PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JOHNSON · ELLIS · HILL · SOMERVELL

2024 Annual Report

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Letter from the General Manager

Kathy Turner Jones
General Manager

As we reflect on 2024, we are proud to share some of the year's key accomplishments and milestones that reflect our continued dedication to protecting local groundwater resources through transparency, community engagement, and informed stewardship.

This year, the District expanded its collaborative efforts with the Texas Real Estate Commission to further our commitment to public education and regulatory awareness. Together, we focused on improving how new property owners are informed about groundwater regulations at the point of land purchase. By ensuring early awareness of well permitting requirements and usage limitations, we are fostering responsible groundwater use from the very beginning of land ownership.

In alignment with our mission and statutory responsibilities, the District adopted a new Management Plan in 2024. This important milestone followed a thorough review process that actively included stakeholder engagement and public input. The updated plan provides a strategic roadmap for our operations over the coming years and underscores our commitment to data-driven decision-making and proactive resource management.

District staff also held a series of meetings in coordination with the Rules and Bylaws Committee to review and propose amendments to our District Rules to be heard in 2025. These efforts are part of our ongoing mission to enhance groundwater protections while honoring the rights of property owners. As always, the rulemaking process remained rooted in transparency and inclusive public engagement.

Continuing collaboration with Groundwater Management Area 8, we concluded the update of the North Texas Groundwater Availability Model, enhancing our understanding of regional groundwater dynamics and bolstering our planning efforts for the future. Technical consultants remain steadfast in their efforts and will soon begin updating the Desired Future Conditions, ensuring sustainable resource utilization for diverse users across agriculture, industry, and residential sectors.

We were also excited to launch the District's new rainwater harvesting rebate program, designed to assist property owners with the cost of installing rainwater collection systems. This initiative supports water conservation efforts and offers an alternative water source that reduces demand on groundwater. Additionally, we brought back our popular rainwater harvesting workshops, providing

hands-on education and resources to help residents take part and learn how to begin their rainwater harvesting journey.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to serving our community with integrity and diligence. We thank our residents and partners for their continued support in helping us protect and preserve one of our region's most vital natural resources.

I invite you to explore our annual report for a deeper understanding of the performance measures and benchmarks we use to guide and assess the District's management goals. Your input and involvement play a vital role in helping us strengthen our commitment to the responsible stewardship of our groundwater resources.

Sincerely,

Kathy Turner Jones
General Manager

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District (“District’’) is to develop rules to provide protection to existing wells, prevent waste, promote conservation, provide a framework that will allow availability and accessibility of groundwater for future generations, protect the quality of the groundwater in the recharge zone of the aquifer, ensure that the residents of Ellis, Hill, Johnson, and Somervell Counties maintain local control over their groundwater, and operate the District in a fair and equitable manner for all residents of the District.

Brief District History

Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District was formed in response to a finding by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (“TCEQ”) that groundwater shortages were expected in Ellis, Hill, Johnson, and Somervell counties over the next 25 years. The TCEQ finding required local residents to create a groundwater conservation district, or else the TCEQ would mandate one, enabling legislation for the Prairielands GCD to be created in 2009 by the 81st Texas Legislature.

The Prairielands GCD is located in the northern prairies of Texas, encompassing a four-county area. The District spans 2,870 square miles and overlays the Woodbine Aquifer and Trinity Aquifer.

District Creation

The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District was created by the 81st Texas Legislature under the authority of Section 59, Article XVI, of the Texas Constitution, and in accordance with Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code (“Water Code”), by the Act of May 3rd, 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1208, 2009 Tex. Gen. Laws 3859, codified at TEX. SPEC. DIST. LOC. LAWS CODE ANN. Ch. 8855. (“The District Act”). The District is a governmental agency and a body politic and corporate. The District was formed to serve a public use and benefit and is essential to accomplish the objectives set forth in Section 59, Article XVI, of the Texas Constitution.

Board of Directors

The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District's Board of Directors is composed of two members per county, appointed by the counties' Commissioners' Courts. The 2024 directors are:

President – Charles Beseda
Term Expires August 31, 2027
Represents Hill County

Vice-President – Paul Tischler
Term Expires August 31, 2025
Represents Johnson County

Secretary/Treasurer – Maurice Osborn
Term Expires August 31, 2027
Represents Ellis County

Director – Barney McClure
Term Expires August 31, 2027
Represents Johnson County

Director – John Curtis
Term Expires August 31, 2027
Represents Somervell County

Director – Brad Daniels
Term Expires August 31, 2025
Represents Hill County

Director – Marty McPherson
Term Expires August 31, 2025
Represents Somervell County

Director – Kathy Tucker
Term Expires August 31, 2025
Represents Ellis County

District Staff

Kathy Turner Jones
General Manager

Brian Watts
Comptroller

Michael Heath
Field Operations Coordinator

Kaylin Garcia
Public Relations and Education Director

Annette Kinney
Permitting & Compliance Specialist

Karol Bowers
Permitting & Compliance Specialist

Rusty Zent
Field Technician

Jose Sarmiento
Field Technician

Nicole Windham
Office Assistant

Management Plan Objectives, Performance Standards, and Annual Activity Report

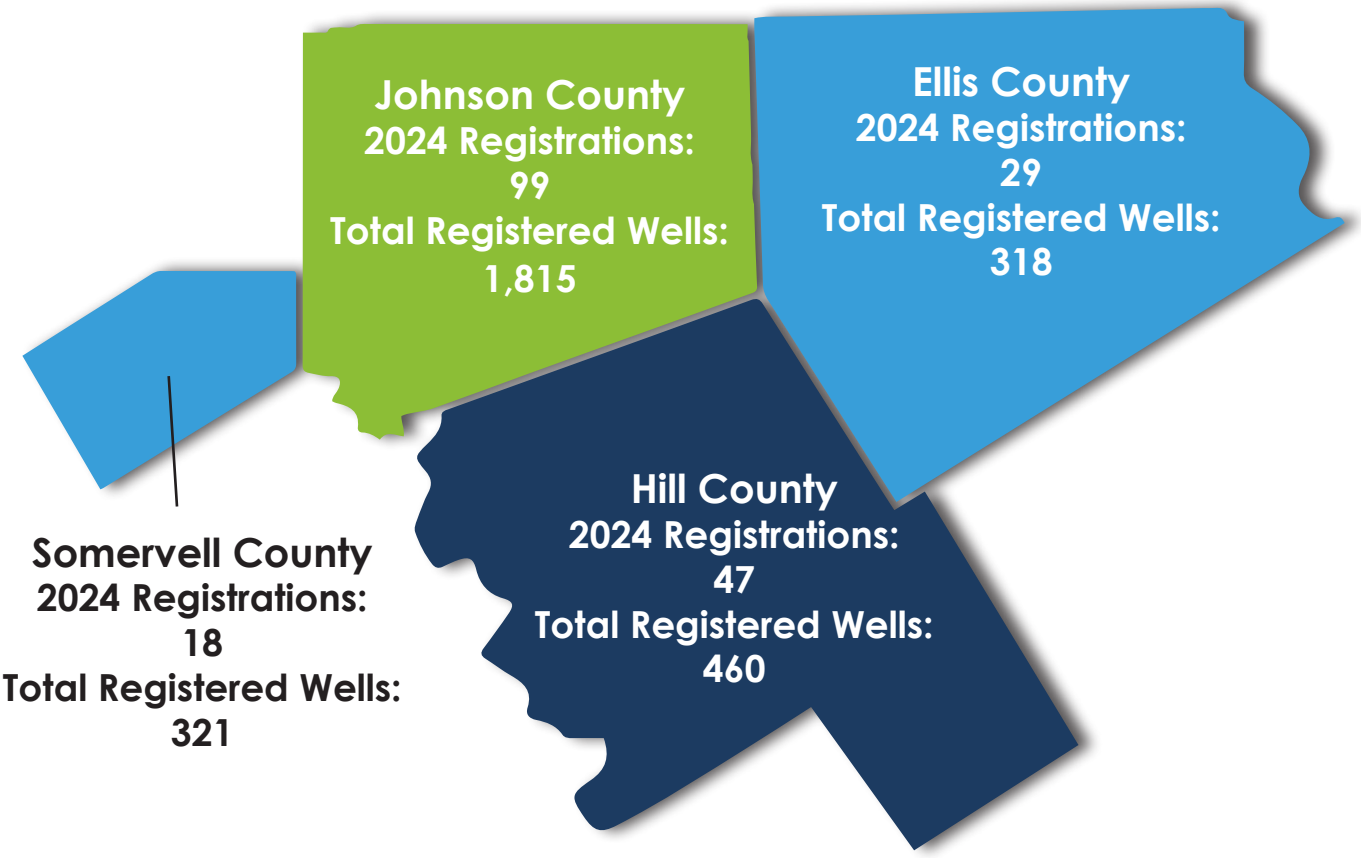
Providing the Most Efficient Use of Groundwater

Well Registrations

A.1. Management Objective: *The District will require that all wells be registered and permitted in accordance with its rules.*

Performance Standard: *Each year the staff will report well registration and statistics. A summary of registration and permittingactivity by county and aquifer will be included in the District's Annual Report.*

By December 31, 2024, a total of 193 additional wells were registered with the District in 2024, bringing the total number of registered wells to 2,914 at the end of the year. Of the new registrations, there were 162 new wells, 16 replacement wells, and 15 existing wells. These 2024 well registrations were comprised of 175 exempt wells, and 18 non-exempt wells.

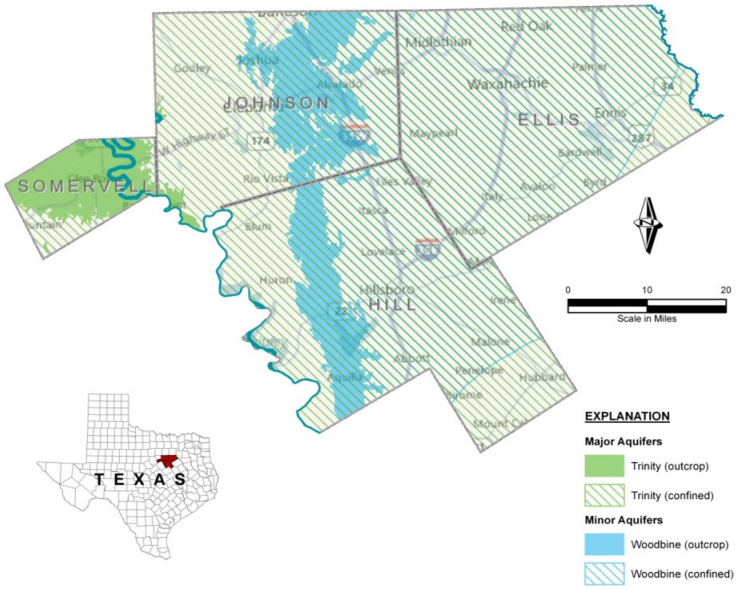


Well Registrations by Aquifer

To register wells by aquifer formation, the District used data from the Northern Trinity and Woodbine Aquifers Groundwater Availability Model ("NTWGAM"). Figures 1 and 2 on the next page display the stratigraphy across the District. The District uses the data in its online registration and reporting geo-database to apply aquifer formations to registered wells based on location, depth, screen interval, and formation pump percentage. Many wells, however, are screened across and pull from multiple formations. For this report, the layer with largest percentage of pumping was chosen for those wells. The breakdown of wells with available screen interval data registered in 2024 by stratigraphy is as follows:

Younger Formation - 4 • Ellis County - 3 • Hill County - 1	**Woodbine Formation - 44** • Ellis County - 7 • Hill County - 20 • Johnson County - 17
Washita/Fredericksburg Formation - 25 • Ellis County - 5 • Hill County - 8 • Johnson County - 12	**Paluxy Formation - 36** • Ellis County - 1 • Hill County - 8 • Johnson County - 27
Glen Rose Formation - 18 • Johnson County - 16 • Somervell County - 2	**Hensell Formation - 4** • Johnson County - 2 • Somervell County - 2
Pearsall Formation - 1 • Somervell County - 1	**Hosston Formation - 13** • Hill County - 1 • Johnson County - 5 • Somervell County - 7

Note: 48 wells registered in 2024 were existing and pull from an unknown aquifer or have not been drilled at the time of publication.



The map to the left illustrates the geographical areas within the District covered by the two primary aquifers: the major Trintiy aquifer and the minor Woodbine aquifer.

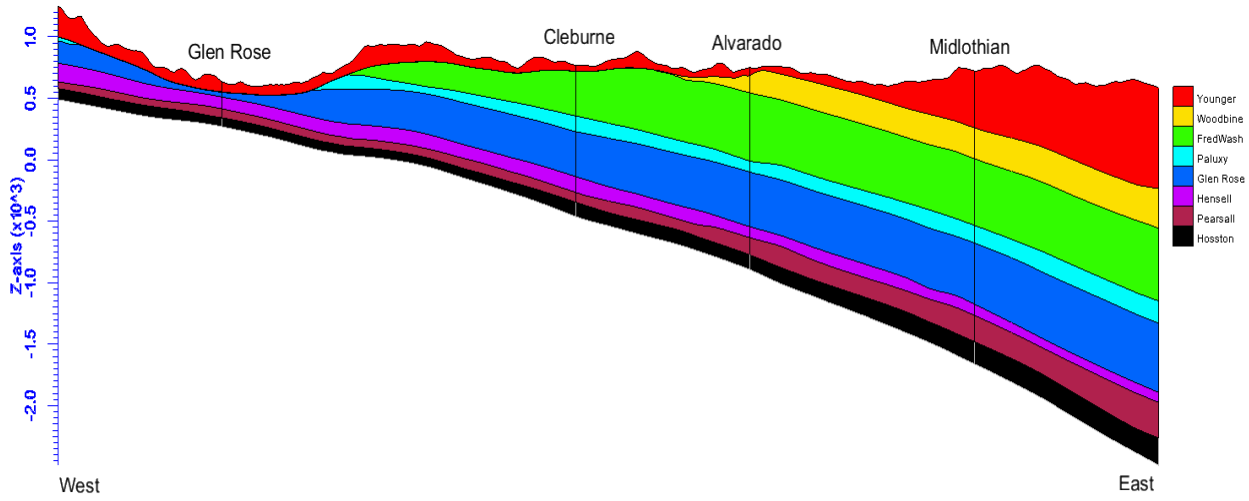


Figure 1. West to East Cross Section Stratigraphy Map of the District

Stratigraphy map provided by Aquaveo, 2018

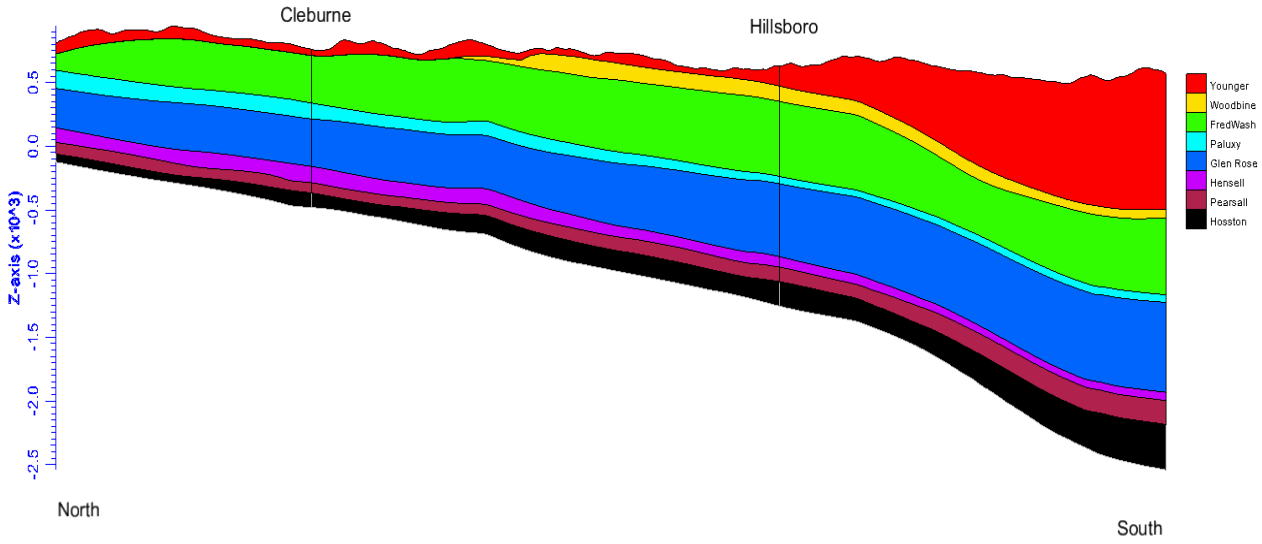


Figure 2. North to South Cross Section Stratigraphy Map of the District

Stratigraphy map provided by Aquaveo, 2018

Installation of Meters and Annual Production of Groundwater from Non-Exempt Wells

A.2. Management Objective: *Each year the District will monitor annual production from all non-exempt wells within the District. The District will compile records and maintain a database of non-exempt wells to help assess the aquifer units from which groundwater production occurs.*

Performance Standard: *The District will require installation of meters on all non-exempt wells and reporting of production to the District. The annual production of groundwater from non-exemp wells will be included in the Annual Report provided to the Board of Directors.*

The District's Rules require all non-exempt well owners to install and maintain accurate water meters on their wells. Based upon the meter readings, the Rules further require well owners to record the amount of groundwater produced from their wells and report the amount of groundwater production to the District on a monthly basis. Beginning in 2019, the District required all non-exempt wells to either hold an Operating Permit or a Historic Use Permit to help regulate groundwater usage.

Methodology to Determine Production from Exempt Wells

A.3. Management Objective: *The District will periodically review and update as appropriate its methodology to quantify current and projected annual groundwater production from exempt wells.*

Performance Standard: *The District will provide the TWDB with its methodology and estimates of current and projected annual groundwater production from exempt wells. The District will continue to utilize estimates of exempt use in their production allocation system and rules. Information related to implementation of this objective will be included in the Annual Report to the Board of Directors.*

The District utilizes a similar methodology for estimating annual groundwater production from District-defined exempt wells as was used in the TWDB-adopted Northern Trinity and Woodbine Aquifers Groundwater Availability Model ("NTWGAM"). This methodology is based on the distribution of domestic and livestock wells in the area using census block data to estimate population distributions.

Updated estimates of exempt use were discussed with the District Board of Directors at multiple meetings during 2024 as part of the process for estimating total water use in the District. This was necessary as the District contemplated a response to severe drought conditions and whether, consistent

District Non-Exempt Well Production

Non-exempt well owners in the District reported they pumped a total of 6,697,821,424 gallons of groundwater in 2024. Figure 3 indicates that Ellis County well owners pumped the most of the four counties followed by Johnson, Hill, and Somervell. Compared to 2023, production totals in all four counties showed a decrease in groundwater production in 2024 due to less severe drought conditions experienced throughout the District (depicted in Figure 4). *The breakdown of 2023 production numbers presented in this report differ from those in 2023's report. This difference can be attributed to the adjustments made by permittees and District staff to the meter readings after the production numbers were compiled for the 2023 report.*

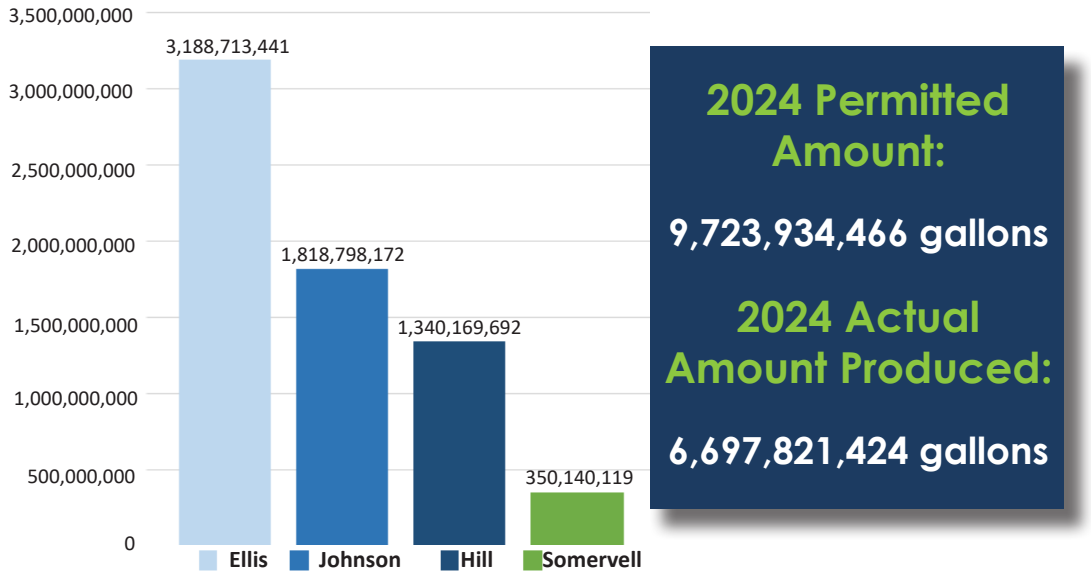


Figure 3. 2024 Water Use by County (Gallons)

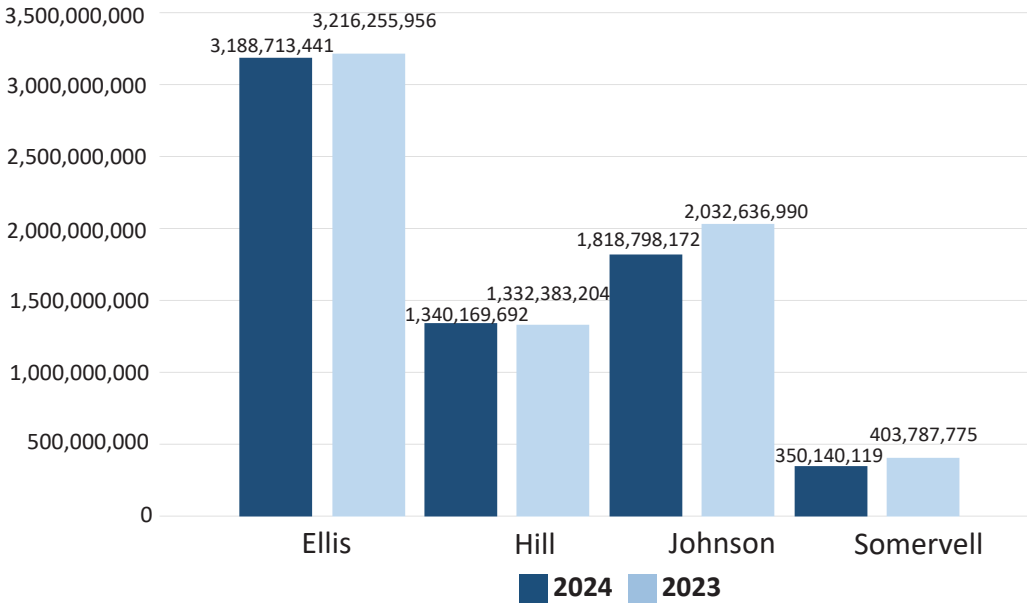
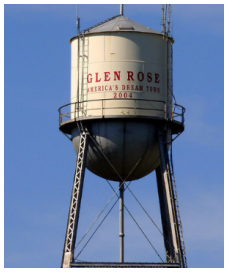


Figure 4. 2024 vs 2023 Annual Water Usage by County (Gallons)

District Water User Groups

Most of the groundwater used in the District is for municipal/public water supply systems with a reported 5,617,240,714 gallons pumped in 2024. The industrial/manufacturing sector reported the second greatest usage at 863,860,023 gallons. Due to the less severe drought conditions, there was a decrease in groundwater production amounts for all user groups except recreational producers. *The breakdown of 2023 production numbers presented in this report differ from those in 2023's report. This difference is attributed to the adjustments made by permittees and District staff to the meter readings after the production numbers were compiled for the 2023 report.*



Municipal/Public Water Supply
2024 Usage: 5,617,240,714 gal
2023 Usage: 5,755,599,318 gal

Industrial/Manufacturing
2024 Usage: 863,860,023 gal
2023 Usage: 964,825,954 gal

Filling a Pond or Surface Impoundment
2024 Usage: 48,688,193 gal
2023 Usage: 64,911,013 gal

Commercial
2024 Usage: 56,434,502 gal
2023 Usage: 75,912,858 gal

Non-Agricultural Irrigation
2024 Usage: 61,141,671 gal
2023 Usage: 79,046,860 gal

Oil & Gas Production
2024 Usage: 1,666,200 gal
2023 Usage: 1,992,800 gal

Recreational
2024 Usage: 48,790,121 gal
2023 Usage: 42,775,122 gal

2024 Water User Group Pumping Amounts by County

Ellis County
Commercial: 1,350,858 gal
Filling a Pond or Surface Impoundment: 2 gal
Non-Agricultural Irrigation: 7,434,000 gal
Industrial/Manufacturing: 719,148,014 gal
Municipal/Public Water Supply: 2,444,832,667 gal
Recreational: 15,947,900 gal

Hill County
Commercial: 30 gal
Filing a Pond or Surface Impundment: 3,400 gal
Non-Agricultural Irrigation: 1,704,700 gal
Municipal/Public Water Supply: 1,332,718,262 gal
Recreational: 5,743,300 gal

Johnson County
Commercial: 10,362,013 gal
Filling a Pond or Surface Impoundment: 44,820,731 gal
Non-Agricultural Irrigation: 48,990,471 gal
Industrial/Manufacturing: 43,540,610 gal
Municipal/Public Water Supply: 1,663,288,956 gal
Recreational: 6,129,191 gal
Oil & Gas Production: 1,666,200 gal

Somervell County
Commercial: 44,721,601 gal
Filling a Pond or Surface Impoundment: 3,864,060 gal
Non-Agricultural Irrigation: 3,012,500 gal
Industrial/Manufacturing: 101,171,399 gal
Municipal/Public Water Supply: 176,400,829 gal
Recreational: 20,969,730 gal

Controlling and Preventing Waste of Groundwater

Metering, Reporting, Usage Fees, and Compliance Monitoring

B.1. Management Objective: *Each year the District will monitor annual production from all non-exempt wells within the District.*

Performance Standard: *The District will require installation of meters on all non-exempt wells and reporting of production to the District. The annual production of groundwater from non-exempt wells will be included in the Annual Report provided to the Board of Directors.*

The District requires all non-exempt wells to have meters installed and maintained on each wellhead. The District Rules require well owners to record the amount of groundwater produced from their wells and report the amount of groundwater production to the District on a monthly basis. For a well that requires a meter under District Rules, the permit holder must provide a certificate verifying the accuracy of the meter within the previous five-year period as a condition of permit renewal. A non-exempt well owner or operator who is not a public water system and does not exceed ten million gallons of groundwater per year may apply and receive approval from the District to take meter readings and submit Water Production Reports to the District semiannually. To date, we have two small volume non-exempt users who report semiannually.

B.2. Management Objective: *The District will encourage the elimination and reduction of groundwater waste through the collection of a water use fee for non-exempt wells within the District.*

Performance Standard: *Annual reporting of the total groundwater used and total water use fees paid by non-exempt wells will be included in the Annual Report provided to the Board of Directors.*

Prairielands GCD encourages elimination and reduction of groundwater waste by collecting water use fees for non-exempt wells, identifying and investigating compliance issues, and looking for instances of potential waste of groundwater. The District charged a water use fee rate of $0.22 per 1,000 gallons for non-exempt usage. There is an additional $0.11 per 1,000 gallons for transporting groundwater out of the District. The District collected an estimated pre-audit total of $2,212,094.81 in water use fees in 2024.

Beginning in 2022, the District established permitting requirements and increased fees for average system water loss by public water systems above certain percentages to promote conservation of water and prevent waste. For purposes of this rule, “wasteful system water losses” of a retail public utility are any real water losses greater than twenty-five percent (25%), based on a five-year rolling average.

2024 Authorized Permitted Production:

9,723,934,466 gallons

2024 Non-Exempt Production:

6,697,821,424 gallons

B.3. Management Objective: *The District will identify well owners that are not in compliance with District well registration, permitting, reporting, maximum annual groundwater production limits, and water use fee payment requirements of the District Rules, and bring them into compliance.*

Performance Standard: *The District will compare existing state records and field staff observations with the well registration database to identify noncompliant well owners.*

In 2024, 41 compliance issues occurred, with six pertaining to drilling and operating a well without a valid registration or permit. Three instances involved wells drilled in a different location than authorized. Additionally, two cases arose from failure to submit a complete and accurate water production report within the required period, and four cases of failure to file a well completion report in a timely manner. Eight cases were related to exceeding authorized production amounts for 2023. Other issues comprised of two failures to plug or close open-hole wells, eleven failures to timely notify the District regarding change of ownership, and five failures to submit required system water loss audits.

It is noteworthy that the overwhelming majority of these compliance issues were resolved amicably. However, as of the report's issuance, there is one pending case, revolving around overpumping in 2024. We are actively working to address this matter, with a focused aim to resolve it by the end of the first quarter of 2025.

B.4. Management Objective: *The District will investigate instances of potential waste of groundwater.*

Performance Standard: *Report to the Board as needed and include the number of investigations in the Annual Report.*

In 2024, the District did not encounter any instances requiring investigation of potential groundwater waste. Throughout the year, staff monitored groundwater usage and remained vigilant for any signs of inefficiency or misuse. However, no cases were identified that necessitated further inspection or action.

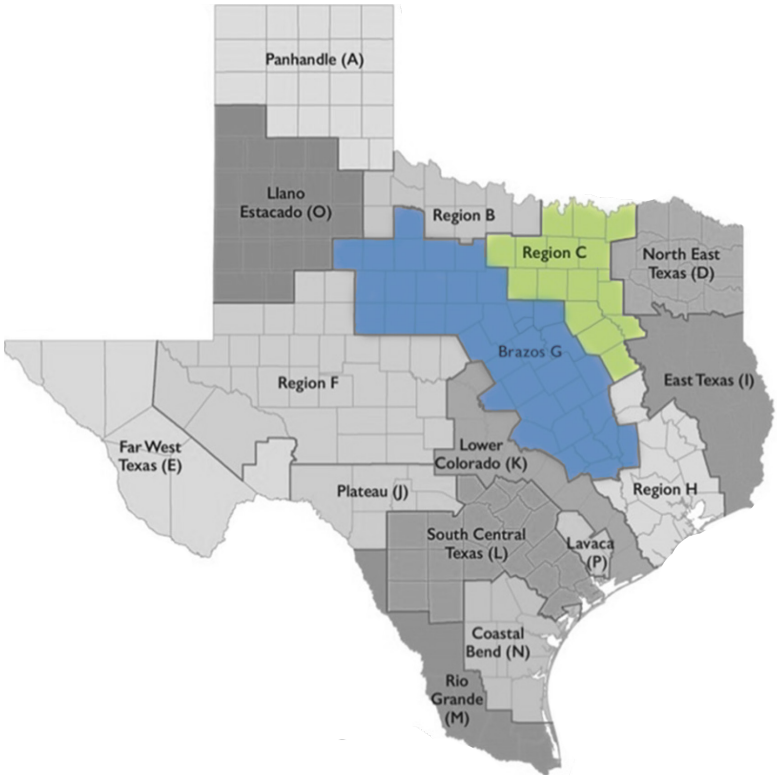
Addressing Conjunctive Surface Water Management Issues

State and Regional Water Planning Review and Participation

C.1. Management Objective: *The District will actively participate in the Region C and Region G regional water planning processes to stay abreast of water demand projections and supply strategies in the District and to coordinate the District's groundwater management strategies with the regional water planning groups and foster an understanding of regional management practices.*

Performance Standard: *The District will review the most recently approved State Water Plan to gain an understanding of water demand projections and supply strategies in the District. The*

District will monitor future proposed amendments to the Region C and Region G regional water plans as they pertain to the District and ensure that supply strategies impacting groundwater resources in the District are identified in the appropriate regional water plan. The District's General Manager or designated representative will attend meetings of the Region C and Region G regional water planning groups when feasible. A summary of the District's interactions with the regional water planning groups will be included in the Annual Report provided to the Board of Directors.



The Board of Directors, General Manager, and District staff strive to stay informed on any matters related to groundwater supply in Ellis, Hill, Somervell, and Johnson counties. Critical sources of pertinent information include familiarity and understanding of regional and state water plans. The Board President and General Manager continued to stay abreast of proposed amendments to the Region C and G regional water plans so that supply strategies impacting groundwater resources in the District were properly identified.

The General Manager serves as a voting member of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group ("RWPG") and attended meetings on February 13, March 27, May 15, August 1, Spetember 24, and November 7. Also attended were Brazos G committee meetings on January 9 and 17, June 19, and December 20. The General Manager also participated in Region C Regional Water Planning Group meetings on June 12 and July 17. The Brazos G RWPG appointed Kathy Turner Jones as their liaison to Region C.

C.2. Management Objective: *The District will: 1) seek to better understand groundwater and surface water interactions, including groundwater base flow discharges to surface water courses and aquifer recharge from surface water flows; 2) identify existing and planned surface water and other alternative supplies to meet anticipated demand growth; 3) explore possible groundwater to surface water conversions in the District and facilitate the process; and 4) understand current and planned surface water supplies and how they affect groundwater demands.*

Performance Standard: *A summary of any new information or studies on groundwater-surface water interaction, as well as a summary of the District's efforts related to promoting development of surface water supplies, groundwater to surface water conversions, and interactions with RWPGs and other water suppliers and users will be included in each Annual Report.*

Given the significant influence of the District's groundwater regulations on RWPGs' planning

process, collaborative efforts are paramount. The District works closely with RWPGs and their consultant teams to seamlessly intergrate the District's groundwater management objectives into the regional water planning process. The District's interaction with RWPGs encompass active participation in meetings and continuous coordination to ensure they are well-informed about groundwater-related development in Ellis, Johnson, Hill, and Somervell counties.

In March 2024 the District sent a letter to surface water users, highlighting the growing strain on groundwater resources, providing an update on availability, and emphasizing the importance of developing alternative water supplies. To promote water supply diversification, the District is encouraging public water suppliers and other groundwater users to start securing or developing non-groundwater sources. (A complete copy of the letter is included in Appendix "A".)

Addressing Natural Resource Issues

Injection Wells and Oil and Gas Compliance

D.1. Management Objective: *The District will develop a program to monitor and assess injection well activities in the District.*

Performance Standard: *The District will monitor and review injection well applications filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality that propose injection wells to be located within the boundaries of the District to identify contamination threats to groundwater resources in the District. The General Manager will bring to the attention of the Board any applications that the General Manager determines may threaten the groundwater resources in the District, and any outcomes of actions taken by the District will be included in each Annual Report.*

In 2024, Prairielands GCD addressed natural resource issues that impacted the use and availability of groundwater and which are impacted using groundwater. District activities fell into three categories:

1. Monitoring and assessing injection well activities in the District;
2. Monitoring compliance by oil and gas companies with District registration, metering, production reporting, and fee payment requirements; and
3. Participating in interim activities prior to the 88th Session of the Texas Legislature.

The District utilizes an effective Underground Injection Control ("UIC") monitoring program that includes the review of all applications for injection wells proposed to be located within the District's boundaries to ensure injection well activities do not endanger groundwater resources.

Republic Industrial and Energy Solutions, LLC ("RIES") – UIC Permit Application #WDW491:

In January 2024, the District was notified that Republic Industrial and Energy Solutions, LLC ("RIES") had refiled UIC permit application #WDW491 with the TCEQ. The application seeks authorization to operate a Class I nonhazardous injection well at RIES' North Texas Industrial Facility in Itasca, Hill County, Texas.

Following a technical review by the District's consultant, the revised application was found to be thorough and generally consistent, addressing any technical issues outlined in the application guidance document. Given the nature of the project and the proposed injection depth of the well, there appears to be minimal risk of adverse impact to the District's groundwater resources. As such, the District did not file a protest on the application and will continue to monitor this application as it moves through the application process at TCEQ.

On November 26, 2024, TCEQ issued a technical Notice of Deficiency ("NOD") requesting additional information, clarifications, and/or revisions to the application. The District remains engaged and will continue to monitor all developments, including the resolution of issues identified in the NOD.

Although the TCEQ is required to notify the District of certain injection well operations proposed within the District, current law does not require the Railroad Commission of Texas ("RRC") to provide notice to the District of a Class II injection well application proposed within the District's jurisdiction. For this reason, the District has engaged the services of Statewide Plat, a monitoring company, to notify the District of all Class II injection well applications filed with the RRC for injection within the District.

D.2. Management Objective: *The District will monitor compliance by oil and gas companies of the well registration, metering, production reporting, and fee payment requirements of the District's rules.*

Performance Standard: *As with other types of wells, instances of non-compliance by owners and operators of water wells for oil and gas activities will be reported to the Board of Directors as appropriate for enforcement action. A summary of such enforcement activities will be included in the Annual Report.*

The oil and gas companies have continued to comply with the well registration, metering, production reporting, and fee payment requirements of the District's Rules. In 2024, with the continuation of the District's permitting program, the oil and gas companies have generally complied with the requirements of the District Rules to the best of the District's knowledge. Only five enforcement actions were initiated in 2024 for an oil and gas company who failed to report. The enforcement cases were resolved amicably and was closed prior to the end of 2024.

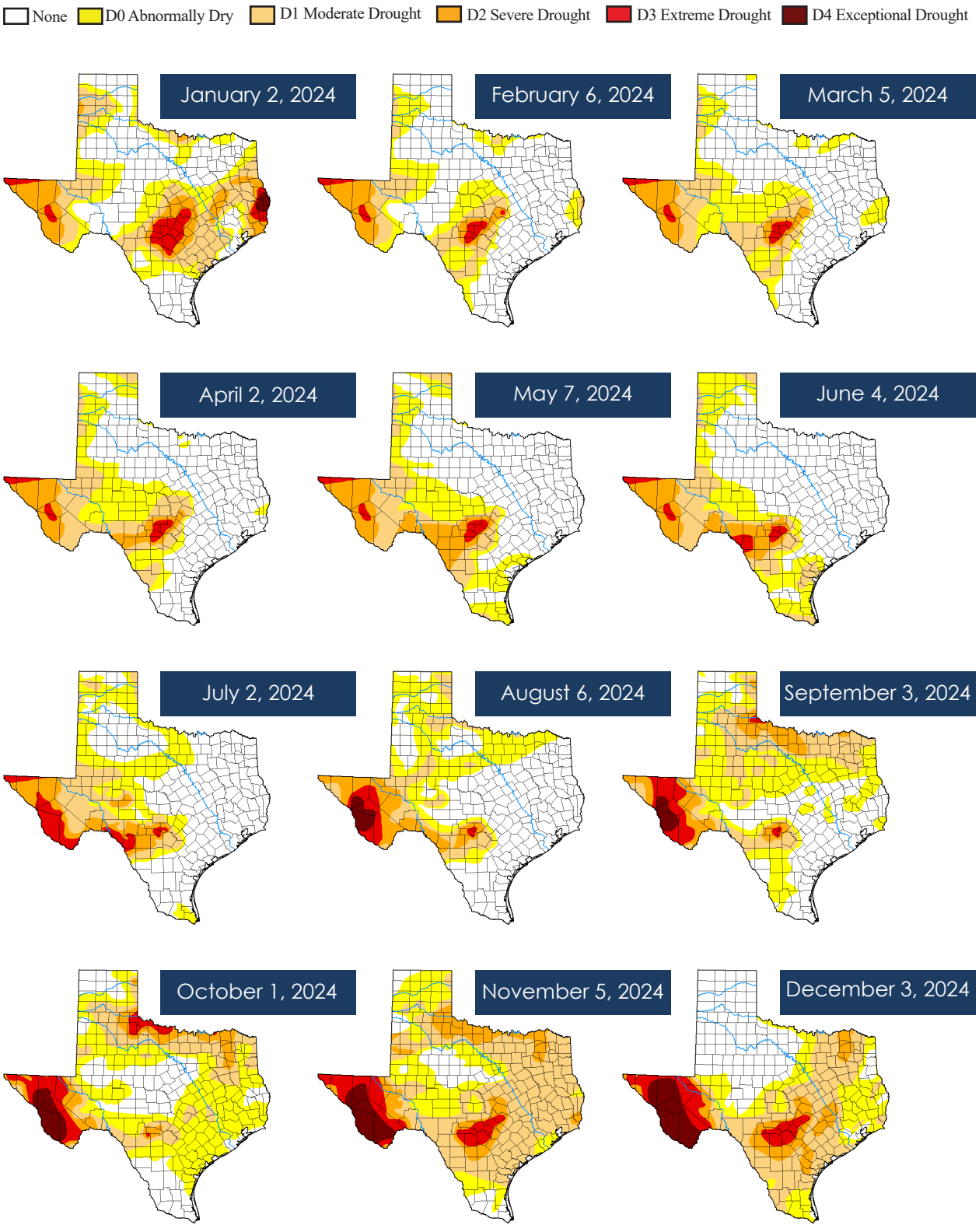
Addressing Drought Conditions

Drought Conditions and Monitors

E.1. Management Objective: *The District will conduct monthly review of drought conditions within the District using the Texas Water Development Board's Monthly Drought Conditions.*

Performance Standard: *An annual review of drought conditions within the District will be included in the Annual Report provided to the Board of Directors. Reports will be provided more frequently to the Board as deemed appropriate by the General Manager to timely respond to drought conditions as they occur.*

2024 Monthly Texas Drought Monitor Maps



https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/MapArchive.aspx

Throughout 2024, regular comparisons were made between the Texas Water Development Board's Monthly Drought Monitors and usage reports to discern any correlations between drought conditions and pumping volumes within the District. The monthly drought maps, presented on the previous page, revealed that the District didn't experience drought conditions for the majority of the year. However, from September through December, the dought conditions flucuated between abnormally dry to moderate drought. Figure 5, below, illustrates monthly water usage across each county, exhibiting trends aligned with seasonal fluctuations in water demand. Moreover, it highlights a direct reflection of the drought conditions within the District, as pumping volumes correspondingly increase and decrease through the year. In the pursuit of effective aquifer management, the District remains committed to monitoring the interplay between drought conditions, pumping activities, and aquifer levels, ensuring the sustainability of our water resources.

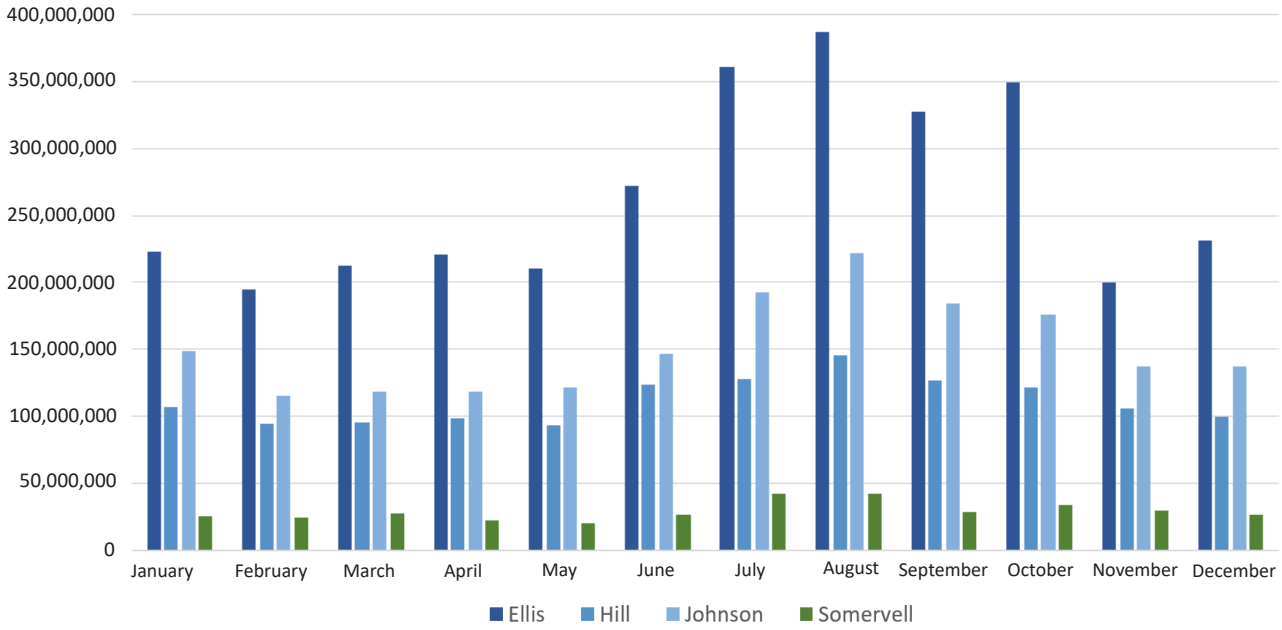


Figure 5. 2024 Monthly Water Use by County

E.2. Management Objective: *The District will develop information to understand the relationships between drought conditions, increased pumping, and the impacts of both on water levels and shallow wells in the outcrops and subcrops of the aquifers in the District. The District will also determine areas where it may be suitable for the District to implement pumping restrictions during drought times in order to protect public safety and welfare. The District will also determine times when it may allow overpumping during years of extreme drought to promote conjunctive management when surface water supplies become unavailable to water user groups or when groundwater demand otherwise increases due to drought conditions, or to respond to emergency conditions.*

Performance Standard: *The District will monitor and assess drought impacts on aquifer outcrops and subcrops, including effects of increased pumping. The District will continue to implement the information gained from their recent drought studies to decisions regarding future pumping restrictions and overpumping allowables, and will continue to annually determine whether to implement its*

rules allowing for increased groundwater during periods of extreme drought or other emergency conditions. Information on any such pumping restrictions or overpumping allowables in a calendar year shall be included in the District's Annual Report.

In 2022, the District studied the relationship between drought, water use and aquifer levels in the Trinity and Woodbine aquifers. Based on the results of this evaluation, the District developed and adopted amended rules that allow for additional pumping in the aquifers during times of extreme or worse drought while ensuring long-term production is consistent with the District's desired future conditions and modeled available groundwater. To be eligible to produce over the permit allowance, permittees must also have implemented mandatory water restrictions in their drought contingency plans. Additional information is available in Rule 5.10 of the District's rules. In 2024, the District did not permit any additional pumping under Rule 5.10, as drought conditions did not reach extreme severity.

Addressing Conservation, Recharge Enhancement, Rainwater Harvesting, Precipitation Enhancement, and Brush Control

Conservation and Public Awareness Articles

F.1. Management Objective: *The District will annually produce at least one article regarding water conservation, rainwater harvesting, or brush control, to be shared through social media channels assessable to communities within the District.*

Performance Standard: *Each year, copies of the social media post(s) and each conservation article will be included in the District's Annual Report to be given to the District's Board of Directors.*

The District continued with its digital and social media initiative in 2024 with the District's Facebook, X, and LinkedIn profiles and utilizing email campaign software to distribute e-blasts to non-exempt and exempt well owners, elected officials, business owners, educators, and media contacts and anyone in the public who had requested to receive them. A brief summary of the conservation-related article shared on social media is provided below. (A complete copy is included in Appendix "B".)

Press Release: The District announced the launching of a Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program to promote water conservation in Ellis, Hill, Johnson, and Somervell counties. Residents can receive up to $500 in rebates at a rate of $1 per gallon of storage capacity for installing rainwater harvesting systems. To apply, participants must submit and complete the rebate application with receipts, and schedule a post-installation inspection. This initiative encourages responsible water management while providing financial support.

In 2024, the District received three applications for the rainwater harvesting rebate program, resulting in a total of $1,500 in rebates awarded. These projects contributed to the collection of approximately 10,500 gallons of rainwater. The District hopes to see increased participation in 2025 as awareness of the program grows.

Other content on social and digital media posts include conservation tips, groundwater awareness, important meetings or events in the District, education event information, and general information

about the District. These approaches provide an excellent resource for distributing educational materials, sharing important news and information, and building identity and recognition among the public.

F.2. Management Objective: *Each year, the District will include at least one informative flyer on water conservation, rainwater harvesting, or brush control within at least one email dristributed to groundwater non-exempt water users as part of the normal course of business for the District. The District will also consider additional flyers or initiating other public awareness campaigns and outreach efforts on water conservation during drought conditions.*

Performance Standard: *Each year, a copy of each flyer and a summary of all other public awareness water conservation campaigns and outreach efforts will be included in the District's Annual Report to be given to the District's Board of Directors.*

On December 19, 2024, the District emailed out a flyer highlighting the benefits of rainwater harvesting for non-exempt users. The flyer also outlined why public water systems should encourage rainwater harvesting among their customers to help reduce demand on public water supplies. (A copy of the emailed flyer can be found in Appendix "C".)

Each year, the District produces a quarterly newsletter, the Prairielands eLine, that is distributed in print and electronically and made available to the public in the District's office. For copies of our newsletter visit our website at https://www.prairielandsgcd.org/news/.

Water conservation topics and other items covered in the Prairielands eLine issues in 2024 included the following:

Spring 2024
- Springtime Water Conservation
- Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program
- 4-H Water Ambassadors program Application for 2024-2025 open

Summer 2024
- Prairielands GCD Adopts Management Plan
- Meter Verification Certifications Reminder
- The Vital Role of Groundwater in Summer Recreation
- Understanding the Connection between Rain and Groundwater in Water Management

Fall 2024
- Prairielands Board of Directors Approves Increase to 2025 Water Use Fees
- Groundwater Management Area 8 Updates
- 2024 Fall Drought Report: A Look at Conditions Across the District

Winter 2024
- Prepare Your Water Well for Winter
- The Gift of Conservation: Perfect Gift for Garden Lovers
- The Importance of Plugging Abandoned Wells
- Grandview FFA and Agricultural Issues

Prairielands eLine

The Newsletter of the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District

Spring 2024 | Vol. 10, Iss. 1
March 14, 2024

Prairielands GCD Revives Rainwater Harvesting Workshop

Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District ("GCD") is thrilled to announce the revival of its rainwater harvesting workshop, an educational initiative designed to empower local residents with the knowledge and tools needed to harness the benefits of rainwater. This year, the District will be hosting two workshops, providing participants with the opportunity to assemble their very own 55-gallon rain barrel to take home.

The upcoming Rainwater Harvesting 101 workshops, scheduled for April 13, 2024, and May 4, 2024, offer a unique chance for community members to dive into the basics and benefits of rainwater harvesting. Participants will engage with District staff in an informative presentation that covers fundamental components of a rainwater harvesting system, explores the benefits and uses of rainwater, and educates on strategic barrel placement to maximize water capture. Additionally, the workshop will highlight advanced techniques, such as creating rain gardens and implementing efficient irrigation systems.

The workshop's stand out feature is the hands on opportunity for participants to construct their very own rain barrel during the event. This practical session ensures that attendees leave not only with theoretical knowledge but also with a tangible rainwater harvesting system ready for implementation at home.

The timing of the workshop is strategic, allowing participants to implement their newly acquired rainwater harvesting systems just in time for the spring and early summer rain showers. The workshop will be an engaging and enlightening experience for participants of all backgrounds and expertise levels. Whether you're a seasoned gardener looking to enhance your sustainability efforts or a novice enthusiast eager to explore new avenues of conservation, the Rainwater Harvesting 101 workshop offers something for everyone.

As the spring season approaches and rain showers loom on the horizon, now is the perfect time to embrace the potential of rainwater harvesting and embark on a path towards a more water-conscious future. To register for the workshop and embark on your journey towards water stewardship, visit the Prairielands GCD website at www.prairielandsgcd.org/education/rainwater-harvesting/. The workshop, including the barrel, is available for just $25.00. Spaces are limited, so secure your spot today and join us in make every drop count.

In This Issue:

- Springtime Water Conservation - Pg. 2
- PGCD Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program - Pg. 3
- 4-H Water Ambassadors - Pg. 3
- Potable Reuse Provides Water Supply - Pg. 4
- Groundwater Awareness & Fix a Leak Week - Pg. 5

Page 1

District staff also made several presentations to community and civic groups, as well as making appearances at public events. These outreach initiatives with public organizations and events are a productive way to educate individuals about water conservation, promote awareness, and build relationships and recognition within the four counties of the District. A summary of public events and presentations is listed below:

Date	Event	Location	County	Participants
2/14/24	Leadership Cleburne	Cleburne	Johnson	21
2/21/24	Cleburne Lions Club	Cleburne	Johnson	15
3/12/24	Dinosaur Valley State Park	Glen Rose	Somervell	124
3/23/24	Lake Whitney Garden Club	Cleburne	Johnson	30
3/23/24	Ellis County Master Gardeners Expo	Waxahachie	Ellis	179
4/13/24	Rainwater Harvesting Workshop	Cleburne	Johnson	25
4/27/24	Springfest	Cleburne	Johnson	146
5/4/24	Rainwater Harvesting Workshop	Cleburne	Johnson	22
6/24/24	Summer Reading Program	Cleburne	Johnson	25
7/9/24	4-H Youth Ag Tour	Cleburne	Johnson	23
7/13/24	Park Grand Opening	Covington	Hill	40
8/29/24	After Hours Business Social	Cleburne	Johnson	27
9/22/24	Farm Heritage Day	Waxahachie	Ellis	50
9/26/24	TWUA Twin Basin	Godley	Johnson	25
9/28/24	Venus Night Out	Venus	Ellis	40
10/1/24	Tuesday Forum	Cleburne	Johnson	36
10/1/24	Godley Night Out	Godley	Johnson	85
11/13/24	Farmers/Ranchers Continuing Education Symposium	Cleburne	Johnson	30
12/11/24	Leadership Cleburne	Cleburne	Johnson	15
			Total	958

F.3. Management Objective: *The District will investigate the feasibility of recharge enhancement and aquifer storage and recovery ("ASR") projects in the District.*

Performance Standard: *The District will use the datasets generated by their recent studies on ASR to assist potential ASR project sponsors with appropriate project information. Any activities of the District relating to ASR will be summarized in the District's Annual Report.*

Background and Context
In response to recurring drought conditions and rising water demands across Texas, Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) strategies—particularly Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and Aquifer Recharge (AR)—have gained attention as cost-effective, lower-impact alternatives to traditional surface reservoirs. ASR involves storing water in an aquifer for later recovery, while AR is intended to improve aquifer conditions without specific plans for recovery.

State legislation, including HB 721 (2019), has promoted the development and evaluation of MAR strategies. A statewide study by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) identified broad areas of potential ASR and AR suitability; however, the coarse resolution of that study limited its utility for local planning.

District-Level Suitability Analysis
To refine applicability at the local scale, the District conducted a higher-resolution ASR/AR feasibility assessment in 2022. The analysis utilized a quarter-mile NTWGAM grid and considered aquifer properties such as hydraulic conductivity, storativity, and sand thickness. Each parameter was normalized and aggregated to generate suitability scores for five aquifers: Woodbine, Paluxy, Hensell, Pearsall, and Hosston.

ASR Suitability Results (Figures 6–10):
- The Paluxy (Figure 7), Hensell (Figure 8), and Pearsall (Figure 9) aquifers were classified as having medium ASR suitability throughout.
- The Woodbine (Figure 6) and Hosston (Figure 10) aquifers also fell mostly within medium suitability but included highly suitable areas in Ellis County, correlated with increased sand thickness.
- No areas within the District were deemed to have low ASR suitability.

AR Suitability Results (Figure 11):
- AR suitability (Figure 11) was evaluated with attention to aquifer outcrop and subcrop locations. The Woodbine and Paluxy aquifers, which outcrop in the District, are better suited for AR intended to increase recharge directly.
- Subcrop areas may still support AR, depending on vertical hydraulic conductivity and site-specific stratigraphy.

Application and Limitations
These datasets offer valuable tools for preliminary project screening, but actual ASR/AR development remains highly site-specific. Additional considerations include source water availability, landowner participation, infrastructure needs, and potential ancillary benefits (e.g., streamflow improvements or subsidence mitigation). The District's ASR/AR analysis provides a foundation for informed decision-making and adaptive implementation moving forward.

Engagement/Activities

In October 2023, the District participated in the North Texas ASR Roundtable, hosted by TWDB in Fort Worth. The event brought together regional stakeholders to discuss project feasibility, planning strategies, and updates from ongoing initiatives.

In 2024, the District participated in two North Texas ASR Owners Group roundtable workshops held in Fort Worth, on April 23, and October 4. During both workshops, the group received statewide updates on ASR efforts from TWDB, as well as project updates from regional utilities, including Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD), Trinity River Authority (TRA), Dallas Water Utilities (DWU), and North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). The District will continue to monitor ASR and AR projects being conducted within and near the District.

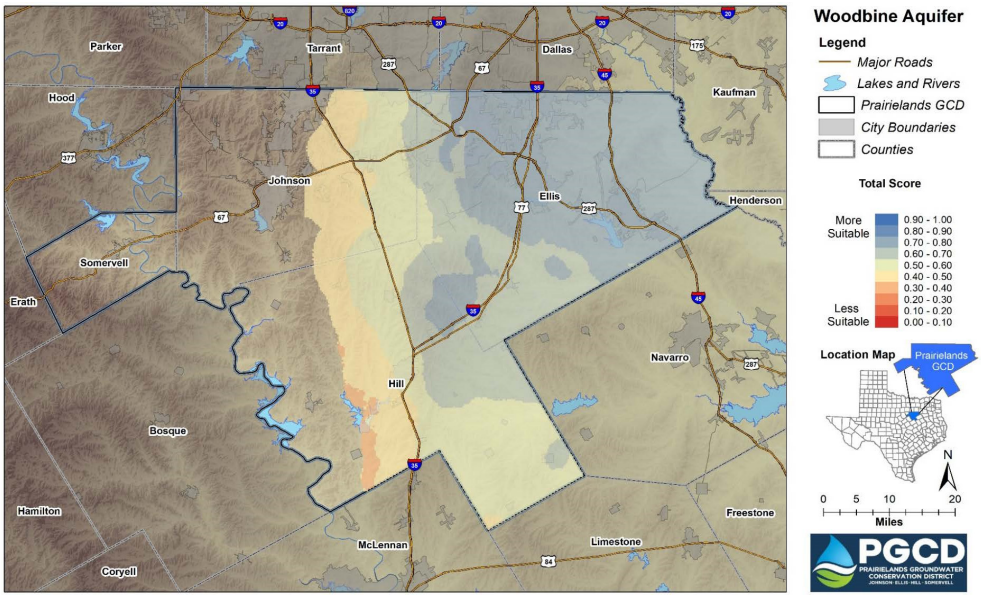


Figure 6. *ASR suitability score for the Woodbine aquifer.*

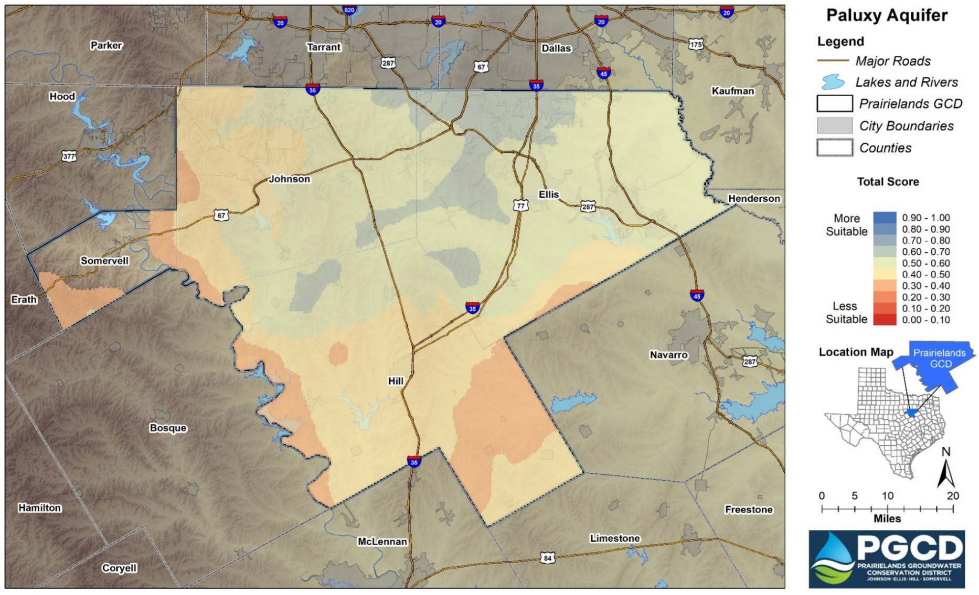


Figure 7. *ASR suitability score for the Paluxy aquifer.*

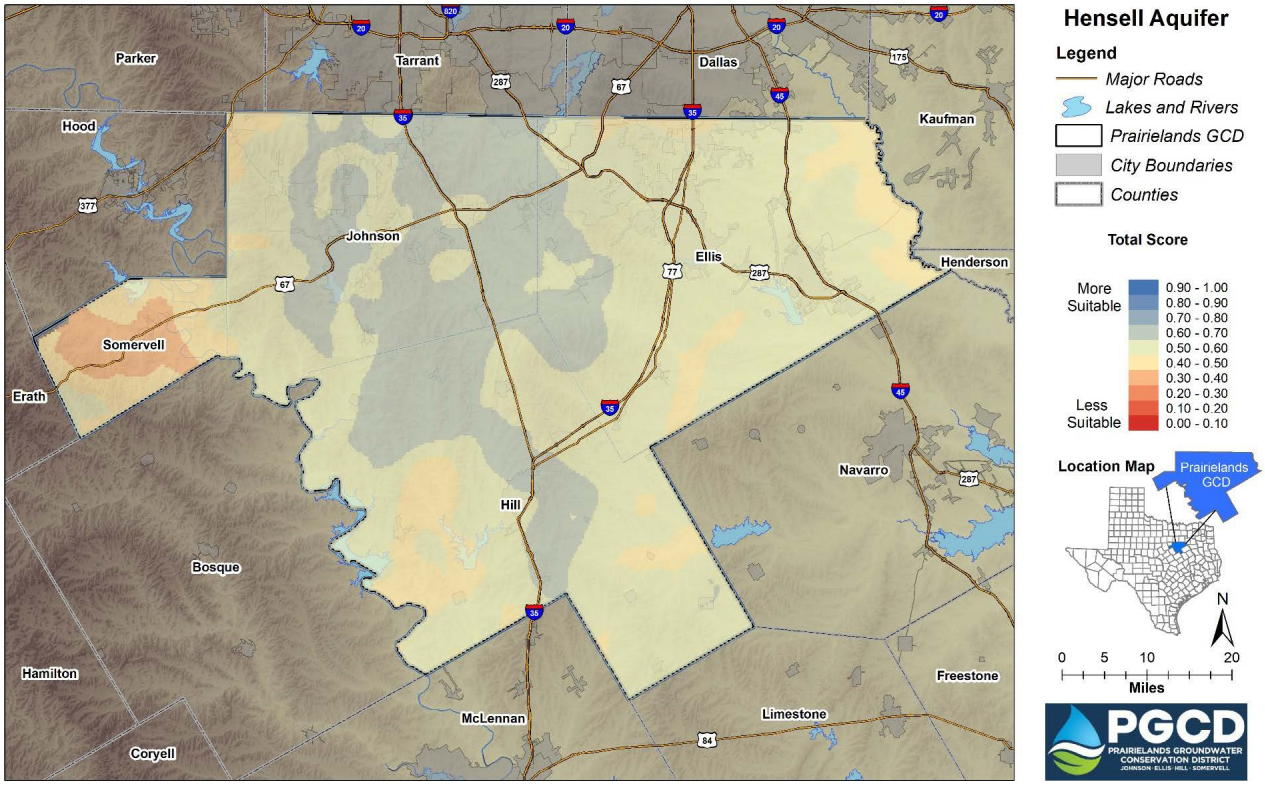


Figure 8. *ASR suitability score for the Hensell aquifer.*

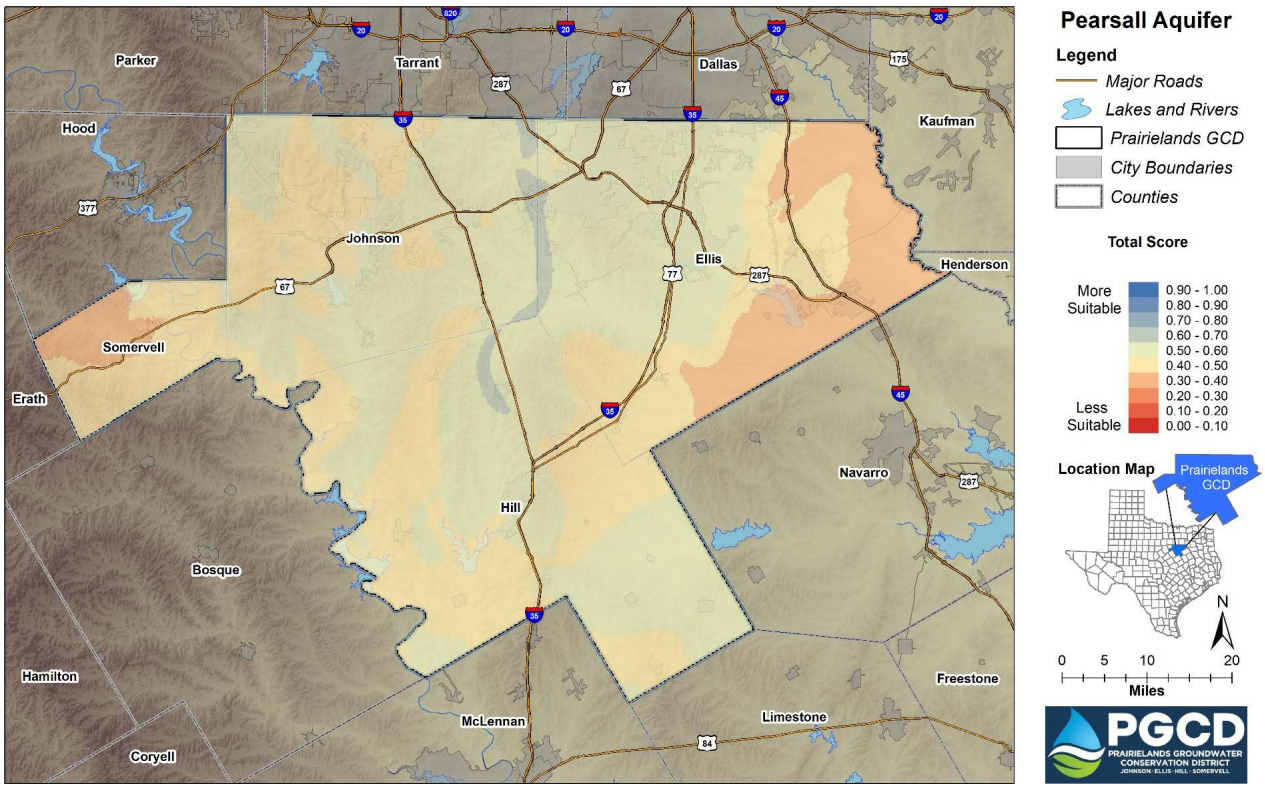


Figure 9. *ASR suitability score for the Pearsall aquifer.*

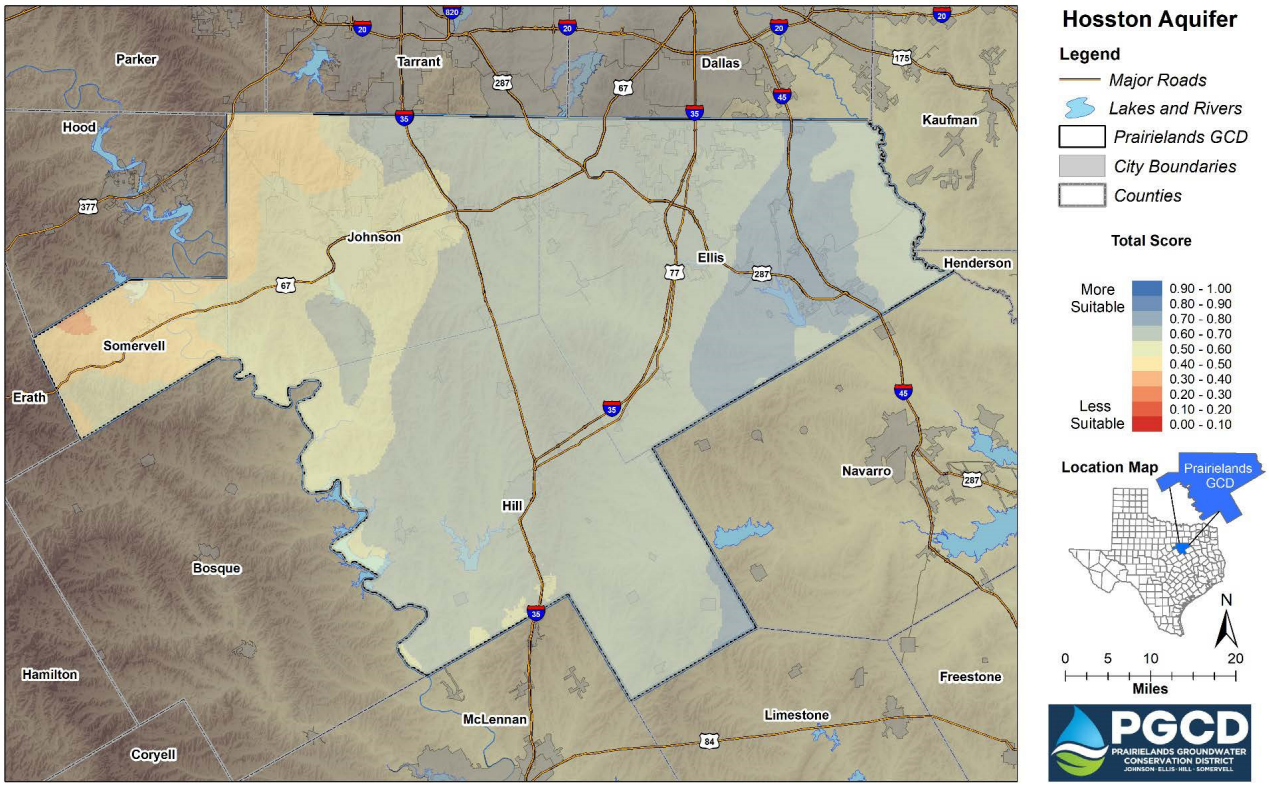


Figure 10. *ASR suitability score for the Hosston aquifer.*

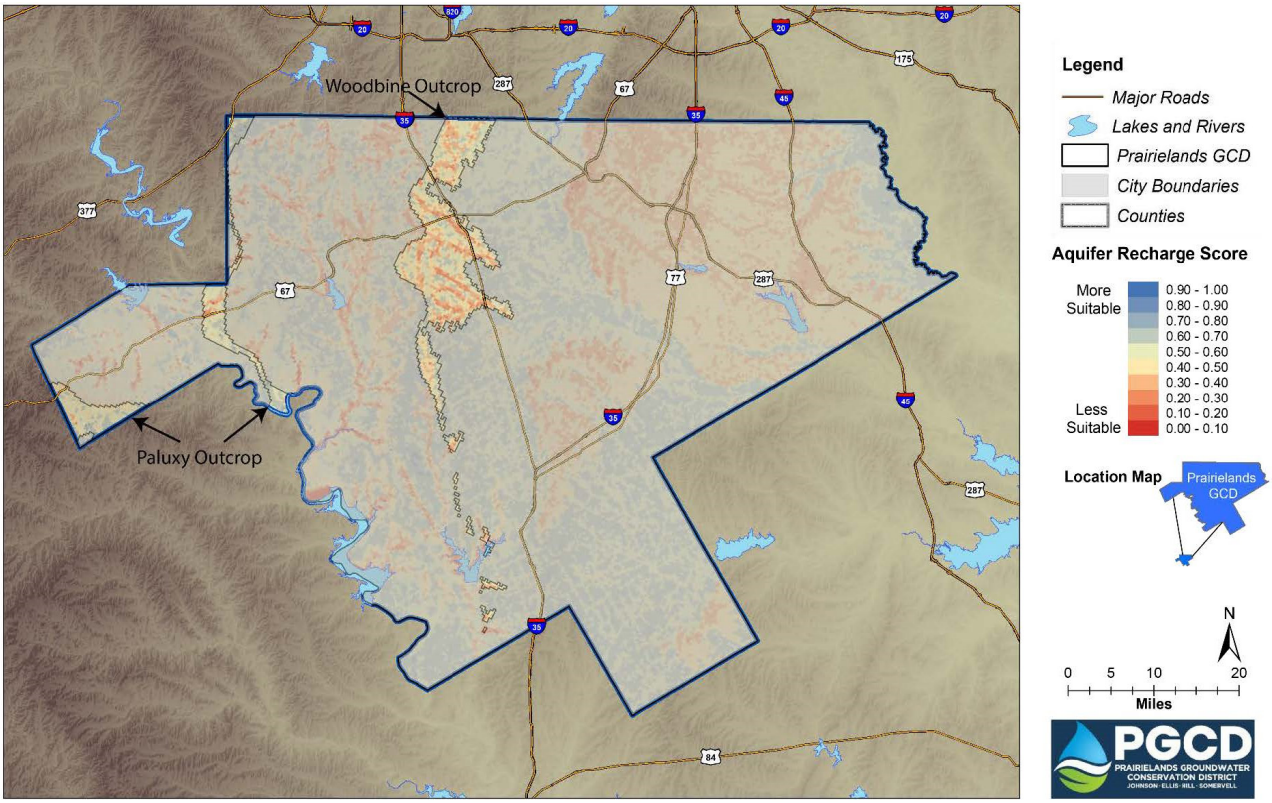


Figure 11. *AR suitability score.*

F.4. Management Objective: *The District will peridocally support or sponsor an educational seminar addressing conservation, recharge enhancement, rainwater harvesting, precipitation enhancement, or brush control.*

Performance Standard: *The District will support or sponsor such a seminar at least once every other year. A summary of such educational acitivites will be included in the District's Annual Report.*

The District was a Signature Sponsor for the Texas 4-H Youth Water Ambassador program in 2024. This is a program for high school students to encourage their interest in the water industry. The program seeks to bring students of varying backgrounds together to gain advanced knowledge and practice leadership skills related to the science, technology, and management of water in Texas. Through an application process, up to 30 high school youth are selected each spring to participate in a summer 4-H2O Leadership Academy and commit service hours annually in a variety of ways. Ambassadors gain insight into water law, policy, planning, and management as they interact with representatives from state water agencies, educators, policy-makers, and water resource managers. Water Ambassadors commit a minimum 40 hours of service over a 12-month period following the Academy. Service hours include delivering water education at local 4-H clubs, schools, fairs, and community events. The District had three students serve as Water Ambassadors in 2024.

The District also hosted two rainwater harvesting workshops, in 2024, for residents of Ellis, Hill, Johnson, Somervell, and surrounding counties on April 13, and May 4, at the District office. There were 25 attendees for the April event and 22 at the May event. Attendees then assembled their own 55-gallon rain barrel to take home and implement. Following the events, several participants emailed photos showcasing their use of their new rain barrels. The District seeks to continue this educational workshop program in 2025 and onward.

In 2024, the District was also a sponsor for the Texas Alliance of Groundwater District's 12th Annual Texas Groundwater Summit on August 20 through August 22. The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts was established in 1988 to provide groundwater conservation districts the opportunity to exchange ideas and develop or influence programs for the management, conservation, protection, and development of groundwater within Texas. The Texas Groundwater Summit is the premier groundwater event in the state, bringing together a diverse group of groundwater professionals over three days to discuss emerging trends and new research.

F.5. Management Objective: *Each year, the District will seek to provide educational outreach regarding water conservation to at least one elementary school in each county of the District.*

Performance Standard: *Each year, a list of schools that participate in the educational outreach will be included in the District's Annual Report to be given to the District's Board of Directors.*

Increasing public awareness about groundwater conservation through education and outreach is one of the main goals of the District. The Water Education Trailer ("WET"), is a mobile classroom featuring exhibits that provide demonstrations about rainwater harvesting, indoor water conservation tips, pollution prevention, how a water well works, and a working aquifer model. The presentations included in the WET meet TEKS standards and provide STEM-based learning activities. In 2024, the District experienced a successful implementation of the Tinker, LLC Water Conservation Education

Program, collaborating with 14 schools and teachers, effectively reaching 959 fifth-grade students. This initiative targeted Ellis, Johnson, Hill, and Somervell counties, demonstrating a widespread impact across the District.

Date	School	County	Grade	Participants
3/1/24	STEM Academy (Various Schools)	Hill, Johnson, Somervell	K – 12th	240
4/4/24	Nichols Elementary	Johnson	5th	326
4/17/24	Hill County Water Days (Various Schools)	Hill	5th	42
4/18/24	Hill County Water Days – Whitney ISD	Hill	5th	103
4/19/24	Hill County Water Days – Hillsboro ISD	Hill	5th	160
4/21/24	Venus Elementary	Ellis	5th	169
Spring 2024	Avalon School	Ellis	5th	27
Spring 2024	Clift Elementary	Ellis	5th	50
Spring 2024	Irene Clinkscale Elementary	Johnson	5th	108
Spring 2024	Russell P. Schupmann Elementary	Ellis	5th	100
7/23/24	Natural Resource Camp	Johnson	5th	30
10/24/24	Stafford Elementary	Ellis	5th	83
Fall 2024	Plum Creek Elementary	Johnson	5th	70
Fall 2024	Itasca Elementary	Hill	5th	40
Fall 2024	J.R. Irvin Elementary	Ellis	5th	95
Fall 2024	Jack Lummus Intermediate	Ellis	5th	100
Fall 2024	Mt. Peak Elementary	Ellis	5th	45
Fall 2024	Mount Calm	Hill	5th	14
Fall 2024	Whitney Intermediate	Hill	5th	130
Fall 2024	Avalon School	Ellis	5th	14
Fall 2024	Life School	Ellis	5th	145
Fall 2024	Baxter Elementary	Ellis	5th	21
			Total	2,112

Groundwater Monitoring Program and Desired Future Conditions

G.1. Management Objective: *The District will follow and update its Groundwater Monitoring Program within the District to monitor water well levels (and baseline water quality) in wells in each aquifer and subdivision thereof in the District. The District will take periodic readings from the monitoring wells and input the data into the District's database. The District will utilize the information to help implement its regulatory and permitting program and monitor water level trends and actual achievement of DFCs.*

Performance Standard: *The District will continue to implement their recently developed Groundwater Monitoring Program. A summary of the District Groundwater Monitoring Program will be included in the District's Annual Report to be given to the District's Board of Directors.*

To help manage groundwater resources prudently, the District monitors groundwater conditions via groundwater wells distributed throughout the District. As of December 2024, there are 275 monitoring wells within the District, which is 20 more wells than were in the monitoring program in 2023. A fundamental requirement of any monitoring program is that it must be able to monitor the aquifer resources within the District at a scale consistent with the management objectives of the District. Two of the District's key management objectives are: (1) the ability to quantitively track progress towards DFCs, and (2) the ability to generate accurate annual District-wide water level change maps for each aquifer.

When developing a water level monitoring program there are many technical characteristics that must be considered in tandem with practical and policy considerations. Some of the characteristics include the number of wells that are monitored, how frequently water levels are measured, and how to spatially distribute wells across the county. The concepts that generally guide the practical and policy considerations are: the value of simplicity, flexibility, and the law of diminishing returns. Simplicity, is both a benefit for the District staff, who must implement the monitoring approach, and also for the public, who may want to understand the monitoring approach. The monitoring approach must also be flexible enough to easily handle situations that are inevitable when monitoring over several decades. Wells will be added to, and removed from, the network periodically. The concept of diminishing returns generally refers to getting less incremental benefit from each additional item added. For well monitoring, more wells result in a higher confidence in calculated District- and county-wide average drawdowns, but beyond a certain point the cost and effort of adding more wells to the network and regularly monitoring their water levels outweigh the benefit.

During 2024, the District aggresively worked to continue expanding the current monitoring network as part of a comprehensive monitoring program. To ensure that the wells in the monitoring network are distributed evenly throughout the county, the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangles were used as a standard grid. TWDB also uses these quads to guide water well numbering (e.g., the first four digits of a State Well Number correspond to the quad in which the well lies).

Because of the costs and large amount of coordination and logistics associated with developing a well monitoring network, INTERA recommended the District consider developing the monitoring network over a period of several years. The expansion strategy focuses on prioritizing additions of existing wells into the monitoring program because it is more cost-effective and a quick way to expand the monitoring network over the near term. However, INTERA also recommends installing observation wells strategically throughout the District in order to increase the overall reliability of the network through time. Over the next decade, the proposed expansion strategy is to install one new observation well every other year and identify 10 existing wells per year to add to the network. Monitoring well additions will initially be focused on aquifers that produce most of the water supply within the District. The Paluxy aquifer currently provides a large portion of the groundwater used throughout the District, so under the proposed expansion strategy it will be the third aquifer to have a complete monitoring network (estimated completion is 2042). The District drilled its second dedicated monitoring well during 2024 to better understand conditions in the Paluxy aquifer. The Woodbine aquifer will reach 80% completion by 2030. The proposed expansion strategy timeline considers the significant resources the District must put forth each year to make progress towards completing the monitoring program.

Figures 12 through 17 beginning on the next page show the long-term water level trends in the District. These figures also demonstrate how the density and spatial distribution of wells monitored in each aquifer is not sufficient for creating reliable water level surfaces across each aquifer. As the District expands the network of water level monitoring wells and collects data over multiple years, the trends will be reported to the Board and in the Annual Report.

Field Technicians, Jose Sarmiento and Rusty Zent, collecting water level data by e-lining a monitor well.

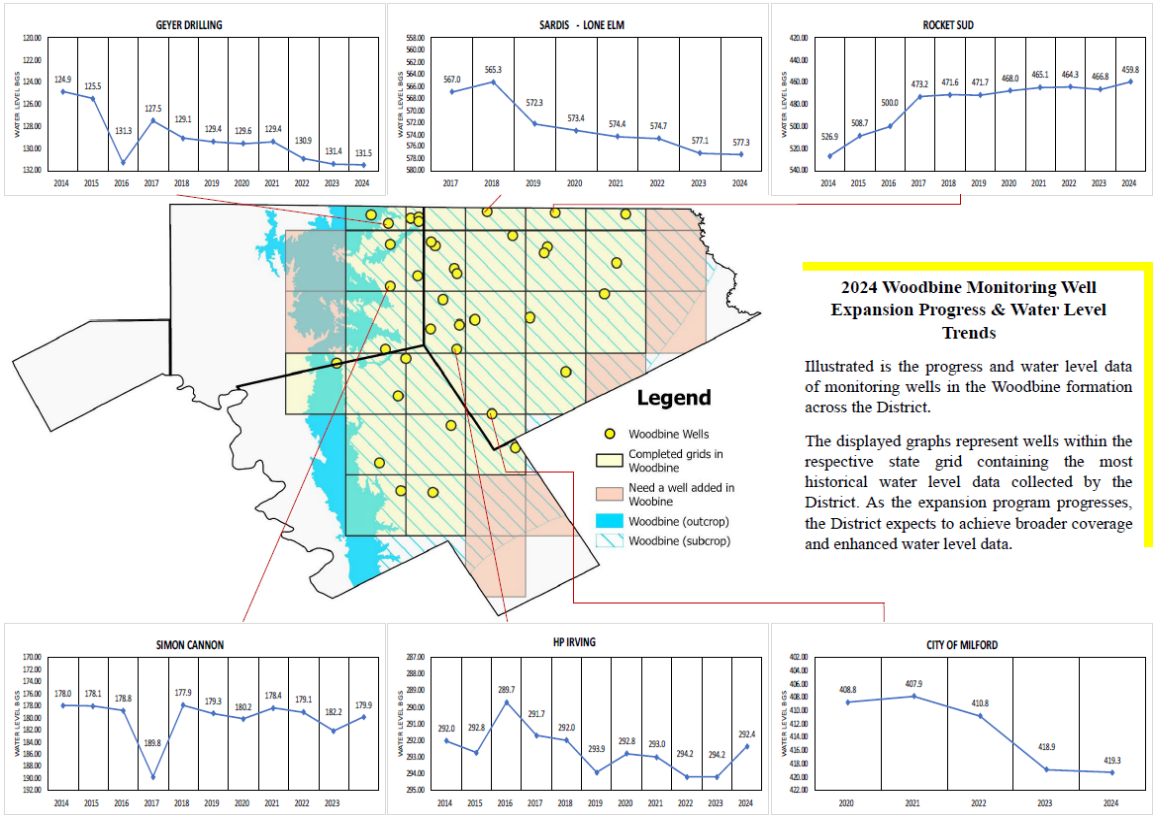


Figure 12. *Average water level change in Woodbine aquifer between 2013 and 2024.*

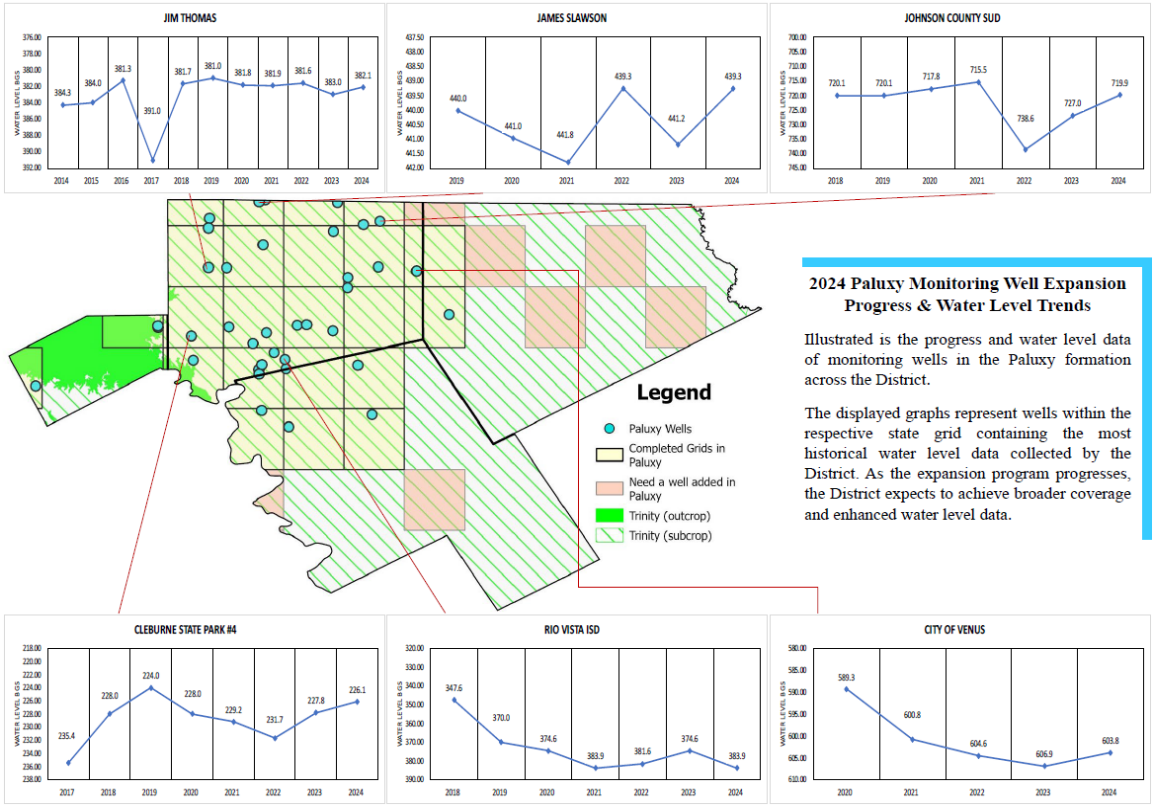


Figure 13. *Average water level change in Paluxy aquifer between 2013 and 2024.*

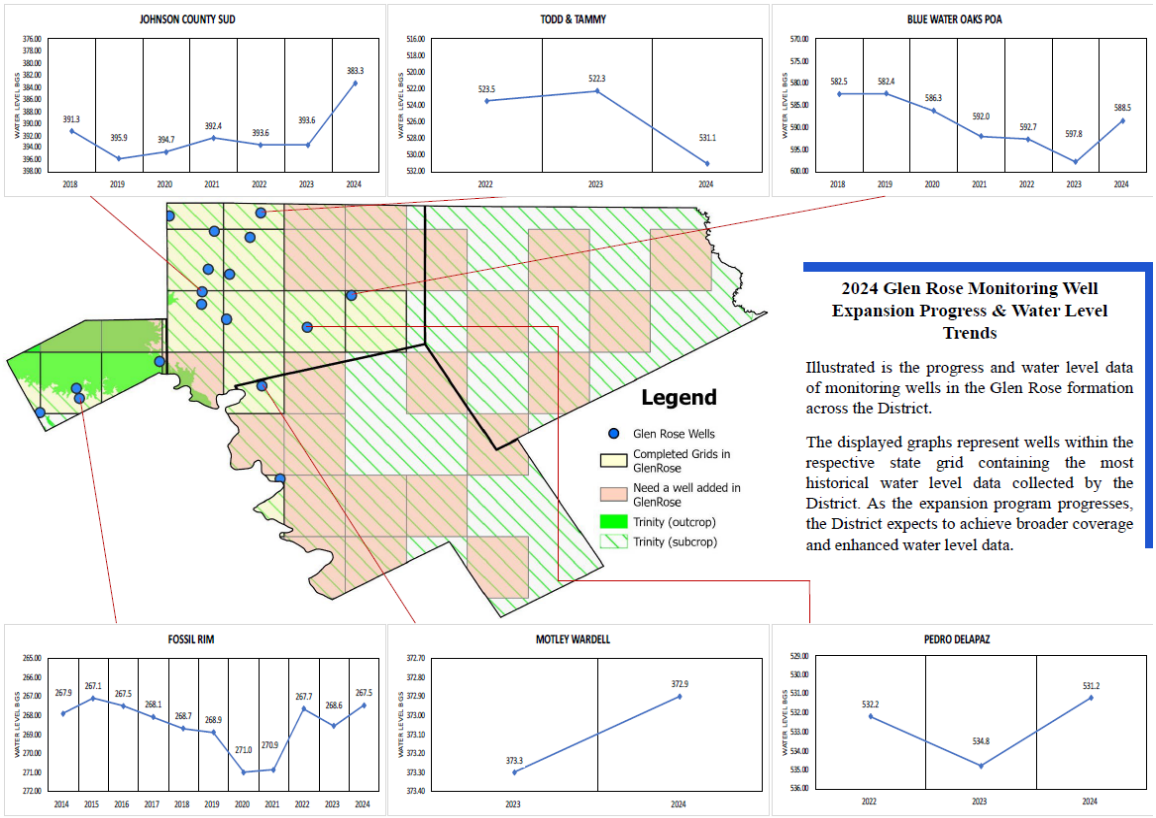


Figure 14. *Average water level change in Glen Rose aquifer between 2013 and 2024.*

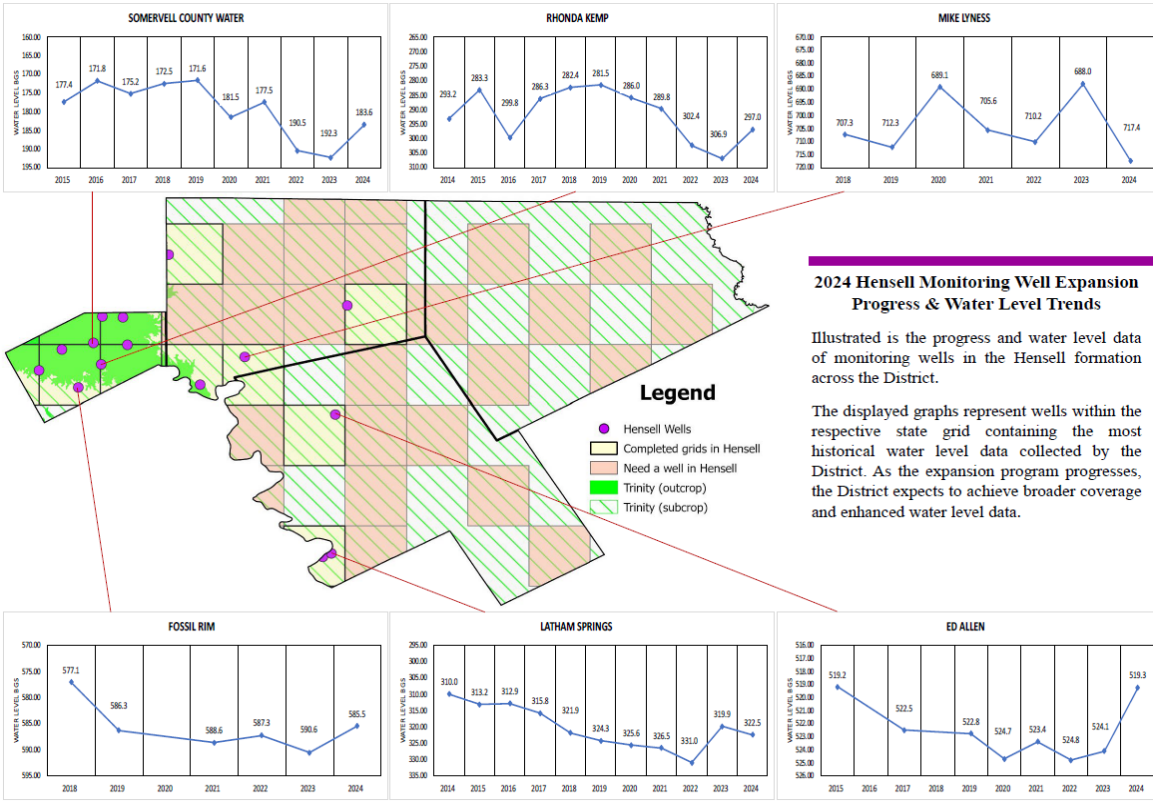


Figure 15. *Average water level change in Hensell aquifer between 2013 and 2024.*

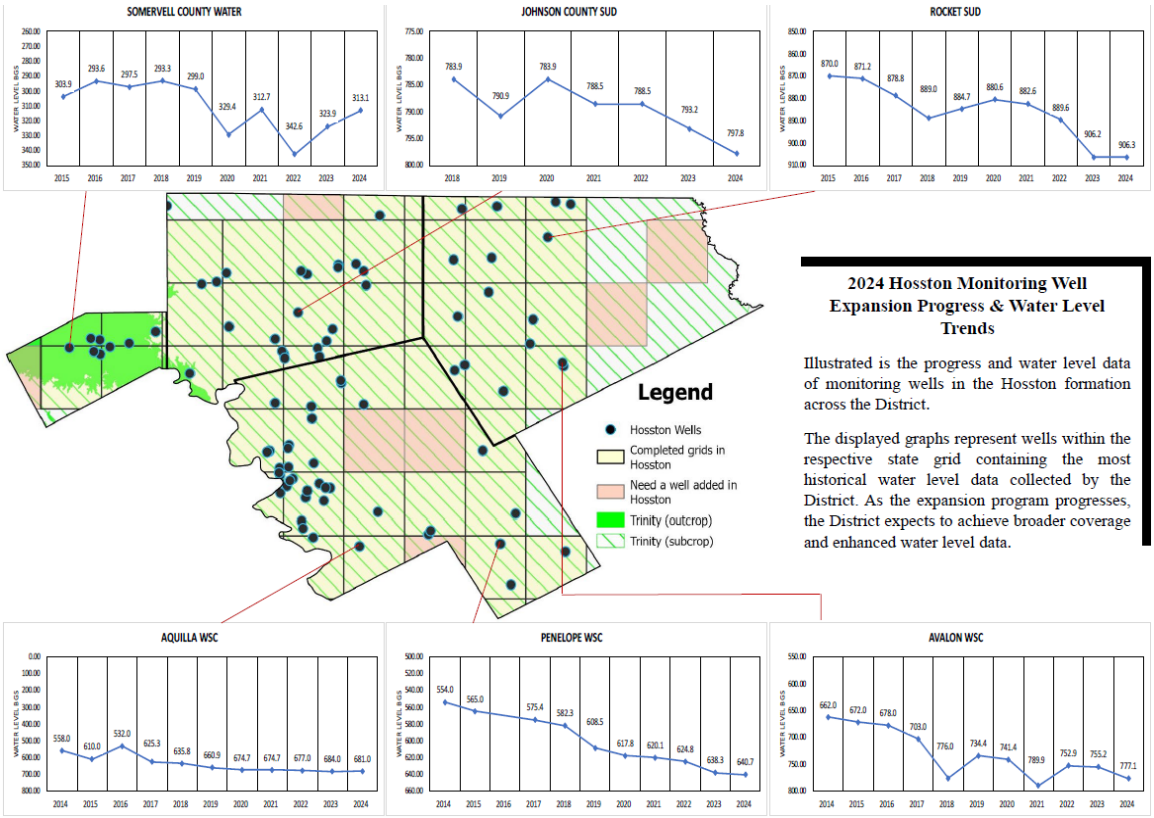


Figure 16. *Average water level change in Hosston aquifer between 2013 and 2024.*

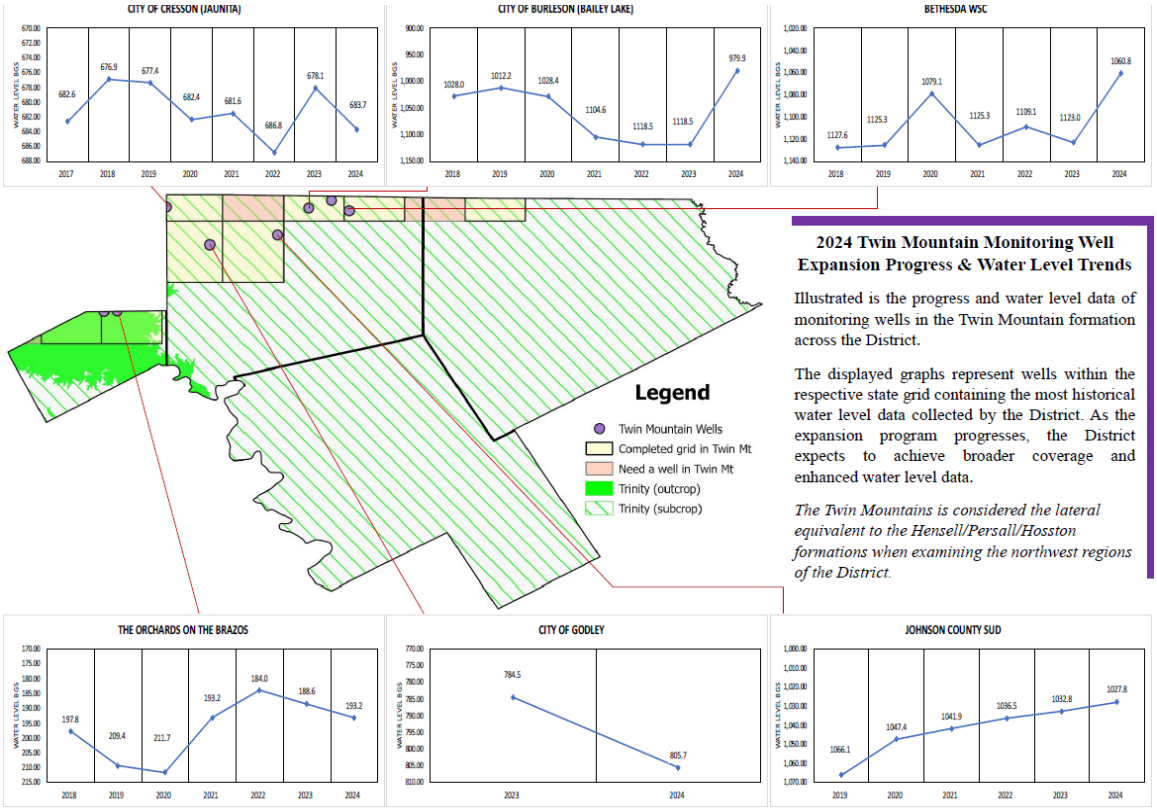


Figure 17. *Average water level change in Twin Mountains aquifer between 2013 and 2024.*

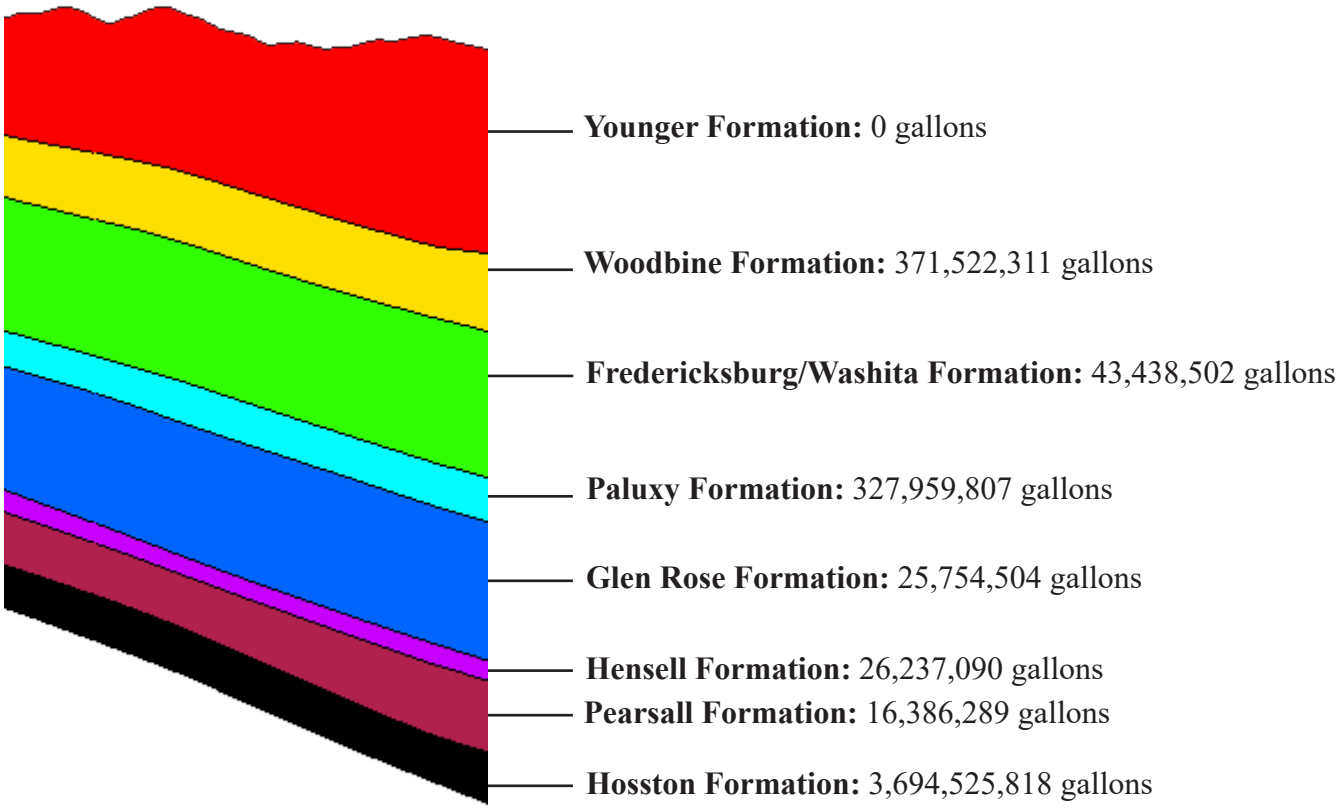
2024 Water Usage by Aquifer

G.2. Management Objective: *The District will monitor non-exempt pumping within the District for use in evaluating the District's compliance with aquifer desired future conditions.*

Performance Standard: *Annual reporting of groundwater used by non-exempt wells will be included in the Annual Report provided to the District's Board of Directors.*

In 2024, non-exempt wells in the District reported groundwater use of 6,697,821,424 gallons. With the District's Groundwater Management System, groundwater production can be tracked to specific aquifers and aquifer groups. Gallons produced by formation are listed below:

Note: Although non-exempt wells do not withdraw water from the Younger formation, the District has a number of registered exempt domestic wells producing water from this formation. However, these wells are not required to be metered and reported on.



Stratigraphy map provided by Aquaveo
**Some assumption is used on wells where aquifer formation production is not available.*

Production by Aquifer Groups:

Woodbine/Fredericksburg: 34,779,572 gallons
Fredericksburg/Washita/Paluxy: 24,901,710 gallons
Paluxy/Glen Rose: 59,581,605 gallons
Hensell/Pearsall: 21,764,618 gallons
Hensell/Hosston: 74,759,960 gallons
Hensell/Pearsall/Hosston: 574,369,138 gallons
Pearsall/Hosston: 1,401,840,500 gallons

Appendix A
Surface Water Entities Letter Sent on March 25, 2024

PGCD
PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JOHNSON • ELLIS • HILL • SOMERVELL

208 Kimberly Dr
Cleburne, TX 76031
Phone: (817) 556-2299
Fax: (817) 556-2305
www.prairielandsgcd.org

March 25, 2024

VIA: Mail and Email Transmission to chris.dick@midlothian.tx.us

City of Midlothian
Mr. Chris Dick
104 W. Avenue E
Midlothian, Texas 76065

RE: Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District Adopted Management Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

This email is being sent to you for two primary purposes: (1) to notify you of the recent adoption of the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District ("District") Management Plan, developed and adopted in accordance with Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code and Title 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 356; and (2) to make sure you are aware that continued increases in annual groundwater pumping in the District to accommodate growth is getting very near the total annual amount that can lawfully be produced under the State's groundwater management laws, which means public water suppliers and other groundwater users need to already be working to secure or develop alternative water supplies beyond groundwater for future growth.

The District's boundaries are coextensive with the boundaries of Ellis, Hill, Johnson, and Somervell counties. The purpose of the District Management Plan is to identify the water supplies and demands within the District and to define the goals that the District will use to manage the groundwater resources in the District.

The District Management Plan is the product of a public planning process that culminated in the adoption of the plan by the District's board of directors at the conclusion of a public hearing held on March 18, 2024, following public notice. The District submits the Management Plan to you in accordance with Section 36.1071(a) of the Texas Water Code in an effort to coordinate with you on the District's management goals. Due to the large size of the Management Plan, we are not mailing a hard copy but instead are providing the following link that will allow you to access the plan electronically: https://www.prairielandsgcd.org/about/management-plan/

For the most recent five-year joint planning cycle, Groundwater Management Area 8 ("GMA 8") developed Desired Future Conditions ("DFCs") for the Trinity and Woodbine aquifers using the Texas Water Development Board's ("TWDB's") updated Northern Trinity / Woodbine Groundwater Availability Model, and adopted revised DFCs on November 4, 2021. Those GMA 8 DFCs were subsequently adopted by the various individual groundwater conservation districts in GMA 8, and represent the management goals for the future condition of the aquifers that the groundwater conservation districts are required by law to achieve through their water well permitting and other groundwater management efforts.

Please note that total annual groundwater pumping in the District is getting very near the total annual amount of pumping that the Texas Water Development Board has determined will achieve the DFCs, which is also the total amount that the District can lawfully allow to be pumped each year under its rules and permitting system. It is critical for all groundwater users in the District to be working now to secure alternative sources of water to meet future growth in water demands, because the District must comply with the law and limit overall pumping to protect the long-term viability of the aquifers and the private property rights in groundwater of all overlying landowners. In addition to promoting strong water conservation measures, the most obvious solution is for public water suppliers and other water users to work with surface water management entities to continue to build and expand capacity to bring more surface water into the four counties of the District in order to meet the increased demands for water that come with population and economic growth. The District stands ready to help facilitate discussions among wholesale water suppliers, retail water suppliers, and other water users and to find solutions to these water demand and supply issues.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding the District Management Plan or other District activities, or if we can help you find alternative solutions to meet your future growth in water demand.

Sincerely,

Kathy Turner Jones
General Manager

cc: Stephen Allen, Texas Water Development Board
Brian L. Sledge, SledgeLaw Group PLLC

Appendix B
District Rainwater Harvesting Press Release Issued March 28, 2024

PGCD
PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JOHNSON · ELLIS · HILL · SOMERVELL

208 Kimberly Dr
Cleburne, TX 76031
Phone: (817) 556-2299
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www.prairielandsgcd.org

PRESS RELEASE

Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District Launches Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program

March 28, 2024 – For Immediate Release

Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District ("District") is thrilled to announce the launch of its Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program. This initiative is designed to promote sustainable water conservation practices and support residents in adopting rainwater harvesting ("RWH") systems within Ellis, Hill, Johnson, or Somervell counties.

The Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program offers financial incentives to residents who install RWH systems, contributing to the responsible management of water resources in our communities. By harnessing the power of rainwater, participants not only reduce their reliance on public water supplies.

To be eligible for the rebate, applicants must reside or own land within the designated counties and have their rainwater harvesting systems installed within these areas. Each household is entitled to one rebate application per calendar year, with a maximum rebate amount of $500. Rebates are calculated at a rate of $1.00 per gallon of storage capacity of the entire RWH system.

The application process involves a few straightforward steps:

- Submit a preliminary drawing: Before purchasing materials, applicants must submit a preliminary drawing for approval. This drawing should include a general map of the system, catchment area size, and tank details.
- Complete and submit the rebate application: Once the preliminary drawing is approved, applicants can fill out the rebate application form and submit it along with the approved drawing and original receipts for the purchased tanks and associated components.
- Schedule an inspection: After installing the system, applicants must schedule an inspection with District staff to ensure compliance with program guidelines.

Participants are encouraged to review the terms and conditions of the Rebate Program Agreement, which include provisions regarding application completeness, verification, policy updates, processing time, rainwater usage, and tank base requirements.

The Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program represents a significant step forward in sustainable water management within our communities. The District invites residents to take advantage of this opportunity to contribute to water conservation efforts while receiving valuable financial support. For more information about the Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program, including eligibility criteria and application instructions, please visit the following link https://www.prairielandsgcd.org/education/rainwater-harvesting/ or contact Kaylin Garcia at 817-556-2299.

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Contact: Kaylin Garcia
817-556-2299
kgarcia@prairielandsgcd.org

Appendix C
Non-exempt Flyer Emailed on December 19, 2024

Catch the Rain:
A Guide to Smarter Water Use

What is Rainwater Harvesting?

Rainwater harvesting is the collection and storage of rainwater.

Benefits

- *Reduces runoff pollution, erosion, and flooding*
- *Reduces demand on groundwater during extreme droughts*
- *Healthier for plants than treated water*
- *Reduces demand on municipal water resources*

Rainwater Quality

Rainwater is almost perfectly pH balanced to create optimal growing conditions for plants. Its free of salts, chlorine, and chloramine to plant root systems.

Incentives

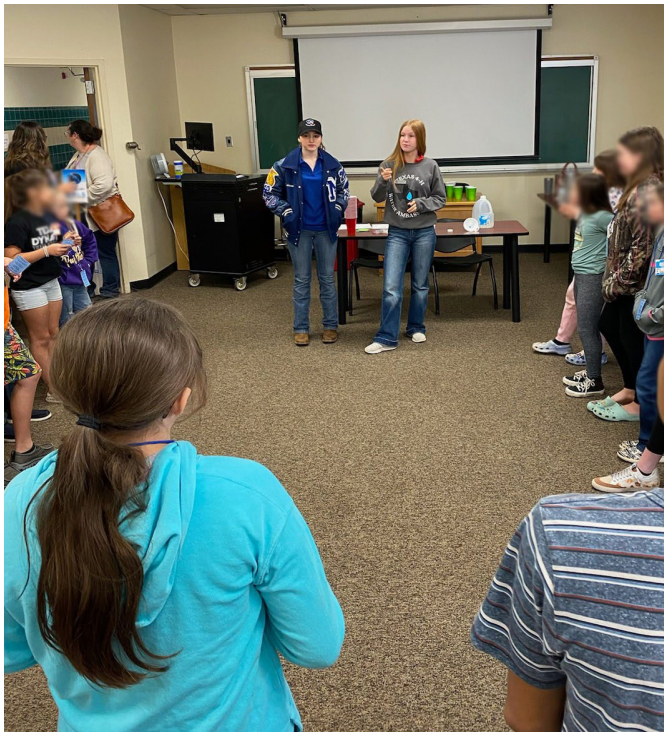
- *Texas Tax Code 151.355 exempts rainwater-harvesting equipment from sales tax.*
- *Prairielands GCD offers a rebate up to $500 for residents within their District.*

PGCD

Why Should Non-Exempt Users Promote and Incorporate Rainwater Harvesting?

By incorporating and promoting rainwater collection and storage, we can reduce our dependence on groundwater for daily needs such as irrigation, residential use, and industrial processes. Over-extraction of groundwater depletes aquifers, leading to lower water tables and dried-up wells. Harvesting rainwater can assist in replenishing groundwater levels through natural infiltration. By promoting rainwater harvesting, we can help preserve the long-term availability of groundwater and reduce strain on local water systems.

Recapping 2024:



STEM students participating in a water activity with the assistance of 4-H Water Ambassadors.

Kathy Turner Jones, the General Manager, and Kaylin Garcia, the Public Relations and Education Director, received the sponsorship plaque from the 4-H Water Ambassadors.

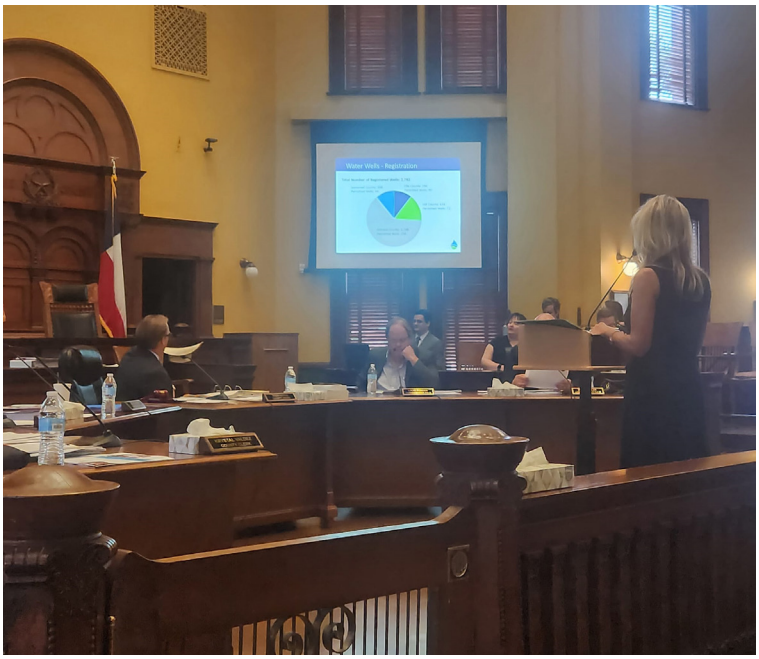
District staff competed in a Christmas cookie decorating contest.

The District installed a new rainwater harvesting system with three 1,500 gallon poly tanks.

Through the Lens

Participants with the Lake Whitney Garden Club build a barrel to harvest rainwater.

Karol Bowers, the Permitting and Compliance Specialist educating students on the impact of wasting water.



Kathy Turner Jones, General Manager, provides annual update to the Ellis County Comissioners Court.

Field Technician, Jose Sarmiento, installs equipment on newly drilled monitor well.

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