

## Property Owner Notes Road Closures on Old Alton Road

Denton County has access gates installed on all roads leading into the Hickory Creek bottoms. These gates restrict vehicle access when road surfaces in the bottoms have been overrun by Lake Lewisville or Hickory Creek flooding. When the Hickory Creek bottoms have flooded, the water has never come closer than 1/2 mile east of the railroad trestle, on Old Alton Road. **Lewisville Lake & Hickory Creek flooding present NO DANGER to the 18 acre property.**

The house foundation is built above the 500 year FEMA flood zone elevation. Click on this link for the [FEMA Elevation Certificate and FEMA Letter of Map Amendment \(LOMA\)](#) providing evidence that the house structure has been removed from FEMA's base flood zone. **Flood Insurance is NOT required by the Mortgage Lenders with the LOMA.** The house foundation elevation is 548.7 ft. above sea level. This elevation is more than 11 ft. higher than lake levels have ever reached (537.0) in the 65 year history of Lake Lewisville.

Temporary road closures unrelated to lake flooding can sporadically occur when Loving Creek exceeds the flow capacity of the culvert crossing under the trestle. The culvert restriction can temporarily create runoff retention ponding on the south side of Old Alton Road when the runoff is forced to overrun the road surface. This will occur during a heavy rain event when debris blocks the culverts. The shallow retention ponding is temporarily retained in the lower parts of the pasture as the restricted runoff recedes.

A Halff Associates hydraulic engineer provided calculations for the culvert crossing which highlight the flow restriction issue. Comparing flow capacity of the culvert crossing to an open channel indicates the crossing design creates an **85% blockage of water flow** during full channel flow. FEMA published a detailed study in 2011 that provides CSF flow volumes along the entire length of the Loving Creek watershed. The FEMA Study projects peak water volumes for potential 10, 50, 100 and 500 year flooding events. By comparing the FEMA data to the crossing hydraulic calculations, the results indicate a span bridge would eliminate the current crossing restriction issues. **The crossing restriction issue presents NO DANGER to the residence.** As well, the Red Barn has never experienced or is susceptible to the retention ponding.

Over the 34 years of property ownership, road closures due to culvert restriction typically occur once maybe twice a year, with many years experiencing no restriction closures at all. Loving Creek has a northerly flow, eventually merging into Hickory Creek. This seasonal creek originates near the intersection of FM407/Jeter Road in Bartonville. The entire Loving Creek watershed encompasses only 7 square miles, primarily within the Lantana housing development which has many retention ponds.

The property owner continually lobbies the County Commissioner and Road & Bridges to upgrade the crossing to a span bridge.

The neighbors and property owner met with Road & Bridges, a County Engineer and the Commissioner about a crossing upgrade. With Old Alton Road traffic volumes on the rise and the relocation of the Selwyn School (less than one mile away), the group is hopeful an upgrade will be planned in the near future.