

An aerial photograph of a park. In the center is a calm pond with a small fountain. Winding paths lead around the pond and through the park. In the foreground, there is a playground with a large blue and red slide structure and a red swing set. The park is surrounded by lush green trees and grass.

# Spring Creek

UTILITY DISTRICT

**June 2025**

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

01. **A Word From The Board**

05. **Water Smart Event Recap**

02. **Water Conservation:  
Water Losses and Leaks**

06. **Parks Updates**

03. **Interview with  
The Owner of MOC**

07. **Project Updates**

04. **Lawn Care Guide**

## District Alert System

Sign up for text alerts at  
**<https://springcreekud.com/alerts>**  
for notices and updates about  
your area!



### Example Message



# FIRST A WORD FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to the (official) summer even though it seems that we have been in the summer for a while here in Texas with temperatures in May significantly warmer than normal. Around the middle of the month, a heatwave brought high temperatures 10-to-25-degree F. above average. At the same time, despite some areas receiving above average rainfall, it was not enough to significantly ease drought conditions across the state. Fortunately, it seems that the month of June, so far, has brought with it more well-needed rain, reducing the need to water our yards.

Even though our wells have not fully recovered from the level drops encountered during the last 2 years, the Boards of the three districts (Mud 88, Mud 89 and SCUD) who jointly own the wells serving our residents, decided to move back to the Stage 1 (Voluntary restrictions) of the Drought Contingency Plan; however, this doesn't mean that we can start using water at will. Water conservation is a critical management strategy to ensure the future needs of our residents and must always stay "top of mind."

In this issue of our newsletter, we address water losses and leaks. The first part of this article highlights the significance of these issues and the impact these have on water management strategies.

This featured article is followed by a brief interview with the owner of Municipal Operation and Consulting (MOC), who has been servicing the Spring Creek Utility District since 2010.

Next, we are offering some guidance on lawn care, followed by a recap on our Water Smart event held at the beginning of April and then updates on the district park and some of the projects currently underway.

We hope you find our quarterly newsletter useful, and we are inviting you to provide us with your feedback and suggestions.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer and stay away from the heat as much as possible.

## Claude Humbert

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD



**Claude Humbert**  
PRESIDENT



**Mark Fusca**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**Frederick Sunderman**  
SECRETARY



**Leslie Gourley**  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY



**Paul Sterling**  
DIRECTOR



# WATER CONSERVATION:

# WATER LOSSES AND LEAKS (PART ONE)

Water is an essential resource and safe drinking water plays a crucial role in promoting good health and support of virtually all aspects of life (food production, manufacturing, etc.). Water Utilities treat and distribute drinking water to our homes, businesses, institutions and industrial facilities. In the past, abundant water resources, in most parts of the country, could be readily and reliably tapped to supply communities. Today, in many regions, this is no longer the case due to climate changes, population growth, environmental conditions, aquifer depletion, etc.

In Texas, the state is divided into 16 regional planning groups which are charged to identify water demands, available supplies and municipal needs and to propose management strategies necessary to fill the predicted water supply gap. The State Water Plan is revised every 5 years, and the most recent plan was published in 2022. At that time, it was projected that the population in Texas would increase by 73% over the next 50 years, that overall water demand would grow by 9% and, at the same time, the existing water supplies would decline by 18%. The potential shortage in a drought of record would be 6.9 million acre-feet of water (1 acre-foot = 325,851 gallons of water). To fill that gap, many different strategies were proposed to provide 7.7 M acre feet of water per year in additional water supplies by 2070. These included surface water, conservation and drought management, re-use, groundwater, seawater, aquifer storage and recovery. Conservation and drought management accounted for 30.9% of the total shortage. One of the major management strategies for water conservation in water utilities is to mitigate water losses.

A recent report by the Texas Living Waters Project, using

data from the 2022 State Water Plan, indicates that Texas Utilities are losing at least 572,000 acre-feet of water per year. This is more than the total annual water needs of the cities of Austin, Fort Worth, El Paso, Laredo and Lubbock combined! This equates to 51 gallons/connection/day for each connection in Texas (on average).



In the Spring Creek Utility District, the ratio between pumped water and the total amount billed is around 95%, which equates to about 12 gallons/connection/day. This includes water used by the operator for mandatory flushing and other needs in the facilities.

Even though water losses in our district are far from being as high as the average losses in our state, we thought it would be appropriate to highlight the importance of this issue as a part of our continuing effort to promote water conservation. In this article, we will cover leaks at the utility level as well as these on the consumer's side. But first, we need to make the distinction between leaks and water losses.



## Water Losses

Water losses are "non-revenue" water, distributed in the system but not billed by the utility. These water losses are divided in two categories:

- Apparent losses, which include Customer Metering Inaccuracies, Unauthorized Consumption and Systematic Data Handling Errors
- Real Losses are physical water losses. (i.e. Leakage)

Non-revenue water also includes unbilled authorized consumption which represents water used in miscellaneous activities such as firefighting, mandatory flushing, etc.

Real losses are the ones we are focusing on at the utility level.

## Leaks

Most of the leaks at the utility level occur in the transmission and distribution mains. Leaks can range from small, yet constant leaks to catastrophic main breaks. On average, the district repairs less than 10 leaks each month in the overall system, most of these being in the small distribution lines connecting to the end user. As these leaks are relatively small in nature, our operator relies on our customers to notify them when they see water running on the street (MOC's 24-hour emergency line at 281-367-5511).

Leaks at the customer's side are not actual losses for the district as that water is going through the meter and is billed to the customer; however, this can be costly, and this is certainly a waste of an important resource. This is why the district has taken pro-active steps to help reduce these leaks as much as possible.

Leaks are not always visible and, consequently, not easy to locate. In addition to this, the water meter being in the ground and usually covered with debris and potentially critters, most people would not check it to verify consumption.

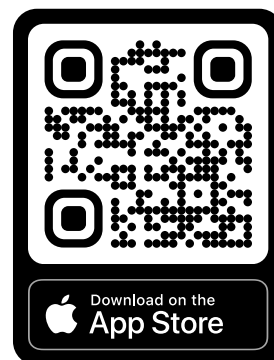
A few years ago, the Spring Creek Utility District invested in Smart Meters and replaced all the meters in the district. Not only do these meters transmit consumption data to the Operator, but, via the EyeOnWater app, consumers can verify their consumption and get an alert when a leak is present. For more information about the Smart Meters and to learn how to use the EyeOnWater app, [click here](https://eyeonwater.com).

Unfortunately, today, less than 20% of the district customers are enrolled to use this tool. Last month, the operator reported 108 leaks, and, in most cases, the customer is not using the EyeOnWater app, and therefore may not realize there is a leak until he or she receives a much larger bill than usual. MOC, the district operator, investigates the largest leaks (greater than 10 gal./hr.). Very often, these leaks are not visible from outside of the building, and the operator leaves a door tag, notifying the customers that a leak is present somewhere on their premises. The district operator may turn the water off in some circumstances to preserve water (vacant property, irrigation system or no corrective action taken after a while).

In the next issue of our newsletter, we will go into more detail about common leaks in and around the house and how to detect these. In the meantime, if you have not signed up for the EyeOnWater app, do so and start monitoring your water usage.

<https://eyeonwater.com>

**Download the App here!**



# AN INTERVIEW **MOC** | Municipal Operations & Consulting, Inc. WITH LONNIE WRIGHT

## THE OWNER OF MOC

**Lonnie, you are Owner and operator of Municipal Operation and Consulting (MOC). Tell us more about you and MOC. How long have you and MOC been in this industry? How long have you been servicing the Spring Creek Utility District (SCUD)?**

My wife Beth and I are the sole owners of MOC. We both work full time in our business. We started the company in January of 2002 and took on our first 2 clients in April of the same year. We started with 4 people (including Beth and myself) that first year. Since that time, we have been blessed beyond measure. Our growth has been mostly steady over the years with a few years of exponential growth mixed in over the years. We now have over 100 clients and some 250 employees. We were hired by Spring Creek Utility District on January 1, 2010.

**Water Distribution is, of course, the most important part of your operation. What are the most critical aspects of this duty?**

As an operations company, we are classified as first responders. During natural or unnatural disasters, we must keep safe water flowing to the customers of Spring Creek Utility District. During these events (Winter storm URI or hurricane Beryl) our staff both in the field and in the office are in the district and answering the phones 24/7 until the event is over. As important as providing safe water to our customers is, it is equally important to protect the public health and the environment by the proper treatment and release of the wastewater that is generated in Spring Creek Utility District. The district currently generates about 550,000 gallons of wastewater per day.

**What is the biggest problem that you are facing on a regular basis with water distribution?**

The biggest issue on the horizon for water distribution is that water has always been a very cheap and available resource in this part of Texas. That has all changed and is going to change even more in the coming years. The conversion over to surface water from ground water has been in process over the last 20 years in Montgomery County. We have to begin to change the attitudes that our customers have about water conservation. The schools are doing a good job of teaching the youngsters how important water conservation is, but we need to get to the adults and instill the fact that water is a precious commodity and that there is not an endless supply.

**The other big part of your activity is the collection and treatment of wastewater. What is keeping you "awake" all the time and what can our residents do, eventually, to help minimize (or mitigate) these problems?**

As important as providing safe water to our customers is, it is equally important to protect the public health and the environment by the proper treatment and release of the wastewater that is generated in Spring Creek Utility District. The District currently generates about 550,000 gallons of wastewater per day. The single biggest "issue" that we deal with, the most costly maintenance causing issue is disposable wipes. These range from baby wipes to furniture wipes. They all seem to find their way into the wastewater collection system. They tear up pumps and cause costly cleanups at the wastewater facilities.



**What about the storm sewers, drainage channels and detention ponds? We haven't talked about these yet! What is MOC involvement with the overall storm sewer system?**

We work hand in hand with the district manager, Aric Braddock, to oversee and maintain the storm sewer system in Spring Creek Utility District. We try to keep the public mindful that the storm sewer is not a garbage collection system. As easy as it may seem to wash yard clippings and such down the street drain, this is not acceptable. It can and will create capacity issues with the storm water collection system.





# LAWN CARE GUIDE

## Know Your Grass & Plants

Identifying the types of grass and plants in your yard is the first step in creating an effective lawn care plan. Different grasses and plants require different watering schedules and types of care. The variety you have will affect your irrigation needs and even your fertilizer choices. If you're unsure about your grass type or plants, consider getting a professional's input or using an app that tracks your yard's needs.

## Soil Testing

It's a great idea to test your soil every 1-3 years to ensure it has the right balance of nutrients. You can easily send soil samples to Texas AgriLife Extension for analysis. For just about \$12, they'll provide you with detailed information that will help you understand exactly what your lawn needs for optimal growth.

## Grass Care: Seasonal Maintenance

### Winter (January-March):

- Start the season right by applying a preemergence herbicide. This will prevent crabgrass and other weeds from taking hold in the coming months.

### Spring (March-May):

- Once the weather warms up, begin fertilizing your lawn to encourage healthy growth.
- Mow your lawn at least twice before the first fertilizer application of the season.
- Use the results from your soil test to determine the best fertilization plan.
- Most homeowners will need to fertilize 1-4 times throughout the growing season: (April to August).

### Summer (June-August):

- During the heat of summer, it's essential to keep your lawn hydrated. However, be careful not to overwater. Stick to the early morning or late evening watering schedule to avoid water loss from evaporation.
- Raise your mower blades slightly during the summer to leave grass a little longer. This helps shade the soil and retain moisture, which can be crucial during hot weather.
- Fertilize with a balanced slow-release fertilizer if needed. Be cautious not to fertilize too much in the heat, as it can stress the grass.
- Keep an eye on summer weeds like dandelions and crabgrass. Spot treat with post-emergent herbicide or pull by hand as needed.



### **Fall (September-November):**

- Fall is a great time to apply a fertilizer designed for cooler weather. This helps your grass recover from summer stress and prepare for the winter months ahead.
- If your lawn has bare patches or is thin, fall is the best time to overseed. Cooler temperatures and regular rainfall create optimal conditions for grass seed to germinate.
- As the weather cools down, reduce your watering schedule. Your lawn will require less water as it enters dormancy for the winter.
- Continue to mow regularly until the grass stops growing. This ensures that your lawn stays neat and is ready for winter dormancy.

### **Irrigation Tips**

Watering at the right time is key to maintaining a healthy lawn. The best times to water are early in the morning or late in the evening when the temperatures are cooler. This ensures your grass gets enough moisture without the water evaporating too quickly. Watering is only necessary twice a week if fully saturating the soil properly.

### **Bonus:**

### **Aeration & Thatch Removal**

While aeration and thatch removal aren't always part of every homeowner's routine, they can greatly improve the health of your lawn.

### **What is Aeration?**

Aeration is the process of perforating the soil with small holes to allow air, water, and nutrients to reach the roots. This promotes healthier, stronger growth.

### **What is Thatch?**

Thatch is a layer of dead grass, roots, and other organic material that can build up on the soil surface. A small amount of thatch is normal, but too much can prevent water and nutrients from reaching your grass, leading to a poor lawn. Thatch removal helps to improve lawn health.

### **Trees & Ornamental Plants Care**

For trees and ornamental plants, add a 3-4" layer of mulch around the base to retain moisture, regulate temperature, and suppress weeds. Be sure not to pile the mulch directly against the plant stems or tree trunks, as this can encourage rot.

### **Conclusion:**

### **Work with Mother Nature**

Ultimately, the key to a thriving lawn and garden is coordinating your care with the changing seasons and the needs of your plants. By paying attention to your grass type, soil health, and irrigation practices, you'll set your lawn up for success throughout the spring and summer. With the help of your smart meter, you'll stay water-wise and keep your lawn looking great all season long!

# *Happy gardening!*



# WATER SMART RECAP



The Spring Creek Utility District hosted its annual Water Smart event on April 8, 2025. We had approximately 300 people attending and everyone had a great time, enjoying a wonderful day in the park, great food, and entertainment.

This year, we had the pleasure of having the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District with their mobile lab. There, people were able to learn more about the aquifers that provide a source of groundwater in Montgomery County and many ways to conserve water.



Our Operator, MOC, provided residents with goodie bags, which included tips on water conservation and helped people sign up for the EyeOnWater app. As an incentive, MOC had a drawing for a Yeti Cooler. We had 42 participants, and the winner was Gabriela A. of Forest Village.



Our Communication Consultant, Touchstone, in addition to inviting residents to sign up for the District Alerts system, had prepared a quiz with multiple choice questions related to water and water conservation. Fifty-three (53) customers returned their completed form and 17 of these correctly answered all questions and participated in a raffle to get \$50 off their water bill. The three (3) winners were: Philip P. of Forest Village; Mike W. and Joel U., both of Fox Run.

***Congratulations to the winners and thanks again to our consultants and vendors for a great event.***



# PARK UPDATES

- The Fox Springs Park baseball fields will be closed for the next 24 months for renovation and several upcoming projects.
- The Fishing Pier is now open for use after renovation!
- The Toddler park is now open for use after new equipment has been installed!





# PROJECT UPDATES

**Here is a brief update on the status of the projects currently underway in the district:**

- 1. Booster pump addition at the SCUD Water Plant #2:** This project is now completed.



- 2. SCUD water Plant #3:** The permit application for a new well has been approved by the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District on May 13, 2025. The contract has been awarded to the successful bidder, and it is anticipated that the contractor will mobilize in July. This project should take about 18 months to complete.
- 3. Reclaimed Water Project:** The contract for the Re-use water plant has been awarded and a pre-construction meeting with the main contractor is scheduled for the beginning of July with a Notice to Proceed tentatively issued shortly thereafter. Completion of this project should take about 15 months. The first phase of the distribution system, which will be combined with the drainage improvement project in the Fox Run subdivision, is still under design and has not been sent for bids yet.

- 4. District Building:** The building slab has been poured, and some portions of the wooden frame walls have been erected (see attached picture). Steel structural components should be delivered early July, allowing construction to continue. It is anticipated that the building will be delivered to the district sometimes during the first quarter of 2026.



- 5. The Alcove at Bender's Landing:** The developer has been moving very fast with the construction and creating some issues that raised concerns with our residents. Among these is the fact that the contractor removed more trees than anticipated, including some that were on the district property. The developer has promised that he will plant replacement trees to re-create an adequate "privacy curtain".