

What is Cedar Park Conserves?

January 2011

Cedar Park Conserves is one of the components of the Cedar Park City Council's Strategic Goals. The City of Cedar Park is committed to fostering a community which values sustainability and conservation efforts. This often means making initial investments that can pay dividends over time: both financially and environmentally.

The City Council has identified 6 categories that demonstrate Cedar Park's commitment to valuing our natural resources. These include:

- ◆ Water Management & Supply
- ◆ Solid Waste & Recycling
- ◆ Energy
- ◆ Transportation & Mobility
- ◆ Air
- ◆ Land Use & Community Planning



Go Green!

Did you know that you can find helpful tips on how you can "go green" at home, at the office, and on the go on the Cedar Park website? [Read more here.](#)

Water



Water IQ Water Conservation Program: Cedar Park is one of the most proactive communities in Central Texas in promoting water conservation through the Water IQ campaign. The City educates its residents about the importance of efficiently using water through a variety of methods including the Water IQ website, print and online advertisements, outreach at public events, partnership with Cedar Park elementary schools for the Water IQ Kids campaign, and door placards to inform residents of the watering schedule.

Securing our Long-Term Water Supply: As a fast growing community it is imperative that Cedar Park plan for and secure its long-term water supply needs. Through the regional entity the Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority (BCRUA), the Cities of Cedar Park, Leander and Round Rock have partnered together to provide the infrastructure necessary for our future water needs.

Water Quality: The City of Cedar Park has several employees who test water to ensure that it meets all state and federal requirements. The City meets the required testing and runs additional tests to ensure that the highest quality water is available for our residents.

Water System Leak Detection and Repair: The City has dedicated personnel whose sole function is to inspect water lines for leaks and make necessary repairs. This focus on finding and repairing leaks significantly lowers our water loss and increases the overall efficiency of the water system.

Water Reclamation: The City sells reclaimed water to Avery Ranch golf course to reduce its dependence on treated water for irrigation. Internally, the City Parks and Recreation department uses reclaimed water when possible at its parks and facilities for irrigation.

Storm Drain Water Quality: Storm water runoff can be a major form of water pollution. In order to protect the water quality of our lakes, rivers, and aquifers, the City prohibits dumping yard refuse, debris, clippings or litter into storm inlets. The City reminds residents of the importance of protecting our sewer system through informational brochures and "No Dumping, Drains to River" markings on inlets.

Xeriscaping/ Hill Country Scape: As an example of "water thrifty" landscaping, the garden outside City Hall utilizes native plants which require less water and maintenance than traditional flowers and shrubs. Not only do these plants require less water, but they thrive in our region. The garden includes an informative map identifying each of the plants used and allows residents to learn which plants may be suitable for their own yards.

Conservation Water Rate: In 2008, the City implemented an inclined block rate structure where the unit cost of water increased within blocks as water usage increases. The inclined block structure encourages conservation with lower rates for lower volume users and higher rates for higher volume users.



Solid Waste and Recycling

Single Stream Recycling: Cedar Park was one of the first communities in central Texas to offer residents single-stream recycling. We began providing this service in February 2010. This has been incredibly successful; our average monthly recycling has jumped from 98 tons (when residents used the small blue bin) of diverted waste to 252 tons (now that residents have access to the larger 90 gallon bin)!



Household Hazardous Waste & Neighborhood Clean-Up: Through grant money and community partnerships, the City is able to offer residents an annual citywide clean-up event to reduce illegal dumping and provide the community with an environmentally-safe way to dispose of household hazardous waste.

Waste Oil Reuse and Disposal: The City's Fleet Maintenance Shop disposes of its used oil, anti-freeze and oil filters in an environmentally friendly way. By recycling used oil, we prevent it from entering our sewer system, thereby impacting our water system.

We've Gone Paperless: During the last few years, the City has introduced new technologies that have encouraged employees to use electronic records whenever possible. The City Council reads and reviews their Agendas and related documents online, records are kept in an electronic format, and employees are encouraged to utilize shared networks to collaborate on projects and documents rather than printing drafts. Reducing paper usage not only helps our environment, but also saves money for office supplies.

Energy

Energy Efficiency in our Facilities: In 2009, the City of Cedar Park was awarded \$519,700, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to develop and implement projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions in our community. These funds were used to make much-needed improvements to our City facilities. Projects include installation of energy-saving lighting at the Library, introduction of motion controlled lighting at City facilities, replacement of outdated "energy-hog" HVAC units with more efficient systems, application of window tinting to reduce heating and cooling costs, and replacement of the old City Hall roof with Energy Star roofing material.

Additionally, newer City facilities such as the Cedar Park Recreation Center and Fire Station #1 include energy efficient techniques and technology, for example Energy Star appliances, motion controlled lighting, window tinting, use of local materials when available, and weather sensitive irrigation systems. These technologies are now standard for any new facilities the City builds. Not only are these techniques beneficial for our environment, but analysis indicates that the up-front costs are justified by long-term energy and resource savings.

The City encourages residents and business owners to also consider the savings of "green" building, when planning new construction.

Transportation & Mobility

Alternative Fuels & Petroleum Reduction: The City Council has made a commitment to the integration of alternative fuel into the City's fleet because of the benefits including potential reduced fuel and maintenance costs, environmental benefits, and energy independence. The Texas Railroad Commission awarded the City of Cedar Park a grant to help cover the incremental cost of ten propane-fueled vehicles and a propane fueling station. It is anticipated that the first propane fleet vehicles will hit the streets in spring of 2011.

Additionally, the City is a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's **Clean Cities Coalition** program. The Clean Cities program is a network of approximately 90 coalitions which develop public and private partnerships to promote alternative fuels and petroleum reduction.

Anti-Idling Technology: Using grant funds, the City purchased and installed radios which improve the timing of intersections in order to decrease time spent idling at stop lights. The result is a reduction of fuel consumption and exhaust emission.

Promoting Walkability: The City has an ongoing program dedicated to closing the gaps between existing sidewalks in order to promote walkability around the community. The sidewalks along US 183/ Bell Boulevard are examples of this initiative.

Air



Clean Air: The Cedar Park community is doing its part to promote "healthy air habits" through its membership in the Central Texas Clean Cities Coalition, a U.S. Department of Energy organization.

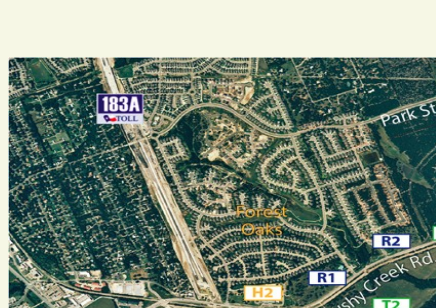
Anti-Idling Policy: As a practice, the City of Cedar Park discourages its employees from allowing their City fleet vehicles to idle.

Land Use & Community Planning

Comprehensive Land Use Plan: The City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan provides the framework for how and where the city will grow. By strategically planning for the future of Cedar Park, we can ensure that the city's existing land is maximized for its full potential.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan & Trails Master Plan: The Parks and Recreation Department is a key player in how Cedar Park grows and develops. These documents guide both City leadership and staff plans for future parks and trails.

"Tree Replacement Fund": As part of the Development Code, developers are limited in the number of trees they can remove when building on a property. If a developer removes more trees than permitted by ordinance, they must contribute financially to the Tree Replacement Fund, which is used by the Parks department for new trees and plantings.



Questions or comments? Email us at katherine.woerner@cedarparktx.us