

City of Woodcreek

Water Task Force

2024 Report and Recommendations to Council

Elected Body Members: Mayor Jeff Rasco, Mayor Pro Tem Debra Hines, Council Member Krista Richardson

Other Representatives: Ordinance Review Committee Chair and Planning and Zoning Member Jim Miller, Planning and Zoning Member Tomas Palm, Parks and Recreation Board Member Justin Camp, Mr. William Drumwright, and Mrs. Donna Trussell

ESTABLISHED PRIORITIES FOR COUNCIL:

1. Stay committed to water conservation and resilience through financial and technical support to the Cypress Creek Watershed Protection Plan and the newly established Blanco Cypress Watershed Protection Plan
2. Demonstrated rainwater collection and green stormwater infrastructure at local parks and on city-owned land and structures
3. Update and enforce a water quality ordinance
4. Adopt and enforce City Ordinances that encourage rainwater collection
5. Continue to require conservative maximums for impervious cover and by adding a specific water conservation and sustainability component to the City's Comprehensive planning process
6. Support the research and educational efforts of local and regional conservation-based organizations
7. Pursue an Interlocal agreement with Aqua Tx, County, and Wimberley for building code and rainwater collection incentives

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

1. Create new page on the City's website to address water conservation and provide rainwater collection information. See page content recommendations: [Website Page Draft](#)
2. Accept a bid package to install rainwater collection on City owned properties
3. Initiate a Yard program that focuses on awarding houses with signs and recognition for various ideal yard types or important features and mirrors the garden and house tour model rather than a competition
4. Create an Educational Event perhaps annual or one-time with the rain barrel program
5. Create a rain barrel giveaway program
6. Create a rainwater collection incentivization code

7. Finalize code updates – “land usage” chapter regarding water conservation and rainwater collection incentives.
8. Restart Interlocal negotiations on valley-wide building code requirements in partnership with Aqua Tx, City of Woodcreek, City of Wimberley, and other local stakeholders.
9. Continue to fund interlocal water protection efforts.
10. Seek grants and partnerships with local non-profits to accomplish these goals.

Goals as identified in the Cypress Creek Watershed Protection Plan for the City of Woodcreek:

Woodcreek

Stormwater Assessment

The results of this assessment will be used to site BMPs in the interim and implementation phases and to site BMPs carried out under Adaptive Management.

Water Quality Protection Ordinance

The City of Woodcreek’s Water Quality Protection Ordinance already has protections in place, including impervious cover limits. The City is open to enhancing the ordinance to include metrics to quantify pollution mitigation. This will not be a new ordinance or regulation; rather it will be a planning tool for decision makers to use when managing urbanization in the watershed.

Code Enhancement – Impervious Cover Limits

Code can be enhanced to include metrics that quantify the water quality benefits of implementing rain water harvesting systems or decreased impervious cover. This will not be a new ordinance or regulation; rather it will be a planning tool for decision makers to use when managing urbanization in the watershed.

Code Enhancement – Karst Feature Protection

Known recharge features exist in Woodcreek. These features are protected under the existing ordinance, but the City sees the benefit to enhancing protections. This may be couple with above code enhancements. Land could be banked around specific karst recharge features.

Demonstrations BMPs – Water tower

Water Tower site next to City Hall is ideal for its high visibility and runoff mitigation potential. Area Master Naturalists are coordinating with the Stakeholder Committee and the City to develop and install BMPs and educational signage at this site. BMPs include rain gardens, rainwater harvesting, nativescaping, xeriscaping, swales, mulching, pervious pathways and sidewalks.

Code recommendations for Council to consider:

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES –

§ 158.15 Construction Standards

- (A) Building Materials
- (B) Design Guidelines

§ 158.16 Landscaping and Non-Permeable Services

- (A) Drought Tolerant Landscaping / xeriscape
- (B) No Sprinklers and Automated Watering Systems for Lawns
- (C) Use of permeable pavers for driveways
- (D) Installation of permeable walkways
- (E) flow spreaders on gutters or perforated pipe

§ 158.17 Water Conservation

- Rainwater Installation and Planning
- Use of Rainwater for Potable Water
- Purple Pipes

§ 158.18 Dedicated Parkland and Greenspaces

- Minimum Parkland Requirements
- Installation of Planned Greenspaces
- Traffic Calming Measures
- Promoting Walkability
- Community Spaces

§ 158.19 Efficient Appliances

- (A) Energy Efficient Appliances
- (B) Low Flow Toilets
- (C) Water Saving Appliances

§ 158.20 Solar Power

- (A) Installation of Solar Panels

And, add permit discounts or waivers, impervious coverage credit back, rebates (up to a percent) with receipts and taking a mandatory workshop or showing proof of one

Seek green infrastructure updates to like rain gardens to address drainage.

GOAL – infiltration instead of runoff, helps tree canopy, improves the base surface flow as the water sinks into the ground