Value of Water Report and Communication Resources

The Value of Water Coalition is supported by top leaders from across the water industry committed to raising awareness about the importance of water and the often invisible water challenges facing our nation. In March, the group released a report on The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure which highlights some compelling statistics about the state of our nation's water systems, including:

- The U.S. is funding only one-third of its water infrastructure needs.
- Closing the water infrastructure investment gap creates jobs and strengthens the economy.
- The water industry supports more than 1.3 million American jobs.
- Keeping water infrastructure in good condition is essential to business productivity.
- Not keeping up with water infrastructure leads to interruptions of service, costly repairs, higher water rates, and economic losses.
- Water service disruptions are a costly inconvenience - a one-day disruption of service across the nation could result in a $43.5 billion loss in sales and $22.5 billion loss in GDP.

To help water providers and communities raise awareness of this issue, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF) have teamed up to provide a new toolkit of free materials to help communicate about the value and importance of water. Download the first set of materials at wef.org/value-of-water. They will be releasing additional materials periodically through June.

Read more here at bit.ly/USWAvalueofwater
Annual Report

In November 2016, NTMWD celebrated 60 years of water delivery - a monumental milestone for the region that often goes unnoticed. Without this vital service, the region and our cities would never have grown into the thriving communities we see today.

Read all about the major District accomplishments, milestones, challenges and key projects in the NTMWD 2016 Annual Report: Celebrating Six Decades of Serving the Communities of North Texas as we continue our tradition of regional service through unity.

Texas Water 2017 Conference

Last week, water and wastewater professionals from all over the state gathered in Austin for the annual Texas Water Conference, sponsored by the Texas Section of the American Water Works Association (TAWWA) and the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT).

The District was well represented as several members of our staff presented on a variety of topics to their industry peers, including experts from some of our Member Cities. Here is a sampling of who presented at Texas Water 2017:

**Watershed Management and Source Water Protection**
Galen Roberts, Watershed Protection Manager (NTMWD)

**They are Coming - You Better Build it: Wastewater Master Planning for a Rapidly Growing Community**
Yanbo Li, Planning Program Manager & Shela Chowdhury, Professional Engineer (NTMWD)
In addition to these presenters, NTMWD also held their own in the WEAT Operations Challenge competition. The Mesquite Rangers, representing our South Mesquite Regional Wastewater Treatment plant, competed for the second year in a row. The team performed strong and secured an invite to compete in the National Operations Challenge competition at WEFTEC 2017 this fall in Chicago.

The competition includes events simulating real world situations for wastewater operations such as the confined space rescue for the safety event, repair of a pipe for the collections event, installing a bypass pump to perform maintenance, process control simulating how the plant operates, and laboratory analysis.

**WATER NEWS**

**SMART WATER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

Our own water quality expert, Elizabeth Turner, will be speaking at the Smart Water Leadership Summit to be held April 24-25 at the Tower Club in Dallas.

The water quality summit is geared towards leaders in the water industry with a focus on optimizing water systems and implementing comprehensive best practices in facilities management and infection prevention. Elizabeth will be speaking about water quality expectations, the importance of overall supply chain of water management including once it's in the facility, and supplemental disinfection requirements and implications. It's not too late to sign up! View the full agenda and register now.
WASTEWATER NEWS

"Flushable" Wipes Cause Blockage at Squabble Creek WWTP

Despite what the labels and fancy marketing may suggest, flushable wipes are NOT flushable. On March 29, the NTMWD Squabble Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Rockwall experienced a major blockage due to accumulation of "flushable" wipes and cloths.

The blockage caused a shut-down of the plant until the debris could be removed. At the Squabble Creek WWTP, the abundance of these wipes and cloths caused an unpleasant, challenging and costly cleanup effort by NTMWD staff who were tasked with untangling sewer pumps and valves from the tightly wound-mass of wipes and cloths. Incidents like these can also result in fines from regulatory agencies that increase costs for our cities and their customers. Read more about it on the NTMWD blog.

Drug Drop-off Day, April 29

The City of McKinney, and others, are taking part in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in partnership with the Collin County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). At the Drug Take-Back event, participants can safely dispose of expired and unused prescription drugs. The service is free and anonymous.

All solid dosage pharmaceutical products and liquids in consumer containers may be dropped off. Intravenous solutions, injectable substances and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazards posed by blood-borne pathogens.

This event is not only designed to prevent misuse, abuse, or accidental ingestion of...
It's also designed to protect our water supplies by reminding residents that medications should NEVER be flushed down toilets or poured into drains. Learn more about the [City of McKinney's Drug Take-Back event](#), or find a drug drop-off location near you.

### SOLID WASTE NEWS

**Recycling Organic Waste Reduces Landfill Tonnage, Improves Lawns**

The trash that leaves your home ends up in a landfill. But when organic waste such as food, lawn and garden clippings, flowers, and hedge trimmings are disposed in the landfill, they decompose without oxygen (anaerobically). This process produces that unique landfill smell.

There are three ways that residents and businesses can help manage municipal solid waste:

1. reduce, reuse and recycle when possible
2. compost organic material
3. dispose of waste in landfills only when needed

Last year, NTMWD diverted **49,782 tons of organic waste** from the landfill to our composting facilities in Melissa and Plano. Operated by the City of Plano under the Texas Pure Products brand, yard waste is put through a grinder to make mulch and compost products for sale.

Recycling your organic waste into compost is better for the environment, turning green waste into high quality, natural soil-conditioning products such as mulches, composts, blended soils and potting mixes used in landscaping, horticulture and agriculture.

Look at our events page to find a free composting class near you and learn how to make your own backyard compost. Or, visit one of our solid waste facilities to dispose of your yard waste and pick up some ready-made mulch or compost from Texas Pure Products, or learn to make your own with this composting guide from Texas A&M AgriLife Water University.

### WATERSHED AND ENVIRONMENT

**Next Watershed Protection Plan Meeting, April 25**

What is a watershed? Answer: A watershed is all of the land that drains into the same body of water. [Watch this video](#) to learn more about watersheds and then get involved!

Join the Lavon Lake Watershed Partnership and provide input on the Lavon Lake Watershed Protection Plan (WPP). A watershed protection plan is a voluntary, non-regulatory approach for identifying and addressing source water quality issues - in this case to protect the quality of water in Lavon Lake.
CONSERVATION & PUBLIC EDUCATION UPDATE

Preparation Your Gardens for Spring - WFAA March segment

Many homeowners are already preparing their gardens for spring. Creating beautiful, water-efficient landscapes starts by selecting native and adapted plants that thrive in North Texas and need less maintenance. In our second monthly segment on WFAA Channel 8, NTMWD Public Education Manager Denise Hickey and Texas A&M AgriLife’s Patrick Dickinson shared tips on how to properly plant and prepare for spring gardening. Watch the segment and read more.

Municipal Blue Legacy Award

NTMWD was recently honored by the Water Conservation Advisory Council and the Save Texas Water foundation with the Municipal Blue Legacy Award in recognition of our Water4Otter youth education program.

NTMWD launched the live, in-school Water4Otter program in 2014 to help school children understand the value of water conservation and learn the source of their drinking water. Water4Otter takes the idea of water conservation in a new direction by showcasing how local behavior can impact animals. Since then the scope of the program has grown to appeal to an even broader audience through the new website and mobile app – a free, fun, and effective interactive game that teaches students to become “Water Spotters” by learning to spot and fix leaks in a virtual home.

Visit NTMWD and Partners at Earth Day Texas, April 22

Earth Day Texas, the world’s largest Earth Day event, will be held April 21-23 at Fair Park Dallas. Founded on April 22, 1970, Earth Day is a global environmental movement dedicated to protecting our natural resources.

NTMWD will be participating in this year’s Earth Day Texas event with a booth showcasing our environmental education programs such as WaterIQ, WaterMyYard and Water4Otter. We will also feature some of the resources from our partners at Texas A&M AgriLife Water University.

The John Bunker Sands Wetland Center will be joining us to share their exciting education programs and public resources. Stop by our booths at Earth Day Texas and learn more about how you can get involved and protect our water and other natural resources in North Texas.
Upcoming Events

The month of May is full of events to help educate the public. Get involved with these campaigns on social media, or visit our NTMWD social media channels to share messages with your community.

- National Environmental Education Week, April 23-29
- AWWA Drinking Water Week, May 7-13
- OSHA Fall Prevention Safety Stand Down Week, May 8-12
- Infrastructure Week, May 15-19
- APWA National Public Works Week, May 21-27

NTMWD Water Plant Tour, June 9

Only a few spots remain for the next tour of the NTMWD Wylie Water Treatment Facility. Tours are available to Member City and Customer staff and officials. Contact Joy Layer at 469-626-4362 to reserve your spot now.

IN THE NEWS

Mar. 14  WWEMA Window: Let's Put The ‘W’ In Infrastructure (WATER ONLINE)
Mar. 20  Making water infrastructure a priority (THE HILL)
Mar. 28  City of McKinney begins water service line replacement project (NORTH TEXAS ENEWS)
Mar. 28  Timeline: North Texas Municipal Water District, member cities continue contract dispute (COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWS)
Mar. 30  Putting a price on the value of water (INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK)
Apr.  3  Supreme Court won't pause Obama water rule case (THE HILL)
Apr.  4  The Q&A: Julie Nahrgang, executive director of the Water Environment Association of Texas (TEXAS TRIBUNE)
Apr.  5  Boeing lands in Plano's $3 billion Legacy West project
Apr.  6  Infrastructure Grades Are In: Will Trump and Congress act to raise America's G.P.A? (INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK)
Apr. 13  Plano's Legacy West reaches new heights with addition of Liberty Mutual's $325M campus (DALLAS BUSINESS JOURNAL)
Apr. 17  New Allen mixed-use project will include shopping center and apartments (DALLAS MORNING NEWS)

Price of Water 2016: Up 5 Percent in 30 Major U.S. Cities; 48 Percent Increase Since 2010 (CIRCLE OF BLUE)

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SERVICES
CORE VALUES - I TRUST

Integrity | Trust | Respect | Unity | Safety | Teamwork

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