



October 2026

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Spring Creek
UTILITY DISTRICT

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District Alert System

Sign up for text alerts at
<https://springcreekud.com/alerts>
for notices and updates about
your area!



Example Message



A WORD FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to Fall! We do hope it will bring cooler temperatures and much needed rain! This Summer, we have seen record high temperatures and not enough precipitation resulting in a significant drop in the water level in a few of our water plants. This forced Spring Creek Utility district, as well as our neighboring districts MUD 88 and MUD 89, to initiate the Stage 3 of our Drought Contingency Plan, shortly after Stage 2 was announced.

The state of Texas, due to the growth of its population, continued economic development and ongoing drought conditions, is facing a lot of water issues. In this newsletter and in future ones, we will present some of these issues, starting here with the overall “needs” as mentioned in the 2027 State Water Plan.

Water conservation is one of these strategies that has been consistently mentioned in the State Water Plans and, as in every issue of this newsletter, we have an article on this subject. Spring Creek Utility District recently became a partner with the EPA Water Sense.

Enjoy your reading!

This will allow us to use some of its resources and marketing materials. The “Leak Detection and Flow Monitoring Devices” article in this issue is one of these.

This leads us to our previously announced goal to increase the number of users of the Eye on Water app. In this issue, we are providing details of our 25-25-25 campaign that will run until the end of this year.

The next subject addresses the risks and causes of Sanitary Sewer Backups and what residents can do to minimize these.

Then, we provide an update on some of the projects that are taking place in the district and some brief news (Tidbits).

Finally, National Night Out is around the corner (Tuesday October 6, 2026). This year, the district will host this event in the Legends Run subdivision. Please, join us for some food and entertainment and meet with our constables and first responders.

The Board of Directors



Claude Humbert
PRESIDENT



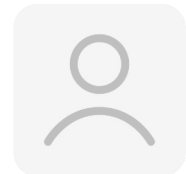
Mark Fusca
VICE PRESIDENT



Leslie Gourley
SECRETARY



Paul Sterling
ASSISTANT SECRETARY



MJ Dougherty
DIRECTOR

Water issues

★ IN TEXAS ★

Texas Needs \$174B for Future Water Demand

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is estimating \$174 billion in costs to avoid future water crisis in the state, according to its state water plan recently adopted.

The \$174 billion figure would cover 3,000 water management strategy projects, including designating water reservoir sites and consolidating and resolving interregional water initiatives.

The board predicted that, should its proposed strategies not be implemented, a severe drought could cost the state \$91 billion in economic damages by 2030 and \$177 billion in damages per year by 2080.

Texas's data center boom and population growth, combined with ongoing drought conditions, are the primary culprits in the water development board hiking its projected costs from \$80 billion to \$174 billion in just four years.

In future issues of our newsletter, we will present some of the water issues that exist in our area as well as in other parts of the state in order to create more awareness of the needs to conserve our precious resources and to build the infrastructure that is necessary to address the future demand for water.



STAGE 3 OF THE DISTRICT'S DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN HAS BEEN TRIGGERED

THE FOLLOWING WATER RESTRICTIONS APPLY:

What is NOT Allowed:

- **LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION IS PROHIBITED.**
- Do not water lawns, gardens, or landscaped areas.
- Washing vehicles at home is prohibited. *This includes cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, trailers, airplanes, and other vehicles.*
- Vehicle washing is only permitted at commercial car washes or commercial service stations.
- Commercial car washes and service stations may wash vehicles only between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- Filling or adding water to aesthetic water features is prohibited. This includes fountains, decorative ponds, and other aesthetic water uses.
- New or expanded water service connections may be restricted.

The District will not approve new, additional, expanded, or increased-size water connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains, or other water facilities if the District's Operator and Engineer determine that doing so could have a substantial negative impact on existing customers.

Limited Vehicle-Washing Exception

A variance may be granted for certain vehicles when frequent cleaning is necessary for the health, safety, or welfare of the public.

Examples may include:

- Garbage trucks
- Vehicles transporting food or perishable goods

Please help conserve water and follow all Stage 3 restrictions until further notice

Know Your Flow: Leak Detection and Flow Monitoring Devices



Moisture detection sensor.
Photo courtesy of Moen, Inc.

Household leaks can be a major source of water waste. They can cause utility bills to spike and sometimes even damage homes. Fortunately, leak detection and flow monitoring devices are available to help you identify leaks or alert you to irregular water use at home, and installing them can help reduce water waste and damage.

Household Leaks Add Up Quickly

Leaks can be caused by a variety of factors; common household leaks include worn-out toilet flappers or malfunctioning fill valves, dripping faucets or showerheads, or a damaged irrigation system. If left unnoticed or unaddressed, a stuck fill valve in a toilet can waste 4,300 gallons of water per day and up to \$1,400 in water costs per month. A drip irrigation system malfunction that leaks at 1 gallon per minute can waste \$5,700 per year.



Using Leak Detection or Flow Monitoring

Leak detection and flow monitoring devices can alert homeowners to unexpected dampness or water consumption patterns that may indicate a leak. They can be installed directly on or near a water fixture, on the main water line, or both. While some require professional installation, others are DIY. Monitoring your home's water use, addressing leaks promptly after receiving an alert, and maintaining these devices can help you save water and money. Leak detectors and monitors can also reduce insurance premiums, provide insights on water use, and protect local water supplies.

Types of Detection and Monitoring Devices

Point-of-use devices are installed at the water fixture in leak-prone areas. They include moisture detection sensors, which use electrodes to sense when water is present, and in-line flow monitoring devices that send an alert if water is flowing continuously, indicating a leaky flapper or other fixture malfunction. *Point-of-entry* devices are usually installed on the main water line, allowing them to track the water use of an entire home or building. They can identify leaks anywhere downstream from where the device is installed.



Flow monitoring device. Photo
courtesy of Moen, Inc.

While there are various technologies and types of devices to consider, it's important to understand a home's leak detection needs and compare different features and capabilities when selecting a device. To help consumers, WaterSense has developed *Know Your Flow and Curb Water Waste: A WaterSense Guide to Leak Detection and Flow Monitoring Devices*.

To access the guide and for more information on finding and fixing leaks, visit www.epa.gov/watersense/leak-detection-and-flow-monitoring-devices.

25! 25! 25! Campaign

Helping Residents Take Control of Their Water Usage

Very often, nowadays, customers are using social media to vent and complain about utility providers, whether this is the electricity provider, the gas company, or the water utility company. Recently we sought a post that caught our intention and generated a lot of comments from other readers.

The customer complained that she had been charged hundreds of dollars over the previous 6 months for excess water usage, caused by a leaking toilet that she wasn't aware of. Even though she took responsibility for not catching the increases in her monthly billing sooner, she argued that the utility company should have notified her about the abnormal water usage. In this case, the water company performed re-reads on the meter to verify the correctness; however, it did not leave a notification or door tag to inform the customer.

Most of the readers, quite correctly, sided with the water company and highlighted the customer's responsibilities to check her bills and water consumption and to check for leaks when water usage is shown to be above normal. Many pointed out to the Eye on Water app and its benefits. Unfortunately, that water district doesn't have "Smart Meters" and therefore, its residents cannot use the Eye on Water app.

This leads us to the situation we are experiencing in the Spring Creek Utility District and to our **25!25!25! Campaign**, which was announced in our June newsletter. Incentives were detailed on September 3rd on our website.

In our March newsletter (see article titled: "You've got leaks"), we highlighted the fact that even though

Spring Creek UD had invested in smart water meters back in 2017, only about 20% of our residents had actually subscribed to the Eye on Water app. We also showed the pro-active approach we are taking to address the leaks.

Through the Eye on Water app, residents can access their water usage information, monitor consumption, identify unusual changes that could indicate a potential leak, and better understand how their daily habits can impact their water bill. Most importantly, they can be notified when a leak is detected (continuous flow above a preset threshold over a 24 hrs. period)

Our goal with the **25!25!25! Campaign** is to reach 25% enrollment by the end of this year! As an extra reason to sign up, we have introduced some incentives!

Starting in September, each month through the end of the year:

3 residents who newly sign up for Eye on Water will be randomly selected to receive a \$25 credit toward their water bill; however, we will need a minimum of 25 additional subscribers to the app, each month, for the credit to be offered.

Ready to get started?

Sign up for EyeOnWater today and help Spring Creek UD reach 25%!

[Sign Up for EyeOnWater](#)

**25% adoption.
25 new subscribers a month.
\$25 credits.**

Sanitary Sewer Backups

Sewer backups can cause tremendous damage to the interior of a building.

A sewage backup happens when wastewater from sinks, toilets, or floor drains cannot exit through the main sewer line and instead flows back into the home. This occurs when the sewer system is blocked, damaged, or overwhelmed, forcing contaminated water to enter living spaces. Homes typically rely on a main drainpipe that connects to a municipal sewer system or a septic tank; any obstruction in this system can trigger a backup.

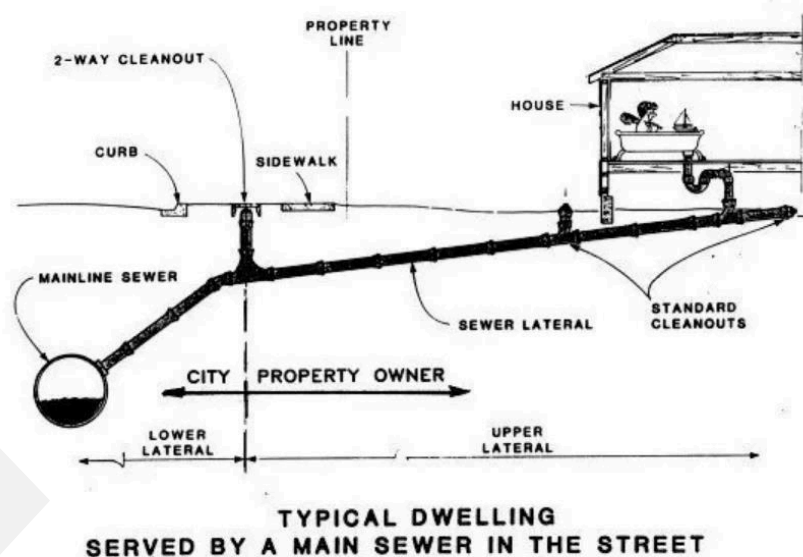
In many cases, the problem is in the lateral sanitary line, on the property owner's side, that connects to the main sanitary sewer line. This line is the homeowner's responsibility. A plumber can quickly identify the source of the problem and determine whether the issue is located on the owner's side or not. If the plumber determines the issue is on the district side, ask them to confirm this and then contact the district operator.

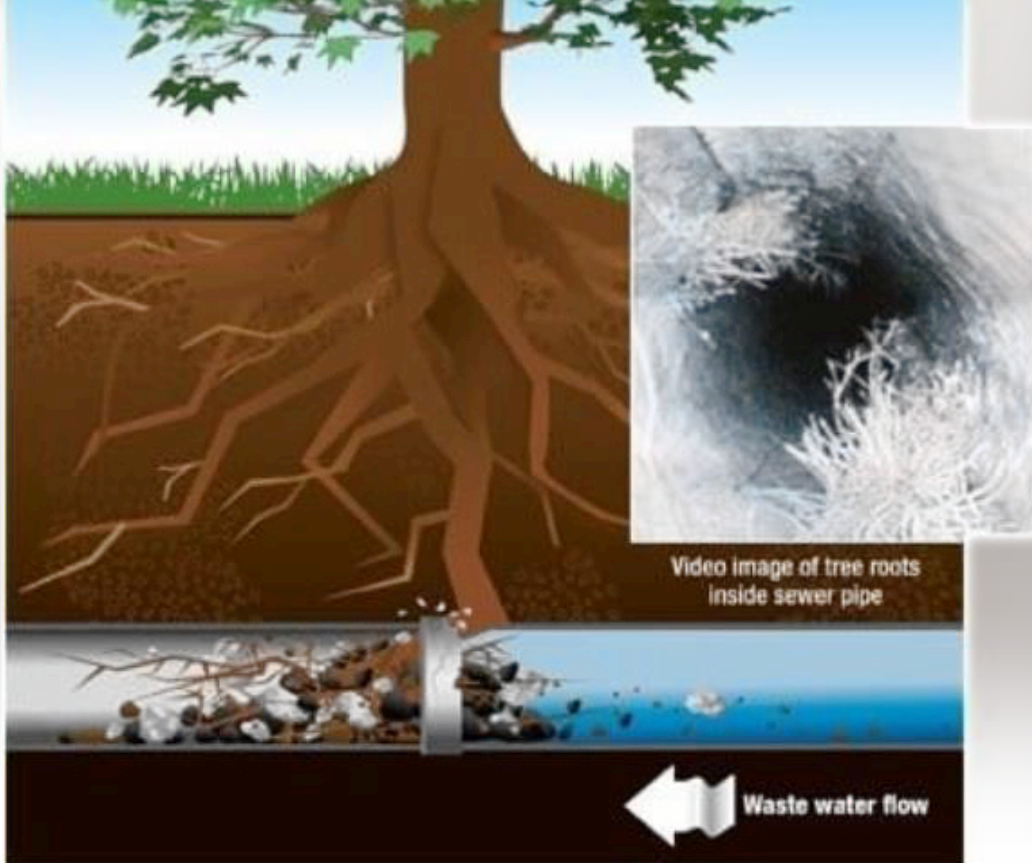
Please keep in mind that with the diagram to the right, there are many different variations of this from one neighborhood to another.

Providing this information helps the district respond and investigate more efficiently.

A home sewer backup can happen to any homeowner. Knowing the signs of an impending backup can save you from costly damage.

You may be able to fix minor clogs with a plunger or drain snake, but main line backups and sewage cleanup always require a licensed professional.





What are the common causes of a Home Sewer Backup?

Tree Root Intrusion: Tree roots often seek out water and can penetrate sewer pipes through cracks or joints, causing blockages.

Fats, oils and Grease (FOG): Cooking oils and fats accumulate inside pipes, forming stubborn blockages and clogs over time.

Non-flushable Items: Flushing items like wipes, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, cotton swabs, dental floss and similar items can clog sewer lines and slow drainage. Many of these products (even so-called flushable wipes) do not break down and can create blockages in the sewer system.

Aged Infrastructure: Pipes can crack, collapse, or deteriorate over time due to soil movement, freezing temperatures, corrosion, or general wear and tear, leading to blockages and failures. Older infrastructure is particularly prone to these issues.

Municipal Sewer Line Problems: Maintenance or blockage issues in the city's sewer line could also back up into your property, especially during repairs or construction. Common causes of municipal backups include construction debris in the sewer lines, grease buildup, intrusive tree roots, or issues with sewer maintenance.

Warning Signs of a Home Sewer Backup

Catching a sewer problem early can mean the difference between a minor repair and a major rehab and help prevent health hazards.

Keep an eye and ear out for these major warning signs:

Multiple slow drains: When more than one drain in your home is sluggish at the same time.

Gurgling sounds: Odd noises coming from toilets or drains after running water somewhere else in the house.

Sewage odors: A persistent foul smell coming from drains.

Water backing up unexpectedly: If wastewater appears in a tub, shower, or floor drain when you flush a toilet or run the washing machine.



Prevention Tips

Many sewer backups can be prevented by avoiding three common causes:

Tree roots: Keep trees and large roots away from sewer lines

Fats, oils and grease (FOG): Never pour grease or cooking oil down the drain. Regularly clean drains and remove grease buildup. Even small amounts of grease can build up over time and create blockages.

Non-flushable items: Only flush toilet paper and human waste. Wipes, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, cotton swabs, dental floss, and similar items should go in the trash. Anything else labeled “flushable” can still cause major clogs.

A little prevention can go a long way.

Properly maintaining your home's plumbing and keeping FOG and non-flushable items out of the sewer system can help prevent costly backups and protect the community's wastewater system. Inspecting the sewer line every few years, especially in older homes, can help find potential issues before they lead to an expensive sewage backup.

Project Updates

Here is a brief update on the status of the projects currently underway in the district:

SCUD Water Plant #3:

The contractor has completed reaming the well and is installing the casing. Once the well itself is completed, the drilling rig will demobilize, and the contractor will remove the temporary sound wall. Discussions are still going on with Lone Star GCD regarding the pump design parameters.



Fox Run Drainage Improvement/ Water Re-use project Phase I:

Bids were received in August for this project, and the Board approved the Engineer's recommendation to award the contract to the lowest bidder for about \$5,850,000. Construction should start before the end of the year.

Fox Run Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation:

Contract has been awarded to SKE Construction, LLC through the Interlocal Purchasing System

(TIPS) with a total amount of \$1,901,282.50. The project includes the rehabilitation and replacement of approximately 12,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer in sections 1-5 of the Fox Run subdivision.

BCS-Locke Tract Development:

As mentioned in our March newsletter, the developer, BCS, is moving forward with the 1st phase of the project. Site clearing and preparation are underway. BCS intends to preserve as many trees in the property as feasible. Contracts have been awarded to different contractors for the relocation of the existing water and sewer lines and for the expansion of the Lockeridge Farm detention pond.



Pedestrian Bridge on Birnham Woods:

The project experienced some delays due to a gas line located near the foot of the bridge. Centerpoint is in the process of relocating that gas line. The bridge itself, which will be prefabricated, is expected to be delivered by the end of October.

News Tidbits

No Increase in Tax Rates:

The Spring Creek Utility District has decided to maintain the same tax rates as last year. This will result in a slight reduction in the dollar amount of taxes for the average residence homestead.

SCUD applied for grant money:

House Bill 500, passed during the 89th Legislative Session, appropriated \$1.038 billion in funds for water supply and infrastructure projects to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The Spring Creek Utility District applied for \$4,150,667 to cover its share of the costs for the SJRA surface water pipeline extension project (Joint project with MUDs 88 and 89). TWDB has received a total of 676 applications representing a total requested amount of

\$6,901,946,828. These applications are currently under review as part of the prioritization process.

Property owners are responsible for sidewalks:

Spring Creek Utility District does not own, build, fund, maintain, repair, or manage sidewalks. District water or sanitary sewer infrastructure may run beneath or near a sidewalk, but that does not make the sidewalk District property. For information about a particular sidewalk, check your property plat or contact your homeowners association or the City.

The State of Our Aquifers:

On September 24, The Woodlands Green organization hosted Jason Ramage of the USGS, who summarized the annual study of

aquifer water table levels in our region. Groundwater comprises over 50% of The Woodlands' water supply and much more in other parts of Montgomery County. Over pumping threatens our future supply and can cause subsidence. If you missed this presentation, you can watch the recording here: [Going Green Sustainability Lectures - The Woodlands Green](#)

Lone Star GCD Symposium:

LSGCD will host its 2026 Symposium on October 29, 2026, at the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe. The Symposium's purpose is to promote water awareness and foster meaningful discussion among groundwater conservation districts, river authorities, elected officials, water professionals, and the public. For more information and to register, go to: [Lone Star GCD Symposium – Lone Star](#)

Join Spring Creek UD for

National Night Out



5:00–8:00 PM

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

The Legends Run Clubhouse

Enjoy an evening featuring:

- Balloon Artists
- Face Painters
- Live DJ
- Local First Responders & Community Partners
- Food Trucks
- Family-Friendly Activities
- Community Connections

The Legends Run Clubhouse

3150 Legends Run Blvd.

Spring, TX 77386

Spring Creek

UTILITY DISTRICT

www.springcreekud.com