



WE'VE BEEN BUSY AS BEAVERS

Building and Maintaining Dams for over 60 Years

The Upper Brushy Creek WCID (District) operates and maintains more than twenty earthen dams across southern Williamson County, from Leander to Hutto, serving a population of over 400,000.

The area has rapidly urbanized over the years prompting the District to take a more holistic approach to Regional Flood Risk Mitigation than just construction and maintenance of dams. We increased our collaboration with watershed partners to further modeling, planning, and partner projects and are increasing our risk communication with the community to increase risk avoidance.



The construction, operation, and maintenance of dams helps protect life and property.



Fostering collaboration with partners creates better planning, modeling, and helps identify projects that may only be feasible through a partnership.



Risk communication with the community addresses flooding risks that are not able to be mitigated or minimized through constructed solutions.

DISTRICT FOCUSES ON REGIONAL FLOODING ISSUES

Is It Regional? Front Door vs. Back Door Flooding

Water that floods your home or business can come from multiple sources— from broken pipes to hurricane influenced multi-day storms. Many levels of local, state, and federal government work to estimate and mitigate flooding risks. Their role is often determined by the source of the flooding.

Flooding that comes through the “front door” is most often a localized issue due to overwhelmed drainage ditches or stormdrains. Neighborhood drainage and street corridors are typically the responsibility of the county or city.

Flooding that occurs through the “back door” from a named creek or tributary is usually a watershed wide or regional issue. Those larger scale flooding challenges often require additional assistance from Federal (e.g. FEMA), State, and unique local government entities like the District.

The purpose of the District's 20+ dams is reduce regional flooding throughout Upper Brushy Creek Watershed.



The District's focus is Regional Flood Risk Mitigation across the Upper Brushy Creek watershed. We reduce flooding impacts through our existing dams, partner projects and risk communication.

DISTRICT FOSTERS WATERSHED APPROACH TO FLOOD RISK

Flood risk for your property is based on several factors including land-use, unobstructed stream width, etc. FEMA coordinates with city and county Floodplain Administrators to model floodplains and map areas at greatest risk of regional flooding. Unfortunately, FEMA does not have the resources to keep the models up to date—especially in rapid growth areas like our watershed.

In 2010, following one of most significant flooding events in our area, the District led an effort in collaboration with local, state and federal entities to comprehensively update our watershed models for the first time in 30 years; FEMA later leveraged these models to update the area's risk maps.

If part of your property is in the floodplain that indicates increased risk. Visit floodsmart.gov for more information on your mapped flood risk, the cost of flooding, flood insurance, etc. Contact your Floodplain Administrator with any questions. Construction projects cannot mitigate flooding for all known high-risk areas. Limited land availability, competing needs, environmental regulations, funding, etc. all must come together to make a project practicable. Often risk avoidance through methods like land-use restrictions may be the only way to mitigate risk.



VOTER-APPROVED BONDS ACCELERATE FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS

In November of 2020, voters approved an 85-million-dollar bond package to fund flood mitigation and rehabilitation projects. Prior to the approval, the District's Board of Directors issued a contract with the voters committing that the debt payment would not be projected to require an increase to the existing 2-cent tax rate.

The District has several active projects in different phases (analysis, design, or construction) that are already moving forward. The District will issue debt as needed to progress the projects to their next phase and take on additional projects. This will allow us to complete projects sooner and at less cost than waiting to accumulate cash funding. The map below illustrates the status of current projects.



CURRENT PROJECT STATUS MAP