

Water Minute # 25 - IT'S TEN YEARS LATER – 60 seconds

It's already ten years later! We have had many reminders this spring of the 1997 Red River flood from our news sources and through events held to commemorate the event. Some of us hardly needed that reminding—our memories continue to hold vivid scenes of that spring, as if the flood happened only months, rather than a decade, ago.

Yes, it's easy to chalk up flooding to 'Mother nature'—probably the 1997 flood more than others. But all of us 'humans' in the Basin play a part in flooding events as well. Our individual actions may seem small—as we lay more concrete in a new subdivision, construct more and larger roof areas in another, remove a natural water holding area, drain a pothole or slough on our farm land, clean natural vegetation out of a ditch. But, unless each of our actions is matched by another to slow runoff, they add up to impact our downstream neighbors—if not our own homes and property. That's why it takes each one of us in the Basin, working together, to prevent 1997 from happening again.

This Ripple Effect is brought to you by the Red River Basin Commission.