



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Fort Worth District

Sponsor: Travis County

**Colorado River streambank erosion,
Caldwell Lane, town of Garfield**

Project Fact Sheet
Continuing
Authorities
Program (CAP)

July 21, 2015

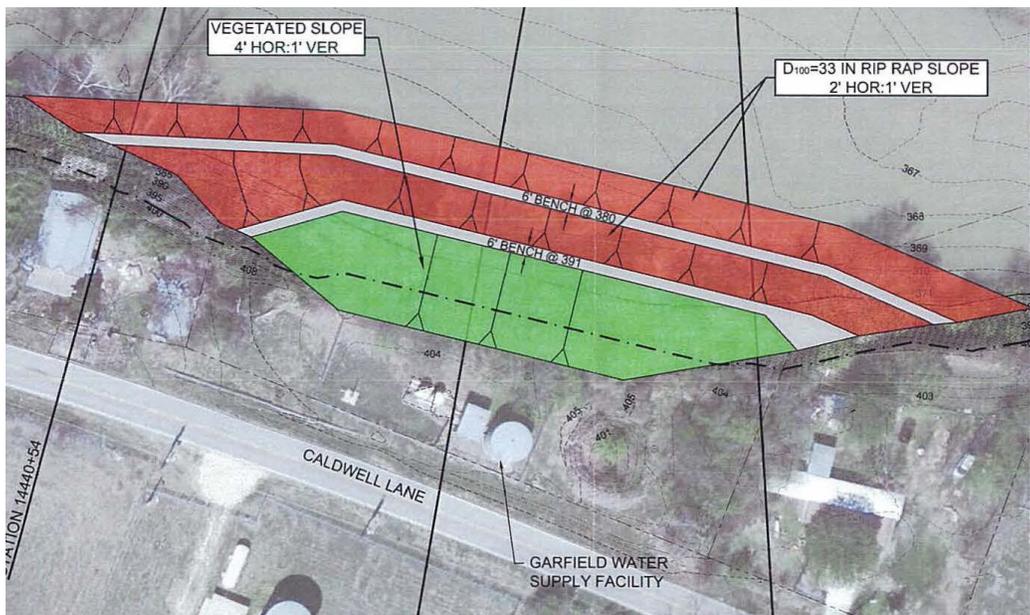
Type of Project: Section 14, Streambank Erosion Protection

Authorization: Flood Control Act of 1946, as amended

Status: Construction of the \$2.28 million project was completed in 2013

Background: The study area is located north of the town of Garfield in southeastern Travis County, approximately 12 miles southeast of Austin. The project's purpose is to stop top-bank erosion adjacent to the Garfield water storage facility. The height of the bank in this reach was 30 to 35 feet above the river bed. The top of the bank was less than 10 feet from the fence around the water supply facility. It is also less than 50 feet from Caldwell Lane, which is the only access road for a nearby subdivision where about 500 persons live.

While nearby sections of the bank outside the project area were severely eroding, the toe of the river bank in the vicinity of the water supply facility was not. But no additional erosion of the toe can be tolerated. Changing river conditions could renew the attack on the toe, destabilizing the upper bank and threatening the municipal water facility. Even if the toe remains stable, failure of the upper bank could still occur for geotechnical reasons or from toppling of trees via wind throw.



To provide insurance against future toe erosion, the project placed stone riprap along a 500-foot section of the toe of the cliff and up to about 13 feet below the top of the cliff. Following this action, native plantings were placed along the remaining exposed embankment. The project also improved local water quality by decreasing the turbidity in the Colorado River caused by sedimentation.