

# Lake Houston

About 15 miles northeast of Houston, Texas, the train passes over an enormous lake. Lake Houston is a reservoir on the west fork of the San Jacinto River. Though not very deep, at the lowest point reaching 45 feet, the lake covers an astonishing 11,854 acres. The lake was created in 1953, when the City of Houston determined it was necessary to impound a reservoir to replace the existing Sheldon Lake, which had been the primary source of water for the city of Houston. Around this same time, the City of Houston sold Lake Sheldon to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for use as a waterfowl sanctuary and for public fishing purposes. The state of Texas prides itself on being a Mecca for fresh and salt water fishing, attracting anglers from all over the country, and saw the lake as having great potential for a new fishing area with its diverse fish population.

In Lake Houston conservationists and fishermen can find species of fish such as catfish, white bass, largemouth bass, crappie and sunfish. Catfish and white bass are favorites of licensed anglers in Texas, but blue catfish remain the dominant sport fish in the lake, and can be found in the channels of the east and west forks of the San Jacinto River that flow into Lake Houston. During the spring, the impressive white bass make their spawning run in the east and west forks of the river, creating a perfect opportunity to catch one of these impressive fish. If fishing is not your fancy, Lake Houston is a beautiful area that is home to many species of birds and other wild animals. For those who are not outdoor enthusiasts, parts of the lake are surrounded by beautiful lake-houses that at certain times of year are available for rent.

The city of Houston definitely achieved its goal of creating a larger water source for the city; they surpassed this initial idea and in the process created an area where wildlife are protected and enjoyed by many. When at the lake visitors can experience nature in many ways,

such as camping, boating and hiking, just to list a few. While visiting the city of Houston, you may want to take a short drive out of the city and experience a beautiful and natural area that is host to activities that are fun for everyone!

## **Source(s):**

Hoffman, Eva J. "A Guidebook to Amtrak's Sunset Limited." Flashing Yellow Guidebooks, Golden, CO, 2009.

<http://www.tpwd.tx.state.gov>

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