

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why did the Lake Dunlap dam fail and why does it matter to Lake McQueeney?

The Lake Dunlap and Lake McQueeney dams were built between 1927 and 1928 and are mostly comprised of their original components. The failure of the Dunlap dam was in the steel truss-like “gate” on top of the dam that is lowered during a rain event to provide flood management. At the time of this writing, it is believed the lower hinges on the upriver gate failed at the Lake Dunlap dam. Due to the similarity in design, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) feels the gates on the Lake McQueeney dam should be replaced.

2. Why is the water level on Lake McQueeney lower than it usually is?

Prior to the collapse of the Lake Dunlap gate, Lake McQueeney was lowered approximately 18” for repairs to its gates. During this time, the Lake Dunlap gate failed, raising concern for the McQueeney dam gate’s viability. GBRA decided to abandon the repairs on the McQueeney dam due to safety concerns and lower the lake another 6” to minimize water pressure. It is unlikely the lake will be raised back to its normal level until replacement gates are built.

3. Why do we need moveable gates? Can’t we just build a fixed concrete dam?

A fixed concrete dam without moveable gates would cause water to back up and create a larger flood area than exists today. This would change the local FEMA flood maps and create a bigger flood-zone area.

4. Doesn’t our dam provide flood control? Can’t we get FEMA money?

Because we do not have the capacity to “store” water like Canyon Lake, McQueeney is considered a recreational lake only and not a “flood control” lake. Therefore, we do not qualify for FEMA grants or other federal assistance.

5. When will a new dam be built?

That’s a good question. FOLM established the Lake McQueeney Preservation Committee to work with GBRA on construction of new gates for the dam. At the time of this writing, the LMPC is meeting several times per week with various engineers, representatives from GBRA, other water authorities with similar dams and with the FOLM board of directors to get new gates built as quickly as possible.

6. Who serves on the Lake McQueeney Preservation Committee?

Jack Browder
David Doughtie
John Ewald
Lindsey Gillum
Mark Long
Todd Mueller
Paul Mueller
Bob Spalten
Bob Worth

7. I heard GBRA doesn’t want the dams anymore. Who is going to pay for a new dam?

Due to changes and advances in the electric utility industry, the hydro-electric portion of our dam doesn’t produce the revenue it once did. Because of this, the economic benefit GBRA receives from the dam has been minimized. However, there are several revenue options being explored by FOLM, the LMPC and the other lake associations that will help solve the funding issue. Stay tuned...

8. What about the class action lawsuit filed by a resident on Lake McQueeney? Is FOLM participating in that?

After a meeting with Doug Sutter and further evaluation of his proposed lawsuit, we feel his interests are aligned with those of FOLM's. We find nothing in his lawsuit preventing us from accomplishing our goals. It is the decision of the individual property owner whether to join in the lawsuit.

9. I want to help, what can I do?

The best way to help us is to join FOLM and make a donation. The money collected will be used to work toward a long-term solution to our dam crisis and secure the future of our lake. FOLM is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and represents all McQueeney lakefront property owners. We also ask you to encourage your neighbors to join FOLM and spread the word.

Please check this website and our Facebook feed for more information on Lake McQueeney news.