

# San Jacinto River Authority Kids Page



## What is a Reservoir?

Families who move to the Conroe area are delighted to discover how beautiful Lake Conroe is and what a wonderful source of recreation it provides for our community. What many newcomers do not know, however, is that this man-made body of water is a “**water supply reservoir**” constructed on the West Fork of the San Jacinto River!

There is more than one kind of reservoir. **Water supply reservoirs** are created to maintain water levels as high as possible to make sure there is water during drought conditions. **Flood control** or **detention reservoirs** are used to hold water temporarily -- during heavy rains, for example -- to reduce the threat of downstream flooding. Lake Conroe will play an increasingly important role in the years ahead as Montgomery County makes the transition from groundwater to surface water in order to allow the critical aquifers to recharge.



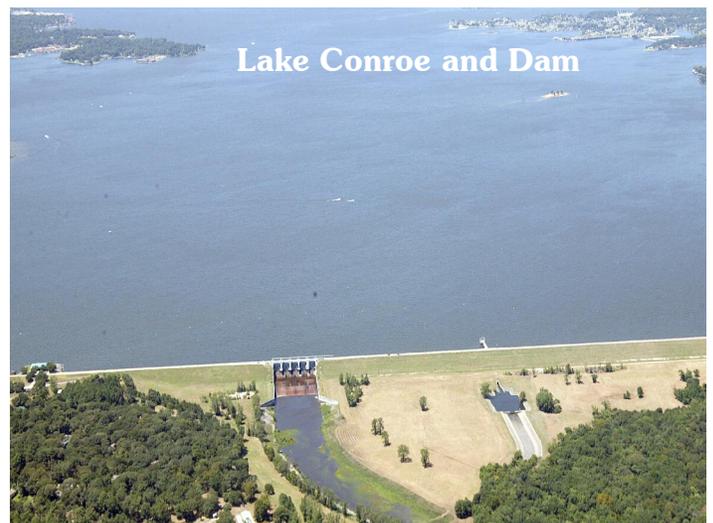
### Constructing Lake Conroe...

After years of planning, construction of Lake Conroe began in January 1970. It was completed just three years later, and was filled with water by October 1973. This was a joint project by the San Jacinto River Authority, the City of Houston, and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) at a cost of \$30 million.

If we were to “measure” the lake, we would learn that it has a surface area of 20,000 acres. It is 26 miles long and 6 miles wide at the widest point.

The contents of the lake are measured in *acre feet*. An acre foot of water is the amount it would take to cover one acre of land with water one foot deep. Lake Conroe has a capacity of **411,000 acre feet** -- that equates to an amazing 115.1 billion gallons of water!

Another amazing fact is that during the summer months, 115,000,000 gallons a day evaporate from the lake into the atmosphere. During the winter, that number falls to about 30 million gallons. This translates to a loss of about 48 inches a year at an average daily rate of 71 million gallons per day. The average depth of the lake is about 20.5 feet, with the deepest spot being 70 ft. in the river channel.



Currently, construction of the surface water treatment plant and the associated storage and pumping facilities has begun, as well as construction of the water transmission pipelines. These projects are expected to be complete in the spring of 2015.

### Lake Conroe Today...

This amazing water reservoir has 157 miles of shoreline and is bordered on the north by the Sam Houston National Forest. In addition to the abundant wildlife found in the forest, Lake Conroe has some of the best fishing in the area with species



such as blue, channel and flathead catfish; striped, white and largemouth bass; crappie and smallmouth buffalo. Lake Conroe is managed by the San Jacinto River Authority. 💧