

Water Conservation Plan 2026-2030

Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation



1. Introduction.

Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation (“Dripping Springs WSC”) is a member-owned, non-profit, water supply corporation operating under the authority of Texas Water Code chapter 67. Dripping Springs WSC developed this Water Conservation Plan (“Plan”) to meet the requirements of (1) Texas Water Code § 13.146; (2) 30 Texas Administrative Code (“TAC”) §§ 288.2 and 288.30(10); (3) 31 TAC § 363.15, and (4) the Lower Colorado River Authority (“LCRA”) Water Conservation Plan Rules for Water Sale Contracts in accordance with the LCRA Water Contract Rules.

This Plan recognizes that conservation is a valuable tool in managing water utility systems. Benefits of water conservation include extending available water supplies, reducing the risk of shortage during periods of extreme drought, reducing water utility operating cost, improving the reliability and quality of water utility service, reducing customer cost for water service, and enhancing water quality and the environment.

This Plan applies to all Dripping Springs WSC retail water customers located within its certificated service area (Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 10315). A map of Dripping Springs WSC’s service area is available online at www.drippingspringswater.com or www.puc.texas.gov/industry/water/utilities/map.aspx. Dripping Springs WSC provides water to its customers from four groundwater wells and a wholesale water purchase agreement with the LCRA. Dripping Springs WSC does not operate any reservoirs.

2. Utility Profile Information.

Utility Profile Statement: Data from 2018-2022 was used due to the utility enacting stage 4 drought restrictions for 2023-2025.

As of December 31, 2025, there were approximately 4,805 connections in Dripping Springs WSC’s service area, 4,415 of which were residential. Based on 2020 census data, there were 2.75 persons per household in this service area, so the estimated population is 13,213. The projected population at full build out is estimated to be approximately 33,850 persons or 11,283 total connections. Full build out is expected to grow at 2.0% per year with a projected completion year of 2060.

Table 1 in Appendix A provides tables on water use data for the past five years (2018-2022). The five-year average daily water use for all customers, commercial and residential, was 420 gallons. The five-year average water loss was 9%. The five-year peak-to-average daily water use ratio was 1.98 gallons per connection.

Table 2 in Appendix A shows that current per capita water use is 141.40 total gallons per person per day (“GPCD”) and 99.50 residential gallons per person per day (“RGPCD”).

3. Water Conservation Goals.

Water conservation five-year and ten-year goals are required for overall water use, residential water use, and water loss. The goals proposed by Dripping Springs WSC are as follows:

Water Conservation Goal:	5-Year Goal:	10-Year Goal:
Gallons per Person/Capita per Day (GPCD)	134.3	133.3
Residential Gallons per Person per Day (RGPCD)	94.5	93.5
Water loss	<10%	<7.5%

4. Water Conservation Strategies.

4.1 Water Loss.

4.1.1 Universal Metering and Meter Replacement and Repair.

Dripping Springs WSC requires all water meters to be accurate within plus or minus 5% of the indicated flow over the possible flow range. Water will be metered in and out of all water treatment plants. A regularly scheduled maintenance program of meter repair, replacement, and calibration will be performed in accordance with recommended meter manufacturer guidelines following the below minimum schedule by meter size. All Dripping Springs WSC members will be metered and may request Dripping Springs WSC to perform a meter inspection as necessary.

Meter Type:	Testing Schedule:
Production (master) meters	Test once a year
Meters larger than 1"	Test once a year
Meters 1" or smaller	Test per manufacturer's recommendations

Dripping Springs WSC will check zero-consumption accounts to determine whether water is being produced and to identify any possible meter-recording issues or a meter failure. Additionally, Dripping Springs WSC will evaluate meters for proper sizing.

4.1.2 Water System Leak Detection and Repair.

Dripping Springs WSC will conduct leak detection and water-loss audits, making appropriate repairs to meet Dripping Springs WSC's water-loss goal. Dripping Springs WSC will perform water-loss audits in accordance with Texas Water Development Board ("TWDB") rules and will review [TWDB Municipal BMP 4.2 Utility Water Audit & Water Loss](#) before performing a water-loss audit.

When feasible, Dripping Springs WSC will consider measures to proactively reduce water loss, including measures to reduce water loss within the water-treatment process and strategies to reduce line flushing and identify and repair leaks proactively, quickly, and professionally.

4.1.3 Additional Water Loss Best Management Practices ("BMPs").

In addition to the strategies in §§ 4.1.1–4.1.2, Dripping Springs WSC adopted the following BMPs:

- Dripping Springs WSC reads all meters automatically using automated meter infrastructure (“AMI”) and receives real-time water-use data.
- Dripping Springs WSC staff sends leak alerts to customers using AMI data reports.
- Dripping Springs WSC’s customer portal allows end users to check their water use online.
- Dripping Springs WSC adopted [TWDB Municipal BMP 9.1 Prohibition on Wasting Water](#).
- Dripping Springs WSC considers strategies to minimize water loss on long dead-end-main lines, including by creating loops in the water-distribution lines.
- As feasible, Drippings Springs WSC will develop a protective leak-detection program to decrease water loss in the water system.

4.2 Water Rates and Records Management.

4.2.1 Increasing Block Rates (Exhibit R).

Dripping Springs WSC currently utilizes an increasing block rate structure to reflect the cost drivers for the water system and to send a conservation price signal to customers. Dripping Springs WSC periodically evaluates its rate structure to promote conservation to the maximum extent possible. The current rate structure is attached to this Plan, located on Dripping Springs WSC’s website, and included in Dripping Springs WSC’s tariff. Dripping Springs WSC will update its website and tariff with any future rate changes.

4.2.2 Water Monitoring and Records Management.

Dripping Springs WSC’s staff maintain records of water distribution and sales through a common monitoring and billing system to provide a central location for water billing information and a way to compile, present, and view water-use and billing information.

The billing system is capable of separating water use per customer type into the following seven sectors: (1) single-family residential, (2) multi-family residential, (3) commercial, (4) institutional, (5) industrial, (6) agricultural, and (7) wholesale. If Dripping Springs WSC purchases a new billing system in the future, Dripping Springs WSC will ensure that the system is capable of reporting detailed water-use data for each of those seven sectors.

4.2.3 Additional Water Monitoring, Records Management and Planning BMPs.

Conservation-related planning efforts that take into consideration the customer characteristics of each utility are an important part of a comprehensive and successful water-conservation program. Accordingly, in addition to the strategies in §§ 4.2.1–4.2.2, Dripping Springs WSC adopted the following BMPs:

- Dripping Springs WSC considers [TWDB Municipal BMP 2.4 Customer Characterization: Analysis to Prioritize BMP selection](#).
- Dripping Springs WSC considers [TWDB Municipal BMP 2.3 Water Survey for Single-Family and Multi-Family Customers](#).
- Dripping Springs WSC performs public outreach to inform users about TWDB municipal BMPs and tracks progress of user participation on a weekly basis.

4.3 Permanent Watering Schedule.

Dripping Springs WSC has a permanent landscape watering schedule for spray irrigation. This schedule limits outdoor spray irrigation for landscapes to the following days and times:

Customer Type:	Watering Days:	Watering Times:
Residential customers (<i>odd-numbered addresses</i>)	Wednesdays and Saturdays	Midnight–10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.–midnight
Residential customers (<i>even-numbered addresses</i>)	Thursdays and Sundays	Midnight–10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.–midnight
Commercial customers	Tuesdays and Fridays	Midnight–10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.–midnight

4.4 Water Reuse.

Dripping Springs WSC does not operate a wastewater treatment plant or provide any sewer service. So Dripping Springs WSC has not adopted any strategies for reuse and/or recycling of wastewater and/or graywater.

4.5 Education and Outreach.

4.5.1 Education and Outreach Measures.

Throughout the year, Dripping Springs WSC makes available water-conservation literature regarding water conservation, native landscaping, and other related topics to various interested groups (e.g., garden clubs and property-owners' associations). Dripping Springs WSC staff may attend such events or may request a presentation from LCRA staff to promote water conservation. Dripping Springs WSC also makes publicly available conservation literature and tips on the Dripping Springs WSC website (www.drippingspringswater.com) and at Dripping Springs WSC's office: 101 Hays Street, Suite 416, Dripping Springs, 78620.

Additionally, Dripping Springs WSC staff conducts regular outreach to customers regarding the benefits of using a rainwater tank system to reduce peak consumption and monthly costs. Dripping Springs WSC conducts this outreach to reduce peak consumption by spreading water consumption over a longer period as customers use the natural storability of a rainwater tank system. This outreach benefits Dripping Springs WSC customers by reducing contribution fees, monthly base billing, and monthly gallonage charges.

4.5.2 Additional Education and Outreach BMPs.

In addition to the strategies in § 4.5.1, Dripping Springs WSC adopted the following BMPs:

- Dripping Springs WSC customers are offered rebates for irrigation system equipment, irrigation system evaluations, pools, landscapes and soil testing from LCRA, as listed on LCRA's website. Dripping Springs WSC assists LCRA with promoting water conservation programs to its customers by providing information on its website and periodically sending out automated messages regarding LCRA's rebates.
- Dripping Springs WSC strongly encourages hotels to adopt a hotel-linen-reuse-option policy where linens are only changed upon request during multi-night short stays.

4.6 Other BMPs for New Development.

Dripping Springs WSC adopted the following additional BMPs for new developments:

- **Temporary landscape watering schedule variance for new landscapes.** New landscapes can be watered according to the following schedule for the first 30 days after installation:

Days:	Watering Frequency:	Watering Times:
Days 1–10	Spray irrigation or hose end sprinklers allowed <i>every day</i>	Midnight–10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.–midnight
Days 11–20	Spray irrigation or hose end sprinklers allowed <i>every other day</i>	Midnight–10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.–midnight
Days 21–30	Spray irrigation or hose end sprinklers allowed <i>every third day</i>	Midnight–10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.–midnight

- **Landscape conservation standards for new development.** Dripping Springs WSC encourages new development to incorporate the standards included in Appendix B into their development plans. Dripping Springs WSC provides developers with a copy of Exhibit G: Required Water Conservation/Water Quality Practices for New Development as part of Dripping Springs WSC’s Non-Standard Agreement process for developers.

5. Coordination with Regional Water Planning Group.

Dripping Springs WSC’s service area is located within the Lower Colorado (Region K) Regional Water Planning Area of the State of Texas, and Dripping Springs WSC has provided or will provide a copy of this Plan to the Lower Colorado (Region K) Regional Water Planning Group by mail and email (LCRA, c/o Water Contracts and Conservation, P.O. Box 220, Austin, Texas 78767-0220; administrative@regionk.org).

6. Authorization and Implementation.

Dripping Springs WSC’s General Manager, or the General Manager’s designee, is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of the Plan. The General Manager, or General Manager’s designee, will act as administrator of the water conservation program. The General Manager will oversee the execution and implementation of the program and is responsible for keeping adequate records for program verification. Dripping Springs WSC tracks the implementation and effectiveness of this Plan through monthly reporting from the General Manager to the Board of Directors, which includes updates on water usage, water loss, top water users, and water-usage reductions from conservation measures.

6.1 Water Conservation Coordinator Designation.

Dripping Springs WSC designated a water conservation coordinator, who is responsible for the implementation of this Plan. Dripping Springs WSC’s current water conservation coordinator is the General Manager. The General Manager, or General Manager’s designee, may reappoint this position. The water conservation coordinator’s contact information is below. Dripping Springs WSC will inform TWDB and LCRA of any changes to the water conservation coordinator.

**Dripping Springs WSC Water Conservation
Coordinator:**

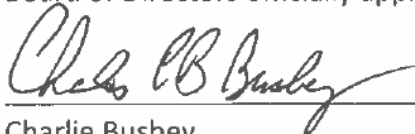
Rick Broun
General Manager
101 Hays Street, Suite 416
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620
(512) 858-7897
RickB@DrippingSpringsWater.com

7. Drought Contingency Plan (“DCP”).

Dripping Springs WSC maintains a current DCP in § H of its tariff, which is available on the Dripping Springs WSC website (www.drippingspringswater.com) and in Public Utility Commission of Texas Docket No. 55836. Dripping Springs WSC’s DCP includes trigger conditions, specific water-demand-management measures, initiation and termination procedures, a means of implementation, and measures to educate and inform the public regarding the DCP.

8. Dripping Springs WSC Board of Directors Approval of the Plan.

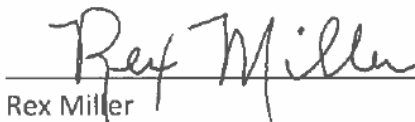
On April 20, 2026, at a properly posted and convened open meeting, Dripping Springs WSC’s Board of Directors officially approved and adopted this Plan.




Charlie Busbey
President
Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation



Date



Rex Miller
Secretary-Treasurer
Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation



Date

Appendix A



Table 1: Historical Water Use Data
Monthly Water Use in Gallons based all water sales

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average
January	17,627,300	20,815,700	28,889,100	25,299,900	34,171,700	25360740
February	21,340,500	19,030,200	19,677,000	30,293,700	28,185,000	23705280
March	22,856,100	22,856,100	25,059,300	32,615,400	42,443,400	29166060
April	28,756,200	28,499,300	28,653,600	43,195,900	54,468,100	36714620
May	35,542,900	27,471,000	36,801,200	33,739,700	60,943,900	38899740
June	39,169,600	27,512,900	51,008,300	47,531,700	75,456,400	48135780
July	52,801,400	43,281,400	59,543,400	48,853,000	65,329,100	53961660
August	51,754,500	58,040,300	63,326,000	56,327,900	68,288,000	59547340
September	27,526,100	52,853,900	43,948,300	62,613,900	58,990,000	49186440
October	23,358,100	49,431,200	47,611,800	44,661,800	56,041,700	44220920
November	21,124,700	24,354,700	40,810,300	45,909,000	36,022,000	33644140
December	20,954,000	27,919,100	30,858,200	35,139,400	33,106,600	29595460
						5-Year Average
Total Gallons	362,811,400	402,065,800	476,186,500	506,181,300	613,445,900	472138180
Total Acre Feet	1113	1234	1461	1,553	1,883	1,449
Year-End Conns	2,306	2,528	3,039	3,636	3,962	
Avg Daily Use Gallons	431	436	429	381	424	420
Water Loss	8%	8%	9%	12%	9%	9%
Peak-to-average	2.14	2.17	1.95	1.85	1.90	1.98
Peak Day	2,128,300	2,410,600	2,560,100	2,575,700	3,205,900	2,576,120
Average Day	994,173	1,110,426	1,311,640	1,393,854	1,689,456	1,299,910

Table 2: RGPCD: Billed Single-Multi Family/Population

GPCD: Production/Population
Population Served: **11886**
Total Production: **613445900**

Peak-to-Average: **1.98**
Residential Population Served: **11034**
Total Billed Residential: **400719700**

Appendix B: Landscape Conservation Standards

These standards are similar to the Greater Austin Homebuilder "Sensible Landscaping for Central Texas" guidelines developed with significant input from the LCRA. The standards are meant to provide builders and homeowners with a well-designed, water-efficient landscape. The standards can be adopted through ordinance, deed restrictions or covenant where economically feasible and allowed by federal, state and local law.

Design

- A. No more than 50% or up to 5,000 square feet of the landscape shall be planted in turf. Longer leaved native grasses and wildflowers that use low amounts of water are not considered turf grass when determining how much turf grass is allowed.
- B. Automatic spray irrigation for each home/business shall be limited to 2 times the foundation footprint, with a 10,000-square-foot maximum. The footprint may include both the house and the garage, but not the driveway or patio.

Soil

- A. There shall be no less than **6 inches** of high-quality topsoil in planted areas.
- B. Topsoil shall be native soil from the site, or fertile, friable, blended soil/compost blend. Topsoil shall not be of any admixture of subsoil or slag and shall be free of stones over 1½ inches in diameter, lumps, refuse, plants or their roots, sticks, noxious weeds, salts, soil sterilant or other material that is detrimental to plant growth. If topsoil is delivered, it shall be obtained from a well-drained site that is free of flooding. Topsoil shall not be delivered or spread while in a muddy condition.
- C. Non-native topsoil shall contain not less than 25 percent organic matter (compost) that is blended through the soil.
- D. Topsoil that is added to the site shall be incorporated into the existing surface in a two- to three-inch scarified transition layer to enable water to drain adequately through the different types of soil. Do not scarify within the drip line of existing trees that are to be retained.

Irrigation

- A. Automated irrigation systems shall not be required in any new landscape. However, if irrigation is installed it shall meet the guidelines outlined in this section.
- B. All irrigation systems shall be installed in accordance with state law, Title 2 Texas Water Code, Chapter 34, and Title 30 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 344 rules, as regulated and enforced by TCEQ. Irrigation contractors who install the irrigation systems must be TCEQ-licensed irrigators.
- C. Drip irrigation shall be used for all irrigated landscaped areas, excluding turf. For trees and shrubs use point source emitters and drip tubes at a depth of 2 inches below the surface for ground cover plants. Do not irrigate turf with drip irrigation. Instead use pressure regulating multi-stream irrigation when possible to irrigate turf.

- D. Areas planted with turf shall be on separate zones from areas planted with shrubs, trees or perennials.
- E. Hydro zoning of all areas that are irrigated automatically will be scheduled with plants with similar watering needs.
- F. All automatic irrigation systems are required to have a rain sensor, a soil moisture sensor and/or a weather sensor connected to an irrigation controller to stop the irrigation cycle during and after a rainfall event. Rain sensors are to be installed in a location where rainfall is unobstructed. Rain sensors should be adjusted at the ¼-inch setting.
- G. Sprinkler irrigation is prohibited in median strips, parking islands and all landscape areas less than 10 feet from curb to curb or 10 feet in width. Areas less than 10 feet curb-to-curb or 10 feet in width can be irrigated with low-volume irrigation. Low-volume irrigation (subsurface drip irrigation or drip irrigation) shall be installed in long landscape strips less than 10 feet in width to avoid runoff and overspray onto the hardscape.
- H. All new residential irrigation systems are required to have pressure regulation whereas static operating pressure does not exceed the sprinkler manufacturer's recommended operating range to eliminate extensive misting. These should include in-line pressure regulators, flow control valves, or sprinkler devices equipped with pressure regulation stems or nozzles.
- I. Irrigation systems are to have a Water Sense labeled smart controller that features multiple start times, rain sensor capability, a water budget feature, and a non-volatile memory in case of power outage.
- J. Scheduling recommendations shall be posted inside or immediately near the controller enclosure box for easy reference.
- K. Homeowners shall be provided with a complete irrigation plan (or as-built drawing) that describes the location of each irrigation zone, control valves, and sprinkler devices.
- L. Sprinkler systems shall be designed with no overspray onto the hardscape.
- M. Include in-line check valves and sprinkler heads with check valves in irrigation zones located at the bottom of sloped terrain along curbs, sidewalks, driveways, and other hardscapes. Including devices that prevent low-head drainage after the sprinkler zone is turned off.

Plant Choice

- A. Plants used must be native and drought tolerant.
- B. Turf grasses should be limited to low water use turfs. St. Augustine grasses are explicitly prohibited.
- C. Invasive plants shall not be used.

Plant Prepping, Placement and Spacing

- A. A hole dug for the plant or tree should be two to three times wider than the container or root ball in which the plant is being stored, ensuring water is able to be absorbed by the plant's roots.

- B. Blend existing soil with compost before the sodding or seeding with the recommended turfgrass.
- C. Proper plant placement and spacing is critical to plant health and long-term landscape quality. Placing plants too close to buildings can cause problems with plant disease, as well as insect and structural problems. Proper plant spacing helps ensure good air flow and room for plants to mature without crowding. Consider the mature height and width of plants before planting them.

Mulch

- A. All areas planted with trees, perennials and shrubs shall be finished with a **2- to 4-inch-deep** layer of high-quality 50/50 blend of organic mulch and compost blend.
- B. Wood chip mulch shall be clean wood chips free of man-made debris, shredded into coarse pieces ranging from 1 to 3 inches.
- C. Rock mulch shall be used in planting beds only in small areas with succulents or areas without irrigation requirements such as pathways. Rock mulch can increase heat effect and require more water on planted beds.

Maintenance

- A. Replenish mulch/compost blend in non-turf areas every two years at a minimum. Doing so during the fall and spring is recommended.
- B. Aerate turfgrass within the first year of construction and twice a year after that (about Oct. 1 and March 1).
- C. Top dress turfgrass areas with quality compost twice a year (about Oct. 1 and March 1) at a depth of ¼ to ½ inch following the aeration and drag or rake it into the canopy and aeration holes.
- D. Mow turf no shorter than 3-4 inches.
- E. Set the automatic irrigation system back to current watering schedule after the establishment period.

Exhibit G

Required Water Conservation / Water Quality Practices for New Development

All Development:

Incorporate low-impact development strategies **wherever possible** in the pre-development phase such as:

- Use existing hydrology as the integrating framework of the development
- Preserve buffer zones along waterways and open spaces
- Minimize impervious cover
- Control stormwater at the source
- Use simplistic, nonstructural controls
- Creating a multifunctional landscape

Implement the following landscape practices during development design to minimize runoff and maximize water conservation potential in the post-development phase such as:

- Preserve existing trees wherever possible and replace trees removed during development that were greater than 8 inches in caliper
- Use drought resistant vegetation
- Minimize turf grass areas wherever possible and use drought resistant grasses such as: Bermuda, Zoysia, or Buffalo in all areas that will be seeded or sodded
- Use a minimum soil depth of 4, preferably 6-8, inches for all areas to be planted with turf grass with soil amendments (compost) added to the top two inches of native soil (75% soil and 25% compost)
- Mulch exposed soil with a 2-inch minimum of organic material
- Consider the use of effluent, rainwater, or stormwater to meet any irrigation water needs
- Irrigation systems must include the following:
 - **Rain Sensor**
 - **Pressure Regulators**
 - **Multiple Cycle Controller with an irrigation Water Budget Feature**
 - **Minimization of overspray onto hardscapes, use drip irrigation in areas less than 10 feet, curb-to-curb**

Residential Development:

Must include the following covenant and deed restrictions to achieve reasonable water conservation and water quality in residential areas such as:

- Requiring rain sensor shut-off devices for all irrigation systems
- Require a minimum of 6 inches of topsoil for landscaped areas
- St. Augustine is expressly prohibited.
- Defining “acceptable level of maintenance” for residential landscaped areas with the understanding that certain species of plants are dormant during different seasons

Commercial Development:

Require **when feasible** stormwater runoff collection, re-irrigation or rainwater harvesting techniques to meet landscape irrigation water demands on commercial facilities over 10,000 square feet.

Exhibit R

Dripping Springs WSC Water Rates 2025

Residential/Commercial no Irrigation Meter/Irrigation Meter

Monthly Base: \$35/LUE	Tier (gallons)	\$/1,000 gallons
	• 0-4,000	\$2.25/1,000
	• 4,001-8,000	\$3.75/1,000
	• 8,001-12,000	\$4.25/1,000
	• 12,001-20,000	\$5.25/1,000
	• 20,001-30,000	\$15.25/1,000
	• 30,001-50,000	\$20.25/1,000
	• 50,001 and above	\$25.00/1,000

Commercial with Separate Irrigation Meter

Monthly Base: \$35/LUE	Tier (gallons)	\$/1,000 gallons
	• 0-4,000	\$2.25/1,000
	• 4,001-8,000	\$3.75/1,000
	• 8,001-12,000	\$4.25/1,000
	• 12,001-30,000	\$4.75/1,000
	• 30,001-50,000	\$7.25/1,000
	• 50,001 and above	\$9.25/1,000

Irrigation Meter

Monthly Base: \$35/LUE	Tier (gallons)	\$/1,000 gallons
	• 0-30,000	\$15.25/1,000
	• 30,001-50,000	\$20.25/1,000
	• 50,001 and above	\$25.00/1,000

Bulk Water

Monthly Base:

- \$200 / truck meter
- \$100- station users over 50,000 gallons

Tier (gallons) \$/1,000 gallons

- Residential \$10.00/1,000
- Commercial \$15.00/1,000