

Water Conservation

August 2, 2010



NTMWD

- The North Texas Municipal Water District provides water for a number of cities and utility districts in and around the Metroplex, including Sachse.
- NTMWD's purpose is to acquire, treat, and distribute potable water, and to collect, treat and dispose of wastes, both liquid and solid, in order to reduce pollution, conserve and develop the natural resources of Texas.



NTMWD

- Water conservation and maximizing the efficiency of existing water supplies is the most cost-effective and sound water management strategy that can be implemented. Supplies provided through water conservation strategies accounts for more than 25 percent of the NTMWD's service area future supplies, according to the 2007 State Water Plan.
- The NTMWD, its Member Cities, and Customers have implemented, approved, or adopted various water management strategies to support region-wide water efficient management practices. Water management strategies include, but are not limited to, the continuing implementation of water conservation plans, enhancing water awareness and education programs, adhering to time-of-day landscape watering schedules, offering retrofit and rebate programs, and combating water losses through improvements to aging infrastructure.

Water Conservation in Sachse

- In April 2009, the City of Sachse adopted the NTMWD's *Water Conservation and Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Response Plan*.
- This plan contains Landscape Water Management Measures, which are ongoing measures (even in non-drought conditions) that are required by the NTMWD in order to irrigate landscaping properly while using less water.

Landscape Water Management

- The following are minimal measures as required by the NTMWD:
 1. Time of day restrictions prohibiting lawn irrigation watering from 10 AM to 6 PM from April 1 to October 31.
 2. Prohibition of watering of impervious surfaces. (wind driven water drift will be taken into consideration)
 3. Prohibition of outdoor watering during precipitation or freeze events.
 4. Lawn and landscape irrigation limited to twice per week.

Landscape Water Management

- The following are minimal measures as required by the NTMWD (cont.):
 5. Prohibition of the use of treated water to fill or refill residential, amenity and any other natural or manmade ponds. (any still body of water with a surface area of 500 square feet or more.)
 6. Rain and freeze sensors and/or ET (evapotranspiration) or smart controllers required on all new irrigation systems.
 7. “At home” car washing can only be done when using a water hose with a shut-off nozzle.

Landscape Water Management

- The following are minimal measures as required by the NTMWD (cont.):
 8. Member cities and customers are responsible for developing regulations, ordinances, policies or procedures for enforcement of water conservation guidelines.
 9. Prohibition of watering areas that have been overseeded with cool season grasses, such as rye grass, except for golf courses and public athletic fields.

Sachse Ordinance

- By adopting Ordinance 3128 on April 20, 2009, the City has adopted the Landscape Water Management Measures and can enforce these measures.
- Enforcement can include up to a \$2,000 fine and/or a discontinuance of water service.

Proposed Course of Action

- Three step process:
 - Education – Sachse’s citizens are likely unaware that such measures are in place. The City should utilize all forms of information distribution to get the word out. This would include water bill inserts, citizen quarterly newsletters, website, city hall sign, info at front counters, etc.
 - Reminder - When a property owner is in violation of the ordinances, a reminder letter or door hanger can be used to ask for compliance.
 - Enforcement – When all else fails, Code Enforcement can move forward with fines.