

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;
- Conserving, preserving, protecting, and recharging groundwater and groundwater reservoirs, or their subdivisions;
- Reducing groundwater withdrawals;
- Preventing waste of groundwater; and,
- Controlling subsidence caused by the withdrawal of water from groundwater reservoirs

NFBWA Board of Directors

David Spell • Precinct 1 • Asst. Secretary

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

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

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 he served as Senior Tax Counsel.

Melony F. Gay, P.E. • Precinct 4 • Secretary

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 LJA in Houston.

Robert L. Patton • Precinct 5 • Vice President

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. After a long career in the packaging industry, he is currently a Realtor® with RE/MAX Westside.

Peter Houghton • Precinct 6 • President

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 Vice President of Sales with Howard Hughes Properties.

Pat Hebert • Precinct 7 • Director

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



**"Subsidence.
Avoid that
sinking feeling
with a little water
conservation."**

- Larry the Talking Sprinkler

**Don't embarrass Larry and
his pals—time for your
sprinkler system's checkup**

Overwatering—just don't do it

**Play the percentages with
your sprinkler system to
conserve water**

**Larry has the answers to your
lawn irrigation questions**

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

This sprinkler knows it all when it comes to protecting your sprinkler system from seasonal catastrophes..

Q: How can I check my sprinkler system myself?

Larry: It's really easy. Step 1, get a hot cup of coffee.

Step 2, turn your system on manual for 1 minute. Step 3, water each zone and look for misaligned heads, buried heads, areas not getting water and overspray onto the street or sidewalk. Step 4, replace or adjust the sprinkler heads that need it; if it's a bigger issue, call in a licensed irrigator. Step 5, enjoy the rest of your coffee.

Q: What's the most important thing I can do to check my sprinkler system this spring?

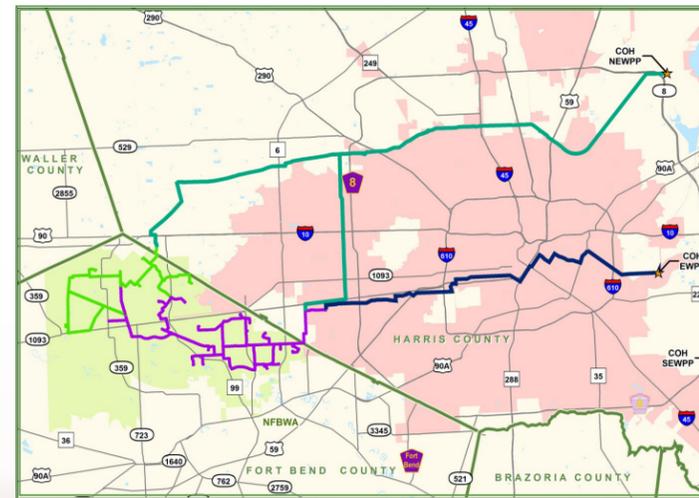
Larry: Checking to make sure the water flow from each sprinkler head is pointed in the right direction is easy to do—and easy to fix. There's nothing worse than sending a stream of water into the street. It's very wasteful—not to mention embarrassing.

Q: Spring is the growing season. Shouldn't I beef up my watering to support and encourage the new growth?

Larry: Nope. Our standard rule of thumb—water twice a week with the goal of supplying your landscape with one inch of water (rain and sprinkling combined)—will do just fine.

Do you know where your water comes from?

The majority of water in this area comes from groundwater stored in aquifers, surface water from Lake Houston, or the Trinity River. The North Fort Bend Water Authority manages the infrastructure needed to convey surface water from two of the City of Houston's water purification plants. Many districts in the Authority receive surface water to comply with the groundwater reduction mandate. The map shows where our surface water comes from, and how far it travels before reaching your house. Read more to find ways you can save water and help reduce costs for you and your neighbors.



Your Vote Saved \$100 Million

In 2013, Texas voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 6 which made \$2 billion from the rainy day fund available for water

projects approved by the Texas Water Development Board.

North Fort Bend Water Authority applied and was approved for funding for two large projects that will help provide future water needs for our area.

Funding from the Prop 6 program will save the Authority \$100 million over the next 25 years. For more info visit www.twdb.texas.gov/SWIFT.

Science Corner: What is subsidence?

What is subsidence?

Subsidence is the widespread, gradual sinking of an area of land. In this area, subsidence is mostly caused by groundwater pumpage greatly exceeding the rate of aquifer recharge. Think of it as taking more money out of your bank account than you are putting in; you will eventually experience a negative balance. When enough water has been pumped out, the aquifer compacts to fill the void spaces. As reported by the USGS, the Houston area's extensive groundwater pumping has caused water declines resulting in nearly 10 feet of subsidence in some areas. This results in significant economic losses in the form of structural damage to homes, roads, underground pipes, etc.

Case Study: Brownwood Neighborhood, Baytown, Texas

First developed in the 1930s, the Brownwood neighborhood in Baytown was home to a growing number of oil executives and other professionals in the Houston area. When it was first developed, the ground elevation was approximately 10 feet above sea level, but nearly 40 years later it was at a mere 1.6 feet. In 1983, when Hurricane Alicia hit, this neighborhood went underwater and stayed that way. Due to massive groundwater and petroleum withdrawals by the nearby refineries, the land subsided to a dangerous elevation and had to be abandoned. Years later it was repurposed as the Baytown Nature Center and remains a warning of what can happen if our water sources and water habits do not change.

What can be done about subsidence?

Fortunately, leaders in the Houston area have been proactive and created two subsidence districts with the goal of reducing groundwater withdrawal. The North Fort Bend Water Authority and other regional water authorities were created to implement the rules put forth by these subsidence districts. The Authority has successfully met the first milestone for groundwater reduction of 30% in 2014. By 2025, the Authority will have achieved the regulatory requirement to reduce groundwater pumpage by 60%.



OUR OFFICIAL POLICY ON WATERING

According to irrigation experts, the average homeowner puts 43 percent more water on their lawn than is needed.

That's why we have developed recommended watering guidelines for Fort Bend County, carefully calibrated for our climate and soil conditions. Put simply, the rule of thumb is:

Water twice a week, with the goal of providing your lawn with one inch of water (rain and sprinkling combined) for the week.

This will provide just the right amount of water so your lawn remains green and healthy, without overwatering. Our horticultural experts (we've got all kinds of experts around here) tell us that lawns are healthiest with deep and infrequent watering. Watering your lawn too often encourages shallow roots, which are more susceptible to damage from extreme heat, pests, diseases and drought conditions.

A rain sensor is a great way to increase the efficiency of your irrigation system. It simply shuts down your system when it's raining. A rain sensor, plus the right controller settings, can increase your system's efficiency by at least 10 percent—saving you up to 111,000 gallons of water a year!



Take a couple of minutes and do a checkup on your sprinkler system

- Look for leaking water supply lines. Have leaky lines repaired or replaced by a licensed irrigator.
- If sprinkler heads are buried in the surrounding grass or soil, twist them to raise them, or if necessary, have them dug out and repositioned.
- If nozzles are clogged, unscrew them, clean the filter underneath, then rethread the nozzle back onto the stem.
- If a spray head is misaligned, its cover can easily be unscrewed, removed, and then reinserted in the body.
- Straighten any sprinkler heads that are tilted and spraying water directly into the grass.
- Most important, adjust every sprinkler head so the water hits your lawn and plants instead of the street, driveway or sidewalk.
- Here's another useful tip: the North Fort Bend Water Authority has a program that may evaluate your system for free. Visit www.nfbwa.com/wiseguys/index.html for details.

