



Spring Creek

UTILITY DISTRICT

June 2024
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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District Alert System

Sign up for text alerts at <https://springcreekud.com/alerts> for notices and updates about your area!



Example Message



FIRST A WORD FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to the second issue of our newsletter.

Despite the many rain events we experienced recently, mandatory water restrictions are still in effect in Spring Creek Utility District, jointly with our neighboring utility districts, MUD 88 and MUD 89, as the water level in our wells has not regained its normal level. Most of the rainwater is unfortunately going to the creeks and rivers via the storm system as we keep adding concrete and other non-permeable surfaces on the ground and less water is allowed to percolate to the aquifers.

In this edition, we are continuing to offer tips on water conservation and more specifically water conservation as it relates to lawn care and irrigation. According to the Environmental protection Agency, watering a 1000 sq ft lawn 1" deep uses 620 gallons of water. Outdoor water use can account for more than 30% of total home water use. Using it effectively can have a significant impact on our overall water consumption and conservation efforts.

In the next article, we are presenting an overview

of the many projects undertaken by the district to ensure that our residents get the water they need. Some of these projects have recently been completed while others are in the design phase or under evaluation.

Next, as the summer is upon us and with it, unfortunately, the hurricane season, we are providing information on the Free Vacation Watch service provided by the Montgomery County Constable Precinct 3, safety tips regarding fireworks and links to resources pertaining to hurricane preparedness.

In the following article, we provide updates on the recent improvements and upgrades we have made in Fox Spring Park.

And, last but not least, we are honoring the memory of Director Melvin Willcockson, who recently passed away.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome as we strive to improve communication with our residents. Until next time,

Claude Humbert PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD



Claude Humbert
PRESIDENT



Mark Fusca
VICE PRESIDENT



Frederick Sunderman
SECRETARY



Leslie Gourley
ASSISTANT SECRETARY



Paul Sterling
DIRECTOR

WATER CONSERVATION AND LAWN CARE

It is important to realize that lawns do not waste water, but people do. We can all do our part in conservation of water year-round and especially during the hotter months like June through August. Here are some tips residents can follow to conserve water and save money throughout the summer months.

01. Watering Times
Avoid watering between the times of 10 am-6 pm. Watering early in the morning or later in the evening allows the water to soak into the soil before evaporation can take place. During drought times, this rule is often followed by local municipalities to promote conservation of water. Following this rule can benefit the community year-round.

02. Evaporation control
By changing the length of the grass to roughly 3 inches, Residents can control the amount of evaporation that happens on their lawn. Longer blades of grass help shade the roots, reduce evaporation, and control weed growth. This can be beneficial especially while we

are in drought conditions. To read more about the drought contingency plan and watering regulations, [click here](#).

03. Consider Irrigation Needs
Opt for drip irrigation systems for flower beds, ground cover, gardens, and container plants. These types of systems water slowly over time and conserve water by allowing soil to absorb water slowly much like when it rains. Spray irrigation systems cover a larger surface area, however, they also promote more water usage and run off which leads to plants losing soil. Soil loss can be detrimental to plants because it helps them maintain moisture. Irrigation should be checked consistently and set to water during early mornings or in the evenings.

04. The Dirt on Dirt
Knowing the type of soil you have is a big factor in how much you need to water. Clay-like soils tend to be heavier and tend to hold onto water for longer, therefore don't need to be watered that often, whereas sand-like soils are more drainage-friendly and more likely to need more frequent watering. These are all things to keep in mind when watering your lawn and garden.

05. The Importance of Mulch
Adding mulch around the garden can limit the amount of evaporation that occurs from the sun on hot days. Not only can applying mulch conserve soil moisture, but it also reduces weed growth which takes water away from plants and improves the fertility and health of the soil. By retaining water, you not only have to water less but also lower your water bill in the process.

06. Consider Your Smart Meter
Your smart meter has the ability to track, monitor, and measure your water usage, as well as detect leaks in your system. By using the EyeOnWater App, Residents have the ability to gauge their water usage while conserving water and maintaining their lawn. You can find more information about your smart meter and how to sign-up for the EyeOnWater App [here](#).

07. Ensure Sprinklers are Lawn-Facing
Residents should take the time to make sure all sprinklers are lawn-facing and avoid any run-off onto the concrete, sidewalks, and driveways that may

waste water. By ensuring that the lawn is being fully saturated when watering, and watered optimally, residents will see a decrease in water usage overall when performing lawn care. Residents can track this usage with their Smart Meter in tandem with only watering twice a week, and watering at optimal times.

08. Consider Grass Types
Residents should consider a grass type based on their amount of shade or sun, as well as following proper lawn care for that grass type. Bermudagrass, Zoysia Grass, and St. Augustine Grass are the most common types of grass found in the Houston area as they are heat tolerant and adaptable to different soil types. Residents can find more information online about the grass they have and the requirements necessary for the ideal environment for their lawn.

09. WaterMyYard
Consider a tool like [WaterMyYard](#). WaterMyYard is a tool created by Texas A&M that takes the guesswork out of how much you should be watering your yard. Residents can sign up for WaterMyYard and the program uses local weather data from an extensive network of rain gauges and weather stations to provide weekly watering advice and specific lawn and irrigation system care.

Conservation, lawn care, and maintenance, go hand in hand. We can all do our part in conservation efforts to help our community and lawn care is the most effective way to do so for outdoor water usage.

PROVIDING WATER TO OUR DISTRICT TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE

Providing water to its residents is one of the main purposes of a Municipal Utility District (MUD). The district is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the water infrastructure within its boundaries.

In doing so, MUDs must follow regulations from Federal, State and Local governmental entities. The Safe Drinking Water Act is the principal law in the United States to ensure safe drinking water for the public. Under this act, the Environmental Public Agency (EPA) sets the standards for drinking water quality and oversees all states and water suppliers that implement the standards. In Texas, the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is responsible for implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act. The TCEQ's rules regarding "drinking water" are contained in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 30 Chapter 290. Besides "Quality", these rules also define the minimum water system capacity requirements.

In this article, we will focus on the water needs of the Spring Creek Utility District (the District or SCUD) and what it is doing to address our future demand for water. The District is currently getting water from the Evangeline and the Jasper Aquifers via three different wells, two of these being shared with neighboring MUDs 88 and 89. When the Jasper well was put in service in 2014, it was found that Hydrogen Sulfide was present in large quantity and, in order to remediate to this, an aeration system was installed in the storage tank initially designed to only store water from that well. In addition to this, the deaerated water was transferred to the adjacent storage tank and blended with the water



pumped from the Evangeline aquifer well located nearby. Even though this allowed the three districts to provide water meeting the TCEQ quality requirements, the production from the Jasper well is somewhat limited and, should one of the other wells be unavailable, the districts may not have sufficient capacity to meet future needs.

In addition to this, drought conditions and higher consumption due to population growth in Montgomery County are causing the aquifer levels to drop. Last year, the pump in the Legends Ranch Water Plant #1 had to be lowered by 100 feet. If this had not been done, we would have been unable to pump any water from that well!

Even though Montgomery County MUD 89 is completely built out and MUD 88 is nearing completion, Spring Creek Utility District is still growing, mainly in the Southern part of the district where new developments are taking place and, in the future, some developers may seek annexation in order to get access to water and sewer services.

As currently designed and in line with the TCEQ capacity requirements, the District is divided into two (2) different "pressure planes": The Northern plane and the Southern plane. The latter one being the one where most of the future growth will occur. These two pressure planes are interconnected. Looking at the future needs for water, we asked our Engineer to evaluate multiple solutions to ensure that the systems have sufficient reliable sources of water with enough redundancy. In doing so, we are looking at various sources of water (Groundwater, Surface water and Reclaimed water) and potentially additional "interconnects" with other neighboring districts.

Here is a list of water infrastructure projects that the Spring Creek Utility District has

recently completed, just started or currently evaluating in conjunction with MUDs 88 & 89:

1. Water wells rework: Last year, new well pumps were installed at the SCUD water plant #1 and the Legends Ranch water plant #2 and the wells were inspected and rehabbed as necessary. Also, as mentioned previously, the well pump at the Legends Ranch water plant #1 had to be lowered. The combined cost of these 3 projects was close to \$450,000.
2. Water lines rehabilitation in Fox Run: This project, which included the replacement of approximately 40,000 feet of pipeline, was recently completed. The total cost was over \$8 million.
3. SCUD Water Plant #3 in the Southern Pressure Plane with a new 1,200 gpm well pump. This project, with an estimated cost of \$9.53M, has been approved and is in the design stage. Construction should start in 2025 pending regulatory approval.
4. Addition of a Booster pump at the SCUD Water Plant #2 (Northern Pressure Plane). The design is complete and bid requests for construction have been sent. This project, estimated to cost \$0.55M, should be completed this year.
5. Increase pumpage from Legends Ranch well #3 (Jasper Aquifer). A feasibility study has been authorized to evaluate improvement to the deaeration system (Hydrogen sulfide mitigation).
6. Getting Surface Water from SJRA. In a joint effort by the 3 districts, the possibility to connect to the SJRA surface water pipeline, currently extending to the Rayford Rd. MUD

PROVIDING WATER TO OUR DISTRICT TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE (CONTINUED)

(Imperial Oaks subdivision), was evaluated. Discussions took place with the SJRA-GRP advisory committee regarding the availability of water, the possibility to extend the pipeline and costs associated with this. Due to the lack of regulatory mandate, currently, from the Lonestar Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD) and all the ongoing legal disputes between SJRA and other entities, the surface water treatment facility on Lake Conroe is working at reduced capacity and, utilities who desire to connect to the existing network will have to bear the cost for the infrastructure. The three MUDs have asked the SJRA-GRP to receive up to 200,000 gpd of surface water in the future and, on April 29, 2024, SJRA responded that they would agree to allocate that quantity of surface water to the districts. A lot of negotiations will still need to take place before a definitive agreement can be reached between all parties. In any case, it is unlikely that we would be able to receive surface water before 2026 at the earliest. The costs for this project were estimated, last year, to be around \$3.7M.

7. Additional "Interconnects" with some of the neighboring districts. Our Engineers are looking at the existing interconnects between each of the 3 districts and with their respective neighbors to evaluate the possibility to add to these; however, if new interconnects are established, this would not add capacity to our

systems but would provide an emergency supply of water if needed.

8. Reclaimed Water. The Spring Creek Utility District has recently decided to move forward with the design and construction of a Water Reuse Treatment Plant Facility. The cost for this project is about \$3.7M. This doesn't include the design and construction of the distribution system (from the facility to the end users), which will be built in multiple phases over a few years. The first phase of the distribution system should be decided later this year. More information about this project will be provided in a future newsletter.
9. SCUD Water Plant #4: An additional water plant is under consideration depending upon future growth of the District.

In addition to all these projects, the District wants to continue its efforts to conserve water and educate the public accordingly.

A couple of years ago SCUD replaced all the water meters in the district with Smart meters. In combination with the "Eye On Water" app, each consumer can monitor consumption, identify spikes in water usage and set-up alerts to be notified if a water leak is detected. Unfortunately, too many users are still ignoring this useful tool and SCUD is dedicated to intensifying its effort to educate our residents about its benefits.

FREE VACATION WATCH!

As a resident of Spring Creek Utility District, you have access to free vacation watches by Montgomery County Precinct 3.

You can request a vacation watch at no cost to you. While away from your residence, Deputies will patrol the area and keep a watchful eye on your home.

Please leave detailed information about your home such as:

- Will you be leaving any lights on in the home?
- Do you have any pets staying in the home?
- Is there an alarm system and if so, will it be armed?
- Have you authorized anyone to come into your home?
- Are you leaving any vehicles at your home?
- Is there a secondary contact we can reach out to in case we are unable to reach you?

To request a vacation watch from Montgomery County Precinct 3, [click here](#) to fill out a vacation watch form.

Please remember to update Montgomery County Precinct 3 of any changes such as additional people coming to your residence or changes in date of departure or return.

Tips for the home while you're away:

- Inform the alarm company of your departure and make Montgomery County Precinct 3 the first contact while you are away from home, as this will save valuable time in getting law enforcement to your residence.
- Have lights on timers, as having lights on around the clock is a sign no one is home.
- Leave a parked car in the driveway with no valuables inside.
- Make arrangements for your pets whether it be someone coming to your home to walk and feed them, a boarding facility, or having them stay with a trusted family member or friend.
- Make sure your pet's information such as ID tags and collars, microchips are up to date and give a list of emergency contact information about your pet such as preferred veterinarian, updated shot records, and other medical information with the authorized person(s) watching your pet.
- Finding a trusted person to house sit is one of the best ways to avoid your home looking empty.
- Find an emergency contact that can be called in case you cannot be reached.

Extra Patrol

For patrols on a specific street or block, residents can put in that information into the system and the details why they are asking for extra patrols in their area. The extra patrols and vacation watches are done randomly to not create a pattern. To request additional patrols in your area, [click here](#).

FIREWORKS SAFETY

Below are some fireworks safety tips to keep your family safe for the fourth of July!

01. Never hold fireworks in your hands while being lit
02. Never light fireworks indoors
03. Never point or throw fireworks at other people due to risk of severe bodily harm and permanent damage
04. Do not attempt to relight malfunctioning fireworks
05. Always maintain a safe distance after lighting
06. Never allow young children to handle fireworks
07. Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of emergency
08. Never use illegal fireworks
09. Always purchase fireworks from a reputable vendor
10. Never ignite devices in a container

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

The following links and resources have been put together for residents to be better prepared during a hurricane or extreme weather event.

Stay Informed

Sign up for alerts in your area. You can find alerts for the greater Houston area at [ReadyHarris](#).

Sign up for alerts in Montgomery county using [Alert MCTX](#).

Know Your Hurricane Risk

Be on the lookout for news from FEMA or sign-up for for alerts in the FEMA app [here](#).

Find out about flooding in your area [here](#).

Know your risk by looking at the [National Hurricane Center website](#) (NOAA).

Know Your Evacuation Zone

Check your evacuation route via map [here](#).

Check flooded roads and road closures [here](#)

Assemble Disaster Supplies

Have a [checklist](#) ready and a kit prepared during hurricane season in case evacuation or shelter in place is necessary.

Strengthen Your Home

You can find a list of home weatherization tips [here](#).

Make an Emergency Plan

Ensure you communicate with your family about your hurricane plans to make sure everyone is on the same page. Working together through events and accounting for everyone's responsibilities and tasks during an extreme weather event is essential for a swift and effective plan.

PARK UPDATES

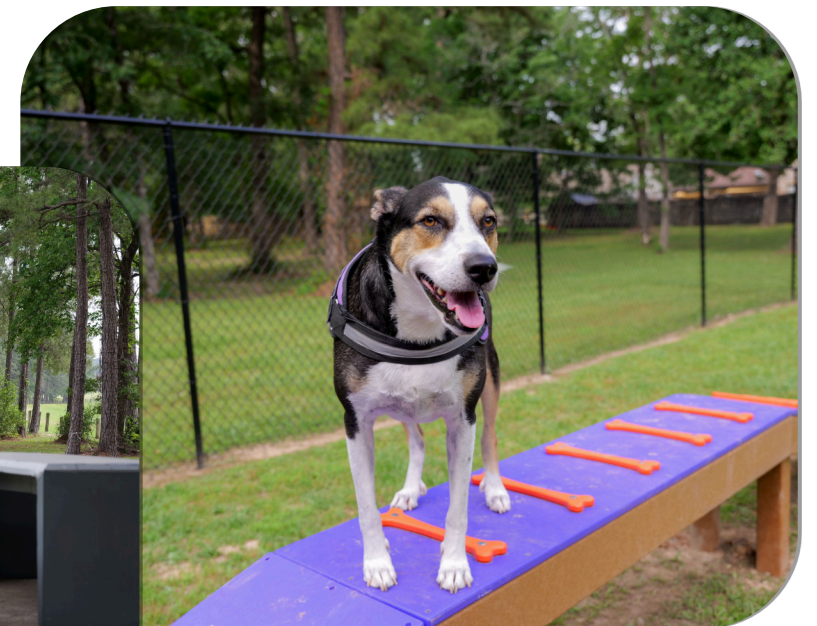
The Spring Creek Utility District Park, known as Fox Spring Park, is next to the DD6 channel and is accessible through the Fox Run subdivision. This park was initially funded via a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife department and District funds. For years, the existence of this park was in jeopardy due to the planned extension of the Aldine-Westfield Road, south of Rayford Road and, consequently, the District Board of Directors was reluctant to engage in significant improvements. In July 2021, the Montgomery County commissioners agreed to remove that road extension from the county thoroughfare plan.

Since then, we have taken steps to add amenities to the park and proceed with other improvements and repairs as needed; Here's a list of updates recently performed in the last few years:

- The pond has been re-lined in 2018, and since then restocked with bass, bluegill and other crappies for the enjoyment of our young and older fishing enthusiasts (catch and release only)!
- Updated exercise equipment has been added around the trail and sun covers have been installed over the workout stations;

- A dog park has been added and more recently, amenities were added, in both the large and small dog parks, for our furry friends to run around and enjoy. Special thanks to Frida the dog and Ricardo the pet parent for letting us take photos! Also, additional pet waste stations were added.
- The baseball fields have been upgraded and baseball diamonds for little league were installed last year.
- A putting green was installed to allow golfers to practice their skills.
- The walking trail has been extended from the playground area to the baseball fields providing an additional 1800 ft of trail and new park tables were added throughout the park;
- This year, the toddler play unit will be replaced and more benches will be added along the trail.

Finally, the Board has decided to move forward with the addition of a District building, which will allow us to have our regular meetings inside the district and host regular events. More information on this will be provided in our next newsletter.



Remembering **MELVIN WILLCOCKSON**

Spring Creek Utility District would like to honor the life and legacy of Melvin Willcockson, a man whose impact resonates far beyond the bounds of time. Melvin wasn't just a pastor; he was a beacon of light, a pillar of strength, and a guiding force for all who knew him.

For over three decades, Melvin served as the Pastor for the Children of the King Ministries, and a small church in Bossier City Louisiana leading his congregation with unwavering dedication and boundless compassion. His ministry wasn't confined to the walls of a church; it extended to the very hearts of those he touched, offering solace, support, and the unwavering love of the divine.

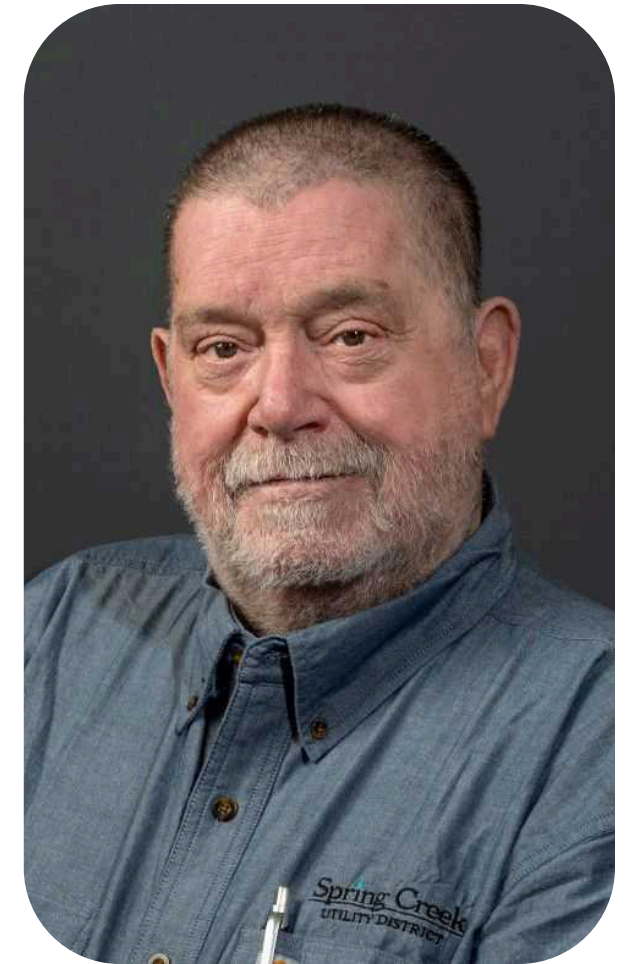
But Melvin's devotion didn't stop there. For several terms spanning 40 years, he served on the HOA, tirelessly working to better his community and uplift those around him. His commitment to service

was unparalleled, his dedication unyielding. The Willcockson family was a testament to Melvin's spirit of generosity and inclusion. Opening their hearts and home to foster children and foreign exchange students from around the globe, they exemplified the true meaning of family and hospitality. Their legacy lives on in the lives they've touched and the hearts they've warmed. Many of people he touched still keep in contact with the family.

Melvin's love knew no bounds, extending to his nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, who were the light of his life. His legacy of love and compassion will continue to shine brightly through each and every one of them. Throughout his life, Melvin wore many hats, working tirelessly in various roles, from Maryland Club coffee, Frito Lays, Borden's Dairy, Antone's Deli always with a sense of pride and purpose. Even in retirement, he continued

to serve his community, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to making the world a better place never able to sit by idly he worked post-retirement at the Precinct 3 recycle center.

As a leader in the community, Melvin's impact was profound. From his tenure as SCUD president to his years on the Board of Directors, he championed the causes of the people, advocating for transparency, cost consciousness, and the common good for all of his constituents. His legacy of community consciousness will endure for generations to come. But perhaps Melvin's greatest gift was his ability to connect with others, to see the humanity in every soul he encountered. He never met a stranger, always offering a kind word, a warm smile, and a prayer for his fellow man. His genuine kindness and unwavering integrity touched the lives of countless individuals, leaving an indelible mark on the world around him.



Melvin Willcockson was more than a pastor, more than a community leader—he was a true man of the people, a beacon of hope in a world often overshadowed by darkness. Though he may no longer walk among us, his spirit lives on in the countless lives he touched and the hearts he uplifted. As we bid farewell to a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, let us take comfort in knowing that his legacy of love and compassion will continue to inspire us all.