



ABOUT US

OUR PURPOSE

The LPGCD is the state's preferred method of groundwater management in the Bastrop and Lee Counties. Per Texas Water Code Section 36.0015, LPGCD is to manage groundwater by balancing all property interests and providing for the preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater.

Under Texas Water Code Section 36.1071, LPGCD must develop a groundwater management plan providing management goals to help the district meet that purpose.

We are mandated by the state, per Texas Water Code Section 35.012, to provide educational programs to the public relating to the problems and issues concerning water management.

WE'RE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/lostpinesgcd

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/lostpinesgcd

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@LostPinesGCD



BYOB RAINWATER HARVESTING WORKSHOP - JANUARY 25TH

Get started on your rainwater harvesting journey with our Rainwater Harvesting Workshop on Saturday, January 25th, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The workshop is BYOB—Bring Your Own Barrel (food-grade and 55-gallons)! We'll provide the tools and guidance to transform it into a fully functional system.

Space is limited, so **RSVP by January 10th** to the Lee County AgriLife office at (979) 542-2753. Don't miss out on this and other exciting programs! Follow us on social media [@LostPinesGCD](https://www.instagram.com/LostPinesGCD) for updates on workshops, events, and sustainable water practices.

As you set your New Year's resolutions, why not commit to conserving water and reducing household costs? Rainwater harvesting is a simple, impactful step toward a more sustainable lifestyle—and your garden will thank you!



"THANK YOU, WELL" PHOTOVOICE CONTEST

Celebrate the role water wells play in our lives by sharing your story through photography and narrative. Snap a photo that captures the importance of your well—or someone else's—and pair it with a short description (100-200 words) explaining why you're thankful for it. Whether it's providing water for your family, sustaining your garden, or nourishing livestock, we want to see how wells make a difference in your world. Open to all residents of Bastrop and Lee Counties within the LPGCD boundaries. Submissions are accepted from February 1 to June 30, 2025.

Winning entries will be featured in our 2026 calendar. Prizes include \$200 for first place, \$100 for second, \$75 for third, and \$50 for honorable mentions. Eight additional entries will receive \$25. Visit our www.lostpineswater.org/221/Photovoice-Contest for submission details and start sharing your photo story today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 10th – Last day to sign up for the BYOB Rainwater Harvesting Workshop

January 15th – LPGCD Public District Meeting, LPGCD Office, 3:30 PM

January 25th – BYOB Rainwater Harvesting Workshop, Lee County AgriLife Extension Office, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District is governed locally by ten citizens, (five from each county) who have been appointed by their respective County Commissioners Courts to serve as directors for a term of four years.

- Elvis Hernandez, President
- Kathryn Rogers, Vice President
- Michael Simmang, Secretary/Treasurer
- Sheril Smith
- Melissa Cole
- Tom Arsuffi
- Nick Textor
- Herbert Cook
- Nancci Phillips-Burgess
- Debra Phillips



THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING WATER

Freshwater is disappearing. Freshwater on earth can take the form as either groundwater, which is water stored beneath the ground as aquifers, or as surface waters, such as lakes, rivers, and streams. 97% of all water on the earth is found in our oceans. 2% of water is held frozen in ice caps and glaciers. This leaves us less than 1% of all water on earth that is denoted as freshwater and can be used for our daily water supply needs. However, globally, we have seen an abrupt decrease in freshwater thus making water conservation efforts important now more than ever.

The Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) is an international team of scientists that use observations from NASA satellites to observe earth's freshwater storage. Starting in 2002, GRACE satellites have tracked fluctuations in Earth's gravity every month that reveal changes in the mass of freshwater. GRACE published a report in November 2024 showing that the average amount of freshwater stored on land dropped abruptly in May 2014 and has yet to recover. The amount of freshwater that has disappeared from 2015 through 2023, about 290 cubic miles, is enough water to fill Lake Erie two and a half times. Why? Warming temperatures, flash floods, droughts, and the modern expansion of irrigated agriculture, farms, and cities.

Since January 2015, 13 of the world's most intense droughts have occurred. To make matters worse, warmer ocean temperatures have shifted atmospheric jet streams and altered weather and rainfall patterns worldwide. This creates flash floods and short time periods of extreme precipitation. While annual rainfall totals may stay the same, longer dry periods leave soil dry and compacted, increasing the amount of run-off and reducing the amount of water the ground can absorb.

Then there's massive increases in development and irrigated agriculture, farms, and cities. As regions develop and as surface water levels decline because of drought, there is a heavy reliance on groundwater pumping. This leads to a cycle of freshwater supplies becoming more depleted, precipitation failing to replenish adequately, leading to more groundwater being pumped, and declining underground water supplies.

The reduction of freshwater is a global crisis, but small actions can make a big difference. By shortening your showers, planting native species, or collecting rainwater, you can help conserve our most valuable natural resource. As Emma Roth, the first-place winner of the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District's high school senior essay contest, wisely said, "Starting small beats nothing at all." Together, we can conserve water and protect our future.

Explore drought resources and learn how to conserve water at www.lostpineswater.org.

CONGRATS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

- 1st Place: Emma Roth, Roth Classical Academy, Bastrop County; Award: \$500
- 2nd Place: Kaitlyn Shelton, Giddings High School, Lee County; Award: \$300
- 3rd Place: Braden Meuth, Giddings High School, Lee County; Award: \$200