

About North Fort Bend Water Authority

The North Fort Bend Water Authority (NFBWA) is a regional water authority created in 2005 to, among other purposes, facilitate compliance with the Fort Bend Subsidence (FBS) groundwater reduction and conversion requirements.

The NFBWA's mission is to:

Provide. Conserve. Educate.

- **Provide** a plentiful supply of clean water from multiple sources for our families now and in the future.
- **Conserve** our groundwater and surface water supplies to provide for tomorrow's water needs.
- **Educate** people on the value of water, where our water comes from, and the importance of protecting this vital resource.

For more information regarding the NFBWA, its purpose, and its ongoing capital improvement projects, please visit www.nfbwa.com. For more information on the FBS, its regulations, and the steps it is taking to combat subsidence, please visit www.fortbendsubsidence.org.

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North Fort Bend Water Authority

North Fort Bend Water Authority
c/o Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP
Phoenix Tower
3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600
Houston, Texas 77027

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Larry the Talking Sprinkler

THE water Log

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Spring 2018

**Delivering New
Sources of Water**

**Native and
Adaptive Plants**

**Ask Larry:
Irrigation System
Rebates**

**Education
Is Blooming**



Are you looking for more information on the NFBWA's conservation initiatives? Check out our Facebook page ([facebook.com/LarryTheTalkingSprinkler](https://www.facebook.com/LarryTheTalkingSprinkler)) for watering advice, ways to save water, and native and adaptive plant information.

Our Mobile Learning Lab received a makeover featuring Larry The Talking Sprinkler, and is available for community events. Enjoy interactive displays, fun games, and see a rain barrel in action! For more details contact Whitney Milberger: wmilberger@bgeinc.com



Get in touch with NFBWA

talkingsprinkler.com • nfbwa.com

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

Native and Adaptive Plants – How and Where to Get Them, and How to Care for Them

When many people hear the words “native and adaptive,” they think of sandy, dry deserts that include rocks as the focal feature. Yet native and adaptive gardens can be lush and green.

They need less water

While all plants need water during the initial establishment period, the wonderful news about native and adaptive plants is that once established, these plants can usually survive local weather patterns without the use of additional water via the sprinkler. These plants have adapted to our specific weather patterns and can easily tolerate the changes. These plants utilize less water and therefore help preserve and conserve the water we need for the future. Spring is the perfect time for planting, because plants don't suffer prolonged periods of heat.

Learn more about native plants

Visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (www.wildflower.org) to view more than 9,000 plants native to North America. A visit to the experts at your local nursery can help, too. If you are unsure if a plant is native, but want to know its adaptability, look at the plant's label. The NFBWA area is in the United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Resource Service (USDA-ARS) **Plant Hardiness Zone 9a**. The plant label will tell you the hardiness zones or provide a map of adaptable areas. Pay attention to how much sunlight and filtration the plant needs, as this will determine the plant's ultimate future water needs.



Q: I keep hearing about irrigation system rebates, but I'm lost. Where do I go?

A: Don't worry, I can help. First make sure your Municipal Utility District is participating in the initiative. Then head over to talkingsprinkler.com/toolbox and go to the “What is Larry's Toolbox?” tab. Print out the Larry's Toolbox Resident Irrigation System Upgrades initiative form, fill it out, and mail it to the address listed.



Community Spotlight- Education is Blooming!

NFBWA sponsored a Larry the Talking Sprinkler Conservation Essay Contest at three middle schools last fall. Students learned about subsidence by studying what it is, how we are all impacted, and how we can control it moving forward. This spring, the NFBWA will bring conservation lessons to the area elementary schools! Kindergarten students will make mini rain barrels, first-grade students will make models of the water cycle, and third-grade students will become investigators in their homes to see what fixtures are and are not efficient. Parents, guardians, and neighbors: we appreciate your participation and helping these young minds grow!

Preparing for the Future: Delivering Water from New Sources

Part of our continuing series showing how water gets to your home

As the NFBWA continues the transition from groundwater (water from sources such as aquifers) to surface water (sources such as rivers and lakes), the NFBWA is looking to the future to ensure the area's growing population has the water it needs now and for tomorrow.

Combating Subsidence

NFBWA has been working diligently over the last decade to decrease the area's reliance on groundwater in order to slow down, and, ideally, stop subsidence. The U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) and the Fort Bend Subsidence District (FBSD) monitor the water and ground compaction levels in Fort Bend County to determine if NFBWA's efforts are helping slow down the gradual sinking of the ground's surface. Please visit txpub.usgs.gov/houston_subsidence/home/ and fortbendsubsidence.org to learn more about what you can do to help and see how our area compares to the rest of the Houston region.

The Surface Water Supply Project

As detailed in NFBWA's Winter 2017 newsletter, the Northeast Water Purification Plant (NEWPP), once expanded, will treat over 320 million gallons of surface water every day. This surface water will begin its journey in the Trinity River, then transfer through the Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project to Lake Houston, where it will be drawn out and treated by the NEWPP. The Surface Water Supply Project (SWSP) will then transfer this treated water through approximately 39 miles of 8-foot diameter pipeline from the NEWPP to two large pump stations that will then distribute the water throughout NFBWA. NFBWA shares capacity in the SWSP line with the West Harris County Regional Water Authority. Please visit www.surfacewatersupplyproject.com/ to learn more.

