

April 2024

WaterNews



Your source for all things water

Take the path to less grass with WaterSaver Coupons

A large lawn requires a lot of water, time and maintenance, now and in the future. Why not make life easier and let some of it go?

There are so many more cool things you can do with your outdoor space — and SAWS WaterSaver Coupons can help you live it up!

Through Oct. 15, SAWS residential customers can apply for up to four \$100 WaterSaver coupons to replace part of your water-demanding grass with lush, drought-tolerant garden beds. That's \$400 in savings!

Whether your yard is sunny or shady, our approved plant selection has you covered — and our Plant by Number landscape designs will help you plan for your specific site conditions.

Maybe the grass near the curb looks terrible due to heat from the street. Or maybe you have so much shade that grass doesn't thrive in some areas. Whatever the case, our plans do the design work for you. Learn more at GardenStyleSA.com/PlantByNumbers.

For each coupon, you must remove at least 200 square feet of grass where you will place your purchased plants. You must also cap any sprinkler heads in the area where you install your new bed. By doing so, you may also qualify for our residential irrigation design rebate, which can make your outdoor project even more affordable.

Prefer to replace skimpy sod with a new deck or patio? The SAWS Outdoor Living Rebate can help.

The rebate will help with the cost of a wooden deck or stone hardscape, or a combination of both. The rebate ranges from \$300 to \$1,000, based on how much grass is removed. And remember that you can combine this rebate with the landscape coupons to maximize your outdoor living project.

Call 210-704-SAVE to schedule a free irrigation consultation before you start your landscape coupon project. Get all the details and apply online at GardenStyleSA.com/coupons.



Coming soon: SAWS' updated plan for our water future

Over the last two years, SAWS experts have been working diligently to update the city's Water Management Plan. This roadmap for forecasting our long-term water needs and ways to meet those needs is updated about every five years to ensure water supplies for many decades to come.

The draft 2024 Water Management Plan will soon be available to the San Antonio community for public comment.

The revised plan provides the most in-depth analysis ever of our water supply

portfolio, along with updated water demand patterns, a deep dive into how climate change will impact our water, and many more topics.

Throughout the planning process, SAWS has engaged with neighborhood associations and other organizations throughout the community. Additional input is welcome and encouraged when the draft plan is made available this spring.

Keep an eye on WaterCitySA.com for the release of the draft 2024

Water Management Plan.



Join the MySAWS Conversation:



Event Calendar

Cinema on Will's Plaza: Luca

May 10

Tobin Center
100 Auditorium Circle
tobincenter.org

Second Saturday Habitat Work Day

May 11

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

Sounds of the Night

May 24

Government Canyon State Natural Area
12861 Galm Road
tpwd.texas.gov/calendar

Little Sprouts Hike

May 28

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Wellness at the Tobin: Fitness

June 1

Tobin Center
100 Auditorium Circle
tobincenter.org/wellness

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

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

Hardberger's water passion springs from lifelong interest

by Jeanie Tavitas

From bugs and mud to rocks and water — Amy Hardberger says her obsession with being outdoors and everything associated with it goes way back. That's why it was a no-brainer when she was asked to serve on the SAWS Board of Trustees.

A native San Antonian, Hardberger commutes to Lubbock, to teach water law, land use planning, and Texas environmental law at Texas Tech School of Law. When she's not in class, she's in San Antonio, the city she's always considered home and where she "lives in the same neighborhood I grew up in."

Still, Hardberger says she spent portions of her childhood summers with her grandparents in West Texas, which had a very different feel from San Antonio.

"When you hang out with farmers you hear a lot about water — from that perspective it was always a huge influence," she says, remembering how her grandfather was always watching the barometer. "If it rained, we were always outside because it was something you celebrated and appreciated."

Though she was an only child, Hardberger was seldom alone. Instead, she spent most of her adolescence surrounded by extended family who supported her bold choices and outspokenness.

"They never told me something wasn't ladylike, which I appreciate because I probably was not a ladylike girl," she acknowledged. "I don't think you really appreciate how special that is until you're older, that you didn't have to fight against

someone else's version of you."

That unwavering support from family, as well as from educators and mentors along the way, is what encouraged her to always speak her mind. Of course, luck also played a part, she says, since she "came from a long line of squeaky wheels and I couldn't be more honored to carry that on."

"I've always been pretty tenacious and had strong thoughts, much to everyone's chagrin," said Hardberger. "If your career is shaped by advocacy, you can't be a wallflower."



Indeed. Before teaching water law, she worked as an attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund, where she focused on all things water. Successful career aside, she says her most proud accomplishments are relationships and friendships she's cultivated along the way.

"I've worked hard, but I'm extremely grateful that people have helped me to be able to work in the area I feel really passionate about," said Hardberger, who

knew early on she wanted to be involved in water. Her service to SAWS echoes that childhood passion.

"It definitely has a resonance to me that I'm helping hopefully protect the first water that I ever as a human being had, which is kind of full circle," she says.

When it comes to her vision for the future of water in San Antonio, Hardberger says there will be challenges going forward that all of Texas — San Antonio included — will experience. But her hope is that "San Antonio has put in the work and infrastructure to respond to those effectively."

Stage 2 watering rules here to stay awhile

Some well-timed spring showers have kept things a little greener than we're used to this time of year. But make no mistake — the drought continues and so do Stage 2 watering rules.

Also, did you remember to "spring forward" your irrigation system?

Replace your controller's back-up batteries if it's been a while and, most importantly, make sure the timer is set correctly.

Under Stage 2, 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 your street address. You can still hand-water any day, any time.

Stage 2 watering rules are being enforced. Follow them and you'll avoid a citation.

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