

North Fort Bend Water Authority
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About NFBWA

The North Fort Bend Water Authority (NFBWA) is a regional water authority created by the 79th Texas Legislature, with the passage of Senate Bill 1798 in May 2005 and by establishing Chapter 8813 of the Special District Local Laws Code.



The Authority's mission includes:

- Acquiring and providing water for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and other uses;
- Reducing groundwater withdrawals;
- Conserving, preserving, protecting, and recharging groundwater and groundwater reservoirs, or their subdivisions;
- Preventing waste of groundwater; and,
- Controlling subsidence caused by the withdrawal of water from groundwater reservoirs

NFBWA Board of Directors

David Spell • *Asst. Secretary • Design Committee*
Mr. Spell, a Fort Bend County resident for 20 years, has 12 years experience as a utility district director, with nine years as MUD president. As a North Fort Bend Water Authority director, Mr. Spell focuses on promoting water conservation while helping to protect the environment. He earned his mechanical engineering degree from McNeese State University and has owned and operated two sole proprietorships in Fort Bend County. Mr. Spell is currently a TREC professional real estate inspector.

Robert Darden • *Precinct 2/Asst. Vice President • Design Committee*

A resident of the Fort Bend area for more than 21 years, Mr. Darden has nine years experience as a Municipal Utility District director, including five years as District president. He is well versed in MUD operations, as well as in civil law and civil procedures. Mr. Darden earned his B.B.A. at Pan American University. Since 1976, he has worked with Crawford & Company in property and casualty insurance adjusting.

Bruce Fay • *Precinct 3/Director • Finance Committee*

Mr. Fay served as a Municipal Utility District director for 14 years, and was the president of Fort Bend MUD #50. He has a B.B.A. in Accounting from the University of Houston, and a Juris Doctorate in Law from South Texas College of Law. Mr. Fay is

a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the Texas Bar. Retired from Shell Oil Company in Houston where served as Senior Tax Counsel.

Melony F. Gay, P.E. • *Precinct 4/Secretary • Design Committee*

Ms. Gay has served as a Municipal Utility District director for five years. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Texas and has over 20 years experience in civil engineering for land development projects. Ms. Gay earned her B.S. in civil engineering from Texas A&M University and has been involved in the analysis, design and construction of water distribution, wastewater collection, drainage and paving facilities for projects located in Harris, Fort Bend and Brazoria Counties. She currently works as a civil engineer for Jacobs in Houston.

Robert L. Patton • *Precinct 5/Vice President • Finance Committee*

During almost 30 years of service as a Municipal Utility District president, Mr. Patton gained first-hand experience in cost-efficient operation strategies, which resulted in savings that allowed important community improvement projects to be constructed at no additional cost to District residents. Mr. Patton majored in Mechanical Engineering at Mississippi State University, holds a B.A. from Millsaps College, and earned an M.B.A. from the University of Houston. He works as a real estate agent.

Peter Houghton • *Precinct 6/President • Finance Committee*

Mr. Houghton has been a Fort Bend County resident and MUD Director for the last 18 years, and has been involved in the development of several large master planned communities in Fort Bend County. He has worked closely with numerous MUDs, LIDS, WCIDS, HOAS, and City and County departments to ensure high-quality, sustainable community developments. Mr. Houghton earned his B.A. from Lehigh University, and is currently employed as Vice President of Sales with Howard Hughes Properties.

Pat Hebert • *Precinct 7/Director • Finance Committee*

Mrs. Hebert brings broad MUD experience to the Authority, gained through more than a decade of service in multiple districts. In addition, she has been a community, civic, political and business leader in Fort Bend County for more than 30 years, frequently serving as chair for major charities and community fundraisers. Mrs. Hebert co-founded Eco Resources, Inc. in 1973 and served as the company's vice president until the company was sold in 1985. In 1990, she co-founded Southern Municipal Services, Inc. and served as vice president of that company until it was sold in 1993.

THE Water Log

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTH FORT BEND WATER AUTHORITY



Hello, Larry!

Talking sprinkler takes Fort Bend County by storm

Twice a week:
Is it really often enough?

Take the tuna can test
What can it tell you about your most wasteful habits?

Lawn watering secrets
of the county's hottest horticulturists

Get in touch with NFBWA...

talkingsprinkler.com • nfbwa.com

The NFBWA does NOT provide water service to individual homes, so for problems with your service or to establish new service, please contact your Utility District operator.

Ask Larry

His deep understanding of lawn watering will amaze you.

Q: Why all the fuss about water conservation?

Larry: It's been a priority around here for a long time and for good reason. The Fort Bend County Surface Water Supply Corporation completed a detailed study in 2002 that concluded that rapid population growth in the county, combined with groundwater reduction requirements, would likely cause water shortages in our county. Fort Bend County is trying to avoid the problems with subsidence and water supply that portions of Galveston and Harris Counties have suffered.

Q: What's the best way to keep my lawn beautiful and healthy while conserving water?

Larry: Water no more than twice a week. This reduces the daily demand on the area's water system, and distributes water for irrigation fairly among all our residents.

Q: But don't I need to water every day for a lush lawn?

Larry: Nope. The fact is, that's a misconception that wastes water and actually weakens your lawn. Horticulturists tell me that watering your lawn deeply and infrequently (i.e., twice a week) is the key to encouraging your grass to grow deep roots—so it can access water for a longer period of time and thrive through the hot summer.

Q: When should I water my lawn?

Larry: The best time to water is between 4 and 6 a.m. Water much before that and you could promote growth of various fungi on your lawn. Water after that and you'll be watering your lawn while everybody in town is trying to take a shower. And never water between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., it's just too darn hot and a lot of the water just evaporates and never helps the lawn. So get me going early and water between 4 and 6 a.m.

Q: What conserves more water—operating my sprinkler system automatically or manually?

Larry: Definitely manually. Automated mode can use more water than your lawn actually needs. Manual operation regulates water use more efficiently—because you're watering only when the grass need it. Then there's weather. Obviously, it's pointless to water on a rainy day (which can happen if you're operating in automatic). And some areas of your lawn require more water than others (like shady areas). Watering manually lets you adjust for these variables. Plus, as a sprinkler, I have to say that automatic operation is just so impersonal.

Q: Are there any other ways I can increase water use efficiency for my irrigation system?

Larry: One way is to make sure your system is not in need of repair or adjustment. Every once in a while, evaluate your system for water use efficiency by turning it on and checking for leaks and broken or misaligned heads. We'll even evaluate your system for free. Visit www.nfbwa.com for details.

Take the tuna can test.

Overwatering your lawn can be a very wasteful habit. You could be wasting a whole lot of water. This simple test can help you determine if that is the case.

The tuna can test will tell you, not only how much water you're putting on your lawn in a given period of time, but whether the water is distributed evenly over your lawn. Remember, the goal is to put one inch of water on your lawn twice a week.

To figure out how long to run your system or sprinkler, place at least three empty, one-inch-deep tuna cans on your lawn, distributed evenly. Turn on the water for the amount of time you think would work for distributing one inch of water. If, at the end of the watering period, the cans aren't full, you need to water a little longer. If they are filled and overflowing, water a little less. The goal is to water just long enough to fill the cans and no more.

If some of the cans are fuller than others, your system is not distributing the water evenly, and some areas may be overwatered while others are not getting enough water. You can adjust your sprinkler nozzles to distribute water evenly. Larry the Talking Sprinkler is a big fan of the tuna can test, but mentioned that after the test, you are left with one more burning question: What to do with the tuna? He suggested whipping up some Tuna Paninis, one of his favorite sandwiches. The filling is canned tuna spiked with savory olives and capers, bracing lemon juice and tangy feta cheese. If you want the recipe Larry got from his mother, a portable oscillating sprinkler from Naples, visit Larry on Facebook.



Sprinkler talks!

Meet Larry the Talking Sprinkler, the North Fort Bend Water Authority's new spokesperson for responsible water use. You're going to hear a lot from Larry about how area residents can conserve water without giving up their lush lawns and thriving landscape plants.

"It's really my mission to spread the message that watering twice a week is sufficient to keep your lawn healthy and beautiful," said Larry. "The fact is, my owner cut down from watering every day to twice a week and his lawn looks fantastic. So I now have a little more free time for community projects like this."

Water Authority officials chose Larry from several other candidates (including a dancing garden hose and a whistling outside faucet) because of his deep familiarity with lawn irrigation issues.

"I am so honored to be chosen to carry this important water conservation message to Fort Bend County residents," interjected Larry. "I am such a lucky guy to have ended up with a great nozzle and a nice speaking voice to boot."

Asked if he could summarize his conservation message for area residents, Larry said, "Watering your lawn twice a week, one inch of water each time, will do the trick."

He then retracted into his underground position until next Thursday.



All about Larry • Larry is a pop-up sprinkler who was manufactured in New Jersey in late 2012. Larry's six-inch height and cylindrical good looks certainly set him apart from ordinary sprinklers (plus the fact that he talks). Larry is an Aquarius (duh) and his favorite pastimes include resting underground and popping up unexpectedly twice a week to douse unsuspecting household pets.

WATERING SECRETS OF THE COUNTY'S HOTTEST HORTICULTURISTS

They're hot all right. After all, they spend most of their time outdoors looking at plants. In Texas. In the summer. So if they're not hot, nobody is. And they have some hot watering tips to keep your lawn healthy and green in our Gulf Coast climate:

1 Watering deeply at longer intervals (like twice a week) is better for your lawn than watering lightly more frequently. Your lawn develops roots where the water is. If you water lightly, all the water is near the surface, so your lawn develops shallow roots to absorb the surface water. The downside is, there's no way for those roots to absorb water that may lie farther beneath the surface. That's not healthy for any lawn. When you water deeply, you encourage your lawn to develop a deep, more healthy, root system.

2 When you water matters. The experts don't recommend that you water your lawn between 10 a.m. and 6 in the evening. This is the hottest part of the day, when over half of the water used to irrigate your lawn may be lost to evaporation. Also avoid watering in the dead of night. Not much water will evaporate, true, but the sitting water on your lawn can promote the growth of various fungi that can damage your lawn. Watering in the morning would be OK, but that's when the biggest demand for water occurs (when everyone is showering, making coffee, etc.). The experts at Texas A&M Agrilife say you should water between 4 and 6 in the morning.

3 Keep the whole plant healthy—including the roots. The goal should be for the roots of your lawn to remain somewhat damp between waterings but not too wet. When the soil under a lawn is drenched constantly, root rot can develop and it's difficult for oxygen to be drawn into the soil.

4 Add compost. Adding about a quarter to a half inch of compost material to your lawn in the spring or fall can help your lawn stay healthy in a couple of ways. It will form a sort of "cover" on the surface to hold water in the soil, and it will provide nutrients to your lawn as well.

5 The key is to water only when your lawn needs it. It's easy to grasp the problem of underwatering—your grass turns brown and dies. But overwatering can also compromise the health of your lawn—not to mention it wastes water. So strive to strike a balance between the two extremes. Give your lawn just the water it needs to thrive and no more. Watering twice a week will help you achieve this.

I THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD TO WATER EVERY DAY?

All these years, I've been watering my lawn every day. Turns out, I was wrong. So I started watering my lawn just twice a week and you know what happened? Something amazing. My lawn is still green, but now the roots are deeper, stronger and

healthier. Not to mention the fact that I'm saving a bunch of water. Almost half the water I was using was going on my lawn. Half! I'm using less water and my lawn is healthier than ever.

