

# Water Matters

Dec. 2025 - Mar. 2026

*Quick Tip: Turn off your sprinklers from November-February each year. Your grass is dormant over the winter, so there is no need to water. Use the downtime to upgrade your irrigation system. LCRA offers Lakeway MUD (LMUD) customers' rebates to help with the cost. Details: [lcra.org/water/watersmart/rebates](https://l cra.org/water/watersmart/rebates)*

---



## APPROVED: PROPOSITION 4 AND THE TEXAS WATER FUND

This past November, Texans voted in favor of Proposition 4, a constitutional amendment that dedicated up to \$1 billion annually from existing sales-tax revenues to the newly created Texas Water Fund. The measure, passed by the Legislature as House Joint Resolution 7 (HJR 7), is designed to provide the first long-term, statewide funding mechanism to support water and wastewater infrastructure.

The need for such a measure is clear: The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 2025 Texas Infrastructure Report Card gave the state's drinking water systems a D+ and wastewater systems a D-, citing aging facilities, frequent leaks, and limited investment in upgrades. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) estimates that more than \$154 billion will be required by 2050 to meet water and wastewater needs. At present, there is no dedicated constitutional funding source to address this challenge.

Population growth adds urgency: Texas's population is projected to grow from 32.9 million in 2030 to 53.2 million by 2080. Ensuring safe, reliable drinking water is not only a public health priority, but also critical for sustaining economic growth. Indicators of strain are already visible. According to the ASCE Report Card, the number of boil-water advisories in Texas doubled between 2020 and 2023, highlighting the impact of aging infrastructure, while the

number of Public Water Systems restricting water use to avoid shortages rose from 46 in 2019 to 571 in 2023, affecting approximately 6.4 million people.

Now approved by voters, Proposition 4 will require the Comptroller to transfer up to \$1 billion each fiscal year, beginning in 2027, into the Texas Water Fund. Transfers would occur only if sales-tax revenues exceed \$46.5 billion. The fund will be administered by the TWDB and distrib-

---

OTHER STATES ARE WATCHING TEXAS CLOSELY, WITH POLICY EXPERTS SUGGESTING THE TEXAS WATER FUND COULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE OVER MULTIPLE DECADES.

---

uted through its existing financing programs, which are guided by the State Water Plan. The plan, updated every five years and built from sixteen regional water plans, provides a roadmap for meeting future water demand. Proposition 4 will strengthen this process by attaching reliable funding to long-term planning.

For communities like ours, the potential benefits are significant: dedicated resources could support replacing ag

*.cont inside...*

ing mains, modernizing treatment plants, expanding reuse and storage projects, and investing in flood mitigation. By expanding access to low-interest TWDB loans and grants, Proposition 4 could also help reduce the financial burden on local utilities and ratepayers.

Proposition 4 marks an important milestone. Other states are watching Texas closely, with policy experts suggesting the Texas Water Fund could serve as a model for sustainable investment in water infrastructure over multiple decades.

## PROPOSITION 4 MARKS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN TEXAS WATER POLICY.

Proposition 4 represents an opportunity to address Texas's pressing water needs with a long-term solution that matches the scale of the challenge. • *Previously published (with edits) in Lake Travis View, October 2025.*

*New data show that since the creation of the Water Fund surrogate (via prior measures), the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has already committed more than \$223 million to over 40 rural water-system projects, including new wells, storage tanks, and line replacements — indicating early deployment ahead of full implementation. The TWDB, established in 1957, has a long track record of responsibly managing billions of dollars in state and federal water financing programs. Its data-driven approach, guided by the State Water Plan and 16 regional planning groups, ensures that funds are allocated where they are most needed to improve system reliability, support community growth, and safeguard drinking water quality across Texas.*

# Fix a Leak Week



HERE ARE SOME OF THE PLACES LEAKS MAY BE HIDING IN YOUR HOME.  
Tips for Detecting Leaks in Your Home from EPA.

## Indoors

- ✓ **FAUCETS:** Listen for drips and turn on the tap to check for water going the wrong direction.
- ✓ **UNDER SINKS:** Check for pooling water under pipes and rust around joints and edges.
- ✓ **APPLIANCES:** Check for rust or signs of pooling water underneath all water-using appliances (dish-washers, refrigerators with ice makers, washing machine, water heater, water softener, etc) which could indicate a supply line leak.
- ✓ **TOILETS:** Listen for running water and conduct the food coloring test.
- ✓ **SHOWER HEADS:** Turn on and look for drips or stray sprays that can be stopped with tape.
- ✓ **BATHTUBS:** Turn on the tub, then divert the water to the shower and see if there's still a lot of water coming from the tub spout; that could mean the tub spout diverter needs replacing.
- ✓ Check for signs of moisture or mold on your walls, ceilings, or floors. This could indicate that a pipe is wreaking havoc behind the scenes and requires the attention of a professional.

## Outdoors

- ✓ **AT THE SPIGOT:** Ensure tight connections with the hose and see if the hose washer needs replacing.
- ✓ **IN-GROUND IRRIGATION SYSTEM:** Visually inspect your system while it is running. Check for broken sprinkler heads or nozzles spraying in the wrong direction.

### CHECK



Check for leaks. Indoors, look for dripping faucets, showerheads, and listen for running toilets. Outdoors, check irrigation systems, sprinklers, and spigots or hose bibbs.

### TWIST



Twist and tighten faucet, showerhead, hose, and pipe connections to stop drips. To save more water, twist a WaterSense labeled aerator on to your bathroom faucet.

### REPLACE



If your toilet keeps running long after your flush, you may need to replace a worn toilet flapper, the rubber ball attached to a chain in your toilet tank.

### TAKE A 10-MINUTE TEST TO CHECK FOR TOILET LEAKS



1

Drop a dye tablet or add a few drops of food coloring into the tank at the back of your toilet and wait 10 minutes.

2

If the color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak that can probably be fixed by replacing a worn toilet flapper.

3

Don't forget to flush the toilet afterwards to remove any dye in the bowl.



LEARN HOW TO GET A HANDLE ON LEAKS AT [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

EPA's annual Fix a Leak Week is held March 16-22, 2026: The average household's leaks can account for nearly 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year and ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day. Many leaks are often easy to fix, requiring only a few tools and hardware that can pay for themselves in water savings. For details, visit [epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week](http://epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week).

# Plan Now Plant Later

Tips from Gay Bonorden Gray, founder of Best Tex Gardens landscaping and volunteer for the LMUD Demonstration Garden:

## STEP 1: Assess Planting Area

Every successful landscape design begins with understanding your space. Consider how much sun or shade the area receives, dimensions of the space, and slope and drainage patterns.

## STEP 2: Choose Your Style

Landscapes can reflect different levels of planning and structure, such as Carefree, Structured, or a Combination, which blends natural and designed elements

## STEP 3: Apply Design Principles

Start with your architectural elements—the features that immediately draw the eye. These provide structure and a foundation to build around. Examples include trees, ornamental grasses, or hardscaping (paths, fountain, stonework).

## STEP 4: Plan Year-Round Interest

Include a variety of species so something is always blooming at various times throughout the year.

## STEP 5: Use Mulch and Turf Alternatives

Mulch conserves water and should be maintained at 1 to 4 inches deep. For turf alternatives that are more sustainable than traditional lawns, consider native ground covers such as silver ponyfoot, frogfruit, horseherb, buffalo grass, or blue grama grass.

For additional details, visit [lakewaymud.org/update/the-basics-of-landscaping-with-native-plants](http://lakewaymud.org/update/the-basics-of-landscaping-with-native-plants).

## COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED DEMONSTRATION GARDEN



July 13, 2025: project work completed by local high school student Nico Vugrincic and team for his Eagle Scout ranking! Less than 6% of Scouts achieve this rank! The work that it took to plan and execute this project — including a walking path to connect the Lakeway Heritage Center and the LMUD building, refinishing a bench, and installing a message board — was a great achievement. Congratulations to Nico and his team! As a public space, we know his work will help our native plant demonstration garden grow into a valuable community resource!

In April 2023 a native plant garden was established at the LMUD Admin Office with the specific goal of serving as a local demonstration site for promoting biodiversity and water conservation. With guidance from Clarence Reed and Vickie Wilson, volunteers of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), as well as native plant landscaper Gay Bonorden Gray of Best Tex Gardens and Leah Crenwelge, the garden showcases a variety of native and adaptive plants that thrive in the local climate, reducing the need for excessive irrigation and chemical inputs. By highlighting the beauty and resilience of native species, the garden encourages homeowners, schools, and businesses to adopt similar landscaping practices.

## VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED

The LMUD Demonstration Garden serves as a community resource that is in need of constant care and attention. Local garden groups, individuals, and students interested in supporting local biodiversity and water conservation efforts are encouraged to volunteer. Lake Travis High School students may earn Cavs in Service hours for their volunteer efforts. Donations can be dropped off any time throughout the year, during regular business hours at the LMUD Admin Office: 1097 Lohmans Crossing Rd. For details, visit [lakewaymud.org/lmud-demonstration-garden](http://lakewaymud.org/lmud-demonstration-garden).

## JOIN OUR GARDEN CLUB!

Join us for our monthly garden club events. We encourage local garden club members and any gardening enthusiast (with or without experience) to join us for these educational, hands-on opportunities facilitated by local experts who can help you transform your yard using native and adaptive plants. Benefits include a beautiful yard that reduces your water usage, is lower maintenance than traditional turf, and supports local wildlife (think: pollinators) and ecosystems. For details, visit [lakewaymud.org/update/monthly-garden-club-events](http://lakewaymud.org/update/monthly-garden-club-events).

## VISIT THE RESOURCE CENTER & SEED LIBRARY

Make use of the Lake Travis Seed Library, which contains free seeds of plants native to Central Texas (which help support biodiversity and water-saving measures) as well as vegetables and herbs known to grow well in our region. The LMUD Admin office also is home to a resource center, filled with water-saving pamphlets and information. For details, visit [lakewaymud.org/lt-seed-library](http://lakewaymud.org/lt-seed-library).

“ [Your on-call service technician] came out at 9:30 last night to fix my grinder pump. He took care of everything ...he’s an excellent representative of Lakeway MUD and my experience with him could not have been better.

- David W.  
RE: Customer Service Call

I walk [my dog] every day... and we almost always see one of the Lakeway MUD trucks... They are consistently friendly.

- Mark W.

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



# Updates

## Winter Averaging in Effect

### MINIMIZE WATER USE TO SAVE \$\$

NOV DEC JAN FEB

LakewayMUD.org

For details on Winter Averaging, visit [lakewaymud.org/update/winter-averaging](http://lakewaymud.org/update/winter-averaging).

### WINTER AVERAGING IN EFFECT THRU MARCH 1

LMUD determines their customers’ volume charges for wastewater service based on “Winter Averaging” which takes place November through February each year. This period of lower outdoor water usage helps your water utility get a better average for how much of our customers’ water use is directed to our water recycling plant for treatment. Because wastewater is not metered, your wastewater volume charge for the year is based on your lowest monthly water use during the prior “Winter Averaging” time period. Using less water (such as limiting your irrigation) will help to minimize your bills for the following year. For more information about Winter Averaging, visit [lakewaymud.org/update/winter-averaging](http://lakewaymud.org/update/winter-averaging).

### FY 2026 BUDGET INCLUDES UPDATED SERVICE RATES

At the October 8, 2025 Board of Directors meeting, General Manager Earl Foster presented revisions to the FY 2026 Rate Order that included an increase in water and wastewater base rates. Beginning with usage after October 1, 2025 (which appear on December 2025 bill statements), the monthly water base rate has increased from \$30.00 to \$33.00. Wastewater base rates have also been adjusted—from \$24.00 to \$27.00 for in-district customers and from \$84.00 to \$87.00 for out-of-district customers. These updates help ensure con-

tinued reliability and investment in essential water and wastewater infrastructure. For more information, visit [lakewaymud.org/customers/rates](http://lakewaymud.org/customers/rates).

### MONITOR HIGHLAND LAKE LEVELS WITH LCRA’S RIVER OPERATIONS REPORT

Lakeway’s only source for raw water is Lake Travis, part of the Highland Lakes chain, managed by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). Lakes Buchanan and Travis are the two water supply reservoirs in the Highland Lakes system. Both lakes fluctuate, capturing water during rainy times to provide a reliable water supply for our region during drier times. Their combined levels trigger LMUD watering restrictions to take effect. Lake levels can be monitored using LCRA’s River Operations Report, available at [hydromet.lcra.org/riverreport](http://hydromet.lcra.org/riverreport). Current watering restrictions can be found at [lakewaymud.org/customers/irrigation-schedule](http://lakewaymud.org/customers/irrigation-schedule).

### 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 materi-

als—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 in 2026 to help facilitate a smooth transition. For more information, call the LMUD office at (512) 261-6222

### SAVE WATER, MONEY WITH A FREE WATERSMART ACCOUNT

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 with a free WaterSmart account, available to LMUD customers. See the simple steps and watch videos that walk you through the process at [lakewaymud.org/update/watersmart](http://lakewaymud.org/update/watersmart).