



CROSS CREEK

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As the temperatures rise and gardens begin blooming, spring is the perfect time to be mindful of water conservation. With a little planning and a few simple changes, you can keep your lawn and garden thriving while also saving water and reducing your utility bills. Making small adjustments now, can create a more sustainable outdoor space that benefits the environment in the long run.

Here are some ways you can conserve water at home:

1. Water Wisely

Early mornings and late evenings are the best times to water your lawn and garden. This helps reduce evaporation and ensures plants absorb moisture more effectively. Consider using drip irrigation or soaker hoses to deliver water directly to plant roots, minimizing waste.

2. Choose Drought-Resistant Plants

Opt for native or drought-tolerant plants that require less water to thrive (Lantana, Cone Flowers, Agave, and Texas Sage.) These plants are well-adapted to the local climate and can flourish with minimal irrigation. Adding mulch around plants also helps retain moisture and keeps roots cool.

3. Adjust Your Sprinklers

Check your sprinkler system for leaks and ensure it's watering your landscape efficiently, avoiding sidewalks and driveways. If rain is in the forecast, turn off automatic sprinklers to prevent unnecessary watering. Consider adjusting the sprinkler heads to direct water precisely where it's needed, further minimizing waste.

4. Collect Rainwater

A rain barrel is an excellent way to capture and store rainwater for use in your garden. This free resource can help reduce reliance on municipal water and is great for plants since it's free of chlorine and other chemicals. Additionally, using rainwater helps reduce stormwater runoff, which can overwhelm local drainage systems and contribute to flooding.

5. Use Mulch in Your Garden

Mulch is a simple yet effective way to conserve water in your garden. By adding a layer of mulch around your plants, you help retain moisture in the soil, reduce evaporation, and prevent weeds from competing for water. This means you'll need to water less often, and your plants will benefit from a more consistent moisture level.

By making small adjustments, we can all do our part to conserve water while keeping our yards green and our communities sustainable. Even simple changes can make a noticeable difference over time.



ACC IMPROVEMENTS

Approval from the Architectural Committee is needed prior to making any changes to the exterior of your home or to the lot? It's true. Prior to making any changes to your home, yard, or fence you must have completed and received approval from the Architectural Control Committee. Improvement Request forms are available online at www.spectrumam.com. If you have any questions please call Spectrum Association management at: **210-494-0659**



Spectrum Association Management

Ph: 210-494-0659 • Fax: 210-494-0887

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MONARCH MIGRATION: HOW YOU CAN HELP



Monarch butterflies are one of the most iconic and beautiful species to call Texas home. Known for their remarkable long-distance journey, monarchs travel thousands of miles between North America and Mexico each year. These butterflies are famous

for their striking orange-and-black wings, but their incredible migration from Canada to central Mexico—covering up to 3,000 miles—makes them a marvel of the natural world. Unfortunately, monarch populations have been declining in recent years due to habitat loss, climate change, and other environmental factors. However, Texas plays a crucial role in their migration path, and residents can take steps to help protect these magnificent creatures.

Here are a few simple yet effective things residents can do to help support monarch butterflies during their migration through Texas:

Plant Milkweed- Milkweed is essential for monarch survival, as it provides both food for larvae and a place for monarchs to lay their eggs. By planting milkweed in your garden, you can create a sanctuary for monarchs as they pass through the area.

Create Butterfly-Friendly Habitats- Consider planting nectar-rich flowers like asters, zinnias, and lantanas to provide food sources for adult butterflies. Creating a butterfly-friendly garden with a variety of plants will help attract monarchs and other pollinators, such as bees and hummingbirds, which are vital to the ecosystem.

Provide Water- Monarchs need water to stay hydrated during their migration. You can help by offering a shallow water source, such as a birdbath or a small bowl, in your yard. Be sure to add rocks or sticks so butterflies can land and safely drink without risk of drowning.

Minimize Pesticide Use- Pesticides can harm monarchs and other beneficial insects. By reducing or eliminating the use of chemical pesticides in your garden, you help protect monarchs from harmful toxins. Opt for natural pest control methods, such as encouraging beneficial insect like ladybugs, to keep your garden healthy without posing a threat to monarchs.

With your help, these beautiful butterflies will continue to grace our state each year, reminding us of the importance of protecting the natural world for future generations. Let's work together to make Texas a welcoming place for monarch butterflies, and ensure they have a safe journey.

DID YOU KNOW?

× Marigolds aren't just beautiful, they're also natural pest repellents! These vibrant flowers produce a scent that helps keep aphids, mosquitoes, and even certain nematodes (microscopic worms that damage plant roots) away

from your garden. Planting them near vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and beans can help protect your crops from harmful pests. Plus, marigolds attract pollinators like bees and butterflies, making them a great addition to any eco-friendly garden!



PREPARING FOR SPRING STORMS

From thunderstorms to hail, and flash flooding, spring in Texas can be unpredictable, making it essential for us to prepare. By taking a few precautionary steps, we can keep our homes, families, and neighbors safe when the skies darken and the winds pick up during the rainy season.

Here are some ways you can be prepared:

Stay Informed: Monitor weather apps, local news, and NOAA Weather Radio regularly for up-to-date storm information. It's crucial to stay alert to watches and warnings in your area. Additionally, signing up for local emergency alerts ensures you'll receive timely notifications if severe weather is approaching. Consider downloading a weather app that can send you push notifications when warnings are issued in your area.

Prepare an Emergency Kit: Stock your emergency kit with essentials like flashlights, batteries, first-aid supplies, non-perishable food, and bottled water. Don't forget any necessary medications and a power bank for charging your phone in case of power outages. Check the kit periodically to ensure everything is in good condition and ready to go. It's also a good idea to keep a backup phone charger in your kit in case of emergencies.

Be Ready for Flooding: Check if your home is in a flood zone by referring to FEMA flood maps. If you live in an area prone to flooding, elevate important electronics and valuables above ground level to prevent water damage. Have sandbags or other flood barriers on hand to help protect your property from rising water.

Prepare for Your Pets: Make sure your pets have identification tags and are microchipped in case they get lost during a storm. Keep pet carriers, extra food, and water in your emergency kit, and provide a designated safe space for your pets to go during the storm.

Have Emergency Contacts: Keep a written list of emergency contacts, family members, local authorities, and neighbors, in a place where everyone can access it (such as on the fridge door or another easy to find spot). This will help you act quickly in case you need assistance or need to report damage after the storm.

By staying informed, planning ahead, and securing your home, you can help protect your family and property during spring storms. Stay safe, neighbors!

GOOD REASONS TO LEASH YOUR DOG



The City of San Antonio and Bexar County leash laws state, "an animal owner or keeper shall not walk an animal without a leash restraint, and shall not guide or take animals onto the yards or driveways of property not owned, leased or occupied by the animal owner..." There are many good reasons to keep your dog on a leash, including those on the following list:

Improved Companionship: A well trained and leash-obedient dog is a pleasure to walk with.

Pet Safety: A leash is commonly referred to as "Your Pet's Lifeline," protecting your pet from traffic and unrestrained animals.

Reward: It's a great way to reward your dog. Your dog will immediately respond with a wagging tail the moment he or she sees you holding the leash.

Identification Tool: It's a great identification tool, symbolizing that the dog has an owner, and enabling someone who sees the leash can identify the dog's owner, should you become separated.

It's the law! The law is in place to protect your pet, your neighbors and all members of our community from injury.

Reference:

311.sanantonio.gov/kb/docs/articles/animals/pet-restraintleash-law

LAWN MAINTENANCE

Please be a responsible neighbor and keep up with the maintenance of your lawn. Help keep the neighborhood looking great by maintaining your yard with weekly mowing and trimming.



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