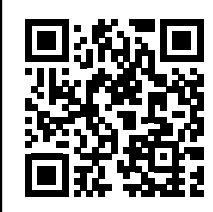




Water is a precious, finite resource. Record population growth in North Texas and changing weather patterns are creating greater demand than ever on our water supply and infrastructure.



## HEATH WATER WISE PART 2: PLANNING FOR CONSERVATION

Last month's newsletter included HEATH WATER WISE PART 1: UNDERSTANDING THE CITY'S POTABLE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE & DELIVERY SYSTEM. The article summarized information presented by Public Works Director Matthew Holzapfel, P.E., to the City Council on March 28 to provide guidance for planning and allocating funding for improvements to meet current and future needs. Use the QR code above to find Water Wise Part 1, Holzapfel's presentation and additional resources on the new section of the City website dedicated to water information.

Water Wise Part 2 continues a focus on this critical issue with a summary of a second presentation by Holzapfel at the April 25 City Council meeting that explained the purpose of water conservation plans and suggested amendments to the current plan governing the City of Heath. You can also find this full presentation on the City of Heath website.

### WHAT IS A WATER RESOURCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN)?

This is an emergency plan designed to promote responsible use of water by customers and to provide a staged plan for implementing water use restrictions during times of drought or other water emergencies such as a major water line break or structural or grass fire.

### WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PLAN?

The plan covers possible emergencies, consequences and required actions by the member/customer city and its water customers including staged use restrictions.

### WHO DEVELOPS THE PLAN?

Emergency planning begins at the state level with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), which regulate regional water suppliers, including the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). NTMWD implements state planning for its service area with a model plan that is adopted by its members (City of Rockwall), and its members' customer cities (City of Heath).

Simply put, emergency water planning flows from the state, to the water supplier, to member and customer cities, ultimately impacting each individual household/business water customer.

### WHY IS THE CITY OF HEATH CONSIDERING MODIFICATIONS TO THE PLAN?

Last year, the City of Heath's previous water supply contract with the City of Rockwall allowed up to 5.5 million gallons of use per day. But as the hot, dry summer simmered on, Heath customer demand spiked drastically to over 7 million gallons per day.

At the same time, NTMWD was struggling to meet Rockwall's overall demand. (Its member city.)

Rockwall directed Heath to immediately reduce water use, thus the rapid acceleration of water restrictions for Heath customers in the summer of 2022 from Stage 1 to Stage 3 in three days.

The consequences of the City of Heath's water storage facilities running too low would have been dire, including mandatory boil notices that in turn require the closure of schools, day care facilities, restaurants and the grocery store due to the lack of a safe water supply.

In the coming dry and hot months, the City of Heath will be limited to a daily water usage of 6 million gallons.

Plan/ordinance amendments suggested by City staff include additional triggers to avoid a drastic escalation of restrictions again. These triggers are tied to monitoring daily usage and enacting restrictions as necessary on a more gradual schedule.

"These changes provide additional tools in our water conservation toolbox to protect our customers," said Holzapfel.

### WATER WISE PART 3: CITY OF HEATH 2023 WATER CONSERVATION

City Council is expected to discuss and take action on proposed changes to the City's plan/ordinance at its May 9 meeting. Watch next month's newsletter and city website for updates including specific actions required of customers, including watering limitations and schedules that would be imposed with Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 restrictions.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP CONSERVE WATER NOW

You can help conserve this finite resource at your home or business in many ways, such as adopting xeriscape landscaping techniques. There are many beautiful plants native to Texas that are heat and drought resistance.

You can also take simple steps like fixing leaky faucets and toilets and ensuring that you are not over-watering your lawn with your irrigation system. The City's website offers additional information on all of these topics.

If you have questions, please contact Matthew Holzapfel, P.E., Director of Public Works at [mholzapfel@heathtx.com](mailto:mholzapfel@heathtx.com).



**SIGN UP AS A PATH FINDER MEMBER BY MAY 30, 2023, GET THE NEW PATH MEMBER T-SHIRT!**

PATH finder member is a recurring \$10 per month donation with your utility bill. Just go to [heathtx.com/path](http://heathtx.com/path) to find the sign-up link and a list of neighbors who have already joined!



### CITY MANAGER CHAT PODCAST SERIES LAUNCHED

Heath City Manager Aretha Adams and her team want to connect with you to share important information regarding your hometown. You can find Heath City Manager Chat wherever you get your favorite podcasts.