



# The WATER WORKS

Volume 2 Issue 3

www.wylienortheastwater.com

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*\*Water restrictions have been lifted per North Texas Municipal Water District..*

*\*Conservation Plan is in affect now that our lakes are full.*

*\*Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) tested and approved our quarterly and monthly water quality samples.*

*\*Wylie Northeast SUD readies service to new shopping center on Lake Way.*

*\*Dry weather increases daily water use.*

## Points From The President

**J**ust a short time ago we were begging for rain, and we got our wishes in buckets full of the wet stuff. I can not remember a summer where I voluntarily did not have to run my sprinkler system on a weekly basis. What a wonderful problem to have!

Your board of directors and your office staff of WNESUD are busy preparing for the upcoming improvement projects. Our engineer has identified several

sections of old a/c pipe that have been prioritized and scheduled for replacement. The construction should start in late fall or early winter and be finished by spring. We hope that the changes will minimize or eliminate future line repairs due to leaks or breaks.

I invite each of you to take an active role in assisting with running WNESUD. You can help by forwarding comments or suggestions to the office and board and also

by attending future board meetings. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the district office. I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you in the near future.

May God Bless Each of You,

Jimmy Beach  
President  
Wylie Northeast Special Utility District.

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### Message from the Manager

**T**he General Manager, Mrs. Sue Jones, thanks all of you for your support throughout the long drought period. It was tedious and frustrating, but now we are out of it. The spring rains were a godsend! Our lakes are full and it is raining as this message is written.

The response asking whether or not members

would want to pay their water bills online with a credit card was outstanding. The majority of the membership did choose to pay online.

The site is being prepared at this time. It should be up and working in October for your convenience in paying with your credit card online at

**www.wylienortheastwater.com.**

For us at WNESUD, this is a busy time of the year. We are currently working on line replacements. The work should begin by late fall or early spring.

Although NTMWD lifted our water restrictions, we do ask you do one thing each day that saves water.

Sue Jones, General Manager

# Drought Guidelines



Here in North Texas, we're all thankful for recent rain. Lawns are green, plants are blooming and some lakes are filling up.

That's why when asked how the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) determines a drought. The answer follows:

"A drought is measured by more than rainfall (or lack of it).

"NTMWD relies on three reservoirs—**Lake Lavon, Lake Jim Chapman and Lake Texoma**—to serve more than 1.6 million people in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

"While Lake Lavon—our primary water

source—has risen to 94 percent capacity, Lake Jim Chapman is still less than half full.

"Other drought factors include:

"Drought conditions in the region and the watersheds of our lakes Lake levels/capacities

"Amount of water we're permitted to draw from our reservoirs (the amount is limited by the State of Texas)

"Current and projected demand for water from our customers, which is increasing

"Several projects, initiated prior to the

drought, are under way that will add more water to our supply next year and help us keep pace with demand. While NTMWD may relax some watering restrictions later this year or early next year, our region may never return to a time when we could use all the water we wanted without worrying about the consequences.

"Water conservation will always be an important part of NTMWD's water management strategy.

"So we're asking you to continue to save. Follow your community's watering schedule and avoid wasting water. You will find easy water-saving tips at [www.NorthTexas.WaterIQ.org](http://www.NorthTexas.WaterIQ.org)."



**First Day Water Released at Lake Lavon Dam**

## Using Water Efficiently: Ideas for Residences

Efficient water use can have major environmental, public health, and economic benefits by helping to improve water quality, maintain aquatic ecosystems, and protect drinking water resources. By using water more efficiently and by purchasing more water efficient products, we can also help mitigate the effects of drought. Efficiency measures can also save the homeowner money on their water and energy bills. This list of measures is not meant to be comprehensive, but rather a starting point.

### **Bathroom — where over half of all water use inside a house takes place:**

- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths. Turn off the water while soaping or shampooing.
- If you must use a tub, close the drain before turning on the water and fill the tub only half full. Bathe small children together.
- Never use your toilet as a waste basket.

### **Kitchen and Laundry — simple practices that save a lot of water:**

- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin. Use a vegetable brush.
- Do not use water to defrost frozen foods; thaw in the refrigerator overnight.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher; wash only full loads.
- Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.

### **Equipment — homes with high-efficiency plumbing fixtures and appliances save about 30% of indoor water use and yield substantial savings on water, sewer, and energy bills:**

- Consider purchasing high-efficiency toilets, or place a plastic container filled with water in the tank of your conventional toilet. Be sure it does not interfere with operation of the toilet's flush mechanisms.
- Install low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads.
- Consider purchasing a high efficiency washing machine which can save over 50% in laundry water and energy use.
- Repair all leaks. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons per day. To detect leaks in the toilet, add food coloring to the tank water. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking. Toilet repair advice is available on [www.toiletology.com/index.shtml](http://www.toiletology.com/index.shtml) .

### **Landscape Irrigation — depending on climate, up to 75 percent of a home's total water use during the growing season is for outdoor purposes (During drought conditions outdoor watering restrictions may be imposed, so some of the following tips will not apply.):**

- Detect and repair all leaks in irrigation system.

## North Texas Municipal Water District Ends Mandatory Water Restrictions

Drought officially over for 1.6 million North Texans;

Residents encouraged to continue using water wisely

(WYLIE, Texas)—Heavy, consistent rainfall has returned area lakes to full capacity, allowing the North Texas Municipal Water District to lift mandatory water restrictions. The move affects more than 1.6 million North Texas residents. “It’s hard to believe this time last year we were experiencing the worst drought in more than half a century,” said Jim Parks, NTMWD executive director. “That’s Texas weather for you. Anyone who’s lived here for more than a few days understands how unpredictable our weather can be. That’s why we will always encourage people to implement simple water-saving tips to ensure our water resources last.”

NTMWD is moving from its Stage 3 Drought Plan into what the District calls its Conservation Plan—its routine, nondrought plan. Since June 1, 2006, residents served by NTMWD have been required to observe mandatory outdoor water restrictions. The restrictions affected everything from watering landscapes and filling swimming pools to washing vehicles and hosing driveways and sidewalks.

“We faced an urgent water challenge, and North Texas responded,” said Parks. “In the middle of a severe drought, our customers saved 200 million gallons of water a day. We’re grateful for their support and hope all of us can make saving water a life-long habit.”

The existing NTMWD Conservation Plan does not have mandatory watering requirements, but rather recommendations for its Member Cities and Customers. The NTMWD service area includes approximately 60 cities and communities in and around the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Member Cities and Customers may now begin to transition to a conservation plan within the coming weeks instead of the existing mandatory water restrictions.

### Water Rights

The State of Texas regulates how much water NTMWD is permitted to draw from its reservoirs. Because of the recent rainfall, there has been low consumer demand for water in recent months, allowing NTMWD to stay within the State’s approved water rights for the remainder of the year. NTMWD is confident it can remain within its allotted water supply even as summer continues.

### Long-Term Water Projects

Prior to the drought, several water supply projects were initiated to bring additional supplies to the growing region. These projects, including the East Fork Raw Water Supply Project, Upper Sabine Supply Project and Lower Bois d’Arc Creek Reservoir, will help meet current and future water demands.

### Recommended Water-Saving Tips

NTMWD was the first utility in Texas to implement “Water IQ: Know Your Water,” a public education campaign. For the past two years, Water IQ has been a resource to help people understand where their water comes from and provide easy tips to save water like:

- Limit daytime watering, which results in evaporation and waste.
- Prevent excessive watering that creates runoff.
- Refrain from hosing non-pervious surfaces like driveways and sidewalks.
- Don’t water your lawn when it’s raining.
- Limit outdoor watering to no more than twice per week.

NTMWD is recommending North Texans adopt these simple tips into their lifestyle, regardless of weather conditions. An interactive Web site at [www.WaterIQ.org](http://www.WaterIQ.org) offers details about the campaign.

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**NEW** Web address:

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## CROSS-CONNECTION

Cross-connection? I know I can't have a cross-connection, but what is that?

In the July/August 2007 issue of *Quality on Tap!* published by the Texas Rural Water Association (TRWA), Joel Klumpp and Len Klandrud remark that cross-connection "is a common problem in the water industry." Someone complains that their water is making them sick. An investigation shows that, for instance, a cross-connection is found in the watering trough caused by a water hose left submerged in the trough. This allows the water to backflow into the potable water system. The TCEQ's Chapter 290 rules define a cross-connection "as any physical connection between a public drinking water system and either another water supply of unknown or questionable quality and source which may contain contaminating or polluting substances, or any source of water treated to a lesser degree than the public water system's treatment process."

Wylie Northeast Special Utility District (WNESUD), as are all water operators, is responsible for finding cross-connections and eliminating them to ensuring customers receive clean, pure drinking water. This problem is not limited to this area, but across the United States in both rural and city settings. You can help prevent any hazardous situations by the following eight easy steps suggested by Klumpp and Klandrud:

1. Identify priority facilities where there is a potential for contamination.
2. Conduct a survey of your premises for any physical connection between your public water system and private wells or raw water irrigation pumps.
3. Determine "degree of hazard" by contacting WNESUD who will make a qualified inspection and eliminate any health hazard.
4. Determine backflow conditions and pressure constraints that might create a backsiphonage or backpressure problem to the public water supply.
5. Select appropriate backflow prevention device.
6. Determine location for Installation at its source.
7. Establish backflow prevention assembly-testing schedule (tested and certified on an annual basis).
8. Consider containment devices.

WNESUD is constantly checking, inspecting and testing water samples to insure this never happens, but they need your help and your attention in identifying and reporting any potential or suspected backflow/or cross-connect problem.