



Your source for all things water

Committee's rate proposal aims to lower SAWS bills for most

At a time when most household expenses are going up, a lower SAWS bill would be both unexpected and welcomed. But that's exactly what will happen if a dedicated group of citizen volunteers get their way.

When the SAWS Rate Advisory Committee, or RAC, was assembled earlier this year to review the utility's rate structure, one priority stood out above the rest: making essential water and sewer service affordable to all.

"Developing a strategy that would ease the financial challenges many San Antonians have ... was very much a priority for the RAC members," said Frances Gonzalez, RAC chairwoman.

Under the proposed rate structure, 100% of residential bills will reflect reduced wastewater charges, while 83% will include reduced water charges. For customers who meet income requirements and enroll in SAWS' Affordability

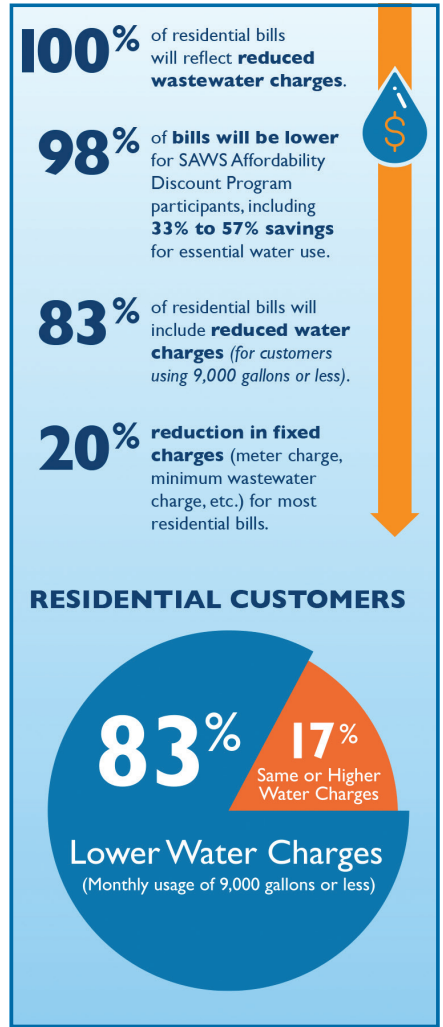
Discount Program, 98% of bills will be lower.

The new structure also adds additional pricing signals for outdoor water use, to further promote conservation.

SAWS completes a rate study about every five years. This helps ensure water and wastewater rates are enough to cover operating costs and invest in infrastructure, fairly share those costs across each customer type, and reflect the community's values.

The committee is made up of customers from every part of SAWS' service area, including residential, multifamily and recycled water customers, as well as large and small businesses, manufacturers, and environmental and community groups.

The SAWS Board was briefed on the recommendations in August and will vote on the proposal later this fall. The changes will then go to San Antonio City Council for final consideration, aiming for a January 2023 effective date.



To learn more about the rate proposal and see how your own bill will be affected, visit saws.org/rac.

Following Stage 2 watering rules? We appreciate you!

To everyone who has followed the Stage 2 watering rules, here's a bit of good news: Your crispy grass should catch a break soon as the weather shifts into fall.

But for those not yet on board, "Water you doing?"

Water conservation is everyone's responsibility, especially during extreme drought. Unlike other areas in the region where more severe watering cutbacks are in place, SAWS' multiple water sources have made it possible for San Antonio to remain in Stage 2.

As a reminder, under Stage 2, landscape watering with a sprinkler, irrigation system or

soaker hose is allowed only from **7-11 a.m. and 7-11 p.m., one day a week, based on the last number of your street address**. You can still hand-water with a hose-end nozzle any time.

Breaking the rules is no joke. SAWS water enforcers are patrolling neighborhoods, including gated communities, and issuing fines — not warnings.

If you witness excessive watering or water waste, you can report it online at saws.org/waterwaste.

Remember to visit GardenStyleSA.com for weekly watering advice and landscaping tips to keep your yard thriving.



'Tis the season for falling leaves and clever disguises — celebrate both during BOOtanica, Saturday, Oct. 15 at San Antonio Botanical Garden. Wear your favorite trick-or-treat costume and experience the bone-chilling side of our native plants! Tickets at sabot.org/events.

Event Calendar

Boerne Book & Art Festival

Oct. 1

Boerne Main Plaza

100 N. Main St.

boernebookfest.com

Chalk It Up 2022

Oct. 8

Artpace San Antonio

Houston Street (downtown)

artpace.org/chalk-it-up

Texas WaterSaver Gardening Guided Tour

Oct. 20

San Antonio Botanical Garden

555 Funston Place

sabot.org

Guided Bird Tour

Oct. 23

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

10750 Pleasanton Road

mitchelllake.audubon.org

Día de Los Muertos

Oct. 29 & 30

Hemisfair

630 E. Nueva St.

muertosfest.com

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)

saws.org/waternews

Hey water nerds: Rain to Drain tours are back!

San Antonio's water and sewer system is rarely seen, hidden deep beneath rock and road. But the Rain to Drain Experience unearths our city's water story with a behind-the-scenes look at the water supplies and delivery systems that flow from taps to toilets.

You're invited to join the journey on Saturday, Sept. 24.

The expedition begins with a visit to an Edwards Aquifer recharge cave. Then you're off to see the inner workings of the H2Oaks Center — home to three water supplies. You'll

then explore the Clouse Water Recycling Center, a true sensory experience.

"In order to appreciate your municipal water system, you have to be able to first see it, touch it and understand it," said Robert R. Puente, SAWS president/CEO.

The Rain to Drain Experience is free for Bexar County residents ages 18 and older. Bus transportation is provided, along with a light breakfast and box lunch.

Register at saws.org/tour. Don't wait — seats are limited and fill up fast!



Monarch Butterfly Festival takes flight Oct. 8

Just in time for migrating monarchs to move through Texas and on to Mexico, the festival kicks off Saturday, Oct. 8 at Brackenridge Park.

Visitors can expect monarch tagging demos, waggle dancing, educational booths and a unique People for Pollinators procession.

There will also be a Forever Journey altar,

where you can honor loved ones who have died by tagging butterflies in their memory.



Since starting the Forever Journey initiative in 2020, five tagged butterflies have been recovered on the forest floor in Mexico — usually just in time for Día de Los Muertos in early November.

For more information about the festival and the Forever Journey, visit texasbutterflyranch.com/festival.

It's September ... but is it really fall yet?

The calendar says autumn is upon us, but Mother Nature makes the rules.

While it may not feel much cooler, the days are gradually getting shorter — making fall the perfect time to enhance your outdoor living space. (Hint: our Outdoor Living Rebate and WaterSaver Landscape Coupon can help!)

Landscape lacking shade? Now is the time to get some trees in the ground. The mild soil and air temperatures provide excellent conditions for the root systems to begin to grow.

Craving color? Try these stunners:

- **Firecracker plant** makes a statement in bold red, drawing the eye and hummingbirds, too.
- **Gulf muhly grasses** look magical in fall, with dainty pink seed heads waving in the breeze.
- **Fall aster** is a pop of purple perfect for pollinators.



Remember: plants' water needs (including grass) drop dramatically in fall. Over-watering can lead to plant disease and lawn fungus.