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Lost Pines district: Groundwater conservation a shared responsibility year round

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

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National Groundwater Awareness Week is March 8-14. The [Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District](#) would like to take this time to highlight our aquifers and the role we all play in protecting our groundwater. Here in Bastrop and Lee counties, where we rely 100% on groundwater for our municipal water supply, we value our aquifers and work together to conserve our groundwater for the future.





Claire Marks
Handout



Aquifers are underground formations of sand, clay, gravel and rock that store and transmit the water that supplies our homes, ranches, farms, schools and businesses. Unlike rivers and lakes, we cannot see our aquifers. We cannot watch them rise after heavy rains or decline during drought and overpumping. But our aquifers are constantly responding to both natural conditions and human use.

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Some of the primary aquifers within our district include the Carrizo-Wilcox, Sparta, Queen City and Yegua formations. In our region, these aquifers are layered much like a cake, with different formations found at varying depths. Each aquifer responds uniquely to pumping and prolonged dry periods. Water levels decline more quickly when demand increases due to drought, population growth, commercial development and agricultural production.

That is why sustainable management and planning matters. This is why the Lost Pines GCD was created. Groundwater conservation districts across Texas are required to establish Desired Future Conditions. These science-based projections estimate how much water-level change an aquifer can sustain over a 50-year planning horizon while still supporting long-term use. In other words, we are continually asking: What do we want our aquifers to look like in 50 years?

Future projections consider population growth, agricultural needs, industrial demand and long-term drought patterns. The data shows that responsible management today directly influences water availability tomorrow. But that responsibility belongs to all of us.



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For well owners, maintaining equipment and monitoring water levels helps us better understand changing conditions. Through our Well Watch Program, volunteer well owners allow the district to measure water levels twice a year, helping us track trends and respond to changes over time.

For agricultural producers, accurate metering and reporting provide essential data that strengthens long-term planning. Through our Agricultural Production Meter Program we give agricultural-producing well owners their own meter so they too can track and save water. ✕

Small decisions add up. Choosing shorter showers, brushing your teeth, running full loads of laundry, adjusting irrigation schedules and watering lawns

demand on our aquifers. Even modest reductions in household use, when multiplied across thousands of residents, make a measurable difference in conserving our shared groundwater supply.

Groundwater is a shared resource. The water beneath one property does not stay neatly within fence lines. What we do individually impacts our neighbors, our aquifers and our future.

During National Groundwater Awareness Week, the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District encourages residents of Bastrop and Lee counties to value water. Learn more about our aquifers and how they are managed. Ask questions. And consider the role you play in protecting and conserving our groundwater. Planning for the future starts with being water wise today.

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