

# Water Matters

April - July 2026

*Most of the work that keeps drinking water safe happens quietly in the background. Water is routinely treated, tested and monitored to meet strict safety standards. Equipment is checked, systems are maintained, and data is scrutinized so any potential issues can be addressed early. Behind the scenes, water professionals are doing this work so the water at your tap is safe and reliable. Drinking Water Week: May 3 - 9, 2026*

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## WATER TOWERS SERVE AS COMMUNITY PRIDE, RESILIENCE

*Rising above our neighborhoods,  
water towers quietly combine  
engineering, emergency preparedness,  
and community identity in one  
essential landmark.*



Photo Credit: Michael L. Paule

Every community has landmarks that tell a story of shared history or a desired future.

Sometimes it's a historic courthouse in the town square. Sometimes it's a beautifully maintained park, a new fire station, a bridge lit at night, or even a mural painted on a retaining wall. These structures do more than serve a purpose — they signal community investment, identity, and pride.

Water towers belong in that same category. Across the country, town names, logos, or mascots are painted on them, becoming symbols of local identity. One such tower is the Lakeway Municipal Utility District's "golf ball" water tower that serves as a welcome beacon to Lakeway, Texas and a nod to the community's resort-style character. The tower's installation was a necessity in 1987, bringing much needed additional water pressure to the area, but painting it as a teed-up golf ball was an idea conceived after residents expressed their concern for the attractiveness of the tower. The tower was hand-painted by a crew of men, suspended by ropes, connected to pickup trucks 160 feet below them. Little did they know then how iconic that tower would become for Lakeway: a tangible reflection of the community's values and identity, as well as foresight. Like the water utility behind its operation and maintenance, it's just one part of a network of essential, working assets quietly serving every home and business in the community.

At its core, a water tower is simply a large storage tank positioned high above the ground. What makes it work so well is the force of gravity. When water is stored that high up, gravity naturally pushes it down through a system of pipes and into the surrounding homes and businesses, providing the steady water pressure we rely on every day—from turning on the shower to flushing the toilet or filling a glass. The higher the water, the stronger the pressure. If there's a sudden surge in demand or the main pumps lose power, the stored water in the tower can help keep water flowing for a time. That's why water towers are also vital emergency storage, providing extra water capacity for firefighting and temporary outages.

Behind every tower is a network of treatment plants, distribution lines, pumps, and highly skilled operations staff that make sure water is safe and available. Technologies are used to continuously monitor volumes and pressure as well as sample water to maintain quality, adjusting operations to meet fluctuating demand.

In times when headlines frequently focus on aging infrastructure across the nation, communities that maintain, modernize, and responsibly expand their systems demonstrate something powerful: commitment. Places that value preparedness by investing in their future make decisions that

*.cont inside...*



## LMUD IS AN OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTOR OF GROW GREEN PRODUCTS

Grow Green is a gardening education program from the City of Austin that promotes sustainable landscaping practices. It addresses water quality & conservation, recycling, encourages using the right plant in the right place, and the least impact-related way to address pest issues. Lakeway MUD became an official distributor of Grow Green in February 2026. As such, residents and visitors of the surrounding area are welcome to visit the Resource Center at our administration office, located at 1097 Lohmans Crossing, for a free copy of the Grow Green Native & Adapted Plant Guide for Central Texas, Grow Green fact sheets, and Landscape Design Templates. •

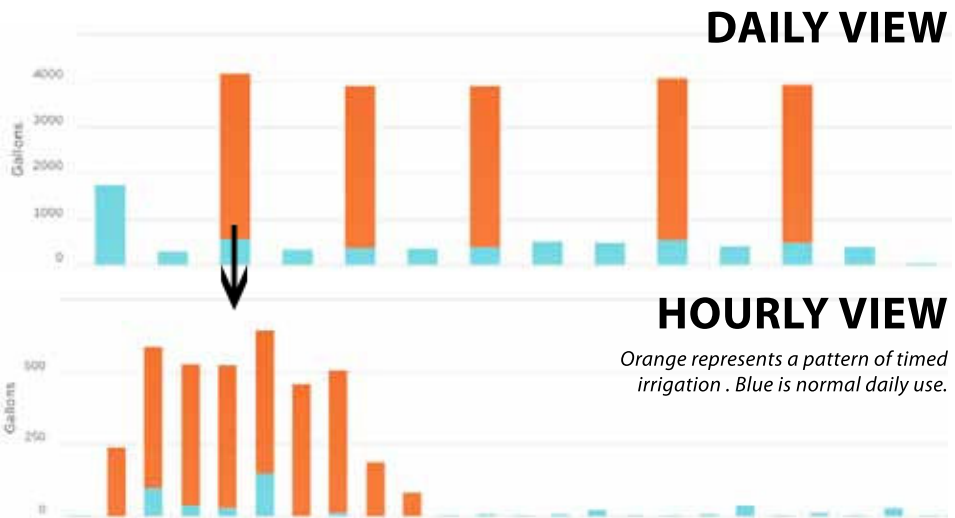
Thoughtful residential swimming pool design and ongoing maintenance can help save pool owners water, energy, and money. Addressing issues related to evaporation, water quality, leaks, or pool usage can all save water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WaterSense® program developed this guide to help residential pool owners and maintenance professionals understand and minimize pool water use. *Download the guide at [epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-09/ws-outdoor-pool-guide.pdf](https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-09/ws-outdoor-pool-guide.pdf).* •



HOMES WITH CLOCK TIMER CONTROLLED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS USE ABOUT 50 PERCENT MORE WATER OUTDOORS THAN HOMES WITHOUT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.

Source: [epa.gov](https://epa.gov)

Lakeway MUD's WaterSmart portal helps you stay aware of your water use. You can track your hourly or daily water usage, self-identify and resolve leaks, understand where your water is being used, compare your water use to similar households, and even set water use alerts. Learn more at [lakewaymud.org/update/watersmart](https://lakewaymud.org/update/watersmart). •



### # Sprinkler Spruce-Up

Get your irrigation system ready for warmer weather.

**Inspect.** Check for broken or damaged sprinkler heads to avoid wasting water.

**Connect.** Fix any breaks or leaks in your landscape or reach out to an irrigation pro for advice.

Don't overlook leaks. Inspect your sprinklers.



Before you ramp up your watering, **inspect** your irrigation system for broken or damaged sprinkler heads to avoid wasting water.

Connect the dots on your water use.



As you get ready for warmer weather, make sure you **connect** hoses and pipes in your irrigation system well to avoid leaks.

LIKE THE WATER UTILITY BEHIND IT, A WATER TOWER IS PART OF A NETWORK OF ESSENTIAL ASSETS QUIETLY SERVING EVERY HOME AND BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY.

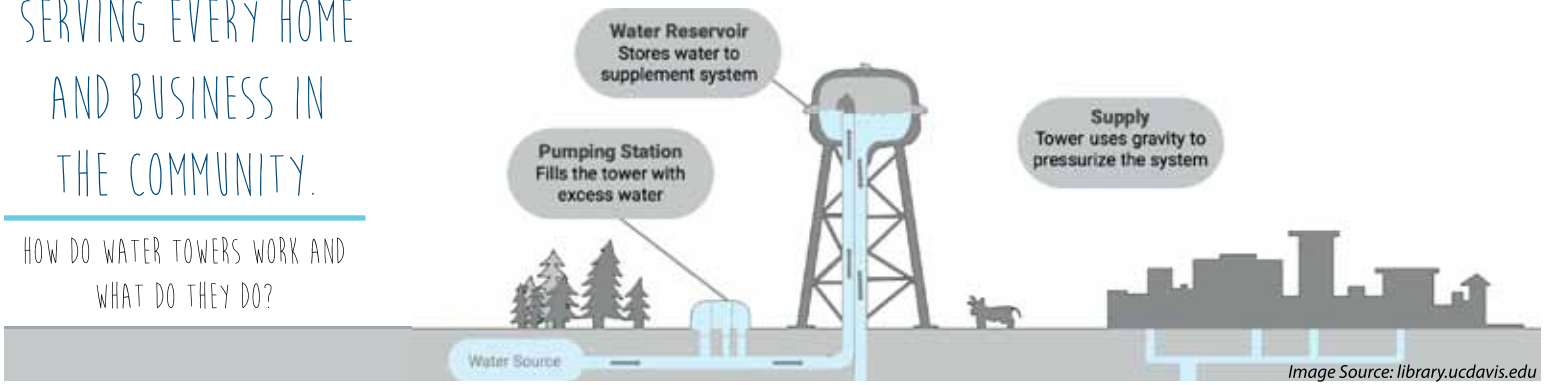
HOW DO WATER TOWERS WORK AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

impact years – sometimes decades – ahead.

Adding a new water tower is not a cosmetic decision – it is the result of modeling, forecasting, and regulatory review. Financial planning determines how to phase improvements responsibly while maintaining affordability for customers. Utilities must ensure there is sufficient storage to meet peak demand and emergency scenarios. They must also consider how new infrastructure fits into the landscape, balancing operational needs with community aesthetics.

In Central Texas, we know that water is never just water. It's Lake Travis levels watched anxiously after a dry summer. It's aquifer readings reported during drought briefings. It's lawn restrictions, conservation reminders, and long conversations about population growth. The presence of a visible, well-maintained water tower is a sign of long-term planning, investment, and commitment to public health, as well as a reminder of shared responsibility. These towers are part of how we keep our water flowing and part of why our community thrives.

*Previously published in Lake Travis View, February 2026. •*



YOUR TAP WATER STARTS AT LAKE TRAVIS, IS CONVEYED TO OUR TREATMENT FACILITY, TREATED IN MULTIPLE STEPS, STORED, THEN PUSHED THROUGH THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO REACH HOMES AND BUSINESSES. TO KEEP OUR SERVICES RELIABLE, WE NEED TO INVEST IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT OUR COMMUNITY DEPENDS ON.

DURING DRINKING WATER WEEK (AND BEYOND), SHOUT OUT TO THE PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR TAP: FIELD CREW ON CALL, OPERATORS RUNNING SAMPLES, ADMIN ANSWERING QUESTIONS, ENGINEERS PLANNING MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES. ALL THIS IMPORTANT WORK HAPPENS SO YOU HAVE WATER YOU CAN COUNT ON.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU TURNED ON THE TAP TODAY? SHOWERING, MAKING COFFEE, COOKING MEALS, DOING LAUNDRY, AND IRRIGATION. ALL OF THOSE ROUTINE TASKS ARE SUPPORTED BY WATER PROFESSIONALS AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING FOR YOU EVERY DAY.

*For more information, visit [awwa.org](http://awwa.org). •*

**Direct.** If you see your sprinkler pointed towards the sidewalk or the driveway, aim it towards the landscape.

**Select.** A WaterSense labeled weather-based irrigation controller adjust watering schedules based on local weather and landscape conditions. Check out EPA's irrigation controller brochure.

*For details, visit [epa.gov/watersense/sprinkler-spruce-up](http://epa.gov/watersense/sprinkler-spruce-up). •*

**Be direct with your water use this year.**



Don't water the pavement! **Direct** your sprinkler heads towards your landscape and avoid unwanted water waste this irrigation season.

**Be more selective about watering your yard.**



Take the guesswork out of watering! **Select** a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller to only water your landscape when needed.

“ [Thank you for] organizing relevant topics and creating an opportunity for our community to make a difference. I really appreciate all the community outreach.

- Cindy P.  
RE: Monthly Garden Club events

I just wanted you to know that [your on-call service tech] is an excellent representative of Lakeway MUD and my experience with him could not have been better.

- Houston A.  
RE: After-Hours Service Call



WE APPRECIATE FEEDBACK!  
SEND YOURS TO  
CUSTOMERSERVICE@LAKEWAYMUD.ORG.

Lakeway Municipal Utility District (LMUD), established in 1972, provides water, wastewater and some reuse services to many of the homes and businesses in the City of Lakeway and a portion of the Village of the Hills.

District Office:  
1097 Lohmans Crossing  
Lakeway, TX 78734

Phone: (512) 261-6222  
CustomerService@LakewayMUD.org  
www.LakewayMUD.org



# Events

Sat., April 18, 10am, LMUD Office

## Demonstration Garden Plant & Swap

Come be a part of adding more native plants to our demonstration gardens. We'll also have a plant swap so bring any natives or veggies you can spare to share with other neighbors. We'll bring the tools; dress comfortably! LTHS Students: this is a great time to add some Cavs in Service service hours. LMUD is an approved organization.

For more information on upcoming LMUD Monthly Garden Club events, visit [lakewaymud.org/update/monthly-garden-club-events](http://lakewaymud.org/update/monthly-garden-club-events).



Mon., May 18, 2pm, LMUD Office

## Functional Fungi

Presenter: Kelly Myers, Myers Exterior Design  
Do you want to learn more about nature's most interesting creation? Not plant, but it grows in harmony. Not animal, but it eats. Not mineral, but nourishes plants and animals. Learn how to use mushroom blocks to enhance soil composition and problem solve in a natural, low-cost, earth loving way!

Mon., June 15, 2pm, LMUD Office

## An Intro Beekeeping

Presenter: Michael Halprin  
Join a local beekeeper for a fascinating look inside the world of honey bees. Learn the basics of the bee life cycle, why bees are essential pollinators for our food supply and ecosystems, and what beekeepers do to care for healthy hives. Also includes a demonstration of common beekeeping equipment used to manage and protect bee colonies.

Mon., April 20, 10:30am, Lake Travis Community Library

## Earth Day Preschool Storytime

Stephanie Threinen, LMUD, will be reading water-themed children's books, providing a coloring activity, and songs! Visit [laketravislibrary.org](http://laketravislibrary.org) for details. •

# Updates

## LMUD IS AN APPROVED ORGANIZATION FOR THE LT CAVS IN SERVICE PROGRAM

Lake Travis High School students can now receive volunteer hour credits by working in the demonstration garden at LMUD's Admin Office, located at 1097 Lohmans Crossing. LMUD became an approved organization in Summer 2025. Work may include planting, weeding, and maintenance. For more information, please reach out to Customer Service at [customerservice@lakewaymud.org](mailto:customerservice@lakewaymud.org) or (512) 261-6222.

## LEAK RELIEF POLICY UPDATES APPROVED FEB. 2026

An adjustment request will only be considered if a request of a repaired leak is received within 60 days from the leak start date and for a leak, defined as "continuous water use" that lasted no longer than 30 days. Additionally, the Customer's potable water usage must be 125% or above the Customer's 2-year average from the same bill period(s). If it is determined that the Customer qualifies for a leak adjustment below \$2,000, a credit will be issued to the associated Account and the remaining billable water use will be adjusted in accordance with

the current Rate Order. Adjustments at or above \$2,000 must receive approval from the Board of Directors. If it is determined that the Customer does not qualify for a leak adjustment, consideration will be made if the excess water use qualifies as water waste or negligence and is susceptible to "non-compliance" penalty fees as outlined in the current Drought Contingency Plan and Rate Order. The Plan and Rate Order are available online at [lakewaymud.org](http://lakewaymud.org).

## LCRA WATER-SAVING REBATES INCLUDE TURF CONVERSION

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)'s WaterSmart Rebates program can help offset the cost of upgrading irrigation systems, maintaining landscapes and pools, testing your soil, and converting turf to help LMUD customers save water and money. In July 2025, LCRA significantly boosted residential rebate caps from \$600 to \$3,000, up to 50% of total cost, per property per year as well as increased per-item rebate maximums. Rebates reimburse materials—not labor or taxes. Consideration for a turf conversion rebate requires pre-approval. Rebates of \$600 or more in total will receive

a 1099 for that tax year. For more information, visit the LMUD office during office hours for a brochure (1097 Lohmans Crossing) or visit [lcra.org/water/watersmart/rebates](http://lcra.org/water/watersmart/rebates).

## LMUD EXPANDS SERVICES TO HIGHLANDS IN 2026

LMUD is pleased to announce that, effective September 2026, we will officially assume responsibility for water and wastewater service for Travis County MUDs 11, 12, and 13 customers. This strategic transition marks a significant step in unifying water services across the Lakeway region and ensuring long-term sustainability and reliability for current and future residents. LMUD will host a series of informational meetings to help facilitate a smooth transition. For more information, call the LMUD office at (512) 261-6222 •

Current  
Watering Restrictions  
available online at:  
[lakewaymud.org/customers/irrigation-schedule](http://lakewaymud.org/customers/irrigation-schedule)