

Quarterly Update of Water Conservation Activities

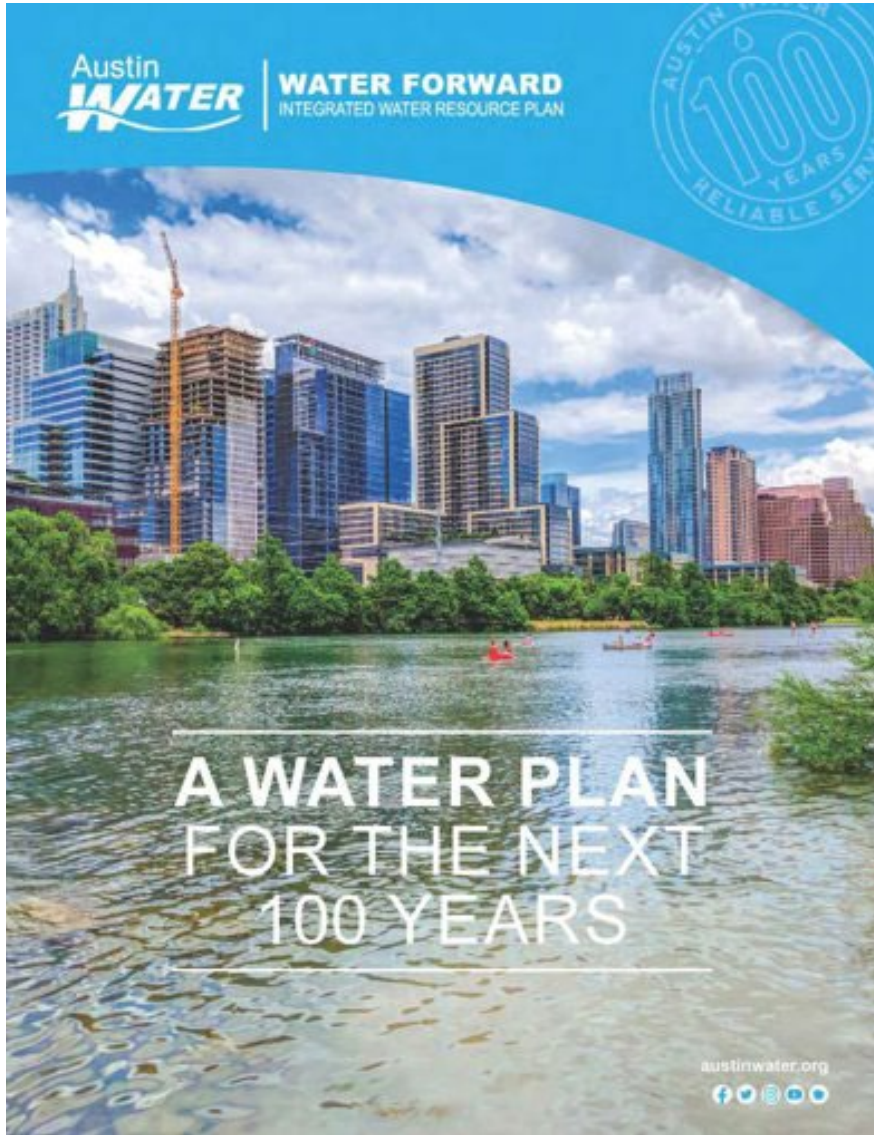
Single Family Residential Landscape Transformation Ordinance

Water Conservation Division



November 15, 2022





💧 Water Forward Plan - Landscape Transformation Ordinance (D5)

- From traditional landscaping to plants with reduced water needs
- New single-family residential
- Potential limits on turf and irrigation
- Savings goal of 2,490 AF (2.2 MGD) by 2040



Public/stakeholder engagement

- Public and External Stakeholder Meetings

- February, May, and June 2022

- Speakup Austin

- Survey (256 responses)



- Smaller External Stakeholder Group Meetings

- Home Builders Association of Greater Austin
- Irrigation professionals
- Texas Nursery and Landscape Association / Turfgrass Producers of Texas
- Central Texas Chapter of ASLA



Transforming landscapes to save water



**Build with
savings**



**Set customers
up for success**



**Encourage
alternative
water**



Build with savings

• Enhanced Soil Inspections

- A minimum of 6 inches of topsoil (ECM 1.4.7.B5)
- Topsoil mix shall be composed of 20 percent compost... (Standard Specifications Manual 601S.3.A)
- Water Savings: 10% reduction
- Cost:
 - Environmental inspection cost could increase by \$80.

• Mulch is currently required and inspected



Build with savings

◆ Required residential plant list

- ECM Appendix N – Commercial properties only
- Grow Green Plant Guide could act as a model for plant list





Build with savings



• Limit turf grass area

- Up to 50% of landscape area; 2,250 sqft max
- Water savings: 16% reduction or 4,350 gallons annually per home
- Cost:
 - Possible \$80 increase for enhanced inspection
 - Additional bed cost - \$6 per sq ft - \$8,700 average home





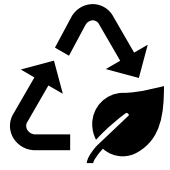
Build with savings

- Limit irrigation area
 - Up to 50% of landscape area
 - Water savings: 35% reduction or 9,800 gallons annually per home
- Cost:
 - Possible \$71 increase for enhanced irrigation inspection performed by Austin Water



Set customers up for success

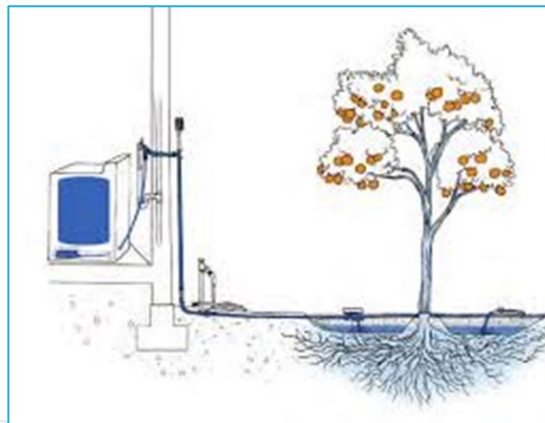
Better Irrigation	Water Savings (gal/yr/home)	Cost
Require pressure reduction devices (PRD)	6,100 (22% savings)	\$350-\$500 + \$71 increase in permit cost for Austin Water inspection
Require irrigation inspection (post-installation)	2,800 (10% savings)	Austin Water inspection
Offer new home irrigation check-ups within 90 days	1,400 (5% savings)	Austin Water staff



Encourage alternative water

• Required plumbing for laundry to landscape

- Available in all new homes
- Supply: 3,500 gal
- Cost: <\$1,000



• Incentivize builders to add rainwater harvesting

- Incentivize building homes with 500-gallon tanks/systems
- Supply: 5,000
- Cost: No required costs



Bundling activities into scenarios

In all scenarios

Build with savings

Setting up customers for success

Encourage alternative water

Options

Limiting turf or irrigation



Example scenario #1 (Turf limitation)

	Water Savings (gal/yr/home)	Builder Cost (per home)	Responsible Department
Existing Soil and Mulch Requirements	2,400	\$800 + \$80 increase to environmental inspection	DSD Inspection
Turf Grass Limitation (50%)	4,300	\$8,700 + \$80 increase to environmental inspection	DSD Inspection
Irrigation Requirements	6,400	\$350 - \$500 + \$71 increase for irrigation permit	AW Inspection
Irrigation Checkup	700	N/A	AW Service
Total	13,800	\$10,150	
Encourage Alternatives (graywater & rainwater)	8,500	<\$1,000 + TBD	DSD and AW

Example scenario #2 (Irrigation limitation)

	Water Savings (gal/yr/home)	Builder Cost (per home)	Responsible Department
Existing Soil and Mulch Requirements	1,800	\$800 + \$80 increase to environmental inspection	DSD Inspection
Irrigation limitation (50%)	9,800	\$71 increase for irrigation permit	AW Inspection
Irrigation Requirements	2,600	\$350 - \$500 + \$71 increase for irrigation permit	AW Inspection
Irrigation Checkup	400	N/A	AW Service
Total	14,600	\$1,450	
Encourage Alternatives (graywater & rainwater)	8,500	<\$1,000 + TBD	DSD and AW

Next Steps

• **October/November**

- COA stakeholders
- SpeakUp Austin! Update and Survey
- Stakeholder/public meetings
- RMC

• **December**

- Develop ordinance language
- WWWC

• **January - February**

- Affordability review
- Legal review
- Last Public Meeting

• **March-May**

- WFTF, RMC, and WWWC
- City Council



How can Austin grow and meet our water use goal?



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