

HEADWATERS

GROUNDWATER

CONSERVATION

DISTRICT

CONSERVATION PLAN 2012

Section One ----- Conservation Rules and Policies

Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District (District) has developed a comprehensive management plan which has been approved by the Texas Water Development Board to be administratively complete and in compliance with Texas Water Code 36.1071 and 31 TAC 356. The management plan has a number of management goals and performance standards to provide for the conservation of all groundwater resources in Kerr County.

The District has adopted rules and policies to implement the management plan as required by Texas Water Code 36.1071. Within these rules and policies, the District through permitting water for beneficial use, pumping caps, well spacing, and prohibiting waste, practices conservation. Water quality is very important to conservation and is protected by well spacing and drilling construction standards.

The District's management plan has goals to promote public education for water conservation through newspaper articles, the District website, and public schools.

Section Two ----- Conservation Practices

A primary conservation practice enacted by the District is conjunctive permitting, which prioritizes the use of surface water. Surface water allowed by the Texas Water Master is used before withdrawing groundwater.

The District encourages Rain Water Harvesting by way of Newspaper articles, the District website, and handouts.

The District supports the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) efforts for appropriate brush management.

Website Resources

Landscape Water conservation. Xeriscape
<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/xeriscape/xeriscape.html>

Water Wise Council of Texas
<http://www.waterwisetexas.org/>

The Landscape Design Site
<http://www.the-landscape-design-site.com/xeriscaping.html>

Take Care of Texas <http://www.takecareoftexas.org/>

Austin Water <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/water-conservation>

Water Saver Newsletter

<http://www.saws.org/conservation/newsletter/eneews/index.cfm>

Kids Links

<http://www.groundwateradventurers.org/>

Section Three ----- Conservation Landscaping

Water-wise landscaping is simply a set of landscaping principles that encourages responsible plant selection, landscape design and maintenance.

Plan It Before You Plant It. Be sure you are familiar with your landscape's many attributes. For instance, note which areas get more or less shade, which areas have reflected heat from the patio or house, and any other features you may encounter.

Use Appropriate Plants. Different plants have different requirements for optimum health. To use water most efficiently, choose plants that do not require much water. Select native plants and trees, or ones that are adapted to our semi-arid climate and are known to be non-invasive.

Use Grass Wisely. Take into consideration the different activities that will go on in your yard. Use grass only in those areas where it is a functional component of your landscape. A good rule of thumb is *"If the only time you walk on it is to mow it, you probably don't need it"*.

Water Wisely. Group plants according to their water needs. This will help you avoid over-watering some plants and under-watering others. Rather than frequent light waterings, apply thorough deep waterings less often. Install a drip irrigation system to get maximum benefit from the water used.

Just Mulch It. Use mulches to cover the soil and reduce evaporation. Mulching helps prevent the growth of weeds and covers unsightly barren areas.

Keep It Up. While using these principles helps reduce maintenance time, it does not completely eliminate it. Use of good preventive maintenance will reduce the need for costly and time-consuming maintenance later.

Section Four-----Conservation Education

Award Teacher Education Grants:

- * The District provides Education Grants to local schools for water conservation education.

Maintain and develop ongoing HGCD website development.

- * The Drought Index Graph and Current Monitor Well Levels are available on the website.

Education Outreach

- * The District participates in community activities to promote water conservation and provide water saver literature and rain gages.
- * Demonstrations of the District Aquifer Model are provided to schools and community organizations upon request.
- * HGCD and UGRA have provided the “Major Rivers” program material to local schools.

Section Five ----- Conservation Tips

We live in a semi-arid region. All of us need to practice water conservation all year, every year. Here are some easy tips from Headwaters GCD.

Indoors:

- * Run only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- * Take short showers rather than baths.
- * Displace some water in older toilet tanks.
- * Fix even small leaks immediately.
- * Turn off water while brushing teeth, shaving, etc.
- * Fill basin to wash foods, faces, etc.
- * Install water efficient showerheads and aerators.
- * Dry scrape dishes instead of rinsing.
- * Use garbage disposals sparingly.

Outdoors:

- * Limit landscape watering. One inch a week is enough for most Texas Grasses.
- * Reduce evaporation loss by using drip systems, running sprinklers only early or late in the day, and by covering pools and spas.
- * Choose plants and trees that thrive in low rainfall areas like ours.
- * Collect rainwater for landscape watering.
- * Never waste water washing things you could sweep. Wash vehicles where the water is recycled or use pressure washers.

When building or remodeling:

- * Make water-efficiency a top priority.
- * Install drip irrigation.
- * Build in rainwater harvesting systems.
- * Install low-flow toilets that require only 1.6 gallons of water per flush or less.
- * Test toilets for leaking flappers.