

# The Subsidence District's Water Conservation Program – *providing tools and education to improve household water conservation in the Houston Region*



Harris - Galveston and Fort Bend Subsidence Districts

GULF COAST WATER CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM  
FEBRUARY 22, 2017  
HOUSTON, TX

# The Program

- Began in the 1990s with the introduction of the Waterwise school education program.
- Local entities sponsor students in the program from local school and the District provides a groundwater credit based on the conservation potential of the program to offset source water conversion regulations.
- This voluntary program is completely sponsor supported.
- Over the years, the program has grown to provide educational materials and home water conservation tools to nearly 70,000 students in Harris, Galveston, and Fort Bend Counties.



# The Program – 2017...

- Outdoor Irrigation can account for 40% of a homes total water use annually – and that’s during a normal rainfall year.
- In 2015, Harris Galveston Subsidence District Water Conservation Committee identified landscape irrigation as a priority issue for the program.
- Currently, both the Harris-Galveston and Fort Bend Districts are working with Texas A&M University and have set up a District’s-wide WATERMYARD network.



# Outdoor Irrigation Campaign

- Two primary components to the implementation
  - WaterMyYard Program with Texas A&M University
    - Installation of ET network and development of District specific web tools to educate and notify registered users on the best water management practices to ensure a vibrant landscape while conserving water
  - Landscape Irrigation Best Management Practices – Outreach and Media
    - Working with other local entities (i.e. City of Houston, Water Authorities, MUDs, Municipalities), develop and disseminate similar messages across the District area. Unified message, unified purpose.

# http://watermyyard.org


The screenshot shows the homepage of the Water My Yard website. At the top left is the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension logo. In the center is the 'Water My Yard' logo with a leaf icon. At the top right is a 'Login to your account' link. Below the header is a green banner with the text 'Keep your yard healthy and save water in two simple steps.' and a background image of water droplets on a green leaf. The main content area features three columns, each with an icon and a title: 'Save Water' (globe icon), 'Keep Your Yard Healthy' (leaf icon), and 'Automated Recommendations' (gears icon). Each column contains a short paragraph explaining the benefit. At the bottom, there is a 'Let's get started' section with a form for Step 1: 'Check if your address is in the service area.' The form includes a text input field for the address and a blue 'Check your address' button.

TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION


Water My Yard

Login to your account


Keep your yard healthy and save water in two simple steps.

 Save Water

Over 50% of landscape water is wasted due to overwatering, inefficient watering practices and broken or poorly maintained irrigation systems. Water My Yard will help you determine exactly how much to water, conserving water resources for the future and saving you money right now.

 Keep Your Yard Healthy

A healthy yard needs less water than you may think. The Water My Yard program has been designed as a tool to assist you in determining an adequate amount of supplemental water that is needed to maintain a healthy lawn.

 Automated Recommendations

It only takes a few short steps to begin receiving automated emails or text-messages to know how much water your landscape actually requires based on local weather conditions.

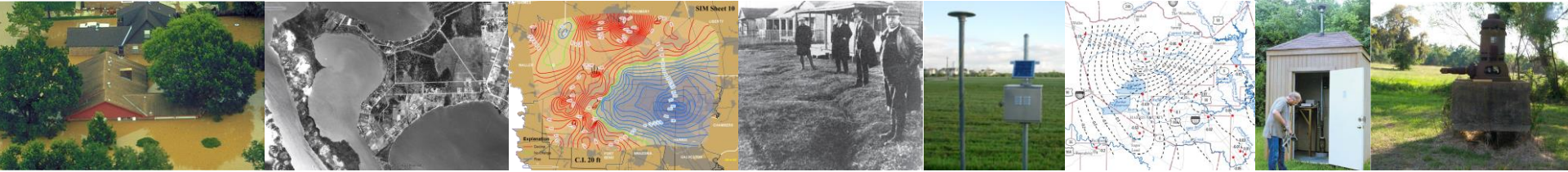
Let's get started

Step 1.) Check if your address is in the service area:

Enter a full address, city or zip code

Check your address

Get out your cell phones! Bookmark [watermyyard.org](http://watermyyard.org) – signup for automatic notifications TODAY!



*SERVING THE GULF COAST COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1975*