

Live Green in Plano

NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF PLANO

SUMMER 2013

Summer Water Use

Stage 3 watering restrictions started June 1 and allow for watering only once per week. Odd addresses may water on Tuesdays and even addresses on Thursdays. Watering with sprinklers between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. is still prohibited. Residents are encouraged to operate irrigation systems manually in order to provide efficient and cost-effective watering. For complete information on water restrictions and a copy of the water calendar, visit plano.gov/water or call the Water Conservation Information Hotline at (972) 769-4338.

Outdoor Watering Tips

Save water and money by installing a rain sensor on your existing irrigation system to prevent watering during rain events. Did you know the City offers a \$50 rebate on this water saving device?

Drip irrigation is 90 percent efficient and is a great way to keep your plants hydrated. Interested in learning more about drip irrigation? Register at livegreeninplano.obsres.com to attend one of our FREE DIY Drip Irrigation workshops this summer.

Program your irrigation controller to water only on your designated day and use the cycle-soak method of irrigation.

Did you know there are simple fixes for common irrigation system problems like broken, clogged or misaligned sprinkler heads? Learn how to make these repairs at one of the upcoming FREE Irrigation Quick Fixes workshops this summer. Register at livegreeninplano.obsres.com.

livegreeninplano.com

From Green Acres to Farmers Market

Residents don't need to live on a farm or even drive to one in order to enjoy farm-fresh produce and artisan-made goods. The Collin County Farmers Market is officially open and welcomes you from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday. The market is located at Fairview Farms, 3314 Central Expy., Plano 75074. The vendors are situated in a covered outdoor setting which is family friendly, but pets should be left at home.

Founded by Kari Gates, Spring Creek Organic Farm, and Scott Merner, former manager of the Frisco market, the Collin County Farmers Market at Fairview Farms is a nonprofit Community Development Corporation (501c3). Their mission is to support local farmers, while providing the community access to fresh, wholesome and healthy foods.



Harkening back to its historic agricultural roots, the market hosts a community garden sponsored by local businesses. Produce harvested from the community garden is donated to local food banks. Visit the market's community room off the main vendor hall and visit with local Master Gardeners and volunteers about gardening and composting. For more information, visit collincountyfarmersmarket.org.



Smart Energy LOAN PROGRAM

Welcome Home to Lower Utility Bills

Get the money to make your energy efficient upgrades a reality. The City of Plano offers a Smart Energy Loan Program to qualified Plano residents. Smart Energy Loans facilitate energy retrofits to existing homes at interest rates which are below current market rates.

If you're hot under the collar about rising energy costs, then save money at home, experience enhanced air quality, enjoy a more comfortable living environment, and do something good for the environment.



**Emergency
process
available!**



SmartEnergyLoans.com

Recycle Right Plano Right Time, Right Place, Right Stuff

Plano is lucky to have one of the country's leading residential recycling programs. Plano residents have enjoyed a fully-automated, single-stream collection system for more than 10 years. This technology means quicker processing of a wider variety of recyclable materials. Ultimately, the success of the City's recycling program depends on residents doing their part. Environmental Waste Services suggests three simple rules to make it easy!



Right Time

Place carts and all other collection materials at your collection point by 7 a.m. on your collection day. Even if your driver's schedule seems predictable, you never know when something might change and he could arrive at **your house** first. Help us avoid missing your house and be ready on time. (And please, don't forget to pull carts back to the house within 12 hours of your collection. Your neighbors thank you!)

Right Place

By placing your cart in the right place, you enhance SAFETY. Place your cart by the alley or curb, then allow at least two feet of clearance on all sides. Our route drivers average 100 homes an hour. They're quick and efficient, which keeps costs down for residents. Carts placed too close to fences, gas meters and other objects slow trucks down. An improperly placed cart requires drivers to leave their trucks and move cart so it can be safely emptied to avoid property damage with the automated truck arm. The "two-foot rule" applies to bulky waste items and yard trimmings, too.

Right Stuff

Know what goes in your recycle cart. For paper it's simple - if you can tear it and it's free from food, animal and/or human contamination, then it goes in the recycle cart. For plastics, any hard plastic container and its lid can go in the recycle cart. All empty tin, steel, aluminum and aerosol cans, along with empty glass containers, jars and bottles go in your recycle cart, too.

Items which never go in your recycle cart include Styrofoam™ and plastic bags, along with mirrors and glass dishes, cardboard milk cartons, wire hangers and tent poles.

Do you have more questions about the Right Stuff? Like us on Facebook and ask the experts at [Facebook.com/RecycleRightPlano](https://www.facebook.com/RecycleRightPlano).



Prevent Spreading West Nile Virus

The Environmental Health department monitors mosquitoes to identify locations of West Nile Virus (WNV) activity. To date, no samples have tested positive for WNV.

Along with monitoring mosquitoes, the department is actively applying pesticides in park areas to kill mosquito larva before they mature, take flight and bite. In addition to traditional pest management, the City seeds waterways and water bodies using biological controls in the form of mosquito fish called gambusia. These fish feed on mosquito larvae. Report dead birds and other potential sources for mosquitoes at Fix-It Plano: plano.gov/fixit or (888) 491-3119.

Personal action is essential to protect yourself from exposure to WNV. Here are some simple tips to minimize the risk:

- Stay indoors from dusk to dawn. Mosquitoes are most active during this time period.
- Wear long sleeves and pants when outside to cover skin. For extra protection, spray clothing with insect repellent.
- Use insect repellent when outdoors and follow product guidelines.
- Locate and drain standing water on your property and in your neighborhood. Common mosquito breeding sites include old tires, flower pots and bird baths. Keep water in swimming pools treated and ensure circulation. Remove debris and water from rain gutters.

For the most up-to-date information on the City's West Nile Virus preventive efforts, visit plano.gov/westnilevirus.

MULCH! MULCH! MULCH!

Conserve water and grow healthier happier plants by using compost and Texas native hardwood mulch! As Texas summer approaches protect your plants and conserve water at the same time by topping off your landscape beds with 2-4 inches of Texas native hardwood mulch.

Texas Pure Products creates excellent whole tree mulch for use in your landscape beds and under your trees. Using the entire tree to create mulch ensures the healthiest environment for your trees and plants. It returns nitrogen back to the soil by using the green leaves and cambium layer of trees and shrubs as ingredients in our native hardwood mulch.

Mulch also protect plants roots from temperature extremes both hot and cold while preventing excessive evaporation from the soil. In the winter mulch acts like a blanket to prevent cold damage to sensitive feeder roots and in the summer like an insulating layer to keep the baking sun from robbing much needed moisture from the soil. Be sure to water the ground thoroughly before and after applying your mulch for the season.

NOTE:

- For Landscape Beds: No need to remove last year's mulch layer from your landscape beds! The old mulch compost enriching the soil and releasing nutrients as it does so! Top off the old layer with a fresh new layer of mulch. Water the ground well before and after applying mulch.
- For Trees: Spread mulch 2-4 inches deep to the drip line of trees leaving a bare space 6-12 inches away from the trunk of the tree. All the feeder roots are out at the tips of the trees branches (drip line) searching for moisture and nutrition.
- Avoid piling mulch against tree trunks in a "volcano" looking pile as this will damage the tree stunting growth or killing it altogether by smothering the tree or death as a result of insect damage.

Support your Green Purchases at Plano- based Certified Green Businesses

What do an inviting apartment community, two popular eateries, a professional non-profit and an award-winning meat market have in common? The Villas at Chase Oaks, Snappy Salads, Whiskey Cake Restaurant, Collin County Association of Realtors and Hirsch's Specialty Meats are ALL Green Business Certified.



CITY OF PLANO

By completing required and optional green initiatives in waste reduction, energy and water efficiency, pollution prevention and sustainable purchasing, these businesses earned certification. They enjoy operational cost savings, reduce their environmental footprint and attract eco-conscious customers. The recently introduced Green Business Certified (GBC) program validates the green initiatives of small to medium-sized businesses in four industries: office/retail, multi-family community, grocery store and restaurant.

"Our self-paced GBC program requires all candidates' green attributes must be verified," says Christopher Day, Commercial Recycling Supervisor, whose team administers the program. Support these businesses and learn more at planocommercialrecycling.com.



Water-Wise Summer Classes

Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Pkwy.
Plano 75093



Irrigation Quick Fixes

Do you irrigate wisely? Learn how and when to water your plants, how to make simple sprinkler repairs, and where to go for help.

Cost: FREE.
10 – 11:30 a.m., Saturday, June 29
7 – 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 24
10 – 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 7



DIY Drip Irrigation

Drip irrigation is 90 percent more efficient, promotes healthy plants, and is inexpensive and easy to install. Learn all about drip irrigation and how to install your own system!

Cost: FREE
10 – 11:30 a.m., Saturday, July 13
7 – 8:30 p.m., Thursday, August 22

3rd Saturday Events

Tackling Indoor Water Use
9:30 – 11 a.m., Saturday, August 17
Discover how easy it is to find and fix common water leaks in your home. Explore water conservation features at Plano's Environmental Education Center to further your water conservation efforts.

Classes are FREE, but space is limited.
Required online registration: livegreeninplano.obsres.com.

Living The Good (and Green) Life

Are you already living green and ready to take it to the next level? Sign up for the Live Green in Plano Volunteer Training Program. We provide you with 12 hours of education about water conservation, waste reduction, energy conservation, Smartscaping, composting and more! Then, you provide 24 hours of your time as a LGIP Volunteer.

This fall, choose from two different class schedules:

DAYS

10 a.m. – Noon
Six consecutive Tuesdays
beginning September 17

EVENINGS

7 – 9 p.m.
Six consecutive Thursdays
beginning September 19

All sessions are at the Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093. Required online registration: livegreeninplano.obsres.com

The Natural Choice for Private Events:

If you're looking for a sustainable, green venue which provides a distinctive, natural place for special events such as meetings, weddings, showers, parties and family reunions, then the LEED Platinum-certified Environmental Education Center and gardens provides the perfect location.



By holding your event at the Environmental Education Center or the surrounding gardens, you provide your guests with a relaxing and comfortable environment while educating them about best practices for living green at home or work.

For rental information and inquiries regarding availability, call (972) 769-4130. eecgreenevents.com



The landscape and gardens surrounding the Environmental Education Center showcase native and adapted plants, which are heat and drought tolerant. These examples demonstrate attractive, low maintenance plants for home landscapes.

Green Government: Read Green With eMagazines

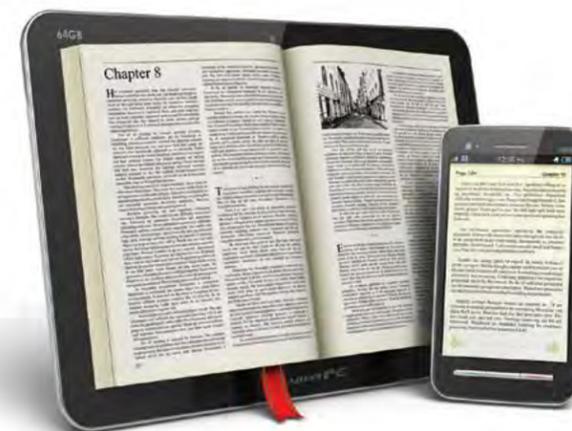
The growing digital library at Plano Public Library System offers a paperless paradise of reading with eBooks, eAudiobooks and now...eMagazines!

More than 100 popular magazines are available in digital format through Zinio. Access is easy on any internet-enabled device, such as an iPad, Kindle, tablet or smart phone. There are no due dates and multiple users can download the same title, so you won't ever find a magazine "checked out" by someone else. Once the magazine downloads to your device, it stays there until you delete it. And, the best part of eMagazines - it's free with your library card!



Save money by downloading popular titles like *Consumer Reports*, *Macworld*, *Oprah*, *PCWorld*, *Bicycling*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Road & Track*, *Popular Science*, *Runner's World*, *Every Day with Rachael Ray*, *Seventeen*, *Car & Driver*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Outside*, *Men's Health*, *Country Living*, *Architectural Record*, *Newsweek* and many more. There are even magazines to inspire new ideas and share news for a healthy planet and a healthy life - *Clean Eating*, *Green Source*, *Mother Earth News*, *Natural Health*, *Whole Living*, *Vegetarian Times*, and *Yoga Journal* to name a few.

Look for the eContent-digital library tab at planolib.org and remember, wherever you are, you have a digital library in the palm of your hand.



Tips from the Cart: Caps On!

You've probably heard it said, "Don't recycle bottle caps - throw them in the trash."

Well, guess what? We want you to leave the caps on and recycle them!

So, why the mystery around bottle caps? Let's debunk a few common myths.

Bottle Cap Myth #1

Bottles and lids are made from two different types of plastic and therefore, need to be processed separately.

Bottle Cap Fact

Plastic beverage bottles are made from PET #1 plastic and caps are usually made from polypropylene #5 plastic. When the plastic is shredded and washed prior to being melted, the plastics separate naturally. The lightweight lids float to the top in the washing tank, while the heavier PET #1 plastic sinks. This makes separating the two plastics easy.

Bottle Cap Myth #2

When bottles are crushed for shipment, there is a potential for caps to shoot away at high speeds and create a safety hazard for recycling workers.

Bottle Cap Fact

Caps are small and compression takes place inside enclosed bailing machines. Plus, projectile caps aren't a safety issue for recycling since they normally wear safety protection.

Now, let's look at real problems and how you can be part of the solutions. Due to their small size, loose caps in the recycling stream literally fall through the cracks of the automated sorting process and workers aren't able to identify and grab them as they pass at high speeds on the belts. So, after cooling off with a cold beverage, simply crush the container, twist the cap back on and recycle it.

Bottle caps are a huge environmental problem if they become litter. Because of their shape, size and floating ability, caps are frequently mistaken as food by marine animals in our watershed. So, keep the caps on and recycle them.

CLEAN AIR ACTION DAY, JUNE 21: TAKE ACTION FOR CLEAN AIR

On Friday, June 21 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., do something extra for clean air! Carpool to work, plan a family bike ride or ride Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to downtown Plano. Make a difference by choosing one thing to reduce ozone-causing pollution.

Air quality is a serious, ongoing problem. For North Texans struggling with respiratory illnesses and lung health issues, breathing is always on their minds. Air pollution poses a threat to both human health and our environment. Air North Texas designated the first Friday of summer as Clean Air Action Day to emphasize long-term behavioral changes during the peak ozone season when the air quality is typically at its worst.



Participation is easy. On June 21, commit to at least one green action to help us all breathe cleaner air and build healthier communities in North Texas. Go Green, Breathe Clean!

BE AIR AWARE - TAKE ACTION NOW

- Sign up to receive Ozone Action Day email alerts at airnorthtexas.org.
- Know the Air Quality Index (AQI) and what each of the colors indicates.
- Make behavioral changes, such as carpool, avoid idling, combine errands, maintain your vehicle, and use mass transit.
- Subscribe to Clean Air Mail for up-to-date information about our air at airnorthtexas.org.
- Pledge to be air aware during this ozone season at airnorthtexas.org.

SPREAD THE WORD

Tell us your story.

What will you do on June 21? Why is clean air important to you? Post your comments or upload a photo or video to our Facebook page.

Tell your friends about Clean Air Action Day. Organize a family bike ride or carpool to lunch with co-workers to let them know about Clean Air Action Day.

Share. Pin. Tweet. Repeat.

Voice your commitment to clean air using social media. Follow us via Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest. Use the hashtags [#CleanAirActionDay](https://twitter.com/CleanAirActionDay) and [#AirNTX](https://twitter.com/AirNTX).



Environmental Star of Excellence Awards

The City of Plano is on the hunt for this year's nominees for the Environmental Star of Excellence Awards. Help spread the word about this award program aimed at recognizing organizations and individuals. If you're aware of significant environmental contributions made in our community, then tell us about it.

During the annual Environmental Community Awards, the City recognizes outstanding environmental leadership and achievement within our community by honoring businesses, non-profits, homeowners associations (HOAs), schools and individuals with the Environmental Star of Excellence award.

The awards are divided into two categories - Business:

- > Environmental Commitment
- > Green Building
- > Organic Recycling
- > Single-Stream Recycling
- > Small Business Sustainability Practices
- > Multi-family Sustainability Practices

Community:

- > Nonprofits (including faith-based)
- > Educational Institutions
- > Neighborhood Group/HOAs
- > Community Partnerships
- > Individual

Applications, award descriptions and instructions may be downloaded at livegreeninplano.com and are due by 5 p.m., Friday, August 2.

Awards are presented at the Environmental Community Awards Celebration on Wednesday, September 25 at Collin College, Spring Creek Campus, Plano 75074.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All classes are located at the Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093 (unless otherwise noted). Registration is required for all classes: livegreeninplano.obsres.com.

JULY

- 2 Early Childhood Educational Program: Fun with Sun & Air
9 – 10 a.m., Cost: \$3 per child (Plano student), \$4 per child (non-Plano student)
- 7 Nature Explore Family Club
3 - 4 p.m.
- 9 Early Childhood Educational Program: The Earth is Special
9 – 10 a.m., Cost: \$3 per child (Plano student), \$4 per child (non-Plano student)
- 13 DIY Drip Irrigation
10 – 11:30 a.m.
- 16 Early Childhood Educational Program: All Life Depends on Water
9 – 10 a.m., Cost: \$3 per child (Plano student), \$4 per child (non-Plano student)
- 20 3rd Saturday: Go Green, Breathe Clean
9:30 – 11 a.m.
- 23 Early Childhood Educational Program: Water is a Home for Animals
9 – 10 a.m.
- 24 Irrigation Quick Fixes
7 – 8:30 p.m.
- 30 Early Childhood Educational Program: Healthy Soil, Healthy Earth
9 – 10 a.m., Cost: \$3 per child (Plano student), \$4 per child (non-Plano student)

AUGUST

- 2 Environmental Star of Excellence Awards: Application Deadline
- 4 Nature Explore Family Club
3 - 4 p.m.
- 6 Early Childhood Educational Program: Plants Provide Food & Shelter – Help Them Grow!
9 – 10 a.m., Cost: \$3 per child (Plano students), \$4 per child (non-Plano students)
- 7 Irrigation Quick Fixes
10 – 11:30 a.m.
- 17 3rd Saturday: Tackling Indoor Water Use
9:30 – 11 a.m.
- 22 DIY Drip Irrigation
7 - 8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 4 – Oct. 23 Kids in the Garden
3:30 - 5 p.m., Eight Consecutive Wednesdays,
Cost: \$30
- 7 Finding & Fixing Indoor Water Leaks
10 – 11:30 a.m.
- 8 Nature Explore Family Club
3 - 4 p.m.
- 9 Green Education Open House
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Garden Green in Plano Series: Creating Healthy Soils
7 – 9 p.m., Cost: \$5
- 17 Garden Green in Plano Series: Success with Seeds
7 – 9 p.m., Cost: \$5
- 17 – Oct. 22 Live Green in Plano Volunteer Training (Days)
10 a.m. – Noon, Six Consecutive Tuesdays
- 19 – Oct. 24 Live Green in Plano Volunteer Training (Nights)
7 – 9 p.m., Six Consecutive Thursdays
- 21 Talking Trash & Recycling
Environmental Waste Services Open House
10 -11:30 a.m.
- 25 Environmental Community Awards Celebration
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Collin College
2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano 75074
- 26 Finding and Fixing Indoor Water Leaks
10 - 11:30 a.m.

Environmental Education Center Garden Workdays

4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
A waiver must be submitted at least three days before workday.
Register: eeco@plano.gov

July 13, August 10, 7 – 10 a.m.
September 14, October 12, 8 – 11 a.m.

Plano Community Garden Workdays

4030 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
A waiver must be submitted at least three days before workday.
Register: eeco@plano.gov

July 27, August 24, 7 – 10 a.m.
September 28, October 26, 8 – 11 a.m.

CITY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Independence Day

City offices, Household Chemical Reuse Center, Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility, Texas Pure Regional Composting Facility, and the North Texas Municipal Water District Transfer Stations and 121 Regional Disposal Facility (RDF) are closed on Thursday, July 4.

Labor Day

City offices, Household Chemical Reuse Center, Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility, Texas Pure Regional Composting Facility, and the North Texas Municipal Water District Transfer Stations and 121 RDF are closed on Monday, September 2. Please note, the Household Chemical Reuse Center is closed on Saturday, August 31, too.

COLLECTION SCHEDULE CHANGES

Independence Day

NO collection service on Thursday, July 4. Trash, recycling, yard trimmings and bulky waste collections slide forward one day for Thursday only (Thursday on Friday).

Labor Day

NO collection service on Monday, September 2. Trash, recycling, yard trimmings and bulky waste collections slide forward one day.

Electronics Recycling

First Saturdays

9 a.m – Noon, First United Methodist Church
3160 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano 75074

Second Saturdays

9 – 11 a.m., St. Andrew United Methodist Church
5801 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093

Third Saturdays

9 – 11 a.m., Christ United Methodist Church
3101 Coit Road, Plano 75075

United Electronics Recycling (UER) offers a convenient, comprehensive electronics recycling program. They accept all electronics, including all portions of computer systems, televisions and entertainment systems for reuse and recycling. The highest standards are observed for social, financial and environmental responsibility. UER wipes all information from your computer and provides a receipt for your records. This company follows a no-landfill policy and all parts of electronics are recycled domestically. Fees: \$10 Televisions, \$5 Monitors, and all other electronics are free.



2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Plano PWS0430007 (972) 769-4160.
This report is available at plano.gov/water.

En Español: Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre éste informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (972) 769-5130 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

Our Drinking Water is Regulated

The City of Plano ensures safe, high-quality drinking water to its residents. This report is a summary of the quality of the water we provide our customers. In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The City of Plano's analysis was made by using data from the most recent EPA required tests and is presented in the following pages. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants to bottled water providing the same protection for public health.

Plano's water system has a "Superior" rating with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. We hope this information helps you become more knowledgeable about what's in your drinking water.

Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material; and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and headaches.

Where Do We Get our Drinking Water?

The source of drinking water used by City of Plano is purchased surface water from the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). To contact NTMWD, call (972) 442-5405. A Source Water Susceptibility Assessment for your drinking water source(s) is currently being updated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The information contained in the assessment allows us to focus source water protection strategies. Some of this source water assessment information is available on Texas Drinking Water Watch at www.tceq.state.tx.us/DWW/. For more information about your sources of water, please refer to the Source Water Assessment Viewer online at gis3.tceq.state.tx.us/swav/Controller/index.jsp?wtrsrc.

Possible Contaminants in Source Water

When drinking water meets federal standards there may not be any health benefits to purchasing bottled water or point of use devices. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants.

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The presence of contaminants does NOT necessarily indicate your drinking water poses a health risk. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Abbreviations and Definitions

The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **MFL:** million fibers per liter (a measure of asbestos)
- **mrem/year:** millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
- **N/A:** Not applicable.
- **NTU:** Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
- **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter—or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
- **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter—or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
- **ppt:** parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)
- **ppq:** parts per quadrillion or pictograms per liter (pg/L)

Secondary Constituents

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water can cause taste, color and odor problems. These secondary constituents are regulated by the State of Texas, not the EPA. They are NOT causes for health concern, but may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

Special Notice

You may be more vulnerable than the general population to certain microbial contaminants, such as Cryptosporidium, in drinking water. Infants, some elderly or immuno-compromised persons (such as those undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; those who have undergone organ transplants; those who are undergoing treatment with steroids; and people with other immune system disorders) can be particularly at risk for infections. You should seek advice about drinking water from your physician or health care provider. Additional guidelines and appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Public Participation Opportunities

To learn more about future public meetings concerning your drinking water or about how to protect and save our water supplies, visit plano.gov/water.

Expires: August 1, 2013

COUPON
ONE FREE BAG
COMPOST OR MULCH;
OR 10% OFF BULK

REDUCES WATER USE | PROTECTS STORM WATER | SUPPRESSED WEEDS

Redeem at Texas Pure Retail
9901 Custer Rd., Plano 75025

US Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance | GO TEXAN.

TEXAS Pure PRODUCTS
LOCALLY PRODUCED FOR LOCAL SOILS
texaspureproducts.com

REGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2012	37.3	13.1 - 37.3	No goal for the total	60	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (THM)	2012	47.4	24.9 - 47.4	No goal for the total	80	ppb	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination.

NOTE: Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the Highest Level Detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Antimony	2012	0.256	0.195 - 0.256	6	6	ppb	No	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder; and test addition.
Arsenic	2012	1.1	0.951 - 1.1	0	10	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	2012	0.0389	0.0364 - 0.0389	2	2	ppm	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium	2012	2.55	2.35 - 2.55	100	100	ppb	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2012	0.66	0.50 - 0.66	4	4	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2012	1.04	0.08 - 1.04	10	10	ppm	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

Nitrate Advisory: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Selenium	2012	0.244	0.232 - 0.244	50	50	ppb	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines.
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Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/Photon emitters	4/29/2010	4.4	4.4 - 4.4	0	50	pCi/L	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	4/29/2010	Levels lower than detect level	0 - 0	0	15	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

Synthetic organic contaminants including pesticides and herbicides	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Atrazine	2012	0.71	0 - 0.71	3	3	ppb	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
Di (2-ethylhexyl) adipate	2012	0.74	0 - 0.74	400	400	ppb	No	Discharge from chemical factories.
Simazine	2012	0.38	0.11 - 0.38	4	4	ppb	No	Herbicide runoff.

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL

Disinfectant Type	Year	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Units	Source of Chemical
Chlorine Residual (Chloramines)	2012	2.54	0.9	3.5	4.0	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.
Chlorine Dioxide	2012	0	0	0.1	0.8	0.8	ppm	Disinfectant.
Chlorite	2012	0.42	0.08	0.81	1.0	N/A	ppm	Disinfectant.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Units	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloroform	2012	27.3	9.2 - 27.3	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Bromoform	2012	1.6	<1.0 - 1.6	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Bromodichloromethane	2012	13.9	8.9 - 13.9	ppb	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Dibromochloromethane	2012	8.4	5.0 - 8.4	+	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

NOTE: Bromoform, chloroform, dichlorobromomethane, and dibromochloromethane are disinfection by-products. There is no maximum contaminant level for these chemicals at the entry point to distribution.

LEAD AND COPPER

Contaminants	Collection Date	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Lead	2012	0	15	3.73	1*	ppb	No	Corrosion of customer plumbing; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	2012	1.3	1.3	0.881	0	ppm	No	Corrosion of customer plumbing; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR LEAD: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The NTMWD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

* The City of Plano exceeded its maximum contaminant level for lead on one occasion in January 2012.

TURBIDITY

	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest single measurement	1 NTU	0.62 NTU	No	Soil runoff.
Lowest monthly percentage (%) meeting limit	0.3 NTU	98.16%	No	Soil runoff.

NOTE: Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON

	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Units	Likely Source of Contamination
Source Water	2012	4.94	4.22 - 4.94	ppm	Naturally present in the environment.
Drinking Water	2012	4.16	2.95 - 4.16	ppm	Naturally present in the environment.
Removal Ratio	2012	39.4%	14% - 39.4%	% removal*	N/A

* Removal ratio is the percent of TOC removed by the treatment process divided by the percent of TOC required by TCEQ to be removed.
NOTE: Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. The disinfectant can combine with TOC to form disinfection by-products. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. By-products of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA) which are reported elsewhere in this report.

COLIFORM BACTERIA

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	Total Coliform Maximum Contaminant Level	Highest No. of Positive Samples	Fecal Coliform or E. Coli Maximum Contaminant Level	Total No. of Positive E. Coli or Fecal Coliform Samples	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
0	No more than 5%	3	0	0	No	Naturally present in the environment.

NOTE: Reported monthly tests found no fecal coliform bacteria. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present. Maximum level of 5% Total Coliform.

SECONDARY AND OTHER CONSTITUENTS NOT REGULATED (No associated adverse health effects)

Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	Units	Likely Source of Contaminant
Bicarbonate	2011	120	73 - 120	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
Calcium	2012	47.5	39.9 - 47.5	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
Chloride	2012	26	22.8 - 26	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; by-product of oil field activity.
Hardness as Ca/Mg	2012	133	114 - 133	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium and magnesium.
Iron	2012	Levels lower than detect level	0.00 - 0.00	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; iron or steel water delivery equipment or facilities.
Magnesium	2012	3.54	3.5 - 3.54	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
Manganese	2012	0.00125	0.000525 - 0.00125	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
Nickel	2012	0.00609	0.00563 - 0.00609	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
pH	2012	8.0	7.7 - 8.0	Units	Measure of corrosivity of water.
Sodium	2012	30.6	27.2 - 30.60	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; by-product of oil field activity.
Sulfate	2012	75.7	59.9 - 75.70	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial by-product; by-product of oil field activity.
Total Alkalinity as CaCO3	2012	92	74 - 92	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
Total Dissolved Solids	2012	264	229 - 264	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
Total Hardness as CaCO3	2012	133	114 - 133	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.
Zinc	2012	0.00617	0.000874 - 0.00617	ppm	Moderately abundant naturally occurring element used in the metal industry.

The City of Plano has been granted a two-year extension by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBP2) in accordance with 30 TAC §290.115(a)(2) because it buys some or all of its water from the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). This extension is warranted because the NTMWD is making extensive and complex capital improvements to the Wylie Water Treatment Plant to facilitate compliance with the rule; the NTMWD and its customers have demonstrated a need for the extension by having one or more locations where high DBP results were evident or possible during drought conditions.

The extension is valid from April 1, 2012 to March 30, 2014. During this period, compliance monitoring will continue under the Stage 1 Disinfection Byproduct Rule. Compliance monitoring for DBP2 begins on April 1, 2014.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Gerald Cosgrove at (972) 941-7152.

Posted /Delivered on: June 30, 2013.



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Inside:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2012 DRINKING WATER REPORT

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