



District News

January 2016

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A Look at Fort Worth Water

The City of Fort Worth's Water Department purchases raw water from Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD). They treat the water and distribute it to more than 1.2 million people in the area. Trophy Club Municipal Utility District No. 1 purchases roughly 80% of its water from Fort Worth. Our neighbors in Roanoke, Northlake, Keller, Westlake, Southlake and DFW Airport also purchase drinking water from Fort Worth.

Fort Worth has a total water treatment capacity of 497 million gallons per day at its 5 water treatment plants and more than 3,336 miles of pipe in the water distribution system. The Fort Worth Water Department employs 900 people and has an annual budget of nearly \$254 million. District staff recently spoke with Mary Gugliuzza, Media Relations/Communications Coordinator for the Fort Worth Water Department, about their operations, water conservation and rising rates.

Fort Worth treats about 120 million gallons of water per day in the winter, which has remained fairly stable despite

population growth. Efficiencies in newer home appliances and fixtures like washing machines, toilets and shower heads mean less than half of the water consumption compared to older models. Summer demand for water has actually dropped due to smarter irrigation practices; Fort Worth now treats an average of 280 million gallons per day in the summer, down from 300 million gallons per day. However, peak day demands can reach more than 325

Story continued on next page



Sedimentation basin at Eagle Mountain Water Treatment Plant

Student Art Contest Entries Due January 13th

Middle school and high school students who reside in or attend school in Trophy Club are invited to participate in the Trophy Club Municipal Utility District No. 1 "Saving Water at Home" Art Contest. The winning design will be used as the coloring page for the Kids Water Fest Coloring Contest next spring.

To enter students should create a simple, kid-friendly black and white drawing depicting one or more positive ways for residents to save water at home. Artwork must be an original design and

submitted on 8 1/2 x 11 inch white paper. All entries must be received at the front desk of the Svore Municipal Building at 100 Municipal Drive in Trophy Club by **Wednesday, January 13th at 4:00 pm.**

The winner will be presented with a 124-piece sketching and drawing art set at the Board meeting on Tuesday, January 19th. All entries may be displayed in the lobby of the Svore Municipal Building. For contest rules and forms please visit www.tcmud.org/administratio/events.

Coming Next Month

A Look at Trophy Club MUD No. 1's water system

Save the Date for Spring Events

Saturday, April 2nd—Water Fest 2016 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Saturday, May 14th—Sprinkler System Quick Fixes and Sprinkler Operations, a Texas A&M AgriLife class from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Visit our Events page for details.

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A Look at Fort Worth Water, continued

million gallons. On August 8, 2015 Fort Worth customers used nearly 330 million gallons of water.

In the next ten years, Ms. Gugliuzza predicted that the greatest challenge will be helping customers understand that while water conservation is very important as a supply strategy, it doesn't really save money in operating the system. For Fort Worth, raw water costs are a component of their rates, but most of their operational costs are fixed regardless of how much water they treat. Even though average water use is declining across their system, the infrastructure continues to age and requires replacement and repair.

As a utility, Fort Worth has a responsibility to build the system to meet peak needs to ensure an adequate water supply. Customers pay for the infrastructure necessary to move and treat the water at the peak demand level for fire protection and public health. Water conservation does save money by deferring the cost of additional and upgraded infrastructure. The good news for Fort Worth's customers is that due to conservation efforts, costs of a treatment plant expansion have been postponed.

According to Ms. Gugliuzza, Fort Worth's rates have increased, but they would have increased even more if consumption had continued to rise as it had been, and Fort Worth had needed to expand the water treatment facilities. Fort Worth Water communicates frequently with their wholesale customers so they know how to plan improvements, especially those that are growth related, and they conduct a study every five years through an independent consultant to collect other data. As our area grows, Fort Worth expands the infrastructure to meet the growing water needs of the communities.

Over the last ten years, Fort Worth Water has faced many of the same

challenges and increased costs as our District: growth; increasingly stringent regulations by the state and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding drinking water quality; new rules regarding water treatment that result in more frequent testing; and drought conditions and water supply shortages. Water rates for both retail and wholesale customers have risen because costs have increased. Most notably, the rate



Pipeline upgrade work in progress, North Fort Worth

TRWD charges for raw water has gone up, but Fort Worth has also seen higher costs for chemicals and for testing and sampling due to increased regulation. The newer ozone and membrane technologies used by Fort Worth allow for better water quality but are energy intensive. Rates are not predicted to go down in the future, and TRWD is forecasting significant increases to the raw water rates over the next several years. These increased costs affect all area water systems, not just Fort Worth.

Getting the Water from the Lake to Trophy Club

The water delivered to Trophy Club comes mostly from Tarrant Regional Water District's (TRWD's) Eagle Mountain Lake, but the three West Fork lakes on the Trinity River are connected. When there is adequate rain, water flows from Lake Bridgeport into Eagle Mountain Lake, and from there into Lake Worth. When there is not enough rain, TRWD can pump water from the Cedar Creek and Richland-

Chambers reservoirs in East Texas to Eagle Mountain Lake to replenish needed water supplies. Eagle Mountain Water Treatment Plant is primarily responsible for treating our water, but Fort Worth's system is built with redundancies and back-ups so water can be moved around as necessary. While each lake has its own natural characteristics, all of Fort Worth's water treatment plants use ozone as a primary disinfectant, which normally takes care of any taste and odor issues and gives a more uniform flavor to the water in the system.

From the water treatment facility, drinking water is pumped through the distribution system to the Caylor Ground Storage Tank. Due to its location on higher ground, an elevated tank is not necessary. To accommodate the growth in our area, Fort Worth is constructing a second 5 million gallon storage tank at this facility. Fort Worth is also in the second phase of a project to upgrade the pipeline that brings water to our area to better serve the growing supply needs of North Fort Worth and Northeast Tarrant County. From the storage area the water flows by gravity through the pipelines that supply our community.

To view more information about our water supply, the water treatment process, and pictures of Fort Worth Water's facilities, please visit us at www.tcmud.org/get-to-know-your-water.



5 MG Caylor Storage Tank, Water and Drainage Improvements