Triumphs and Trials in Texas
The Enduring Tale of Lake Wichita

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Tom Lang, District Fisheries Supervisor
Wichita Falls, Texas
Lake Wichita

- Built in 1901
- 3rd oldest reservoir in Texas
- “Gem of North Texas”
- 1,224 acres
Degraded Habitat

- Average depth ~4’
- Max depth ~8’
- Drought prone
- Watershed issues
- Lack of any habitat
- Golden Alga
The Situation

- Historic drought
- Lake was gone
- Revealed it’s issues
- “Man enough to be our biologist?”
117 years of siltation and lowering spillway have greatly diminished storage capacity and habitat

- Remove 6-9 million cu yds of sediment (double storage)
- Increase ave depth to 8’ and max depth to 15’
Shoreline Amenities

- LW Park Beach Area
- Paddling Trail ADA Launch
- Pavilion Boardwalk
- E. Shoreline Trail & Jetties (3)
- Circle Trail Bridge
- Fairway Boat Ramp
- Lake Wichita Park
- New (3) Floating Fishing Piers
- Veterans Memorial Plaza & Kemp Boat Ramp
- Barnett Rd. Small Craft Launch
- Shoreline Circle Trail Section
- Lakeside City Boat Ramp
What It Takes

• “Everything comes down to money and love”
  - Hank Williams Jr.

• Excavation of LW = $40M
• LW Amenities = $15M
• USACE 404 Permit
• Innovative policy change
Innovation and State Policy Change

• Significant factors influencing innovation in state policy
  ✓ Healthy economy
  ✓ Electoral competition
  ✓ Public support and activism

• Impacted by neighboring policy maker activities
  • Every win, every one of us makes helps future projects
Public Engagement

• More than 100 presentations to more than 4,000

• 37 Events reaching ~65,000 people
Hope rises for Lake Wichita plans

Permit filing to lead agenda for City Council

By Claire Kowalick
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earns Wichita Falls City Council meeting.

A resolution is on the agenda to award a professional services agreement to Carollo Engineers Inc. for preparation of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act 404 permit. Obtaining the permit is the first step in a lengthy process to revamp the lake into a recreation destination.

The services agreement cost is $304,800. About half of the funding comes from grants and donations solicited by the Lake Wichita Revitalization Committee and half from the city's Type B Sales Tax Corp. The permit will allow the city to begin excavation and shoreline amenities to the lake.

The Corps of Engineers may have further requirements after inspection of the application. Review of the application and approval is expected to take about six months. The first task for Carollo, the city and Lake Wichita Revitalization Committee members will be developing amenity footprint. This includes mapping out how the new features will be integrated.

Last week's Wichita Falls City Council meeting was a banner day for Lake Wichita.

Council members voted to extend the original Lake Wichita Study Committee’s tenure for an additional 18 months. With that allowance also comes a change in committee name — from “study” to “revitalization.”

While that name change

Just like the visionaries who carved her original beauty into the chasm between southern Wichita Falls and Lakeside City, 21st century citizens are looking past the drought. They can see beyond current less-than-optimal conditions.
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017
DINNER 7:00PM
MPEC RAY CLYMER EXHIBIT HALL

Purchase Tickets
Online: supportlakewichita.com
Phone: (940)692-7999
After 5:00pm or Weekends Please call: (940) 720-2608
Email: kathryne@teamhoegger.com
Walk-ins welcome, or mail check to:
Lake Wichita Friends of Reservoirs
901 Indiana Ave Ste 100, Wichita Falls Tx 76301

*A portion of each ticket/table price is tax-deductible and receipts will be mailed following the event.
All tickets include dinner, complimentary beer and wine, and special memorial gift.
March 2017
USACE 404 Permit APPROVED!

• August 2017
Lake Wichita Labor Day Party in the Park

Join us next to Murphy’s Mound in Lake Wichita Park

September 4th | 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Listen to music and enjoy Texas Flood and great food!
Broadened Community Appeal
Broadened Community Appeal
Major Donors Starting to Sign On
• Grants, private donations, in-kind services, and pledges not total more than $4.35 million
May 2018 WF Bond Elections

- 7 Props for a total of more than $131M
- Prop B for Lake Wichita Shoreline Improvements
- $3.915 million for Boardwalk, Veteran’s Memorial Plaza and completing the Circle Trail

VOTE YES

Early Voting:
Monday, April 23, 2018 – Friday, April 27, 2018
Monday, April 30, 2018 – Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Election Day:
Saturday, May 5, 2018
Too Much and Too Little

$131M sticker shock drove tremendous negative sentiment

One Bond Passed

Lake Wichita Bond was second with 5,000 yes votes

LW Bond was only for amenities not for fixing the lake through excavation
Moving Forward After Bond Failure

Most Raised

1. LAKE WICHITA REVITALIZATION PROJECT $202,545.00
2. Olney Christian Community Center $157,549.00
3. Wichita Christian School $104,075.00

BUT DID YOU DIE?
Moving Forward

• Additional donated studies
Moving Forward

• Funded monuments
  • Gold Star Families Memorial
  • Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Moving Forward

- Fish cleaning station
Moving Forward

- Contracted and funded $398,000 construction design of Boardwalk, Veterans’ Memorial Plaza, and Boat Ramp
Increasing Capacity: Sub-Committees

- Volunteer Army
- Fundraising
- Ecosystem
- Lake Amenities
- Outreach
- Education
- History
Increasing Capacity: Exec. Director
Texas Senate Republican nominee Pat Fallon: Nov. election a 'foregone conclusion'

State Rep. Pat Fallon said he will support a project to dredge Lake Wichita during a recent visit to Wichita Falls.

The Republican nominee for Texas Senate District 30 has toured the reservoir, connecting with local supporters of revitalization efforts for the lake.

“You have this diamond in the rough in Lake Wichita,” Fallon said during a town hall meeting.
“We must dare to be great; and we must realize that greatness is the fruit of toil and sacrifice and high courage.”