



## Possible Development of a Non-Regulatory Watershed Protection Plan for Bois d'Arc Lake



**David Cowan**  
**Watershed Manager**  
**NTMWD**

*“Ultimately, it is the goal of the Partnership to use this plan to improve and protect water quality in the Lavon Lake watershed for present and future generations.”*

*- Lavon Lake Watershed Protection Plan -*

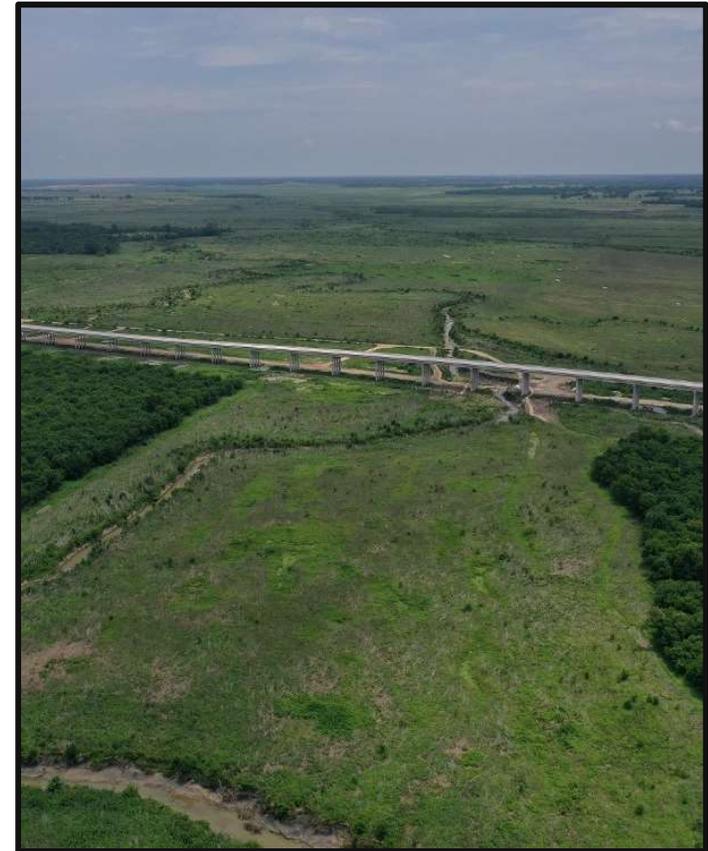
**August 6, 2020**



# BOIS D'ARC LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

## Presentation Outline

- Watershed Approach
- Examples of Watershed Protection Plans (WPP)
- Bois d'Arc Lake Watershed
- Management Measures
- Proposed Steps Forward

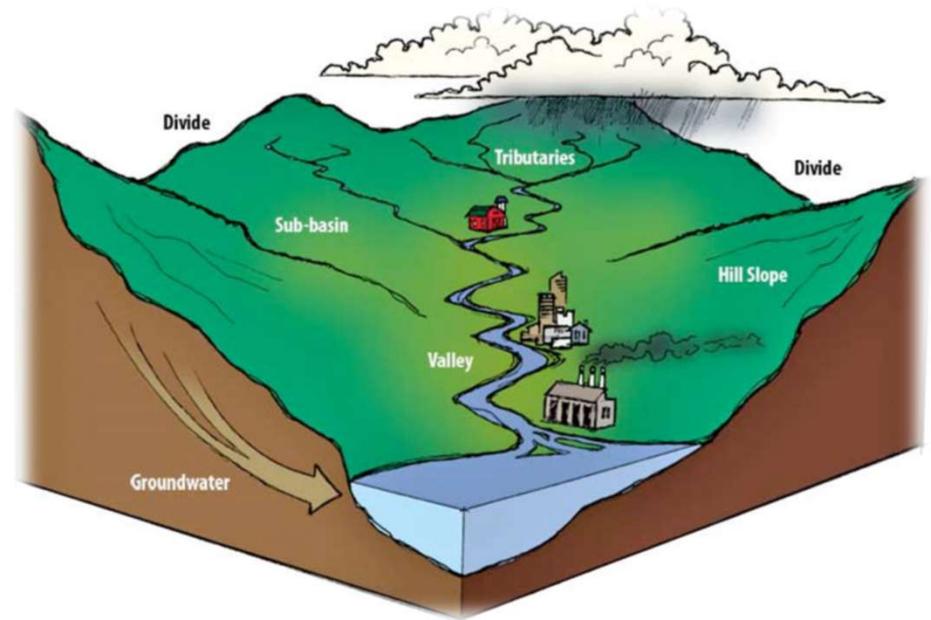




## BOIS D'ARC LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

### Watershed Approach

- Encourages coordination across multiple jurisdictions
- Voluntary, non-regulatory
- Community driven
- Relies on partnerships to protect and restore waterbodies



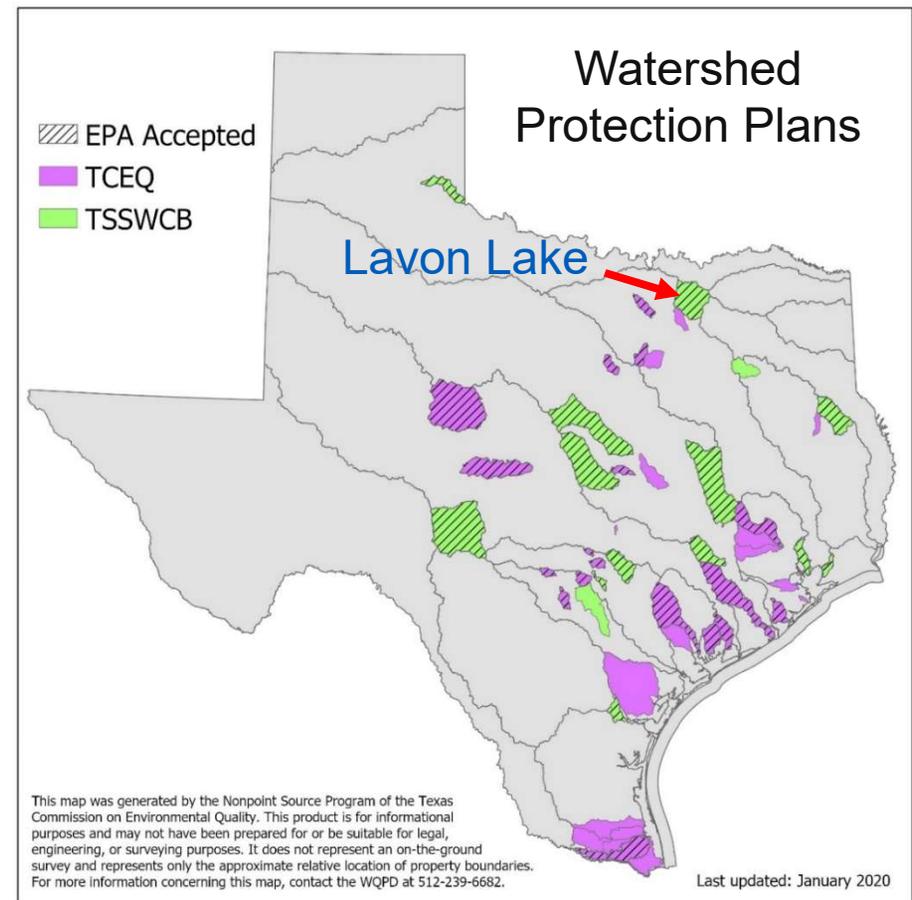
A watershed is an [area of land](#) that water flows [across](#), [through](#), or [under](#) on its way to a stream, river, lake, ocean or other body of water.



# BOIS D'ARC LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

## Watershed Protection Plans

- 44 WPPs developed in Texas
- Mostly funded by TCEQ & TSSWCB grants
- Many have been reviewed and accepted by EPA
- Development of Bois d'Arc Lake WPP funded by NTMWD





# BOIS D'ARC LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

## Funding for Lavon Lake Watershed Implementation

- \$159,000 from TSSWCB for a Soil and Water Conservation District Watershed Technician
- \$118,496 from TSSWCB for water monitoring and outreach
- \$284,429 from TCEQ for green infrastructure demonstrations
- About \$1M from NRCS in priority funding for conservation measures



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### NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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#### **Lavon Lake watershed to receive federal protection funds**

*One of only two in the state selected as priority watersheds to receive funding*

WYLIE, TX – August 3, 2020: The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) has been notified the Lavon Lake watershed has been selected as one of two priority watersheds in Texas by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for watershed protection funding. The Lampasas River watershed in Central Texas is the other priority watershed selected. The designation will result in about \$2.28M in watershed protection projects in the Lavon Lake and Lampasas River watersheds geared towards reducing erosion and nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus commonly found in fertilizer.

Watersheds are areas of land that water flows across, through or under before ultimately draining into creeks, streams, rivers, lakes or oceans. The Lavon Lake watershed is comprised of 492,095 acres of land in parts of Collin, Fannin, Grayson, and Hunt Counties that capture and direct rainfall into creeks, streams and rivers that flow into Lavon Lake.

"The primary focus of the Lavon Lake watershed protection plan is to prevent contaminants from entering Lavon Lake from surrounding cities, farms and ranchlands," said David Cowan, NTMWD Watershed Manager. "This funding will help us with our mission of protecting water quality in this critical water source for North Texans," Cowan added.

The funding is part of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Farm Bill) which includes specific protections for source water and drinking water supplies. The Farm Bill is administered through NRCS to help farmers and ranchers implement conservation measures on their land to improve water quality. It provides a direct benefit to agriculture producers and water utilities. The Lavon Lake watershed was selected as a priority project because it is a key drinking water source for nearly 2 million North Texans.

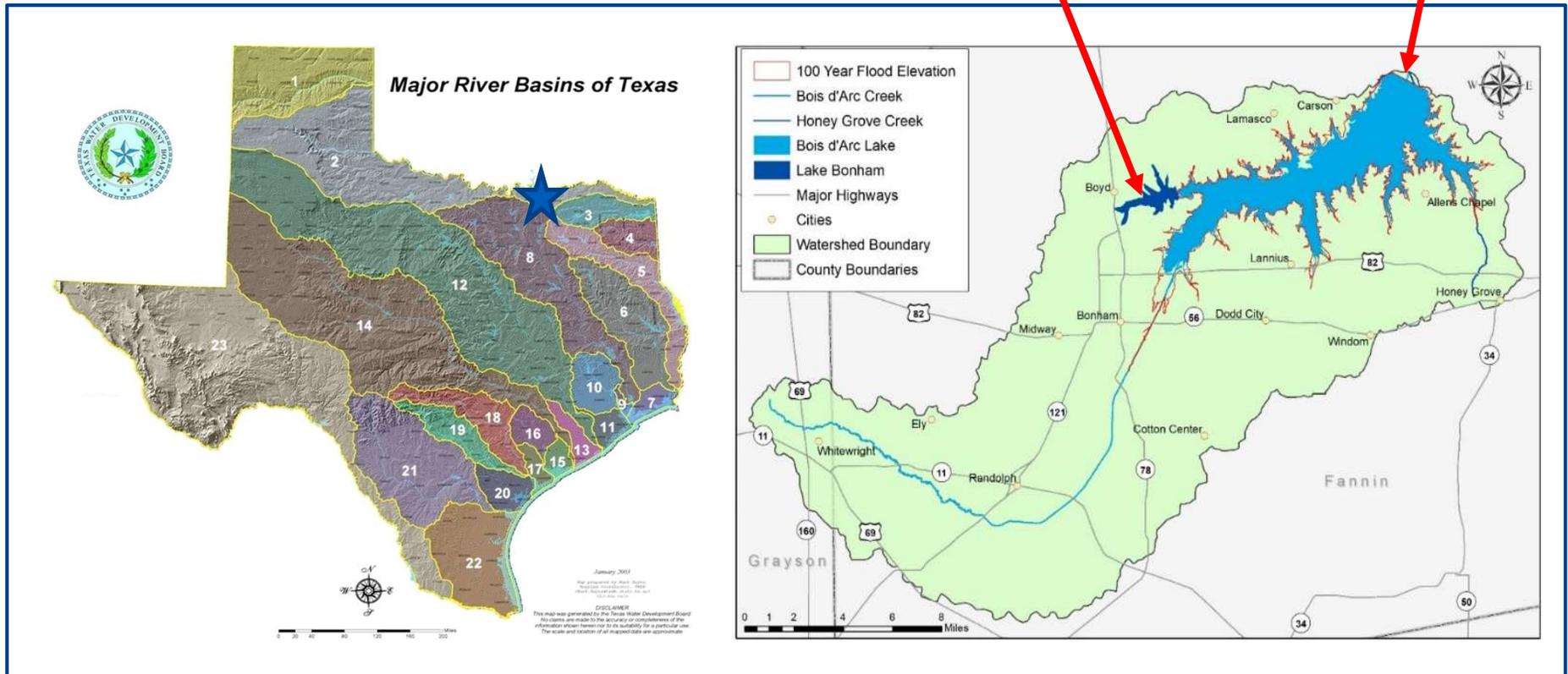


# BOIS D'ARC LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

## Bois d'Arc Lake Watershed

## Lake Bonham

## Bois d'Arc Lake





## BOIS D'ARC LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

### Examples of Management Measures

- Technical and financial assistance for landowners
  - *SWCD Technician*
  - *Water Quality Management Plans*
  - *NRCS Conservation Programs*
- Incentives for voluntary water quality protection activities
- Demonstration and restoration projects
- Monitoring and assessment
- Outreach and education





## BOIS D'ARC LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

### Examples of Outreach and Education

- **AgriLife Workshops**
  - *Feral Hog Management*
  - *New Landowner Workshop*
  - *Septic System Maintenance*
  - *Texas Well Owner Network*
  - *Watershed Steward Workshop*
- **Community Outreach**
  - *Signage and Educational Videos*
  - *Support for Cleanups*
  - *Stream Hydrology Trailer*





## BOIS D'ARC LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

### WPP Development

Successful development and implementation of a WPP will depend on involvement of the local community

Propose forming a stakeholder group to serve as a forum for local participation in the plan development process

- *Typically referred to as a **Watershed Partnership***
- *Include representatives from cities, counties, & other local jurisdictions*
- *Open to anyone that has a stake in the watershed*

**Watershed Partnerships** often select a **Steering Committee** comprised of local stakeholders to serve as the decision making body for the partnership

*Would welcome Fannin County representation in the Partnership and on the Steering Committee*



# BOIS D'ARC LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

## WPP Development

A Technical Advisory Group will provide guidance to the Steering Committee and Partnership to support the development process.

- USGS
- USDA/NRCS
- TCEQ
- TPWD
- Texas A&M AgriLife
- Etc.





## BOIS D'ARC LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

### Next Steps

- Data collection – Texas Water Resources Institute
- Initial meetings with key stakeholders (Cities, Counties, SWCDs, etc.)
- Make citizens aware of the process through press releases and public meetings. Encourage full public participation throughout the process
- Partnership and Steering Committee formation
- Host Texas Watershed Steward workshop
- Partnership meetings (6-8 months)
- Send final draft to EPA for review





# BOIS D'ARC LAKE WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

**Questions?**



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