

Nottingham Country Municipal Utility District

Newsletter

May 2008

The Storm Water Drain is Not a Trash Can!!!

The storm drain on your street is not a disposal site! Rainwater or water run-off flowing into a storm drain is NOT treated for waste removal. Water that flows into street drains enters bayous, rivers, lakes, streams and ultimately Galveston Bay. When pet waste, motor oil, fertilizers and other chemicals wash down a storm drain they contaminate the water. "Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water."

Five Things You Can Do to Prevent Storm Water Runoff Pollution

- 1 Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads.
- 2 NEVER dump anything down storm drains.
- 3 Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
- 4 Check car for leaks, and recycle motor oil.
- 5 Pick up after your pet.

In an effort to communicate the importance of protecting area surface water sources, the district is interested in implementing a labeling program of existing storm drains within the bounds of the district. The labeling program is ideal for community service hours or as an Eagle Scout project. Please contact the District at 713-339-6163 or via the District website @ncmud.com.

Tax Rate Reduction

The Board of Directors lowered the tax rate by \$0.07 cents, reducing the Total Tax Rate from \$0.50 to \$0.43. In the past 10 years the Total Tax Rate has decreased from \$0.684 to \$0.43, a reduction of over 25 cents per \$100 valuation!

Overview of District Infrastructure

The District consists of approximately 2,300 homes ("connections") built on 1,010 acres and has a taxable valuation of \$603,744,015.

Water delivery system consists of two wells approximately 650 feet deep; a water treatment plant with filtration to remove iron; three ground storage tanks with approximately; 1.5 million gallons of storage capacity; 28 miles of underground delivery pipes; 550 valves and 218 fire hydrants.

Wastewater treatment system consists of a wastewater treatment plant; a lift station serving the south portion of the District; approximately 23 miles of conveyance pipes and 520 manholes.

The District Greenbelt Park consists of 44 acres fully developed with over two miles of lighted trails, picnic benches, drinking fountains and approximately 900 trees.

Recent District Improvements, Projects Underway or Under Consideration

Water Plant Improvements Completed: re-coating of the exterior and some of the interior ground storage tanks (GST), hydro pneumatic tanks and yard piping including splash box reconstruction at GST's and re-grading of turf area. Project cost \$187,000.

Filters to remove iron from the groundwater were replaced and upgraded. Project cost \$ 325,000.

Water Plant Improvements Underway: Water System Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) improvements include well fail-to-start alarms and response; continuous well water level monitoring via internet access format with Graphic User Interface; replacement of modulating valves on filter control operations panel and cover for portable generator. Estimated Project cost \$75,000.

Installation of continuous monitoring of groundwater levels for both wells. Project cost \$18,000.

Note that all SCADA information including tank levels, well operations, and groundwater levels are scheduled to be remoted to the internet in order for the Operator or Engineer to have real time information.

Replacement of liquid chlorine disinfection with bleach. Project cost \$200,000.

Wastewater Plant Improvements Under Consideration Include: Convert aeration system to "Fine Bubble" for power savings, replace the clarifier mechanism for improved sludge return and removal and convert the chlorine based disinfection system to Ultra-Violet (UV) disinfection. A study was conducted to determine feasibility of reuse of wastewater for irrigation of the park and esplanades that concluded reuse is technically possible but implementation costs exceed development of additional sources.

Construction of Water Well #3 is under consideration. A request for the use of land in the Barker Reservoir for the well and well collector line to the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been submitted to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for approval.

Lift Station Generator Set and Entry Improvements. Project cost \$ 65,000.

ECO Resources continues to work on the manhole inspections, surveying each site. ECO plans to begin the Closed Circuit Television Video survey of the sewer system after the manhole survey is completed. They will start with the oldest sewers in the District. The District Engineer will review the video of these inspections and recommend repairs or replacement as needed.

Additional security improvements at the water plant, well #2 and the waste water treatment plant are being developed.

In order to economize electric power costs the District is participating in a power consumption benchmark study. Tests have been run at the wastewater treatment plant to estimate the cost of operating the generator under plant load. This will assist in evaluating opportunities to shed load when pricing is advantageous.

What Kind of Tree is That?

Tree identification plaques have been installed at 24 of the trees on the NCMUD Greenbelt Park. Each plaque depicts the tree species and leaf pattern characteristic of the tree. The board is making a concerted effort to establish a variety of tree species on the Park. Doing this minimizes risk of losing a large number of trees due to disease or insect infestation in addition to adding beauty and interest to the Park landscape. Just in case you were wondering, trees on the Park include: White Oak, Willow Oak, Live Oak, Saw tooth Oak, Nuttall, Bur Oak, Red Bud, Golden Rain Tree, Chaste/Vitex Tree, Bald Cypress, Drummond Red Maple, Chinquapin Oak, Chinese Pistache, Mimosa, Southern Magnolia, Loblolly Pine, Ailee Elm, River Birch, Crape Myrtle and Bottle Brush. GPS location information regarding each tree plaque will soon be available on the district website.

Awards and Recognitions

Nottingham Country M.U.D is pleased to be a designated Water Smart Partner for 2007. This is the fifth year in a row that NCMUD has participated. The Water Smart program is established to recognize water districts that achieve a set of goals each year in water conservation.

In August 2007, the District received notice that it was the recipient of an award given by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. "Nottingham Country MUD has fulfilled the requirements to receive the Total Coliform Rule Program Award for 2006 and is hereby recognized for the effort, dedication, and contribution it has made to the state and citizens of Texas in protecting public health."

District Meetings are held the third Monday of the month at the offices of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP at 11:30 a.m. on the 26th floor at the Phoenix Tower, 3200 Southwest Freeway. District meetings are open to the public. To contact the District, call 713-339-6163 or visit the website at ncmud.com.

Directors:

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