LOWER BRAZOS FLOOD PLANNING REGION

The Brazos River within the Lower Brazos River Basin (Flood Planning Region #8) flows through Waco and past Bryan/College Station in Central Texas as it makes its way to the coast, entering the Gulf of Mexico near Lake Jackson. This basin is unique in that there is a large diversity of ecoregions that the Brazos passes through, such as the Coastal Plains, Coastal Lowlands, Blackland Prairie, Post Oak Savannah, and the Rolling Plains. Large tributaries within the region include the Bosque, Little, Leon, Lampasas, Navasota, and San Gabriel Rivers. There are 9 flood control reservoirs that are operated by the USACE: Whitney, Waco, Aquilla, Belton, Proctor, Stillhouse Hollow, Georgetown, Granger, and Somerville. There are 3 water supply reservoirs operated by the Brazos River Authority: Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone.

Major population centers include the Cities of Georgetown, Killeen, Temple, Sugar Land, Round Rock, College Station, and Waco with a population of approximately 700,000. A total of 43 counties or portions of counties are included within the Lower Brazos Basin. The Region has multiple levee improvement districts and municipal utility districts. A projected 66% increase in population for the basin is expected by 2050. Therefore, the probability is high that populated areas will expand, and rural land will be developed. This exposes large development and population during major flood events.

The middle portion of the Lower Brazos Region lies within the "Flash Flood Alley" of Texas and experiences several storm events annually. The Region is directly exposed to hurricane events in the south and tropical storms, depression, or related events (hail, high winds, etc.) in the north. Intense, localized thunderstorms and frontal-type storms in spring and summer cause most of the flooding in this region.

The Regional Flood Plan for the Lower Brazos Basin is the first of an overall plan to achieve mitigation actions for reducing flood risks. The Regional Flood Planning Group will work closely with communities and regional stakeholders to better understand local flood risk, mitigation efforts, and other topics for region-wide discussions about increasing resilience to flooding.

43
Counties, or a portion of each, are included in this basin

~15%
of the basin is within the 1% annual chance flood event

23,000
Sq. miles
Total Basin Area

FLOOD-RELATED PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATIONS (1953 – MAR 2020)

49
Major Disaster Declarations

5
Emergency Declarations

25% of Disaster Declarations and 40% of Emergency Declarations have occurred within the region since 2008

FLOOD EVENTS (1996-2019)

Over 150+ major flood events have occurred in the last 20 years with significant losses to life and property.

FEMA FLOOD CLAIMS (1984 – JAN 2021)

402
Flood Claims

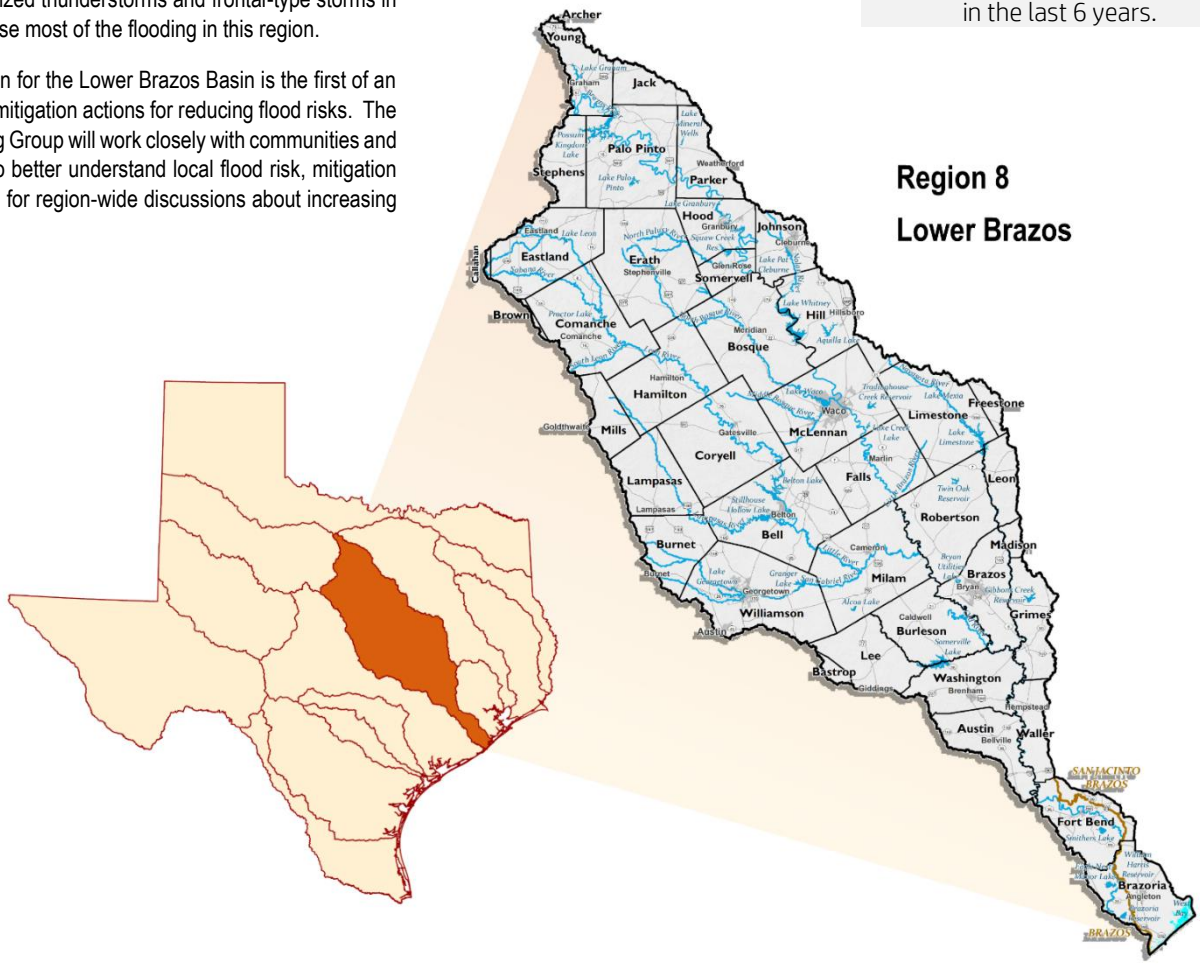
$958.6 M
Flood Claims Paid

ANTICIPATED POPULATION GROWTH

66%
forecasted increase in population between 2020 and 2050

AGRICULTURAL FLOOD LOSSES

Significant historical flood losses in the last 6 years.



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Natural Resources Information System.