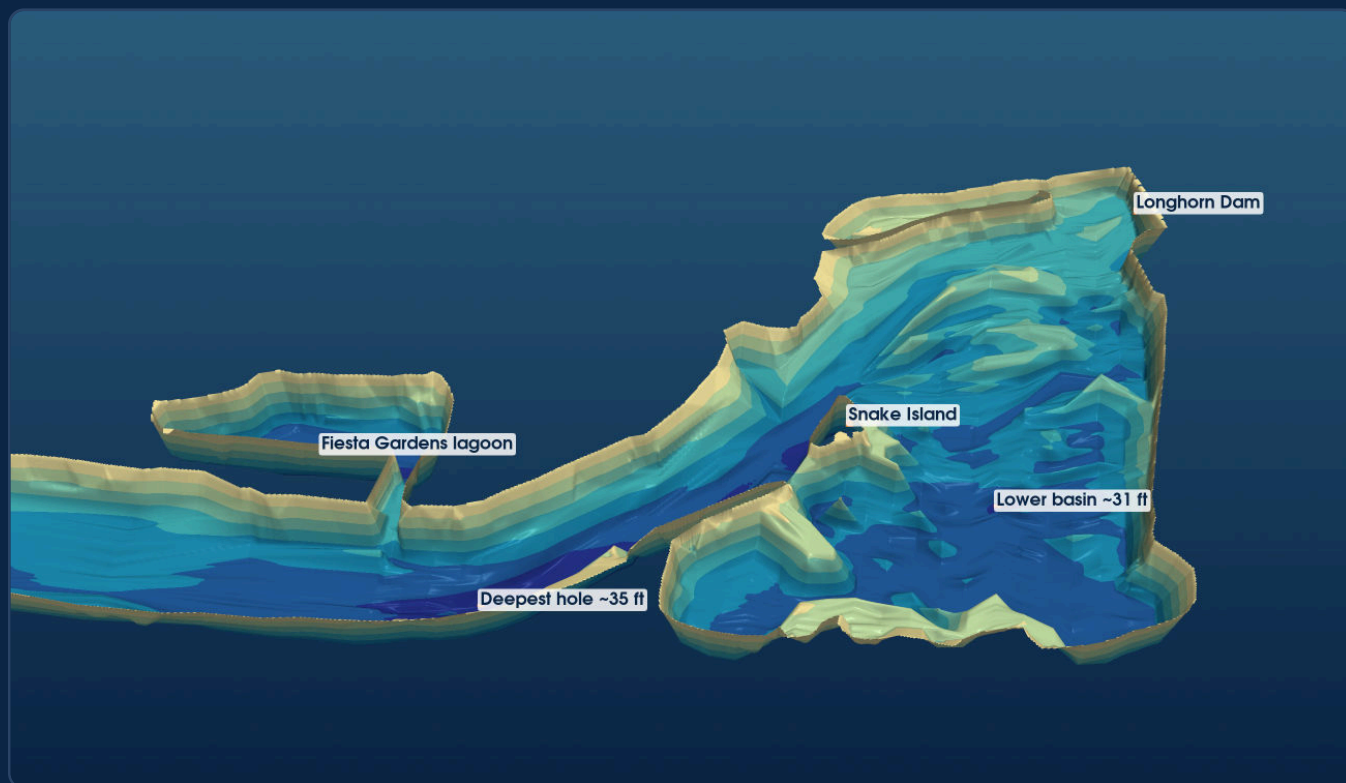


LANDING GIANTS · 8 LB AND UP · 2026 EDITION · v3 WHOLE LAKE

Lady Bird Lake Big Bass Guide

Tom Miller Dam to Longhorn Dam: 6.0 river miles in twelve reaches, every spot ranked for giant potential, mapped from the Texas Water Development Board's 2008 sonar survey.



3-D view of the Holly bend and the lower basin, the deepest water in the lake (about 35 ft), from TWDB 2008 survey points, depth exaggerated.

12

reaches · 6.0 mi

51

spots ranked for giants

14.05 lb

lake record (2025)

69

Lady Bird ShareLunkers

Inside: lake record & every Lady Bird ShareLunker · giant-potential score for 51 spots · ranked giant-spots map · winter, spawn, summer & fall maps · fold-out whole-lake map · glides, swimbaits, jigs, big worms, live bait, night fishing & the moon · landing giants near pilings · fish care & ShareLunker entry · 51 spot micro-maps with GPS · bridges · sun, shade & wind for 12 reaches · ranked GPX/KML/CSV waypoints · every fact sourced.

Prepared for Mike Damron, Austin, TX · October 12, 2026. Depth data: TWDB 2008 (not a navigation chart).

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How this guide works. This third edition covers the **whole lake**, from Tom Miller Dam to Longhorn Dam, and it is built around one goal: **putting a bass of 8 lb or more in the boat**. Every fact has a source link beside it. Anything that is my own measurement or reasoning is tagged **ANALYSIS**, an educated guess is tagged **INFERENCE**, and anything I could not confirm is tagged **UNVERIFIED**. Depths come only from the Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) December 2008 sonar survey. Times are Central (CT). Compiled October 12, 2026 for Mike Damron, Austin, TX.

Words used.

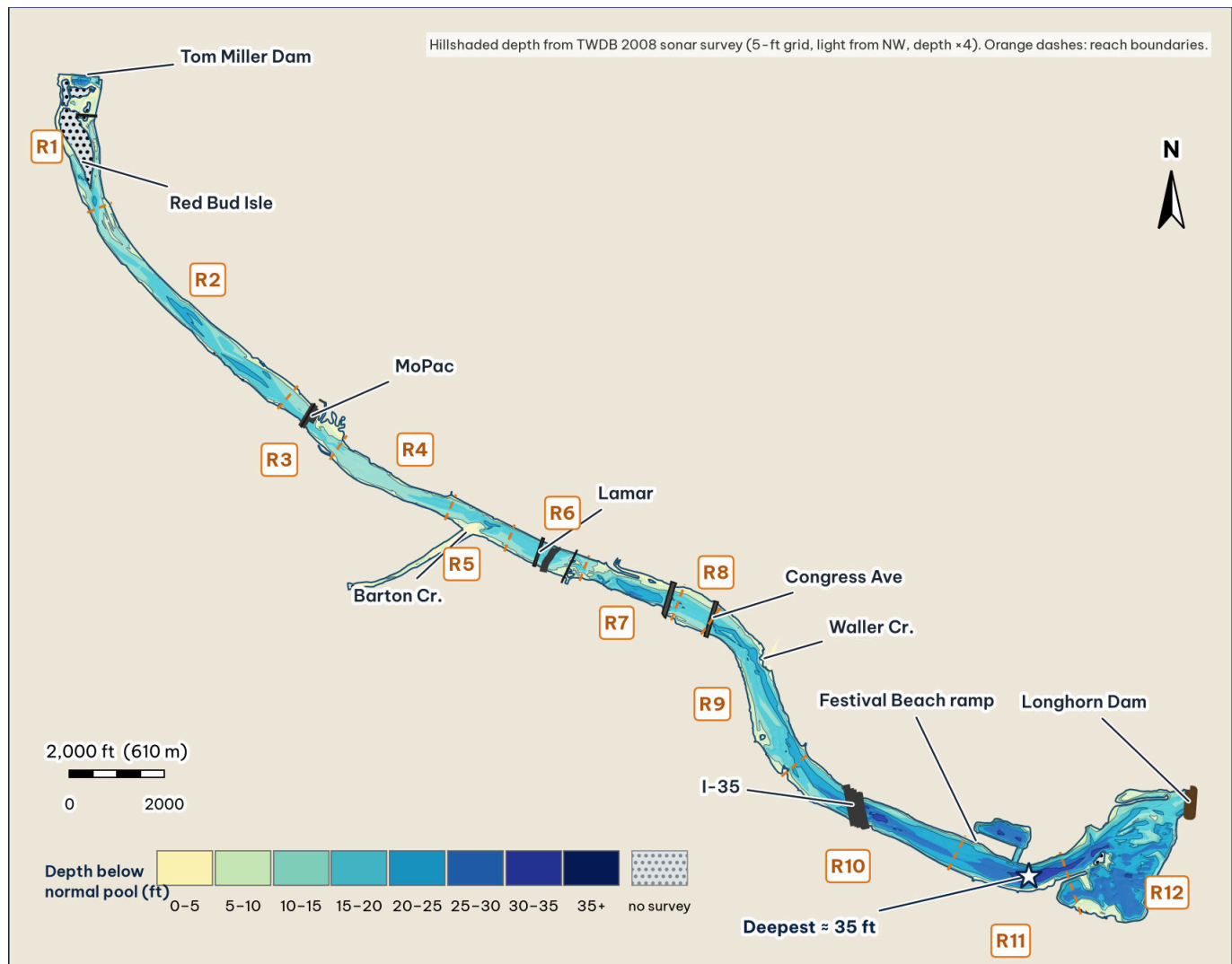
- *Giant*: a largemouth bass of 8 lb or more, the entry line for a ShareLunker Lunker Class fish (TPWD).
- *Tailrace*: the water just below a dam. *Release*: water LCRA lets through Tom Miller Dam.
- *Break*: where the bottom drops quickly from shallow to deep. *Deep-water access*: how far a spot is from 20- and 25-ft water.
- *Glide*: a jointed, slow-sinking swimbait that swims side to side when reeled slowly (see the lures chapter).
- *Left / right bank*: the banks as seen **looking downstream** (toward Longhorn Dam).

What changed from v2. The guide now runs the full **6.0 river miles** in **12 reaches** **ANALYSIS**, with **51 mapped spots** (20 new ones east of Congress). Every spot has a **giant-potential score** and rank. New chapters cover big-bass biology and records, the ShareLunker archive for Lady Bird, seasonal giant maps, lures and techniques for big fish, landing a giant near pilings, and fish care. The bladed-jig focus of v1 and v2 is gone; those guides remain available as separate files.

The Whole Lake

WHAT KIND OF WATER THIS IS

Lady Bird Lake is the Colorado River held at one level between two dams. TWDB calls it a "constant level riverine lake," run as a "pass through" reservoir (TWDB 1999). The level is "Stable," per TPWD. When Tom Miller Dam releases water, the lake doesn't rise; the water just starts to **move**. The lake covers about 470 acres (TWDB 2008) and runs **6.0 river miles** along the centerline from Tom Miller Dam to Longhorn Dam [ANALYSIS](#).



The whole lake, hillshaded from my 5-ft grid of TWDB's 2008 survey points [ANALYSIS](#). Reach numbers and boundaries are shown; the lower lake (Reaches 9–12) is wider and deeper than the upper river. A full-page fold-out version follows this chapter.

FIVE THINGS THAT MATTER FOR BIG BASS

1. **The deepest water is in the lower lake, not at the dam.** The deepest cell on the whole lake is **about 35 ft at the Holly bend** (Reach 11), and the lower basin above Longhorn Dam reaches about 31 ft [ANALYSIS](#). The upper lake's deepest spot is the 30-ft tailrace scour below Tom Miller. TPWD's lake page lists an 18-ft maximum depth (TPWD); TWDB's 2008 soundings show much deeper water [ANALYSIS](#).
2. **The face of Longhorn Dam is not the deep spot.** The water against the dam is only about 15–21 ft deep in the grid [ANALYSIS](#). The deep water sits a half-mile upstream.

3. **Giants come from the clear upper lake too.** The lake record (14.05 lb) was a bedding fish sight-fished on the Barton Creek shoreline in February ([Outdoor Life](#)).
4. **There is very little grass.** TPWD's 2019 survey found native plants on about 0.8% of the lake, mostly water willow and bulrush ([TPWD 2019](#)). Cover means wood, rock, docks, bridge piers and depth changes.
5. **Sunfish are the main menu.** Redbreast sunfish dominated TPWD's 2019 forage sample (217 an hour), ahead of gizzard shad (50 an hour) (same source). Big baits in sunfish colors make sense [ANALYSIS](#).

THE TWELVE REACHES

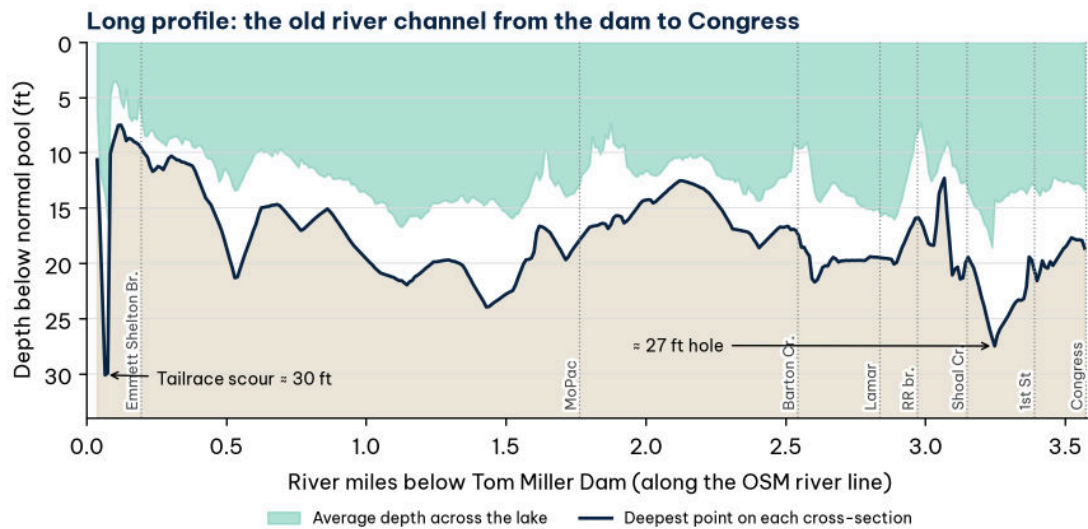
Reach	River miles	Deepest ANALYSIS	Typical width ANALYSIS	Character
R1 Dam–Red Bud	0.0–0.6	30 ft	180 ft per channel	Tailrace scour, two channels around Red Bud Isle
R2 Red Bud–MoPac	0.6–1.6	24 ft	445 ft	Narrow, steep, cypress banks
R3 MoPac	1.6–1.9	20 ft	470 ft	Bridge pilings, north flat
R4 Austin High–Zilker	1.9–2.4	18 ft	380 ft	Shallow, uniform
R5 Barton mouth	2.4–2.7	22 ft	470 ft	Spring-fed creek and flat
R6 Lamar–RR bridge	2.7–3.0	20 ft	515 ft	Three bridges
R7 Shoal–1st St	3.0–3.4	27 ft	430 ft	27-ft hole, steep south wall
R8 1st St–Congress	3.4–3.6	21 ft	720 ft	Downtown piers
R9 Congress–Blunn	3.6–4.3	24 ft	615 ft	Waller and Blunn creeks
R10 Blunn–Festival Beach	4.3–5.0	33 ft	585 ft	I-35 piers, Harpers Branch hole
R11 Festival–Holly	5.0–5.5	35 ft	620 ft	Lagoon, deepest water on the lake
R12 Lower basin	5.5–6.0	31 ft	1,280 ft	Snake Island, Longhorn Dam

Widths are medians of cross-sections every 50 ft; deepest is the deepest grid cell in each reach [ANALYSIS](#).

ABOUT THE DEPTH DATA

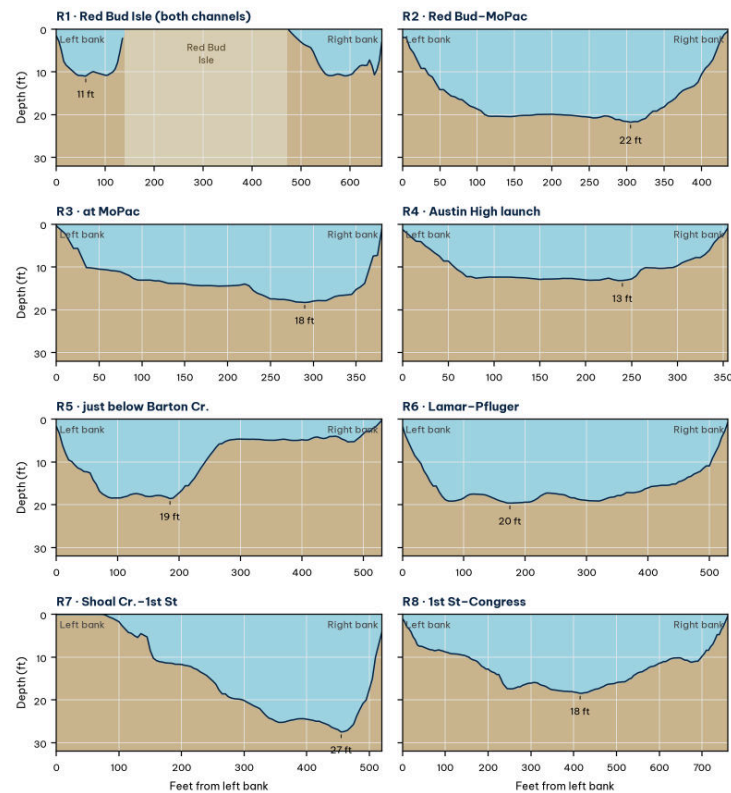
TWDB publishes its 2008 survey as 24,647 measured soundings plus interpolated points ([TWDB 2008 shapefiles](#)). Every map, profile and 3-D view here comes from a 5-ft grid I built by straight-line triangulation between those points [ANALYSIS](#). TWDB warns its maps are "not intended for use as recreational boating maps, fishing maps." Depth is measured from a 429-ft pool; the bottom may have changed since 2008 ([TWDB 2008](#)).

THE UPPER RIVER IN PROFILE (REACHES 1-8)

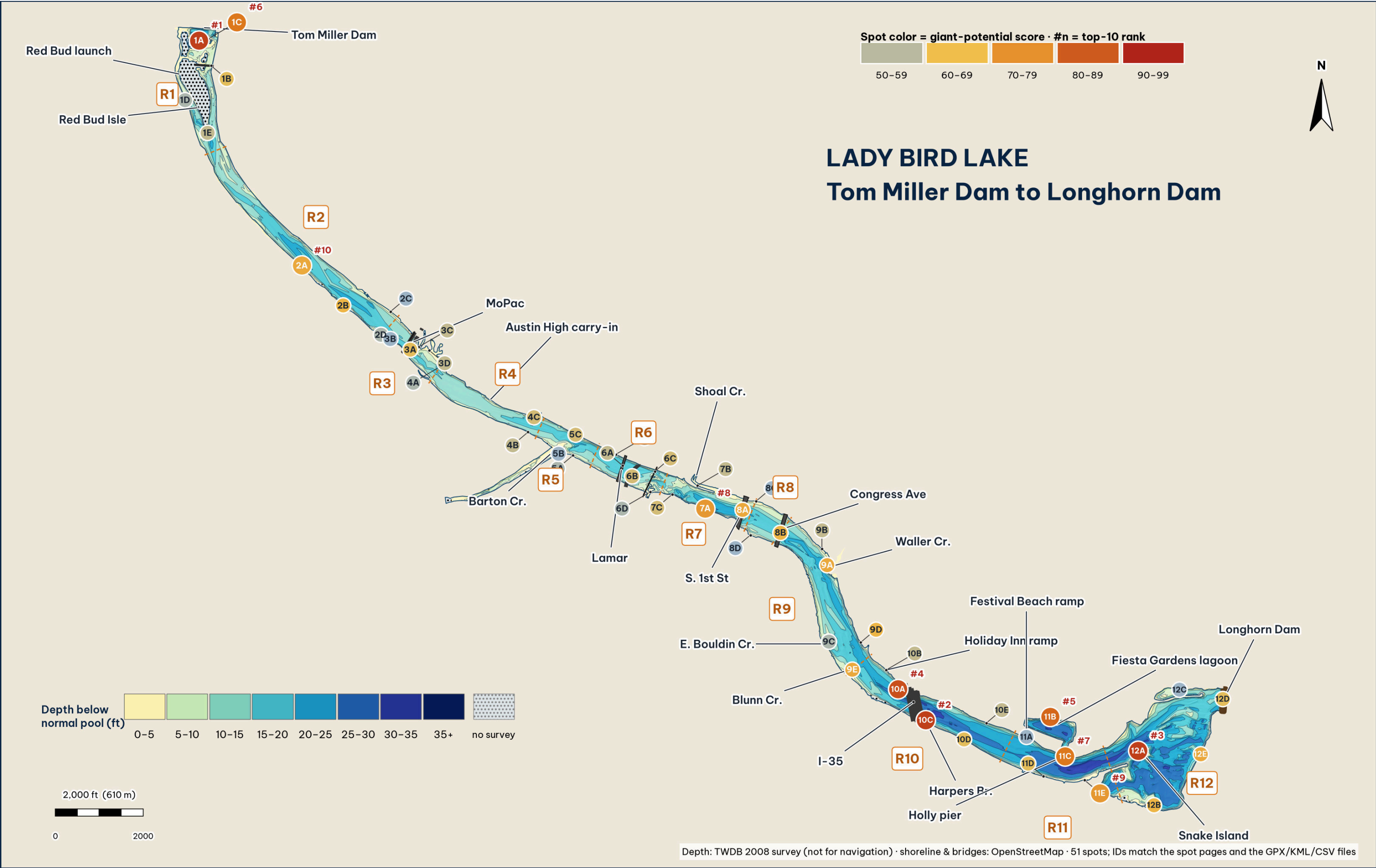


Deepest and average depth every 50 ft along the river from Tom Miller Dam to Congress, carried over from v2 [ANALYSIS](#). East of Congress, the reach maps and the deep-water figures on each spot page show the lower lake.

Cross-sections looking downstream (left bank = east side in R1, north side in R2-R8)



One sample cross-section per upper reach, looking downstream [ANALYSIS](#). They show which bank drops fast and which one is a long shelf.



Giants of Lady Bird: Records and Biology

THE LAKE RECORD

The Lady Bird Lake record largemouth is **14.05 lb, 27.75 in**, caught by **Willie Pipkin of Austin on February 5, 2025**. It was **ShareLunker 672**, a Legacy Class fish, and it beat the 13.50-lb record Grant Langmore caught on December 7, 2015 ([TPWD release](#); [TPWD all-tackle records](#)).

How it was caught matters more than the weight:

- **From the bank, by sight.** Pipkin saw "a giant shadow way out in the middle of the creek ... sitting on top of a rock" ([TPWD release](#)).
- **On a bed on Barton Creek.** He found the fish the day before, realized she was on her bed, came back, and cast to her for about three hours. The bait was a **Texas-rigged watermelon-red Zoom Fluke** on a spinning rod with **20-lb braid** ([Outdoor Life](#)).
- **Kept alive for 90 minutes.** A friend brought a large mesh bag; they held her in the water, head down in the bag, until ShareLunker staff arrived. She measured a **20.75-in girth** (same source). She was later returned to Lady Bird after spawning in Athens ([USA Today FTW](#)).

WHAT THIS TELLS YOU

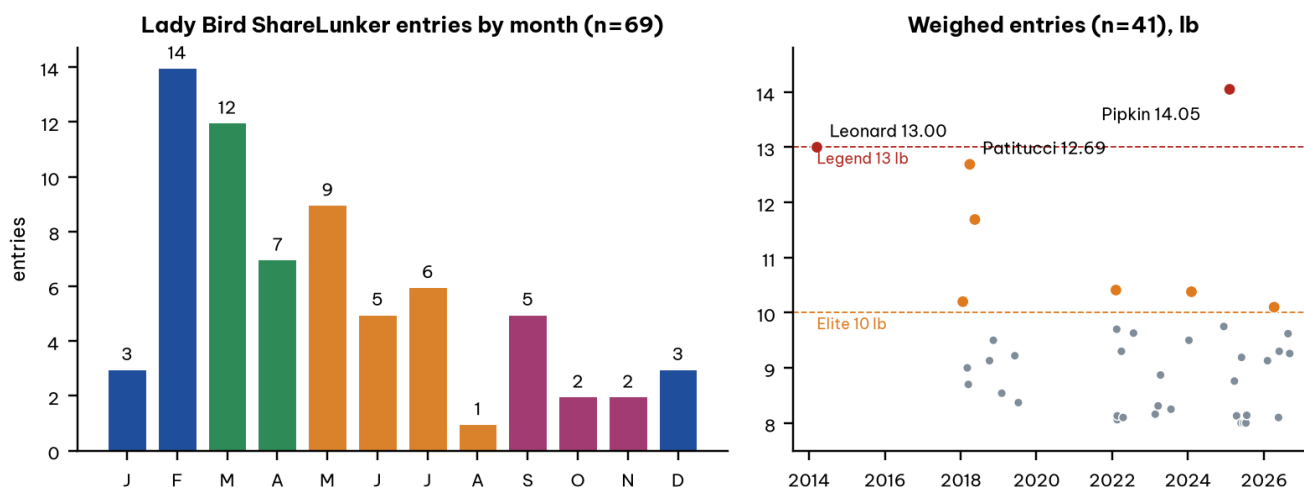
The biggest bass ever weighed from Lady Bird ate a 5-in soft jerkbait, not a giant swimbait, and she was caught in **February** in **clear creek water** by an angler who **watched her for hours**. Big baits are one tool. Patience, clear water and seeing the fish are another [ANALYSIS](#).

EVERY LADY BIRD SHARELUNKER

I parsed the full Texas ShareLunker archive, 6,014 statewide entries, and pulled every Lady Bird entry ([ShareLunker archives](#)). Lady Bird has **69 entries, from 2014 to 2026**; 41 list a weight, and **8 weighed 10 lb or more** [ANALYSIS](#).

Weight	Length	Date	Angler	Class
14.05 lb	27.75 in	Feb 5, 2025	Willie Pipkin	Legacy #672 (lake record)
13.00 lb	25.00 in	Mar 18, 2014	Ken Leonard	Legacy #556
12.69 lb	26.75 in	Mar 30, 2018	Michael Patitucci	Elite
11.69 lb	not listed	May 18, 2018	Eric Thomas	Elite
10.41 lb	25.00 in	Feb 5, 2022	Rantz Teeters	Elite
10.38 lb	25.00 in	Feb 3, 2024	Grant Burroughs	Elite
10.20 lb	25.25 in	Jan 22, 2018	Eric Porter	Elite
10.10 lb	26.50 in	Apr 10, 2026	Emily Huebel	Elite

From the ShareLunker archive, as listed there.



Left: Lady Bird ShareLunker entries by month of catch. Right: weight of each weighed entry by date [ANALYSIS](#). February and March produce 26 of 69 entries.

What the archive says [ANALYSIS](#):

- **February and March are the giant months.** Entries by month: Jan 3, **Feb 14**, **Mar 12**, Apr 7, May 9, Jun 5, Jul 6, Aug 1, Sep 5, Oct 2, Nov 2, Dec 3. Six of the eight 10-lb-plus fish came between January 22 and March 30.
- **The lake punches far above its size.** Since the year-round classes began in 2018, Lady Bird ranks **#14 of all Texas waters** in ShareLunker entries (68 entries), from a lake of under 500 acres.
- **Entries by year:** 2014: 1 · 2018: 13 · 2019: 7 · 2020: 4 · 2021: 2 · 2022: 13 · 2023: 8 · 2024: 5 · 2025: 10 · 2026: 6. The gap from 2015 to 2017 reflects the program, which only took 13-lb fish before 2018 [INFERENCE](#). The 13.50-lb 2015 record is not in the archive.
- **Weekends.** 42% of Lady Bird entries came on Saturday or Sunday (and another 23% on Friday), about the same share as statewide. That reflects when people fish, not when bass bite [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Moon phase does not show up.** I tested whether entries cluster by moon phase: statewide $p = 0.09$, Legacy fish $p = 0.40$, Lady Bird $p = 0.98$. None reach the usual 0.05 bar [ANALYSIS](#). See the moon section of the lures chapter.

THE POPULATION BEHIND THE GIANTS

- **Fewer, bigger bass.** TPWD's 2019 survey found 73 largemouth an hour by electrofishing, 26 an hour at 14 in or longer, and 2 an hour over 21 in. It describes a "low to moderate density" population shifting toward "larger individuals," in good condition (TPWD 2019).
- **ShareLunker genes went back in.** TPWD stocked ShareLunker offspring in 2014 from a 13-lb bass caught in Lady Bird (same source), which matches Ken Leonard's March 2014 fish [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Forage.** Redbreast sunfish (217/hr), bluegill, gizzard shad (50/hr, 32% small enough to eat) and redear; threadfin are less common (same source).
- **Giants are old, heavy females** [INFERENCE](#). A bass needs years of good feeding to reach 8–10 lb, and big females are the ones that hold on beds in February and March, the months the archive points to.

REGULATIONS

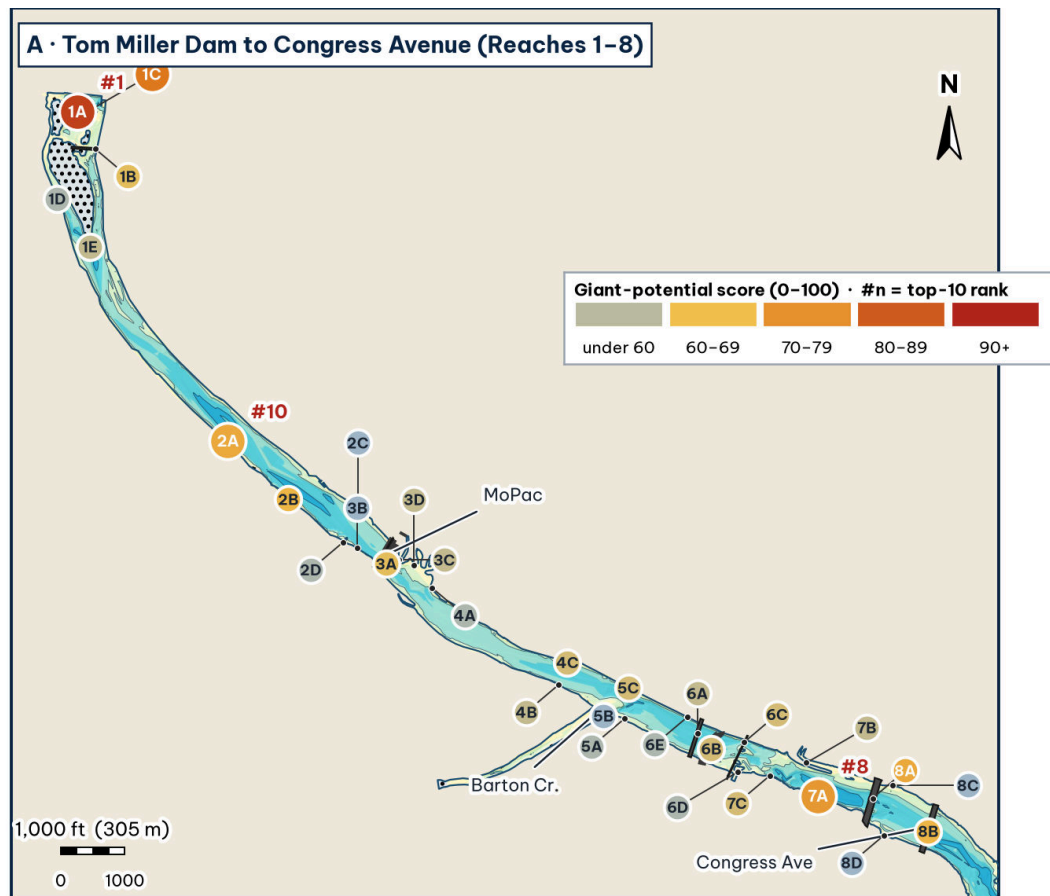
- **Largemouth: 14–21 in slot.** Daily bag of **5 black bass**, of which only **one may be 21 in or longer** (TPWD [regulations](#)). Most giants will be over 21 in, so one may be kept. This guide assumes release.
- **Boats.** Electric motors only, 5 hp or less, from 5 am to 10 pm (City code 8-5-82). See the night-fishing section.

The Giant Spots, Ranked

Every one of the 51 spots gets a **giant-potential score** out of 100. It is my judgment of where an 8-lb-plus bass is most likely to live and feed, built from five factors, each scored 1–5 [ANALYSIS](#) [INFERENCE](#) :

- **Deep water (counts double).** How close the spot is to 20- and 25-ft water, and the deepest water within 300 ft, measured from the 2008 grid [ANALYSIS](#) . Big bass in a shallow river lake need a deep retreat close to their feeding area [INFERENCE](#) .
- **Cover.** Bridge piers, rock, wood, docks and depth changes at the spot [INFERENCE](#) .
- **Forage.** Creek mouths, current seams and sunfish banks [INFERENCE](#) .
- **Low pressure.** How few anglers and paddlers I expect, a judgment call [UNVERIFIED](#) .
- **Data.** How many real soundings support the depth picture at the spot [ANALYSIS](#) .

Score = (2 × deep + cover + forage + pressure + data) ÷ 30 × 100. Ties share the same score and are ranked in guide order [ANALYSIS](#) .



Spots colored by giant score. Labels show rank and spot ID **ANALYSIS**.

THE TOP FIVE, AND WHY

#1 • 1A Tailrace scour-hole south lip • 90/100. The 30-ft scour hole below Tom Miller Dam is the deepest water on the upper lake, right against boulders and the dam's rubble, in the clearest water on the lake. Releases carry food through it [ANALYSIS](#) [INFERENCE](#). Best seasons: Winter and pre-spawn (Dec–Feb), Post-spawn and summer (May–Aug). Deep water: 25-ft water 75 ft away; 30 ft within 300 ft [ANALYSIS](#). See [spot 1A](#).

#2 • 10C Harpers Branch mouth into the 33-ft hole • 90/100. Harpers Branch enters right beside a 33-ft hole, so a feeding flat and a deep retreat sit within one long cast (25-ft water about 60 ft away). It is in the lower lake, which most bass anglers skip [ANALYSIS](#) [INFERENCE](#). Best seasons: Winter and pre-spawn (Dec–Feb), Fall (Sep–Nov). Deep water: 25-ft water 60 ft away; 33 ft within 300 ft [ANALYSIS](#). See [spot 10C](#).

#3 • 12A Snake Island west tip and the 30-ft channel • 90/100. The west tip of Snake Island splits the current at the head of the lower basin, with a 30-ft channel about 60 ft off the tip. Island points, current, deep water and light pressure all stack here [ANALYSIS](#) [INFERENCE](#). Best seasons: Winter and pre-spawn (Dec–Feb), Fall (Sep–Nov). Deep water: 25-ft water 61 ft away; 31 ft within 300 ft [ANALYSIS](#). See [spot 12A](#).

#4 • 10A I-35 piling rows (main and frontage bridges) • 87/100. Three parallel I-35 bridges put the deepest pier water on the lake (about 30 ft under the main span) in permanent shade. Construction keeps most anglers away [ANALYSIS](#) [INFERENCE](#). Best seasons: Winter and pre-spawn (Dec–Feb), Post-spawn and summer (May–Aug). Deep water: 25-ft water right at the spot; 31 ft within 300 ft [ANALYSIS](#). See [spot 10A](#).

#5 • 11B Fiesta Gardens lagoon 30-ft hole • 83/100. A boat-sized lagoon off the main lake whose north wall drops from about 3 ft to 24 ft within 48 ft, into a 30-ft hole. It is the kind of calm, deep pocket where big fish winter and stage before spawning [ANALYSIS](#) [INFERENCE](#). Best seasons: Winter and pre-spawn (Dec–Feb), Spawn (Mar–Apr). Deep water: 25-ft water 56 ft away; 30 ft within 300 ft [ANALYSIS](#). See [spot 11B](#).

ALL 51 SPOTS

#	Spot	Score	Deep	Cover	Forage	Press.	Data	25 ft at	Seasons
1	1A Tailrace scour-hole south lip	90	5	4	5	4	4	75 ft	W Su
2	10C Harpers Branch mouth into the 33-ft hole	90	5	3	5	4	5	60 ft	W F
3	12A Snake Island west tip and the 30-ft channel	90	5	4	4	4	5	61 ft	W F
4	10A I-35 piling rows (main and frontage bridges)	87	5	5	4	3	4	<10 ft	W Su
5	11B Fiesta Gardens lagoon 30-ft hole	83	5	3	4	4	4	56 ft	W Sp
6	1C Rock bank below the dam (east side)	80	4	4	4	4	4	108 ft	–
7	11C Holly pier to the 35-ft hole (deepest water in the lake)	80	5	4	4	2	4	64 ft	W
8	7A South wall at the 27-ft hole	73	5	3	3	2	4	40 ft	W
9	11E Peace Point dock drop (south bank)	73	4	3	3	3	5	123 ft	Su
10	2A South-bank rock bluff	70	3	4	3	4	4	none near	W
11	8A South 1st Street Bridge piling row	70	3	4	4	2	5	560 ft	Su
12	9A Waller Creek mouth into the channel	70	3	3	5	2	5	2,786 ft	Sp F
13	9E Blunn Creek delta lip	70	3	3	4	3	5	529 ft	Sp
14	12E Longhorn Shores bank drop (east bank)	70	3	3	3	5	4	225 ft	–

#	Spot	Score	Deep	Cover	Forage	Press.	Data	25 ft at	Seasons
15	2B The 24-ft trough	67	3	3	3	4	4	none near	–
16	8B Congress Avenue Bridge piling row	67	3	4	4	2	4	1,515 ft	Su
17	9D Community Dock north-bank drop	67	3	4	3	3	4	864 ft	Su
18	12B Lakeshore Park south lobe drop	67	2	3	4	5	4	191 ft	Sp
19	1B Emmett Shelton Bridge piling row	63	1	4	4	4	5	694 ft	F
20	3A MoPac piling rows	63	2	4	4	3	4	none near	Su
21	10D South-bank boardwalk drop	63	4	3	3	3	2	116 ft	–
22	11D International Shores pier drop (south bank)	63	4	4	3	3	1	109 ft	Su
23	12D Longhorn Dam face	63	2	4	3	4	4	644 ft	F
24	4C North-bank drop into the 19-ft pocket	60	2	3	3	3	5	none near	–
25	5C North wall into the 22-ft hole	60	3	3	3	2	4	none near	F
26	6B Pfluger Bridge piling row	60	3	3	3	2	4	1,746 ft	–
27	6C Railroad bridge and islands	60	2	4	3	2	5	1,334 ft	–
28	7C South bank below the railroad bridge	60	3	2	3	2	5	742 ft	–
29	1E Red Bud Isle south tip and channel merge	57	2	3	4	2	4	2,192 ft	F
30	3C North flat below MoPac	57	2	2	3	3	5	none near	–
31	3D Johnson Branch delta flat	57	1	3	4	3	5	none near	Sp
32	4B South bank wood line, Zilker	57	2	3	3	3	4	none near	–
33	6A Lamar Blvd Bridge piling row	57	2	4	4	2	3	2,039 ft	Su
34	7B Shoal Creek delta lip	57	2	3	4	2	4	455 ft	Sp
35	9B Waller Creek boathouse docks (north bank)	57	2	4	3	2	4	2,527 ft	Su
36	10B Holiday Inn ramp drop (north bank)	57	2	3	3	3	4	340 ft	–
37	10E North-bank pier shelf above Festival Beach	57	3	3	3	3	2	306 ft	–
38	1D West channel outside bank	53	1	3	3	4	4	1,470 ft	–
39	2D Eanes Creek mouth	53	2	3	4	3	2	none near	Sp
40	4A Texas Rowing Center north bank	53	2	3	3	2	4	none near	–
41	5A Barton flat lip	53	2	2	4	2	4	none near	–

#	Spot	Score	Deep	Cover	Forage	Press.	Data	25 ft at	Seasons
42	6D West Bouldin Creek mouth and south shelf	53	1	3	4	2	5	1,239 ft	F
43	6E North channel wall at Lamar	53	2	3	3	2	4	2,298 ft	–
44	9C East Bouldin mouth and the islet	53	1	3	4	3	4	1,318 ft	Sp
45	3B South channel wall above MoPac	50	2	3	3	3	2	none near	–
46	5B Barton Creek mouth delta	50	1	3	5	1	4	none near	Sp
47	8C North-bank reed shelf between the bridges	50	1	3	3	2	5	892 ft	–
48	11A Festival Beach ramp point	50	3	3	3	1	2	302 ft	–
49	12C North arm flat edge (Metz side)	50	1	2	3	4	4	825 ft	Sp
50	2C Deep Eddy / Eilers Park north shelf	47	1	2	3	3	4	none near	–
51	8D South-shore piers below 1st St	47	1	4	3	2	3	937 ft	–

Factor scores 1–5. "25 ft at": distance to the nearest 25-ft water in the 2008 grid; "none near" means more than 3,000 ft. Seasons: W winter/pre-spawn, Sp spawn, Su summer, F fall [ANALYSIS](#).

Where Giants Live, Season by Season

Each season gets its own map with the spots I would fish first, in order. Picks lean on the giant score, the deep-water access at each spot and the ShareLunker calendar [ANALYSIS](#) [INFERENCE](#). A ★ on a spot card means the spot is a seasonal pick.

WINTER AND PRE-SPAWN (DEC-FEB)

Big females sit near the deepest water close to where they will spawn, and feed in short windows on warm afternoons. The archive's first giant months start here: six of Lady Bird's eight 10-lb-plus ShareLunkers came between January 22 and March 30 ([ShareLunker archives](#)). Fish the deep holes and the steep banks next to them, slowly [ANALYSIS](#) [INFERENCE](#).

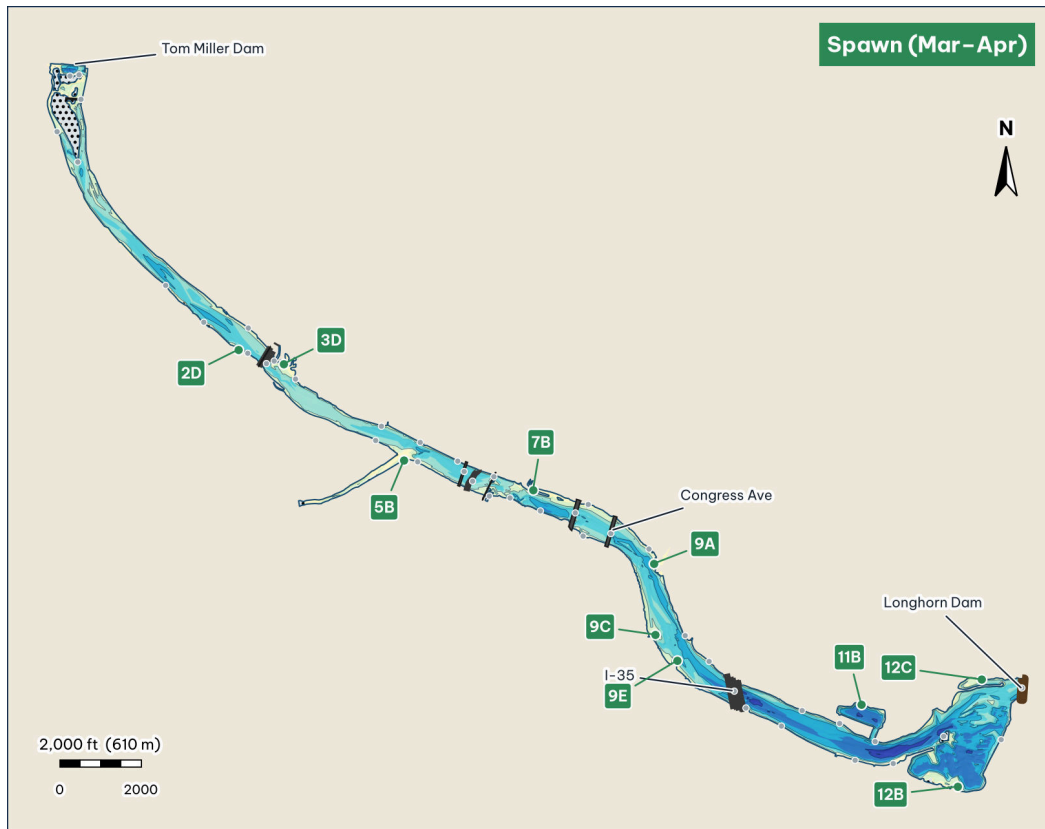


Seasonal picks, numbered in order of preference [ANALYSIS](#) [INFERENCE](#). Main baits: Football jig, 10-in Texas-rigged worm, slow glide counted down to the break.

#	Spot	Score	Deepest ≤300 ft	Why now
1	10C Harpers Branch mouth into the 33-ft hole	90	33 ft	creek mouth on a 33-ft hole; creek inflow next to deep water
2	11C Holly pier to the 35-ft hole (deepest water in the lake)	80	34 ft	pier over the deepest hole; shad over deep water
3	12A Snake Island west tip and the 30-ft channel	90	31 ft	island tip on a 30-ft channel; bait on the channel edge
4	7A South wall at the 27-ft hole	73	27 ft	bulkhead into 27-ft hole; sunfish, shad
5	1A Tailrace scour-hole south lip	90	30 ft	riprap and scour hole; turbine-washed shad and sunfish
6	11B Fiesta Gardens lagoon 30-ft hole	83	30 ft	enclosed lagoon; sunfish, shad trapped in lagoon
7	10A I-35 piling rows (main and frontage bridges)	87	31 ft	three I-35 bridges, deep piers; shad in shade
8	2A South-bank rock bluff	70	22 ft	TPWD-mapped rock bluff; crawfish, sunfish

SPAWN (MAR-APR)

February and March produce 26 of the lake's 69 ShareLunker entries [ANALYSIS](#), and the lake record was a February bedding fish on Barton Creek ([Outdoor Life](#)). Look for protected creek mouths, deltas and flats beside deep water. In clear water, see the fish before it sees you [INFERENCE](#).

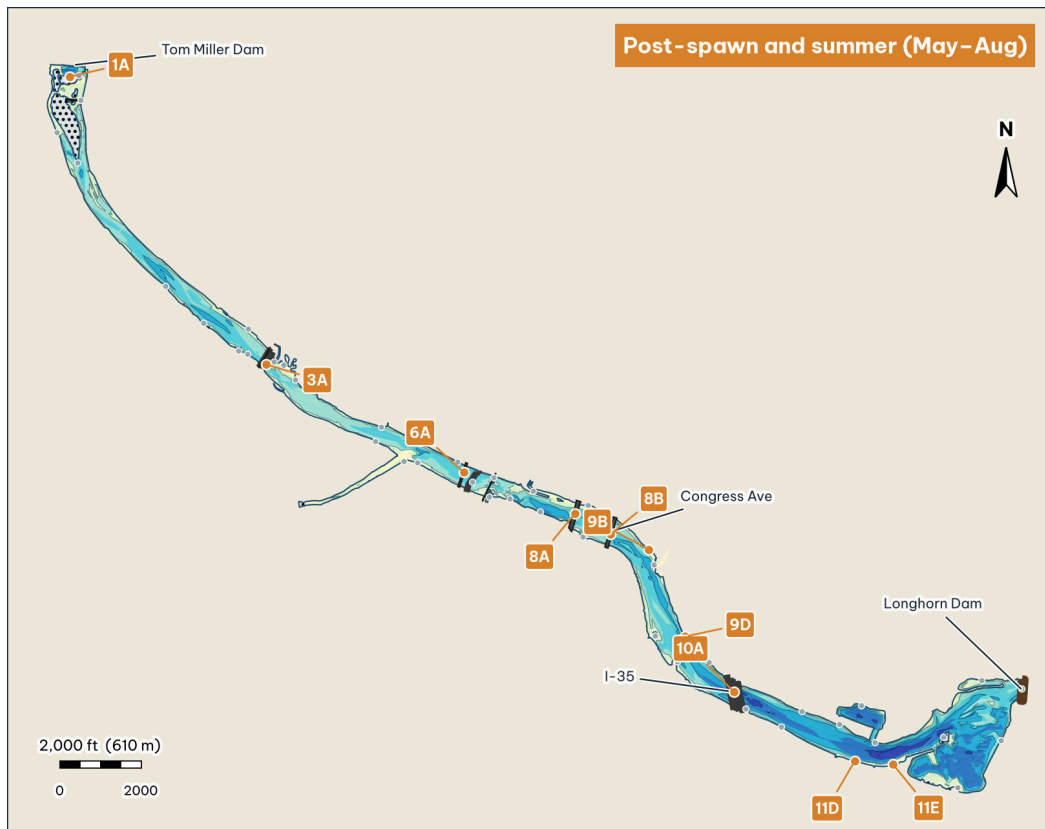


Seasonal picks, numbered in order of preference [ANALYSIS](#) [INFERENCE](#). Main baits: Weightless or Texas-rigged soft jerkbait, stick worm, soft glide; sight-fishing.

#	Spot	Score	Deepest ≤300 ft	Why now
1	9E Blunn Creek delta lip	70	24 ft	creek delta, reeds; Blunn Creek inflow
2	9A Waller Creek mouth into the channel	70	23 ft	creek delta, reeds; Waller Creek inflow
3	5B Barton Creek mouth delta	50	18 ft	creek delta; warm spring water; bait
4	12B Lakeshore Park south lobe drop	67	28 ft	basin drop, offshore humps (TPWD grass); bait on humps
5	12C North arm flat edge (Metz side)	50	18 ft	flat edge; sunfish
6	11B Fiesta Gardens lagoon 30-ft hole	83	30 ft	enclosed lagoon; sunfish, shad trapped in lagoon
7	3D Johnson Branch delta flat	57	17 ft	creek delta; creek inflow
8	2D Eanes Creek mouth	53	20 ft	creek delta, reeds; creek inflow bait
9	9C East Bouldin mouth and the islet	53	19 ft	islet and creek mouth; creek inflow
10	7B Shoal Creek delta lip	57	22 ft	creek delta; creek inflow

POST-SPAWN AND SUMMER (MAY–AUG)

After the spawn, big bass move to shade, current and deep cover: bridge piers, dock lines and steep drops. Fish dawn and the last light before the 10 pm boat curfew (City code 8-5-82) **INFERENCE**.

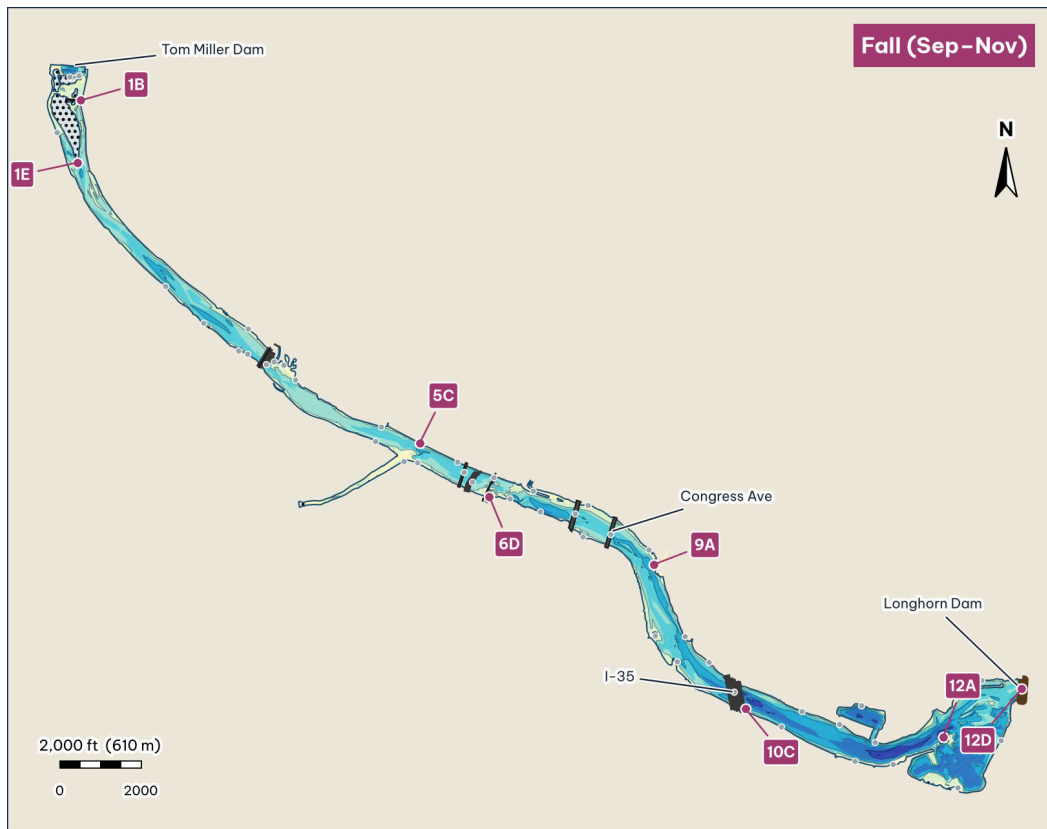


Seasonal picks, numbered in order of preference **ANALYSIS** **INFERENCE**. Main baits: Jig and big worm in the shade, big topwater at dawn, glide on shade lines.

#	Spot	Score	Deepest ≤300 ft	Why now
1	10A I-35 piling rows (main and frontage bridges)	87	31 ft	three I-35 bridges, deep piers; shad in shade
2	8A South 1st Street Bridge piling row	70	23 ft	bridge pilings; shad
3	8B Congress Avenue Bridge piling row	67	22 ft	bridge pilings; shad
4	6A Lamar Blvd Bridge piling row	57	20 ft	arch-bridge piers; shad
5	3A MoPac piling rows	63	19 ft	MoPac pilings (many); shad in shade lines
6	9D Community Dock north-bank drop	67	24 ft	dock over a 19-ft drop; sunfish
7	11D International Shores pier drop (south bank)	63	30 ft	pier, bulkhead; sunfish
8	11E Peace Point dock drop (south bank)	73	35 ft	dock, wooded bank; sunfish
9	1A Tailrace scour-hole south lip	90	30 ft	riprap and scour hole; turbine-washed shad and sunfish
10	9B Waller Creek boathouse docks (north bank)	57	22 ft	boathouse docks; sunfish under docks

FALL (SEP-NOV)

Shad push into creek mouths and over points as the water cools. Cover water with glides and swimbaits on breaks near creeks and current, and expect fish to roam **INFERENCE**.



Seasonal picks, numbered in order of preference **ANALYSIS** **INFERENCE**. Main baits: 6–8 in glide, swimbait, walking topwater.

#	Spot	Score	Deepest ≤300 ft	Why now
1	9A Waller Creek mouth into the channel	70	23 ft	creek delta, reeds; Waller Creek inflow
2	10C Harpers Branch mouth into the 33-ft hole	90	33 ft	creek mouth on a 33-ft hole; creek inflow next to deep water
3	12A Snake Island west tip and the 30-ft channel	90	31 ft	island tip on a 30-ft channel; bait on the channel edge
4	1E Red Bud Isle south tip and channel merge	57	22 ft	island tip, laydowns; seam concentrates bait
5	5C North wall into the 22-ft hole	60	22 ft	wooded wall; sunfish
6	12D Longhorn Dam face	63	21 ft	dam riprap; bait pinned at the dam
7	6D West Bouldin Creek mouth and south shelf	53	19 ft	creek mouth, weir; creek inflow
8	1B Emmett Shelton Bridge piling row	63	12 ft	bridge pilings; current carries bait past piers

Lures and Techniques for Giants

No single bait owns Lady Bird's big fish. The lake record ate a 5-in soft jerkbait ([Outdoor Life](#)), and TPWD's own tips name "white spinnerbaits, topwaters, and jigs" ([TPWD](#)). This chapter matches each technique to the water where it fits [ANALYSIS](#).

Technique	Best water here ANALYSIS INFERENCE	Season	Top spots
Glide / big swimbait	Clear upper lake, shade lines, piers, island tips	Pre-spawn and fall	1A, 1C, 12A, 10A, 7A
Football jig	Deep holes and steep walls (20–35 ft)	Winter, summer	10C, 11C, 11B, 1A, 7A
10–12 in Texas-rigged worm	Pier bases and break bases	Summer, winter	10A, 8A, 8B, 11E
Soft jerkbait / stick worm	Clear creek mouths and beds	Spawn (Feb–Apr)	5B, 9E, 9A, 12B
Walking topwater / wake bait	Flats beside deep water, dawn and dusk	Summer, fall	9D, 11D, 12E
White spinnerbait	Stained water after rain, mud lines	Any	Creek mouths
Live sunfish	Deep cover, piers	Summer, winter	10A, 11C

GLIDES AND BIG SWIMBAITS

My glidebait report covers how these baits are built. Here is what it means on this lake.

- **Pick the sink rate first.** Published rates run from about 4 in per second (Baitsanity Antidote Super Slow) to 7 in per second (Antidote Slow); a Roman Made Mother falls 1 ft in 2 seconds ([Tackle Tour](#); glidebait report). Counting down is how you put the bait at the right depth [ANALYSIS](#):

Count (seconds)	4 in/s (super slow)	6 in/s (Mother)	7 in/s (slow)
5	1.7 ft	2.5 ft	2.9 ft
10	3.3 ft	5.0 ft	5.8 ft
20	6.7 ft	10.0 ft	11.7 ft
30	10.0 ft	15.0 ft	17.5 ft

Depth = sink rate × count, assuming the bait falls straight down on slack line [ANALYSIS](#). Real falls on a tight line are slower.

- **A balanced bait swims right.** The report's main finding is that each section of a two-piece glide must sink level and at the same rate (glidebait report, from [Tackle Underground](#)). Test a new glide at the ramp: it should fall flat, not nose-down [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Retrieves.** A straight retrieve for the S-swim, super slow to widen it, "chopping" or "deadwalking" around isolated cover, and the **180° turn**: twitch, then throw slack. Michael Iaconelli says the 180 gives the bass "the ideal headshot" ([Bassmaster/Iaconelli](#)). Use quarter- or half-turns when a fish follows ([MeatEater](#)).
- **When.** Lake Fork guide James Caldemeyer fishes glides from February to mid-April, when the water is 58–60°F, and again in mid-October, in clear water (same MeatEater source). Lady Bird's clearest water is above Lamar ([City of Austin](#)).
- **Colors.** Sunfish patterns first (redbreast is the main forage), shad patterns in fall ([TPWD 2019](#)) [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Where it fits here.** Glides need room and visibility. Use them on the clear upper lake, along shade lines, and past the piers and island tips. In the stained lower lake, switch to a swimbait with more tail thump or to bottom baits [INFERENCE](#).

BIG WORMS AND JIGS

- **Football jig, 3/4–1 oz.** Drag it down the faces of the deep holes: 10C (33 ft), 11C (35 ft), 11B (30 ft), 12A (31 ft) and the tailrace (30 ft) [ANALYSIS](#). In winter, pause 5–10 seconds between drags [INFERENCE](#).
- **10–12 in Texas-rigged worm.** Pitch it to pier bases and drag it along break bases in summer. A 3/8–1/2 oz weight is enough in most current; go heavier only to reach 25+ ft [INFERENCE](#).
- **Pitching jig, 1/2–3/4 oz.** For docks, laydowns and the cypress roots of Reach 2 [INFERENCE](#).

PUNCHING

Punching heavy mats is a big-fish technique on grass lakes, but it **mostly doesn't apply here**. TPWD's 2019 survey found native plants on only about 0.8% of the lake, mostly water willow and bulrush (TPWD 2019). Fanwort did cover 18–36% of the lake from 2012 to 2015 (same source), and the City reports summer fanwort mats from Red Bud to I-35 (City of Austin). If mats form in July–September, punch a 1–1.5 oz Texas rig through the thickest mats on the edges of deep water; otherwise skip it [INFERENCE](#).

LIVE BAIT: WHAT'S LEGAL

- **Game fish can't be bait.** It is unlawful to "use any game fish or part of a game fish as bait," and bass, crappie and catfish are game fish (TPWD general rules).
- **Sunfish are legal bait.** Nongame fish may be used as bait (same source). Sunfish (bluegill, redbreast) are not on the game-fish list, so they count as nongame [ANALYSIS](#). A live sunfish matches Lady Bird's main forage [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Keep it on this lake.** Live bait may not be carried away from the water body where it was caught in that water, and bought bait that touches lake water may only be used on that lake (same source).
- **No game fish into other water.** Releasing a game fish into any water other than where it was caught needs a TPWD permit (same source).

LIVE BAIT AND GIANTS

A big bass that swallows live bait can be deep-hooked. Use a circle hook, set it by reeling tight rather than swinging hard, and don't let a fish run long with the bait [INFERENCE](#).

NIGHT FISHING AND HOURS

- **TPWD calls Lady Bird "an excellent night fishing lake"** (TPWD).
- **But boats must be off by 10 pm.** Electric motors only, 5 hp or less, from 5 am to 10 pm (City code 8–5–82). In practice, "night" fishing by boat means the hours from sunset to 10 pm [ANALYSIS](#). Bank access depends on park hours, which I did not confirm [UNVERIFIED](#).
- **Tonight (Oct 12).** Sunset is about 7:00 pm CT by my solar calculation, so there are about three hours of dark boat time before 10 pm [ANALYSIS](#). Dark-colored jigs, big worms and a black buzzbait or wake bait are the classic night baits [INFERENCE](#).
- **Congress bats.** The Congress Avenue Bridge bat emergence draws crowds and tour boats near sunset (congressbats.com). Fish east of I-35 instead [INFERENCE](#).

THE MOON AND SOLUNAR TABLES

I tested the ShareLunker archive for any link to the moon. **Nothing showed up:** statewide $p = 0.09$ (6,014 entries), Legacy Class $p = 0.40$, Lady Bird $p = 0.98$ [ANALYSIS](#). The day of the week matters more, because that is when people fish: 42% of entries come on weekends [ANALYSIS](#). Fish when you can, and use the moon only to decide between two otherwise equal days [INFERENCE](#).

Tackle and Landing a Giant Near Pilings

Most of Lady Bird's best giant water is next to hard, sharp cover: bridge piers, rock, boulders and docks. Zebra mussels make that cover sharper. TPWD lists Lady Bird as **infested** with zebra mussels ([KVUE](#); [TPWD map](#)).

TACKLE BY TECHNIQUE

Technique	Rod	Reel	Line ANALYSIS INFERENCE
Glide (2–3 oz)	7'9"–8' heavy swimbait rod	High-capacity 6:1+ baitcaster (not a 200-size low-profile)	20 lb fluorocarbon; up to 30 lb for big baits
Swimbait (1–2 oz)	7'6" heavy	6–7:1	20 lb fluorocarbon
Football jig / big worm	7'3"–7'6" heavy, fast	7–8:1	20–25 lb fluorocarbon
Soft jerkbait / stick worm	7' medium spinning	2500–3000	20 lb braid to a 12–15 lb fluorocarbon leader
Topwater	7' medium-heavy, moderate	7:1	50 lb braid; 20 lb fluorocarbon near piers

Glide tackle follows Caldemeyer: an 8-ft heavy swimbait rod, a high-capacity 6.2:1 reel, and 20 lb fluorocarbon (up to 30 lb); he says a 200-size low-profile reel is "asking for trouble" ([MeatEater](#)). The lake record came on a spinning rod with 20-lb braid ([Outdoor Life](#)).

- **Fluorocarbon around mussels.** Wired2Fish recommends fluorocarbon for durability around zebra-mussel cover and retying after contact ([Wired2Fish](#)). Run your fingers down the last 3 ft after every pier contact [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Hooks.** Upgrade glide trebles to heavy-wire hooks matched to the bait's weight, and check that the bait still sinks level afterward (glidebait report) [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Drag.** Set it firm enough that the fish can't reach the pier, but loose enough that a head shake doesn't tear the hook out; check it before each piling stop [INFERENCE](#).

LANDING A GIANT AT A PIER

1. **Position before you cast.** Hold the boat **upstream and off to the side** of the pier, so a hooked fish's first run is away from the concrete and into open water [INFERENCE](#).
2. **Turn her immediately.** On the hookset, lift and pull **away from the pier** with the rod low and to the side. The first 3–5 seconds decide it [INFERENCE](#).
3. **If she wraps the pier,** open the bail or free-spool, take the pressure off, and move the boat to the other side of the pier. A slack fish often swims back out the way she went in [INFERENCE](#).
4. **Net, don't lip.** Use a large, **rubber-mesh** net. Lead her head into the net; don't stab at the fish [INFERENCE](#). TPWD says to use "a rubber-mesh landing net instead of abrasive nylon" ([TPWD catch and release](#)).
5. **Bank anglers:** pick a landing spot before you cast, and bring a long-handled net. Pipkin landed the record from the bank ([TPWD release](#)).

BRIDGE SAFETY

Stay clear of rowing shells and tour boats under the downtown bridges, follow the traffic lanes ([Austin Rowing Club](#)), and don't tie to bridge structures. I-35 is under construction; obey all closures [UNVERIFIED](#).

Fish Care and the ShareLunker Program

HANDLING A GIANT

- **Keep her in the water.** TPWD's rule of thumb: keep a fish out of water no longer than you can hold your breath (TPWD bass catch and release).
- **Hold big bass horizontally.** For bass over about 5 lb, hold the lower jaw with one hand and support the belly with the other (TPWD catch and release tips). Never hang a giant vertically by the jaw [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Hot water is the danger.** TPWD warns about fish stress when water is above 70°F and especially above 80°F (TPWD bass catch and release). Lady Bird reached about 81°F in mid-summer 2026 (Captain Experiences).
- **Land her quickly.** TPWD: "Play and land fish as quickly as possible," and keep slime on the fish by wetting your hands (TPWD).
- **Photos fast.** Have the camera ready before you lift her; take a few shots and get her back in the water [INFERENCE](#).
- **Deep-hooked?** Cut the line close to the hook rather than digging it out [INFERENCE](#).

ENTERING A SHARELUNKER

ShareLunker has four classes (TPWD):

Class	Qualifies	When	What you do
Lunker	8 lb or 24 in	Year-round	Enter the catch in the ShareLunker app or at TexasSharelunker.com; release
Elite	10 lb or more	Year-round	Same
Legend	13 lb or more	Year-round	Same
Legacy	13 lb or more, loaned for spawning	Jan 1–Mar 31	Call (903) 681-0550 , 24/7; keep her alive for pickup

All entries get a catch kit and a decal; Legacy anglers also get a replica mount. Optional DNA scale samples earn a Lew's reel while supplies last (same source).

If you catch a 13-pounder between January 1 and March 31 [ANALYSIS](#):

1. **Call (903) 681-0550 right away** (TPWD).
2. **Keep her alive in the water.** Pipkin and a friend held the record in a large mesh bag in the lake for about 90 minutes until staff arrived ([Outdoor Life](#)). A boat's aerated livewell also works; TPWD links livewell-management guidance from its catch-and-release page (TPWD) [INFERENCE](#).
3. **Weigh on a certified scale.** Legacy fish must be weighed on a certified scale. TPWD keeps a list of official weigh and holding stations (TPWD). The nearest I found is the self-serve station at the Loop 360 ramp on Lake Austin [UNVERIFIED](#); call the hotline first.
4. **Don't fizz** unless you're trained. Fizzing (venting a swim bladder) is for fish caught from deep water that can't stay upright; Lady Bird's fish come from 35 ft or less, so it is rarely needed [INFERENCE](#).
5. **Enter the data** in the ShareLunker app even if you don't loan the fish.

LUNKER-SIZE FISH OUTSIDE THE LEGACY WINDOW

For an 8–12 lb fish, or a 13-pounder from April to December: photograph her on a measuring board, weigh her quickly on a hand scale (in a weigh bag or net, not by the jaw), release her, and enter the catch in the ShareLunker app (TPWD).

How to Read the Spot Pages

51 individual spots across all twelve reaches, from Tom Miller Dam to Longhorn Dam. Each has its own close-up map, measured depths, deep-water access, a giant-potential score, boat position, cast lanes and a big-bass plan by season. Every spot is in the GPX/KML/CSV waypoint files, ranked.

HOW THE SPOTS WERE CHOSEN ANALYSIS

- **Candidates came from the depth data.** I sampled transects every 25 ft along the shoreline and flagged the steepest drops and the clearest shelf edges in each reach. I added bridges, creek mouths, island tips and docks from OpenStreetMap.
- **Duplicates were merged.** Where two candidates were within about 150 ft of each other and shared the same structure, I kept one.
- **What isn't here: humps.** I searched the whole grid for offshore humps that rise 1.5 ft or more above everything within 100 ft. Above Congress there are none in the 2008 data; the only one is east of Congress. Lady Bird's offshore bottom is mostly troughs and holes, not humps.

WHAT EACH NUMBER MEANS

Item	How it's measured
Giant strip	The dark bar under the spot header: giant score out of 100, rank of 51, the five factor scores (1–5) and the seasons the spot is a pick. See "The Giant Spots, Ranked" ANALYSIS INFERENCE
Deep-water access	Distance from the spot to the nearest 20- and 25-ft water, and the deepest water within 300 ft, on the 2008 grid ANALYSIS
Target / Boat GPS	Target = the top of the break (or the deepest span at a bridge). Boat = the suggested position on the deep side. WGS84 decimal degrees, good to about ±50–100 ft UNVERIFIED
Depth at the bank	First wet 5-ft grid cell along a transect drawn square to the bank from the OpenStreetMap shoreline
Break top / base	Where the smoothed slope first rises above, and then falls back below, about 35% of its steepest value
Slope	Feet of depth change per 10 ft of distance. "Steepest" is the single steepest 10-ft step; "average" spans the whole break
Contours	2-ft where there are at least 20 soundings per acre within 250 ft, otherwise 5-ft . The density is printed on every map
Data support	Distance from the break to the nearest real 2008 sounding. "Good" ≤ 15 ft, "fair" ≤ 50 ft, "low" > 50 ft (the break is interpolated)
Best wind	The compass direction a wind would come from to blow straight onto that bank ANALYSIS
Shade	Shadow width on the water from 40-ft trees for today's sun (see the Sun and Wind chapter) INFERENCE

ABOUT THE DEPTH DATA

The survey points are TWDB's 2008 sonar survey: 24,647 soundings, most collected in December 2008, the rest on extra days in summer 2009, with DGPS accuracy better than 10 cm ([TWDB 2009 report](#)). Survey lines run about 500 ft apart, tightened to about 100 ft in areas the City asked for. Near the bank, my slope numbers depend on how the grid joins the shoreline to the first survey line, so a "steepest 15 ft per 10 ft" wall is real in direction but may be exaggerated in degree ANALYSIS. The lake has had floods since 2008; treat every depth as ±1–2 ft UNVERIFIED.

Reach 1 • Tom Miller Tailrace and Red Bud Isle

0–0.55 mi below the dam

Deepest ≈ 30 ft (tailrace)

Clarity: clearest

Access: Red Bud Isle carry-in



The Tom Miller tailrace and the channels around Red Bud Isle. Depth bands come from the TWDB 2008 grid, with OpenStreetMap shoreline and bridges. The star marks the deepest cell in the reach. Numbered markers are this guide's spots.

THE BOTTOM

- **The tailrace scour hole.** It's the deepest water in this guide. In the grid, the bottom falls past **20 ft over about 1.1 acres**, a bowl roughly 500 ft across that starts about 50 ft below the dam face and runs to about 225 ft below it. It's past **25 ft over about half an acre**, and bottoms out near **30–31 ft** [ANALYSIS](#). TWDB measured 2,376 soundings above the Emmett Shelton Bridge in 2008, so these depths are measured, not guessed. (In 1999, TWDB's boat couldn't get above that bridge, and LCRA supplied cross-sections for the area instead.) (TWDB 1999; TWDB 2008 shapefiles)
- **Two channels around Red Bud Isle** [ANALYSIS](#) :
 - **The west (right-bank) channel** runs about 7–10 ft deep along the top half of the island. It deepens to **about 16 ft at 2,000 ft** below the dam and **about 20 ft at 2,400 ft**, toward the island's south tip.
 - **The east (left-bank) channel**, the side with the Emmett Shelton Bridge, runs **about 10–11 ft** along the upper island and reaches **about 15 ft** at the tip.
 - The two meet below the tip in a **trough about 21 ft deep, roughly 2,800 ft below the dam**.
- **Back channels** between the island's pieces are shallow, mostly under 5–10 ft.
- **Banks.** The banks drop off quickly, as you'd expect from TWDB's description of "a deep valley with steep-sided walls" (TWDB 1999). On the sample cross-section through the island, each channel bottoms out at about 11 ft within about 50–60 ft of the bank [ANALYSIS](#).

COVER AND GRASS

- **Granite boulders.** The City says the area holds "large granite boulder debris (from a previous catastrophic failure of the Austin Dam)" (City of Austin 2020). That's prime cover, and a sure snag.
- **Grass.** Fanwort grows "from Red Bud to I-35" (City of Austin, FY2024–25). The City's plant page also says Eurasian watermilfoil is "most dense in the upper reaches, where water temperatures are cooler," but TPWD's 2019 survey found milfoil absent since 2015. **The two disagree** [UNVERIFIED](#) (City plant page; TPWD 2019).
- **Bank cover.** Giant reed "was most abundant near Red Bud Isle" (City plant page). Elsewhere, cover is mostly along the bank: "laydown logs and trees, overhanging brush, cypress tree roots" (TPWD).
- **Bridge pilings.** The Emmett Shelton Bridge has pilings across the east channel (OSM).

WATER: CLARITY AND CURRENT

- **Clarity: the clearest water on the lake.** The City says it's "very clear above Lamar" (City of Austin, FY2023).
- **Where the water comes from.** The City says the area is "almost exclusively influenced by Tom Miller Dam discharges from the hypolimnion of Lake Austin," meaning water drawn from deep in Lake Austin. It also warns of "unpredictable currents" (City of Austin 2020).
- **Temperature swings less here.** Long-term samples below the dam ranged from 52°F to 86°F. Downtown, they ranged from 41°F to 98°F (TXST 2019).
- **Current hits this reach first and hardest.** Releases arrive here before anywhere else, and they're strongest here [ANALYSIS](#).

THROUGH THE SEASONS

Season	What to expect	Play ANALYSIS
Spring	Clear water. A spring 2026 guide report had 4–6 ft visibility at about 68°F, with fish in submerged grass (Captain Experiences)	Slow-roll the inside channel edges and the back channels. Natural shad
Summer	The coolest water on the lake when the dam releases. Fanwort reaches the surface from July to September (City)	Dawn, and release windows. Work the edges of the scour hole and the Red Bud tip
Fall	Fanwort tops sit below the surface again from October on (City). Torwick found fish at about 73°F in mid-November 2024	Grass edges along the channels, plus the tailrace when the dam releases. Swimbait while the water is above about 70°F
Winter	The narrowest temperature range on the lake. The 52°F low came in January 2011 (TXST)	Jig or big worm on the scour-hole edges. Long pauses

HOW TO FISH IT FOR A GIANT

THE APPROACH

- **Where a giant sits.** The edge of the scour hole (about 31 ft at the bottom), the boulders against the dam, and the Emmett Shelton pilings. Hold over 12–15 ft on the edge and cast across the drop; don't park over the middle [ANALYSIS](#).
- **With current.** Cast **up-current** and let a 6–7 in swimbait or a slow-sinking glide swing down past the rubble and pilings. Big bass hold behind boulders and wait for food to come to them [INFERENCE](#).
- **Without current.** Drag a 3/4–1 oz football jig or a 10-in Texas-rigged worm down the hole's face from 15 to 25+ ft. Long pauses [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Glide control.** Count the glide down at its sink rate (about 4–7 in per second for slow and super-slow models, per the glidebait report), so a 10-count puts it near 4–6 ft [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Line.** 20–25 lb fluorocarbon for jigs and worms around rock and pilings; heavy glide gear (see the tackle chapter) [ANALYSIS](#).

ACCESS, HAZARDS AND RULES

- **Access.** Red Bud Isle is a carry-in access on the TPWD paddling trail and a City park (TPWD paddling trail). There's no trailer ramp (TPWD access).

HAZARD: CURRENT AND ALGAE

In 1964 the City counted 30 drownings over the previous decade, several of them caused by Tom Miller releases. The City warns of "unannounced swift current related to dam discharges" ([City of Austin 2020](#)). Wear your PFD.

Toxic blue-green algae mats have formed **at Red Bud Isle**, and six dog deaths in Austin have been linked to algae toxins since 2019. As of Oct 6, 2026, the algae was still present at Red Bud, though "much less" than earlier in the summer. 2026 is an untreated "control year" ([City of Austin](#); [City news](#)). Keep dogs out of the water here and rinse your hands.

The Austin Rowing Club map marks "unmarked hazards (shallow)" near Red Bud ([ARC map](#)).

RULE

- Electric motors only, 5 hp or less, from 5 am to 10 pm ([City code 8-5-82](#)).
- No swimming or wading ([City of Austin](#)).
- The ARC map shows a loop traffic pattern around Red Bud Isle ([ARC map](#)).

PRO TIP

Check LCRA's report before you go (see "Reading the Water"). If Tom Miller is scheduled to release this evening, be at the edge of the scour hole when the water starts moving. The guide reported bass holding tighter to structure when LCRA was releasing ([Torwick](#)). The timing is my inference **INFERENCE**.

Reach 1 Spots: Tom Miller Dam to Red Bud Isle

5 spots: 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E. Close-up maps from the 2008 survey; scores from the giant ranking.

1A · TAILRACE SCOUR-HOLE SOUTH LIP

Scour hole / drop-off

Target **30.29322, -97.78644**

Boat **30.29356, -97.78644**

90/100

GIANT RANK
#1 OF 51

DEEP WATER

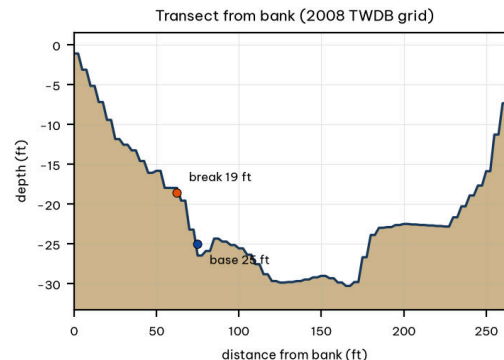
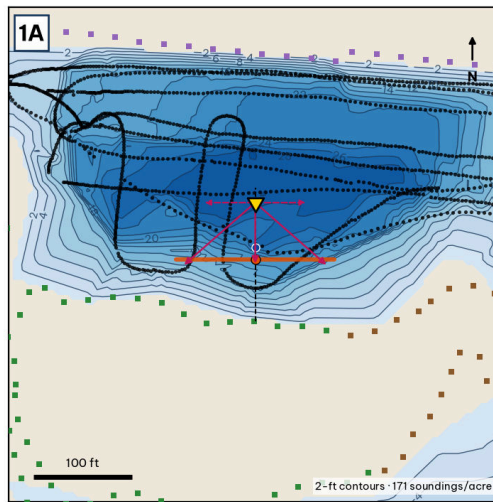
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Winter and pre-spawn · Post-spawn and summer



■ natural (unspecified) ▲ boat position
 ■ rock bluff → cast lane
 ■ wood ● break top
 ● sounding (2008)

Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 171 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.1 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	2.0 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	24.4 ft, 78 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 4.3 ft per 10 ft; average 2.9 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 65 ft away; 25-ft water 75 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 30 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 34 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The tailrace scour hole is the deepest water in the guide (about 25–31 ft). When Tom Miller generates, this is where current is strongest and baitfish get pushed and disoriented; the south lip is the first slack-to-current edge downstream of the turbines. Score factors: cover = riprap and scour hole; forage = turbine-washed shad and sunfish; pressure = boat-only water under the dam. **INFERENCE**

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **N** (blowing onto this bank) **ANALYSIS**. Wind matters less than current here; the dam and bluffs shelter the hole (see the fetch table). Generation ON is the bite trigger here. Hold on the lip and let the current sweep the bait over the edge. With no release, fish the lip slowly. **INFERENCE**

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the W bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. **ANALYSIS**

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 26 ft, roughly 122 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane **INFERENCE**.

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) **INFERENCE**

- ★ **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4–1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 2 to 24 ft, then on into the 30-ft water. Long pauses.
- ★ **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (2 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- ★ **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10–12 in worm on the 24-ft base in between.
- ★ **Fall:** Swimbait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

1B · EMMETT SHELTON BRIDGE PILING ROW

Bridge piling row

Target **30.29161, -97.78561**Boat **30.29193, -97.78551****63**/100GIANT RANK
#19 OF 51

DEEP WATER

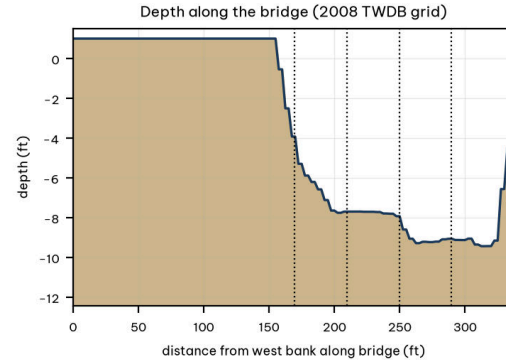
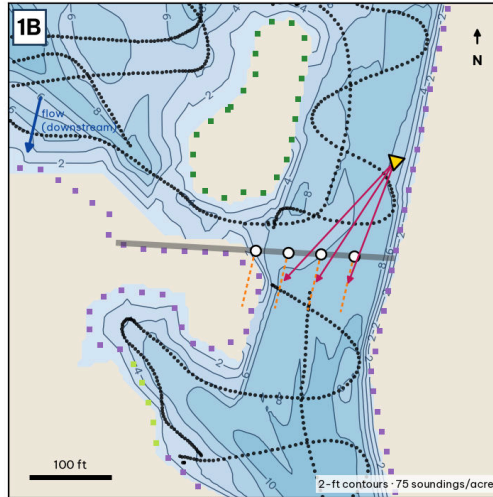
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Fall



■ lawn
 ■ natural (unspecified)
 ■ wood
 • sounding (2008)
 ▲ boat position
 → cast lane
 ○ pier (see text)
 — seam / eddy line

The bridge line is the OSM road or rail centerline. Pier markers are **inferred** from NBI span counts by assuming equal spans centered on the channel, except at the railroad bridge, where TWDB's footing outlines are used. Orange dashes show where a downstream eddy line should form during a release **INFERENCE**. Contours: 2-ft, at 75 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Bridge (NBI 2025)	10 spans, 121.9 m (400 ft) long, longest span 12.2 m (40 ft), built 1948; a separate 3-span relief bridge crosses the west channel
Water width along the deck	339 ft (2008 TWDB shoreline) ANALYSIS
Deepest water under the deck	9.4 ft, 312 ft from the west end ANALYSIS
Deep-water access	deepest within 300 ft: 12 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	75 soundings per acre; nearest sounding 26 ft from the crossing center

Why a giant would use it. Pilings are the only hard vertical cover in the main east channel of Reach 1. During releases each pier makes a small eddy on its downstream side, which is where a bass can sit out of the current and still see bait wash by. Score factors: cover = bridge pilings; forage = current carries bait past piers; pressure = boat-only, upper lake. **INFERENCE**

Wind and current. With a release on, work from upstream and drift baits past the downstream face of each pier. Slack water: fish them like any vertical post. Wind is minor here; the channel is narrow (S fetch median ~580 ft). A north wind blows straight down the channel and adds to the current. **INFERENCE**

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). Shade under the deck at all hours. **ANALYSIS**

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold upstream of the deepest span (yellow triangle) and cast down-current to the eddy behind each pier (magenta arrows) **INFERENCE**.

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) **INFERENCE**

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz football jig or a 10-in Texas-rigged worm crawled along the pier bases in the deepest span (about 9 ft). Pause 5–10 seconds at each pier.
- **Spawn:** 6–8 in slow-sinking glide (sunfish or shad colors) swum past the shady side of each pier and killed beside it. Give followers the 180° turn.
- **Summer:** The deck shades the piers all day. Pitch a 3/4 oz jig or a 10-in worm to the pier bases at first light and from dusk to the 10 pm fishing cutoff.
- **★ Fall:** 6–7 in swimbait or soft glide down the current seam past each pier when Tom Miller is releasing.

HAZARD · BRIDGE DEBRIS Broken concrete and rebar lie under the bridges (City of Austin 2025). Expect snags.

1C · ROCK BANK BELOW THE DAM (EAST SIDE)

Bank change: rock to channel

Target 30.29343, -97.78572

Boat 30.29367, -97.78568

80/100

GIANT RANK
#6 OF 51

DEEP WATER

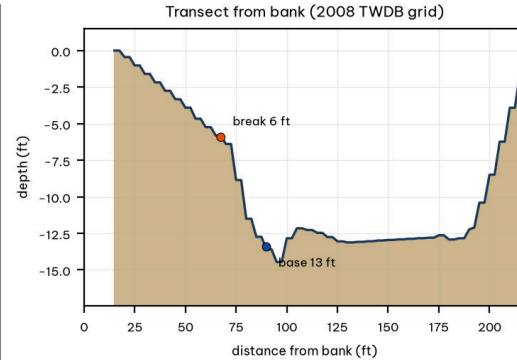
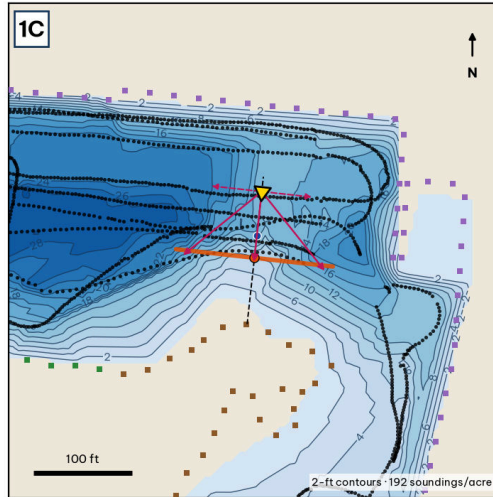
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



natural (unspecified) boat position
 rock bluff cast lane
 wood break top
 sounding (2008)

Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 192 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.0 ft (first wet grid cell, 15 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	2.9 ft, 42 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	12.6 ft, 88 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 3.4 ft per 10 ft; average 2.2 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	rock bluff (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 100 ft away; 25-ft water 108 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 30 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 32 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. Rock bluff meets the scour-hole slope. Rock holds heat and crawfish, and the bank turns to channel within about 90 ft. Score factors: cover = rock bluff; forage = crawfish on rock; shad below dam; pressure = boat-only. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **N** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A north wind blows onto this bank, but the fetch is short. Releases push water along this bank; fish the downstream end of the rock where the current slackens. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the W bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 14 ft, roughly 132 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4-1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 3 to 13 ft, then on into the 30-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (3 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10-12 in worm on the 13-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swim-bait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

1D · WEST CHANNEL OUTSIDE BANK

Channel bend / drop-off

Target **30.28953, -97.78751**Boat **30.28961, -97.78734****53**/100GIANT RANK
#38 OF 51

DEEP WATER

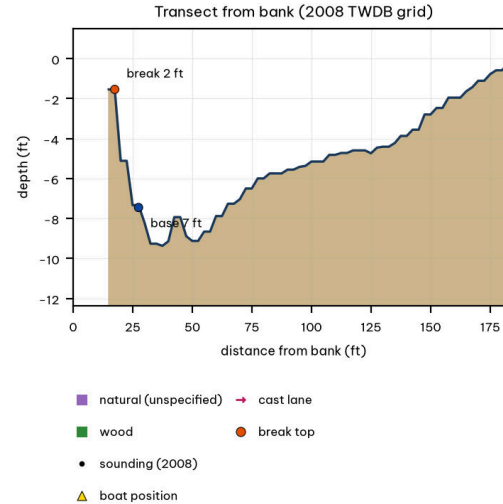
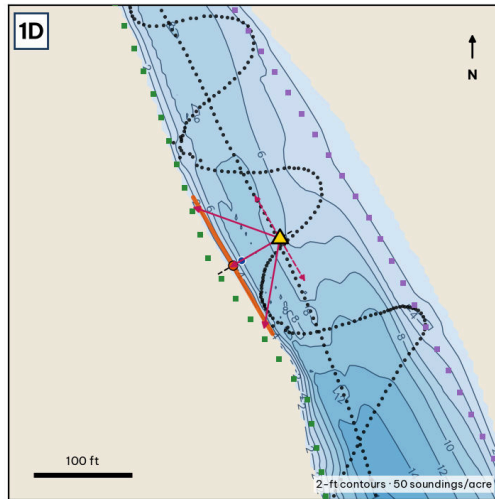
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 50 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.5 ft (first wet grid cell, 15 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	3.0 ft, 15 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	8.1 ft, 32 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 3.5 ft per 10 ft; average 2.9 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 555 ft away; 25-ft water 1470 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 17 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 34 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The outside bank of the west channel. The current hugs it, keeping a 5–9 ft trough tight to a wooded bank. Score factors: cover = wooded outside bank; forage = sunfish on wood; pressure = boat-only. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **ENE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). ENE wind blows onto it (rare); most of the time it is sheltered. Strongest during releases (west channel takes part of the flow). Start upstream and work down the bank. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the W bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 9 ft, roughly 78 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4–1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 3 to 8 ft, then on into the 17-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (3 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10–12 in worm on the 8-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swim-bait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

1E · RED BUD ISLE SOUTH TIP AND CHANNEL MERGE

Island tip

Target **30.28742, -97.78598**Boat **30.28760, -97.78616****57** /100GIANT RANK
#29 OF 51

DEEP WATER

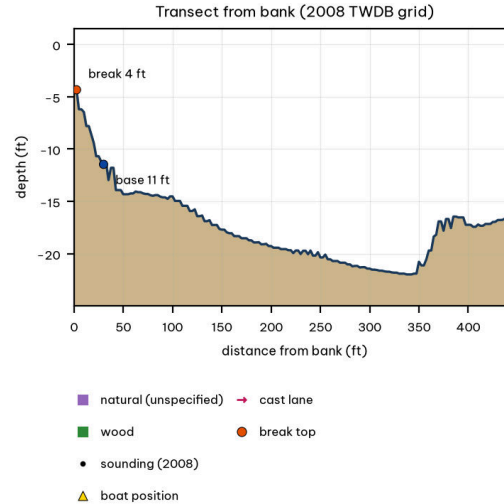
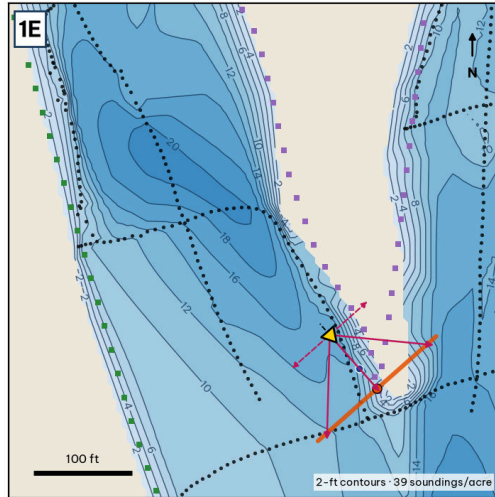
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Fall



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 39 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	4.6 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	5.1 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	13.1 ft, 42 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.8 ft per 10 ft; average 1.9 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	natural (confidence: low)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 181 ft away; 25-ft water 2192 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 22 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 21 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The island tip where the two channels merge. Current seams form off the tip, and the merge trough drops to about 21 ft downstream. Score factors: cover = island tip, laydowns; forage = seam concentrates bait; pressure = Red Bud Isle bank anglers. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A NW wind blows across the tip; the fetch is short. Releases make a clear seam off the tip; the down-current eddy is the target. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the E bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 15 ft, roughly 88 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4–1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 5 to 13 ft, then on into the 22-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (5 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10–12 in worm on the 13-ft base in between.
- **★ Fall:** Swimbait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

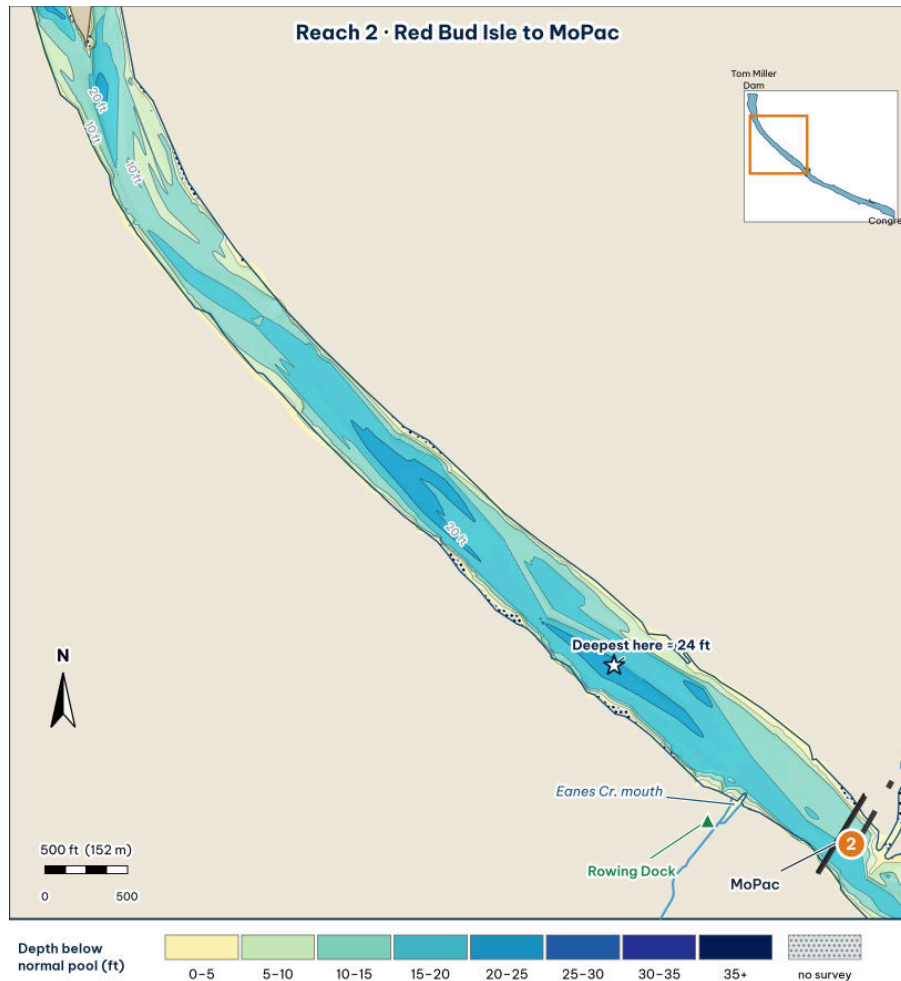
Reach 2 • Red Bud to MoPac

0.6–1.65 mi below the dam

Deepest ≈ 24 ft

Width ~450 ft

Access: Red Bud, Rowing Dock



Red Bud to MoPac: the longest, most uniform reach. A deep channel runs between two steep banks.

THE BOTTOM

- **It's a narrow, deep river channel.** The reach is about 450 ft wide (roughly 420–550 ft). Across the reach, the deepest point of each cross-section runs **15–24 ft, with a median of about 20 ft** [ANALYSIS](#). The deepest cell, about **24 ft**, sits about 1.4 miles below the dam (see the star on the map).
- **The channel favors the south (right) bank.** Its deepest line runs about **160 ft off the south bank and about 325 ft off the north bank** (medians) [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Both banks drop fast** [ANALYSIS](#):
 - **5 ft** within about 20 ft of either bank.
 - **10 ft** within about **40–45 ft** of either bank.
 - **15 ft**: about **80 ft off the south bank**, and about **120 ft off the north bank**.

The south bank is the steeper channel wall, and the north side has a slightly wider shoulder. – **No textbook ledge.** In 1999, TWDB reported "no distinct river channel" between Longhorn Dam and Red Bud and called the bottom "quite irregular" ([TWDB 1999](#)). Expect humps and troughs rather than a clean ledge. The flat-bottomed cross-section in the front of this guide shows this.

COVER AND GRASS

- **Steep banks with wood.** TPWD says most of the lake's cover is along the bank: "laydown logs and trees, overhanging brush, cypress tree roots, bulrush, and cattails" (TPWD). Bald cypress, sycamore, cottonwood and elm line the banks (TPWD paddling trail).
- **Grass.** Fanwort grows through this reach, which falls inside the City's "from Red Bud to I-35" range (City of Austin, FY2024–25). With the banks this steep, the strip of bottom that's shallow enough for grass is narrow ANALYSIS .

WATER: CLARITY AND CURRENT

- **Clarity.** Clear: this reach is above Lamar (City of Austin, FY2023).
- **Current.** The river is narrow here, so release current stays concentrated through the whole reach ANALYSIS .

THROUGH THE SEASONS

Season	What to expect	Play ANALYSIS
Spring	Clear water, and fish using submerged grass (Captain Experiences)	Parallel the 5–10 ft band along both banks. Natural colors
Summer	Fanwort at the surface from July to September (City). Stained, with 2–3 ft visibility, at about 81°F in mid-summer 2026 (Captain Experiences)	Low light. Shade lines under the cypress. Work the outer grass edge
Fall	Grass tops back below the surface (City)	Soft glide or swimbait parallel to the banks while the grass is thin
Winter	Cold, with less flow (TXST 2019)	Jig or big worm on the south channel wall, 12–18 ft

HOW TO FISH IT FOR A GIANT

THE APPROACH

- **Where a giant sits.** Cypress roots and laydowns on the steep south (right) bank, where 15 ft is within about 80 ft of the bank ANALYSIS .
- **Boat position.** About 50–70 ft off the bank, over 10–15 ft. Cast at a shallow angle, nearly parallel to the bank ANALYSIS .
- **Baits.** Skip a 3/4 oz jig or a 7-in stick worm into the root wads; swim a soft glide or 6-in swimbait down the bank in low light. A weightless soft jerkbait (Fluke) is worth trying around wood in clear water; the lake record ate one INFERENCE .
- **Line.** 20 lb fluorocarbon around wood ANALYSIS .

ACCESS, HAZARDS AND RULES

- **Access.** Carry in at Red Bud at the top of the reach. **Rowing Dock** (2418 Stratford Dr., on the south shore just west of MoPac) rents kayaks for \$20–25 an hour (Rowing Dock).

RULE

Traffic rule: "east-bound traffic should stay on the south side, the west-bound traffic should stay on the north side," and the central channel is kept for fast-moving racing shells (Austin Rowing Club). Fish the bank lanes, not the middle.

PRO TIP

Look at the cross-sections in the front of this guide. The south bank reaches 15 ft about 40 ft sooner than the north bank does. On a cold day, the south wall puts deep water within one cast of the cover ANALYSIS .

Reach 2 Spots: Red Bud to MoPac

4 spots: 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D. Close-up maps from the 2008 survey; scores from the giant ranking.

2A · SOUTH-BANK ROCK BLUFF

Rock bluff / steep bank

Target **30.27898, -97.77936**

Boat **30.27910, -97.77919**

70/100

GIANT RANK
#10 OF 51

DEEP WATER

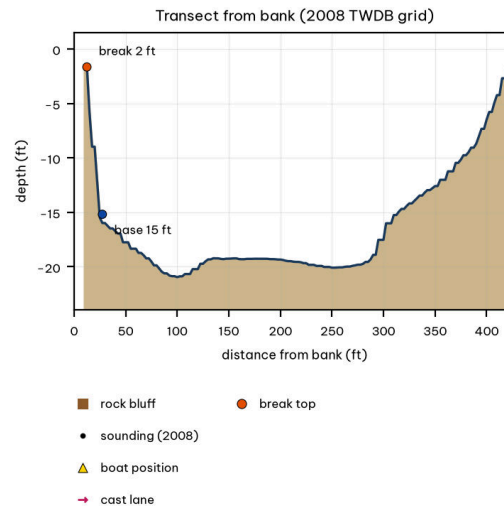
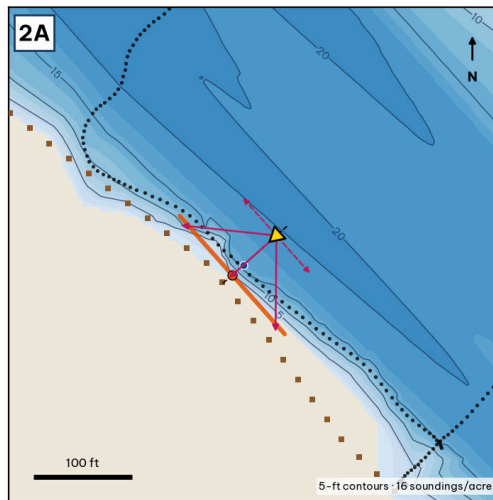
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Winter and pre-spawn



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 16 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.7 ft (first wet grid cell, 10 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	3.7 ft, 10 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	15.8 ft, 32 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 6.5 ft per 10 ft; average 5.4 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	rock bluff (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 81 ft away; 25-ft water 5697 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 22 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 16 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The best example of a true channel wall in the guide: TPWD-mapped rock bluff that drops from about 2 ft to 15 ft in about 16 ft of distance, with the 20-ft channel right outside it. Bass can move vertically without moving far. Score factors: cover = TPWD-mapped rock bluff; forage = crawfish, sunfish; pressure = quiet stretch. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A NE wind blows onto it. Under S/SE winds this bank is in the lee. The narrow reach keeps release current concentrated against this wall. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 18 ft, roughly 78 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- ★ **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4–1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 4 to 16 ft, then on into the 22-ft water. Long pauses.
- ★ **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (4 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- ★ **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10–12 in worm on the 16-ft base in between.
- ★ **Fall:** Swim bait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

2B · THE 24-FT TROUGH

Channel hole

Target **30.27640, -97.77646**Boat **30.27659, -97.77631**

67/100

GIANT RANK
#15 OF 51

DEEP WATER

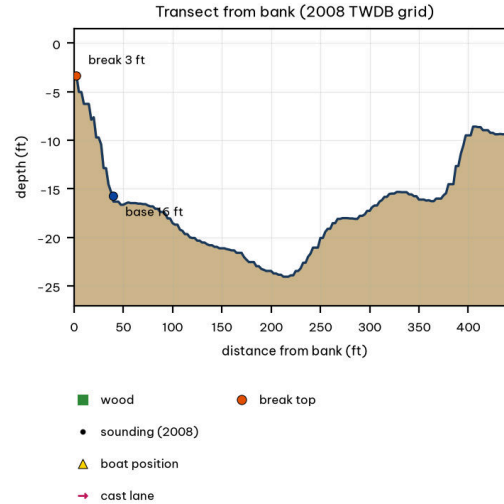
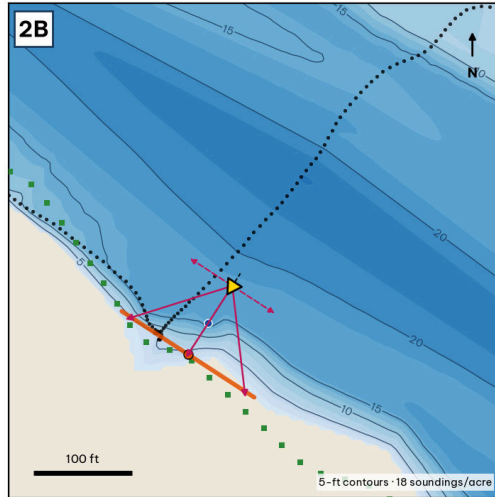
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 18 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	3.4 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	4.7 ft, 5 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	15.7 ft, 42 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 3.9 ft per 10 ft; average 2.9 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 116 ft away; 25-ft water 6923 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 24 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 33 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The south-bank approach to the 24-ft trough, the deepest water between Red Bud and MoPac. Deep-water refuge next to the wooded bank. Score factors: cover = wooded bank over trough; forage = sunfish; pressure = quiet stretch. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NNE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). An NNE wind blows onto this bank (rare). S/SE winds leave it in the lee. Release current speeds up over the trough; fish the upstream lip. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 18 ft, roughly 88 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4-1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 5 to 16 ft, then on into the 24-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (5 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10-12 in worm on the 16-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swim-bait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

2C • DEEP EDDY / EILERS PARK NORTH SHELF

Shelf edge

Target **30.27584, -97.77314**Boat **30.27565, -97.77332**

47 /100

GIANT RANK
#50 OF 51

DEEP WATER

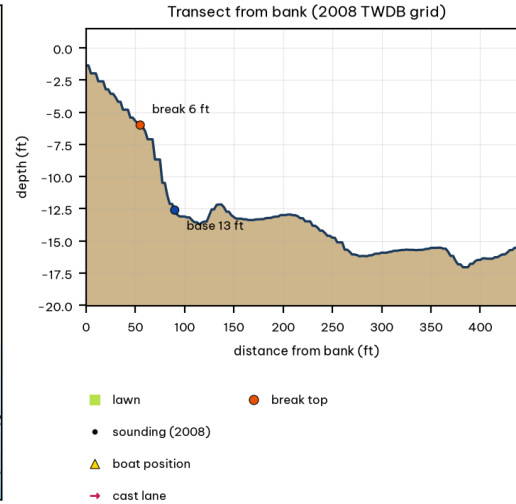
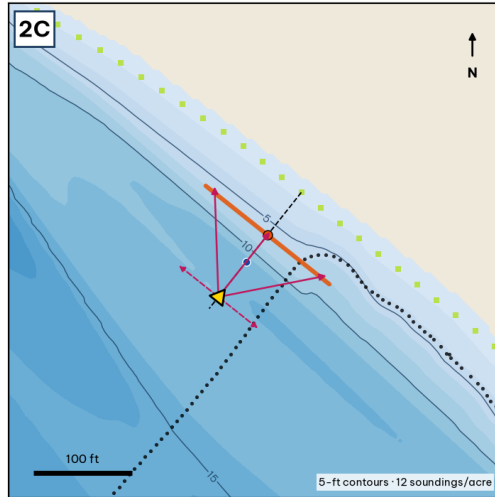
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 12 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.4 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	5.6 ft, 50 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	12.7 ft, 92 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.4 ft per 10 ft; average 1.7 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	lawn (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 381 ft away; 25-ft water 7592 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 19 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 43 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. A lawn-bank shelf at Eilers Park: 2–6 ft flat out to about 55 ft, then a soft break to 12–13 ft. Shelf edges like this are where shad and sunfish get pinned. Score factors: cover = shelf, lawn bank; forage = sunfish; pressure = park bank access. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A SW wind blows onto it. Weak current along the shelf; the edge sees a little more flow. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 15 ft, roughly 138 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Suspending jerkbait or a 3/4 oz jig worked slowly off the edge at about 13 ft.
- **Spawn:** Wake bait or slow glide over the flat, then let it fall off the 6-ft edge, where pre-spawn females stage.
- **Summer:** Big walking topwater over the flat at dawn and dusk; a 10–12 in worm dragged along the 6–13 ft edge after sun-up.
- **Fall:** Swimmbait run parallel to the edge, best when wind blows onto the flat.

2D · EANES CREEK MOUTH

Creek-mouth delta

Target **30.27452, -97.77379**Boat **30.27492, -97.77361****53**/100GIANT RANK
#39 OF 51

DEEP WATER

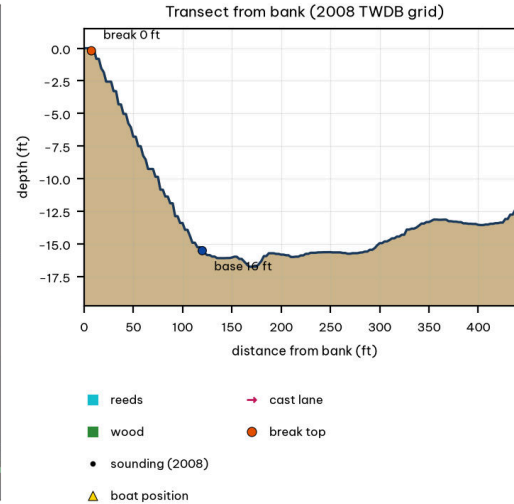
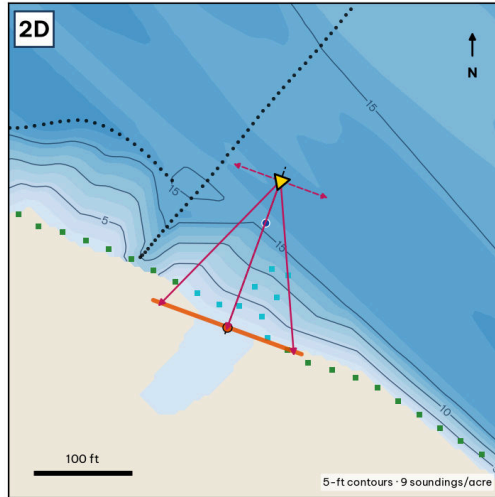
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Spawn



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 9 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.0 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	0.4 ft, 8 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	15.3 ft, 118 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 1.7 ft per 10 ft; average 1.4 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	reeds (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 459 ft away; 25-ft water 7920 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 20 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	low (nearest sounding 113 ft away; the break is interpolated)

Why a giant would use it. The Eanes Creek mouth. It has a small delta and reeds; after rain it carries a mud line and fresh food. Score factors: cover = creek delta, reeds; forage = creek inflow bait; pressure = paddle traffic. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NNE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). An NNE wind blows into the mouth. Creek inflow after rain. The lake current here is moderate. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 17 ft, roughly 162 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Jig or big Texas-rigged worm crawled down the delta slope to 15 ft. Go slow.
- ★ **Spawn:** Sight-fish from a distance in clear water: weightless soft jerkbait (Fluke) or stick worm to beds on the delta. The lake record (14.05 lb) took a Zoom Fluke from a creek in February.
- **Summer:** Walking bait or wake bait over the delta at dawn. After a storm, a big white spinnerbait along the mud line.
- **Fall:** Glide or swimbait across the delta lip (0–15 ft) as shad move toward the creek.

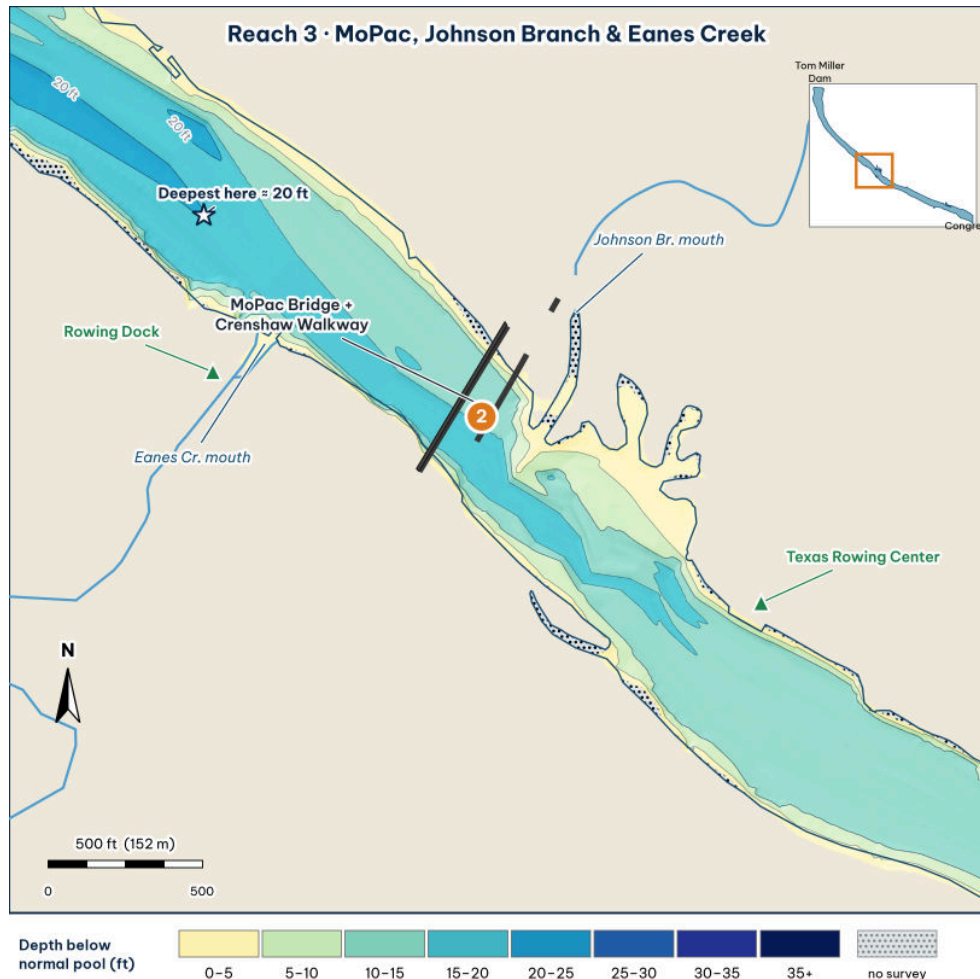
Reach 3 • MoPac, Johnson Branch and Eanes Creek

1.65–1.95 mi below the dam

Deepest ≈ 20 ft

Two bridges: MoPac +
Crenshaw walkway

Access: Rowing Dock, TRC



MoPac. Hatched water inside the Johnson Branch cove has no TWDB survey coverage.

THE BOTTOM

- **The channel hugs the south bank** **ANALYSIS** :
 - It's about 470 ft wide, and the deepest point of each cross-section runs **16–20 ft**.
 - The deepest line runs about **130 ft off the south bank**.
 - The south bank reaches **15 ft within about 70 ft**.
 - The deepest cell in the reach, about **20 ft**, is marked with a star on the map.
- **The north side is a broad flat** **ANALYSIS** . It reaches **5 ft about 50 ft out**, **10 ft about 100 ft out**, but doesn't reach **15 ft until about 290 ft out**. That's a shelf more than 200 ft wide in 10–15 ft of water.
- **Johnson Branch cove** (north) is shallow. Its inner part has no TWDB coverage, so I won't give depths there **UNVERIFIED** .
- **Eanes Creek** enters from the south, right at the bridges (OSM).
- **Bridge pilings**. In 1999, TWDB surveyed below the bridge piers and found "no unusual change in the bathymetry" (TWDB 1999). So don't expect scour holes at the pilings.

COVER AND GRASS

- **Bridges**. The MoPac (Loop 1) bridges carry the Roberta Crenshaw walkway slung underneath (OSM).

- **Grass.** Fanwort grows here. The City reported grass building up "between MoPac and I-35" (City of Austin, FY2024–25). The north flat is the most grass-friendly bottom in the reach [ANALYSIS](#).

WATER: CLARITY AND CURRENT

- **Clarity.** Clear (City of Austin, FY2023).
- **Current.** When the dam releases, the bridge pilings break the current into seams. The guide saw bass hold tighter to pilings during releases (Torwick).
- **After rain.** Johnson Branch and Eanes Creek bring in runoff. Most of the lake's creeks are now "ephemeral, dominated by storm flow" (TXST 2019).

THROUGH THE SEASONS

Season	What to expect	Play ANALYSIS
Spring	Clear water, and fish on the flats	The outer edge of the north-flat grass
Summer	Surface fanwort on the flat (City)	Dawn: the shaded side of the bridge and the edges of open-water schools
Fall	Grass tops sit below the surface (City)	Grass edges on the north flat, plus the pilings when the dam releases. Top spot
Winter	Cold	The south channel wall and the bridge shade

HOW TO FISH IT FOR A GIANT

THE APPROACH

- **Where a giant sits.** The edge where the north flat drops into the channel, and the Emmett Shelton/MoPac pilings when water is moving [ANALYSIS](#).
- **The flat.** Sit in about 15 ft, 250–300 ft off the north bank, and swim a glide or wake bait down the slope over the grass tops in low light [ANALYSIS](#).
- **The pilings.** Down-current of each piling, cast past it and swing a swimbait or slow glide down the seam. With no current, crawl a jig around each piling base [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Line.** 20–25 lb fluorocarbon at the pilings; braid with a fluorocarbon leader in heavy summer grass [ANALYSIS](#).

ACCESS, HAZARDS AND RULES

- **Access.**
 - Rowing Dock is on the south shore, just west of MoPac.
 - Texas Rowing Center (1541 W Cesar Chavez) is on the north shore below MoPac (TPWD [paddling trail](#)).
 - An unimproved path leads down from Stephen F. Austin Dr. under MoPac (City of Austin).

HAZARD

The ARC map marks "unmarked hazards (shallow)" at MoPac ([ARC map](#)). Rental kayaks launch from both docks in this reach.

PRO TIP

At MoPac, a 200-ft-wide grass shelf sits right next to a 20-ft channel wall and two rows of pilings. That's three kinds of cover within a long cast. It's the best all-around spot in the upper lake [ANALYSIS](#).

Reach 3 Spots: MoPac and Johnson Creek

4 spots: 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D. Close-up maps from the 2008 survey; scores from the giant ranking.

3A • MOPAC PILING ROWS

Bridge piling row

Target **30.27352, -97.77170**

Boat **30.27375, -97.77197**

63/100

GIANT RANK
#20 OF 51

DEEP WATER

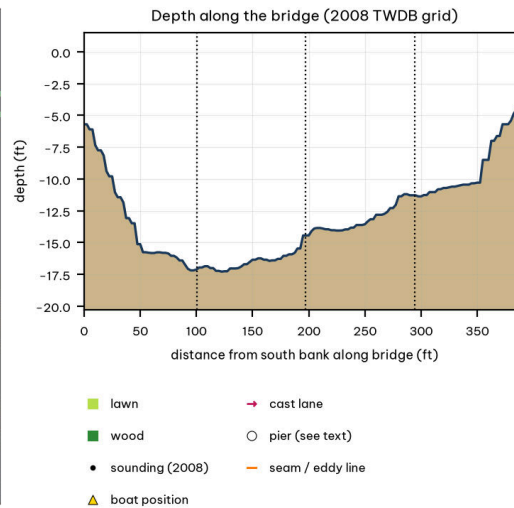
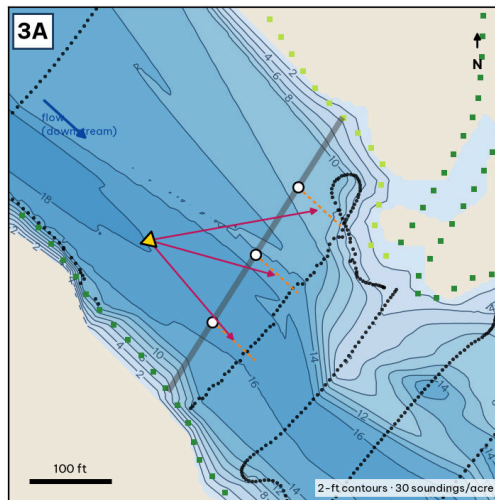
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Post-spawn and summer



The bridge line is the OSM road or rail centerline. Pier markers are **inferred** from NBI span counts by assuming equal spans centered on the channel, except at the railroad bridge, where TWDB's footing outlines are used. Orange dashes show where a downstream eddy line should form during a release **INFERENCE**. Contours: 2-ft, at 30 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Bridge (NBI 2025)	southbound deck 32+2 spans (944 m), northbound deck 36+8 spans (1,287 m, also crosses the UPRR); longest spans 31.4 m and 38.1 m; built 1973
Water width along the deck	395 ft (2008 TWDB shoreline) ANALYSIS
Deepest water under the deck	17.3 ft, 122 ft from the south end ANALYSIS
Deep-water access	deepest within 300 ft: 19 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	30 soundings per acre; nearest sounding 122 ft from the crossing center

Why a giant would use it. MoPac has the most piers in the guide (NBI: 32–36 spans per deck), so it gives the most vertical cover and all-day shade under the double deck. Score factors: cover = MoPac pilings (many); forage = shad in shade lines; pressure = rowing traffic. **INFERENCE**

Wind and current. Release current makes seams on the downstream side of every pier row; work from upstream. Shelter under the deck in any wind. A SE or NW wind runs along this reach (long fetch). **INFERENCE**

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). Shade under the deck at all hours. **ANALYSIS**

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold upstream of the deepest span (yellow triangle) and cast down-current to the eddy behind each pier (magenta arrows) **INFERENCE**.

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) **INFERENCE**

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz football jig or a 10-in Texas-rigged worm crawled along the pier bases in the deepest span (about 17 ft). Pause 5–10 seconds at each pier.
- **Spawn:** 6–8 in slow-sinking glide (sunfish or shad colors) swum past the shady side of each pier and killed beside it. Give followers the 180° turn.
- **★ Summer:** The deck shades the piers all day. Pitch a 3/4 oz jig or a 10-in worm to the pier bases at first light and from dusk to the 10 pm fishing cutoff.
- **Fall:** 6–7 in swimbait or soft glide down the current seam past each pier when Tom Miller is releasing.

HAZARD • BRIDGE DEBRIS Broken concrete and rebar lie under the bridges (City of Austin 2025). Expect snags.

3B · SOUTH CHANNEL WALL ABOVE MOPAC

Drop-off

Target **30.27423, -97.77312**Boat **30.27441, -97.77298**

50/100

GIANT RANK
#45 OF 51

DEEP WATER

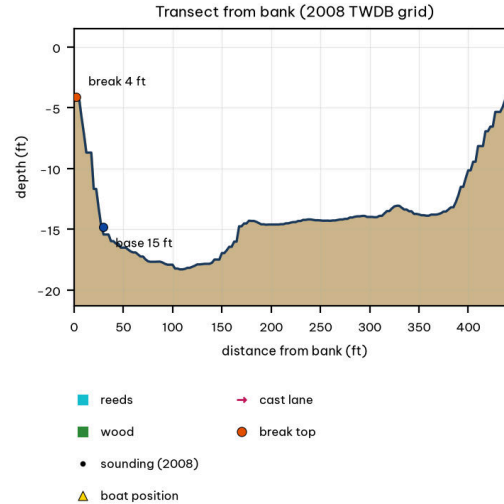
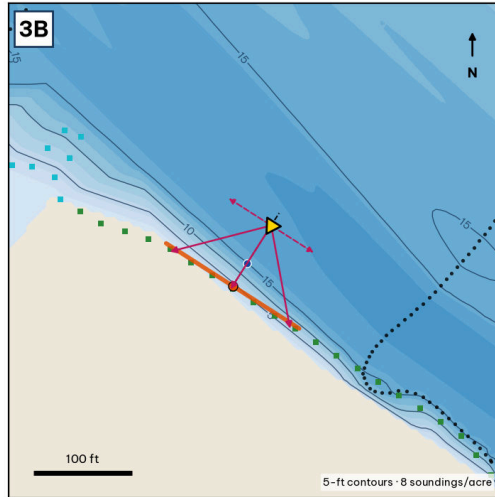
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 8 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	4.2 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	4.7 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	15.4 ft, 35 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 4.5 ft per 10 ft; average 3.1 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 654 ft away; 25-ft water 8081 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 20 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	low (nearest sounding 156 ft away; the break is interpolated)

Why a giant would use it. A south channel wall just upstream of MoPac. It drops from about 4 to 15 ft within 30 ft. Score factors: cover = wooded channel wall; forage = sunfish; pressure = rowing traffic. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NNE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). An NNE wind blows onto it. Concentrated release current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 17 ft, roughly 80 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4-1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 5 to 15 ft. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (5 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10-12 in worm on the 15-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swim bait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

3C · NORTH FLAT BELOW MOPAC

Shelf edge / flat

Target **30.27313, -97.77105**Boat **30.27292, -97.77105****57** /100GIANT RANK
#30 OF 51

DEEP WATER

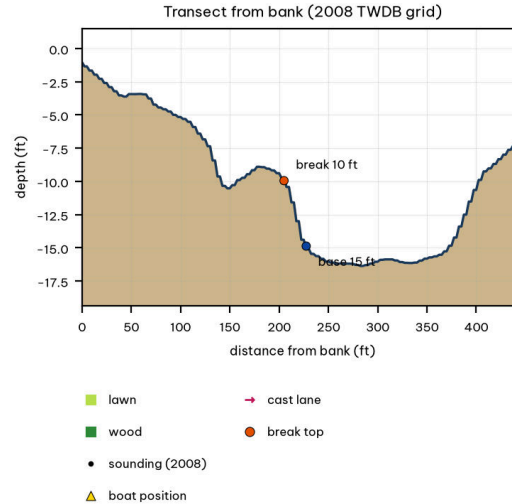
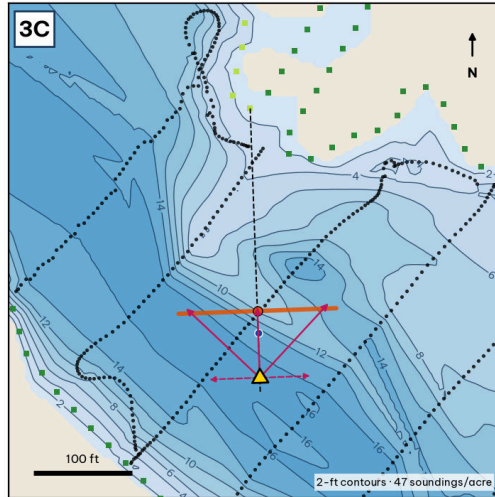
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 47 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.0 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	9.6 ft, 200 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	15.2 ft, 232 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.2 ft per 10 ft; average 1.7 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	lawn (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 1273 ft away; 25-ft water 7417 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 18 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	good (a 2008 sounding lies within 15 ft of the break)

Why a giant would use it. A wide flat below MoPac on the north side, about 200 ft wide, ending at a break from about 10 to 15 ft. Flats near the bridge give bass a place to roam and chase bait. Score factors: cover = open flat; forage = sunfish; pressure = rowing traffic. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **S** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A south wind blows straight onto the flat. It is the most wind-exposed spot in Reach 3 under the prevailing wind. Mild current on the flat. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 16 ft, roughly 278 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Suspending jerkbait or a 3/4 oz jig worked slowly off the edge at about 15 ft.
- **Spawn:** Wake bait or slow glide over the flat, then let it fall off the 10-ft edge, where pre-spawn females stage.
- **Summer:** Big walking topwater over the flat at dawn and dusk; a 10-12 in worm dragged along the 10-15 ft edge after sun-up.
- **Fall:** Swimmbait run parallel to the edge, best when wind blows onto the flat.

3D • JOHNSON BRANCH DELTA FLAT

Creek-mouth delta / flat edge

Target **30.27350, -97.77109**Boat **30.27352, -97.77154****57** /100GIANT RANK
#31 OF 51

DEEP WATER

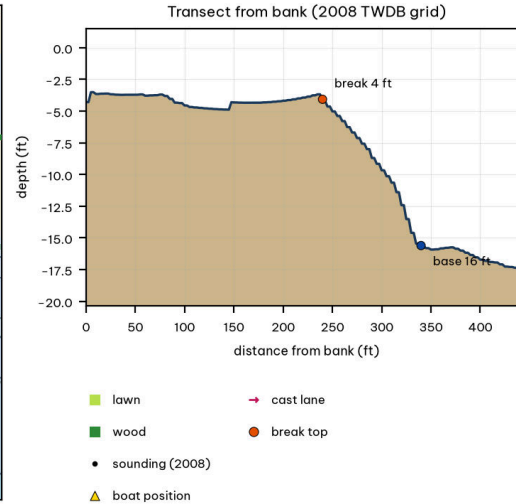
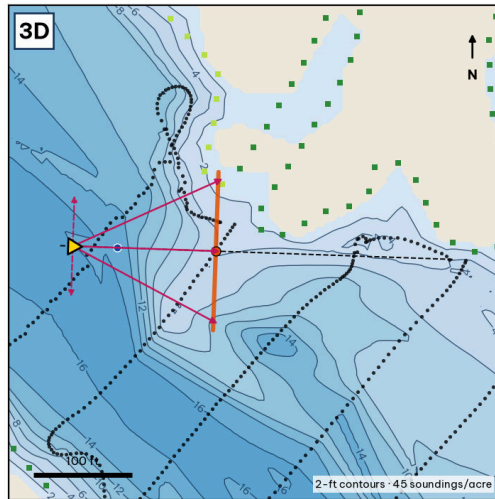
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Spawn



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 45 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	4.3 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	4.3 ft, 242 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	15.4 ft, 340 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 0.8 ft per 10 ft; average 1.1 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 1511 ft away; 25-ft water 7177 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 17 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	good (a 2008 sounding lies within 15 ft of the break)

Why a giant would use it. The Johnson Branch delta: a 3–5 ft flat that ends at a 4–16 ft break. Fine sediment (City 2025). Creek water and bait collect here. Score factors: cover = creek delta; forage = creek inflow; pressure = paddle traffic. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **W** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A west wind blows across the flat. Creek inflow after rain. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 17 ft, roughly 385 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

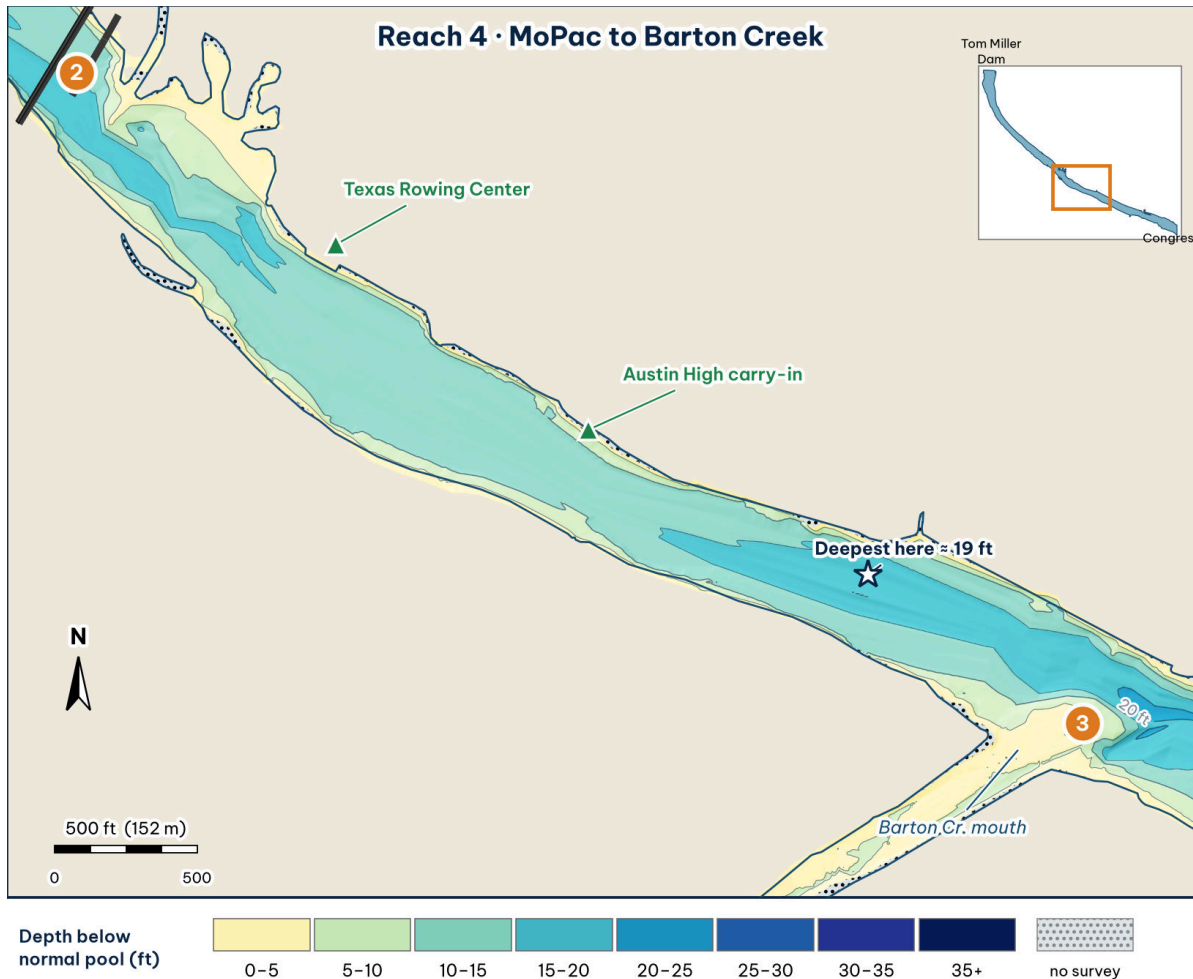
- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Jig or big Texas-rigged worm crawled down the delta slope to 15 ft. Go slow.
- ★ **Spawn:** Sight-fish from a distance in clear water: weightless soft jerkbait (Fluke) or stick worm to beds on the delta. The lake record (14.05 lb) took a Zoom Fluke from a creek in February.
- **Summer:** Walking bait or wake bait over the delta at dawn. After a storm, a big white spinnerbait along the mud line.
- **Fall:** Glide or swimbait across the delta lip (4–15 ft) as shad move toward the creek.

Reach 4 • MoPac to Barton Creek (Zilker)

1.95–2.45 mi below the dam

Deepest ≈ 19 ft

Flattest reach, ~390 ft wide

Access: Austin High carry-in,
TRC

The Zilker stretch: a narrow, even-bottomed channel. The deepest water sits at its lower end, as the lake approaches Barton Creek.

THE BOTTOM

• The most even bottom in the guide **ANALYSIS** :

- It's about 390 ft wide (roughly 340–490 ft).
- The deepest point of each cross-section runs **13–19 ft, with a median of about 14 ft**.
- The deepest line runs near the middle and drifts gently from side to side.

• Banks **ANALYSIS** :

- 10 ft comes about **35–40 ft off either bank**.
- 15 ft shows up only in scattered deeper pockets, mostly toward the downstream end. The deepest cell, about **19 ft**, is about 2.4 miles below the dam, just above Barton Creek.

• What the old contours show. TWDB's 2008 contour map shows this as a wide, flat basin, mostly 14–19 ft, with no 410 contour (19+ ft) (TWDB 2008).

COVER AND GRASS

- **Grass.** This is the heart of the "between MoPac and I-35" grass buildup, which forced evening cruises to be cancelled (City of Austin, FY2024–25). Clear water lets fanwort grow "in relatively deep water" (City of Austin, FY2023).

- **Docks.** The Texas Rowing Center docks are on the north shore (TPWD paddling trail).

WATER: CLARITY AND CURRENT

- **Clarity.** Clear.
- **Current.** Release current spreads evenly across this uniform channel. There isn't much to break it up except bank points and any grass edges [ANALYSIS](#).

THROUGH THE SEASONS

Season	What to expect	Play ANALYSIS
Spring	Clear water and grass growing back. A spring 2026 guide report had fish on Texas-rigged stick worms in submerged grass (Captain Experiences)	Burn the grass tops
Summer	Surface mats (City). Schools chasing shad in open water (Captain Experiences)	Dawn. Cover water down the open lane between the mats
Fall	Grass tops below the surface	Long drifts along the grass edges. Wind-blown banks
Winter	Cold and even, with little to set one spot apart	Pass through to Reach 5's Barton water

HOW TO FISH IT FOR A GIANT

THE APPROACH

- **Where a giant sits.** Breaks in the grass edge along the 5–10 ft band, and any wood. This reach has little deep water close to cover, so it scores lower for giants [ANALYSIS](#).
- **How.** Cover water with a 6-in swimbait or a glide along the grass edge in low light, then slow down with a big worm where the edge bends [INFERENCE](#).
- **Line.** Braid with a fluorocarbon leader when the grass is thick [ANALYSIS](#).

ACCESS, HAZARDS AND RULES

- **Austin High carry-in ramp.** It's across Stephen F. Austin Dr. from the school. TPWD says it's "suitable only for canoes or small cartop boats." There's no fee, and parking is paid street parking ([TPWD access](#); [City of Austin](#)).
- **Zilker parking.** It costs \$3 an hour on weekends and holidays from spring break through Labor Day. In fall it's normally free ([City of Austin](#)).

RULE

Gas motors are banned. Electric motors are limited to 5 hp, and only from 5 am to 10 pm ([City code 8-5-82](#)).

PRO TIP

On an even bottom like this, the grass edge **is** the structure. Idle down the reach watching your graph. Any spot where the grass line pokes out toward the channel or dents in toward the bank is worth a dozen casts [ANALYSIS](#).

Reach 4 Spots: Austin High to Zilker

3 spots: 4A, 4B, 4C. Close-up maps from the 2008 survey; scores from the giant ranking.

4A • TEXAS ROWING CENTER NORTH BANK

Bank drop / dock

Target **30.27245, -97.76946**Boat **30.27226, -97.76978****53**/100GIANT RANK
#40 OF 51

DEEP WATER

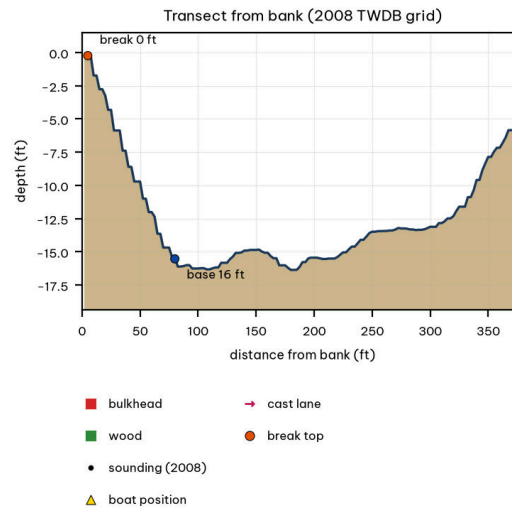
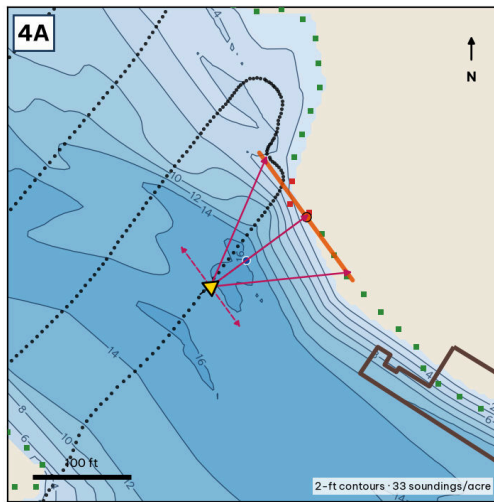
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 33 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.2 ft (first wet grid cell, 2 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	0.6 ft, 2 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	15.2 ft, 78 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.5 ft per 10 ft; average 2.0 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	bulkhead (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 1944 ft away; 25-ft water 6757 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 17 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 38 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The Texas Rowing Center north bank. A bulkhead and docks drop to about 15 ft within 80 ft. Docks give shade, and the bulkhead gives hard cover. Score factors: cover = docks, bulkhead; forage = sunfish under docks; pressure = rental docks, heavy traffic. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A SW wind blows onto it. Moderate current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 16 ft, roughly 122 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz jig crawled down the slope off the dock ends.
- **Spawn:** Soft glide skipped or 'chopped' beside the dock posts so it hangs near the cover.
- **Summer:** Skip a jig or a 7-in stick worm deep under the shade; the slope reaches 15 ft about 78 ft out.
- **Fall:** Swimbait along the outside edge of the dock line.

4B · SOUTH BANK WOOD LINE, ZILKER

Wooded bank drop

Target **30.26818, -97.76331**Boat **30.26833, -97.76320**

57/100

GIANT RANK
#32 OF 51

DEEP WATER

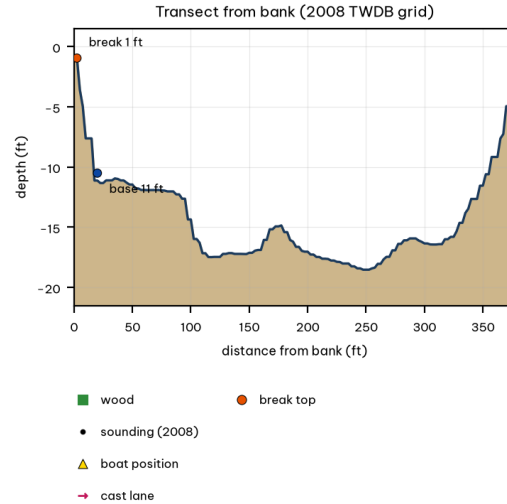
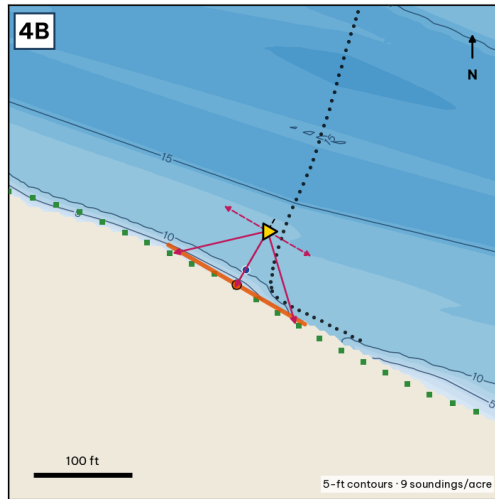
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 9 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.9 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	2.4 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	10.0 ft, 20 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 4.6 ft per 10 ft; average 3.8 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 1006 ft away; 25-ft water 4324 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 19 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 36 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The wooded south bank at Zilker. It drops steeply from about 1 to 10 ft within 20 ft. Score factors: cover = wooded bank; forage = sunfish; pressure = moderate. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NNE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). An NNE wind blows onto it. Under S winds it is in the lee. Moderate current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 12 ft, roughly 65 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4–1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 2 to 10 ft, then on into the 19-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (2 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10–12 in worm on the 10-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swim-bait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

4C • NORTH-BANK DROP INTO THE 19-FT POCKET

Drop-off / channel pocket

Target **30.26910, -97.76287**Boat **30.26888, -97.76293**

60/100

GIANT RANK
#24 OF 51

DEEP WATER

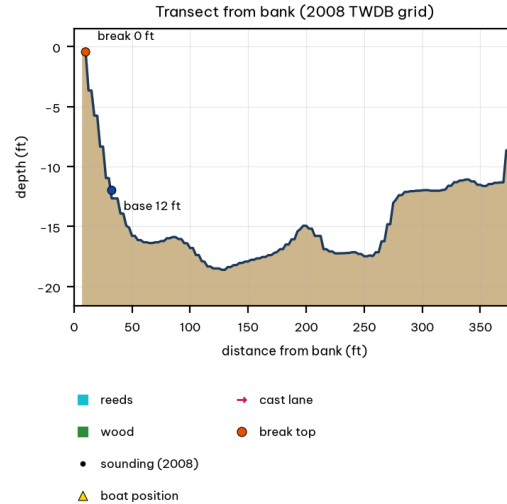
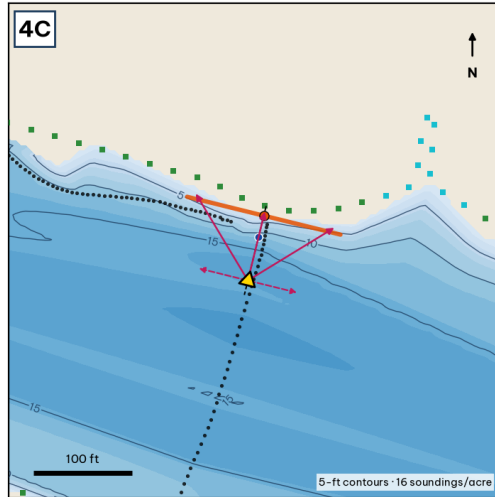
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 16 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.4 ft (first wet grid cell, 8 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	1.7 ft, 8 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	14.2 ft, 42 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 5.1 ft per 10 ft; average 3.5 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 1003 ft away; 25-ft water 4347 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 19 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	good (a 2008 sounding lies within 15 ft of the break)

Why a giant would use it. A north-bank drop into the 19-ft pocket just above Barton Creek: from about 0 to 12 ft within 32 ft. Score factors: cover = wooded bank drop; forage = sunfish; pressure = moderate. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SSW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A SSW wind blows onto it. This is the prevailing wind, so it is often windblown. Moderate current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 16 ft, roughly 88 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4–1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 2 to 14 ft. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (2 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10–12 in worm on the 14-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swim bait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

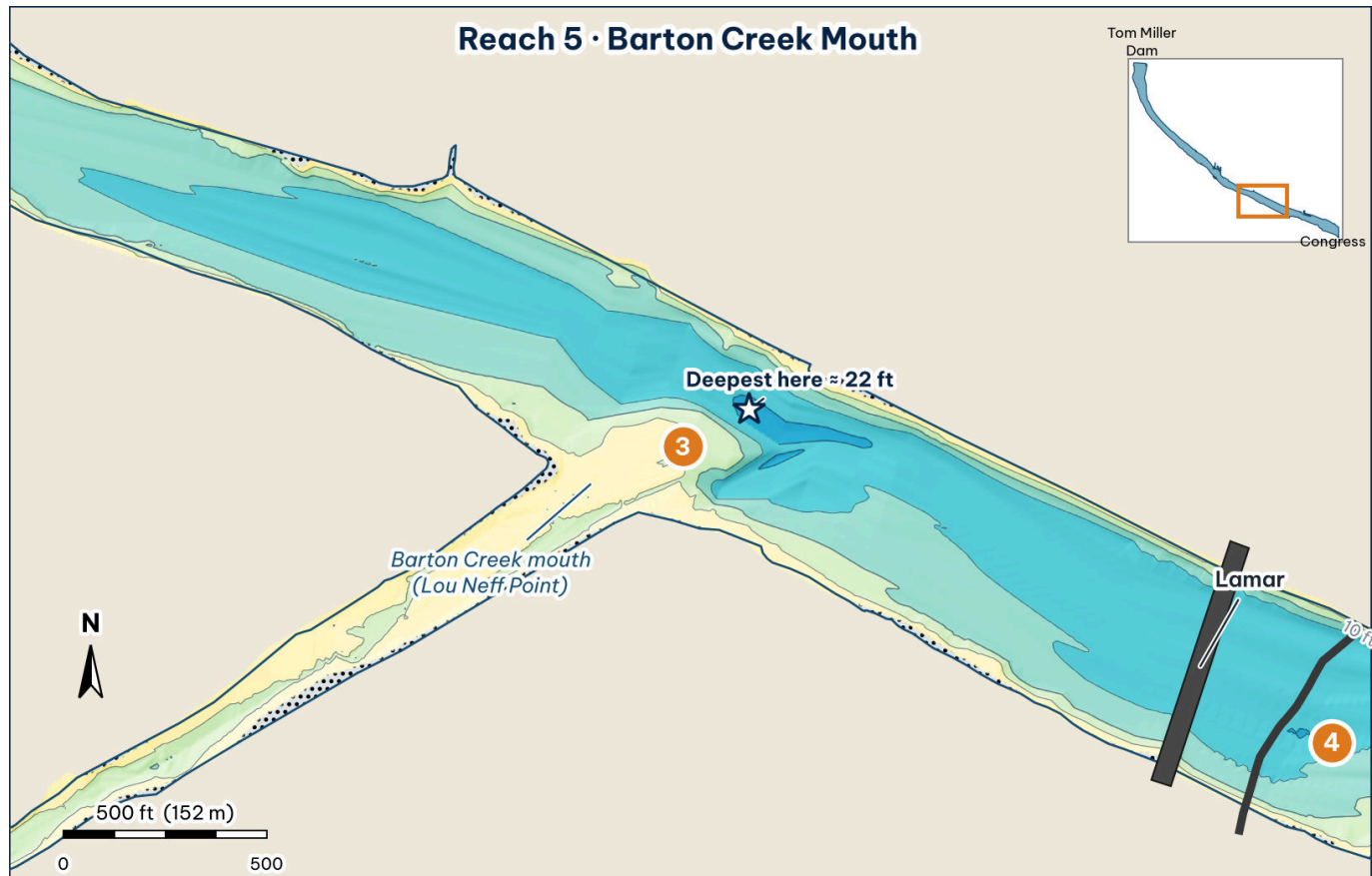
Reach 5 • Barton Creek Mouth

2.45–2.7 mi below the dam

Deepest ≈ 22 ft

Spring water ~71–72°F

Access: Zilker rentals



Depth below
normal pool (ft)



Barton Creek mouth (Lou Neff Point). The channel crosses to the north bank, leaving a wide, shallow flat off the creek mouth.

THE BOTTOM

- **The channel crosses to the north bank** **ANALYSIS** :
 - It's about 470–620 ft wide, and the deepest point of each cross-section runs **17–22 ft**.
 - The deepest line runs about **150 ft off the north bank**.
 - The deepest cell, about **22 ft**, sits about 2.6 miles below the dam, just below the creek mouth.
- **The Barton flat** (the south side, off the creek mouth) **ANALYSIS** :
 - **5 ft about 30 ft out** from the south bank.
 - **10 ft about 90 ft out**.
 - **15 ft about 230 ft out**.

The sample cross-section shows a shelf about 5 ft deep that's roughly 250 ft wide, then a sharp drop to 18–19 ft. – **The Barton Creek arm**. In the 2008 grid, it's mostly **4–5 ft deep (median)**, reaching about 7 ft in most places and **12.5 ft at its deepest** **ANALYSIS**. TWDB surveyed it in 2008 (TWDB 2008). In 1999, TWDB noted "shoaling and sediment deposition" at creek mouths (TWDB 1999). Barton Creek carries about 93 million pounds of suspended sediment a year, mostly in big storms (City of Austin, Barton Creek study).

COVER AND GRASS

- **The historic center of the grass.** In 2013, "dense growths of fanwort... traversed the width of Lady Bird Reservoir at the confluence of Barton Springs Creek" (TPWD 2019). Fanwort grows in Barton Creek today (City of Austin, FY2024–25).
- **Bank plants.** Giant reed is abundant at "the mouths of Barton and Waller Creeks" (City plant page).

WATER: CLARITY, TEMPERATURE AND CURRENT

- **Spring water.** Barton Springs runs about 71–72°F year-round. USGS daily averages stayed between 21.5 and 22.1°C all of 2025, and the gauge read **22.1°C (71.8°F) and 21 cfs at 11:00 am CT on Oct 12, 2026** (USGS 08155500). The City still says "68–70" (City of Austin). TPWD says Barton Creek "remains warm during the winter" (TPWD).
- **Spring flow.** TPWD gives a long-term average of 32 million gallons a day, about 50 cfs (TPWD paddling trail; ANALYSIS unit conversion). At today's 21 cfs, the warm plume is small.
- **Clarity.** Clear. The guide found clear water and healthy grass "around Barton Springs" (Torwick).
- **After rain.** It turns muddy only after big storms. Rains of an inch or more after dry spells "may not generate runoff" (City Barton Creek study).

THROUGH THE SEASONS

Season	What to expect	Play ANALYSIS
Spring	The spring-fed flat warms early	Edge of the flat, where 5 ft drops to 15 ft
Summer	71–72°F spring water is cooler than an 80°F+ lake	The creek-mouth plume at dawn
Fall	Lake and springs are near the same temperature until the fronts come	Grass edge on the flat lip. Strong when the water first cools
Winter	The creek "remains warm" (TPWD)	The cold-front refuge. Jig or big worm on the drop

HOW TO FISH IT FOR A GIANT

THE APPROACH

- **Where a giant sits.** The lip of the Barton flat, where 5 ft drops to 15 ft, and the creek-mouth plume in cold weather (the creek "remains warm," per TPWD) ANALYSIS .
- **Boat position.** Out in about 18 ft, roughly 250 ft off the south bank. Cast up onto the flat and bring the bait back down the drop ANALYSIS .
- **Baits.** Pre-spawn: a slow-sinking glide counted down to the lip and killed at the drop. Winter: a jig or big worm on the drop below the plume. Spawn: sight-fishing on the flat (stay back; clear water) INFERENCE .
- **Line.** 20 lb fluorocarbon ANALYSIS .

ACCESS, HAZARDS AND RULES

- **Access.** Zilker Park Boat Rentals is on Barton Creek (TPWD paddling trail).

HAZARD

- **Canoes.** The ARC map warns "Be alert for canoes in this area" at the creek mouth (ARC map).
- **Algae.** The "backwater area between the lake and Barton Springs pool" has had toxic algae mats (City of Austin).

RULE

Dogs may swim in Barton Creek between the lake and Barton Springs Pool (City code 8–5–49, quoted in City of Austin 2020). People may not swim or wade anywhere in the lake.

Reach 5 Spots: Barton Creek mouth

3 spots: 5A, 5B, 5C. Close-up maps from the 2008 survey; scores from the giant ranking.

5A · BARTON FLAT LIP

Shelf edge / flat

Target **30.26665, -97.76011**Boat **30.26695, -97.75994****53**/100GIANT RANK
#41 OF 51

DEEP WATER

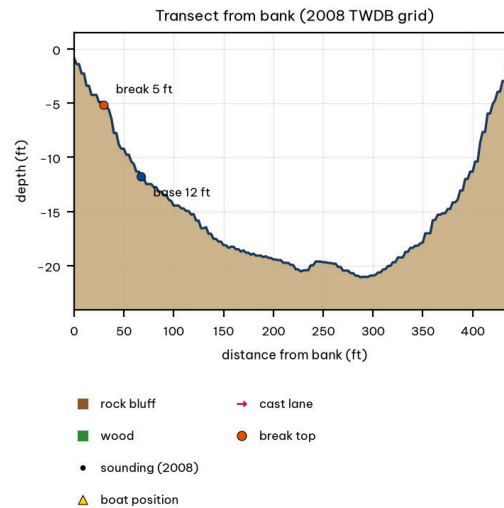
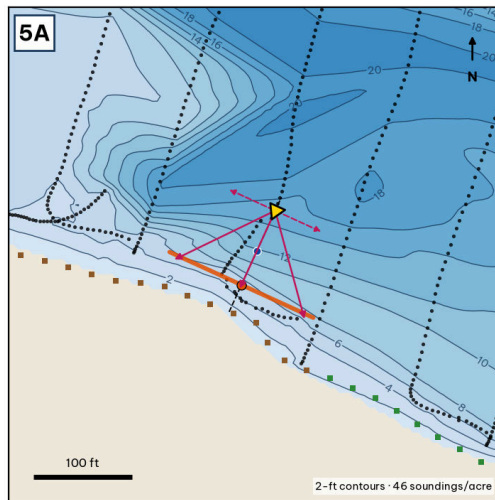
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 46 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.8 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	1.3 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	12.6 ft, 78 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.1 ft per 10 ft; average 1.5 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	rock bluff (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 182 ft away; 25-ft water 3174 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 22 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 16 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The lip of the Barton flat: about 5 ft at 30 ft from the bank, falling to about 12 ft at 68 ft, then the 20-ft channel. Rock bluff (TPWD). Barton spring water (71–72°F) flows across it. Score factors: cover = flat lip (grass when present); forage = spring-fed flat bait; pressure = Zilker paddle traffic. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NNE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). An NNE wind blows onto it. Barton inflow plus lake current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 15 ft, roughly 122 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Suspending jerkbait or a 3/4 oz jig worked slowly off the edge at about 13 ft.
- **Spawn:** Wake bait or slow glide over the flat, then let it fall off the 1-ft edge, where pre-spawn females stage.
- **Summer:** Big walking topwater over the flat at dawn and dusk; a 10–12 in worm dragged along the 1–13 ft edge after sun-up.
- **Fall:** Swimbait run parallel to the edge, best when wind blows onto the flat.

5B · BARTON CREEK MOUTH DELTA

Creek-mouth delta / spring outflow

Target **30.26680, -97.76115**Boat **30.26697, -97.76127**

50/100

GIANT RANK
#46 OF 51

DEEP WATER

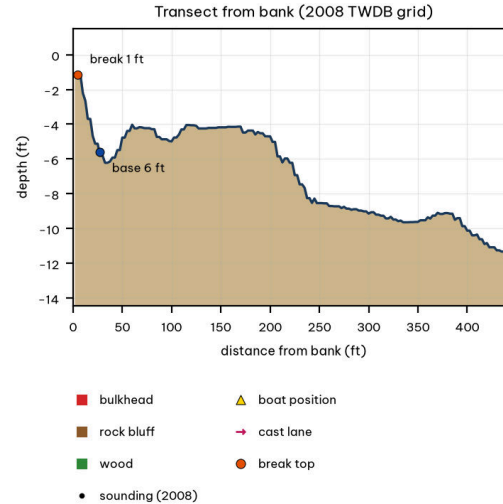
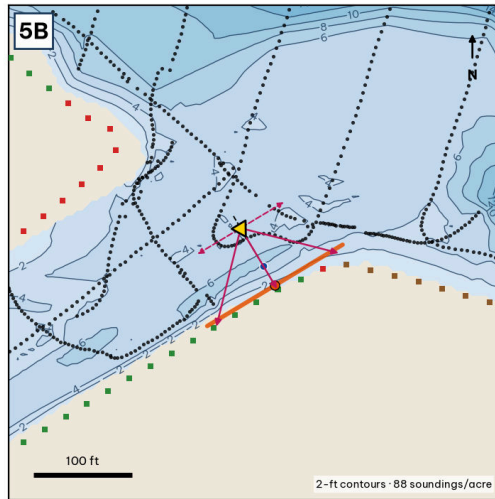
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Spawn



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 88 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.2 ft (first wet grid cell, 2 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	1.5 ft, 2 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	5.7 ft, 30 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.1 ft per 10 ft; average 1.5 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 384 ft away; 25-ft water 3500 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 18 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 49 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The Barton Creek mouth delta. Coarse sediment (City 2025). Spring water and a creek plume. Score factors: cover = creek delta; forage = warm spring water; bait; pressure = very heavy paddle traffic. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NNW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). An NNW wind blows into it. Barton inflow. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 8 ft, roughly 75 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Jig or big Texas-rigged worm crawled down the delta slope to 6 ft, then on into the 18-ft water nearby. Go slow.
- **★ Spawn:** Sight-fish from a distance in clear water: weightless soft jerkbait (Fluke) or stick worm to beds on the delta. The lake record (14.05 lb) took a Zoom Fluke from a creek in February.
- **Summer:** Walking bait or wake bait over the delta at dawn. After a storm, a big white spinnerbait along the mud line.
- **Fall:** Glide or swimbait across the delta lip (1–6 ft) as shad move toward the creek.

5C • NORTH WALL INTO THE 22-FT HOLE

Drop-off

Target **30.26795, -97.75990**Boat **30.26776, -97.76002**

60/100

GIANT RANK
#25 OF 51

DEEP WATER

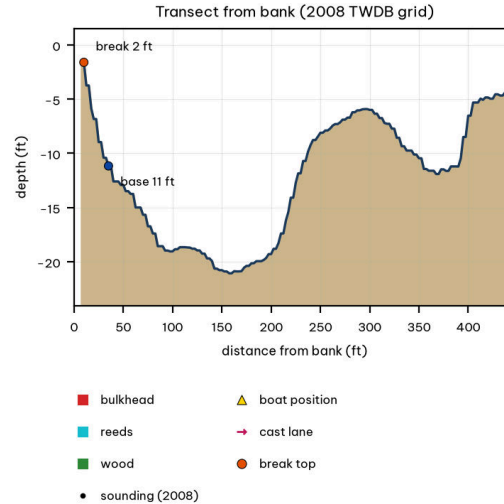
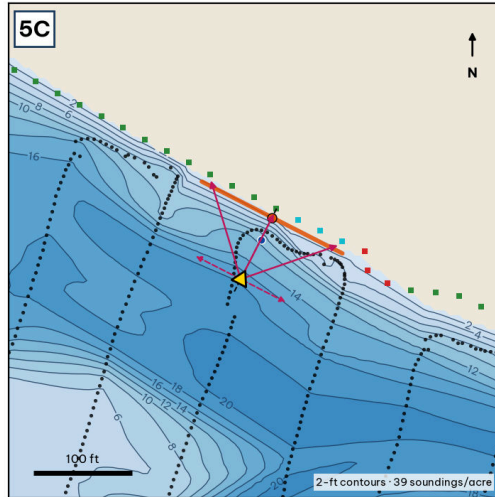
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Fall



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 39 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.6 ft (first wet grid cell, 8 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	2.6 ft, 8 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	11.9 ft, 40 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 3.9 ft per 10 ft; average 2.9 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 139 ft away; 25-ft water 3328 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 22 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 18 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The north wall into the 22-ft hole: from about 2 to 11 ft within 35 ft, then down to the hole. Score factors: cover = wooded wall; forage = sunfish; pressure = heavy traffic. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SSW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A SSW wind blows onto it, often. Moderate current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 14 ft, roughly 85 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4–1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 3 to 12 ft, then on into the 22-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (3 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10–12 in worm on the 12-ft base in between.
- ★ **Fall:** Swimbait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

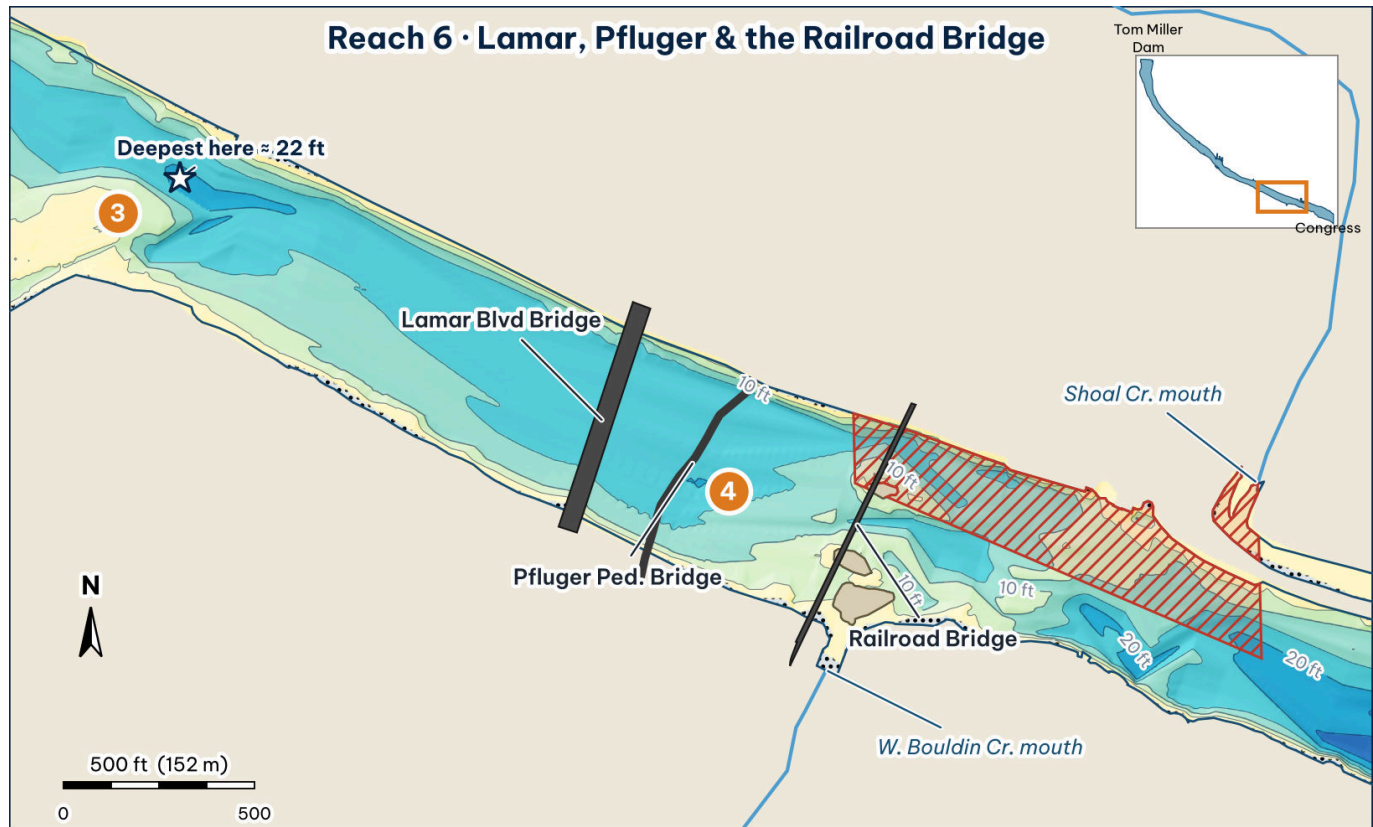
Reach 6 • Lamar, Pfluger and the Railroad Bridge

2.7–3.0 mi below the dam

Deepest ≈ 20–22 ft

3 bridges in ~700 ft

No-boat zone starts here



Depth below
normal pool (ft)



Three sets of pilings in about 700 ft of river (Lamar at 14,980 ft below the dam, Pfluger at 15,238 ft, the railroad bridge at 15,691 ft) [ANALYSIS](#). The hatching marks the no-boat zone. The starred 22-ft cell is the Barton Creek hole at the upstream edge of this map; through the bridges, the channel runs 16–20 ft [ANALYSIS](#).

THE BOTTOM

- **The channel sits north of center** [ANALYSIS](#):
 - It's about 515 ft wide, and the deepest point of each cross-section runs **16–20 ft**.
 - The deepest line runs about **155 ft off the north bank**.
 - The north bank is steep, reaching **15 ft within about 50 ft**.
- **The south side is a wider shelf** [ANALYSIS](#). It reaches 10 ft about 40 ft out, but 15 ft not until about **185 ft out**.
- **Islands**. Two small islands sit on the south side near the railroad bridge, ringed by shallow water (OSM; TWDB contours).
- **Pilings**. TWDB found no scour holes below the bridge piers ([TWDB 1999](#)). TWDB's 2008 data also includes **two bridge-column points** near the railroad bridge ([TWDB 2008 shapefiles](#)).

COVER AND GRASS

- **Bridge pilings** on three bridges. The guide caught bass "dropshotting the bridge pilings" ([Torwick](#)).
- **Grass** on the south shelf and around the islands [INFERENCE](#).
- **West Bouldin Creek** comes in on the south side (OSM).

WATER: CLARITY AND CURRENT

- **Clarity.** This is roughly where the water changes from clear to stained. "Very clear above Lamar" (City of Austin, FY2023). Below here, Torwick found visibility dropping toward I-35 (Torwick).
- **Current.** Release current runs through the bridge lanes. The pilings make seams [ANALYSIS](#).

THROUGH THE SEASONS

Season	What to expect	Play ANALYSIS
Spring	Clearing water, and grass growing on the south shelf	Edges of the south shelf and the islands
Summer	Shade under three bridges	Shade lines on the pilings at midday
Fall	Pilings plus releases	Swimbait swung past each pier during releases. Drop-shot as a follow-up (Torwick)
Winter	Deep, steep north wall (inside the no-boat zone below the railroad bridge)	Jig on the deepest Lamar and Pfluger piers

HOW TO FISH IT FOR A GIANT

THE APPROACH

- **Where a giant sits.** The deepest pier bases of the Lamar, Pfluger and railroad bridges, in the shade, out of the current [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Boat position.** Work from the south half of each span, staying down-current of the pier you are fishing. The water below the railroad bridge on the north side is a no-boat zone [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Baits.** Swing a swimbait or slow glide past each pier with current. Without current, pitch a 3/4 oz jig or a 10-in worm to the base and let it sit [INFERENCE](#).
- **Line.** 20–25 lb fluorocarbon: Wired2Fish recommends fluorocarbon for durability around zebra-mussel cover and retying after contact ([Wired2Fish](#)).

ACCESS, HAZARDS AND RULES

RULE: NO-BOAT ZONE

"A person may not operate a watercraft in the portion of Town Lake that is bounded by a line from the center of Town Lake to the mouth of Shoal Creek on the east, the shoreline of Town Lake on the north, the railroad bridge immediately west of Shoal Creek on the west, and center of Town Lake on the south" (City code 8-5-82). **Stay south of the centerline between the railroad bridge and Shoal Creek.** I read this from a posted copy of the code chapter, so confirm it's current with Lake Patrol at (512) 329-8841 [UNVERIFIED](#).

HAZARD

- **Rebar.** There's "submerged rebar near the Lamar bridge," where a swimmer was injured in 2012, plus "bridge construction debris" (City of Austin 2020).
- **Shallows.** The ARC map marks "unmarked hazards (shallow)" on the south side at the railroad bridge ([ARC map](#)).
- Bring extra baits.

PRO TIP

When the dam is releasing, this cluster gives you three bridges' worth of piling seams within one short drift. If a big fish follows a swimbait but won't commit, follow up on that same piling with a drop-shot, the presentation Torwick used here ([ANALYSIS](#) ; Torwick).

Reach 6 Spots: Lamar, Pfluger and the railroad bridge

5 spots: 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 6E. Close-up maps from the 2008 survey; scores from the giant ranking.

6A · LAMAR BLVD BRIDGE PILING ROW

Bridge piling row

Target **30.26594, -97.75653**

Boat **30.26606, -97.75688**

57 /100

GIANT RANK
#33 OF 51

DEEP WATER

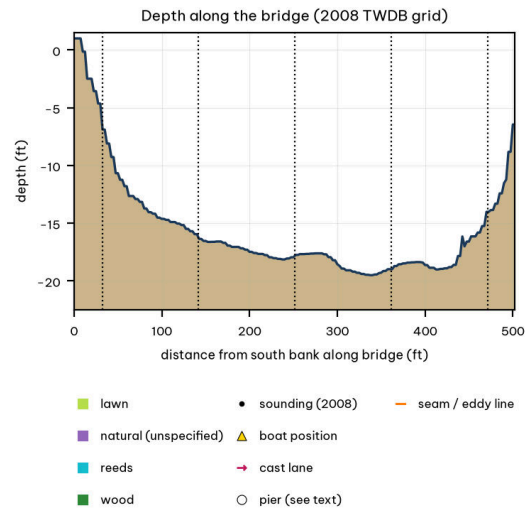
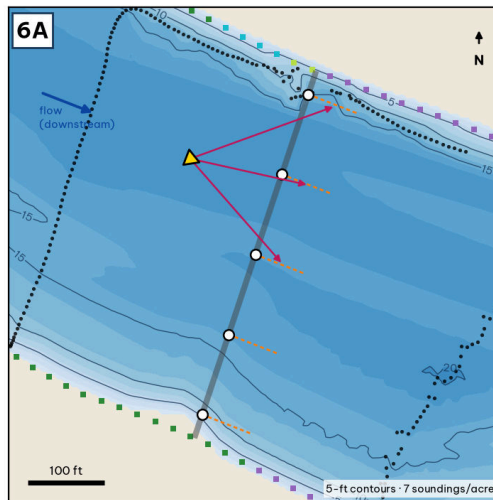
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Post-spawn and summer



The bridge line is the OSM road or rail centerline. Pier markers are **inferred** from NBI span counts by assuming equal spans centered on the channel, except at the railroad bridge, where TWDB's footing outlines are used. Orange dashes show where a downstream eddy line should form during a release **INFERENCE**. Contours: 5-ft, at 7 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Bridge (NBI 2025)	6 spans, 200.9 m (659 ft), longest span 33.5 m (110 ft), concrete arch, built 1943
Water width along the deck	504 ft (2008 TWDB shoreline) ANALYSIS
Deepest water under the deck	19.5 ft, 338 ft from the south end ANALYSIS
Deep-water access	deepest within 300 ft: 20 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	7 soundings per acre; nearest sounding 207 ft from the crossing center

Why a giant would use it. The Lamar Bridge piling row: 6 spans (NBI), a 1943 concrete arch. Piers in 15–19 ft. Score factors: cover = arch-bridge piers; forage = shad; pressure = downtown traffic. **INFERENCE**

Wind and current. Release seams on the downstream side. Shelter under the deck. **INFERENCE**

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). Shade under the deck at all hours. **ANALYSIS**

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold upstream of the deepest span (yellow triangle) and cast down-current to the eddy behind each pier (magenta arrows) **INFERENCE**.

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) **INFERENCE**

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz football jig or a 10-in Texas-rigged worm crawled along the pier bases in the deepest span (about 20 ft). Pause 5–10 seconds at each pier.
- **Spawn:** 6–8 in slow-sinking glide (sunfish or shad colors) swum past the shady side of each pier and killed beside it. Give followers the 180° turn.
- **★ Summer:** The deck shades the piers all day. Pitch a 3/4 oz jig or a 10-in worm to the pier bases at first light and from dusk to the 10 pm fishing cutoff.
- **Fall:** 6–7 in swimbait or soft glide down the current seam past each pier when Tom Miller is releasing.

HAZARD · BRIDGE DEBRIS Broken concrete and rebar lie under the bridges (City of Austin 2025). Expect snags.

6B · PFLUGER BRIDGE PILING ROW

Bridge piling row

Target **30.26527, -97.75587**Boat **30.26540, -97.75622****60**/100GIANT RANK
#26 OF 51

DEEP WATER

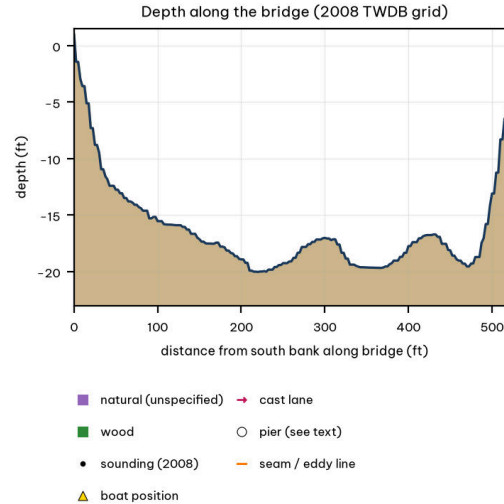
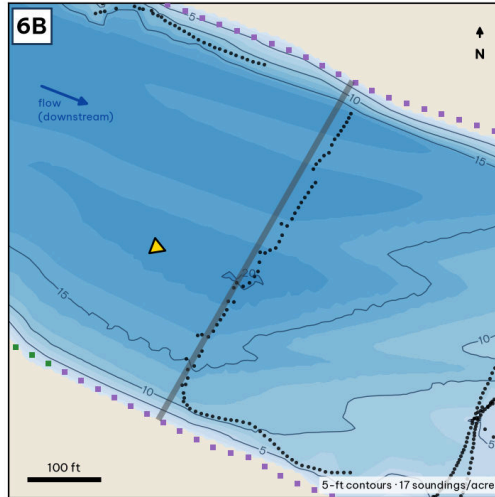
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



The bridge line is the OSM road or rail centerline. Pier markers are **inferred** from NBI span counts by assuming equal spans centered on the channel, except at the railroad bridge, where TWDB's footing outlines are used. Orange dashes show where a downstream eddy line should form during a release **INFERENCE**. Contours: 5-ft, at 17 soundings/acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Bridge (NBI 2025)	not in the National Bridge Inventory; pier positions not found in any public source
Water width along the deck	528 ft (2008 TWDB shoreline) ANALYSIS
Deepest water under the deck	20.0 ft, 220 ft from the south end ANALYSIS
Deep-water access	deepest within 300 ft: 20 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	17 soundings per acre; nearest sounding 37 ft from the crossing center

Why a giant would use it. Pfluger Pedestrian Bridge. It has piers, but their positions are not in any public data I found. Score factors: cover = footbridge piers; forage = shad; pressure = downtown traffic. **INFERENCE**

Wind and current. Release seams. Shelter. **INFERENCE**

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). Shade under the deck at all hours. **ANALYSIS**

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold upstream of the deepest span (yellow triangle) and cast down-current to the eddy behind each pier (magenta arrows) **INFERENCE**.

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) **INFERENCE**

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz football jig or a 10-in Texas-rigged worm crawled along the pier bases in the deepest span (about 20 ft). Pause 5–10 seconds at each pier.
- **Spawn:** 6–8 in slow-sinking glide (sunfish or shad colors) swum past the shady side of each pier and killed beside it. Give followers the 180° turn.
- **Summer:** The deck shades the piers all day. Pitch a 3/4 oz jig or a 10-in worm to the pier bases at first light and from dusk to the 10 pm fishing cutoff.
- **Fall:** 6–7 in swimbait or soft glide down the current seam past each pier when Tom Miller is releasing.

6C • RAILROAD BRIDGE AND ISLANDS

Bridge + island tips

Target **30.26497, -97.75455**Boat **30.26509, -97.75490****60**/100GIANT RANK
#27 OF 51

DEEP WATER

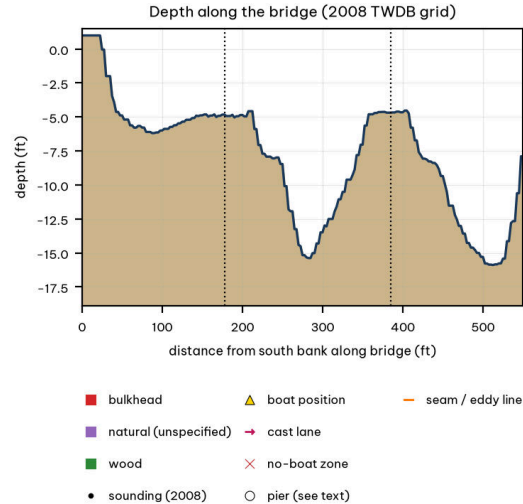
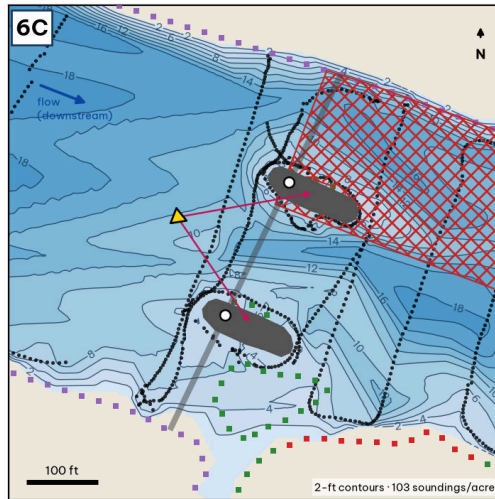
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



The bridge line is the OSM road or rail centerline. Pier markers are **inferred** from NBI span counts by assuming equal spans centered on the channel, except at the railroad bridge, where TWDB's footing outlines are used. Orange dashes show where a downstream eddy line should form during a release **INFERENCE**. Contours: 2-ft, at 103 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Bridge (NBI 2025)	not in the National Bridge Inventory; TWDB's 2008 survey maps two pier/footing outlines (shown dark gray)
Water width along the deck	552 ft (2008 TWDB shoreline) ANALYSIS
Deepest water under the deck	15.4 ft, 282 ft from the south end ANALYSIS
Deep-water access	deepest within 300 ft: 18 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	103 soundings per acre; nearest sounding 27 ft from the crossing center

Why a giant would use it. The railroad bridge. TWDB maps two pier footprints with a 15-ft channel between them. The islands give current breaks. Score factors: cover = rail piers, island tips; forage = shad; pressure = downtown traffic; no-boat zone nearby. **INFERENCE**

Wind and current. Releases make strong seams at the footprints. Sheltered. **INFERENCE**

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). Shade under the deck at all hours. **ANALYSIS**

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold upstream of the deepest span (yellow triangle) and cast down-current to the eddy behind each pier (magenta arrows) **INFERENCE**.

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) **INFERENCE**

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz football jig or a 10-in Texas-rigged worm crawled along the pier bases in the deepest span (about 15 ft). Pause 5–10 seconds at each pier.
- **Spawn:** 6–8 in slow-sinking glide (sunfish or shad colors) swum past the shady side of each pier and killed beside it. Give followers the 180° turn.
- **Summer:** The deck shades the piers all day. Pitch a 3/4 oz jig or a 10-in worm to the pier bases at first light and from dusk to the 10 pm fishing cutoff.
- **Fall:** 6–7 in swimbait or soft glide down the current seam past each pier when Tom Miller is releasing.

NO-BOAT ZONE

The red hatching marks the City no-boat zone: north of the centerline, between the railroad bridge and the Shoal Creek mouth (City code 8-5-82). The zone outline here is approximate **ANALYSIS**. Keep the boat south and east of it.

HAZARD • BRIDGE DEBRIS Broken concrete and rebar lie under the bridges (City of Austin 2025). Expect snags.

6D · WEST BOULDIN CREEK MOUTH AND SOUTH SHELVE

Creek-mouth / outflow (weir)

Target **30.26479, -97.75471**Boat **30.26502, -97.75476****53**/100GIANT RANK
#42 OF 51

DEEP WATER

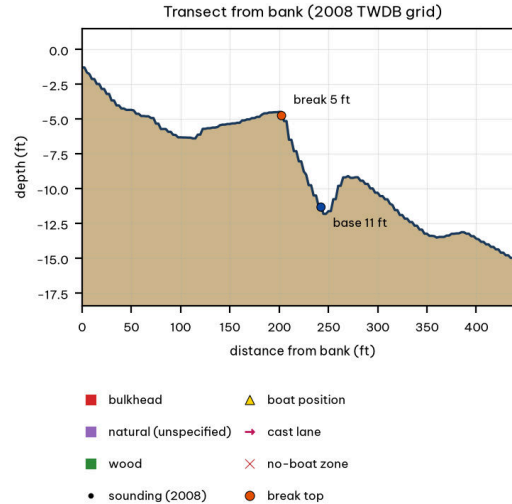
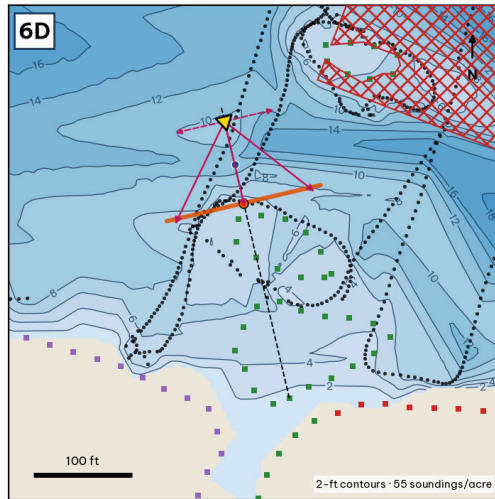
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Fall



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 55 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.3 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	4.9 ft, 200 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	10.9 ft, 240 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 1.9 ft per 10 ft; average 1.5 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 524 ft away; 25-ft water 1239 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 19 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	good (a 2008 sounding lies within 15 ft of the break)

Why a giant would use it. The West Bouldin Creek mouth (OSM weir) and the south shelf, which breaks from about 5 to 11 ft about 200–240 ft out. Score factors: cover = creek mouth, weir; forage = creek inflow; pressure = downtown traffic. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NNW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). An NNW wind blows onto it. Creek inflow after rain. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the S bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 13 ft, roughly 285 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Jig or big Texas-rigged worm crawled down the delta slope to 11 ft, then on into the 19-ft water nearby. Go slow.
- **Spawn:** Sight-fish from a distance in clear water: weightless soft jerkbait (Fluke) or stick worm to beds on the delta. The lake record (14.05 lb) took a Zoom Fluke from a creek in February.
- **Summer:** Walking bait or wake bait over the delta at dawn. After a storm, a big white spinnerbait along the mud line.
- ★ **Fall:** Glide or swimbait across the delta lip (5–11 ft) as shad move toward the creek.

6E • NORTH CHANNEL WALL AT LAMAR

Drop-off

Target **30.26666, -97.75700**Boat **30.26646, -97.75712****53**/100GIANT RANK
#43 OF 51

DEEP WATER

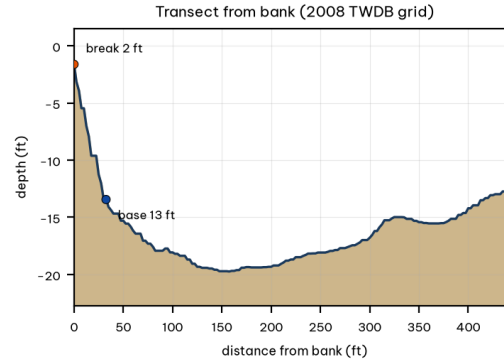
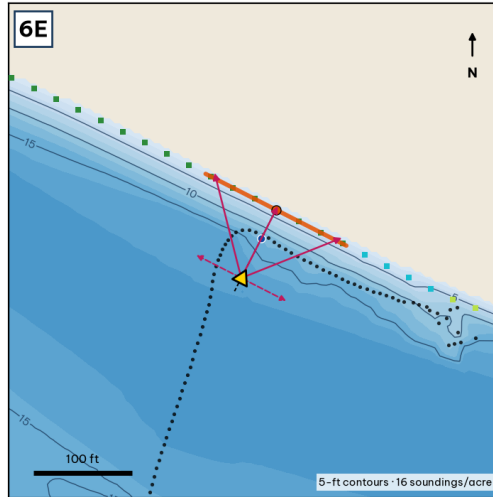
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 16 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.6 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	2.9 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	14.1 ft, 38 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 3.6 ft per 10 ft; average 3.0 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 603 ft away; 25-ft water 2298 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 20 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 29 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The north channel wall at Lamar: from about 2 to 13 ft within 32 ft. Score factors: cover = channel wall; forage = sunfish; pressure = downtown traffic. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SSW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A SSW wind blows onto it. Moderate current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the N bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 16 ft, roughly 82 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4-1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 3 to 14 ft, then on into the 20-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (3 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10-12 in worm on the 14-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swim bait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

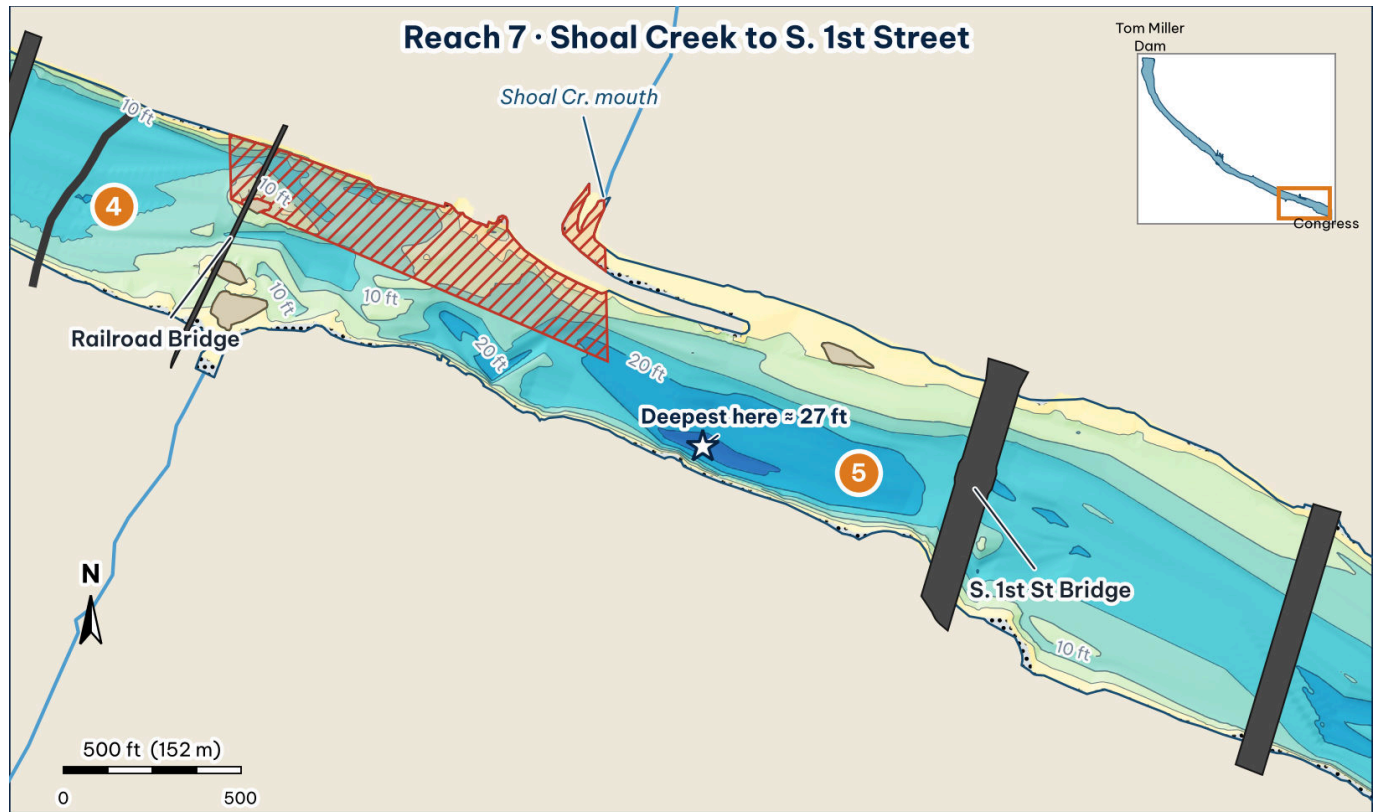
Reach 7 • Shoal Creek to South First Street

3.0–3.4 mi below the dam

Deepest ≈ 27 ft

Shoal Creek delta + south wall

Clarity: stained



Depth below normal pool (ft)



The second-deepest water in this guide. A trough runs along the south bank opposite the Shoal Creek delta.

THE BOTTOM

- **The channel swings hard to the south bank** [ANALYSIS](#) :
 - It's about 440 ft wide, and the deepest point of each cross-section runs **12–27 ft**.
 - The deepest line runs about **95 ft off the south bank**.
 - The south bank is a **wall**: 10 ft within about 20 ft, and **15 ft within about 30 ft**.
- **The deep hole.** It reaches about **27.5 ft**, about 3.25 miles below the dam, roughly halfway between Shoal Creek and First Street, near the south bank [ANALYSIS](#) . TWDB's printed contours show a 405 contour here, meaning 24+ ft ([TWDB 2008](#)).
- **The Shoal Creek delta** (north side) [ANALYSIS](#) :
 - **5 ft about 40 ft out.**
 - **10 ft about 115 ft out.**
 - **15 ft about 200 ft out.**

On the sample cross-section, the bottom stays shallower than about 5 ft for the first 100 ft from the north bank, then slides down to 25 ft.

COVER AND GRASS

- **Grass at the creek mouth.** Shoal Creek's mouth has a City trash boom, and a shore-to-shore fanwort mat formed behind it in 2014 ([Shoal Creek Conservancy](#)).

- **Hard bottom or snags.** TWDB mapped “a shallow water dam that spans across the lake near the intake structure at Green Water Treatment facility” (TWDB 1999). The old Green plant stood downtown on the north shore, and the City listed its “abandoned intake structure” for a 3-D scan in 2025 (City of Austin). **The exact location of the submerged dam is unverified** [UNVERIFIED](#).

WATER: CLARITY AND CURRENT

- **Clarity.** Stained. **This is the first water to muddy after rain**, because Shoal Creek, West Bouldin Creek and downtown storm drains all come in here ([ANALYSIS](#) ; TXST 2019).
- **Bacteria.** E. coli rises at every City site, including First Street, one to two days after rain (City of Austin 2020).
- **Temperature.** Long-term samples at Auditorium Shores, across from Shoal Creek, ranged from 41°F to 98°F (TXST 2019).

THROUGH THE SEASONS

Season	What to expect	Play ANALYSIS
Spring	Delta flat warms	The outer edge of the Shoal delta
Summer	The widest temperature swings on the stretch (TXST)	Low light only. The south wall in shade
Fall	Stained water and grass on the delta	Glide on the delta lip; jig on the wall
Winter	Deep water right next to the bank	Football jig down the south wall to 20 ft

HOW TO FISH IT FOR A GIANT

THE APPROACH

- **Where a giant sits.** The steep south wall below Shoal Creek, the deepest bank on the upper lake (15–25 ft within one cast), and the outer lip of the Shoal Creek delta [ANALYSIS](#).
- **The south wall.** Sit 50–70 ft off the south bank. Count a glide or swimbait down 5–10 seconds and swim it parallel to the wall. In winter, crawl a football jig down the wall to 20+ ft [ANALYSIS](#).
- **The delta lip.** Sit in about 15 ft, roughly 200 ft off the north bank, and work a glide or big worm down the slope [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Line.** 20 lb fluorocarbon [ANALYSIS](#).

ACCESS, HAZARDS AND RULES

- **Access.** Bank fishing at Auditorium Shores, which TPWD lists as good bank access (TPWD access).

RULE

The no-boat zone runs from the railroad bridge to the Shoal Creek mouth, north of the centerline. Fish the delta **east** of the creek mouth or **south** of the centerline (City code 8-5-82).

HAZARD

- The ARC map marks “unmarked hazards (shallow)” on the north side just upstream of First Street (ARC map).
- The City advises staying out of the water for three days after rain (City of Austin).

PRO TIP

This is the only place in the guide where a 15-ft drop and a 27-ft hole sit on opposite sides of the same 440-ft-wide river. A slow, deep presentation along the south wall is the coldest-weather play below Barton [ANALYSIS](#).

Reach 7 Spots: Shoal Creek to First Street

3 spots: 7A, 7B, 7C. Close-up maps from the 2008 survey; scores from the giant ranking.

7A • SOUTH WALL AT THE 27-FT HOLE

Drop-off / bulkhead

Target **30.26318, -97.75063**

Boat **30.26336, -97.75053**

73/100

GIANT RANK
#8 OF 51

DEEP WATER

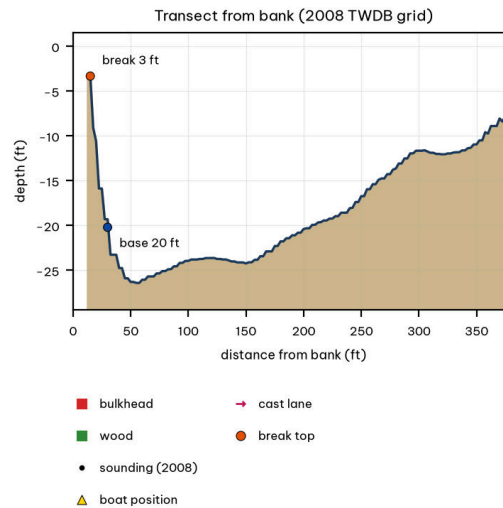
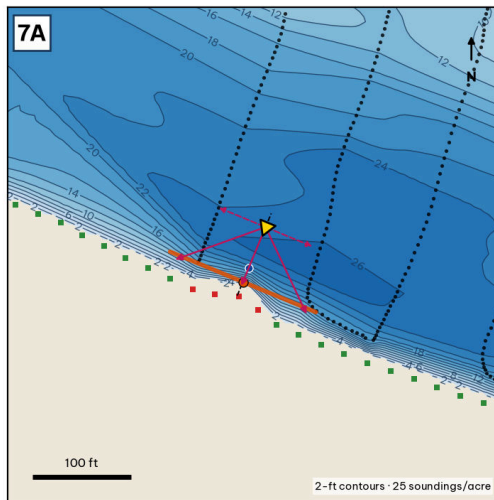
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Winter and pre-spawn



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 25 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	3.3 ft (first wet grid cell, 12 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	6.2 ft, 12 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	24.1 ft, 40 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 8.9 ft per 10 ft; average 6.5 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	bulkhead (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 29 ft away; 25-ft water 40 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 27 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 50 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The steepest wall in the guide: a bulkhead drops from about 3 to 20 ft within 15 ft, next to the 27-ft hole. Score factors: cover = bulkhead into 27-ft hole; forage = sunfish, shad; pressure = downtown. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NNE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). An NNE wind blows onto it. Moderate current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the S bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 26 ft, roughly 85 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- ★ **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4–1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 6 to 24 ft. Long pauses.
- ★ **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (6 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- ★ **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10–12 in worm on the 24-ft base in between.
- ★ **Fall:** Swimbait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

7B • SHOAL CREEK DELTA LIP

Creek-mouth delta / shelf edge

Target **30.26448, -97.75125**Boat **30.26404, -97.75157****57** /100GIANT RANK
#34 OF 51

DEEP WATER

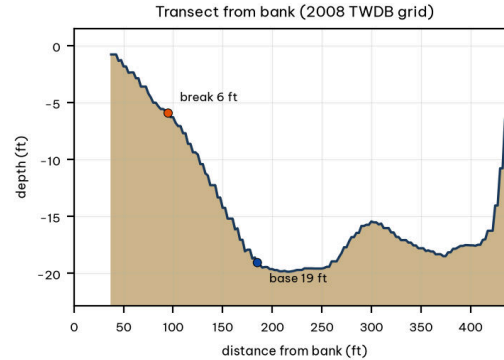
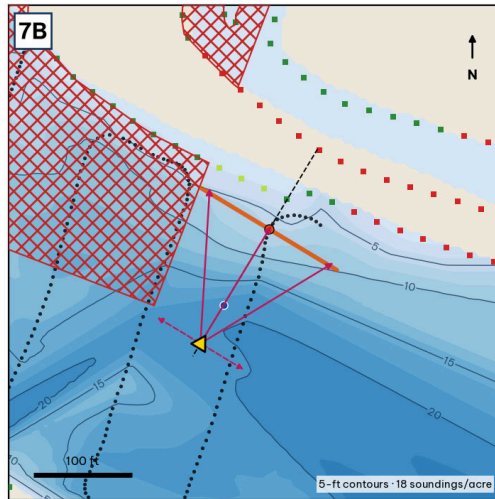
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Spawn



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 18 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.8 ft (first wet grid cell, 38 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	1.3 ft, 45 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	19.1 ft, 188 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 1.7 ft per 10 ft; average 1.2 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	bulkhead (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 188 ft away; 25-ft water 455 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 22 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 28 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The lip of the Shoal Creek delta: about 6 ft at 95 ft from the bank to 19 ft at 188 ft. Score factors: cover = creek delta; forage = creek inflow; pressure = downtown. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SSW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A SSW wind blows onto it. Creek inflow after rain. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the N bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 20 ft, roughly 232 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Jig or big Texas-rigged worm crawled down the delta slope to 19 ft. Go slow.
- **★ Spawn:** Sight-fish from a distance in clear water: weightless soft jerkbait (Fluke) or stick worm to beds on the delta. The lake record (14.05 lb) took a Zoom Fluke from a creek in February.
- **Summer:** Walking bait or wake bait over the delta at dawn. After a storm, a big white spinnerbait along the mud line.
- **Fall:** Glide or swimbait across the delta lip (1–19 ft) as shad move toward the creek.

NO-BOAT ZONE

The red hatching marks the City no-boat zone: north of the centerline, between the railroad bridge and the Shoal Creek mouth (City code 8-5-82). The zone outline here is approximate [ANALYSIS](#). Keep the boat south and east of it.

7C · SOUTH BANK BELOW THE RAILROAD BRIDGE

Bulkhead drop

Target **30.26408, -97.75300**Boat **30.26425, -97.75296**

60/100

GIANT RANK
#28 OF 51

DEEP WATER

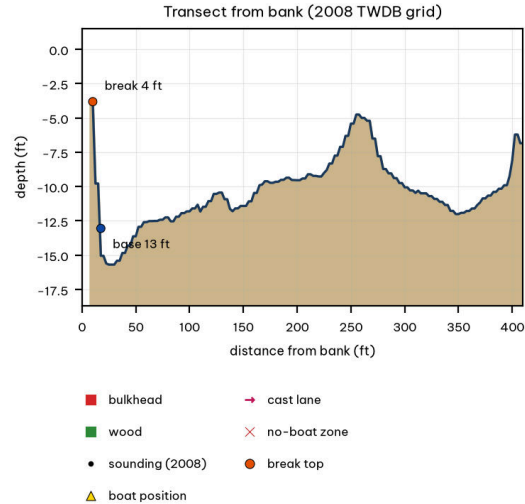
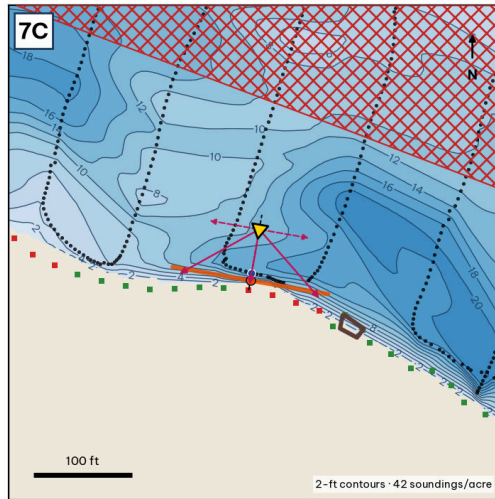
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 42 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	3.8 ft (first wet grid cell, 8 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	6.4 ft, 8 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	14.8 ft, 25 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 5.3 ft per 10 ft; average 4.8 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	bulkhead (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 122 ft away; 25-ft water 742 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 22 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	good (a 2008 sounding lies within 15 ft of the break)

Why a giant would use it. The south bulkhead below the railroad bridge: from about 4 to 13 ft within 8 ft. Score factors: cover = bulkhead; forage = sunfish; pressure = downtown. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **N** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A north wind blows onto it. Moderate current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the S bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 16 ft, roughly 70 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4-1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 6 to 15 ft, then on into the 22-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (6 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10-12 in worm on the 15-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swim bait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

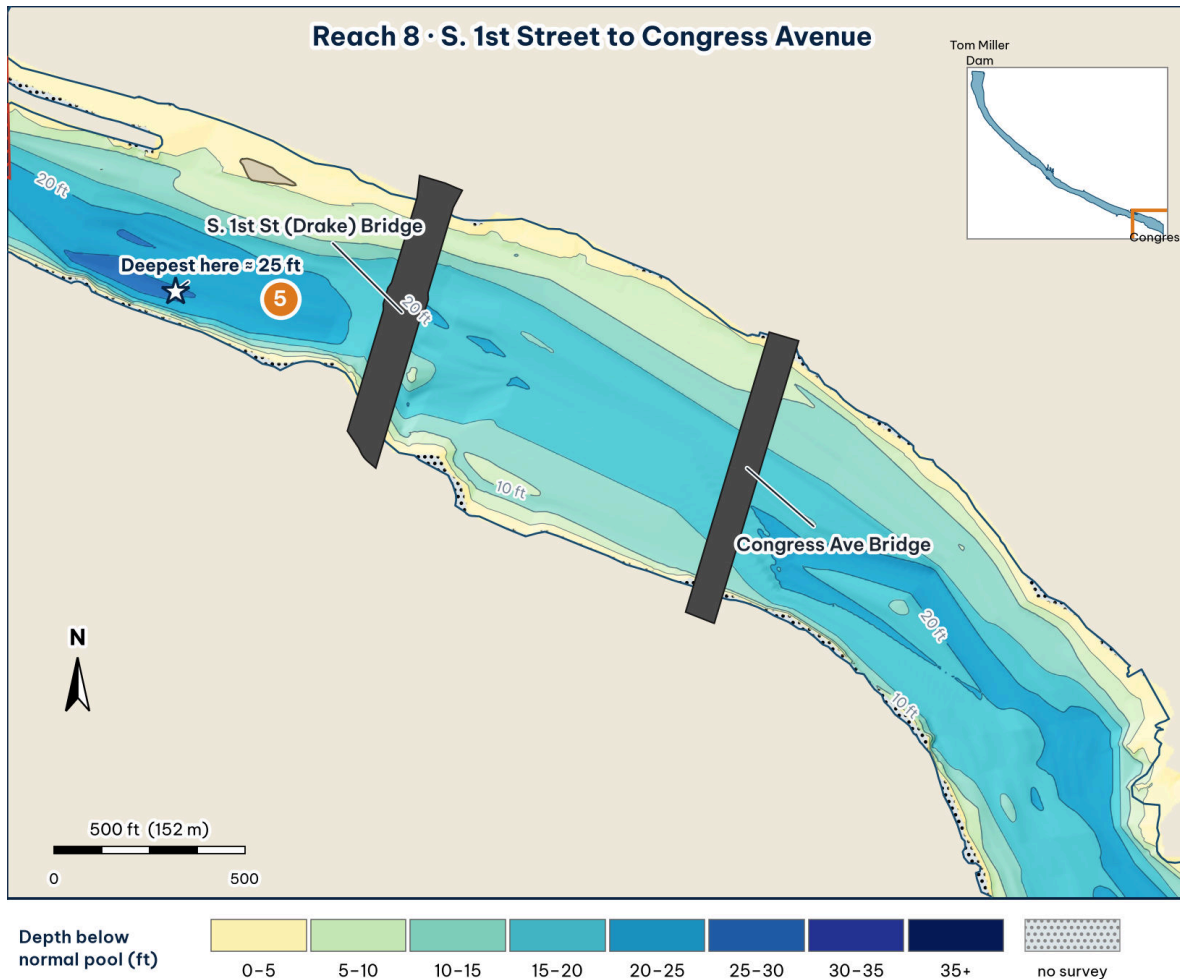
Reach 8 • South First Street to Congress Avenue

3.4–3.6 mi below the dam

Deepest ≈ 20–25 ft

Widest reach ≈ 715 ft

Ramps only east of Congress



Two big bridges over the widest water in this guide. The deepest cell marked here sits on the tail of the Reach 7 hole, just below First Street **ANALYSIS**.

THE BOTTOM

• Wide, with the channel in the middle **ANALYSIS** :

- It's about 715 ft wide, and the deepest point of each cross-section runs **18–20 ft** through most of the reach.
- The deeper water just below First Street is the tail of the Reach 7 hole, about 25 ft.

• Banks **ANALYSIS** :

- The north shelf is wide: 10 ft about **145 ft out**.
- The south bank is steeper: 10 ft about **50 ft out**.

• What the old contours show. TWDB's printed contours show 410–contour (19+ ft) areas around the First Street pilings and just below Congress (**TWDB 2008**).

COVER AND GRASS

- **Bridge pilings.** South First Street (Drake) Bridge and Congress Avenue (Ann W. Richards) Bridge (OSM; **TPWD paddling trail**).
- **Grass.** Fanwort grows on the north shelf in summer. The City's range for it runs to I–35 **INFERENCE**.
- **Bats.** Congress is the bat bridge, and crowds gather there on summer evenings (TPWD paddling trail).

WATER: CLARITY AND CURRENT

- **Clarity.** Stained to dirty. Visibility keeps dropping toward I-35 (Torwick).
- **Current.** The river is widest here, so release current is at its weakest [ANALYSIS](#).

THROUGH THE SEASONS

Season	What to expect	Play ANALYSIS
Spring	The north shelf warms	Grass edge on the north shelf
Summer	Bat crowds and tour boats at dusk	Early-morning pilings
Fall	Stained water	Jig or big worm on the pier bases; swimbait on the shelf edge
Winter	Deep pilings	Jig on the 18–20 ft pier bases

HOW TO FISH IT FOR A GIANT

THE APPROACH

- **Where a giant sits.** The First Street and Congress pier bases (18–20 ft) and the outer edge of the north shelf [ANALYSIS](#).
- **How.** Pitch a jig or 10-in worm to the deepest piers; swim a glide down the shade line in the morning. Avoid the Congress bat crowds and tour boats at dusk [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Line.** 20–25 lb fluorocarbon at the piers [ANALYSIS](#).

ACCESS, HAZARDS AND RULES

- **Access.** There are no trailer ramps in this guide's stretch. The nearest are the **Holiday Inn ramp** (one lane, unimproved, room for about 5 trailers, no fee, west of I-35) and the **Festival Beach ramp** ([TPWD access](#)). The Holiday Inn ramp is about 0.8 miles in a straight line from Congress [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Rentals.** Austin Rowing Club and Congress Avenue Kayaks are at 74 Trinity St., east of Congress ([TPWD paddling trail](#)).

HAZARD

A submerged dam is documented near the old Green plant intake, but its location is unverified ([TWDB 1999](#)) **UNVERIFIED**. Watch your graph for a sudden hard rise.

PRO TIP

If you launch from the Holiday Inn ramp, this is your first reach. Fish the Congress pilings on the way up while your batteries are fresh, and save some charge for the trip back [ANALYSIS](#).

Reach 8 Spots: First Street to Congress

4 spots: 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D. Close-up maps from the 2008 survey; scores from the giant ranking.

8A · SOUTH 1ST STREET BRIDGE PILING ROW

Bridge piling row

Target **30.26299, -97.74795**

Boat **30.26312, -97.74830**

70/100

GIANT RANK
#11 OF 51

DEEP WATER

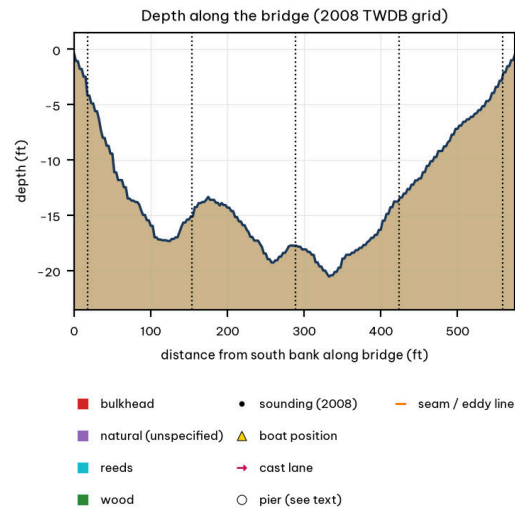
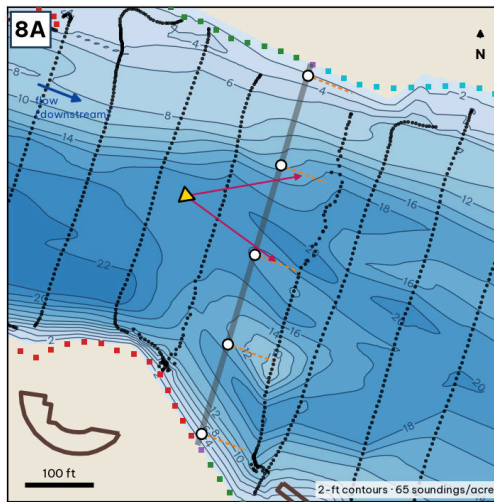
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Post-spawn and summer



The bridge line is the OSM road or rail centerline. Pier markers are **inferred** from NBI span counts by assuming equal spans centered on the channel, except at the railroad bridge, where TWDB's footing outlines are used. Orange dashes show where a downstream eddy line should form during a release **INFERENCE**. Contours: 2-ft, at 65 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Bridge (NBI 2025)	6 main + 1 approach spans, 247.5 m (812 ft), longest span 45.7 m (150 ft), built 1951
Water width along the deck	577 ft (2008 TWDB shoreline) ANALYSIS
Deepest water under the deck	20.6 ft, 332 ft from the south end ANALYSIS
Deep-water access	deepest within 300 ft: 23 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	65 soundings per acre; nearest sounding 66 ft from the crossing center

Why a giant would use it. The South 1st Street Bridge piling row: 6+1 spans (NBI). Score factors: cover = bridge pilings; forage = shad; pressure = downtown. **INFERENCE**

Wind and current. Release seams. Shelter. **INFERENCE**

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). Shade under the deck at all hours. **ANALYSIS**

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold upstream of the deepest span (yellow triangle) and cast down-current to the eddy behind each pier (magenta arrows) **INFERENCE**.

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) **INFERENCE**

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz football jig or a 10-in Texas-rigged worm crawled along the pier bases in the deepest span (about 21 ft). Pause 5–10 seconds at each pier.
- **Spawn:** 6–8 in slow-sinking glide (sunfish or shad colors) swum past the shady side of each pier and killed beside it. Give followers the 180° turn.
- **★ Summer:** The deck shades the piers all day. Pitch a 3/4 oz jig or a 10-in worm to the pier bases at first light and from dusk to the 10 pm fishing cutoff.
- **Fall:** 6–7 in swimbait or soft glide down the current seam past each pier when Tom Miller is releasing.

HAZARD · BRIDGE DEBRIS Broken concrete and rebar lie under the bridges (City of Austin 2025). Expect snags.

8B · CONGRESS AVENUE BRIDGE PILING ROW

Bridge piling row

Target 30.26152, -97.74524

Boat 30.26172, -97.74555

67 / 100

GIANT RANK

#16 OF 51

DEEP WATER

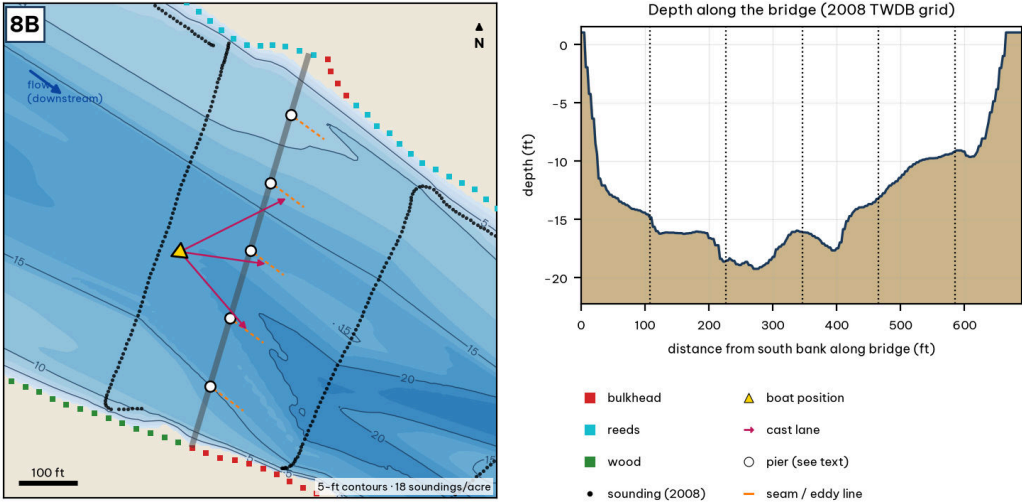
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Post-spawn and summer



The bridge line is the OSM road or rail centerline. Pier markers are **inferred** from NBI span counts by assuming equal spans centered on the channel, except at the railroad bridge, where TWDB's footing outlines are used. Orange dashes show where a downstream eddy line should form during a release **INFERENCE**. Contours: 5-ft, at 18 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Bridge (NBI 2025)	8 spans, 290.8 m (954 ft), longest span 36.2 m (119 ft), built 1909
Water width along the deck	692 ft (2008 TWDB shoreline) ANALYSIS
Deepest water under the deck	19.3 ft, 270 ft from the south end ANALYSIS
Deep-water access	deepest within 300 ft: 22 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	18 soundings per acre; nearest sounding 145 ft from the crossing center

Why a giant would use it. The Congress Avenue Bridge piling row: 8 spans (NBI). Score factors: cover = bridge pilings; forage = shad; pressure = downtown. **INFERENCE**

Wind and current. Release seams. Shelter. **INFERENCE**

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). Shade under the deck at all hours. **ANALYSIS**

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold upstream of the deepest span (yellow triangle) and cast down-current to the eddy behind each pier (magenta arrows) **INFERENCE**.

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) **INFERENCE**

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz football jig or a 10-in Texas-rigged worm crawled along the pier bases in the deepest span (about 19 ft). Pause 5–10 seconds at each pier.
- **Spawn:** 6–8 in slow-sinking glide (sunfish or shad colors) swum past the shady side of each pier and killed beside it. Give followers the 180° turn.
- **★ Summer:** The deck shades the piers all day. Pitch a 3/4 oz jig or a 10-in worm to the pier bases at first light and from dusk to the 10 pm fishing cutoff.
- **Fall:** 6–7 in swimbait or soft glide down the current seam past each pier when Tom Miller is releasing.

HAZARD · BRIDGE DEBRIS Broken concrete and rebar lie under the bridges (City of Austin 2025). Expect snags.

8C · NORTH-BANK REED SHELF BETWEEN THE BRIDGES

Shelf edge / reeds

Target **30.26336, -97.74698**Boat **30.26316, -97.74704**

50/100

GIANT RANK
#47 OF 51

DEEP WATER

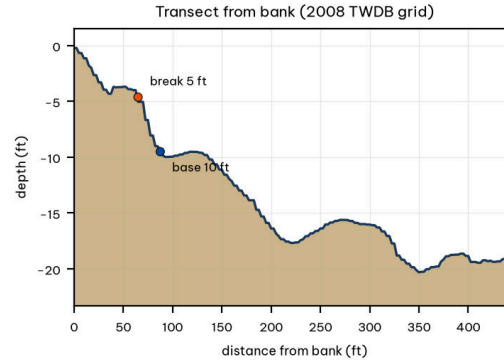
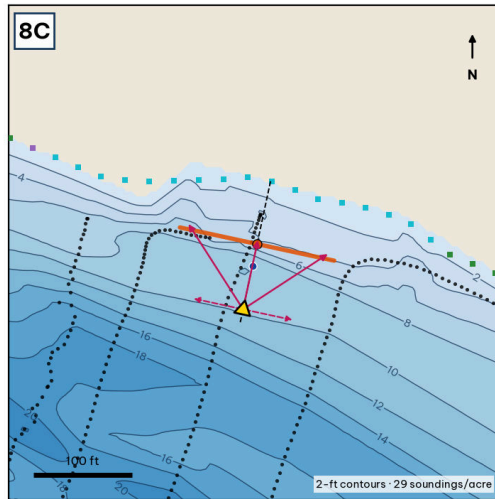
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 29 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.2 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	4.3 ft, 60 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	9.5 ft, 90 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.2 ft per 10 ft; average 1.7 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	reeds (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 329 ft away; 25-ft water 892 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 19 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	good (a 2008 sounding lies within 15 ft of the break)

Why a giant would use it. A reed shelf on the north bank: from about 5 to 10 ft at 65–88 ft out. TPWD mapped water willow here in 2019. Score factors: cover = reed shelf; forage = sunfish; pressure = downtown. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SSW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). A SSW wind blows onto it. Mild current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 12 ft, roughly 135 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Suspending jerkbait or a 3/4 oz jig worked slowly off the edge at about 10 ft.
- **Spawn:** Wake bait or slow glide over the flat, then let it fall off the 4-ft edge, where pre-spawn females stage.
- **Summer:** Big walking topwater over the flat at dawn and dusk; a 10–12 in worm dragged along the 4–10 ft edge after sun-up.
- **Fall:** Swimbait run parallel to the edge, best when wind blows onto the flat.

8D · SOUTH-SHORE PIERS BELOW 1ST ST

Docks / piers

Target **30.26140, -97.74742**Boat **30.26170, -97.74727**

47 /100

GIANT RANK
#51 OF 51

DEEP WATER

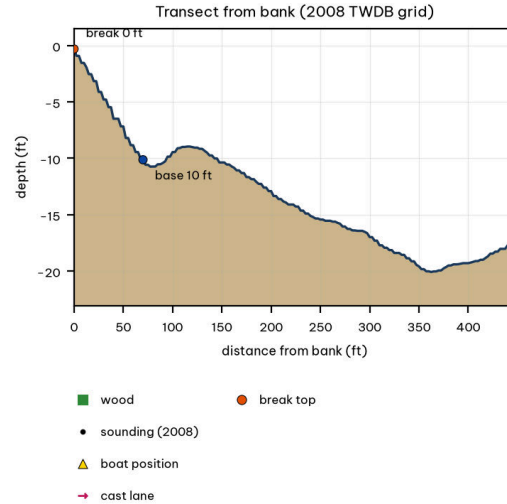
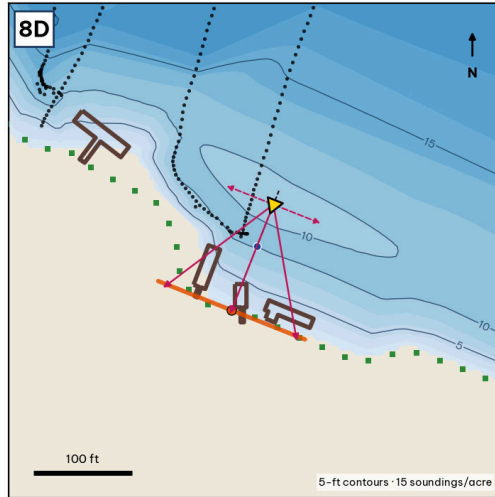
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 15 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.3 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	0.7 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	10.3 ft, 72 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 1.6 ft per 10 ft; average 1.3 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 341 ft away; 25-ft water 937 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 20 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	low (nearest sounding 75 ft away; the break is interpolated)

Why a giant would use it. South-shore piers below 1st St (OSM), with a slope from 0 to 10 ft at 70 ft out. Score factors: cover = piers; forage = sunfish; pressure = downtown. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NNE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). An NNE wind blows onto it. Mild current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 12 ft, roughly 118 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz jig crawled down the slope off the dock ends.
- **Spawn:** Soft glide skipped or 'chopped' beside the dock posts so it hangs near the cover.
- **Summer:** Skip a jig or a 7-in stick worm deep under the shade; the slope reaches 10 ft about 72 ft out.
- **Fall:** Swimbait along the outside edge of the dock line.

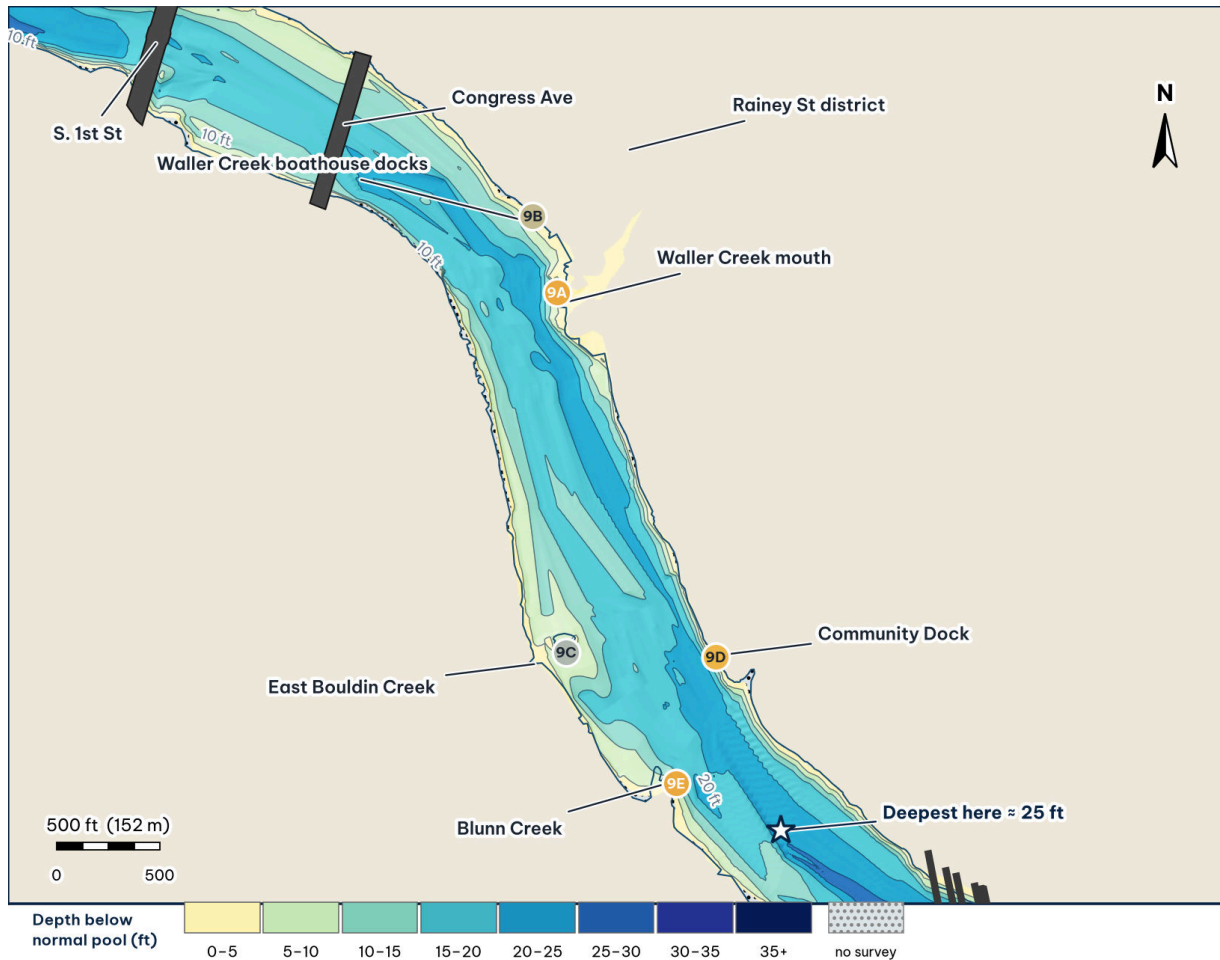
Reach 9 • Congress to Blunn Creek

3.6–4.3 mi below Tom Miller

Deepest ≈ 24 ft

Width ≈ 615 ft

Access: Holiday Inn ramp (R10)



Congress Avenue to Blunn Creek, past Rainey Street and the Waller Creek mouth. Depths from my grid of TWDB 2008 points

ANALYSIS .

THE BOTTOM ANALYSIS

- **A broad channel, 20–24 ft deep.** The deepest point of each cross-section has a median of about 22 ft; the deepest cell is about 24 ft. The reach is about 615 ft wide.
- **Two creek deltas.** Waller Creek (north bank) drops from about 7 ft to 19 ft within 95 ft of its mouth (9A). Blunn Creek (south bank) breaks from 8 to 15 ft within about 40 ft, with 20-ft water within 90 ft (9E).
- **The steepest bank** is at the Community Dock on the north shore: about 1 ft at the dock to 19.5 ft only 58 ft out (9D).

COVER AND FORAGE

- **Creek mouths, reeds and docks.** OpenStreetMap shows reed beds along the Congress and Rainey shorelines, rowing-club and boathouse docks (9B), and a small islet off East Bouldin Creek (9C) ANALYSIS .
- **Clarity drops downstream.** The City describes the water as “very clear above Lamar,” and visibility falls toward downtown and I-35, first after rain (City of Austin; Torwick).

THROUGH THE SEASONS INFERENCE

Season	Giant play
Winter / pre-spawn	Jig or big worm on the 9D drop and the Waller delta slope
Spawn	Blunn and Waller deltas: sight-fish with a soft jerkbait from a distance
Summer	Dock shade at 9B and 9D at first light; avoid the bat crowds at dusk
Fall	Glide across the Waller delta lip as shad move in

HOW TO FISH IT FOR A GIANT

THE APPROACH

- **Creek mouths first.** Waller (9A) and Blunn (9E) have the deepest water closest to a creek delta in this reach. Sit in 18–20 ft and cast up onto the delta ANALYSIS.
- **Docks.** Skip a jig or stick worm under the 9B and 9D docks, then crawl it down the slope INFERENCE.
- **Line.** 20 lb fluorocarbon around docks ANALYSIS.

ACCESS, HAZARDS AND RULES

- **Launch** at the **Holiday Inn ramp** (one lane, unimproved, west of I-35) in Reach 10 and run up (TPWD access).
- **Rentals** at 74 Trinity St., on this reach's north bank (TPWD paddling trail).

BATS AND TOUR BOATS

Bat-watching boats crowd the water just east of Congress at sunset from spring to fall (congressbats.com).

Reach 9 Spots: Congress to Blunn Creek (Rainey St, Waller Creek)

5 spots: 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, 9E. Close-up maps from the 2008 survey; scores from the giant ranking.

9A · WALLER CREEK MOUTH INTO THE CHANNEL

Creek-mouth delta / drop-off

Target **30.25934, -97.74203**

Boat **30.25918, -97.74229**

70/100

GIANT RANK
#12 OF 51

DEEP WATER

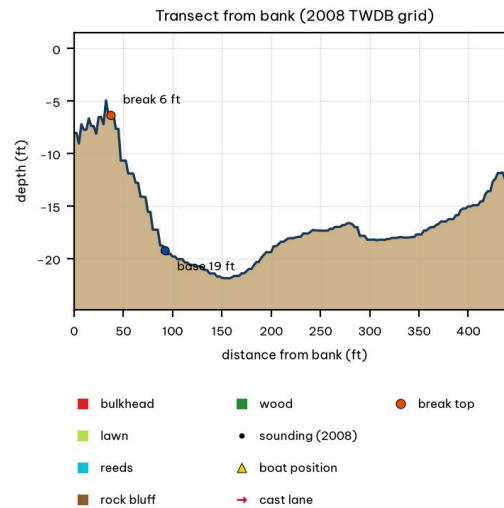
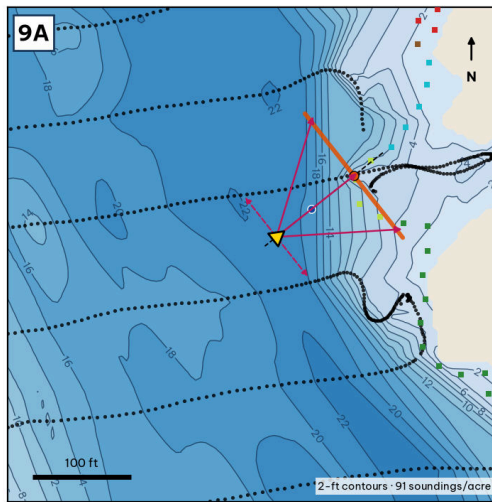
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Spawn · Fall



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank - Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 91 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	8.0 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	7.1 ft, 38 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	19.2 ft, 95 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.7 ft per 10 ft; average 2.1 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	reeds (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 80 ft away; 25-ft water 2786 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 23 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	good (a 2008 sounding lies within 15 ft of the break)

Why a giant would use it. Waller Creek empties onto a reed-lined delta, and the 2008 grid drops from about 7 ft to 19 ft within 95 ft of the mouth. Creek water brings bait, and the deep channel sits a cast away, so a big fish can feed on the delta and drop back without travelling. Score factors: cover = creek delta, reeds; forage = Waller Creek inflow; pressure = rowing club, Rainey crowds. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). SW wind blows onto the mouth. Waller Creek runs hard after rain and muddies the delta; the clear-to-muddy edge is the target. Lake current here is slight unless Tom Miller is releasing. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am, 10:00 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 21 ft, roughly 140 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Jig or big Texas-rigged worm crawled down the delta slope to 19 ft. Go slow.
- ★ **Spawn:** Sight-fish from a distance in clear water: weightless soft jerkbait (Fluke) or stick worm to beds on the delta. The lake record (14.05 lb) took a Zoom Fluke from a creek in February.
- **Summer:** Walking bait or wake bait over the delta at dawn. After a storm, a big white spinnerbait along the mud line.
- ★ **Fall:** Glide or swimbait across the delta lip (7–19 ft) as shad move toward the creek.

9B · WALLER CREEK BOATHOUSE DOCKS (NORTH BANK)

Docks / bulkhead drop

Target **30.26042, -97.74230**Boat **30.26008, -97.74264**

57 /100

GIANT RANK
#35 OF 51

DEEP WATER

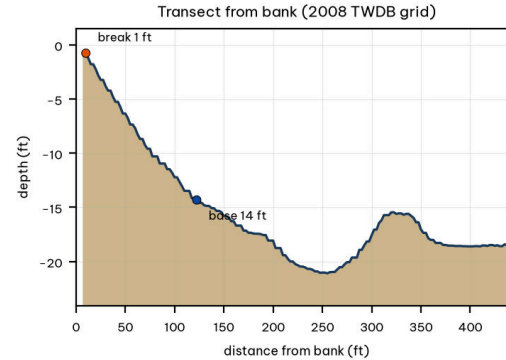
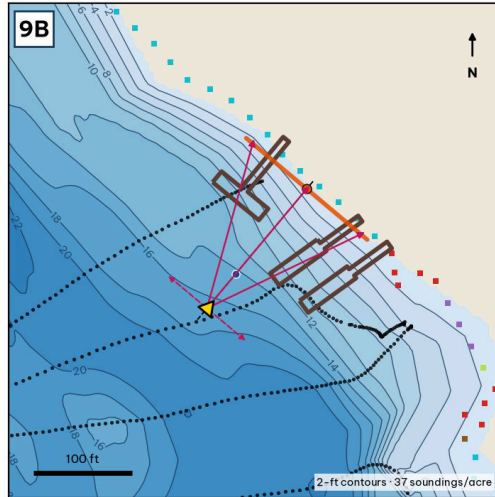
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Post-spawn and summer



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 37 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.8 ft (first wet grid cell, 8 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	1.0 ft, 8 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	14.4 ft, 125 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 1.4 ft per 10 ft; average 1.1 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	reeds (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 190 ft away; 25-ft water 2527 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 22 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 48 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The rowing-club and boathouse docks sit on a shelf that slopes to 14 ft about 125 ft out. Dock shade over a gradual slope is classic summer big-bass cover. Score factors: cover = boathouse docks; forage = sunfish under docks; pressure = rowing traffic. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). SW wind blows onto the docks; the downtown skyline blocks north winds. Little current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am, 10:00 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 16 ft, roughly 170 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz jig crawled down the slope off the dock ends.
- **Spawn:** Soft glide skipped or 'chopped' beside the dock posts so it hangs near the cover.
- **★ Summer:** Skip a jig or a 7-in stick worm deep under the shade; the slope reaches 14 ft about 125 ft out.
- **Fall:** Swimbait along the outside edge of the dock line.

9C · EAST BOULDIN MOUTH AND THE ISLET

Creek mouth / island edge

Target **30.25451, -97.74152**Boat **30.25442, -97.74116****53**/100GIANT RANK
#44 OF 51

DEEP WATER

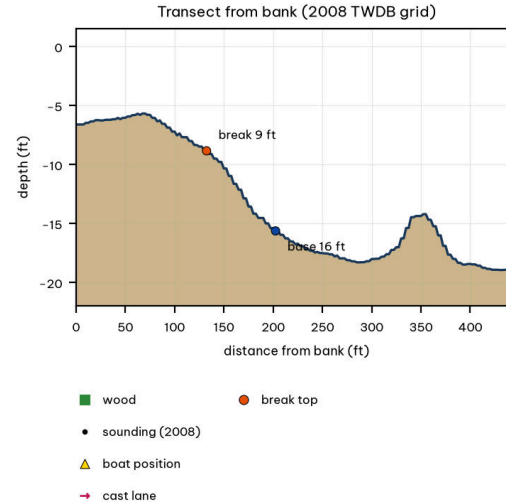
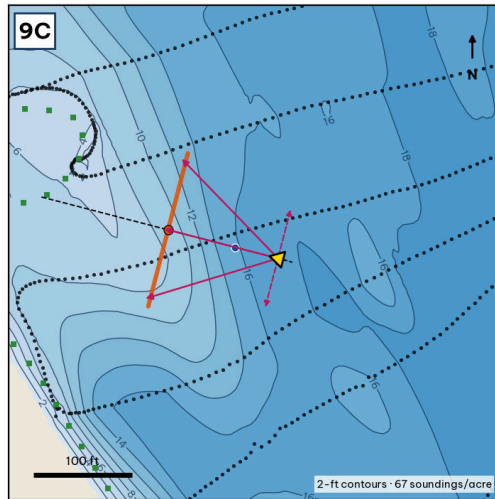
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Spawn



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 67 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	6.6 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	9.1 ft, 135 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	15.8 ft, 205 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 1.3 ft per 10 ft; average 1.0 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 480 ft away; 25-ft water 1318 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 19 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 22 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. A small islet off the East Bouldin Creek mouth, with a long shelf that breaks from about 9 ft to 16 ft roughly 135–205 ft out. Islands and creek mouths together make a natural ambush point. Score factors: cover = islet and creek mouth; forage = creek inflow; pressure = moderate. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **ESE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). ESE wind blows onto it. Creek inflow only after rain. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 18 ft, roughly 250 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Jig or big Texas-rigged worm crawled down the delta slope to 16 ft. Go slow.
- ★ **Spawn:** Sight-fish from a distance in clear water: weightless soft jerkbait (Fluke) or stick worm to beds on the delta. The lake record (14.05 lb) took a Zoom Fluke from a creek in February.
- **Summer:** Walking bait or wake bait over the delta at dawn. After a storm, a big white spinnerbait along the mud line.
- **Fall:** Glide or swimbait across the delta lip (9–16 ft) as shad move toward the creek.

9D · COMMUNITY DOCK NORTH-BANK DROP

Dock / drop-off

Target **30.25450, -97.73964**Boat **30.25437, -97.73992****67** /100GIANT RANK
#17 OF 51

DEEP WATER

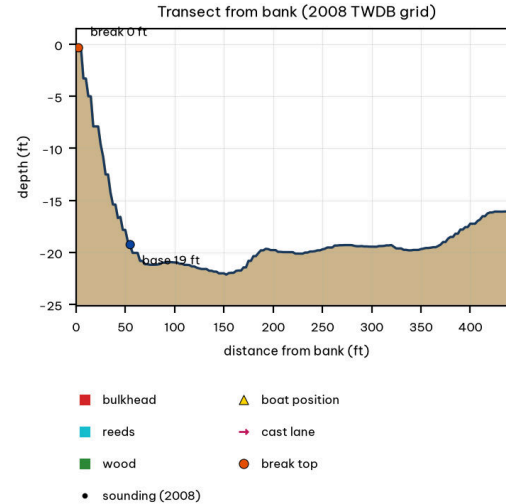
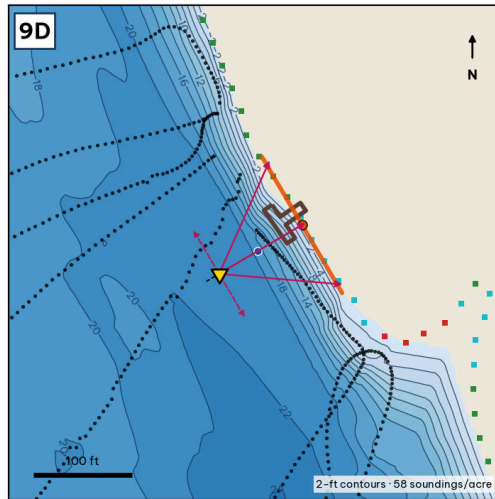
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Post-spawn and summer



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 58 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.3 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	1.0 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	19.5 ft, 58 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 4.4 ft per 10 ft; average 3.2 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	reeds (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 58 ft away; 25-ft water 864 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 24 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 40 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The steepest bank in Reach 9: about 1 ft at the dock to 19.5 ft only 58 ft out. Bass can sit under the dock and reach 20 ft of water in a few tail kicks. Score factors: cover = dock over a 19-ft drop; forage = sunfish; pressure = moderate. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **WSW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). WSW wind blows onto it. Little current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am, 10:00 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 22 ft, roughly 102 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz jig crawled down the slope off the dock ends.
- **Spawn:** Soft glide skipped or 'chopped' beside the dock posts so it hangs near the cover.
- **★ Summer:** Skip a jig or a 7-in stick worm deep under the shade; the slope reaches 20 ft about 58 ft out.
- **Fall:** Swimmbait along the outside edge of the dock line.

9E · BLUNN CREEK DELTA LIP

Creek-mouth delta / shelf edge

Target **30.25282, -97.74024**Boat **30.25274, -97.74003****70**/100GIANT RANK
#13 OF 51

DEEP WATER

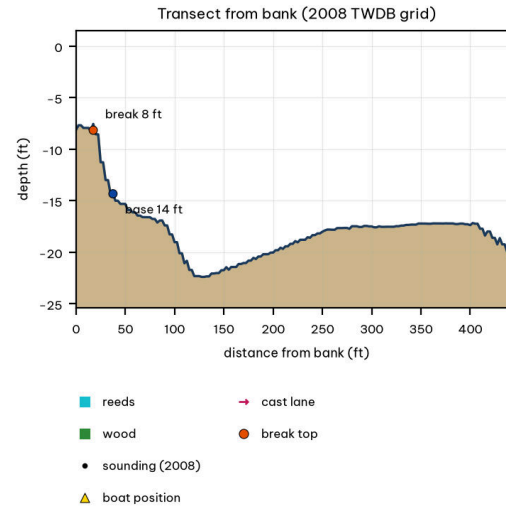
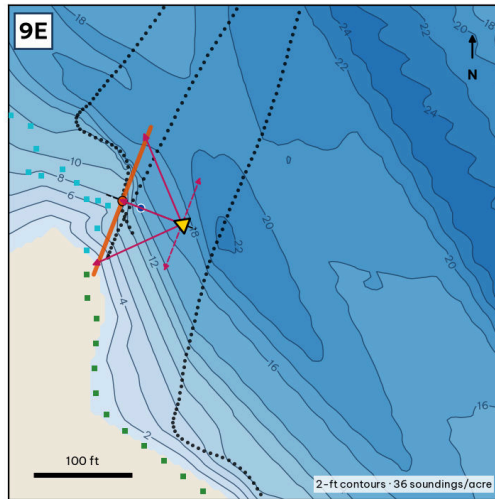
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Spawn



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 36 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	8.1 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	8.4 ft, 15 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	14.8 ft, 42 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 3.1 ft per 10 ft; average 2.3 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	reeds (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 90 ft away; 25-ft water 529 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 24 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	good (a 2008 sounding lies within 15 ft of the break)

Why a giant would use it. Blunn Creek's delta lip: 8 ft to 15 ft within about 40 ft, with 20-ft water within 90 ft. Reeds on the delta, deep water just off it. Score factors: cover = creek delta, reeds; forage = Blunn Creek inflow; pressure = moderate. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **ESE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). ESE wind blows onto it. Blunn Creek is small; after storms it pushes a mud plume. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 17 ft, roughly 88 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Jig or big Texas-rigged worm crawled down the delta slope to 15 ft, then on into the 24-ft water nearby. Go slow.
- ★ **Spawn:** Sight-fish from a distance in clear water: weightless soft jerkbait (Fluke) or stick worm to beds on the delta. The lake record (14.05 lb) took a Zoom Fluke from a creek in February.
- **Summer:** Walking bait or wake bait over the delta at dawn. After a storm, a big white spinnerbait along the mud line.
- **Fall:** Glide or swimbait across the delta lip (8–15 ft) as shad move toward the creek.

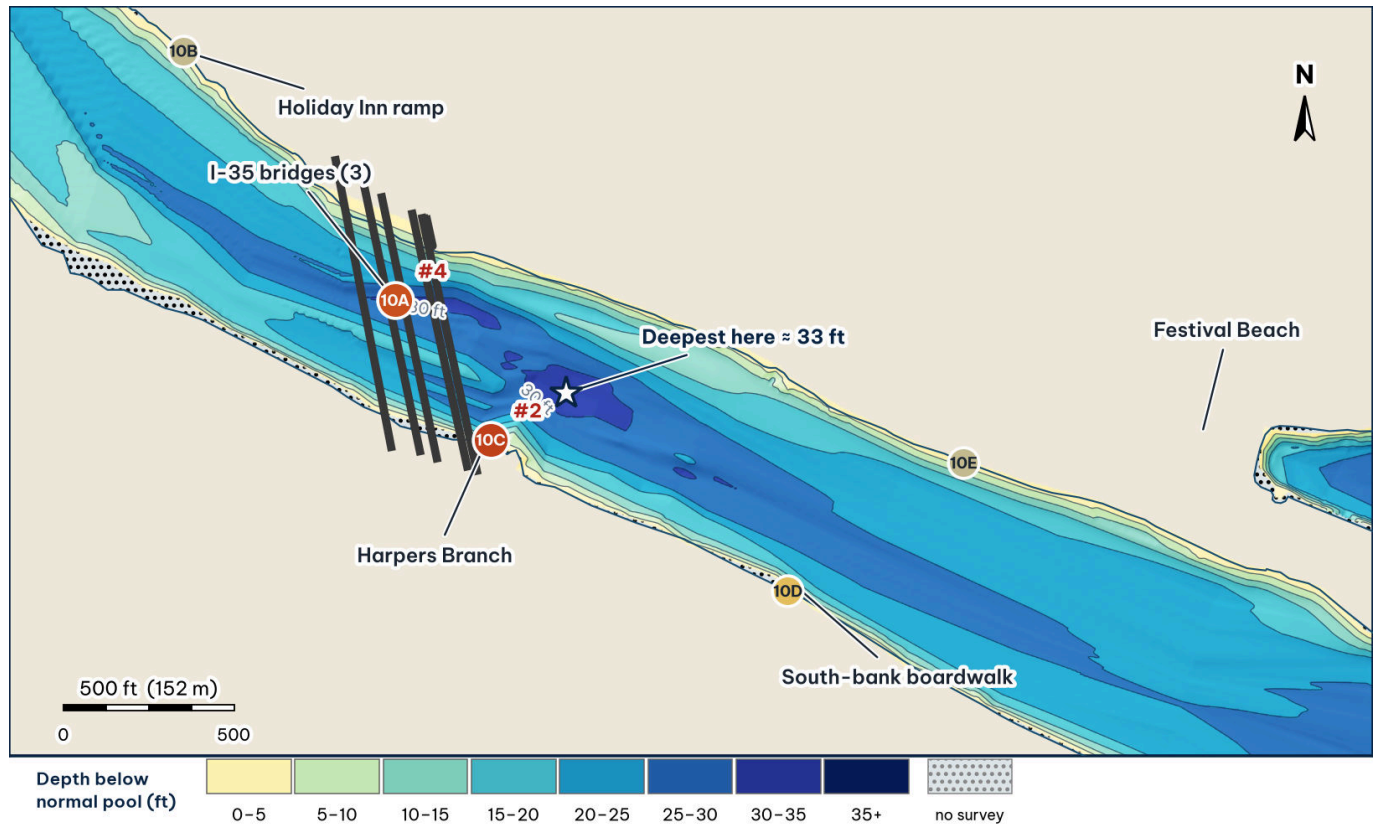
Reach 10 • Blunn Creek to Festival Beach

4.3–5.0 mi below Tom Miller

Deepest ≈ 33 ft

Width ≈ 585 ft

Access: Holiday Inn ramp



Blunn Creek to Festival Beach, through the three I-35 bridges and past Harpers Branch. Depths from my grid of TWDB 2008 points [ANALYSIS](#).

THE BOTTOM ANALYSIS

- **The lake gets deep here.** The median deepest point of each cross-section is about 28 ft, and the deepest cell is about 33 ft, next to Harpers Branch (10C).
- **I-35 crosses deep water.** About 30 ft under the main span (10A), the deepest piling water on the lake.
- **Steep south bank.** The boardwalk shore drops from about 4 ft to 18 ft within 52 ft, with 25-ft water within 120 ft (10D).

COVER AND FORAGE

- **Bridge piers.** Three I-35 structures: main lanes (9 spans, 1,052 ft, built 1954) and two frontage bridges (1982) (NBI via FHWA) [ANALYSIS](#). I-35 is being rebuilt, so piers and access may change [UNVERIFIED](#).
- **Creek inflow next to deep water** at Harpers Branch (10C) and Blunn Creek just upstream [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Wooded north bank** at the Holiday Inn ramp (10B) and above Festival Beach (10E) [ANALYSIS](#).

THROUGH THE SEASONS INFERENCE

Season	Giant play
Winter / pre-spawn	The best winter water on the lake. Football jig into the 33-ft hole at 10C; jig on the deepest I-35 piers
Spawn	Harpers Branch and Blunn Creek mouths; pre-spawn females stage on the 10D drop
Summer	I-35 shade all day; jig or 10-in worm on the pier bases at dawn and until 10 pm

Season	Giant play
Fall	Glide or swimbait across the Harpers Branch delta as shad move in

HOW TO FISH IT FOR A GIANT

THE APPROACH

- **10C first.** Sit in about 25 ft and work a jig from the creek delta down to the 28- and 33-ft water; a slow glide over the delta lip in low light [ANALYSIS](#).
- **I-35.** Hold upstream of the deepest span and work each pier base; the deck keeps it shaded all day [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Line.** 20–25 lb fluorocarbon around piers ([Wired2Fish](#)).

ACCESS, HAZARDS AND RULES

- **Holiday Inn ramp:** one lane, unimproved, west of I-35 ([TPWD access](#)).

I-35 CONSTRUCTION

Expect barges, booms and temporary work platforms around I-35. Obey closures and keep clear of work crews

UNVERIFIED.

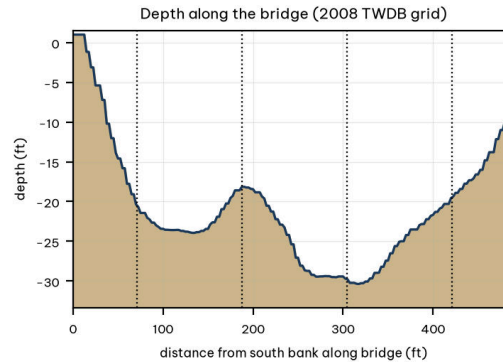
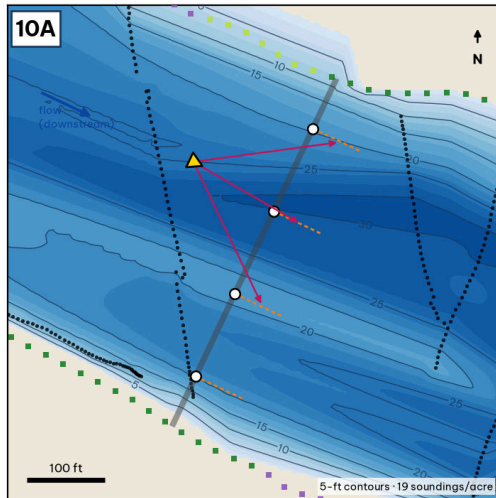
Reach 10 Spots: Blunn Creek to Festival Beach (I-35, Holiday Inn ramp)

5 spots: 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D, 10E. Close-up maps from the 2008 survey; scores from the giant ranking.

10A · I-35 PILING ROWS (MAIN AND FRONTAGE BRIDGES)

Bridge piling row	Target 30.25069, -97.73592	Boat 30.25084, -97.73626
--------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------

87 /100
 GIANT RANK #4 OF 51
 DEEP WATER
COVER
FORAGE
LOW PRESSURE
DATA
Best: Winter and pre-spawn · Post-spawn and summer



The bridge line is the OSM road or rail centerline. Pier markers are **inferred** from NBI span counts by assuming equal spans centered on the channel, except at the railroad bridge, where TWDB's footing outlines are used. Orange dashes show where a downstream eddy line should form during a release **INFERENCE**. Contours: 5-ft, at 19 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Bridge (NBI 2025)	main lanes 9 spans, 1,052 ft, longest 130 ft, built 1954; two frontage bridges (1982). Being rebuilt
Water width along the deck	492 ft (2008 TWDB shoreline) ANALYSIS
Deepest water under the deck	30.4 ft, 318 ft from the south end ANALYSIS
Deep-water access	deepest within 300 ft: 31 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	19 soundings per acre; nearest sounding 139 ft from the crossing center

Why a giant would use it. Three parallel I-35 bridges with the deepest piling water in the lake: about 30 ft under the main span. Shade lines move across the water all day, and the piers break the slow river current. Score factors: cover = three I-35 bridges, deep piers; forage = shad in shade; pressure = construction zone, few anglers. **INFERENCE**

Wind and current. Weak current; fish the down-current side of each pier when Tom Miller releases. The bridges shelter the water underneath from most winds. Long SE and NW fetch along the reach. **INFERENCE**

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). Shade under the deck at all hours. **ANALYSIS**

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold upstream of the deepest span (yellow triangle) and cast down-current to the eddy behind each pier (magenta arrows) **INFERENCE**.

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) **INFERENCE**

- ★ **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz football jig or a 10-in Texas-rigged worm crawled along the pier bases in the deepest span (about 30 ft). Pause 5–10 seconds at each pier.
- ★ **Spawn:** 6–8 in slow-sinking glide (sunfish or shad colors) swum past the shady side of each pier and killed beside it. Give followers the 180° turn.
- ★ **Summer:** The deck shades the piers all day. Pitch a 3/4 oz jig or a 10-in worm to the pier bases at first light and from dusk to the 10 pm fishing cutoff.
- ★ **Fall:** 6–7 in swimbait or soft glide down the current seam past each pier when Tom Miller is releasing.

HAZARD · CONSTRUCTION ZONE I-35 is being rebuilt; expect barges, booms and closures **UNVERIFIED**.

10B · HOLIDAY INN RAMP DROP (NORTH BANK)

Ramp / steep bank

Target **30.25273, -97.73784**Boat **30.25248, -97.73810****57** /100GIANT RANK
#36 OF 51

DEEP WATER

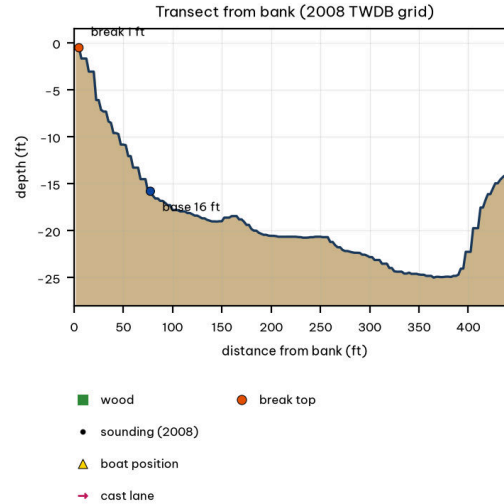
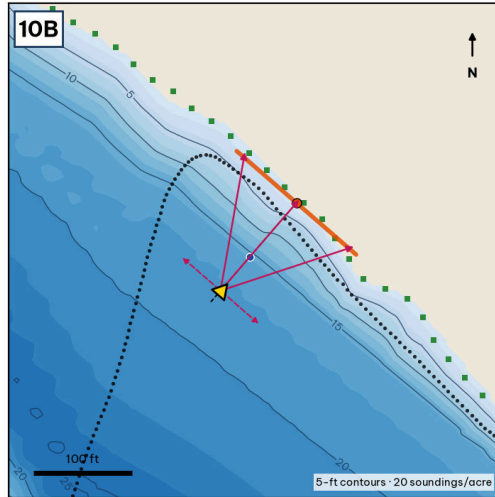
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 20 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.5 ft (first wet grid cell, 2 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	0.9 ft, 2 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	16.3 ft, 82 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.9 ft per 10 ft; average 1.9 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 183 ft away; 25-ft water 340 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 23 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 22 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The Holiday Inn ramp sits on a wooded north bank that slopes to about 16 ft 80 ft out, with 25-ft water within 340 ft. Score factors: cover = ramp, wooded bank; forage = sunfish; pressure = small ramp. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). SW wind blows onto it. Slight current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 18 ft, roughly 128 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4-1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 1 to 16 ft, then on into the 23-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (1 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10-12 in worm on the 16-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swimbait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

10C · HARPERS BRANCH MOUTH INTO THE 33-FT HOLE

Creek mouth / channel hole

Target **30.24955, -97.73506**Boat **30.24968, -97.73483****90**/100GIANT RANK
#2 OF 51

DEEP WATER

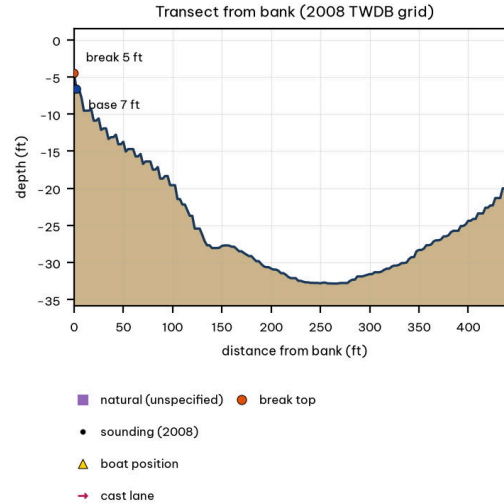
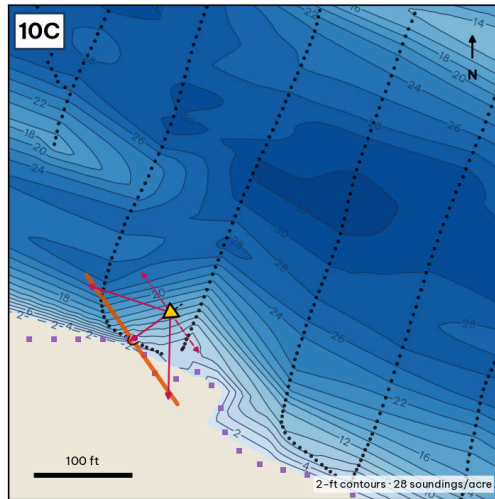
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Winter and pre-spawn · Fall



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 28 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	4.5 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	5.9 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	13.5 ft, 42 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.8 ft per 10 ft; average 1.8 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	natural (confidence: low)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 45 ft away; 25-ft water 60 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 33 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	good (a 2008 sounding lies within 15 ft of the break)

Why a giant would use it. Harpers Branch enters right next to the deepest bridge water: the transect falls from about 6 ft at the bank to 28 ft about 140 ft out and 33 ft about 260 ft out. A creek mouth, a hole, and pilings within 300 ft of each other. Score factors: cover = creek mouth on a 33-ft hole; forage = creek inflow next to deep water; pressure = little bank access. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). NE wind blows onto it (rare). The I-35 decks block much of the NW wind. Harpers Branch only runs after rain. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 15 ft, roughly 88 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- ★ **Winter / pre-spawn:** Jig or big Texas-rigged worm crawled down the delta slope to 13 ft, then on into the 33-ft water nearby. Go slow.
- ★ **Spawn:** Sight-fish from a distance in clear water: weightless soft jerkbait (Fluke) or stick worm to beds on the delta. The lake record (14.05 lb) took a Zoom Fluke from a creek in February.
- ★ **Summer:** Walking bait or wake bait over the delta at dawn. After a storm, a big white spinnerbait along the mud line.
- ★ **Fall:** Glide or swimbait across the delta lip (6–13 ft) as shad move toward the creek.

10D · SOUTH-BANK BOARDWALK DROP

Boardwalk / drop-off

Target **30.24830, -97.73232**Boat **30.24851, -97.73220****63**/100GIANT RANK
#21 OF 51

DEEP WATER

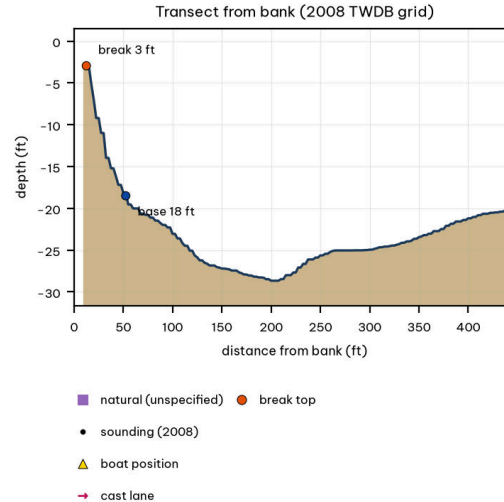
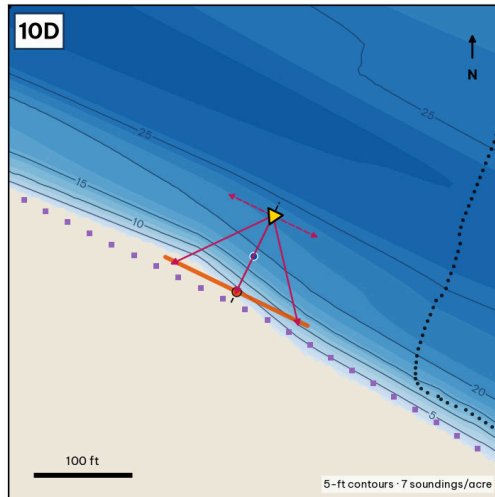
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 7 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	2.9 ft (first wet grid cell, 10 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	3.6 ft, 10 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	18.4 ft, 52 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 5.2 ft per 10 ft; average 3.5 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	natural (confidence: low)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 60 ft away; 25-ft water 116 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 30 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	low (nearest sounding 193 ft away; the break is interpolated)

Why a giant would use it. A boardwalk-lined south bank that drops from about 4 ft to 18 ft within 52 ft, with 25-ft water within 120 ft. Score factors: cover = boardwalk edge; forage = sunfish; pressure = boardwalk anglers. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NNE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). NNE wind blows onto it. Slight current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 20 ft, roughly 98 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4-1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 4 to 18 ft, then on into the 30-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (4 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10-12 in worm on the 18-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swimbait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

10E · NORTH-BANK PIER SHELF ABOVE FESTIVAL BEACH

Pier / shelf edge

Target **30.24927, -97.73068**Boat **30.24896, -97.73082****57** /100GIANT RANK
#37 OF 51

DEEP WATER

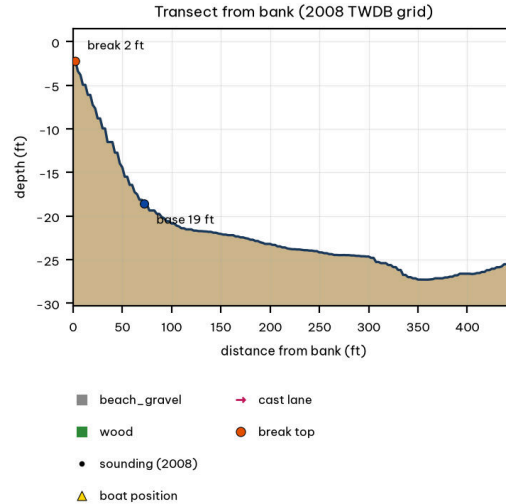
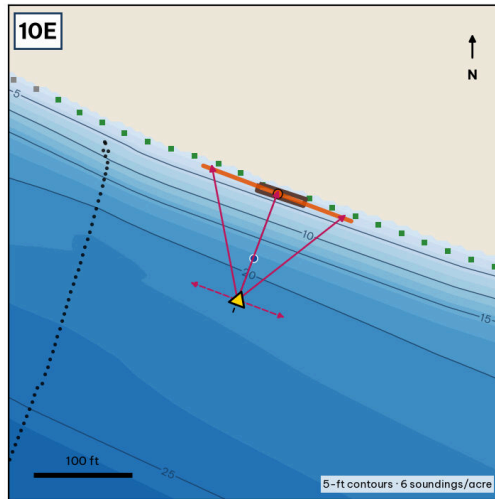
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 6 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	2.2 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	2.8 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	19.0 ft, 78 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.7 ft per 10 ft; average 2.1 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 89 ft away; 25-ft water 306 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 25 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	low (nearest sounding 176 ft away; the break is interpolated)

Why a giant would use it. A pier on a wooded north shelf above Festival Beach; 19 ft at 78 ft out. Score factors: cover = pier shelf; forage = sunfish; pressure = moderate. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SSW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). SSW wind blows onto it. Slight current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am. [ANALYSIS](#)

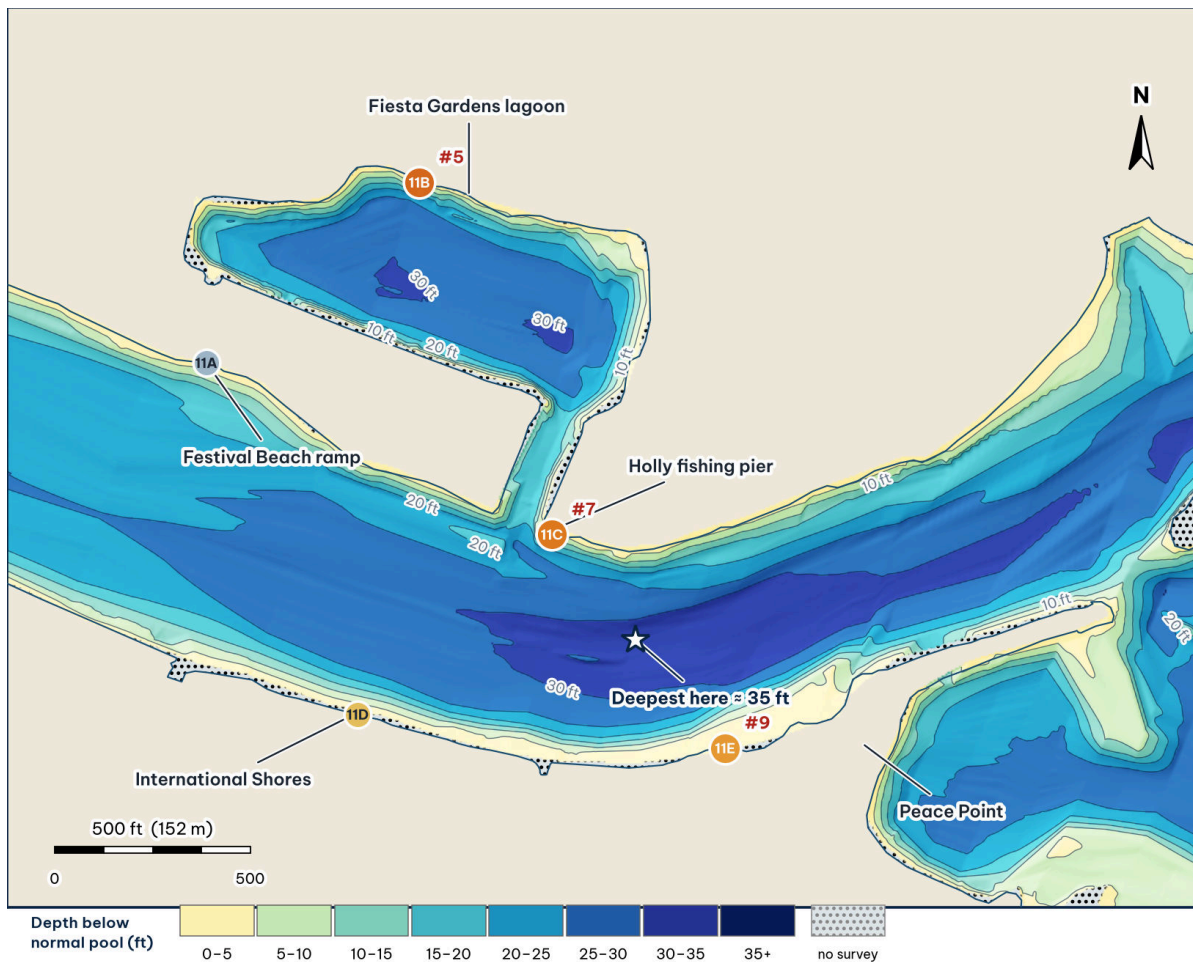
Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 21 ft, roughly 122 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Suspending jerkbait or a 3/4 oz jig worked slowly off the edge at about 19 ft.
- **Spawn:** Wake bait or slow glide over the flat, then let it fall off the 3-ft edge, where pre-spawn females stage.
- **Summer:** Big walking topwater over the flat at dawn and dusk; a 10-12 in worm dragged along the 3-19 ft edge after sun-up.
- **Fall:** Swimbait run parallel to the edge, best when wind blows onto the flat.

Reach 11 • Festival Beach to the Holly Bend

5.0–5.5 mi below Tom Miller

Deepest ≈ 35 ft (deepest on the lake)**Width ≈ 620 ft****Access:** Festival Beach ramp

Festival Beach, the Fiesta Gardens lagoon and the bend at Holly, where the deepest water in Lady Bird lies. Depths from my grid of TWDB 2008 points [ANALYSIS](#).

THE BOTTOM ANALYSIS

- **The deepest water on the lake.** About **35 ft** at the Holly bend (11C), with the median deepest point of each cross-section at about 30 ft.
- **The Fiesta Gardens lagoon** is an enclosed basin about 30 ft deep, joined to the lake by a narrow channel near the Holly pier. Its north wall drops from about 3 ft to 24 ft within 48 ft (11B).
- **The south bank** slopes to 25–29 ft within about 110–150 ft at International Shores (11D) and Peace Point (11E).

COVER AND FORAGE

- **Piers, docks and bulkheads** on both banks; the Holly fishing pier at the lagoon mouth (11C) [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Shad over deep water** [INFERENCE](#). TPWD's 2019 survey found gizzard shad the second most common forage (TPWD 2019).
- **Sparse soundings.** Several spots here rely on interpolated depths between survey lines; check with your graph [UNVERIFIED](#).

THROUGH THE SEASONS INFERENCE

Season	Giant play
Winter / pre-spawn	Lagoon (11B) and the 35-ft hole at 11C: football jig, long pauses
Spawn	The lagoon's shallow edges, if boats can reach them UNVERIFIED
Summer	11D and 11E pier shade and the 25–29 ft drops at dawn and dusk
Fall	Swimbait along the south-bank drops as shad push up

HOW TO FISH IT FOR A GIANT

THE APPROACH

- **The deep bend.** Work a jig down the 11E and 11C slopes into 30–35 ft. This is the deepest water on the lake, so it is a winter and mid-summer refuge INFERENCE.
- **The lagoon.** Fish the steep north wall with a jig or big worm, and run a glide along it in low light INFERENCE.
- **Line.** 20 lb fluorocarbon ANALYSIS.

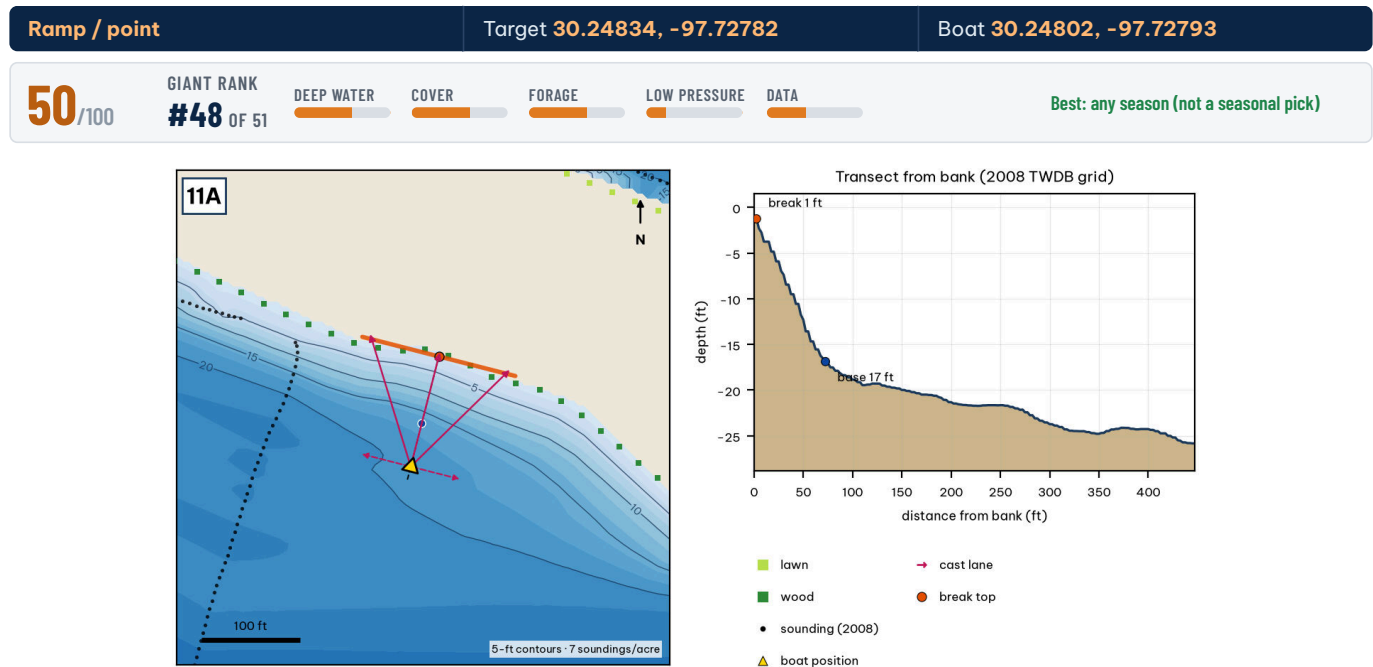
ACCESS, HAZARDS AND RULES

- **Festival Beach ramp:** one lane, parking for about 5 trailers (TPWD access).
- **Lagoon access** by boat through the channel near the Holly pier is unconfirmed; check for low bridges or barriers before you go UNVERIFIED.

Reach 11 Spots: Festival Beach, Fiesta Gardens lagoon and the Holly bend

5 spots: 11A, 11B, 11C, 11D, 11E. Close-up maps from the 2008 survey; scores from the giant ranking.

11A · FESTIVAL BEACH RAMP POINT



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 7 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.3 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	1.8 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	17.3 ft, 78 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.6 ft per 10 ft; average 2.0 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 114 ft away; 25-ft water 302 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 25 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	low (nearest sounding 144 ft away; the break is interpolated)

Why a giant would use it. The Festival Beach ramp point slopes to about 17 ft at 78 ft out, with 25-ft water about 300 ft out. It is the easiest launch for the east end of the lake, so it gets fished hard from the bank. Score factors: cover = ramp point; forage = sunfish; pressure = Festival Beach bank anglers. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SSW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). SSW wind blows onto it. Slight current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the N bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees it gets little shade today. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 19 ft, roughly 122 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4–1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 2 to 17 ft, then on into the 25-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (2 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10–12 in worm on the 17-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swimbait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

11B • FIESTA GARDENS LAGOON 30-FT HOLE

Enclosed lagoon / hole

Target **30.24957, -97.72607**Boat **30.24932, -97.72612****83**/100GIANT RANK
#5 OF 51

DEEP WATER

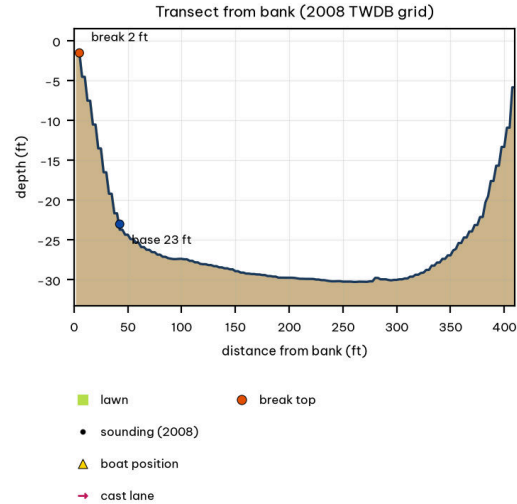
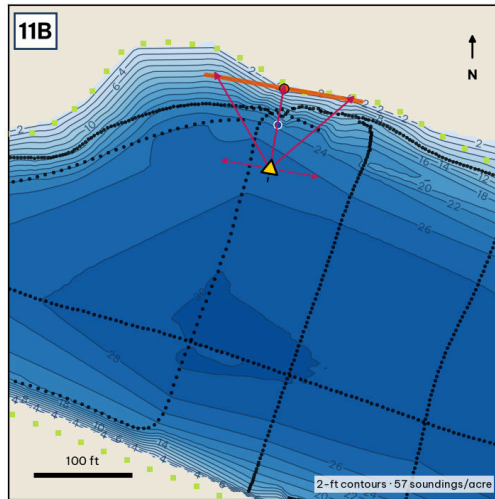
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Winter and pre-spawn • Spawn



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 57 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.6 ft (first wet grid cell, 2 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	2.9 ft, 2 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	23.9 ft, 48 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 6.0 ft per 10 ft; average 4.7 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	lawn (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 36 ft away; 25-ft water 56 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 30 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 24 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The Fiesta Gardens lagoon is an enclosed basin about 30 ft deep, joined to the lake by a narrow channel near the Holly pier. Its north wall drops from about 3 ft to 24 ft within 48 ft. Enclosed, deep and quiet water can hold resident big fish. Score factors: cover = enclosed lagoon; forage = sunfish, shad trapped in lagoon; pressure = little boat traffic. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **S** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). Sheltered from almost every wind; an S wind blows onto the north wall. No current. The channel mouth is the only exchange point. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the N bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees it gets little shade today. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 26 ft, roughly 92 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- ★ **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4–1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 3 to 24 ft, then on into the 30-ft water. Long pauses.
- ★ **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (3 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10–12 in worm on the 24-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swimbait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

11C • HOLLY PIER TO THE 35-FT HOLE (DEEPEST WATER IN THE LAKE)

Pier / deepest hole

Target **30.24708, -97.72506**Boat **30.24681, -97.72483****80**/100GIANT RANK
#7 OF 51

DEEP WATER

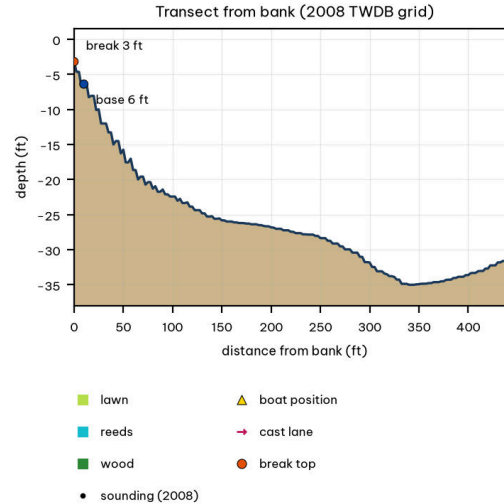
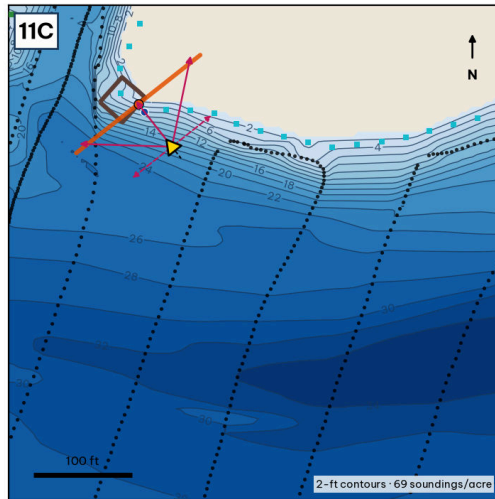
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Winter and pre-spawn



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 69 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	3.2 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	4.2 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	20.5 ft, 75 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 3.0 ft per 10 ft; average 2.2 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	reeds (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 41 ft away; 25-ft water 64 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 34 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 44 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The Holly fishing pier sits at the lagoon channel mouth, on the edge of the deepest water in the lake (about 35 ft, roughly 340 ft out). The bank slopes steadily to 20 ft at 75 ft out. Score factors: cover = pier over the deepest hole; forage = shad over deep water; pressure = Holly pier bank anglers. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **SE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). SE wind blows onto it. The lagoon channel exchanges water slowly; the main-lake current is weak. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the N bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees it gets little shade today. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 23 ft, roughly 120 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- ★ **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz jig crawled down the slope off the dock ends.
- **Spawn:** Soft glide skipped or 'chopped' beside the dock posts so it hangs near the cover.
- **Summer:** Skip a jig or a 7-in stick worm deep under the shade; the slope reaches 21 ft about 75 ft out.
- **Fall:** Swimmbait along the outside edge of the dock line.

11D · INTERNATIONAL SHORES PIER DROP (SOUTH BANK)

Pier / drop-off

Target **30.24587, -97.72666**Boat **30.24626, -97.72653****63**/100GIANT RANK
#22 OF 51

DEEP WATER

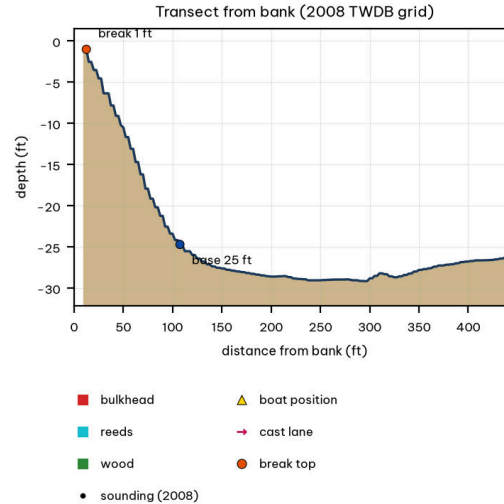
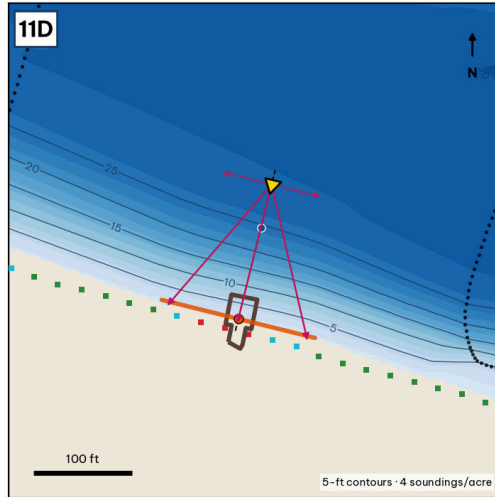
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Post-spawn and summer



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 5 ft, at 4 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.0 ft (first wet grid cell, 10 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	1.6 ft, 10 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	25.2 ft, 112 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 3.1 ft per 10 ft; average 2.3 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	bulkhead (confidence: medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 82 ft away; 25-ft water 109 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 30 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	low (nearest sounding 230 ft away; the break is interpolated)

Why a giant would use it. International Shores: a pier and bulkhead on the south bank, with a long slope to about 25 ft 110 ft out. Score factors: cover = pier, bulkhead; forage = sunfish; pressure = moderate. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NNE** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). NNE wind blows onto it. Slight current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the S bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 27 ft, roughly 158 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz jig crawled down the slope off the dock ends.
- **Spawn:** Soft glide skipped or 'chopped' beside the dock posts so it hangs near the cover.
- **★ Summer:** Skip a jig or a 7-in stick worm deep under the shade; the slope reaches 25 ft about 112 ft out.
- **Fall:** Swimbait along the outside edge of the dock line.

11E · PEACE POINT DOCK DROP (SOUTH BANK)

Dock / drop-off

Target **30.24574, -97.72369**Boat **30.24609, -97.72368****73**/100GIANT RANK
#9 OF 51

DEEP WATER

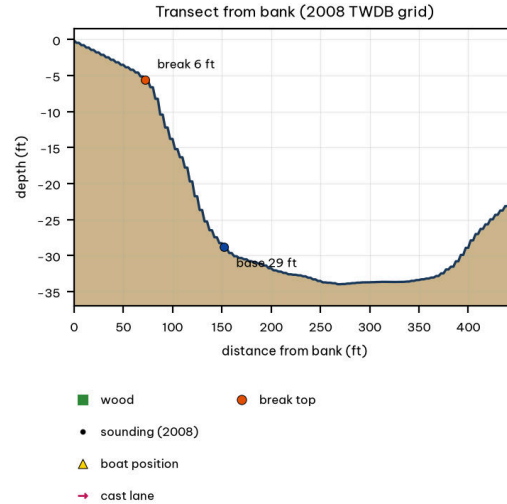
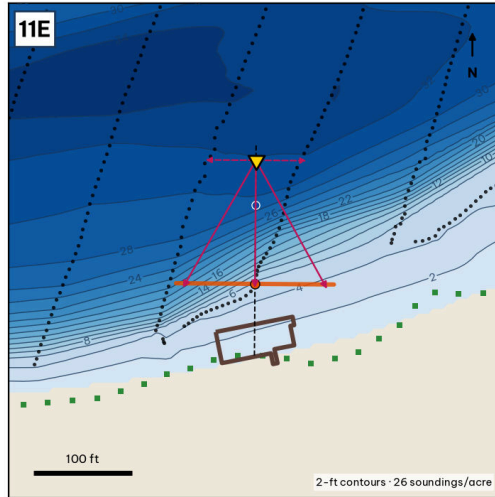
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Post-spawn and summer



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 26 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.1 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	5.4 ft, 70 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	28.8 ft, 152 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 3.6 ft per 10 ft; average 2.8 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 105 ft away; 25-ft water 123 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 35 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	good (a 2008 sounding lies within 15 ft of the break)

Why a giant would use it. Peace Point dock: a wooded south bank that runs out to a 5-ft shelf, then falls to about 29 ft 150 ft out. It sits beside the 34–35 ft hole. Score factors: cover = dock, wooded bank; forage = sunfish; pressure = moderate. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **N** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). N wind blows onto it. Slight current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the S bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 31 ft, roughly 198 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4 oz jig crawled down the slope off the dock ends.
- **Spawn:** Soft glide skipped or 'chopped' beside the dock posts so it hangs near the cover.
- **★ Summer:** Skip a jig or a 7-in stick worm deep under the shade; the slope reaches 29 ft about 152 ft out.
- **Fall:** Swimbait along the outside edge of the dock line.

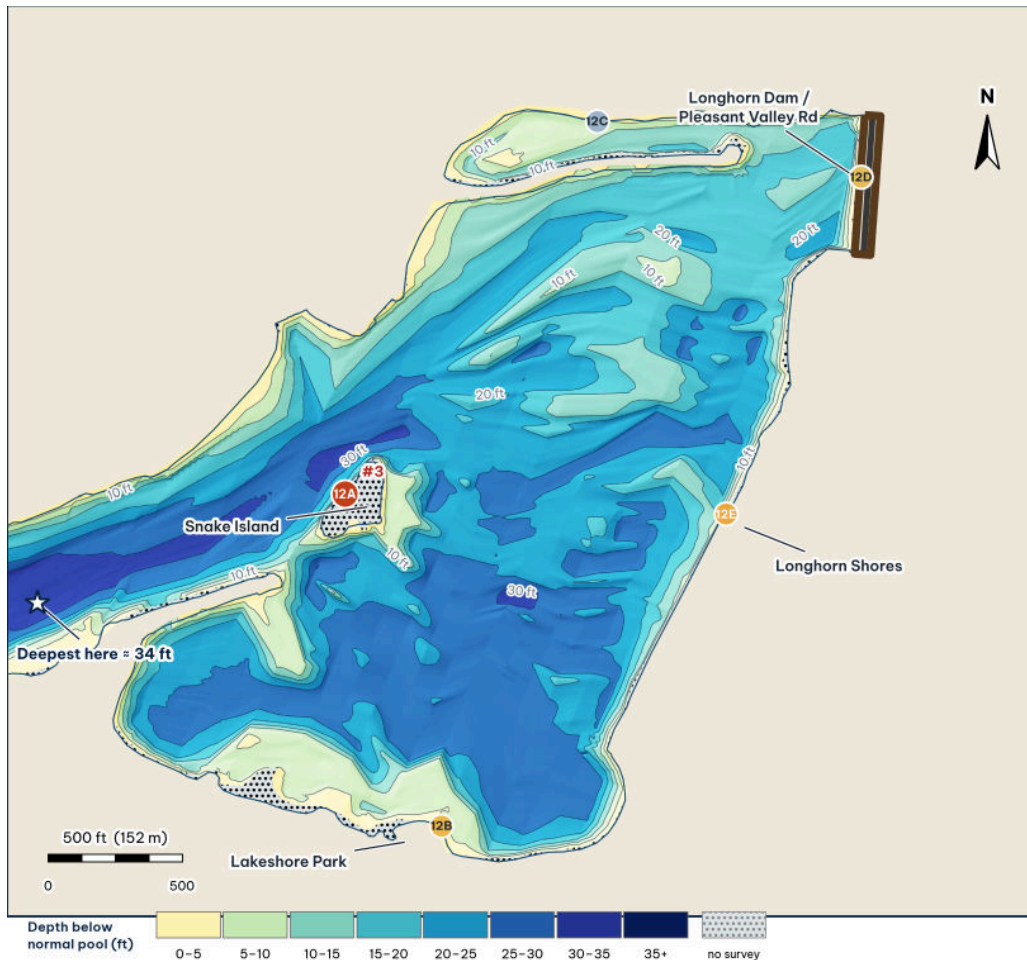
Reach 12 • Lower Basin and Longhorn Dam

5.5–6.0 mi below Tom Miller

Deepest ≈ 31 ft

Width ≈1,280 ft

Access: Festival Beach ramp (R11)



The widest part of the lake: Snake Island, the Lakeshore Park lobe, the Metz-side arm and Longhorn Dam. Depths from my grid of TWDB 2008 points [ANALYSIS](#).

THE BOTTOM [ANALYSIS](#)

- **A wide basin with a 30-ft channel.** The median deepest point is about 27 ft; the deepest cell is about 31 ft, in the channel off Snake Island's west tip (12A).
- **The dam face is shallow.** Only about 15–21 ft against Longhorn Dam (12D), not the deepest water on the lake.
- **Long shelves.** The south lobe off Lakeshore Park breaks to about 24 ft roughly 250 ft out (12B); the north arm has a 6–9 ft flat edge (12C).
- **Offshore humps.** TPWD noted submerged plants on offshore humps near Longhorn Dam (TPWD 2019). The 2008 grid shows one offshore hump east of Congress; I could not tie TPWD's note to it [UNVERIFIED](#).

COVER AND FORAGE

- **Snake Island** splits the flow at the head of the basin [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Riprap on the dam face** pins bait against the structure [INFERENCE](#).
- **The least-pressured bank** in the guide: the wooded east bank at Longhorn Shores (12E) [INFERENCE](#).
- **Boggy Creek and Montopolis are below Longhorn Dam**, not in the lake [ANALYSIS](#).

THROUGH THE SEASONS INFERENCE

Season	Giant play
Winter / pre-spawn	Jig on the 30-ft channel off Snake Island (12A)
Spawn	The north arm (12C) and the Lakeshore lobe (12B): protected, shallow water near the basin
Summer	Wind-blown shelves at dawn; jig on the 12E drop
Fall	Glide or swimbait off the island tip and along the dam riprap

HOW TO FISH IT FOR A GIANT

THE APPROACH

- **Island tip.** Sit in the channel and cast to the tip, letting a swimbait or glide swing past it with the current ANALYSIS.
- **Wind.** This reach has the longest south-wind fetch east of downtown (median about 1,290 ft), so pick the wind-blown bank in fall and summer ANALYSIS.
- **Line.** 20 lb fluorocarbon ANALYSIS.

ACCESS, HAZARDS AND RULES

- **Launch at Festival Beach** in Reach 11 (TPWD access).

LONGHORN DAM

Longhorn Dam has gates. Keep well back from the structure, and leave if gates are open or water is pulling toward the dam UNVERIFIED.

Reach 12 Spots: Lower basin, Snake Island and Longhorn Dam

5 spots: 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, 12E. Close-up maps from the 2008 survey; scores from the giant ranking.

12A • SNAKE ISLAND WEST TIP AND THE 30-FT CHANNEL

Island tip / channel

Target **30.24734, -97.71979**Boat **30.24748, -97.71989****90**/100GIANT RANK
#3 OF 51

DEEP WATER

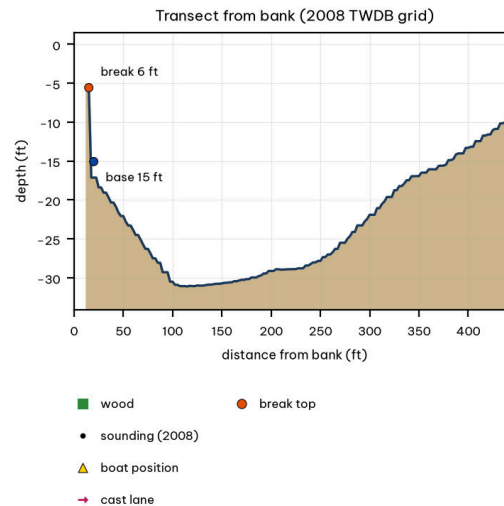
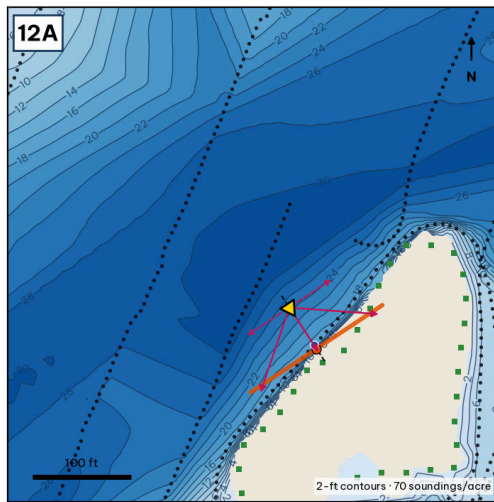
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Winter and pre-spawn • Fall



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 70 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	5.6 ft (first wet grid cell, 12 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	9.4 ft, 12 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	18.5 ft, 28 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 6.4 ft per 10 ft; average 6.0 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 35 ft away; 25-ft water 61 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 31 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	good (a 2008 sounding lies within 15 ft of the break)

Why a giant would use it. Snake Island's west tip drops from about 9 ft to 18 ft in under 20 ft, with 30-ft channel water 60 ft away. Island tips concentrate bait, and this one is far from both ramps. Score factors: cover = island tip on a 30-ft channel; forage = bait on the channel edge; pressure = far from ramps. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NNW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). NNW wind blows onto it. Current is weak this close to Longhorn Dam. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 20 ft, roughly 72 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- ★ **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4-1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 9 to 18 ft, then on into the 31-ft water. Long pauses.
- ★ **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (9 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- ★ **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10-12 in worm on the 18-ft base in between.
- ★ **Fall:** Swimbait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

12B · LAKESHORE PARK SOUTH LOBE DROP

Basin drop-off

Target **30.24436, -97.71863**Boat **30.24469, -97.71856****67** /100GIANT RANK
#18 OF 51

DEEP WATER

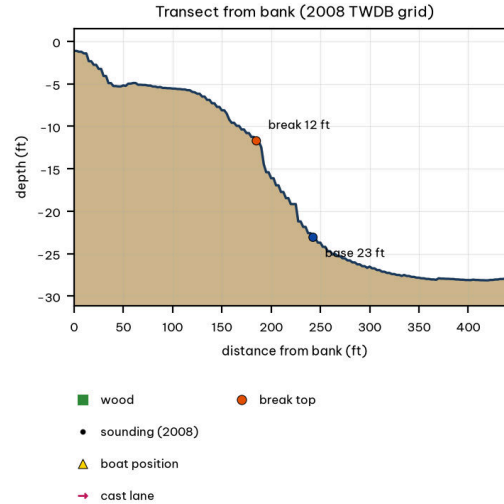
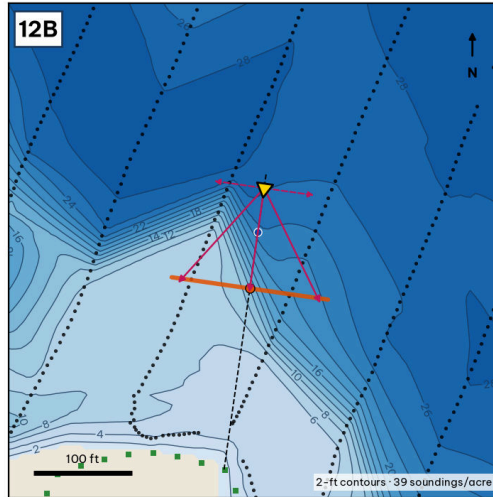
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Spawn



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 39 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	1.1 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	10.7 ft, 175 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	24.1 ft, 252 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 2.5 ft per 10 ft; average 1.7 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 156 ft away; 25-ft water 191 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 28 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 37 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The south lobe of the lower basin: a long shallow shelf off Lakeshore Park breaking to about 24 ft roughly 250 ft out. TPWD reports submerged plants on offshore humps in the lower lake near Longhorn Dam. Score factors: cover = basin drop, offshore humps (TPWD grass); forage = bait on humps; pressure = farthest from ramps. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **N** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). N wind blows onto it; the long S fetch (up to about 2,200 ft) builds waves from the south. Almost none. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 26 ft, roughly 298 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4–1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 11 to 24 ft. Long pauses.
- ★ **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (11 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10–12 in worm on the 24-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swim-bait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

12C · NORTH ARM FLAT EDGE (METZ SIDE)

Flat edge / shelf

Target **30.25108, -97.71668**Boat **30.25088, -97.71669****50**/100GIANT RANK
#49 OF 51

DEEP WATER

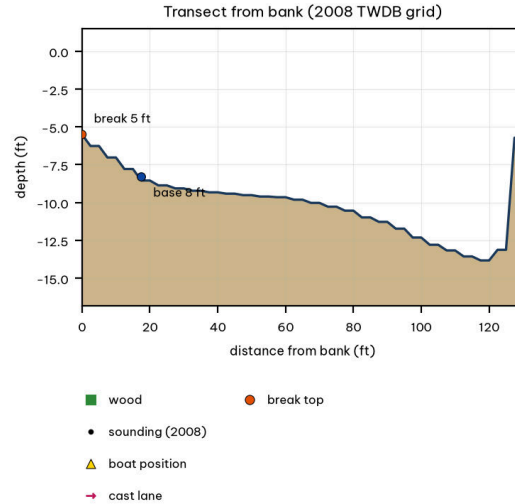
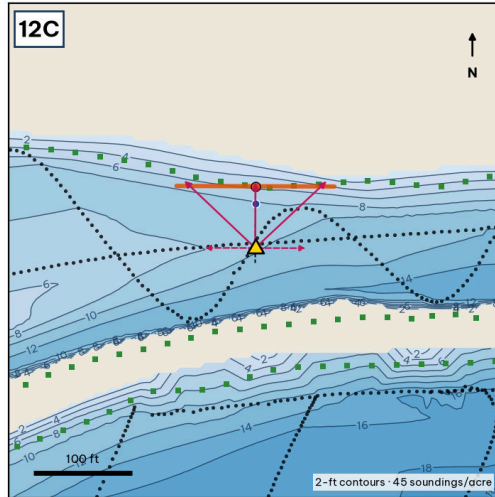
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Spawn



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 45 soundings/acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	5.5 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	6.0 ft, 0 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	8.8 ft, 25 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 1.4 ft per 10 ft; average 1.1 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 340 ft away; 25-ft water 825 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 18 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 37 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. A protected north arm with a 6–9 ft flat edge. It is spawning-type water close to deeper basin water. Score factors: cover = flat edge; forage = sunfish; pressure = quiet arm. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **S** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). S wind blows onto it. None. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the NW bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 6:30 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 11 ft, roughly 70 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** Suspending jerkbait or a 3/4 oz jig worked slowly off the edge at about 9 ft.
- **★ Spawn:** Wake bait or slow glide over the flat, then let it fall off the 6-ft edge, where pre-spawn females stage.
- **Summer:** Big walking topwater over the flat at dawn and dusk; a 10–12 in worm dragged along the 6–9 ft edge after sun-up.
- **Fall:** Swimbait run parallel to the edge, best when wind blows onto the flat.

12D • LONGHORN DAM FACE

Dam face / riprap

Target **30.25044, -97.71363**Boat **30.25044, -97.71389****63**/100GIANT RANK
#23 OF 51

DEEP WATER

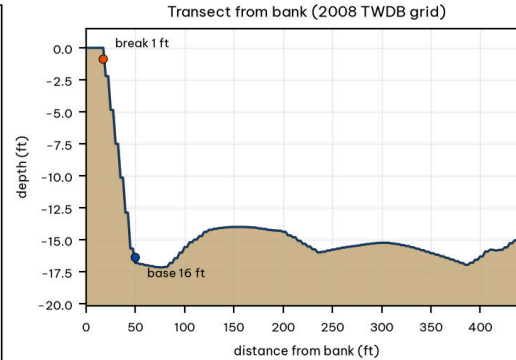
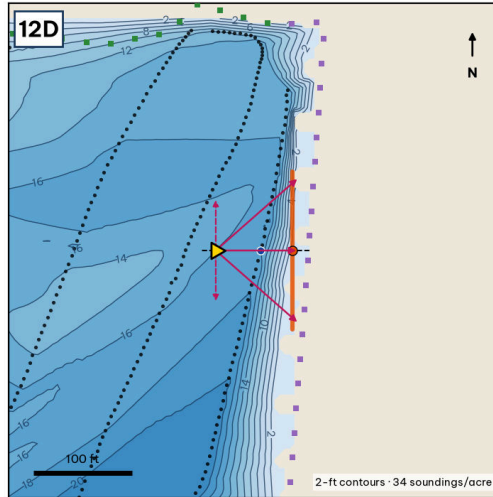
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: Fall



natural (unspecified) → cast lane
 wood ● break top
 ● sounding (2008)
 ▲ boat position

Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 34 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	0.0 ft (first wet grid cell, 0 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	1.0 ft, 15 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	15.7 ft, 50 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 5.4 ft per 10 ft; average 4.2 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	natural (confidence: low)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 153 ft away; 25-ft water 644 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 21 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 34 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. The face of Longhorn Dam: about 16 ft at 50 ft out, along riprap. Bait gets pinned against the dam. Score factors: cover = dam riprap; forage = bait pinned at the dam; pressure = quiet. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **W** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). W wind blows onto the dam face. Gate releases pull water toward the dam. Stay well back from the gates. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 17 ft, roughly 95 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4–1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 1 to 16 ft, then on into the 21-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (1 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10–12 in worm on the 16-ft base in between.
- **★ Fall:** Swimbait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

HAZARD • DAM GATES Longhorn Dam has gates and a spillway. Keep well back from the structure, and leave if gates are open or flow is pulling toward the dam [UNVERIFIED](#).

12E • LONGHORN SHORES BANK DROP (EAST BANK)

Bank drop-off

Target **30.24704, -97.71530**Boat **30.24715, -97.71547****70**/100GIANT RANK
#14 OF 51

DEEP WATER

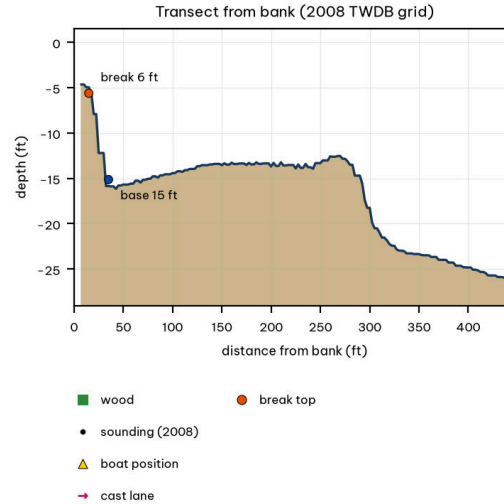
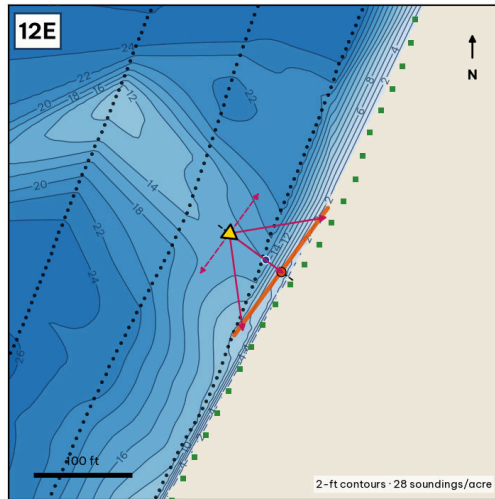
COVER

FORAGE

LOW PRESSURE

DATA

Best: any season (not a seasonal pick)



Orange line: break top. Blue dot: base of the break. Black dots: 2008 TWDB soundings. Shoreline squares: bank type (see the Bank-Type Map chapter). Contour interval: 2 ft, at 28 soundings per acre within 250 ft.

Measure	Value
Depth at the bank	4.7 ft (first wet grid cell, 8 ft from the OSM shoreline) ANALYSIS
Break top	5.6 ft, 12 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Base of the break	14.7 ft, 35 ft from the bank ANALYSIS
Slope	steepest 4.9 ft per 10 ft; average 4.1 ft per 10 ft across the break ANALYSIS
Bank type	wood (confidence: low-medium)
Deep-water access	20-ft water 71 ft away; 25-ft water 225 ft away; deepest within 300 ft: 26 ft ANALYSIS
Data support	fair (nearest sounding 24 ft from the break)

Why a giant would use it. A wooded east bank (Longhorn Shores) with a 6-ft to 15-ft break within 35 ft and 25-ft water within 225 ft. It is the least-pressured bank in the guide. Score factors: cover = wooded bank drop; forage = sunfish; pressure = quiet. [INFERENCE](#)

Wind and current. Best wind: from the **NW** (blowing onto this bank) [ANALYSIS](#). NW wind blows onto it. Little current. [INFERENCE](#)

Sun and shade today (Oct 12). This is the SE bank of the reach. With 40-ft trees, a shade band of 25 ft or more falls on the water at: 8:05 am, 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm. [ANALYSIS](#)

Boat position and cast lanes. Hold over about 17 ft, roughly 80 ft off the bank (yellow triangle). Fan three casts to the break top (magenta arrows), then turn and work parallel to the break along the dashed lane [INFERENCE](#).

Big-bass plan by season (★ = this spot is a seasonal pick) [INFERENCE](#)

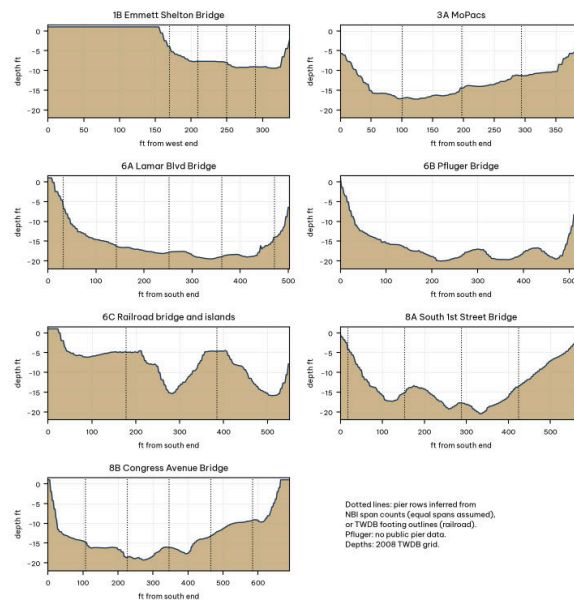
- **Winter / pre-spawn:** 3/4-1 oz football jig or 10-in Texas-rigged worm dragged down the face from 6 to 15 ft, then on into the 26-ft water. Long pauses.
- **Spawn:** Slow-sinking glide counted down to the break top (6 ft), swum along it and killed at the edge.
- **Summer:** Walking topwater or wake bait along the bank in the first and last hour; a 10-12 in worm on the 15-ft base in between.
- **Fall:** Swim bait or glide run parallel to the break top as shad push up.

Bridge Pilings in Detail

Eight crossings, from the Emmett Shelton (Red Bud) bridge to I-35, plus Longhorn Dam. For each: what the National Bridge Inventory says about its spans, how deep the water is along the deck, and where release seams set up.

Bridge	Spans (NBI 2025)	Length	Longest span	Built	Water width at deck ANALYSIS	Deepest under deck ANALYSIS
Emmett Shelton (Redbud Trail), spot 1B	10 (+3-span relief bridge)	121.9 m / 400 ft	12.2 m / 40 ft	1948	339 ft (east channel + island)	9.4 ft
MoPac (Loop 1), 3A	SB 32+2; NB 36+8	944 m; 1,287 m	31.4 m; 38.1 m	1973	395 ft	17.3 ft
Lamar Blvd, 6A	6	200.9 m / 659 ft	33.5 m / 110 ft	1943 (concrete arch)	504 ft	19.5 ft
Pfluger Pedestrian, 6B	not in NBI	—	—	2001 UNVERIFIED	528 ft	20.0 ft
Union Pacific railroad, 6C	not in NBI	—	—	—	552 ft (with islands)	15.4 ft (south channel)
South 1st St, 8A	6+1	247.5 m / 812 ft	45.7 m / 150 ft	1951	577 ft	20.6 ft
Congress Ave, 8B	8	290.8 m / 954 ft	36.2 m / 119 ft	1909	692 ft	19.3 ft
I-35 main lanes, 10A	9	320.7 m / 1,052 ft	39.6 m / 130 ft	1954	492 ft	30.4 ft
I-35 frontage roads, 10A	NB 11+1; SB 8+2	412.7 m; 331 m	—	1982	—	—
Longhorn Dam / Pleasant Valley Rd, 12D	dam, not analyzed	—	—	—	—	15–21 ft at the face

Span counts, lengths and build years come from the FHWA National Bridge Inventory 2025 Texas file ([FHWA NBI](#)). I-35 is being rebuilt, so its piers may change UNVERIFIED. Width and depth were measured along the OpenStreetMap deck centerline on my 2008 TWDB grid.



WHERE THE PIERS ARE INFERENCE

- **No public pier plans.** I found no structural drawings for these bridges online. The NBI gives the number of spans and the longest span, but not where each pier stands.
- **How the pier markers were placed.** On the spot maps, piers are spaced evenly at the bridge's average span length (total length ÷ spans) and centered on the river. That's an assumption, and real piers can be off by tens of feet INFERENCE. Lamar's arch spans and Congress's spans are fairly even; MoPac's piers in the water are a small part of a long viaduct.
- **Railroad bridge.** This one uses real geometry: TWDB's 2008 GIS includes two footing outlines, which sit on the shallow bars mid-river ([TWDB 2008 shapefiles](#)).
- **Pfluger.** No public data on its piers.

WHERE THE CURRENT SEAM SETS UP DURING RELEASES INFERENCE

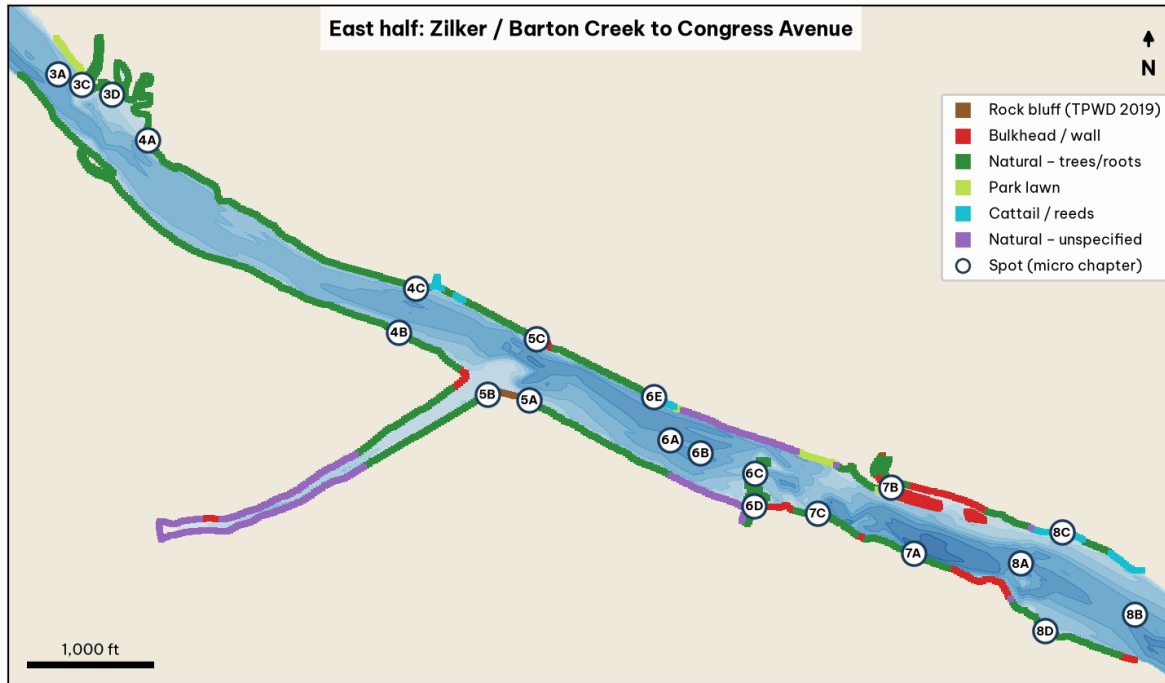
- **Which way the water goes.** When Tom Miller generates, water moves downstream: south through Reach 1, then east-southeast. Each pier splits the flow. The slack pocket and the eddy line form on the **downstream (east) side** of each pier and trail off for a few pier-widths.
- **Where it's strongest.** The deepest span carries the most water, so the strongest seam is behind the piers that flank the deepest span:
 - Lamar: around 340 ft from the south end.
 - 1st St: around 330 ft.
 - Congress: around 270 ft.
 - MoPac: around 120 ft.
- **How to fish it.** Hold upstream and slightly to one side, cast past the pier, and let the bait swing into the slack. Bass usually face upstream at the head of the slack water.
- **When it fades.** Release current fades with distance from the dam. Seams are strongest at Red Bud and MoPac and weaker downtown ANALYSIS INFERENCE.

UNDER THE BRIDGES

The City's 2025 swimming-hazard memo maps bridge-construction debris (broken concrete, rebar) at the Red Bud bridge, MoPac, Lamar/Seaholm, 1st St, Congress and I-35 ([City of Austin 2025](#)). Expect hard snags at the bases of the piers.

Bank-Type Map (Upper Lake)

Carried over from v2, so it covers the upper lake only. Every 25 ft of shoreline from the dam to Congress, classed as rock bluff, bulkhead or wall, natural with trees and roots, park lawn, cattail and reeds, or natural (type unspecified).



East half: Johnson Creek to Congress, with the Barton Creek arm. This map covers Reaches 1–8; east of Congress, bank types are described on each spot page.

TOTALS ANALYSIS

Bank type	Miles	Share	Where it's concentrated
Natural: trees, roots, scrub	5.55	48.9%	Everywhere; most of R3–R6
Natural: type not specified	3.50	30.8%	R1–R2 north bank, R4, the Barton arm
Bulkhead / wall	0.83	7.3%	R7 (0.55 mi, both banks around Shoal Creek and 1st St)
Rock bluff	0.76	6.7%	R2 south bank (0.55 mi), short pieces in R1 and at Barton
Park lawn	0.43	3.8%	Eilers / Deep Eddy (R2–R3), Butler Shores
Cattail / reeds	0.28	2.5%	Patches: Eanes mouth, Zilker, R8 north bank
Beach / gravel	0	—	None found in the source data
Cypress	—	—	Can't be mapped (see below)

HOW IT WAS MADE, AND HOW FAR TO TRUST IT ANALYSIS

- TPWD 2019 habitat map.** TPWD's 2019 survey classed the shoreline as natural, natural with docks, bulkhead, bulkhead with docks, gravel, or rock bluff (TPWD 2019, Appendix B). I georeferenced the printed map to the OpenStreetMap shoreline. The median fit error is 76 ft. The worst error, 382 ft, is in the Barton arm.

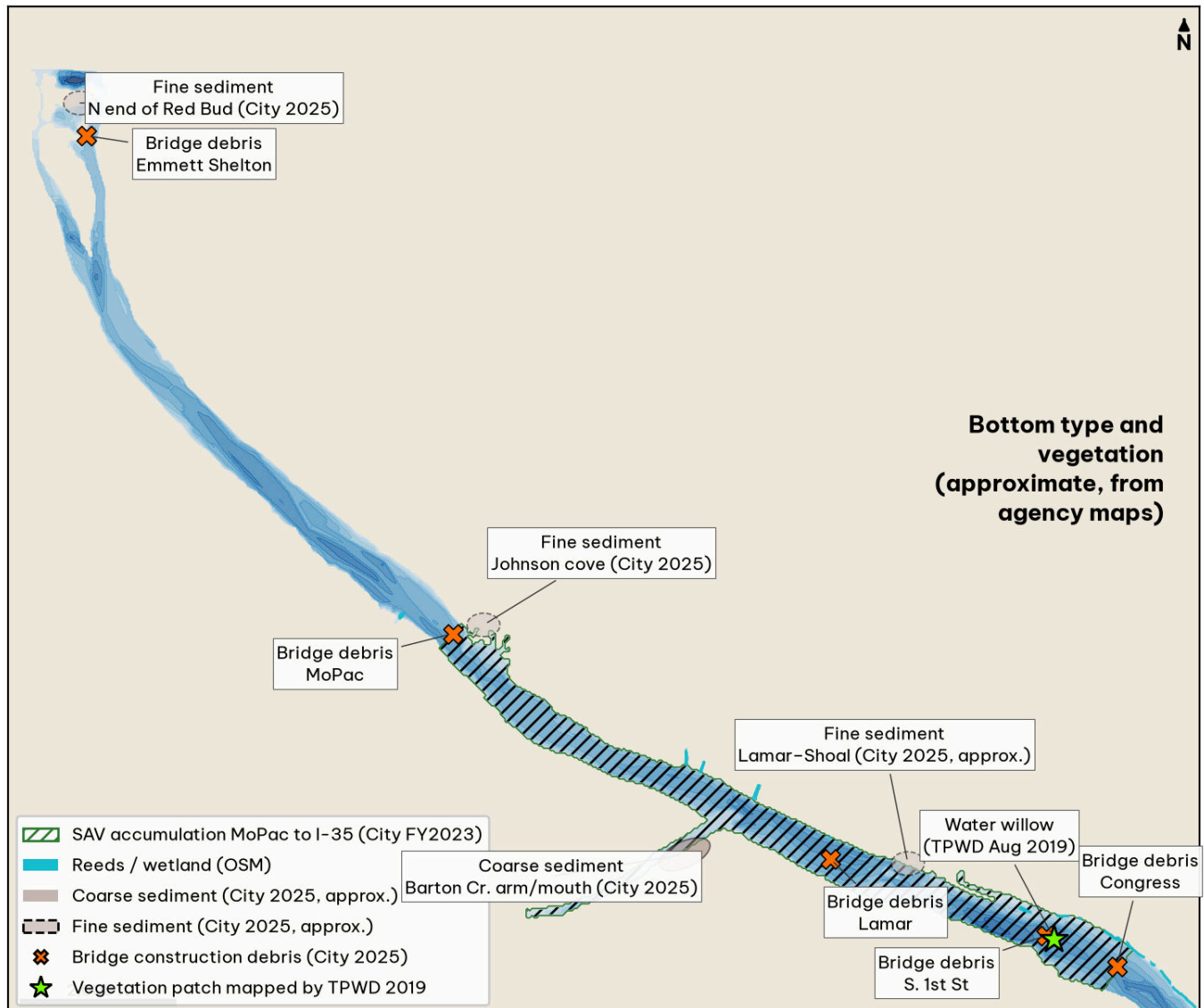
2. **OpenStreetMap features.** I added OSM retaining walls, bare rock, reedbeds, wetlands, woods and trees, and parkland within 60 ft of the shore ([OpenStreetMap](#)).
3. **Priority rules.** Where sources overlap, a TPWD rock or bulkhead class wins. Then come, in order: OSM walls, rock, reeds, woods, lawn, and last the TPWD "natural" class. Samples were smoothed with a 5-sample majority filter.
4. **Confidence.**
 - **Medium** where TPWD mapped a specific class (rock or bulkhead).
 - **Low-medium** where OSM shows woods or walls.
 - **Low** where only the generic TPWD "natural" class applies.
5. **Cypress can't be mapped.** OSM tags only 8 bald cypress trees in this area, and all are inland near 1st St (121–178 ft from the water). TPWD lists "cypress tree roots" as cover ([TPWD](#)), but no public layer says where they are **UNVERIFIED**.
6. **Docks.** TPWD's "with docks" classes cover very little of this stretch. The antialiased map colors made them hard to separate, so I folded them into their base class. OSM piers are drawn on the spot maps.

USING THE BANK MAP

Rock (R2 south bank, spot 2A) and bulkheads (R7, spots 7A and 7C) are the hard, vertical banks, and they line up with the steepest drops in the depth data. Wood banks are the default everywhere else. A wood bank with a fast drop, like 1D, 4B or 4C, gives you both cover and depth in one cast [ANALYSIS](#).

Bottom Type and Grass

The bottom-type map is carried over from v2 and covers the upper lake (Reaches 1–8). TPWD's 2019 survey found native plants on only about 0.8% of the whole lake ([TPWD 2019](https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/lake_survey/pwd_rp_t3200_1385_2019.pdf)).



Approximate zones only. The sediment and debris locations were traced by eye from the City's 2025 Exhibit 1 hazard maps. The hatched band is the City's description of where vegetation piles up. The star is TPWD's mapped 2019 patch.

BOTTOM TYPE: WHAT EXISTS ANALYSIS

- **No bottom-type survey has been published.** TWDB's 2008 survey measured depth only, and it took no sediment cores here (TWDB 2009). The 2025 TWDB resurvey for the City isn't published yet **UNVERIFIED**.
- **The best available source** is the City's September 2025 swimming memo (City of Austin 2025). It maps:
 - **Coarse sediment:** the Barton Creek arm and mouth.
 - **Fine sediment:** the north end of Red Bud, the Johnson / MoPac cove, near Lamar-Shoal, plus Waller Creek and the Longhorn basin (both outside this guide).

- **Bridge construction debris:** at every road bridge.
- **Old dams.** The memo says remnants of the 1900s Austin dam, and a partially collapsed dam near Seaholm, create unpredictable eddies. It gives no exact locations **UNVERIFIED**.
- **What it means for fishing** **INFERENCE** :
 - **Coarse gravel at Barton** is the closest thing to a hard bottom on the lake, so expect crawfish there.
 - **Soft fine-sediment flats** (Johnson, Red Bud north) are where grass roots first after a flood.

GRASS: LOCATIONS AND TIMING

Source	What it says
TPWD 2019 survey	Only 4.0 acres (0.8%) of vegetation lake-wide, all native emergent (cattail, bulrush, water willow, etc.). No submerged grass, no hydrilla ever established. In this guide's stretch, the only mapped patch is water willow on the north bank just upstream of 1st St (spot 8C) (TPWD 2019)
TPWD history	Fanwort covered 17–34% of the lake in 2012–2015 and "traversed the width" of the lake at the Barton confluence in 2013. Floods scoured it out by 2016 (same report)
City FY2023	"Water very clear above Lamar" lets grass grow in deeper water. Vegetation is accumulating "between MoPac and I-35." Submerged grass returns between flushing floods, a "boom and bust" pattern (City of Austin FY2023)
City FY2024–25	Fanwort reaches the surface July–September from Red Bud to I-35 (City of Austin)
City 2025 hazard map	Dense submerged vegetation and algae marked across nearly the whole lake from Red Bud through the Barton arm. Minimal at the Deep Eddy north shore above MoPac (City 2025)

Seasonal timing **ANALYSIS** **INFERENCE**

- **Spring (Mar–May):** new growth on soft flats (Johnson, Barton lip, Red Bud north). Grass edges are short and easy to fish.
- **Summer (Jul–Sep):** fanwort topped out at the surface from Red Bud to I-35. Fish the outside edge, or the open lanes over the channel walls (2A, 3B, 7A).
- **Fall (Oct–Nov):** grass starts dying back below the surface. A glide or swimbait run just over the tops works while the grass lasts. **Right now (mid-October)** you should still expect submerged grass on the flats **UNVERIFIED**.
- **Winter:** grass mostly gone below about 6 ft. A big flood resets everything; after one, expect bare bottom for a season or more.

THE CONFLICT

TPWD's 2019 number (0.8% cover, no submerged grass) and the City's 2023–2025 descriptions (submerged grass widespread) are six years apart, and the City notes the system booms and busts. Trust the newer City picture for 2026, and verify on the water **UNVERIFIED**.

Sun, Shade and Wind Exposure

TODAY'S SUN (MONDAY, OCT 12, 2026, AUSTIN) ANALYSIS

Sunrise is about **7:35 am** and sunset about **7:00 pm CT**. I computed these with NOAA's solar-position equations at 30.27° N, 97.765° W. Published tables may differ by 1–3 minutes.

Time (CT)	8:05a	9:00a	10:00a	11:00a	12:00p	1:00p	2:00p	3:00p	4:00p	5:00p	6:00p	6:30p
Sun elevation	6°	18°	29°	40°	48°	52°	51°	45°	36°	25°	12°	6°
Sun azimuth	103°	110°	120°	133°	151°	173°	197°	217°	233°	244°	253°	257°

WHICH BANK IS SHADED, HOUR BY HOUR ANALYSIS INFERENCE

Each cell is the width (ft) of tree shadow on the water, assuming a 40-ft bank tree line. **Bold** cells are 40 ft or more, which is enough to keep a swimbait or glide in shade for most of the cast. Bank names follow each reach's orientation; R1 runs north–south, so its banks are east and west.

Reach · bank	8:05a	9:00a	10:00a	11:00a	12:00p	1:00p	2:00p	3:00p	4:00p	5:00p	6:00p	6:30p
R1 · E bank	352	117	61	35	18	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
R1 · W bank	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	24	44	79	173	358
R2 · NE bank	199	54	19	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
R2 · SW bank	–	–	–	–	9	19	29	40	55	83	160	313
R3 · NE bank	174	45	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
R3 · SW bank	–	–	–	2	12	21	30	40	55	81	153	297
R4 · NE bank	109	21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
R4 · SW bank	–	–	–	11	18	25	32	40	52	73	132	249
R5 · NE bank	69	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
R5 · SW bank	–	–	8	16	22	27	32	39	49	67	117	217
R6 · N bank	54	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
R6 · S bank	–	–	11	18	23	28	33	39	48	64	111	204
R7 · N bank	53	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
R7 · S bank	–	–	11	18	23	28	33	39	48	64	110	203
R8 · NE bank	100	18	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
R8 · SW bank	–	–	2	12	19	25	32	40	51	71	128	242
R9 · NE bank	260	78	34	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
R9 · SW bank	–	–	–	–	1	13	24	37	56	87	175	348
R10 · NE bank	103	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
R10 · SW bank	–	–	1	12	19	25	32	40	51	72	130	245
R11 · N bank	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Reach · bank	8:05a	9:00a	10:00a	11:00a	12:00p	1:00p	2:00p	3:00p	4:00p	5:00p	6:00p	6:30p
R11 · S bank	38	30	29	29	29	30	32	35	39	47	71	121
R12 · NW bank	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	21	69
R12 · SE bank	212	87	57	44	36	30	25	20	13	4	–	–

Method: shadow width = 40 ft ÷ tan(sun elevation) × cos(sun azimuth – direction from water to land). The 40-ft tree height is an assumption **INFERENCE**. Bulkheads and lawns cast little or no shade.

What it means in October **ANALYSIS**

- **Mornings:** the **north / northeast bank** (east bank in R1) is shaded until about 9–10 am.
- **Afternoons:** the **south / southwest bank** picks up shade from about noon and holds it until dark. That makes the south-bank spots the best afternoon picks: 2A, 2B, 3B, 4B, 5A, 7A, 7C, 8D, and east of Congress 9E, 10D, 11D and 11E. Reach 11 runs almost due east, so its north bank gets no tree shade today; the I-35 decks (10A) are shaded all day **ANALYSIS**.

WIND EXPOSURE FROM FETCH **ANALYSIS**

Fetch is how far the wind blows over open water before it reaches you. More fetch means more chop. I measured it at 12 points along each reach's centerline by casting a line upwind across my 2008 water mask until it hit land. Each cell gives the **median** fetch in ft, with the **maximum** in parentheses.

Reach	River bearing	S wind	SE wind	N wind	NW wind	Exposure under S/SE	Exposure under N/NW front
R1 Dam–Red Bud	180°	580 (1,670)	150 (610)	570 (2,190)	120 (660)	Low	Low
R2 Red Bud–MoPac	136°	330 (540)	2,870 (5,610)	355 (1,380)	2,525 (5,460)	High	High
R3 MoPac	131°	240 (330)	1,910 (2,570)	440 (500)	3,450 (3,710)	High	High
R4 Austin High–Zilker	120°	215 (430)	690 (1,220)	220 (390)	820 (3,480)	Moderate	Moderate
R5 Barton mouth	114°	245 (390)	640 (790)	325 (370)	810 (920)	Moderate	Moderate
R6 Lamar–RR bridge	111°	350 (390)	760 (850)	230 (280)	560 (740)	Moderate	Low
R7 Shoal–1st St	111°	240 (370)	550 (1,000)	235 (350)	520 (800)	Low	Low
R8 1st St–Congress	119°	410 (450)	2,080 (2,590)	400 (440)	790 (970)	High	Moderate
R9 Congress–Blunn	149°	750 (1,460)	1,010 (2,870)	585 (900)	1,080 (2,360)	Moderate	Moderate
R10 Blunn–Festival Beach	119°	370 (530)	1,015 (1,670)	305 (470)	820 (3,050)	Moderate	Moderate
R11 Festival–Holly	97°	360 (400)	505 (870)	375 (430)	755 (1,100)	Low	Moderate

Reach	River bearing	S wind	SE wind	N wind	NW wind	Exposure under S/SE	Exposure under N/NW front
R12 Lower basin–Longhorn Dam	67°	1,290 (2,180)	910 (1,810)	350 (530)	300 (460)	Moderate	Low

Exposure: High = median fetch at least 1,500 ft; Moderate = 600–1,500 ft; Low = under 600 ft. Austin's October wind is predominantly from the south, averaging 8.4–9.5 mph ([WeatherSpark](#)).

How to use it ANALYSIS INFERENCE

- **S/SE wind (most days).**
 - R2, R3 and R8 run SE–NW, so a SE wind gets a long run up the channel. Expect real chop there.
 - A straight **south** wind crosses every reach the short way (under 600 ft), so it barely matters on the water. It does blow onto the north banks: 2C, 3C, 4C, 5C, 6E, 7B, 8C.
 - Wind-blown banks stack bait. Fish the **north-bank** spots on a south wind.
- **North front.**
 - NW winds rake R2 and R3 (median fetch 2,500–3,450 ft), so you'll want shelter.
 - The best shelter is R1 (dam and bluffs), R6–R7 (bridges and short fetch), and the bridge decks themselves.
 - A north wind blows onto the south banks: 2A, 2B, 3B, 4B, 7A, 7C.
- **Kayak safety.** Above about 15 mph from the SE or NW, R2 and R3 are the stretches to avoid INFERENCE.

Reading the Water: LCRA Releases and the Barton Springs Gauge

TOM MILLER DAM RELEASES (LCRA)

1. **Open the LCRA River Operations Report.** LCRA posts the previous day's releases each weekday. It says releases "are made to meet customer or environmental needs," and that the hydropower schedule for the day "is not available to the public." **No one can tell you in advance exactly when the dam will run.**
2. **Find the "Austin (Miller)" line.** It gives the hours water ran and an average discharge in cfs. The same numbers are in LCRA's data feed ([LCRA data feed](#)).
3. **What the numbers mean.** On Oct 12, 2026, the feed (dated Oct 11, 7:55 am) listed Tom Miller at **6–8 pm, average 146 cfs, 289.6 acre-feet**. Because 146 cfs for a full day equals 289.6 acre-feet, the "average" appears to be spread over **24 hours**. So the flow while the turbines were actually running was several times higher ([ANALYSIS](#)). On Oct 11, the same feed showed **6–10 pm, 290 cfs (575 acre-feet)**, which the earlier report dated to Oct 10. **I can't confirm which calendar day each line covers** ([UNVERIFIED](#)).
4. **Watch for floodgates.** LCRA's [flood status page](#) shows floodgate operations. Floodgate releases are not fishing water.
5. **Check the river below.** The same feed lists flow at the "Colorado River at Austin" gauge downstream. Its average was 337 cfs at 11:25 am on Oct 12, 2026 (same feed).

PRO TIP

One or two days of data aren't a pattern. Both days I captured were evening releases, but I couldn't download a longer history to prove that's the norm ([UNVERIFIED](#)). Keep your own log of release times and how the fish responded. Within a season, it will become the most valuable page in this guide ([ANALYSIS](#)).

BARTON SPRINGS (USGS 08155500)

- **Where to look.** [USGS monitoring location 08155500](#) reports water temperature and discharge every 15 minutes.
- **Reading at 11:00 am CT, Oct 12, 2026: 22.1°C (71.8°F), 21 cfs** (provisional) ([USGS instantaneous values](#)).
- **What it means.**
 - The temperature barely changes. All of 2025 stayed between 21.5 and 22.1°C ([2025 daily values](#)).
 - The **flow** is the number to watch. More flow makes a bigger warm (winter) or cool (summer) plume at the Barton mouth in Reach 5 ([ANALYSIS](#)).
 - TPWD's long-term average works out to about 50 cfs ([ANALYSIS](#)), from 32 million gallons a day, per [TPWD](#)).
- **Low river, no rain.** When upstream releases are low and it hasn't rained, groundwater from Barton Springs makes up "the majority of the inflow to the lake" ([TXST 2019](#)).

WINTER TIP FOR REACH 5

Check the USGS gauge before a winter trip. When spring flow is up, the warm Barton Creek plume is bigger. The flow was 21 cfs today, against a long-term average of about 50 cfs ([ANALYSIS](#)).

AFTER RAIN

- **Bacteria.** E. coli rises at every City sampling site one to two days after rain ([City of Austin 2020](#)). The City advises staying out of natural water for three days after rain ([City of Austin](#)).
- **Where it muddies.** Downtown (Reaches 6–8) muddies first. The upper lake stays cleaner ([ANALYSIS](#)).

Weather, Fronts and Busy Hours

FRONT PLAYBOOK INFERENCE

These stages are standard bass–angler practice, adapted to this lake's structure. They are not measured on Lady Bird.

Stage	Signs	Where	What
Pre-front (6–24 h before)	Falling pressure, south wind 10–20 mph, clouds	Wind-blown north banks and shelf edges (2C, 3C, 4C, 5C, 7B, 8C)	Bladed jig fast, spinnerbait, lipless across flats. Often the best window of the week
Front passing	Wind swings W→N, gusts, rain	Bridges and sheltered R1, R6–R7	Bladed jig through the pier seams. Get off the water if there's lightning
Post-front day 1–2	Rising pressure, bluebird sky, north wind	Deep side of the steep walls (2A, 3B, 7A, 1A), plus bridge shade	Slow down: jig on the base, jerkbait with long pauses, downsize the trailer
Stable warming (day 3+)	Wind back to S/SE	Back to the breaks and flats	Resume the normal seasonal pattern

PRESSURE NOTES INFERENCE

- **Use the trend, not the number.** A steady fall before a front usually means active fish. A fast rise behind it usually means a tough bite for a day or two. WeatherSpark's daily history pages show each October front as a pressure swing you can check after a trip ([WeatherSpark history](#)).
- **Releases trump pressure here.** Above Lamar, a generation release can switch fish on even on a post-front day. Check the LCRA data (see "Reading the Water") [ANALYSIS](#).
- **Barton is a front buffer.** The spring water is a steady 71–72°F. After a hard winter front, the Barton plume (5A, 5B) is the warmest water in the lake [ANALYSIS](#).

BUSY HOURS: TRAIL AND WATER

When	What's happening	Source
Weekdays 5–9 pm	Peak trail use: runners and walkers on every bank	Trail Conservancy safety study
Weekends 9–11 am	Peak weekend trail use (the study's count window)	same
Before sunrise / after sunset	"Very few users" on the trail	same
Daylight, daily	Kayak and paddleboard rentals: Rowing Dock (R2–R3) and Texas Rowing Center (R4)	Rowing Dock, TRC
Early morning	Rowing shells use the center channel; stay in the bank lanes	Austin Rowing Club
Oct 8–21 ~ 6:30 pm	Capital Cruises bat boat departs; kayak tours head for Congress	Capital Cruises
Tonight 6:57–7:34 pm	Projected bat emergence at Congress, about 10 min after sunset. Bats begin leaving in October	congressbats.com , Austin Bat Refuge

BEAT THE CROWDS INFERENCE

- **Quietest water:** sunrise to about 8:30 am on weekdays.
- **Downtown evenings:** skip R8 (Congress, 8B) from about 6 pm to dark from March to October, when bat boats and kayaks crowd it.
- **Alternatives:** R1 and R2 rarely see the downtown crowds.

Waypoints

All 51 spots, sorted by giant rank, with two waypoints each: the target and a suggested boat position. Files: **waypoints/LadyBird_giants_v3.gpx**, **.kml** (a Top 10 folder plus one folder per reach) and **.csv**. Waypoint names start with the rank, such as "G01 1A", so your unit lists them best-first.

Rank	ID	Spot	Score	Target (lat, lon)	Boat (lat, lon)
1	1A	Tailrace scour-hole south lip	90	30.29322, -97.78645	30.29356, -97.78644
2	10C	Harpers Branch mouth into the 33-ft hole	90	30.24955, -97.73506	30.24968, -97.73483
3	12A	Snake Island west tip and the 30-ft channel	90	30.24734, -97.71979	30.24748, -97.71989
4	10A	I-35 piling rows (main and frontage bridges)	87	30.25069, -97.73592	30.25084, -97.73626
5	11B	Fiesta Gardens lagoon 30-ft hole	83	30.24957, -97.72607	30.24932, -97.72612
6	1C	Rock bank below the dam (east side)	80	30.29343, -97.78572	30.29367, -97.78568
7	11C	Holly pier to the 35-ft hole (deepest water in the lake)	80	30.24708, -97.72506	30.24681, -97.72483
8	7A	South wall at the 27-ft hole	73	30.26318, -97.75063	30.26336, -97.75053
9	11E	Peace Point dock drop (south bank)	73	30.24574, -97.72369	30.24609, -97.72368
10	2A	South-bank rock bluff	70	30.27898, -97.77936	30.27910, -97.77920
11	8A	South 1st Street Bridge piling row	70	30.26299, -97.74795	30.26312, -97.74830
12	9A	Waller Creek mouth into the channel	70	30.25934, -97.74203	30.25917, -97.74229
13	9E	Blunn Creek delta lip	70	30.25282, -97.74025	30.25274, -97.74003
14	12E	Longhorn Shores bank drop (east bank)	70	30.24704, -97.71530	30.24715, -97.71547
15	2B	The 24-ft trough	67	30.27640, -97.77646	30.27659, -97.77631
16	8B	Congress Avenue Bridge piling row	67	30.26152, -97.74524	30.26172, -97.74555
17	9D	Community Dock north-bank drop	67	30.25450, -97.73964	30.25436, -97.73992
18	12B	Lakeshore Park south lobe drop	67	30.24436, -97.71863	30.24469, -97.71856
19	1B	Emmett Shelton Bridge piling row	63	30.29161, -97.78561	30.29193, -97.78551
20	3A	MoPac piling rows	63	30.27352, -97.77169	30.27375, -97.77197
21	10D	South-bank boardwalk drop	63	30.24830, -97.73232	30.24851, -97.73220
22	11D	International Shores pier drop (south bank)	63	30.24587, -97.72666	30.24626, -97.72653
23	12D	Longhorn Dam face	63	30.25044, -97.71363	30.25044, -97.71389
24	4C	North-bank drop into the 19-ft pocket	60	30.26910, -97.76287	30.26889, -97.76293
25	5C	North wall into the 22-ft hole	60	30.26795, -97.75990	30.26776, -97.76002
26	6B	Pfluger Bridge piling row	60	30.26527, -97.75587	30.26540, -97.75622

Rank	ID	Spot	Score	Target (lat, lon)	Boat (lat, lon)
27	6C	Railroad bridge and islands	60	30.26497, -97.75455	30.26509, -97.75490
28	7C	South bank below the railroad bridge	60	30.26408, -97.75299	30.26425, -97.75296
29	1E	Red Bud Isle south tip and channel merge	57	30.28742, -97.78598	30.28760, -97.78616
30	3C	North flat below MoPac	57	30.27313, -97.77105	30.27292, -97.77105
31	3D	Johnson Branch delta flat	57	30.27350, -97.77109	30.27352, -97.77154
32	4B	South bank wood line, Zilker	57	30.26818, -97.76331	30.26833, -97.76320
33	6A	Lamar Blvd Bridge piling row	57	30.26594, -97.75653	30.26606, -97.75688
34	7B	Shoal Creek delta lip	57	30.26448, -97.75125	30.26404, -97.75156
35	9B	Waller Creek boathouse docks (north bank)	57	30.26042, -97.74230	30.26008, -97.74264
36	10B	Holiday Inn ramp drop (north bank)	57	30.25274, -97.73784	30.25248, -97.73811
37	10E	North-bank pier shelf above Festival Beach	57	30.24927, -97.73068	30.24896, -97.73082
38	1D	West channel outside bank	53	30.28953, -97.78751	30.28961, -97.78734
39	2D	Eanes Creek mouth	53	30.27452, -97.77379	30.27492, -97.77361
40	4A	Texas Rowing Center north bank	53	30.27245, -97.76946	30.27226, -97.76978
41	5A	Barton flat lip	53	30.26665, -97.76011	30.26695, -97.75994
42	6D	West Bouldin Creek mouth and south shelf	53	30.26479, -97.75471	30.26502, -97.75476
43	6E	North channel wall at Lamar	53	30.26666, -97.75700	30.26646, -97.75713
44	9C	East Bouldin mouth and the islet	53	30.25451, -97.74152	30.25443, -97.74116
45	3B	South channel wall above MoPac	50	30.27423, -97.77312	30.27441, -97.77298
46	5B	Barton Creek mouth delta	50	30.26680, -97.76116	30.26697, -97.76127
47	8C	North-bank reed shelf between the bridges	50	30.26336, -97.74698	30.26316, -97.74704
48	11A	Festival Beach ramp point	50	30.24834, -97.72782	30.24802, -97.72793
49	12C	North arm flat edge (Metz side)	50	30.25108, -97.71668	30.25088, -97.71669
50	2C	Deep Eddy / Eilers Park north shelf	47	30.27584, -97.77314	30.27565, -97.77332
51	8D	South-shore piers below 1st St	47	30.26140, -97.74742	30.26170, -97.74727

WGS84, derived from the 2008 survey grid and the OSM shoreline. Expect ±50–100 ft **UNVERIFIED**. This is not a navigation chart. Electric motors only, 5 hp or less, 5 am to 10 pm (City code 8-5-82).

Quick-Reference Card: Giants

Giant months	Feb (14 entries) and Mar (12) of 69 Lady Bird ShareLunkers; 6 of 8 fish over 10 lb came Jan 22–Mar 30
Lake record	14.05 lb, 27.75 in, Willie Pipkin, Feb 5, 2025; bedding fish, Barton Creek shoreline, Texas-rigged Zoom Fluke
Deepest water	~35 ft, Holly bend (11C) · 33 ft, Harpers Branch (10C) · 31 ft, Snake Island channel (12A) · 30 ft, tailrace (1A) and lagoon (11B)
Winter	Football jig / 10-in worm into the deep holes: 10C, 11C, 12A, 7A, 1A
Spawn	Soft jerkbait / stick worm, sight-fishing: 9E, 9A, 5B, 12B, 12C
Summer	Shade and piers, dawn and 7–10 pm: 10A, 8A, 8B, 6A, 3A
Fall	Glide / swimbait on creek deltas and island tips: 9A, 10C, 12A, 1E
Glide countdown	4 in/s: 10 s ≈ 3.3 ft · 6 in/s: 10 s = 5 ft · 7 in/s: 10 s ≈ 5.8 ft
Line	20–25 lb fluorocarbon at piers (zebra mussels); retie after contact
Rules	14–21 in slot; 5 bass, 1 over 21 in · electric only, 5 hp, 5 am–10 pm · no game fish as bait; sunfish OK on this lake
ShareLunker	8 lb or 24 in: enter in the app · 13 lb+ Jan 1–Mar 31: call (903) 681-0550 , keep her in the water
Ramps	Holiday Inn (west of I-35, unimproved) · Festival Beach (one lane, ~5 trailers)

Every line is sourced in the chapters above.

What's New in v3

1. **The whole lake.** Tom Miller Dam to Longhorn Dam: 6.0 river miles in 12 reaches, with four new reach chapters (9–12) and 20 new spots east of Congress, each with a micro-map, profile, deep-water access and GPS [ANALYSIS](#).
2. **Built for giants.** New chapters on records and biology, every Lady Bird ShareLunker (69 entries), seasonal giant locations, lures and techniques (glides, big worms, jigs, punching, live bait, night fishing, the moon), tackle and landing near pilings, and fish care and ShareLunker entry.
3. **A giant-potential score for every spot,** with a ranked map and table, and a giant strip on every spot card.
4. **New maps:** a hillshaded whole-lake overview, a fold-out whole-lake map, the ranked giant-spots map, four seasonal maps, and a 3-D view of the lower lake for the cover.
5. **Bladed-jig material removed** from the reach chapters and spot pages; v1 and v2 stay available.
6. **Sun and wind tables** now cover all 12 reaches.
7. **Waypoints** for all 51 spots, ranked (GPX, KML, CSV).
8. **Corrections.** The deepest water is at the Holly bend (~35 ft), not at Longhorn Dam (15–21 ft at the face). Boggy Creek and Montopolis are below Longhorn Dam, not in the lake.

What I Could Not Verify

Carried over from earlier editions:

1. **Current depths.** The newest published survey is from 2008. TWDB's 2025 resurvey for the City, approved at up to \$107,038, isn't published that I could find ([City of Austin](#)).
2. **Navionics or other chart data.** I didn't check any.
3. **A typical release schedule.** LCRA doesn't publish the hydropower schedule. I captured two days of releases, and I can't confirm which calendar day each one covers.
4. **Release water temperature.** The 462-ft turbine intake elevation comes from a search summary of TWDB's 1999 Lake Austin report.
5. **Current lake temperature and clarity.** I found no live gauge in the lake itself.
6. **Milfoil's current status.** The City and TPWD disagree. I also don't know how thick the fanwort is this October.
7. **Bass numbers since 2019.** TPWD's planned 2023 survey isn't online.
8. **Where the private docks, bulkheads and riprap are** in this stretch.
9. **The exact location of the submerged "shallow water dam"** near the old Green plant intake, and of the "historic submerged dams" the City mentions.
10. **Whether the no-boat zone (City code 8-5-82) is current.** Confirm with Lake Patrol at (512) 329-8841.
11. **Red Bud parking details** come from third-party guides.
12. **Items I could only see in search summaries:** the Phormidium link, the CBS Austin closure story, the Boardwalk location, the ACL closure dates, and the kayak tournament results.
13. **Austin Bass Fishing forum threads** blocked my reader.
14. **Crawfish abundance.** TPWD doesn't survey them.
15. **Rowing and paddle traffic times** are inferred, not measured.
16. **Fish-consumption data** is from 1998.

New in this guide:

1. **TWDB's 1-ft raster isn't published.** Every depth figure here comes from **my own** triangulated 5-ft grid of TWDB's published points [ANALYSIS](#). Small coves where TWDB has no coverage, such as inner Johnson Branch and upper Barton Creek, are hatched on the maps, and I give no depths there.
2. **Depths are measured from 429 ft.** Real depths may be up to about a foot shallower, and the bottom may have changed since 2008.
3. **Spot markers and labels** are placed from OpenStreetMap and are good to about ± 100 ft.
4. **The Texas Hawgs claims** (14.05-lb record, 18-ft maximum depth) conflict with TPWD and TWDB.
5. **No Lady Bird-specific source for squarebills, swim jigs or Neko rigs.**
6. **Excluded sources.** I left out sites whose Lady Bird "reports" read as auto-generated (andermeine.com "Bassquatch," BassHawk, bassaiq.com, guidepole.com), so their lure claims don't appear here.
7. **The seasonal plays, boat positions, cast angles and flowchart branches** are my analysis built from the sourced facts. They are not rules published by any source.

New in v2:

1. **Pier positions** are inferred from NBI span counts. Only the railroad bridge has surveyed footings (TWDB). Pfluger has no data. Real piers may be tens of feet off.
2. **Bank types** come from a georeferenced print map (median error 76 ft, worst 382 ft in the Barton arm) and from OSM. Cypress can't be mapped. Docks are under-represented.

3. **Sediment and debris zones** were traced by eye from the City's PDF exhibit. The location of the "partially collapsed dam near Seaholm" isn't given.
4. **This October's grass:** TPWD 2019 and the City's 2023–2025 accounts disagree, and nothing current is published.
5. **Shade** assumes 40-ft trees everywhere. Real heights vary, and lawns and bulkheads cast none.
6. **Fetch** comes from the 2008 water outline and the reach centerline. Real chop also depends on gusts, bluffs and buildings.
7. **Slopes within about 20 ft of the bank** depend on how the grid joins the shoreline to the first survey line. Walls are real; the exact steepness may be overstated.
8. **Spot GPS** is ± 50 –100 ft. It hasn't been checked on the water.
9. **Pressure and front behavior** is general bass-fishing practice, not Lady Bird data.
10. **The Pfluger Bridge build year (2001)** is from memory, not a cited source.

New in v3:

1. **The giant score is my judgment.** Deep-water access and data support are measured; cover, forage and especially **pressure** are judgment calls **INFERENCE**.
2. **East-of-Congress depths are sparser in places.** Spots 10D, 10E, 11A and 11D sit where soundings are far apart, so their breaks are mostly interpolated (data score 1–2).
3. **Max depth conflict.** TPWD's lake page lists 18 ft; TWDB's 2008 soundings show about 35 ft at the Holly bend. I used TWDB.
4. **Lagoon boat access.** Whether a boat can get into the Fiesta Gardens lagoon (11B) through the channel near the Holly pier is unconfirmed.
5. **I-35 construction.** Pier positions, barges and closures at 10A may differ from the 2025 NBI data and the 2008 survey.
6. **The ShareLunker archive** may not list every entry (for example, Grant Langmore's 13.50-lb 2015 record isn't in it). Entries reflect where and when people fish, not only where giants live.
7. **The nearest certified weigh station** (Loop 360 on Lake Austin) should be confirmed through the hotline before you need it.
8. **Park hours for bank fishing at night** weren't confirmed; the 5 am–10 pm limit cited is for boats.
9. **The offshore humps** TPWD mentions near Longhorn Dam aren't located.
10. **Longhorn Dam gate operations** and safe distances weren't sourced.
11. **Bank-type and bottom maps** still cover only Reaches 1–8.

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