

Stage 1 Watering Restrictions Go into Effect

Effective July 16, 2025, the City of Horseshoe Bay moved from Stage 2 to Stage 1 watering restrictions following the Lower Colorado River Authority's (LCRA) decision to implement Stage 1 of its Drought Contingency Plan.

Stage 1 limits automated irrigation systems to two days per week on assigned irrigation days. (Under Stage 2, residents could irrigate one day per week). Watering with a hose using a hand-held sprayer, with positive shut-off, or a fillable watering bucket is allowed anytime. No watering is allowed on Mondays. Please view the watering schedule below.

Horseshoe Bay Stage 1 Watering Schedule	
<i>Watering between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. is prohibited</i>	
CUSTOMER CLASS	WATERING DAYS
No Watering Allowed	Monday
Commercial and multifamily customers	Tuesday, Friday
Homes with odd-numbered addresses	Wednesday, Saturday
Homes with even-numbered addresses	Thursday, Sunday

Why Have Watering Restrictions Changed?

Under LCRA's Drought Contingency Plan for Firm Water Customers, LCRA moves from Stage 2 to Stage 1 when combined storage in the water supply lakes reaches 1.1 million acre-feet.

Lakes Travis and Buchanan are our region's water supply reservoirs and currently hold about 1,886,887 acre-feet of water, or about 95% of capacity. For comparison, on March 25, LCRA reported the combined lake levels had dropped to 49% of capacity. After years of severe drought and low inflows into the lakes, flooding rains in early July 2025 increased the combined storage of the lakes over several days. The last time lakes Buchanan and Travis were full was in July 2019.

“These rains were welcome and it’s good to see our water supply reservoirs at higher levels, but the reservoirs are still stressed from years of drought,” said John Hofmann, LCRA executive vice president of Water. “With summer right around the corner, we all need to continue using water wisely and cutting back on discretionary water use.”

The Highland Lakes on the lower Colorado River northwest of Austin sit in an arid part of Texas that is prone to both floods and serious droughts. Two of the lakes – Buchanan and Travis – are the region’s primary water supply and flood control reservoirs.

Lakes Buchanan and Travis were designed to fluctuate, going up while capturing water during rainy times and going down as water is used or evaporates when the weather turns

drier. The lakes have provided a reliable water supply for Central Texas since Lake Buchanan was completed in 1937.

Lake levels

Lake	Level	Percent Full	Report Date	July Avg
Buchanan	1020.07	100%	7/21/25 9:05 AM	1012.43
Travis	675.00	90%	7/21/25 9:05 AM	666.39

Water Conservation Continues to be Important

The City of Horseshoe Bay always promotes water conservation, regardless of drought conditions. There are many reasons to conserve even when the lakes are full.

First, we need to protect our water sources to be prepared for future droughts. We reside in an area with increasing pressure on the water supply from rapid population growth. Second, conservation makes our water system less expensive to manage in terms of energy requirements, chemicals, labor and maintenance, and slows the need for infrastructure expansion expenditures. Additionally, wise water use saves residents money.

About 25 percent of residents are utilizing the City's free WaterSmart software to better manage their water usage, including their irrigation. Leveraging advanced technology and data analytics, WaterSmart offers a user-friendly platform that delivers daily insights into water usage patterns, helping identify where users can reduce consumption, save money, and even detect leaks. Early leak detection has saved many residents money through notifications via email or text. This system also allows a resident to put a monthly limit on water usage that, if exceeded, notifies the resident in the same manner.

"I encourage all residents to utilize this simple customer portal tool that is included in their water bill fees to help save water and ensure we are all a part of the solution to protect our water for the future", commented City Manager Jeff Koska.

Visit www.horseshoe-bay-tx.watersmart.com/index.php/welcome to sign up or scan the QR Code below. Enter your billing account number and email address. If you need assistance, please contact the Utility Billing Office at (830) 598-8741 and press 1 or email Derek Warren, Water Conservation Inspector, at dwarren@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov.



Rebates Available for WaterSmart Users

LCRA has updated its WaterSmart rebates program, including modifying eligibility requirements and significantly increasing the amounts of several rebates.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a rebate, an applicant must be an LCRA domestic use customer or a residential or commercial user that is:

- An end user of a firm customer paying current LCRA firm water rates for its municipal water supply;
- In a community that has adopted and implemented outdoor watering restrictions consistent with the LCRA Water Conservation Plan and the LCRA Drought Contingency Plan; and
- In a community that receives at least 25% of its total water supply from LCRA.

If you have questions, please contact LCRA at firmwater@lcra.org.

New Rebate Amounts

LCRA also increased rebate amounts to help customers save more money as they work to save water.

LCRA now provides rebates of 50% of the total cost, **up to \$3,000** per residential property, for upgrading irrigation systems, maintaining landscapes and pools, testing soil and converting turf grass, and has increased the maximum rebate for these projects:

- Mechanical aeration - **now \$200**, up from \$100.
- Compost and mulch - **now \$1,000**, up from \$600.
- Converting healthy turf grass to native garden beds or drought-tolerant landscapes (preapproval required) - **now \$2,000**, up from \$600.

See all available rebates and the online application at www.WaterSmart.org/rebates.