Harris - Galveston Subsidence District

Water Conservation Program Overview – Landscape Irrigation Campaign

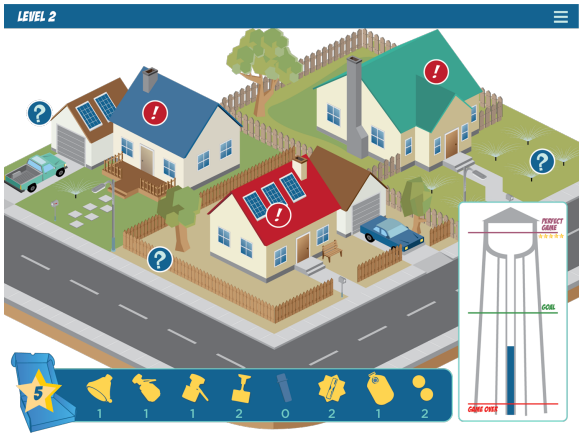
DISTRICT OFFICE
MARCH 08, 2016
FRIENDSWOOD, TX

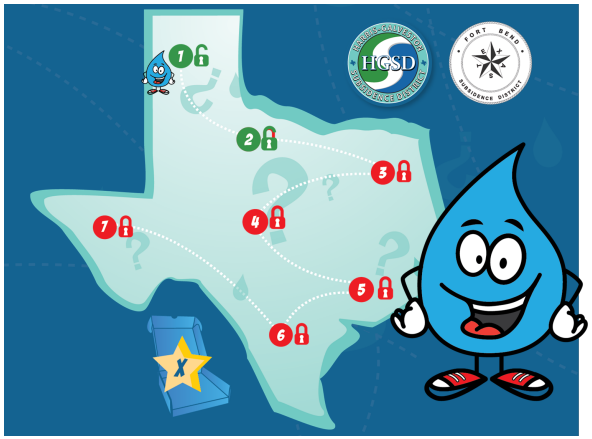
Michael J. Turco - General Manger

Elementary School Program Update

- Students enrolled through February 2016: 50,042 (worth about 4.2 billion gallons of series B groundwater credits) – 2016 Budget based on an estimated 50,000 students enrolled
- January 2016
  - HGSD Water Detective Website revisions completed per District requirements
- February 2016
  - Conducted teacher focus group
  - District documentation for the Water Smart recognition sent to sponsors
  - Enrollment above average based on this time in previous years

Elementary School Program - Application





Outdoor Irrigation Campaign

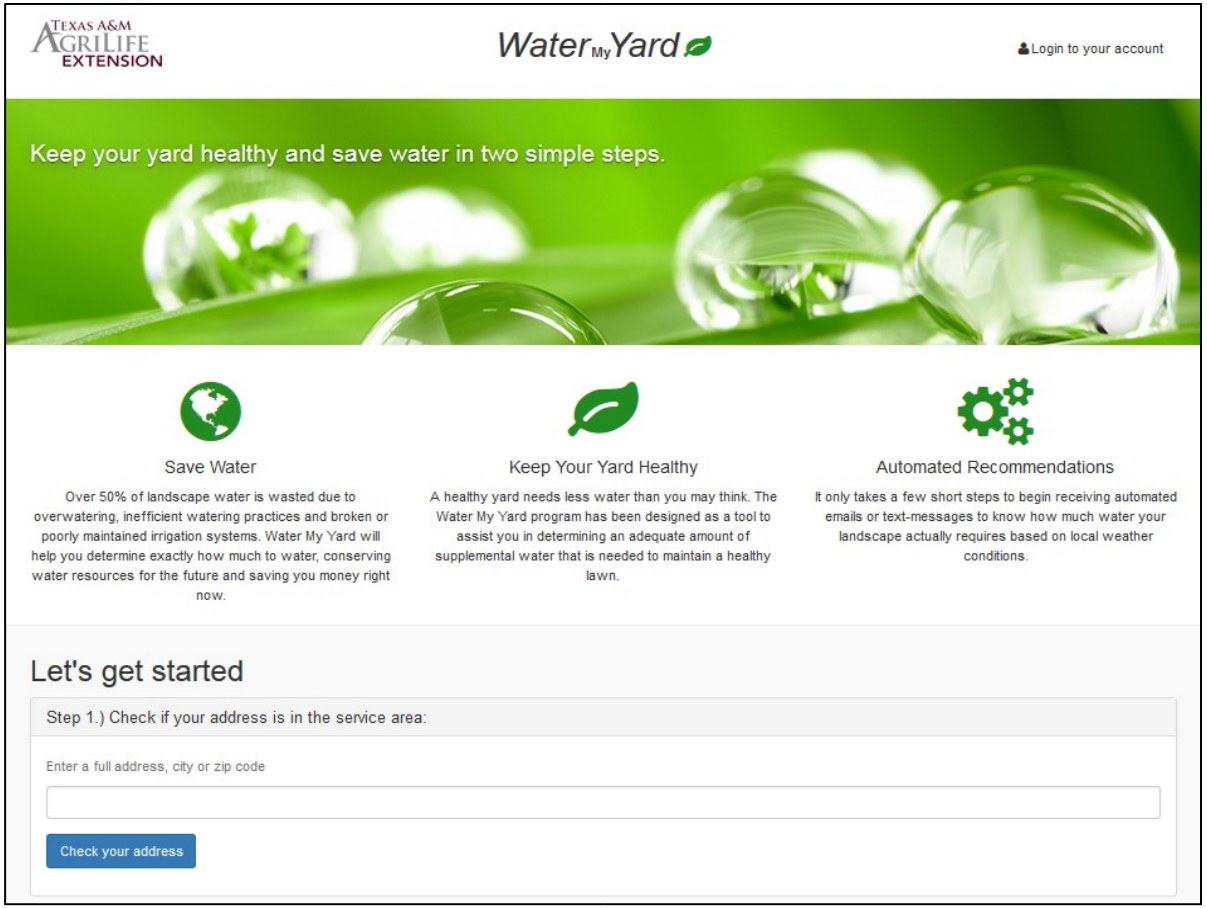
- Pursuant to Committee Discussions in 2015, an outdoor irrigation campaign is in development
- The campaign will focus on landscape irrigation, both residential and commercial
- Two primary components to the implementation
  - WaterMyYard Program with Texas A&M University
    - Installation of ET network and development of District specific webtools 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.

Evapotranspiration – Why does it matter?

- Evapotranspiration is the measure of two components of the water cycle:
  - Transpiration – use of water by plants
  - Evaporation – water loss due to phase shift from liquid to gas to the atmosphere
- ET is measured using multiple sensors and can be influenced by landscape vegetation, canopy, land-use and others.
- For the purpose of this project, a ET network will be established based on recommendations from Texas A&M with stations located at strategic partner secured facilities
- ET data will be communicated to the A&M database via cellular modem, District staff will maintain the network, with A&M providing technical guidance. ET data collected could also be used in the regulatory planning modelling efforts.

ET Network Stations

Texas A&M Agrilife Service Agreement

- Reviewed by general counsel – standard services agreement with University
- All data collected will be made available to the public, participation in the watermyyard.org website will be free to the end user
- All expenditures for this program will be covered by the Water Conservation Program Fund. Estimated cost for this effort is about $55,000 in year 1 and about $11,500 in years 2+.
- The approved 2016 Water Conservation Program Budget included $85,000 for ET station installation.

WaterMyYard