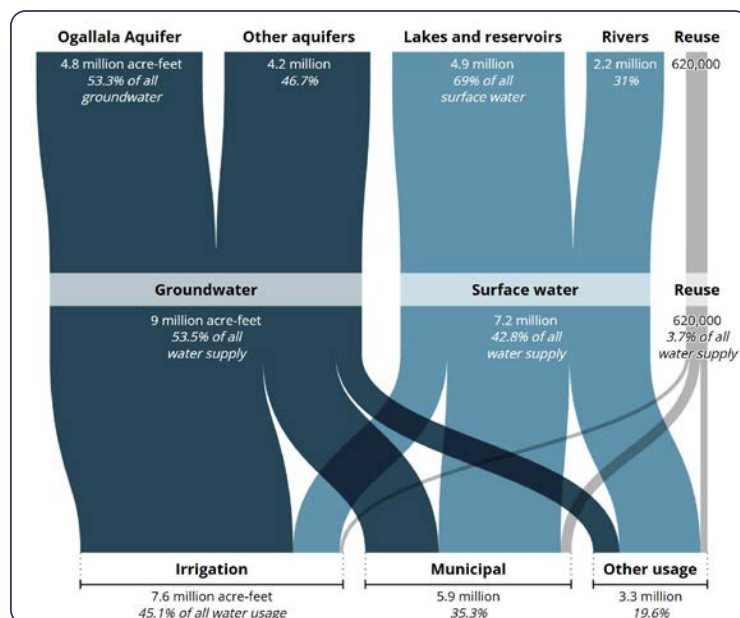
by Julia Bell

North Texas grew to over 8 million residents due to record land sales and subsequent residential developments via planned communities featuring homes, apartments, and commercial spaces. These Master Planned Communities derived from great-grandchildren spurred on by lucrative land deals and who have zero interest in farming and ranching and who began selling their heritage farms in what was once rural areas, to land developers like Veritas Communities, LLC. Collin, Tarrant, Denton, Rockwall, and Kaufman counties saw the greatest recent growth with Fort Worth surpassing Austin to become the fourth largest city in Texas and having a population surpassing 1 million residents. Princeton in Collin County grew the fastest, increasing their population by 31%. Celina was not far behind, who once played and won the Class 2A, Division 1 football title in 2005 and lost the Class 3A Division II football title in 2006, and is now in UIL 4A Division 1.

In 1933, the 33rd Legislature created the Board of Water Engineers to regulate appropriations of water. After Texas suffered its most severe drought from 1954-56, the 1957 legislature created a constitutional amendment, approved by the voters, to create the Texas Development Water Board and give it rights to conserve and develop water resources throughout the state. Water rights and legislation has restructured the TDWB throughout the years—1962, '65, '72, '77, '85, '97, 2001, '07, '11, '13, and '19. In 2012, TDWB published its water plan, and in 2021, their published water plan included for the first time a chapter on water conservation.

The TDWB falls under the auspices of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

The 2022 TDWB report indicated if another severe drought occurred, by 2030 Texas would have a severe shortage of water. Texas’ water shortage is due to infrastructure (old pipes), weather (drought conditions), and significant growth. The Legislature has approved Joint House Bill 7 and Senate Bill 7 and will be on the November 2025 ballot, where Texans will be asked to approve a \$20 billion dollar investment in the state’s water infrastructure with

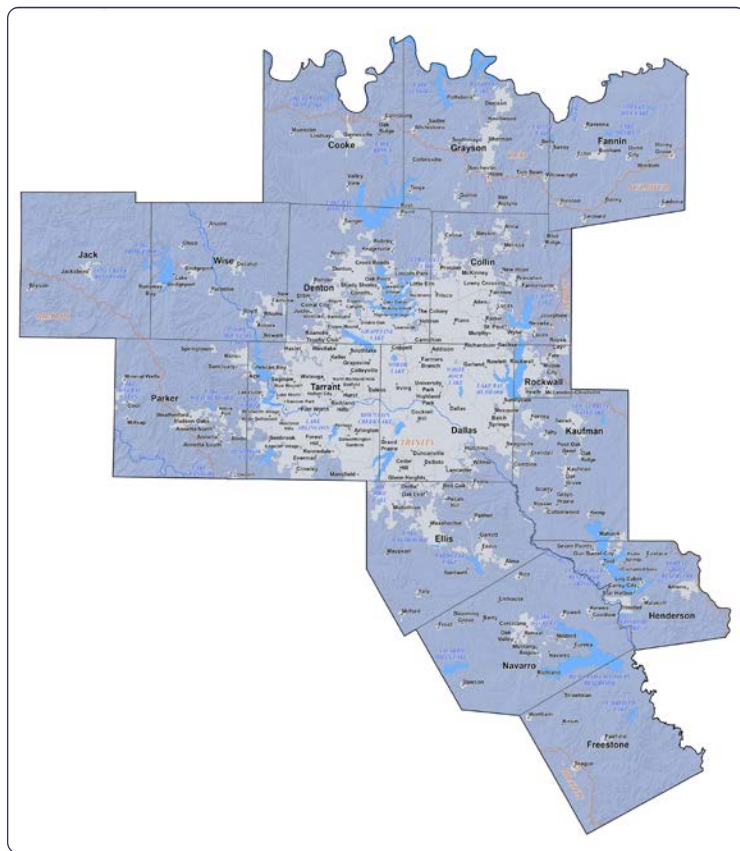


an allocation of \$1 billion dollar investment a year over the next 20 years. However, though \$20 Billion seems to be a significant funding amount, Jeremy Mazur, the Director of Infrastructure and Natural Resources Policy, in his 24 September 2024 testimony to the [Texas] House Natural Resources Committee on their implementation of Senate Bill 28 stated that Texas needs \$154 billion for its water infrastructure, breaking it down to Water Supply Projects = \$59 billion; Leaky Pipes and Infrastructure = \$74 billion; and Broken Wastewater Systems Reparations = \$21 billion.

Texas water laws are quite complex due to the two different and specific legal areas—groundwater laws and surface water laws. Texans rely on groundwater and surface water. Groundwater resources are currently at 53%—9 million acres-feet—and surface water resources are at 42.8%—7.2 million acres-feet. Landowners by default own the groundwater beneath their land, but that does not give them unconditional use of the water due to the Rule of Capture. Surface water belongs to the state, and for anyone—cities, farms, businesses, etc.—to use it, they have to apply for a permit from the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality. Texas follows “first in time, first in right” which governs who receives permits, meaning the older, senior water permits receive water first, and the newer permits receive water last, which means they may not receive any surface water permits. According to Carlos Rubinstein, there are no more surface water permits to issue.

If there are no permits to issue, and even if there were permits with the “first in time, first in right” policy, how are the new master-planned communities and once-small towns obtaining their water? That is not an easy question to answer. The water districts within each region are having to be creative to find water resources for their residents, which has pitted Texans against Texans, as demonstrated in the recent clash between the North Texas Water District, who needs water, and the Northeast Texas Water District, who wants to protect and keep their water resources.

The Texas Water Development Board is divided into 16 regions with North Texas being in Region C, which contains 24 major reservoirs of over 5,000 acre-feet storage, seven aquifers, and only 6% of groundwater. In addition to these reservoirs, Region C also relies on surface water outside their region. Within each region are water districts that provide water for their area of a region. The greater Metroplex is under the auspices of the North Texas Municipal Water District Board.

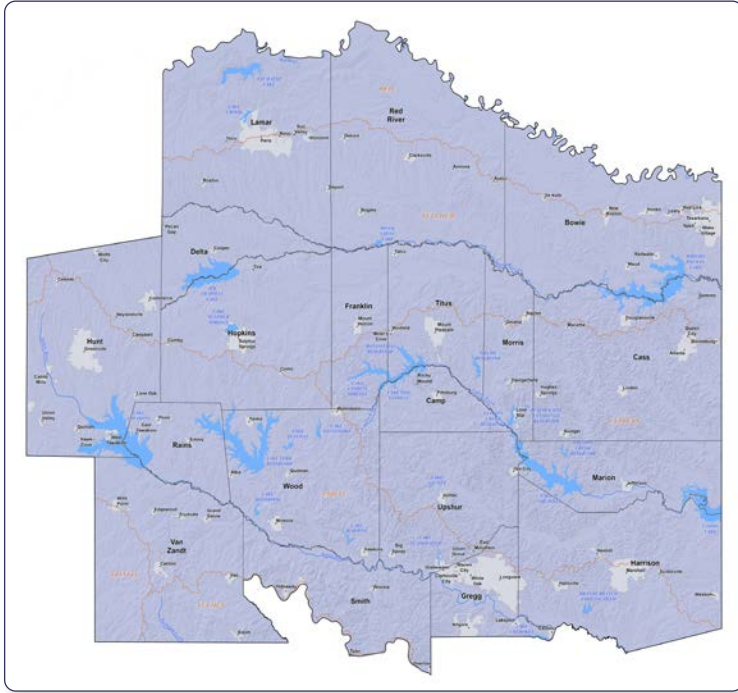


Although, cities like Princeton who have enacted two moratoriums on expanding due to a lack of infrastructure including water resources, these municipalities are likely to be in the minority, as more are seeking to do what Anna is doing with their new Liberty Hills Master Planned Community.

In April, the North Texas Municipal Water District lost their battle to gain surface water from Region D’s Northeast Texas Municipal Water District. Led by Laura-Ashley Overdyke, a native of Shreveport and Executive Director of the Caddo Lake Institute, which operates in Shreveport, LA and Texas, and the Save Our



City of Anna EDC pdf presentation of groundbreaking opportunities, 10/3/24, Liberty Hills | Image by Anna EDC/pdf screenshot



Lakes Coalition, effectively fought and won the right to keep the ever-expanding North Texas away from Region D's waters from Lake O' the Pines. East Texas is Texas' wettest region, so the ever-expanding regions see this area as a prime go-to for water resources; however, many Region D residents don't want to see their water resources go to other areas, as they view it could negatively impact their growth, their tourism, their property values, and their conservation initiatives.

Residents from far East Texas whose water resource is Caddo Lake were as equally invested in keeping North Texas out of Lake O' the Pines. Prior to Lake O' the Pines' impoundment, the Cypress Creek was a free-flowing stream and supplied Caddo Lake,

Texas' only natural lake. When the Ferrells Bridge Dam opened in December 1959, Caddo Lake, 30 miles downstream of Lake O' the Pines, nearly disappeared. In the early 21st century, the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District voluntarily began releasing water into Caddo Lake which ultimately demonstrated that the fate of Caddo is directly dependent upon Lake O' the Pines. With Caddo Lake's shallow water depths, 5' to 6' feet, losing water to North Texas means a decline in lake levels that Lake O' the Pines could not replenish without a threat to their watershed environment.

In 2019, the Caddo Lake Institute, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service coordinated efforts to restore Paddlefish to East Texas. The Paddlefish is North America's oldest surviving animal species—older than the dinosaur. The Paddlefish's decline in East Texas began with Lake O' the Pines' impoundment. Paddlefish rely on flood pulses to spawn, and without the free flows of Cypress Creek into Caddo Lake, the fish quit spawning. By the '70s, researchers could not find Paddlefish in Caddo, so they began conservation efforts to save the Paddlefish listing it as a state-endangered fish. This classification meant anglers could not catch/kill/harm the Paddlefish, and in 2014, Paddlefish were re-introduced to Caddo Lake.

The re-introduction of Paddlefish meant that water flows into Caddo mattered significantly. The release from Lake O' the Pines had to mimic springtime pulses to clear sediment from the hardwood bottom, where Paddlefish lay their eggs, and signal Paddlefish when to reproduce. The 10-year study of whether Paddlefish can survive and reproduce in Caddo also involved the Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery to help supply Paddlefish for the restocking purposes. They have been quite successful in stocking Oklahoma's Paddlefish. In protecting Paddlefish, the whole of the Caddo Lake ecosystem has benefitted.



For now, the North Texas Municipal Water District will not be getting their water from Lake O' the Pines, but they seem to think that they could strike a future bargain if enough money was offered to Northeast Texas Municipal Water District. However, the East Texas residents seem to have a really long memory as espoused by Jefferson resident Jerry Thompson in one of the call-to-action meetings against

selling water rights. "We all grew up in East Texas and know people who sold rights to their oil and watched others get rich from it."



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