



Your source for all things water

Is drought the new normal?

For those who didn't know, San Antonio is in a drought-prone region. It's nothing new — we always have been and always will be.

Despite that, our community has thrived by working together on water — from diversifying our supplies to saving water year in and year out. But another key part of our water-saving success is having reasonable drought rules and following them diligently.

“The rules are intended to help everyone retain the health of their landscapes while cutting back on discretionary water use,” says Karen Guz, vice president-Conservation. “Some people think what they do at their home or business to save water doesn't matter that much. But it does.”

Discretionary water use adds up to millions of gallons each day from thousands of irrigation systems and hose-end sprinklers. When that water use is not spread out per the watering rules, it strains the pipes that transport the water and can cause them to break.

“That means more people out in the heat making repairs and more water wasted when we need it most,” says Guz.

Working together as a community is how we avoid deeper restrictions — Stage 2 watering rules remain in place despite record-low Edwards Aquifer levels — and maintain water needs for our diverse economy.

If the constant drought has you down on your landscape this summer and last, visit GardenStyleSA.com for free WaterSaver landscape designs, free consultation services and loads of incentives to help you get what you want long-term. Did we say it's free? Well, it is.

In the meantime, please “Wrangle your water use” and follow Stage 2 watering rules.

That means landscape watering with a sprinkler, irrigation system or soaker hose 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 always hand-water any ol' time you want.

Visit saws.org/wrangle for more tips to wrangle your water use. And visit GardenStyleSA.com for weekly watering advice and landscaping tips to reduce outdoor water use while still keeping your yard thriving.

WRANGLE YOUR WATER USE
GARDEN LIKE A TEXAN

STAGE 2 WATER WISELY

CHECK THE TIME
7-11 AM MORNINGS
7-11 PM EVENINGS

KNOW YOUR DAY

M	T	W	TH	F
0	2	4	6	8
1	3	5	7	9

LAST DIGIT OF ADDRESS

WATER ONCE A WEEK

Keeping crews cool — and safe

Protecting our employees is our No. 1 priority. On any given day, SAWS has about 850 workers in the field cleaning sewer lines, repairing pipes, reading meters and digging trenches — all in the sweltering heat and around scorching asphalt.

That's why the utility is doing everything possible to keep our field crews safe, including providing fruit and beverages high in electrolytes, having two crews onsite to alternate the workload and giving mandatory 15-minute breaks every hour.



But it's the mobile HVAC systems that are the real game-changers.

“These units provide air conditioning directly to the jobsite,” says Carlos Mendoza, vice president-Distribution and Collection. “At sites where work is expected to last several hours, it's well-received by our maintenance crew.”

Considering there have been zero heat-related incidents this summer compared to four last year, the units have been worth the expense of renting them.

“We aim to do as much as possible to keep our employees safe, and we're always looking for ways to do even better,” Mendoza said.

Join the MySAWS Conversation:



Event Calendar

Second Saturday Habitat Work Day

Sept. 9

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Celebrate Fall Planting

Sept. 16

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Greater San Antonio Quilt Show

Sept. 22-23

San Antonio Shrine Auditorium
901 N. Loop 1604 West
sanantoniouilt.org

Jazz'SAlive

Sept. 29-30

Civic Park at Hemisfair
434 S. Alamo St.
saparks.org/events

Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival

Oct. 7

Brackenridge Park
3910 N. St. Mary's St.
bloomingwithbirdie.com/monarchfest

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

Storm drains are only for rain

Rain may be a rare occurrence these days, but when it does happen the San Antonio River and local creeks are inundated with debris and contaminants.

That's because trash from streets and parking lots or chemicals from driveways and landscapes is washed down storm drains and right into the nearest body of water.

It's called runoff — and it's a major source of pollution to the San Antonio River watershed.

You can help prevent pollutants and debris from entering our storm drains.

- Toss trash in garbage bins.

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly, within recommended amounts (and avoid using if rain is in the forecast).
- Pick up and dispose of pet waste.
- Use drip pans to catch engine oil and other pollutants when repairing automobiles and recycle them.
- Compost or mulch leaves and yard trimmings instead of sweeping them into the street.
- Direct downspouts and rain gutters away from paved surfaces.

SAWS summer of service in full swing



San Antonians are all about kindness and community. Hugs to all who showed up bright and early to our drive-thru food collection for the San Antonio Food Bank at SAWS Headquarters, Saturday, July 22. The event was part of the revamped SAWS Summer of Service outreach program! Remember to follow @MySAWS on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to find out where our #SAWSsummer crew will pop up and how you can be a part of the sizzling summer of service celebrations.

Understanding your flood risk

Do you know if the area you live in is prone to flooding? The City of San Antonio Public Works Department can help you determine if your area is at risk.

Using the Federal Emergency Management Agency's flood insurance rate maps, Public Works can show you basic flood information including flood zones and other flood information such as local drainage, depths of flooding, special flood-related hazards in different parts of the city and historical flood data. They can also share with you the areas of town that provide natural floodplain ecosystem functions and do not impede the flow of water.

If flood water affects your property, Public Works can investigate the problem and give property protection advice or send someone to investigate and offer possible solutions.

Contact the Public Works Department at 210-207-8022 for more information.

Entiende tu riesgo de inundación

¿Sabes si el área en la que vives es propensa a inundaciones? El departamento de Obras Públicas de la Ciudad de San Antonio puede ayudarte a determinar si tu área está en riesgo.

Utilizando los mapas de inundaciones de la Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias (FEMA), el departamento de Obras Públicas puede mostrarte la información básica sobre inundaciones, incluyendo zonas de inundaciones y otra información de inundaciones, como drenaje local, profundidades de inundaciones, peligros especiales relacionados con inundaciones en diferentes partes de la ciudad y datos históricos de inundaciones. También pueden compartir con usted las áreas de la ciudad que proporcionan funciones de ecosistemas de llanuras de inundación naturales y no impiden el flujo de agua.

Si tu propiedad es impactada por la lluvia, el departamento de Obras Públicas puede investigar el problema y brindarte consejos y ofrecer soluciones sobre cómo proteger tu propiedad.

Comuníquese con el departamento de Obras Públicas llamando al 210-207-8022 para obtener más información.