



Spring Creek

UTILITY DISTRICT

March 2024
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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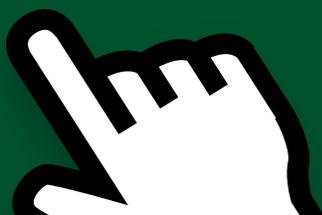
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District Alert System

Sign up for text alerts at <https://springcreekud.com/alerts> for notices and updates about your area!



Example Message



FIRST A WORD FROM THE BOARD

As an additional means of improving communication with our residents and customers, the Board has made the decision to publish, on a quarterly basis, a District newsletter. Welcome to the first issue of 2024.

The Spring Creek Utility District has experienced tremendous growth during the last few years, mainly on the commercial side, and more developers seek to be annexed to obtain water and sewer services. Earlier last year, three sites, from three different developers, were annexed into the District. Construction on one of these has been completed and the facility is now open to the public (Fieldhouse). The development on the other 2 sites is still in the design phase.

In addition to new developments, the District is also dealing with an aging

infrastructure. Some projects have been completed or are nearing completion while others are in the planning stage.

In this issue, we are providing an update on some of these projects and listing some of the upcoming ones.

The focus of this issue, however, is Water Conservation. At the time of this writing, the District is still in Phase 2 of the Drought Contingency Plan which means that mandatory water restrictions are still in effect. The reasons behind this are provided herein. Tips on water conservation are offered in a separate article. Additional information is provided about the smart meters and how you can monitor water usage and detect potential leaks early.

Enjoy your reading and send us your comments/suggestions.

Claude Humbert

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD



Claude Humbert
PRESIDENT



Mark Fusca
VICE PRESIDENT



Frederick Sunderman
SECRETARY



Leslie Gourley
ASSISTANT SECRETARY



Melvin Willcockson
DIRECTOR



DROUGHT: **WHY ARE WE STILL IN STAGE 2?**

What causes drought?

A drought is simply caused when a period of drier than normal conditions result in water related issues such as shortages. While precipitation can vary in a particular location year to year, over a period of years it is fairly constant and somewhat predictable. When little to no rain falls, soils dry out, plants dry, or sometimes die out. Rainfall can be less than ideal over periods of weeks to years, resulting in declines in water levels in lakes, reservoirs, and wells. If the dry spell continues, it can become a drought.

Why doesn't a drought end when it rains?

Rainfall of any kind can provide some aid to drought conditions, but a few days of good rain is often not enough to alleviate weeks or months of a long dry spell. While a single rainstorm might not break a drought it can provide temporary relief. Soaking rains are ideal for alleviating drought conditions. Water that enters the soil can penetrate to the groundwater, which in turn helps sustain vegetation and replenishes streams. It often takes multiple heavy rains over a

period of several months to break a drought and return conditions to normal.

What Stage is Spring Creek in?

Spring Creek Utility District is in Stage 2: Mandatory Water Shortage Restrictions. For more information on how you can do your part [click here](#).

Why are we still in Stage 2?

Due to the drought and increased water usage, our well production continues to increase year after year. Over the years, we have seen a continued decline of the Evangeline Aquifer water levels and thus have recently been forced to lower the pumping equipment for one of our water wells by approximately 100 feet. Even though the recent rainfall has reduced the drought conditions in Montgomery County, this was certainly not enough to start replenishing the aquifer level. Consequently, the Districts Spring Creek Utility District, Montgomery County Utility District 88 and Montgomery County Utility District 89, have jointly decided to maintain the current level of water restrictions (stage 2) and we invite our residents to continue using water conservatively.

TOP TEN TIPS FOR WATER CONSERVATION

Water conservation is not just for the heat of the summer. In Texas, our communities can benefit from conservation of water resources year-round. This article talks about the top ten ways to conserve water in your home and garden.

01.

In the Shower

Consider taking short showers in less than 10 minutes. Get in as soon as the water is warm and don't leave the shower running for long periods of time while "getting ready" to get it. Keep in mind that a 10-minute shower uses approximately 25 gallons of water. Replacing shower heads with a water efficient model can lessen the usage of water and make it even more efficient.



02.

Using the Sink

When hand washing and dish washing, always use soap and water, then turn off the water during the washing process. Consider hand washing dishes and only using the dishwasher when you have enough dishes to fill the dishwasher entirely. While brushing teeth, turn off the water while brushing. This can conserve water over time when this becomes a default habit.

03.

Laundry

Ensure that when doing laundry, it's a full load and not just a few items in the wash. Nowadays washers have settings to set the cycle on "small, medium, or large." Make sure the washer is on the proper setting before doing laundry to save water.

04.

Fixing Leaks

If there is a leak found in the home, do not wait to repair it. Leaks are very costly and can get worse over time. Check toilets, sinks, appliances, and irrigation systems regularly for leaks and have them maintained by a professional.

05. **Irrigation**
Opt for drip irrigation systems for flower beds, ground cover, gardens, and container plants. These types of systems water slowly over time and conserve water by allowing soil to absorb water slowly much like when it rains. Spray irrigation systems cover a larger surface area, however, they also promote more water usage and run off which leads to plants losing soil. Soil loss can be detrimental to plants because it helps them maintain moisture.

06. **Consider Watering Times**
Try not to water between the times of 10am-6pm. Watering early in the morning or later in the evening allows the water to soak into the soil before evaporation can take place. During drought times, this rule is often followed by local municipalities to promote conservation of water. Following this rule can benefit the community year-round.



07. **Catching Rainwater**
Harvesting rainwater is a fantastic way to conserve water usage. Large box stores offer rain barrels of many shapes and sizes to fit individual home needs. Rain barrels are relatively simple to

install outdoors around the home and can be used in place of a garden hose to water plants.

08. **Consider Drought Tolerant Plants**
One of the most beneficial things to do is find plants that tolerate our climate here in Texas. Consider looking at Texas native plants that are already hardy and resistant to our climate. The Houston area is in the USDA Hardiness "Zone 9". You can often find information online or on packaging of plants what zone the plant is recommended for.

09. **Watering Less**
Watering the lawn less can often have a profound effect on what it needs in the long run. It can often "train" the lawn to need less. By training the lawn to need less, it creates deeper roots and thus promotes a healthier, more resilient lawn.

10. **Consider your SmartMeter**
Smart Meters allow users to view their water usage, see what times of day have the most usage, and detect leaks in their systems before they see it on the bill.

Water conservation is not just for the summer months in Texas. Water is something we all need year-round and is something we should strive to protect throughout the year. By following these steps we can all give back to our communities one drop at a time.

ALL ABOUT SMART METERS



Spring Creek Utility District has previously undergone converting the district to Smart Meters in 2017, by partnering with Municipal Operations & Consulting and Accurate Meter to bring these devices to the district. Smart meters and related technologies are a great tool for water conservation, and greatly improve our water system's operational efficiency. The District's goal is lowering water loss due to leaks, visibility of water usage trends, and immediate reporting and handling of problems that may arise.

Benefits to the Consumer

- Accurate meter read - only pay for your usage.

- Proactive water conservation.
- Access to usage data (daily, weekly or monthly).
- Set up warnings/alerts (high usage, continuous usage or leaks).

Early leak detection is the key to keeping your monthly bill low and correct to your water usage. Residents who use the EyeOnWater app are more likely to detect leaks before they see the increase in fees on their monthly bill.

Learn more about your Smart Water Meter [here!](#)

Sign Up today on www.EyeOnWater.com and download the app today.

TOP FIVE PLANTS FOR HOUSTON AREA CLIMATE

Why does the type of plant you use matter? The plants you place in and around your home have a direct impact on your water bill and on water consumption/conservation. Houston is in "Zone 9" when it comes to the Planting Hardiness Zone. Finding plants to thrive in the Houston area climate should always be top priority. You will find your plants will be much happier and healthier if they are rated for the right climate or endemic to the area.

Yaupon Holly

Yaupon Holly is a shrub native to the Houston area that is known for being evergreen and deer resistant. This is a popular plant for landscaping due to its low hedge. They are drought tolerant and have resistance to insects and diseases. It's a tough and hardy plant that tolerates a range of soil conditions.



Black-eyed Susan

Although it is a short-lived perennial, Black-Eyed Susan's are one of the toughest flowers that tolerate the Houston climate and range from beautiful yellows to oranges and reds. These flowers are full-sun loving and bloom in the late summer and early fall. They are considered drought resistant flowers and a great addition to any home garden.



Texas Lantana

Texas Lantana is a gorgeous native perennial that requires full sun to partial shade. This plant blooms in wonderful oranges, reds, and yellows, attracting wildlife such as bees, birds, humming birds, and butterflies. These plants can bloom in the spring, summer, and fall and have a low water demand.



Eastern Purple Coneflower

This beautiful purple flower is a Texas native that loves full or partial sun, thriving in the Texas Spring and Summer. Coneflowers also provide food and shelter for bees, butterflies, and birds. This is a garden must have this year.



Esperanza

Esperanza is another Texas native summer perennial that tolerates high temperatures and drought conditions very well. They prefer full sun and grow 4-6 ft tall. They grow beautiful yellow trumpets that bloom in the summer. It's best to plant these early spring after the threat of the last freeze.



PROJECT UPDATES

Fox Run Waterline Rehabilitation Project:

The Waterline Rehabilitation Project on Fox Run has been a major effort in the neighborhood since August of 2022. Our contractors have been working diligently to continue to provide water to residents with minimal outages and interruptions in day-to-day life. This project included the replacement of approximately 40,000 linear feet of 6, 8, and 12-inch waterline. Phase 1 of this project was completed at the end of June 2023. Phase 2 construction started in May 2023 (see map below); the estimated completion of this project is the end of March 2024. This will include the addition of sidewalks and ramps.





Fieldhouse Utility Extension

Recently completed, This project took place October 2023-January 2024. This included an extension of 665 linear feet of 8-inch waterline and 840 linear feet of 3-inch sanitary sewer force main to bring utility service to the Fieldhouse development. This property has recently been annexed into the district and is now open for the public to enjoy!

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Below is a list of some of the major projects currently considered by the District. More details will be provided on the website in the near future.

- **Water Plant #3**
- **Sewer Line Repairs in Fox Run**
- **Reclaimed Water Project (Purple pipes)**

- **District Community Building**
- **Drainage Improvement in Fox Run**

For more information on current construction updates and projects going on in Spring Creek Utility District, visit the website [here](#).



WATER SMART EVENT

**Please Join us for our annual Water Smart event on April 16th,
from 5pm- 8pm at the Fox Spring Park.**

Don't forget to mark your calendar! More details coming soon.

LATEST UPDATES

Election Canceled

The Board of Directors of the Spring Creek Utility District met on February 29 and addressed the issue of unopposed races. There are three positions up for election or reelection in the District and only three candidates filed for these: Two of the incumbents (Mark Fusca and Leslie Gourley) and Paul Sterling. The other incumbent, Melvin Willcockson opted not to run for reelection. As a result, the Board of Directors voted to cancel its upcoming May 4 elections.

Just Say **NO** to

FAT, OIL, &



GREASE

Down

The

Sink

Did you know? F.O.G. (Fat, Oil, and Grease) causes a buildup that clogs your pipes and can cost the district hundreds of thousands of dollars in costly removal and repairs. Avoid putting F.O.G. down the drains! You can bag, toss, or can small amounts of oil. Take large amounts to a hazardous waste disposal sites in your area!

Can it. Bag it. Toss it.

Just Say

NO

To

WIIPES

in the

PIPES

**Did you know? The "flushable"
wipes can cost the district
thousands in removal and repairs.**