



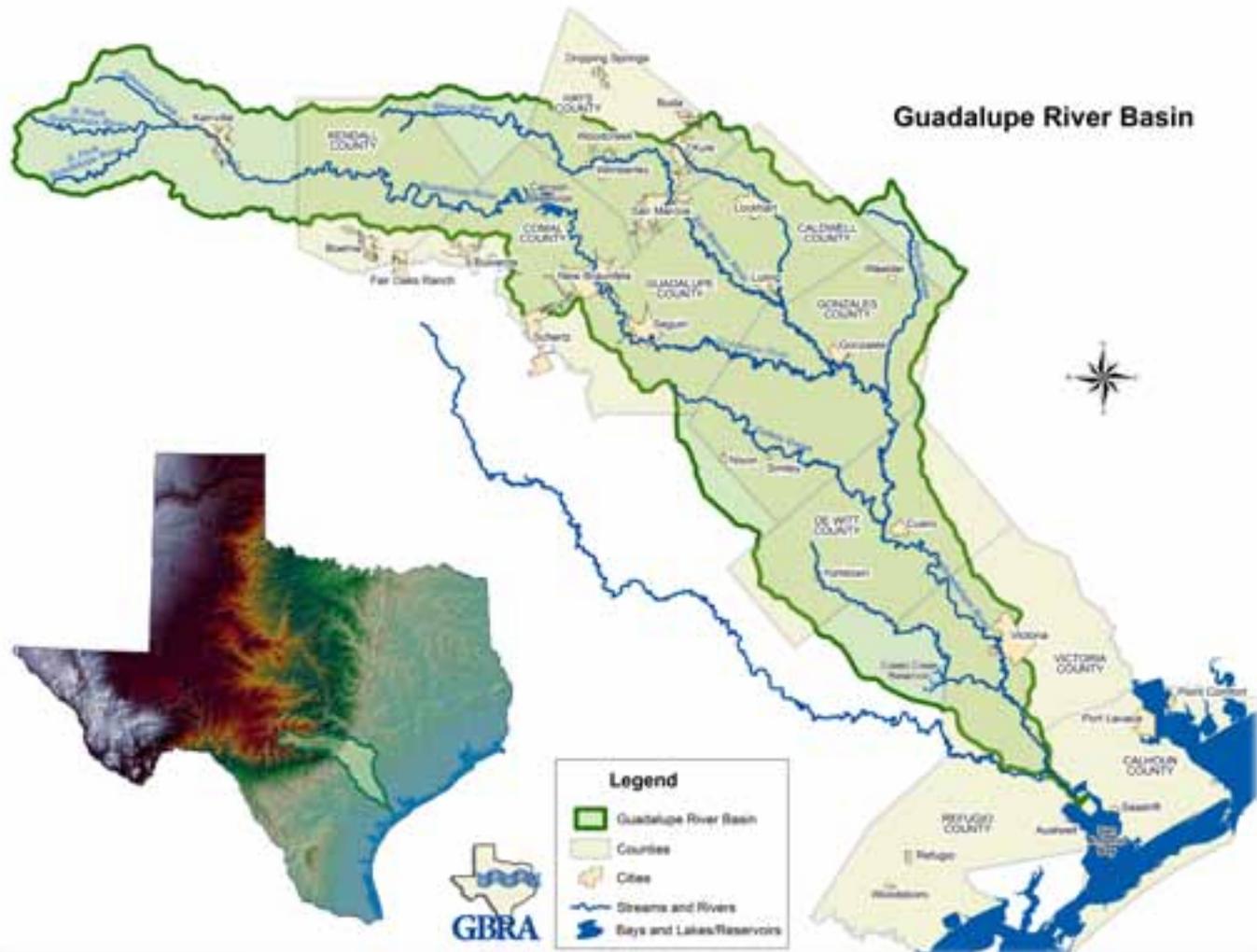
Aqua Phil's

# CONSERVATION BASIN



*A publication of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority*

# Guadalupe River Basin





# Aqua Phil's CONSERVATION BASIN

Using water more efficiently not only will save money, but also will help protect the quality of life for future Texans.

Texas is the second largest state by both population and area. With an area covering 268,820 square miles, Texas is subject to frequent droughts, and the population is projected to double in the next 50 years. The cost of developing new or additional supplies in that same time period is estimated to be greater than \$30 billion.

To ensure Texas will have enough cost-effective water for current and future citizens, everyone, including residents of the Guadalupe

*(This publication is available from GBRA in Spanish)*

River Basin, must reduce water waste and begin conservation in earnest. To learn how every individual can contribute to the overall efforts of water conservation in the Guadalupe River Basin and throughout the state, follow some of the tips offered by Aqua Phil.



## Retrofit, Repair and Reduce

- ❧ High-efficiency toilets, water-efficient washing machines, rainwater harvesting systems, and water-efficient landscaping reduce water use.
- ❧ Water-efficient showerheads and aerators for faucets can significantly reduce the amount of water used. In fact, installing a water-efficient showerhead is one of the most effective water-saving steps that can be taken inside of a home.
- ❧ In the summer, outdoor water use accounts for up to 50 percent or more water consumption. With proper management, you can have a beautiful, healthy landscape, reduce water use and save hundreds of dollars.
- ❧ Leaky faucets and toilets waste thousands of gallons of water monthly, and are usually inexpensive to fix. A few small changes in water-use habits can make a huge difference in water savings.
- ❧ Install water-softening systems only when necessary. Save water and salt by running the minimum amount of regenerations necessary to maintain water softness.
- ❧ Know where the master water shut-off valve is in case a pipe bursts.

- ❧ Find other uses for water rather than letting it go down the drain, such as watering house plants with fish tank water.
- ❧ Insulate hot water pipes.

## In-Home Water Conservation *Kitchen*

- ❧ Run the dishwasher only when full. If dishes are not very dirty, use the short wash cycle.
- ❧ When washing dishes by hand, do not allow the faucet to run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
- ❧ Install faucet aerators. This can cut sink water consumption in half.
- ❧ Dry scrape dishes instead of rinsing. Your dishwasher will take care of the rest.
- ❧ Use garbage disposals sparingly.
- ❧ Soak pans rather than scrubbing them with the water running.
- ❧ Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator or use the defrost function on the microwave oven.

## *Bathroom*

- ✂ Take short showers.
- ✂ Get in the shower as soon as the water becomes warm enough.
- ✂ Replace showerheads with a water-efficient model.
- ✂ Take a shower instead of a bath – a shower with a water-efficient showerhead often uses less water than a bath.
- ✂ Reduce the level of water used in a bathtub by one or two inches if a shower is not available.
- ✂ Turn off the water while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- ✂ Test toilets for leaks. Use a dye tablet or food coloring in the tank, and if the coloring appears in the bowl within a few minutes, the toilet has a leak that should be repaired.
- ✂ Never use the toilet to dispose of trash.

## *Laundry*

- ✂ Conventional washing machines use 32 to 59 gallons of water per load. Wash only full loads.
- ✂ Use the lowest water level setting on the washing machine for light or partial loads whenever possible.
- ✂ Use cold water as often as possible to save energy and conserve hot water for uses that cold water cannot serve.



# Outdoor Water Conservation

## *Lawn and Garden*

- ✂ An inch of water per week in the summer will keep most Texas grasses healthy. To determine how long to run sprinklers, place straight-edged cans at different distances away from the sprinkler and time how long it takes to fill an average of one inch of water in each can.
- ✂ Avoid abusing the benefits of an automatic sprinkler system by over-watering. Set it to provide thorough, but infrequent watering. Check sprinkler heads regularly to make sure they are working properly. Install rain shut-off devices and make sure the sprinklers are watering only on the lawn, not on sidewalks, driveways or streets.
- ✂ Collecting the rain draining off rain gutters into a barrel or rain cistern can be used to water flower beds and plants.
- ✂ Avoid wasting water by cleaning patios and sidewalks with hoses; use a broom instead.
- ✂ Prevent evaporation by watering lawns early in the morning or late evening during the hotter summer months. Never water on windy days.
- ✂ Keep pools and spas covered when not in use.
- ✂ Plant water-efficient, well-adapted, and /or native grasses, shrubs and trees. Choose plants that are drought-tolerant.
- ✂ Try to use a lot of mulch around shrubs and trees to retain moisture and reduce run-off.





# Droughts *When in drought, snuff it out*

While water conservation is important throughout the year, it is especially crucial during times of drought. A drought is a prolonged period of abnormally low precipitation, resulting in a shortage of water. When droughts bring on such substantial deficiencies in water supplies, the opportunities for fire hazards greatly increase. Many county and city officials may issue general burn bans and fireworks restrictions – warnings that should be heeded. In such instances, Aqua Phil suggests: ***When in drought, snuff it out!***



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## ***Enhanced Fire Hazard***

- 🔥 Observe and adhere to “burn ban” notices posted by local officials.
- 🔥 If you smoke, do not toss cigarette or cigar butts out of vehicle windows when driving. Distinguish butts appropriately in ash trays or sand receptacles.
- 🔥 Avoid outdoor grilling or barbequing.
- 🔥 Avoid the use of tiki torches, candles, propane/gas burning lamps or burning citronella oils outdoors during droughts conditions.
- 🔥 Do not use fire pits because hot embers may escape to dry lawns or rooftops.
- 🔥 If you live in rural areas, avoid burning trash until burn notices are lifted.
- 🔥 Be careful using edgers on lawns because blades hitting sidewalks may cause sparks to ignite dry grass.



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