



## EDWARDS AQUIFER PROTECTION PROGRAM

### NEWS AND UPDATES

The City of San Antonio (COSA) Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) has a new website! The website was recently updated to include a complete list of properties protected by the COSA aquifer protection program as well as the latest in program news and information. Please visit: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/edwardsaquifer> for more information on the COSA Edwards Aquifer Protection Program.

In April, staff of the COSA Edwards Aquifer Protection Program were filmed in the first new episode of Capital Ventures (COSA TVSA show), which began airing in May 2013 on COSA TVSA. This video highlights the Capital Improvements Management Services Division and gives a descriptive overview of the aquifer program. This video can be viewed at: [http://www.sanantonio.gov/tvsa/CityShows/Archived\\_Capital.aspx](http://www.sanantonio.gov/tvsa/CityShows/Archived_Capital.aspx).

The COSA EAPP was recently highlighted in the San Antonio Express-News in an article written by Andrew Sansom, with the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University. Andy Sansom is an expert on water issues in Texas. The article explains how the City of San Antonio is on the forefront of water conservation and policy throughout the state.

**“San Antonio Can Lead in Smart Water Policy”** Recent article in the San Antonio Express-News on the COSA Edwards Aquifer Protection Program.



**“San Antonio has also demonstrated bold foresight on another key water issue, the protection of watersheds and recharge areas in the stewardship of private property owners.”** Excerpt from Andrew Sansom, for the San Antonio Express-News. For more information, please visit our website.

### CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

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For more information on the program or to receive quarterly newsletters via email, please visit our new website at:

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/edwardsaquifer>





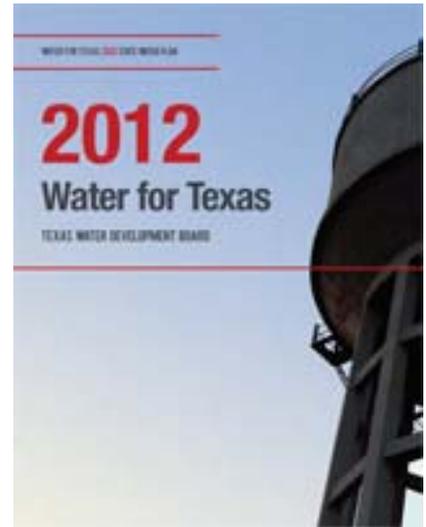
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**TEXAS WATER NEWS**

**TX LEGISLATURE FUNDS STATE WATER PLAN**

In May, lawmakers in the 83rd Texas Legislature approved to advance funding for the State Water Plan. After much legal wrangling and complex negotiation, House and Senate legislators on both sides of the aisle finally agreed to fund the state’s water plan, originally approved in 2012. It was decided that the state constitution would be amendment to allow for the creation of two funding mechanisms: a State Water Implementation Fund (SWIFT) and State Water Implementation Revenue Fund (SWIRFT). Both funds will be added to ballot measures and presented to voters in November for approval. The accounts would enable the state to issue low-interest loans for regional water projects throughout the state. Projects would be selected and managed by the Texas Water Development Board, the state agency tasked with, among other things, the planning and financial assistance of regional water conservation and development projects. If the measures are voted down by Texans in November, the funds will fail to take effect.



Source: TX Water Dev. Board



**SUMMERTIME IN SAN ANTONIO**

**SUMMER YOUTH & FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

Summertime means extreme temperatures and the threat of drought conditions for south Central Texas. But the summer months also bring activities and events for children and the whole family. The City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide assortment of family-oriented outings starting in June. From photography classes at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens, to aquifer adventure programs with the Edwards Aquifer Authority’s Doc Edwards at Medina River Natural Area, the COSA Parks department will keep you and your kids busy all summer long. For kids who want to learn more specifically about the Edwards Aquifer and water conservation, both SAWS and the Edwards Aquifer Authority offer a wide range of programs and resources.

For more information on how to beat the summer heat, please visit the websites below:

**SAWS:**  
[http://www.saws.org/Education/Virtual\\_Classroom/](http://www.saws.org/Education/Virtual_Classroom/)

**COSA Parks:**  
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/calendar.aspx>

**EAA:**  
[http://www.edwardsaquifer.org/index.php/aquifer\\_education/for\\_kids/](http://www.edwardsaquifer.org/index.php/aquifer_education/for_kids/)





## GREEN LIVING

### BEING GREEN SAVES YOU MONEY!

Energy use, water consumption, and home maintenance all cost money. There are many ways a homeowner can save money while at the same time reducing impacts to the environment. Here are just a few:

**Energy — Residential Solar Electric Systems.** Solar electric systems have panels and inverters that convert collected solar energy from the sun into a current that can be used in your home. There are incentives and rebates for using solar power. For example, City Public Service offers a fixed value to the price of the solar power produced and a credit in that amount off of the bill.

**Water — Water Saving Ideas.** Minimizing your lawn watering scheduling to once a week and adjusting your lawnmower to a high setting will save money and your grass. Most lawns can survive on once-a-week watering and with longer grass, root systems hold soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.

**Home Maintenance — Repair and Installation Projects.** Installing high efficiency toilets, water-saving shower heads, and Energy Star high efficiency dishwashers and washing machines can save a tremendous amount of water and energy. High efficiency toilets use only 1.3 gallons compared to older toilets that averaged between 3.5 to 7 gallons. High efficiency dishwashers and washing machines not only save water, they use 50% less energy than older models. Energy efficient windows and attic foil radiant barriers are other energy and money saving ideas.

## LANDSCAPING TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

### DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPING

There are many things that can be done to reduce water use and keep plants alive through the heat of the summer. For example, use native plants only, as they are well-adapted to local climate. Exotic species can be invasive and easily spread into natural ecosystems by birds and other wildlife. Use trees, hedges, shrubs or tall ornamental grasses as natural wind breaks. Windbreaks help keep the plants and soil blowing dry.

Try xeriscaping techniques. Xeriscaping refers to the conservation of water through creative landscaping. Xeriscaping not only saves water, it requires less overall maintenance and no fertilizers or pesticides. It also attracts natural wildlife, such as birds and butterflies.



Get the latest tips for landscaping in San Antonio. Visit Texas Parks and Wildlife at: [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife\\_diversity/wildscapes/san\\_antonio.phtml](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/san_antonio.phtml)

## Did you know

- Energy Star dishwashers use about 4 gallons of water per load. Standard machines use about 6 gallons and hand washing uses 20 gallons of water each time.
- Using energy efficient light bulbs greatly reduces carbon emissions and can last up to 2 years compared to conventional light bulbs that last around 3 to 4 months. Energy efficient light bulbs not only are better on the environment, they can save you money on your electric bill and light bulb replacement costs.

## Useful Links

**Living Green San Antonio**  
<http://www.livinggreensa.com>

**Green Tips**  
<http://curiosity.discovery.com/group/planet-green>

**Earth Easy Tips**  
<http://www.eartheasy.com>

**Earth 911**  
<http://www.earth911.com>

**EPA Water Sense**  
<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/index.html>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### UPCOMING 2013 SUMMER & FALL EVENTS

Upcoming summer and fall conferences are around the corner! Don't miss out on these informative seminars regarding water and land-related issues:

- EAA Distinguished Lecture Series: "Groundwater, Texas Style" — San Antonio, TX — June 21
- Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts: 2013 Texas Groundwater Summit — Austin, TX — August 27-29
- UTSA Water Institute of Texas Symposium — San Antonio, TX — Oct. 4
- SXSW Eco Conference — Austin, TX — October 7-9



## PARTNERING WITH THE EDWARDS AQUIFER AUTHORITY

### HOW THEY ASSIST THE COSA EAPP

In 2008, the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) and the COSA EAPP entered into an Interlocal Agreement to have the EAA participate in the City's aquifer protection program. Since water quantity/quality objectives of the City's program are similar to that of the EAA, a unique opportunity arose allowing the City to partner with the EAA. The Interlocal Agreement designates oversight to the EAA in developing conservation easement management/monitoring plans and in assisting with annual easement field inspections. The EAA also performs preliminary studies of potential land being considered into the program. Studies include geologic surveys and hydro-geologic investigations.

The EAA is a crucial team player in many aspects of the EAPP. Not only do they assist in annual monitoring inspections once or twice a week for nine months out of the year, they are involved in preparing inspection reports from each monitoring visit, scheduling upcoming visits with landowners, requesting information from landowners, and preparing management plans for properties entering into the program. The EAPP benefits tremendously from all of their hard work and the City looks forward to working with them in the years to come.



Photo of Doug Grieco on a recent monitoring inspection.

## EAA STAFF

### MEET THE GROUP

**Doug Grieco** is the EAA Aquifer Protection Manager. He has been managing the easement monitoring program shortly after the Interlocal Agreement was signed by the City. He has a degree in Biology from Texas A&M and over 30 years of environmental management experience.

**Fred Wills** is an Environmental Coordinator for the EAA and provides expertise in plant ecology. He has nearly 27 years of environmental experience and received his B.S. and M.S. at Texas A&M. He provides his extensive background in plant ecology and rangeland management during annual monitoring investigations.

**Jenna Pace** is an Environmental Coordinator for the EAA with a background in geologic mapping, remote sensing, and GIS techniques. She received her B.S. in Geology and minor in GIS at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. She provides her extensive background in geology and GIS mapping during annual monitoring inspections and for the easement monitoring program.



Photo of Jenna Pace investigating cave features on a recent monitoring inspection.

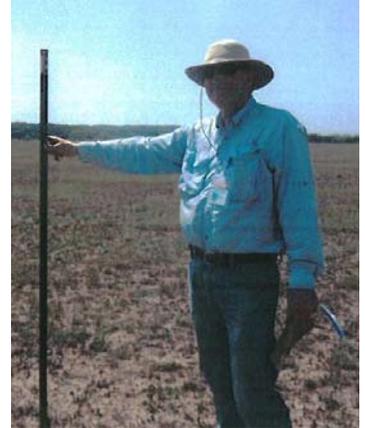


Photo of Fred Wills evaluating rangeland conditions on a recent monitoring inspection.

## SCIENCE-BASED CONSERVATION

### GIS SPATIAL MODEL EXPLAINED

Ever wonder how the City selects which properties over the Edwards Aquifer to target for protection? The City's aquifer protection program uses an elaborate science-based analysis tool for evaluating which properties are selected for inclusion in the program. Properties within the program's target area are strategically ranked by a GIS spatial model based on four determining factors: permeability (hydrogeology), biology, property size, and location. The GIS model was designed with data gathered by the program's Scientific Evaluation Team (SET). The SET featured scientific experts from various agencies including the EAA, the U.S. Geological Survey, TPWD, USFWS, SAWS, SARA and the City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation Department.

