

WEST HARRIS COUNTY REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

SUMMER 2021





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Soil, Seeds, and Sun **Mother Nature to the Rescue!**

A little more than a year ago, the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the US in a stranglehold. Lockdowns put millions out of work. People were cut off from social and family gatherings, leaving many older people isolated and alone. As headlines warned of toilet paper and food shortages, Americans became increasingly anxious and depressed. Many parents—in addition to their professional careers — had to fill the unfamiliar role of teachers homeschooling their kids. And they needed something creative to occupy and teach the youngsters.

In response, record numbers of people turned to Mother Nature, picked up their rakes and shovels, and began cultivating “coronavirus victory gardens” in their neighborhoods. In a matter of weeks, seeds, seedlings, and fruit trees sold out online and at gardening centers.

As it turns out, the compulsion to garden is actually a great idea. Gardening is one of the healthiest hobbies you can adopt. According to Rutgers University professor Joel Flagler, “There are certain, stabilizing forces in gardening that can ground us when we are feeling shaky, uncertain, or even terrified. It’s the predictable rhythms of the garden that are very comforting right now.”

Gardening is not only adept at burning calories but it also strengthens joints and increases flexibility because you’re constantly getting up and down, stretching, bending, and reaching to plant the seedlings or pull the weeds. And the physical and mental health benefits increase from there...as legions of folks discovered as they developed green thumbs.

Then on Valentines Day, adding insult to injury, the horrific Winter Storm Uri attacked southeast Texas with a vengeance...wreaking havoc with plants, pipes, and property. Texans are a resilient bunch, however, and are on the rebound. Spring temperatures and bountiful rain have helped to restore damaged greenery and encourage new plantings.

This issue of PARTNERS offers articles that encourage folks to get outside and get their hands dirty helping Mother Nature – and to do it in such a way that will use a finite natural resource – water – more efficiently, as well. 🌱



**TAKE THE
GUESSWORK
OUT OF
IRRIGATION
DECISIONS!**



**WATER LESS
SAVE MORE**

**LEARN HOW YOU CAN CONSERVE WATER WITH TAILORED
WATERING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Visit IrryGator.com

The West Harris County Regional Water Authority invites area residents to access “tech support” for making irrigation decisions using the new WATER MY YARD system.



WATER MY YARD is based on a scientific process – EVAPO-TRANSPIRATION (or E.T.) – that’s as old as time.

E.T. is a measurement of the total amount of water needed to grow plants and crops. The term is a combination of the word evaporation (loss of water from the soil in the form of a vapor or gas) and the word transpiration (the loss of water from the plants and grasses themselves). Instead of phoning home...this E.T. sends subscribers a watering alert via text or email!

Turf grass – primarily St. Augustine — is the largest irrigated “crop” in America. A study by NASA scientists estimates there is a total of more than 63,000 square miles of lawn in America — about the size of Texas. During spring and summer months, about 80 percent of residential water use is for lawn and garden irrigation; almost 50 percent of that (potable) drinking water is wasted on lawns that aren’t even “thirsty.” Overwatering ‘tricks’ the turf into growing shallow roots, which then crave more frequent watering.

Combined with other water conservation strategies – like installing a “smart” irrigation controller and a rain sensor, completing watering before dawn, and cutting back the length or number of irrigation cycles – following the weekly WATER MY YARD irrigation suggestions will help you achieve a trifecta – having a great looking lawn, avoiding wasting a valuable resource, AND saving money on your water bill. 🌱



watermyyard.org

SEVEN QUICK AND EASY IRRIGATION TIPS

WATER LESS SAVE MORE

Are you over watering your yard?



Water lawns in the early morning.



Install rain sensors on sprinkler systems.



Fix leaky faucets and hoses... they waste water and money.



Water the grass. NOT the sidewalk and street.



Plan water cycles according to each type of plant or grass.



Watering in the heat of the day can waste up to 65 percent of the water.

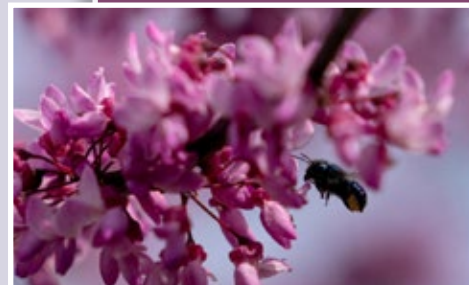
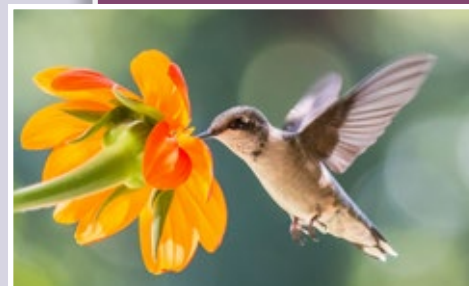


Use a broom to clear away debris, instead of using the hose.



Learn more by visiting
wateru.whcrwa.com





Texas A&M Garden experts to the rescue

Help freeze-damaged plants recover from Winter Storm Uri

Residents weathered February's extreme freezing temps and the attendant interruptions of electricity, heat and power watched anxiously post freeze to see if the wildflowers or favorites like Meyer Lemon trees would return and survive Uri's wrath. Some plants did show signs of life but sadly, some did not... or at the very least their flowering was delayed by several weeks. This meant that food sources for the gardens' most important residents - the pollinators - were not available so they could not do their critical job.

Pollinators not only include butterflies and bees, but also birds, bats, moths and small animals who obtain nectar and pollen from flowers, trees and woody shrubs. The landscape horticulturists at Texas A&M recommend that gardeners plant already-flowering annuals or very fastgrowing perennials that tend to bloom the first year to provide immediate relief to help the pollinators recover from the freeze and get to work .

Michael Arnold Ph.D., director of The Gardens at Texas A&M University, suggests that sweet alyssum and pot marigolds will do well, as will herbs - like basil, sage and borage - which are excellent for bees. Other plants to consider, he said, are catnip, larkspur and Mexican heather which bloom relatively quickly from seed. It's a good time for sunflowers -they're fast growing and bloom early.

Arnold said that Uri's pollinator rescue could be a great starting point for homeowners to consider providing garden spaces that attract and support pollinators year round. Keep in mind, he pointed out, when choosing flowers not to select the varieties that just appeal to the eye. Flower structure is important to what attracts and benefits a pollinator.

For additional information on this and other important gardening topics, visit online <https://gardens.tamu.edu/>.

HAVE YOU FALLEN OUT OF LOVE WITH YOUR LAWN?



Texans' obsession with our lawns has become almost as intense as our passion for automobiles! Many folks cannot imagine a yard being anything but a vast expanse of turfgrass. We go to great expense to plant exactly the right variety; to poison any "weed" that has the temerity to pop up within it; then feed it with expensive fertilizers to get it to grow; and, as soon as it does, we cut it off and haul away the clippings.

According to the USDA Agricultural Research Service (National Turfgrass Research Institute), turfgrass covers nearly 50 million acres in the U.S. and the turfgrass industry has an estimated annual value of \$58 billion. These statistics certainly substantiate the steadfast affection we have for our suburban lawns.

Some homeowner associations mandate that each property have a lawn, specify what may, or may not, be planted, and instruct how it must appear. Financial penalties can be exacted for non-compliance with these rules, and it is not uncommon for neighbors to get upset with those who do not comply. We have become used to seeing green 'islands' in the middle of our roads and it simply does not occur to us – if we think about it at all — that there could be any alternative.

The funny thing is that lawns are a fairly new element in American landscaping. In the past, fields were what you saw as you looked out across the landscape. Nearer to houses there would be kitchen gardens, various forms of gravel paths connected out-buildings, and alleys of trees, shading groundcovers underneath. City houses may have had no front lawn at all; built instead with front porches that came right up to the walkways. The idea of putting as much effort into growing grass as we do today would have been laughable to homeowners of less than a century ago, who only put such dollars and time into growing their food or cash crops.



As suburbs developed after WWII, and we moved off the family farm into neighborhoods, there was more leisure time and discretionary dollars to invest in “better homes and gardens”. In fact, a whole new genre of consumer media appeared to teach us how to express our new prosperity. What better way to demonstrate our new status than by creating a lush, green landscape? Never mind that it would have to be constantly watered, groomed and kept weed-free by a host of workers...

Today, with the rising cost of water, perhaps it's time to re-think this love affair and divorce that water-intensive, thirsty lawn – or at least negotiate a separation.

Hurricanes, droughts, and ice storms, Oh My!

Our community's current landscape has suffered three-fold extremes: the recent horrific freezes, prolonged, above-average heat, and – as if that wasn't enough to kill anything still growing – we survived a drought at least as severe as the benchmark one in the 1950's.

Many of the lawns that managed to endure these extremes did so after being saved by radical life-support measures. In addition to the time and cost of all the extraordinary maintenance, they sucked up more water than any other plants in the yard, and much more than we used in our homes. Water, we now have learned, is one of our most precious and costly resources. Why would we keep pouring it on a plant that will take all that is offered and still crave more just to satisfy some misplaced obsession with lush lawns?

Explore the Alternatives...

So what satisfactory options are available to sustain that coveted “street appeal”...but not cost us so much in time and dollars?



Here are some attractive options:

- Expanses of groundcovers can replace whole sections of lawn and provide a very pleasing look. Some of these plants for our area are:
 - Powderpuff Mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*);
 - Mondo/Monkey Grass (*Ophiopogon japonicum*);
 - Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*),
 - Ajuga (*Ajuga reptans*);
 - Star or Confederate jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)
- Adding some stepping stones within your lawn area, in rows or checkerboard patterns, can offer both more access through newly landscaped areas and or create paths around your beds to facilitate maintenance.
- Widen your existing walkways with bricks or pavers and “open up” the appearance of an entry. There are many color and texture options available at local garden centers that will add new elements to the existing yard.
- Here’s a great idea: minimize turfgrass areas! Consider expanding landscaped beds into the lawn area – even an extra foot will help a lot— with a new border of groundcovers (see above) or taller, drought-tolerant, native plants — hollies, ferns, or even a wide edging of decorative fieldstones or river rock.

Investing in one, or a combination of these simple options will pay you back in more efficient lawn and landscape water use...and lowering the monthly water bill associated with it. Make it a habit to **USE LESS... SAVE MORE!** 🌱



AJUGA



MIMOSA



MONDO/MONKEY GRASS



STAR JASMINE



PERIWINKLE

Alia Vinson

In her own words



Many of you have seen me at Authority Board meetings—I'm the one who's always in a suit, the ATTORNEY. As we all know, lawyers don't win any popularity contests in this world, but I do think it's fair to say that very few of you know who I actually am or what makes me tick. I'm happy to have the chance to share a little more about me.

I'm originally from the Dallas area, but moved around quite a bit to New England and then Chicago, before moving to Houston in 2003 to marry my husband (a native Houstonian). We have four children together, including a set of twins. I have a 13-year old daughter, an 11-year old daughter, and boy-girl twins who are 8. Because we just weren't busy enough, we also have two giant dogs (a Great Pyrenees and an Anatolian Shepherd) and a rescue cat we adopted right after Winter Storm Uri this year. Things are busy in my house!



Rob (husband), Sophia (tallest kid), Leyla (next tallest kid), the two littles are Kari and Isaac.



In my free time, I love to take long roadtrips in our family minivan and spend time on the beach in Galveston. One of my favorite roadtrips was back in 2019, when we drove to Washington DC. In addition to visiting many Washington DC sites, we were able to visit Harper's Ferry, Mount Vernon, Monticello and even Appomattox Court House. I love history and bore my children silly with endless historical and educational sites.



Jonesy (named after the cat in the movie Alien and Aliens)



While I began my career as a tax lawyer, I decided after a few years that I wanted to find a practice that felt more tangible and impacted the local community (tax law can be great, but it just wasn't for me). And I'm so lucky, because I did! My practice focuses on public infrastructure projects (water, sewer, drainage, roads, and parks) across the Houston region. I love working on water supply and planning issues, and since Hurricane Harvey I've spent a lot of time working on flooding issues too. I volunteer with many organizations, including Texas Water Conservation Association, the Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group, Houston Public Library Foundation, Scenic Houston, West Houston Association, and the Association of Water Board Directors.



Sully, as a young puppy.

I feel so lucky to have found an area of the law that I truly love. I get to work on projects and with clients that make me proud. I've worked with the Authority for many years now and I am absolutely committed to helping the Authority construct and finance the surface water projects needed to provide water supply to hundreds of thousands of people in West Harris County and to reduce land subsidence and flooding! 🍀



**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE
WHCRWA EMAIL UPDATES**



**To sign up for WHCRWA
Emergency Alerts, text the
word ALERTS to 1-833-385-0216
from your mobile phone.**

The WHCRWA has installed nearly 80 miles of underground waterlines to serve 46 Municipal Utility Districts, with more construction happening now. With such a large service area, the Authority places a priority on emergency preparedness and response.



When an emergency occurs, the WHCRWA has backup power generators and 15 million gallons of water storage capacity to continue supplying surface water to their connected customers. The Authority utilizes a variety of different communication methods to stay in touch with the MUD operators during emergency conditions.

If you would like to receive WHCRWA alerts, please visit www.whcrwa.com, click either the email updates banner shown below in yellow to receive email communications from WHCRWA or to receive only emergency alerts via SMS/TEXT message simply click on the orange emergency alerts banner on the website. You can also signup for SMS Alerts by texting the word ALERTS to 1-833-385-0216. 📶

What to Know About BOIL WATER NOTICES

During the recent Winter Storm Uri, Boil Water Notices were issued by the City of Houston, the Authority, and various public water systems. Below are some questions the Authority received and responses to those questions.

Q. What is a Boil Water Notice (BWN)?

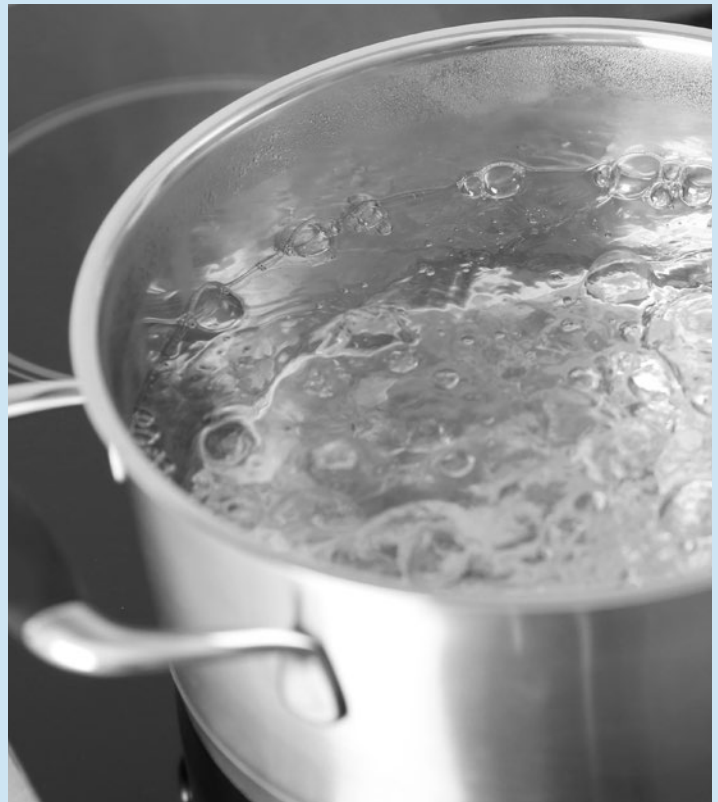
A. A BWN is a notification that advises residents to boil their tap water used for consumption due to the potential for contamination. BWNs are issued by water utilities or health agencies as a precaution to protect water users from drinking water that may have been contaminated with disease-causing organisms. They are issued when an unexpected circumstance has triggered a potential for biological contamination of water in a public water system.

The BWN instructs consumers to boil all water used for drinking, cooking, food preparation, brushing teeth, and making ice. Bathing or showering is typically safe as long as no water is accidentally ingested. The most sensitive to microbial contaminants are children, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems.

Situations when a BWN might be issued:

- A hurricane or other natural disaster interrupts the distribution system;
- Water pressure goes below 20 psi or is lost completely;
- A pipeline breaks;
- A scheduled maintenance occurs during which residents will be notified beforehand;
- Excessive amounts of unfiltered rainfall enters the drinking water source;
- A cross-connection is discovered that might have allowed the system to be exposed to a potential source of contamination.

A BWN remains in effect until samples are collected and tested, and laboratory results show that water is safe from bacterial contamination. The tests generally take up to 24 to 48 hours to complete, depending on what caused it, how long it takes to remedy or repair, and how long it takes for the lab tests to confirm that the water is again safe to drink.



Q. What can cause contamination in a water system?

A. Pathogens can enter the water source through water line breaks, water treatment disruptions, cross-contamination, or power outages that result in a loss of pressure in the distribution system, loss of disinfection, and other water quality problems. When there is a loss of water pressure, for example, bacteria may backwash into the water pipes. Toxic minerals and viruses may seep into the water supply when a pipe breaks.

Q. What has to be done to comply with a BWN?

A. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), water can be made potable by bringing it to a full rolling boil for at least one minute, and allowing it to cool in a clean container before use. The BWN will instruct the consumer to boil all water used for drinking, cooking, food preparation, brushing teeth, and making ice. Discard any ice cubes made by an automatic ice maker until after the BWN notice is over. Also use boiled (or bottled) water for coffee makers, for rinsing fruits and vegetables, and for pets to drink. (<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency>)

Q. What water doesn't require boiling before use?

A. Water used for laundry (washing machine), dishwasher, or washing hands.

Q. How are residents notified about Boil Water Notices?

A. Water suppliers use various methods to notify their customers about BWNs...email, text alerts, websites, neighborhood signs, print and electronic media, and door tags. The same method(s) will be used to notify residents when the Notice is cancelled. Call the number listed on your water bill to receive specific informatioun about your water supply.

**Houston's Historic Winter Storm Uri
February 2021**

The normal average temperature in Houston for Valentine's Day is 56.4 degrees F. This year that number plummeted to 20.5 degrees – a difference of 35.9 degrees... and that's just where the nightmare started.

Millions of people lost their residential power, forcing families to huddle near a fireplace, scavenge for firewood, and even spend nights in their car trying to stay warm. Those who could get out searched empty grocery shelves for food when weather conditions led to food supply chain interruptions. Frigid artic temperatures caused household pipes to burst, causing water disruptions for roughly half the state's population.

Without power to run water treatment plants, officials across Texas urged residents to conserve water, and issued boil-water notices. The warnings not to consume water out of the tap began in many places as early as Monday, but by Wednesday night many municipalities had expanded those orders as the ongoing weather, energy and water crises placed record strain on the state's entire power grid.

According to Toby Baker, head of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), more than 2,000 local water systems had disrupted service, and 1,985 issued a boil water notice, affecting approximately 16 million Texans at the height of the crisis.

Temperatures across the state dipped to historic lows. Rolling blackouts in the Houston area begin early February 15th after the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) — a grid operator controlling about 90% of the state's electric load — announced it was experiencing a “record-breaking electric demand.”

The West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA) was forced to stop providing water to its utility district customers during the February 2021 extreme weather event due to loss of its own water supply from the City of Houston.

- Following the freeze that started on Sunday, Feb. 14, water pressure began dropping as the flow of water from the City of Houston to the WHCRWA declined.
- The WHCRWA Operators worked to contact the City of Houston to alert them, and the situation continued to worsen through Monday, Feb. 15.
- On Tuesday morning, Feb. 16, the WHCRWA stopped receiving surface water supply from the City of Houston, impeding the WHCRWA's ability to provide water to its utility district customers. The WHCRWA sent notice of these emergency conditions to all utility district operators on Tuesday morning.
- At that point, WHCRWA limited surface water delivery to utility district customers with critical needs only; all other customers were requested to utilize their own water sources.



All WHCRWA utility district customers were impacted by the unprecedented weather event, and water supply was not restored by the City of Houston to the WHCRWA until the morning of February 19. During this time, many communication network failures occurred throughout the region, and WHCRWA Operators utilized email, text message, and phone calls to maintain contact with its many utility district operators. The WHCRWA utilized all communications methods possible to provide information to the public and utility district customers throughout the extreme weather event. 📶



SIDEBAR

“The Effects of the Winter Storm of 2021 in Harris County,” a report by the Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston:

- More than nine out of every 10 (91%) Harris County residents lost electrical power at some point as the winter storm rolled through on Feb. 14-20, significantly higher than residents in the other 212 counties within the Texas electrical grid that lost electricity (64%). The average outage for Harris County residents was reported to be 49 hours, a time span that suggests plans for rotating power outages did not work.
- Almost two-thirds or 65% of Harris County residents lost running water for 56 hours, on average, 21 percentage points higher than that experienced by Texans outside of Harris County.

Other notable findings:

- Harris County residents were significantly more likely than other Texans to lose cell phone service, suffer food spoilage and have difficulty finding a plumber. Financial loss, too, was more common than elsewhere in Texas.
- Two of every five Harris County respondents suffered water damage from pipes that burst because of the freeze.
- About three-quarters of Harris County respondents believe developing alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar, is the biggest priority in protecting the country’s energy supply. By contrast, just 27% of participants believe the current main priority should be oil and natural gas exploration and production.



Planning to Redo Your Yardscape? Consider using Water-Wise Landscaping Techniques to Save Water, Time and Money

After the horrific Winter Storm Uri left behind a swath of dead plants in its wake, many residents in southeast Texas said a sad farewell to yard and landscape areas they had so carefully tended and nurtured. Many were sidetracked by the urgency to repair ice damage to their homes, causing restoration of yards and gardens to take a backseat. Many were forced to deal with problems both inside and outside their homes. For some, this offered a chance to start fresh and to deliberately choose more water efficient options – again, inside and out.

Inside, replacing old pipes and adding new, more efficient insulation are positive long-term measures. When it comes to refurbishing outdoor spaces, following the **seven basic steps of Xeriscaping** not only allows homeowners to rearrange and “redecorate” their exterior living spaces. but to create a landscape that is healthier for the environment and more resistant to our South Texas summers.

Although many people think the term “Xeriscape” means living with cactus, succulents and other drought tolerant plants, adopting the principles of this water-wise landscaping method can include an outdoor environment that is still full of lush plantings and colorful foliage. The bonus is that it also requires less time and money for upkeep.

Here’s some information that will likely change your attitude about this “Mother Nature-friendly” technique. First, a little background...

The term Xeriscape was created by a joint task force of the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado (ALCC) and Denver Water to describe a form of landscaping that helps to conserve water. The term was defined to mean “Water Conservation through Creative Landscaping” and actually involves much more than just selecting plants that thrive without water. In fact, with some careful rearranging, most homeowners may be able to create a water-wise landscape with the plants that they already have in their yards.

Seven principles were created by the original task force, and these principles are followed across the country today. The basic premise is that “if plants are selected based on the conditions of the planting site, and grouped with other plants that have similar requirements, the overall landscape will require less water and less maintenance.”

In other words, if gardeners learn to work with Mother Nature rather than against her, their yards will thrive and flourish on their own, with little additional care (or water) from the property owner. In theory, an ideal low-maintenance landscape would consist of plants that grew naturally on your property before your house was constructed. And although the construction of your home probably altered the natural site conditions to some extent, the original plant-community or

ecosystem of your area should still be taken into account when planning your landscape.

Here are the seven steps for creating a water-wise landscape:



Plan and design

The most important step for creating a water efficient landscape is planning and design. Take a site inventory of your property to study the current conditions that affect plants – such as areas of sun and shade; areas that drain well or collect water; and location of hard-scape items such as driveways, pools, etc. Your goal is to take advantage of the current site conditions and to group plants by their maintenance needs, such as locating plants with higher water requirements in areas that receive rainwater runoff. If you already have a sprinkler system installed, plants with similar water requirements should be planted to coincide with irrigation zones.



Obtain a soil analysis

A soil analysis will help you choose plants best suited for your yard. Landscape soils may vary from rocky to clay. Since areas of your landscape may have been amended with fill dirt, it is important to take soil samples from several areas around the yard. You can often buy kits to test your soil from local garden centers, or from local Cooperative Extension Service offices.



Choose proper plants

Take your site survey with you when you visit the nursery or landscape designer. Choose plants in synch with the sun, water and soil conditions of your property. Although native plants can play an important part in a water-wise landscape, following the principles of “right plant, right place” and grouping plants by their care requirements allows you to utilize some plants that are not native. The goal should be to establish a yard that will be self-sustained by existing conditions.



Use Turf Wisely

Homeowners spend thousands of dollars each year fertilizing and watering their lawns, only to mow it down as soon as it grows too high. Advocates of Xeriscaping suggest minimizing lawn areas and replacing them with less water and labor-intensive plantings. For the lawn areas that you do decide to keep, you can still reduce water needs. For example, raise your lawn mower blade to the highest possible height. Use a mulching lawn mower and leave grass clippings when you mow. This reduces the lawns need for both water and fertilizer. Consider groundcovers, mulch or walkways or other alternatives for lawn.



comes in various colors and types, including pine bark, melaleuca, and eucalyptus. Mulch should be loosened with a rake on a regular basis, and new mulch should be added to keep the thickness uniform. Items such as gravel or colored rocks are not a good choice for a garden if your goal is moisture retention. They don't hold moisture and can also reflect heat which may stress the plants.



Irrigate efficiently

If your yard has an irrigation system, make sure to check the sprinkler heads often in warmer months and make sure they have the clearance they need to reach the area for which they are intended.

All installed irrigation systems should include an automatic rain sensor shut-off device. Even if you water your yard with a hose, rain gauges that show recent rainfall can be used to determine when to water. Take advantage of your sprinkler system's zones and water more drought-tolerant plants less frequently. Various sprinkler heads such as drip, tricklers and bubblers are often the most water efficient since they apply water directly to the plants.

Irrigate only when plants show they need a drink by drooping or wilting. Over-watering can cause more problems than under-watering by inviting weeds and fungal growth. Watering less often and more deeply allows a plant to develop deeper root systems which protect the plant during dry periods. Water early in the day, before sunrise, to avoid evaporation.

Perform proper maintenance

Plants that are suited to their environment need much less care in the form of fertilizer and pest control than other plants. However, for garden touch-ups, remember that less is more. If you feel the need to have a completely bug-free environment, always use the least toxic method available and spot treat problem area only. If you use fertilizer, use one of the natural or slow release varieties.

Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years. – Unknown

Water-wise landscaping not only conserves our water resources, but it also saves the property owner money in the process in the form of lower water bills. ☺



Use mulch

Adding mulch to flower beds and around trees and shrubs will help conserve moisture while, at the same time, adding nutrients to the soil. Purchased mulch



WATER U is a virtual classroom that features FREE “courses” on critical water issues that affect utility districts and residents in WHCRWA. WATER U allows participants to dive into the topics that interest them the most.

<https://wateru.whcrwa.com>

Surface Water Supply Project

SWSP

WHCRWA  NFBWA
**SURFACE WATER
SUPPLY PROJECT**

The West Harris County Regional Water Authority and North Fort Bend Water Authority held a small groundbreaking ceremony on May 6, 2021 for Segment C2 of the Surface Water Supply Project. For more information about this project visit www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com.



Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project

Ribbon-cutting Celebration

Photo by Astrit Hudson - Clifford Group, Inc.

Mayor Sylvester Turner joined the Coastal Water Authority, the Texas Water Development Board, Houston Public Works leadership, the Regional Water Authorities, and community members from the Lake Houston area today for a ribbon-cutting celebrating the completion of the Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project (LBITP).



The \$381 million project is considered the region's most important water supply project and represents the culmination of more than 50 years of effort by local leaders.

The LBITP is a key component to support the expansion of the Northeast Water Purification Plant and ensures the water supply keeps pace with the ever-growing demand generated by businesses and residential development.

"The Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project is helping to meet water supply demands of a growing population," said Mayor Turner. "I thank everyone here today and all the water authorities for their collaboration in making this project a reality. The LBIP is a testament to our region's commitment to building a more prosperous and abundant future for generations to come."

The new pump station will transfer 240 million gallons of water each day from Trinity River to Lake Houston and the Northeast Water Purification Plant.

The future expansion will eventually transfer 500 million gallons of water every day and will provide water for Harris and Fort Bend Counties, where population is expected to increase by 3 million people by 2050. 🌱



Attending the Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project ribbon cutting were, left to right, Wayne Ahrens, DEC; Mike Owens, WHCRWA Board member; Dennis Gorden, WHCRWA Board member; Alia Vinson, ABHR; Eric Hansen, WHCRWA Board member and President; and Gary Struzick, WHCRWA Board member.



Just for fun! 15 facts about Texas...

1. The distance from Port Arthur to El Paso is 889 miles; Port Arthur to Chicago is 770 miles.
2. World's first rodeo was in Pecos, TX on July 4, 1883.
3. The Flagship Hotel in Galveston was the only hotel in North America built over water. It was destroyed by Hurricane Ike - 2008!
4. The Heisman Trophy was named after John William Heisman who was the first full-time coach at Rice University in Houston, Texas.
5. Brazoria County has more species of birds than any other area in North America.
6. Aransas Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of North America's only remaining flock of whooping cranes.

7. The worst natural disaster in US history was in 1900, caused by a hurricane in which over 8,000 lives were lost on Galveston Island.
8. The first word spoken from the moon, July 20, 1969, was "Houston," but the Space Center was actually in Clear Lake City at the time.
9. The King Ranch in South Texas is larger than Rhode Island.
10. Texas is the only state to enter the US by treaty, (known as the Constitution of 1845 by the Republic of Texas to enter the Union) instead of by annexation. This allows the Texas Flag to fly at the same height as the US Flag.
11. A Live Oak tree near Fulton is estimated to be 1500 years old.



12. Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.
13. Dr Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. There is no period in Dr Pepper.
14. The Capitol Dome in Austin is the only dome in the US which is taller than the Capitol Building in Washington, DC (by 7 feet).
15. The San Jacinto Monument is the tallest free standing monument in the world and it is taller than the Washington Monument. 🕒