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Lost Pines water district: Investing in a sustainable future for Bastrop, Lee counties

By **Claire Marks**, *Special to Bastrop Advertiser*

Dec 2, 2025



Through the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District's Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program, residents installed systems totaling nearly 39,425 gallons of storage capacity.

Austin American-Statesman



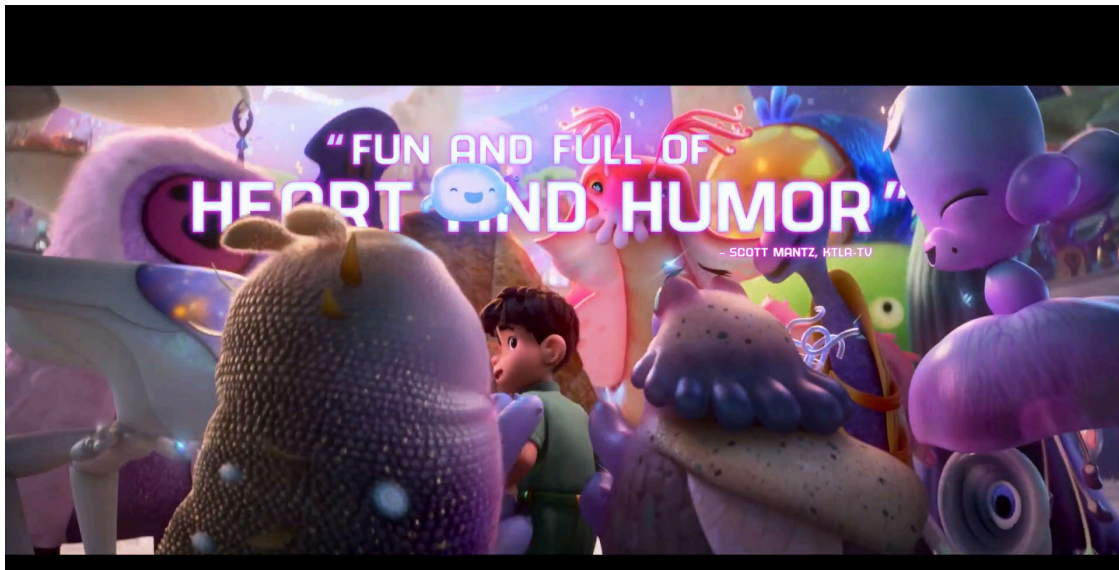
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As 2025 comes to a close, the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District is celebrating a year marked by community engagement, program growth and continued investment in a sustainable water future for Bastrop and Lee counties.



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This year, the district expanded its outreach and education programs, hosting five rainwater harvesting workshops that reached more than 100 participants. These workshops, led in a joint effort with other local organizations, helped residents learn practical ways to conserve water and capture rain for home and garden use.

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Through the Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program, residents installed systems totaling nearly 39,425 gallons of storage capacity, turning workshop lessons into measurable conservation action. The district also launched two new initiatives: the Agricultural Flow Meter Program, supported by a Texas Water Development Board grant, to help producers track and reduce groundwater use, and the Well Capping & Plugging Program, which assists landowners with safely sealing abandoned wells to protect groundwater quality.



Claire Marks
Handout

Meanwhile, the Well Watch Program continued to grow, with dozens of new property owners volunteering their wells for regular water level monitoring to support long-term groundwater management.

The district also made significant progress in student outreach and youth leadership. The Senior High School Essay Scholarship contest invited graduating seniors from Bastrop and Lee counties to share their ideas on groundwater sustainability and conservation, with top essays earning scholarship awards. The district also

partnered with Texas 4-H to sponsor a water ambassador scholarship, giving one local student the opportunity to attend the statewide Water Ambassador Leadership Academy and gain hands-on experience in water management and leadership.



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In addition, the annual Student Art contest engaged K–12 students in creative water conservation awareness through original artwork. Winning pieces are featured in the district's 2026 Water Conservation Calendar.

“The new LPGCD community programs implemented in 2025 have made this a year of real progress,” said General Manager Elvis Hernandez. “When the public becomes involved in groundwater stewardship, it helps to protect the resources we all depend on.”

As 2026 approaches, the district will continue to strengthen community collaborations and expand opportunities for residents and students to get involved. Plans for next year include increased rebate promotion, enhanced educational programs and continued efforts to protect and preserve the water resources that make Bastrop and Lee counties thrive.

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From the board and staff at the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District. thank you for being part of our mission to protect, preserve, and promote the water resources that sustain our communities.

Learn more or get involved at www.lostpineswater.org.

Claire Marks is the education and outreach coordinator of the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.

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