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# State Flood Plan

Texas has a long history of flooding and flood-related loss across the state, which has taken an enormous toll on people and property. In 2019, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 8, which created Texas' first statewide regional flood planning group program based on the State's 15 river basins.

The 2024 State Flood Plan brings together the findings of the 15 regional flood plans and makes legislative and floodplain management recommendations to guide state, regional, and local flood control policy. This first cycle of the statewide flood planning process is Texas' first attempt to perform comprehensive planning to reduce flood risk and take a broad look at flood hazard across the state.

## Insights from the State Flood Plan

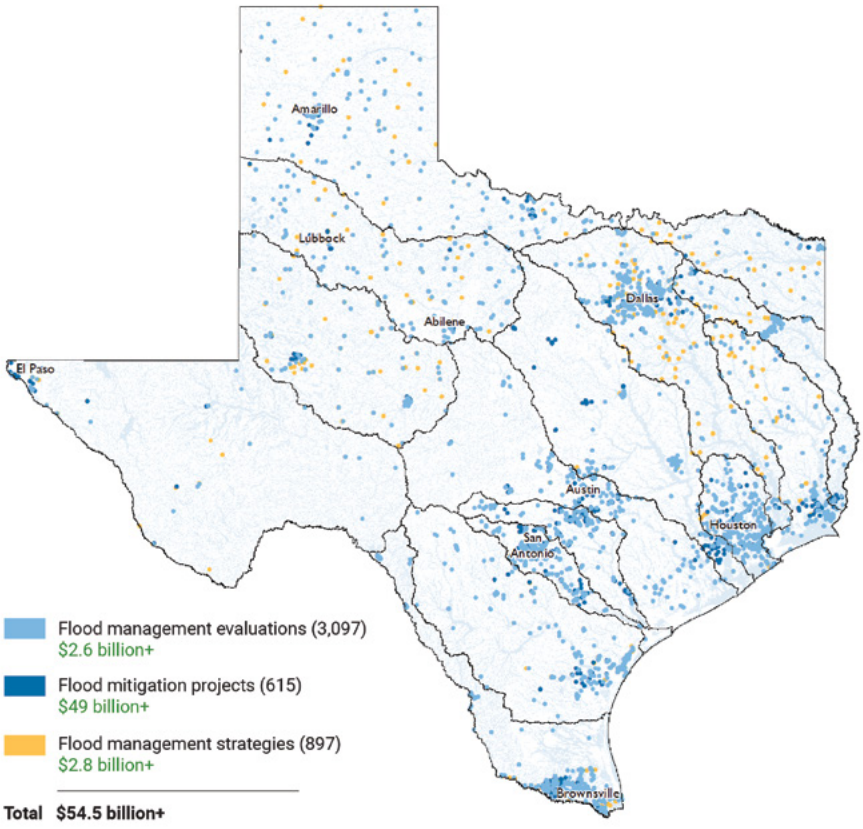
In Texas, the recurrent and devasting impacts of floods have underscored the necessity of comprehensive flood planning. Thus, the State embarked on a coordinated, innovative approach—that transcends local jurisdictions—to anticipate and reduce existing and future flood risks.

In 2023, each of the 15 Regional Flood Planning Groups completed a comprehensive assessment of flood risk in their regions via flood risk analyses of existing conditions, as well as a future conditions scenario that considered potential changes in flood hazards over a 30-year planning horizon.

The 2024 State Flood Plan confirms that the flood risk across Texas is significant and widespread. Almost one-fourth of Texas' land area (66,831 square miles) is in either the 1 percent (100-year) or 0.2 percent (500-year) annual chance flood hazard areas, with approximately 21 percent of the land area (56,053 square miles) within the 1 percent annual chance flood hazard areas.

Planning for future flood hazards by analyzing flood risk is a highly cost-effective way to identify solutions that will reduce current flood risk and avoid increasing future flood risk.

While it is essential to understand existing flood risk and work to reduce the risk and impact of flooding for those who are currently in harm's way, it is equally important to prevent an increase in flood risk in the future. Floodplain management plays a key role in this.




**Existing flood risk**

(in 1 percent [100-year] and 0.2 percent [500-year] annual chance flood hazard areas)

**5,219,900** Population

**1,664,200** Buildings

**12,654,000** Agricultural area (acres)

**63,900** Roadway miles

**1,295,700** Residential buildings

**6,258** Hospitals, emergency medical services, fire stations, police stations, and schools

## What are we doing to make Texas more flood resilient?

The Regional Flood Planning Groups recommended a wide range of potential flood risk reduction solutions organized into three categories: flood management evaluations, flood mitigation projects, and flood management strategies. These flood risk reduction solutions include studies to assess flood risk, structural or non-structural flood projects, regulatory enhancements, public outreach, and more.

The 2024 State Flood Plan recommends a total of 3,097 flood management evaluations, 615 flood mitigation projects, and 897 flood management strategies. The estimated total cost to implement all 4,609 recommended flood risk reduction solutions exceeds $54.5 billion, without accounting for future inflation.

Planning groups anticipated requiring financial assistance with up to 80 to 90 percent of the project implementation costs. If all recommended flood risk reduction solutions were implemented, an estimated 202,832 people, 58,387 buildings, and 378 low water crossings would be removed from the 1 percent (100-year) annual chance floodplain.

## What if we do nothing?

Inaction in the face of existing and growing flood hazards will continue to leave life and property vulnerable to floods in Texas. The Regional Flood Planning Groups projected flood hazards across the state will increase over the 30-year (long-term) planning horizon, due to changes in precipitation regimes and expanding or shifting land use as Texas' population grows. Further estimates indicate an additional 2.6 million people may be exposed to 1 percent annual chance flood events—an increase of 110 percent. Critical facilities in that floodplain would increase by an estimated 137 percent.

## An interactive plan

Findings from the 2024 State Flood Plan are presented in a digital and printed publication as well as an Interactive State Flood Plan Viewer (texasstatefloodplan.org). The viewer displays and summarizes—at varying geographic scales—all data generated by the TWDB state flood planning process, including, but not limited to, existing infrastructure, flood hazard areas and exposure, critical and other infrastructure at risk, and recommended flood risk reduction solutions. For more information on the 2024 State Flood Plan, please visit www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/sfp/index.asp.