



District News

September 2014

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www.tcmud.org
100 Municipal Drive
Trophy Club, TX 76262
(682) 831-4600
info@tcmud.org

Learn More!

Visit us at
<http://www.tcmud.org/customer-service/water-restrictions/>
for links to:

- National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center for NOAA outlooks
- US Drought Portal for Drought Monitor, Drought Outlook, and other news
- StateImpact for articles on Energy and Environment Reporting for Texas
- Texas Water Resources Institute for publications on water and conservation issues

How long has this drought been going on and will it ever end?

The current drought began in 2010, though some improvements in early 2012 lifted our Stage 1 drought restrictions for a short time. Our area has been fortunate that restrictions have not been more severe. Other cities in the Metroplex, like Plano and Irving, are in Stage 3, and Wichita Falls is in Stage 5. Aside from outdoor watering restrictions, how does the drought affect us?

- Less agricultural production during a drought means higher food prices and less selection at grocery stores.
- Nuclear, coal and natural gas energy production require fresh water for plant cooling. High water temperatures during a heat wave also make water cooling less effective, just when demand for power is highest. Low water supplies can cause producers to cut back on the amount of power generated or close plants, resulting in brownouts and higher prices.



Despite some cooler temperatures and rain this summer, our area is still in Extreme Drought conditions. How long will this last? It may end this fall or winter, but no one really knows. Scientists are working on drought prediction systems but still can't forecast drought the way they can predict hurricanes, tornados or earthquakes. Experts look at various measurements in the oceans and in the soil to provide some outlooks. Dry soil means less

water available to evaporate, which causes more dry conditions.

- The August 6th Climate Prediction Center synopsis: "The chance of El Niño has decreased to about 65% during the Northern Hemisphere fall and early winter." Earlier this summer the chances were estimated at 76%.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) outlooks indicate that our area has a slight chance to receive above average precipitation for August–October.
- The NOAA Seasonal Drought Outlook shows us at the edge of the area with drought likely to persist.

When this drought is over, the next one will likely be soon. The last hundred years in Texas have been marked by numerous severe droughts. What may be the most important lesson we have learned from this drought? **We were watering our lawns much more than necessary!** Twice per week or less is plenty and major water suppliers like ours, the City of Fort Worth, have instituted permanent year round restrictions on outdoor watering.

To view the District Water Conservation Plan and the Drought Contingency & Emergency Water Management Plan please visit the Forms & Documents page on our website at <http://www.tcmud.org/customer-service/form>.

Securing Water for Our Future

The Town of Trophy Club's population is expected to grow by approximately 4,000 by 2018. The population of the DFW area is expected to surpass 13 million by 2060. What is being done to make sure we have enough water?

- ◆ In 2013 the District upgraded the fresh water intake valve to allow faster filling of our tanks.
- ◆ The District is working with the City of Fort Worth to upgrade an offsite transmission main from an 8" line to a 10" line. The transmission line upgrade is the first phase of a three-phase regional project to bring more water to our area. The City of Fort Worth is partnering with area water providers to ensure water supply can meet future demands.
- ◆ The District has future plans to upgrade the existing elevated tank on the east side of town and construct a third ground storage tank (on Municipal Drive where the police station currently sits).
- ◆ Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) is working on a joint project with Dallas Water Utilities to design, build, and operate a raw water infrastructure to tap into existing water sources. To meet the increased demands of the growing DFW area, the Integrated Pipeline (IPL) will extend 150 miles from Lake Palestine to Lake Benbrook with connections to Cedar Creek and Richland-Chambers Reservoirs.



What other technologies are being explored? Area lakes and reservoirs lose a considerable part of their water due to evaporation. Many large water suppliers, including TRWD, are looking into Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), a system to inject excess surface water into an aquifer for later use. This underground storage would eliminate the high rate of evaporation due to wind and sun. Researchers are also working on developing efficient, affordable desalination technology to make brackish groundwater usable for drinking.

Here in Trophy Club, treated wastewater or "effluent" is sold to the Trophy Club Country Club to irrigate the golf course. Not only does the effluent dramatically reduce the demand on the potable water system, but the revenues help to keep our customers' costs lower. In other areas like Big Spring and Wichita Falls, "reclaimed" wastewater is now being used to produce potable water.

How icky is that? Think about the surface water cycle. Rain falls and flows from rivers and streams into area lakes. Water suppliers get water from the lakes to treat and send as drinking water through the distribution system. After use, water flows through the sanitary sewer to a wastewater treatment plant. Some effluent is used for irrigation, and the rest is discharged into the lakes. "Reclaiming" the treated effluent and processing it for potable use saves the step of the water flowing through the wetland areas.

Our choices matter! It takes large amounts of fresh water to produce energy, so conserving both water and electricity helps manage demand. Make saving water and energy a habit both indoors and outside. Visit the District website at www.tcmud.org for links to our favorite resources for water conservation.

Budget Highlights for FY 2015

In capital purchases, the District is budgeting for a portable GPS system to establish more accurate locations for water meters, sewer taps, manholes, hydrants, sample stations, and lift stations. This will enable us to map all District assets and infrastructure. We are also replacing some aging equipment (vehicles, crane truck).



In capital maintenance and repairs, the Water Department will be repairing a twelve-inch valve on a bypass line at a water pump station and replacing ten inline water valves around town. Replacing these valves insures they work properly and reduces the impact to customers if a leak occurs. The District is working on Phase I of an upgrade to the wholesale water transmission line from Fort Worth to ensure adequate capacity for future demands. Additionally, as the Town repairs some streets, the District may partner with them to upgrade water lines.

The Wastewater Department will rehabilitate lift station #2, improving drainage and the structural integrity of the sewer line. The District also plans a \$15 million wastewater plant upgrade to start this year.

Administration will be remodeling the front lobby at the Svore Municipal Building. The building has not undergone any major updates since it was built in 1984. The remodel will allow space for two Utility Billing clerks to assist customers and reduce wait times. Anyone who has attended a meeting here recently will be happy to hear that new audience chairs for the Boardroom are in the budget and will be ordered in October.