

BRIDGEPORT WATERSHED



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BRIDGEPORT WATERSHED OVERVIEW

Lake Bridgeport is the northernmost reservoir in the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) water supply system. The reservoir's watershed is located primarily in Jack, Wise, Archer, Young, and Clay counties. It is one of four TRWD reservoirs that supply municipal water to more than two million people and businesses in North Texas. Lake Bridgeport and its tributaries also provide recreational amenities and wildlife habitat.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WATERSHED

The quality of a water body is controlled largely by what happens in its watershed, or drainage area. Even activities that happen far upstream can affect the amount and quality of water in a creek or lake, as well as the plants, animals, and people who depend on it. Keeping our rivers and lakes clean is only possible when people who live and work in the watershed protect water quality on their own land. The 1,095 square mile Lake Bridgeport watershed is primarily rural and agricultural, but it is experiencing urban/suburban growth throughout the watershed.

WATERSHED PROTECTION

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has identified water quality impairments within Bridgeport Lake and some of its tributary creeks and rivers. These include excess algal growth and elevated levels of bacteria. Landowners and government jurisdictions can take steps to improve water quality in the watershed. They can implement agricultural practices that reduce the need for fertilizer and implement grazing practices that reduce erosion; replace or repair malfunctioning on-site sewage facilities, also known as OSSFs or septic systems; pick up pet waste; and manage stormwater runoff from development or construction sites.

Nutrient pollution can stimulate algal growth in a process known as eutrophication. Sources of nutrient pollution include agricultural runoff from fertilizer and manure, stormwater runoff from lawns, nutrients bound up in soil, and effluent from malfunctioning OSSFs. Excess algae can harm aquatic species and affect recreation and drinking water quality. Lake Bridgeport exceeds TCEQ thresholds for chlorophyll-a,

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WATERSHED PLANNING STEPS

1 PLANNING

- Build partnerships
- Characterize watershed
- Set goals and identify solutions

2 DOING

- Design implementation plan
- Implement plan

3 IMPROVING

- Measure progress and make adjustments
- Improve plan
- Revisit goals and refine solutions

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which represents algal growth. Other reservoirs in the TRWD system may have higher levels of chlorophyll-a but are not considered impaired. This is because TCEQ has not yet established a chlorophyll-a threshold for those reservoirs.

Several tributaries to Lake Bridgeport experience elevated bacteria levels. Bacteria sources include animals, such as livestock, pets, and wildlife; effluent from malfunctioning OSSFs; and discharge from wastewater treatment facilities.

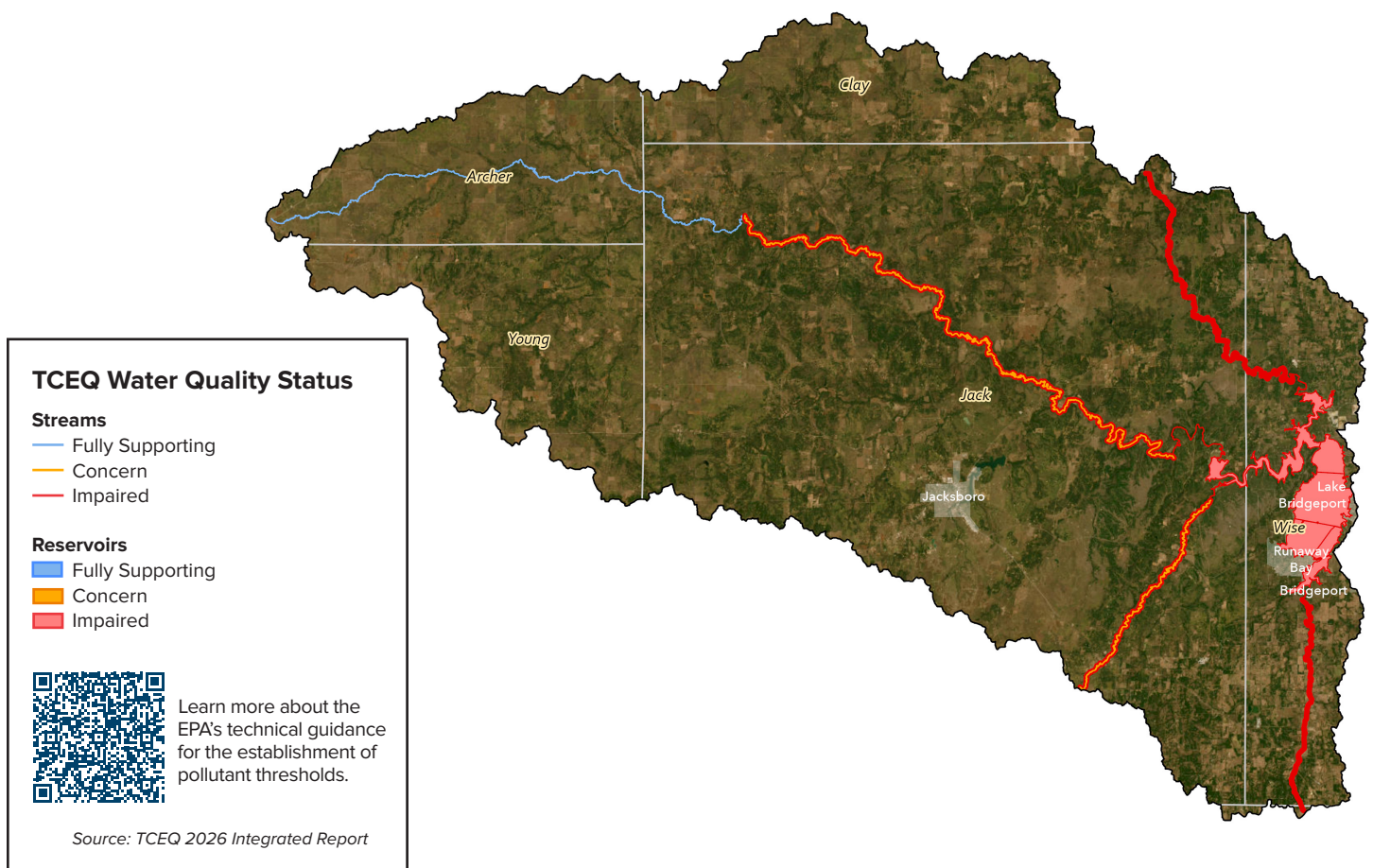
Bacterial pollution can affect the tributaries' safety for recreational uses.

Excessive sediment indicates poor upland ground cover and eroding streambanks. These can be caused by overgrazing and allowing livestock unmanaged access to creeks. Development and construction also contribute to excessive sediment, which can reduce the storage capacity of the reservoir.



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BRIDGEPORT WATERSHED



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