

EAGLE MOUNTAIN WATERSHED



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EAGLE MOUNTAIN WATERSHED OVERVIEW

Eagle Mountain Lake serves as a cornerstone to the north central Texas community as a source of water supply and recreation. The reservoir was permitted in 1928 for municipal, industrial, and irrigation use and was constructed in 1932. The Eagle Mountain Lake dam impounds flows from a 1,970 square mile watershed that extends across portions of Archer, Clay, Montague, Young, Jack, Wise, Parker and Tarrant counties. More than 1,000 square miles of this watershed are impounded by the Lake Bridgeport dam in western Wise County, which controls inflows to Eagle Mountain Lake from the western part of the watershed.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WATERSHED

The quality of a waterbody is controlled largely by what happens in its watershed, or drainage area. Maintaining high quality creeks, rivers and lakes means maintaining clean and healthy watersheds. 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.

The Eagle Mountain watershed is predominantly rural, with agricultural landuses of rangeland, pasture, and cropland comprising over 70% of the land area. Creeks and lakes in the watershed are challenged by the combined effects of years of agricultural practice and more recent urban land use changes in developed areas such as Azle, Springtown, Decatur, and Bridgeport. These land use modifications increase the amount of hard surfaces, runoff water, and erosion.

Population growth in urban areas has also increased the amount of wastewater processed by treatment plants and the amount of wastewater discharged to creeks and lakes in the watershed. According to the Texas Water Development Board, populations in the counties that contribute to the Eagle Mountain watershed are anticipated to grow significantly over the next 50 years, increasing stress on the watershed.

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 & make adjustments
- Improve plan
- Revisit goals & refine solutions

WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has identified several water quality issues in local creeks and lakes in Parker and Wise counties, and within Eagle Mountain Lake. These include elevated levels of nitrogen, bacteria, chlorophyll, and low oxygen. While the report does not identify specific causes, it may indicate stresses that threaten the quality of waterbodies within the Eagle Mountain watershed and also the lake.

The water quality issues identified by TCEQ reflect the size and complexity of the Eagle Mountain watershed and require a collaborative approach to resolve. Tarrant Regional Water District is leading the effort to address water quality issues in the Eagle Mountain watershed by facilitating the revision and implementation of a Watershed Protection Plan.

Public participation and stakeholder involvement is carried out through a series of public meetings. Input from stakeholders is critical to the development of a sustainable plan, as well as for continued implementation and re-evaluation in future years.



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EAGLE MOUNTAIN WATERSHED

TCEQ Water Quality Status

Streams

- Fully Supporting
- Concern
- Impaired

Reservoirs

- Fully Supporting
- Concern
- Impaired



Learn more about the EPA's technical guidance for the establishment of pollutant thresholds.

Source: TCEQ 2026 Integrated Report

