

Live Green in Plano

NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF PLANO SUSTAINABILITY
& ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Summer 2012

Rethinking Your Landscape

If you lose plants
to harsh conditions,
think of it as an opportunity
for a fresh start.



It's been a tough year weather-wise

across North Texas. The lack of rain resulted in drought. The closing of several sources for our water supply resulted in a water shortage.

Extreme weather wreaks havoc on home landscaping. Trees, shrubs, ornamentals and turf suffer when growing conditions turn harsh. Even the most carefully tended landscape struggles to survive.

Before giving up your entire yard, remember every problem holds a gift. This is the time to rethink your landscape and make it drought-tolerant, heat-resistant, easier to maintain and more beautiful than ever. Here are some factors to consider, whether you're reviving what's still alive, replacing a few plants or re-establishing your entire landscape.

1 Improve your soil: Healthy soil grows healthy plants.

- > Amend soil with Texas Pure compost to reduce the need for water and chemicals, increase microbial activity, improve soil texture, and add necessary nutrients.
- > Add 3" to 6" of Texas Pure mulch around plantings to retain moisture, stabilize soil temperature, prevent runoff, and reduce weeds.

2 Go Native!

- > Plant native or adapted plants. Adapted plants are proven to withstand local conditions, such as heat, humidity and drought. With natives you'll work with nature, instead of against it! As Lady Bird Johnson said, "Native plants give us a sense of where we are in this great land of ours."

3 Be Waterwise.

- > Convert to drip! Use drip irrigation and soaker hoses rather than conventional sprinklers.
- > Avoid hand watering as it usually penetrates only the top inch of soil.
- > If using a programmable sprinkler system, keep it maintained to avoid overspray, runoff or watering during prohibited times/days.

4 Reduce turf.

FACT: Up to 70 percent of residential water in the United States is used on lawns.

- > Reduce the size of your lawn and plant water-efficient, appropriate native grass.
- > Water slowly and deeply, once or twice per week, to develop a healthier lawn with a stronger root system. Be sure to follow water restriction guidelines.
- > Keep mower blades sharp, mow to proper height (no more than one-third the length of grass), and leave grass clippings on the ground to add nitrogen to the soil.

5 Increase Hardscape.

- > Create visual appeal and conserve the water normally used on plants - add pathways, patios, decks and retaining walls to your landscape.

For a working demonstration of waterwise irrigation and a sampling of native/adapted plants used to create a Texas SmartScape garden, visit the Environmental Education Center at 4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093. For more information about TexasSmartscape landscaping: txsmartscape.com.

CONVERT TO DRIP!

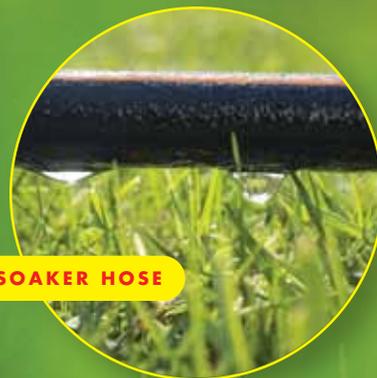
Drip irrigation is a great way to water your trees, shrubs and landscaping. Drip irrigation is the slow, low pressure watering of plants using plastic tubing. It's highly effective at supplying one to four gallons of water per hour directly to the soil.

Why switch to drip? It's the most efficient way to water and reduces water runoff. Drip irrigation is usually inexpensive and easy for the DIY homeowner to install.

Soak-Cycle Method is the best approach to ensure your plants are watered correctly. The approach is simple, saves water and ultimately you'll save money and enjoy healthier plants.

- > Water in increments or cycles to give the soil time to soak up the water.
- > Once the ground has absorbed the water from the first round of watering, water again about an hour later.
- > The moist soil allows water to travel even deeper, encouraging healthy root development.
- > If you water too long in one cycle, the soil becomes saturated and water flows off into the gutter.

To be healthy, plants must receive the correct amount of water during each season of the year. Water only when your plants indicate they are thirsty. Since overwatering is the most common cause of plant death, converting to drip irrigation prevents plant diseases caused by overwatering.



SOAKER HOSE



TOP DRIP IRRIGATION



DRIP IRRIGATION OUTSIDE EMITTER

STAGE 2

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2012

STAGE 2 WATERING RETURNS TO TWICE WEEKLY

Thanks to residential and commercial efforts, watering will return to Stage 2.

Odd Addresses: Tuesday and Friday beginning June 1

Even Addresses: Monday and Thursday beginning June 4

Restrictions which remain in effect include:

- > Watering with sprinklers between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. is prohibited.
- > Sprinkler systems should be turned off during weeks containing rain events.
- > Foundations, shrubs, trees, first year plantings and new plantings may be watered within a 10-foot radius of trunks for up to two hours any day by a hand-held hose, a soaker hose or a dedicated zone low-flow irrigation system.

For complete information on water restrictions and watering calendar, visit plano.gov/water or call the hotline at (972) 769-4338.



Going Green is Child's Play!

Children explore what it means to live green at early childhood summer programs! Programs feature fun, interactive presentations and hands-on activities for 3, 4 and 5 year olds. Cost is \$3 per child and a parent or authorized adult childcare provider must be present during program.

Activities are from 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 10; Tuesday, July 17; and Tuesday, July 24. Join the fun with Freddie the Fish and Feed the Frog, Wartville Wizard and Litter Toss, and Fun with Sun.

Classes are located at the Environmental Education Center at 4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093. Availability is limited. Please register online as soon as possible: livegreeninplano.obsres.com

E-MAIL BLAST

SAVE RESOURCES! SAVE TIME! SAVE A TREE!

Go to livegreeninplano.com and subscribe for periodic email blasts from the City of Plano's Sustainability & Environmental Services department. You'll receive information such as the LGIP Newsletter, announcements about classes and programs, plus updates on collection schedules and green projects. Be assured, your email address will be kept private and never shared with other organizations or businesses.

COMPOST



Texas Pure: BETTER GARDENS, LESS WATER AND LOWER COST!

THIS AUGUST, ENJOY THE TEXAS PURE COMPOST SALE. Purchase cubic yards of compost for \$16 each at the Custer Road Facility located at 9901 Custer Road, Plano 75025. Facility hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Saturday.

Using compost and mulch protects your plants from drought conditions by retaining moisture in the soil and allows plants to develop healthier root systems during watering restrictions.

Texas Pure compost is one of the highest quality composts created in our nation today, certified with the Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) through the United States Composting Council to be weed- and pathogen-free. Listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute, Texas Pure compost meets rigorous requirements which support its use as approved organic compost for United States Department of Agriculture organic growers and farmers. For more details: texaspureproducts.com



THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR PRIVATE EVENTS: Environmental Education Center

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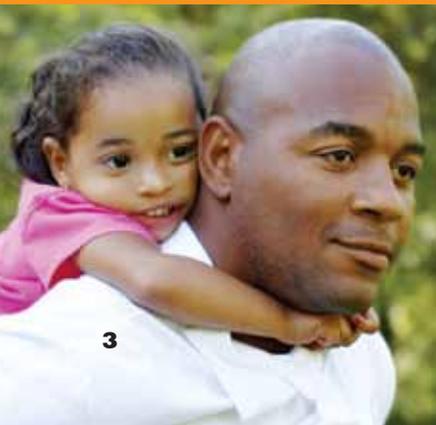
If you're looking for a sustainable, green venue which provides a distinctive, natural place for special events such as meetings, weddings, showers, parties and family reunions, then the LEED Platinum-certified



Environmental Education Center and Gardens provides the perfect location.

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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.



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

Shades of GREEN



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. All plant material at the EEC was provided and installed by locally-owned Shades of Green in Frisco. (Rob Wier and Jeff McCauley, owners)



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 the 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.

SmartEnergyLoans.com



livegreeninplano.com

Green Government: BIKING PLANO

The City of Plano recently launched an on-street bicycle network using signage to assist cyclists in navigating the city. The routes use a combination of multi-use trails and roadways less congested with traffic. The combined routes create a network of 168 miles across the city.

Plan a route using an online map at bikeplano.org. With Google Maps, cyclists access directions from point A to B by selecting the bicycle icon above the address text boxes. Plano's trails are shown in solid green lines with the on-street bicycle routes designated by dashed green lines.

Bicycle routes are available on your smartphone by downloading the Google Maps application. Get directions based on your location by selecting the bicycle layer or selecting the bicycle icon.

Plano's bicycle routes are numbered, similar to a bus route. Odd numbers indicate north-south routes with even numbers for east-west routes. Strategic on-street bicycle routes direct cyclists to multi-use recreational trails (Bluebonnet, Chisholm, Preston Ridge and Santa Fe), schools, libraries, recreation centers, DART bus or rail transit stops, shopping destinations or places of employment. Route signage allows en route information and alerts motorists bicyclists are road-sharing.

Texas state law considers a bicycle to be a vehicle, and riders need to follow the same laws as vehicles while on the street including: signal light, traffic signs and traffic flow. For safety, cyclists should wear visible clothing; ensure bicycle has a white front reflector and either a rear red reflector or light; and while not required by law, riders should always wear a helmet.

For bicycling resources and route-planning tools: bikeplano.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

- 2 Water Class: Irrigation Quick Fixes**
7 - 8 p.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
FREE! Online registration required:
livegreeninplano.obsres.com
- 10 Early Childhood Educational Program: Freddie the Fish and Feed the Frog**
9 - 10 a.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
Cost: \$3 Online registration required:
livegreeninplano.obsres.com
- 17 Early Childhood Educational Program: Wartville Wizard and Litter Toss**
9 - 10 a.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
Cost: \$3 Online registration required:
livegreeninplano.obsres.com
- 21 3rd Saturday Tour & Talk: Save Water in Plano**
9:30 - 11 a.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
FREE! Online registration required:
livegreeninplano.obsres.com
- 23 Water Class: DIY Drip Irrigation**
7 - 8 p.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
FREE! Online registration required:
livegreeninplano.obsres.com
- 24 Early Childhood Educational Program: Fun with Sun and How Much Air Pollution**
9 - 10 a.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
Cost: \$3 Online registration required:
livegreeninplano.obsres.com

AUGUST

- 6 Water Class: Irrigation Quick Fixes**
7 - 8 p.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
FREE! Online registration required:
livegreeninplano.obsres.com
- 18 3rd Saturday Tour & Talk: Take Control of Your Sprinklers**
9:30 - 11 a.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
FREE! Online registration required:
livegreeninplano.obsres.com
- 20 Water Class: DIY Drip Irrigation**
7 - 8 p.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
FREE! Online registration required:
livegreeninplano.obsres.com

SEPTEMBER

5 - Oct. 24

Kids in the Garden

3:30 - 5 p.m., Eight Consecutive Wednesdays
Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
\$30 Fee and online registration required:
livegreeninplano.obsres.com



Monthly Electronics Recycling Collections

1st Saturday, 9 a.m. – Noon
First United Methodist Church
East Spring Creek Parkway at East Parker Road

2nd Saturday, 9 – 11 a.m.
St. Andrews United Methodist Church
West Plano Parkway at Mira Vista

3rd Saturday, 9 - 11 a.m.
Christ United Methodist Church
Coit Road at West Parker Road

City Holiday Closings

Independence Day: City offices, Household Chemical Reuse Center, Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility, Texas Pure Regional Composting Facility, North Texas Municipal Water District Transfer Stations and 121 RDF are closed Wednesday, July 4.

Labor Day: City offices, Household Chemical Reuse Center, Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility, Texas Pure Regional Composting Facility, North Texas Municipal Water District Transfer Stations and 121 RDF are closed Monday, Sep.3. Please note, Household Chemical Reuse Center closed Saturday, Sep. 1.

Collection Schedule Changes

Independence Day: There are no changes in collections on Monday and Tuesday, July 2 and 3. There WILL NOT be collection service on Wednesday, July 4. All trash, recycling, yard trimmings and bulky waste collections for Wednesday and Thursday slide forward one day. (Wednesday on Thursday, Thursday on Friday)

Labor Day: There WILL NOT be collection service on Monday, Sep.3. All trash, recycling, yard trimmings and bulky waste collections slide forward one day. (Monday on Tuesday, Tuesday on Wednesday, through Friday)

livegreeninplano.com

Mow Down Lawn Mower Pollution and Purchase Price

Big savings, limited supply! Save money on the purchase of your new air-friendly lawn mower with the City of Plano's Lawn Mower Rebate Program.

Gasoline-powered lawn equipment emits a large amount of pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates lawn mower engines account for five percent of air pollution in the United States. In just one hour, a gas mower produces the same amount of smog-forming hydrocarbons as driving vehicles almost 200 miles. The noise is an assault on peace and quiet – just ask someone who wanted to sleep late when their neighbor decided to get an early start on yard work!

Electric and battery-powered mowers offer another, cleaner alternative. Like traditional gas mowers, they are motorized but there are two big differences – no direct pollutants and much quieter. Electric mowers are available in cordless and corded models.

For information about the City of Plano's Lawn Mower Rebate Program, visit livegreeninplano.com or call (972)769-4381.

Charge It!

Plano signed an agreement with ECOtality to participate in the largest rollout of electric vehicle charging station infrastructure in history. Funded through the Department of Energy and part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this project analyzes vehicle use in diverse topographic and climatic conditions, evaluates charge infrastructure, and conducts revenue trials for commercial and public usage.

This summer, a minimum of 20 state-of-the-art Blink Network smart chargers will be located at the following eight sites throughout Plano:

- > Environmental Education Center
- > Far North Municipal Parking Lot
- > Heritage Yard Baseball Fields
- > Tom Muehlenbeck Recreation Center
- > Municipal Center
- > Oak Point Recreation Center
- > Plano Centre
- > Parking Lot: 14th Street & J Avenue

Anyone may use the charging stations for a modest fee.

For more information about the City of Plano's EV Charging Station Partnership: livegreeninplano.com



TIPS FROM THE CART

Remove Cart Divider

Originally, recycling carts were delivered with a divider to separate recycle materials. With single stream recycling there is no need to separate recycle material.

Since a divider reduces cart capacity, residents can remove it by using a screwdriver to unhinge the divider clips at the top of the cart. After unhinging the clips, leave the loose divider in the cart. It will become part of the recycling stream when it's collected on your next recycling day.

For assistance in removing the divider, contact Customer Service at (972) 769-4150. Removal increases cart capacity and reduces the chance of material getting stuck in the cart. Thanks for recycling!

Right Place. Right Time. Right Stuff!



BAG IT!

Plastic shopping bags account for about four percent of the wrong materials placed in residential recycling carts. They are the single most frequently misplaced items in your cart.

Easy solution: Take plastic bags and recycle them at your local grocery store.

Great American Cleanup

2012 GAC RESULTS

- > 74 cleanups
- > 1,500 volunteers
- > 3,316 volunteer hours
- > 510 collected bags of litter
- > FIVE TONS of litter removed from our community!



The City of Plano's Great American Cleanup (GAC) was held March 1 through May 31. Volunteers cleaned parks, creeks, playgrounds, medians and neighborhoods. Here are the results for the official GAC event, but remember cleanups can be scheduled any time of year.

In October, the City's Make a Difference Day event will emphasize creekway cleanups. You provide the motivated volunteers - neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations, youth groups, scouts, school groups - and we'll provide all the supplies, instructions and suggested locations.

Are you ready to schedule a cleanup? Then, just do it!

2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

CITY OF PLANO PWS 0430007 (972) 769-4160

This report is available online at livegreeninplano.com

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

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 attached pages. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants to bottled water providing the same protection for public health. 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 (TCEQ). 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 <http://dwww.tceq.state.tx.us/DWWW/>. For more information on source water assessments and protection efforts at our system, please contact us.

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's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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.

Abbreviations and Definitions

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

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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 Contaminant Level or 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 Residual Disinfectant Level or 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 or 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)

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's 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, please visit plano.gov/water or livegreeninplano.com.

INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	Arsenic	<0.001	<0.001	0.001	0.01	0.01	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
2011	Barium	0.04	0.04	0.04	2	2	ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
2011	Fluoride	0.66	0.46	0.66	4	4	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
2011	Nitrate	0.55	<0.05	0.55	10	10	ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
2010	Gross beta emitters	N/A	N/A	4.4	50	0	pCi/L	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.

ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	Atrazine	0.19	0.18	0.2	3	3	ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
2011	Simazine	0.08	<0.07	0.16	4	4	ppb	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops.
2011	Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	0.37	<0.062	0.74	400	400	ppb	Discharge from chemical factories.

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MRDL	MRDLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2011	Chlorine Residual (Chloramines)	2.32	0.7	3.5	4.0	<4.0	ppm	Disinfectant used to control microbes.
2011	Chlorine Dioxide	0	0	0.15	0.8	0.8	ppm	Disinfectant.
2011	Chlorite	0.48	0	0.80	1.0	N/A	ppm	Disinfectant.

DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS

Year	Disinfectant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	Total Haloacetic Acids	16.24	11.6	20.6	60	N/A	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2011	Total Trihalomethanes	36.53	26	44	80	N/A	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Year or Range	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	Chloroform	13.89	10.3	16.5	N/A	N/A	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2011	Bromoform	1.1	<1	1.5	N/A	N/A	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2011	Bromodichloromethane	14.294	9.8	17.1	N/A	N/A	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
2011	Dibromochloromethane	7.7	5.1	10.5	N/A	N/A	ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.

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

LEAD AND COPPER

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	MCL	MCLG	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	Lead	0.00131	0.000359	0.00959	AL=15	15	ppb	Corrosion of customer plumbing. Action Level = 15
2011	Copper	0.8466	0.251	1.42	AL=1.3	1.3	ppm	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. Action Level = 1.3

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>.

TCEQ VIOLATIONS

The City of Plano exceeded its maximum contaminant level for total coliform on one occasion in April 2011.

TURBIDITY

Year	Contaminant	Highest Single Measurement	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits	Turbidity Limits	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	Turbidity	0.96	99.15	0.3	NTU	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

Year	Contaminant	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Unit of Measure	Source of Chemical
2011	Source Water	4.92	4.32	6.34	ppm	Naturally present in the environment.
2011	Drinking Water	3.93	3.52	4.66	ppm	Naturally present in the environment.
2011	Removal Ratio	20%	11%	35%	% 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 byproducts. Disinfection is necessary to ensure that water does not have unacceptable levels of pathogens. Byproducts of disinfection include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA) which are reported elsewhere in this report.

TOTAL COLIFORM

Year	Contaminant	Highest Monthly Number of Positive Samples	MCL	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	Total Coliform Bacteria	23	*	Presence	Naturally present in the environment.

NOTE: No more than 5% positive. Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many disease-causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption.

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

Year or Range	Constituent	Average Level	Minimum Level	Maximum Level	Secondary Limit	Unit of Measure	Source of Contaminant
2011	Bicarbonate	100	73	120	N/A	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2011	Calcium	43	32	54	N/A	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2011	Chloride	28	25	33	300	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element; used in water purification; byproduct of oil field activity.
2011	Iron	<0.06	<0.05	0.07	0.3	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits; iron or steel water delivery equipment or facilities.
2011	Magnesium	4.1	3.9	4.3	N/A	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2011	Manganese	0.001	<0.001	0.002	0.05	ppm	Abundant naturally occurring element.
2011	Nickel	0.004	0.004	0.005	N/A	ppm	Erosion of natural deposits.
2011	pH	7.7	7.6	7.9	>7.0	ppm	Measure of corrosivity of water.
2011	Sodium	32	29	39	N/A	ppm	Corrosion of carbonate rocks such as limestone.
2011	Sulfate	67	65	68	300	ppm	Naturally occurring; common industrial byproduct; byproduct of oil field activity.
2011	Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	88	63	104	N/A	ppm	Naturally occurring soluble mineral salts.
2011	Total Dissolved Solids	259	249	263	1,000	ppm	Total dissolved mineral constituents in water.
2011	Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	124	95	153	N/A	ppm	Naturally occurring calcium.
2011	Zinc	<0.01	<0.01	0.01	5	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, 2012.



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Para esta informacion en espanol, Llame (972) 769-4150

Residential Customer

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