



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

ROOTED IN TEXAS: THE POWER OF NATIVE PLANTS

Lady Bird Johnson once said, "I want Texas to look like Texas...Native plants give us a sense of where we are in this great land of ours." In honor of Native Plant Month this April, let's dig into the benefits of native plants.

One of the greatest advantages of native plants is their ability to thrive in the local climate with minimal irrigation. Unlike non-native species and turf grass, which often have shallow roots and require frequent watering, native plants develop deep root systems that allow them to access moisture from deeper soil layers. This natural adaptation reduces the need for supplemental watering, making native plants well-suited for Texas' hot summers and prolonged dry periods. In contrast, maintaining a traditional lawn is highly water-intensive. Since native plants, once established, require little to no additional watering, they serve as a valuable tool for water conservation efforts in our region.

Switching from turf grass to native plants not only reduces water usage but also improves groundwater recharge, which moves water from the surface into underground aquifers. Native plants enhance soil permeability with their deep root systems, which create channels that allow rainwater to infiltrate and percolate deeper into the ground. This helps replenish underground water reserves, reduces runoff, prevents erosion, and mitigates flooding. This process maintains groundwater supplies and reduces the impacts of drought, providing environmental benefits both now and for future generations.

Now, let's dig into the economic benefits of native plants. For many property owners, the bottom line is a strong incentive to choose native landscaping over a traditional turf lawn. The biggest savings come from reduced maintenance costs. A 6,500-square-foot turf grass lawn can cost approximately \$1,300 per year to maintain, while the same area landscaped with native plants can cost only \$390 annually. That's a 70% savings, making native plants a smart, budget-friendly choice for homeowners looking to cut costs while also benefiting the environment.

As we celebrate Native Plant Month, let's take this opportunity to rethink how we use our land and resources. Whether in our backyards, public spaces, or community projects, every native plant we grow contributes to a healthier, more resilient future for Bastrop and Lee Counties. So, let's start planting today and watch the benefits grow for generations to come!

REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUPS

Region K Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group is having a public hearing on April 17th at 10:00 AM. Region K will accept comments on its Initially Prepared 2026 Region K Water Plan (IPP). The deadline to submit written comments is June 16, 2025. Submit comments to the Region K administrative agent: LCRA, Attn: Monica Masters, P.O. Box 220, Austin, TX 78767, or administrative@regionk.org. A list of depositories and a copy of the IPP are available at: www.regionk.org/2026-plan. See District calendar for all information regarding Region G & K hearings.

WWW.LOSTPINESWATER.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 16th – LPGCD Public District Meeting, LPGCD Office, 3:30 PM

April 17th – Region K Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Public Hearing, 3505 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX 78744, 10:00 AM

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



OPEN HOUSE 2025



One of the fun events included making an “edible aquifer.” Claire Marks used a combination of cereal, sprite, straws, ice creams, marshmallows, and sprinkles to teach kids about the different layers of an aquifer. Amelie and Ambreose, children of Mark Benoit of Paige, helped make and eat their own aquifer-in-a-cup.

Andy Wier is shown demonstrating a miniature working aquifer. The model is filled with a combination of sand and rock-like materials that emulate the local Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. It also features “wells” at different depths. Using a combination of water pumps and colored dyes, Wier showed how underground water flows.



HELPING LOCAL STUDENTS PURSUE EDUCATION AND CAREERS IN WATER

The Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District (LPGCD) is proud to announce the opening of applications for its scholarship program, available to students in Bastrop and Lee Counties who are accepted into and active in the Texas 4-H Water Ambassador Program (4-H2O). This scholarship is designed to support students in exploring career paths in the water industry and to invest in the future development of leaders in water conservation. LPGCD will cover the \$300 annual participation fee for ambassadors. In addition, ambassadors will be reimbursed monthly for any expenses incurred while attending 4-H2O events. Each ambassador will also accrue a \$1,250 scholarship annually to assist with continuing or higher education after high school graduation.

“This scholarship is more than just financial support. It’s a step toward cultivating future leaders in water conservation.” said Jim Totten, LPGCD General Manager. “We are excited to give students the resources they need to deepen their knowledge and passion for water and pursue careers that will shape the future of groundwater sustainability.”

To apply for this scholarship, students must submit their application by May 12, 2025, at 11:59 PM. Applications can be submitted in two ways: by downloading the application as a PDF and emailing the completed form along with a copy of the acceptance letter from the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors Program to Claire Marks, Education & Outreach Coordinator, at cmarks@lostpineswater.org, or by filling out the application online. For scholarship online application, details, and requirements go to: www.lostpineswater.org/225/4-H-Water-Ambassador-Program-Scholarship.