



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](http://www.facebook.com/lostpinesgcd)
- Instagram:  
[www.instagram.com/lostpinesgcd](http://www.instagram.com/lostpinesgcd)
- YouTube:  
[www.youtube.com/@LostPinesGCD](http://www.youtube.com/@LostPinesGCD)

## WELL AWARE: PERMITS, PUMPS, AND PLAYING BY THE RULES

Each year, the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District (LPGCD) shares updates like this in our newsletters, local newspapers, and online to keep the public informed. LPGCD is reminding landowners, water well drillers, and pump installers of the rules surrounding well operation and water transport, and highlighting several important updates that have recently taken effect.

Planning to Drill or Export Water? Check your permit status! LPGCD requires operating permits for all non-exempt wells, unless they meet specific exemption criteria such as small-scale domestic or livestock use. Drillers and pump installers are responsible for confirming that an operating permit has been issued before any non-exempt well is placed into service. In addition, existing operating permits must be kept up to date. The District will email renewal notices at least 60 days prior to permit expiration.

New Ag Meter Rule: As of October 2024, all agricultural wells producing up to 200 acre-feet per year, which includes all center pivot irrigation, must be metered. This applies to both new and existing wells. Please contact the District office for information on approved metering methods, installation guidance, and reporting requirements.

Exporting Water? In most cases groundwater transported outside the District also requires a valid transport permit. As with operating permits, transport permits must be renewed before expiration, and the District will notify permit holders accordingly. In addition, an updated export fee rate went into effect on January 1, 2025. The new rate for groundwater exported from the District will be \$32.58 per acre-foot through the end of 2025.

Stay compliant and help protect our shared groundwater. Visit [www.lostpineswater.org](http://www.lostpineswater.org) or call (512) 360-5088 to check your permit status or ask questions.

## LOST PINES HABITAT & WILDLIFE DAY

Join us at Lost Pines Wildlife & Habitat Day on May 17th from 9 AM to 12 PM at Bastrop State Park for a fun and free morning celebrating the unique wildlife and ecosystems of the Lost Pines region! This family-friendly event features exciting opportunities to meet a Houston Toad and other native wildlife, talk with a wildland firefighter, participate in a seed stomp, and learn about conserving local habitats. Don't miss the informative presentations throughout the morning, including talks on wildfire preparedness, natural history, and more. The Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District (LPGCD) will also be on site with an interactive table showcasing our brand new watershed model! Stop by to learn about how water flows through our region and how we can all play a part in protecting our shared groundwater resources.

Scan the QR code for more information.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6th - Rambo Hearing, LPGCD office, 1:30 PM

May 13<sup>th</sup> - Rainwater Harvesting 101, 191 N Madison St, Giddings, 10 AM - 12 Noon

May 12th - LPGCD 4-H Water Ambassador Scholarship DUE at 11:59 PM

May 17th - Lost Pines Habitat and Wildlife Day, Bastrop State Park, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

May 21st - LPGCD Public District Meeting, LPGCD Office, 3:30 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



# DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE LPGCD 4-H WATER AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIP IS MAY 12, 2025 AT 11:59 PM.



Scan the QR code for more information.

## CREATIVITY, AND CONSERVATION: STUDENT ART CONTEST WINNERS

The Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District (LPGCD) is proud to announce the winners of its 2025 Student Art Contest, which invited students from across the region to create original artwork celebrating groundwater and water conservation. The contest was divided into three grade-level categories: K-3rd, 4th-6th, and 7th-12th. A panel of judges reviewed entries based on originality, creativity, composition, and connection to the contest theme. First, second, third place winners, and an honorable mention were selected in each category.

### Grades K-3

1st - Loretta W., Smithville Elementary School  
2nd - Haddie N., Lexington Elementary School  
3rd - Blake H., Smithville Elementary School  
Honorable Mention - Aleyna G., Lexington Elementary School

### Grades 4-6

1st - Lorelai R., Lexington Middle School  
2nd - Delano B., Lexington Middle School  
3rd - Elliott B., Lexington Elementary School  
Honorable Mention - Cadence P., Lexington Middle School

### Grades 7-12

1st - Laynie H., Smithville High School  
2nd - Aylin C., Smithville High School  
3rd - Cristian R., Smithville High School  
Honorable Mention - Brooke H., Smithville High School

"This year's entries were thoughtful, creative, and inspiring," said Claire Marks, Education & Outreach Coordinator at LPGCD. "We're proud to showcase their work." First-place winners receive \$100, second-place winners receive \$75, third-place winners receive \$50, and honorable mentions receive \$25. Additionally, each teacher of a winning student receives \$50 for classroom use. All winning artwork will be featured on LPGCD's website and social media. The Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District would like to thank all students, teachers, and families who participated and supported the contest.



Scan the QR code to view all winning entries.



Grades 7-12, 1st Place  
Laynie H., Smithville High School