

TGR APRIL - JUNE, 2026 RESOURCE

TGR WATER “DFC” PROPOSAL MOVES FORWARD



In the world of groundwater planning, there is a term known as “Desired Future Conditions (DFCs)” which represents a desired quantified condition of groundwater resources over a 50-year planning horizon and re-evaluated every 5-years by groundwater management areas. The Trinity Glen Rose (TGR) is one of nine groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) in our planning group known as Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA-9). The big picture is managing our groundwater resources for future generations.

While GMA -9 works as a single group in developing a 50-year outlook for the Trinity Aquifer and other relevant aquifers in its boundaries. Once the desired future conditions are adopted, the Texas Water Development Board calculates the Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) for the aquifer, which is the amount of pumping that will achieve the DFC. The DFC is essentially a planning goal.

There are no planned changes in the DFC goals in this round of planning. The GMA-9 has identified no more than a 30’ decline in the Trinity Aquifer over the next 50 years. The planning group is looking forward to the next round of planning with a new Groundwater Availability Model the Texas Water Development Board finalized and released this year, to improve the groundwater planning process.

GMA-9 recently adopted proposed new “Desired Future Conditions” (DFCs) in March, which includes water planning goals for the Trinity Glen Rose District. There is a 90-day public comment period open through Monday, July 20, 2026. The TGR District Board will hold a public hearing to receive public comments on July 16, 2026, on the proposed DFCs relevant to the TGR District. Comments may also be submitted in writing/ email to the District during the 90-day public comment period at any time.

You can find out more about GMAs, DFCs, MAGs, GCDs, Groundwater Data, Groundwater Models across the State of Texas and more at the Texas Water Development Board website, or the GMA-9 website at: www.gma9.org.

TGR BOARD MEMBERS RETAIN PRECINCT SEATS

General elections for the Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (TGR) concluded May 2, 2026. Two board members retained their positions, Steven Peterson (left) and Joe Silman (right), recently took the oath of office to represent their respective precinct constituencies for another four-year term. Board Chair Joe duMenil (center)

administered the oath of office. The District is gaining a new board member, David Timmermann for Precinct 5. Additionally, the board voted on officer positions for the coming year which will include: Joe duMenil as Chair, Stuart Birnbaum as Vice Chair, Steven Peterson as Secretary, Joe Silman as Treasurer, and David Timmermann as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.



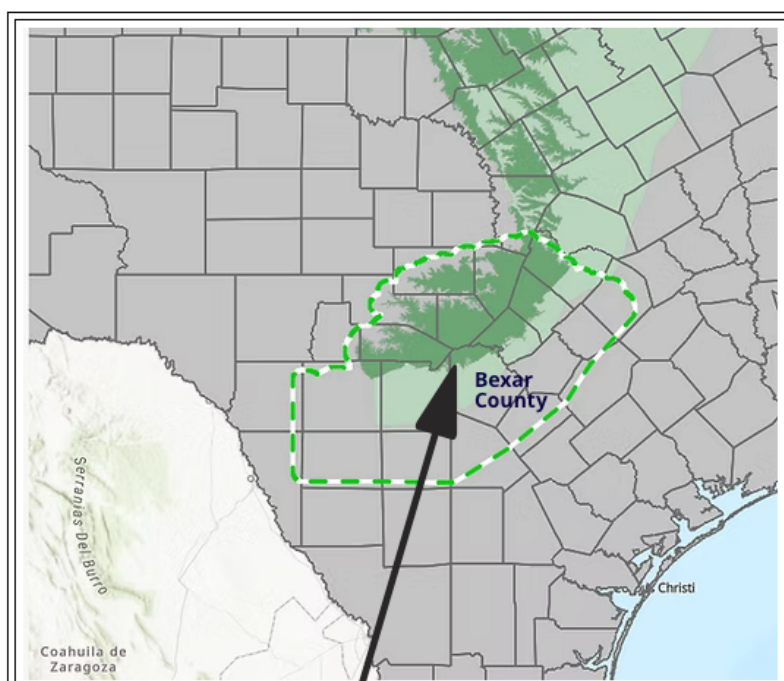
The Board is responsible for all affairs of the District, including managing the groundwater resources of the Trinity Aquifer within the District. [Click here to read more about the board members and the precincts they represent.](#)

TWDB STUDIES BRACKISH WATER IN HILL COUNTRY AQUIFERS

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS) Program was established in 2009 to map and characterize the brackish portions of Texas aquifers to provide useful information and data to regional water planning groups and other entities interested in using brackish groundwater as a water supply.

Brackish water refers to water with a salt concentration higher than fresh water but lower than seawater. Typically, brackish salinity ranges from 0.5 to 30 parts per thousand. The exact salt concentration of brackish water depends on its location and environmental factors.

Both Texas industry and public water supply planners are looking at brackish groundwater to supplement stressed freshwater resources. Brackish groundwater is a significant water supply component that can be used to meet future water demands.



Groundwater desalination strategies in the 2022 State Water Plan represent additional new groundwater supply for nine of the regional planning groups. Desalination of brackish groundwater was recommended as an additional supply volume of approximately 19,000 acre-feet per year in 2020, with an additional 157,000 acre-feet per year of brackish groundwater recommended to be in service by 2070.

The Hill Country's Trinity Aquifer is the southern portion of the larger Trinity Aquifer system, one of Texas' nine major aquifers. It extends across roughly 15,500 square miles of Central Texas, spanning 24 counties from the Hill Country to the Gulf Coastal Plain. Composed of layered Cretaceous-age limestone, sandstone, and shale of the Trinity Group, the aquifer thickens southeastward and is heavily faulted by the Balcones and Luling Fault Zones, which influence groundwater flow and salinity. The aquifer includes six primary water-bearing units divided into 3 hydrologic units: the Upper Trinity, Middle Trinity, and Lower Trinity.

You can find more information about TWDB Hill Country brackish water study toward the bottom of the **TGR Aquifer Science website page**: www.trinityglenrose.com/aquifer-education. [You can also review the TWDB story with more maps here.](#)

TEXAS' LARGEST GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER



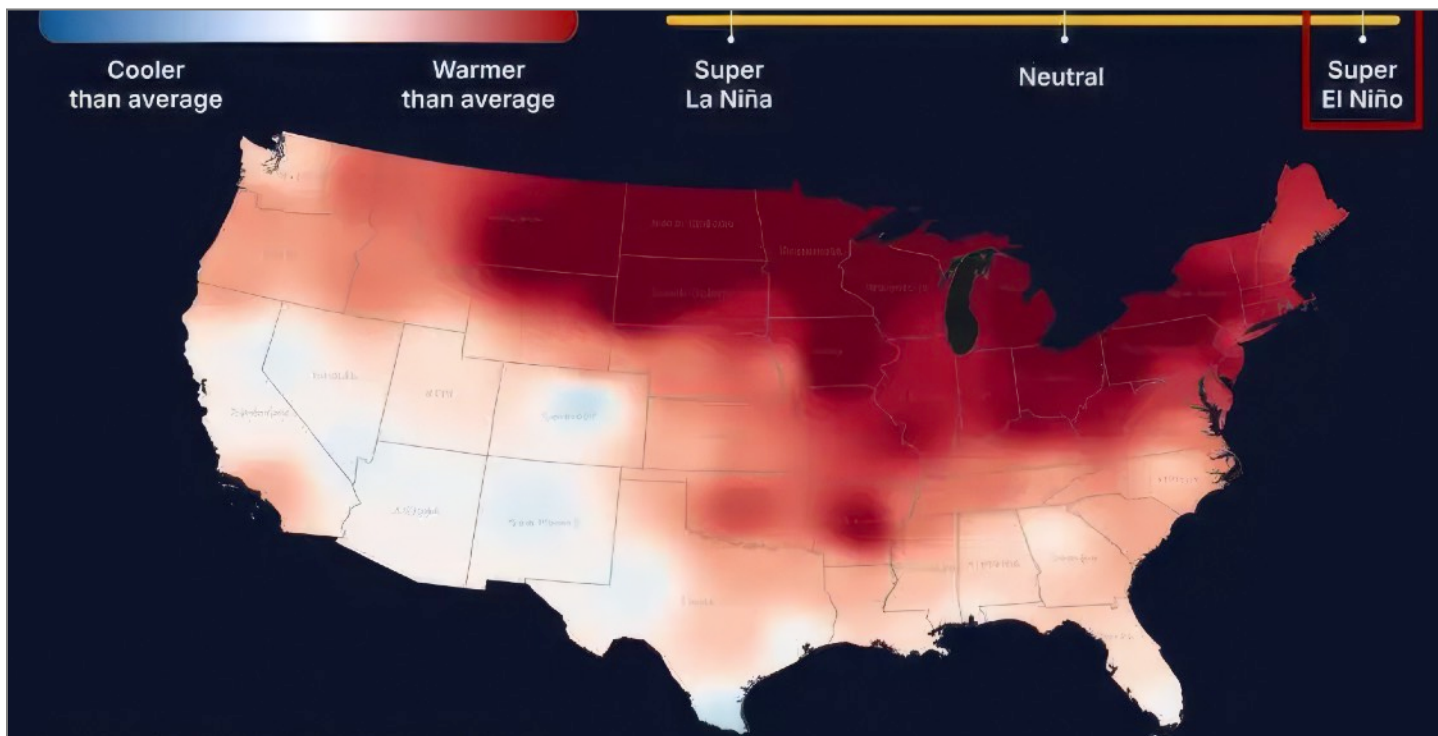
Registration is open for the 15th Annual Texas Groundwater Summit. This is the premier event of the year for groundwater professionals across Texas. Over three days, the Summit brings together experts and stakeholders from across the state to explore emerging trends, share new research, and discuss the most pressing groundwater issues facing Texas.

The Texas Groundwater Summit is the largest conference of its kind in Texas. If you are a groundwater professional, groundwater stakeholder, or interested in the future of groundwater in Texas, you should plan to be there. Attendees can expect:

- Timely policy discussions following a historic legislative session and leading into what might be another water-focused legislative session
- Opportunities to learn how groundwater is managed in Texas and the role of groundwater conservation districts
- Technical sessions highlighting groundwater science, modeling, and research
- Updates on district-led research and science-based initiatives
- Ample networking opportunities with over 550 participants, including GCD board and staff members, engineers, attorneys, elected officials, and other groundwater stakeholders

[You can register for the conference here.](#)

FORECASTERS PREDICTING THE STRONGEST EL NIÑO IN 140 YEARS COULD HIT TEXAS THIS YEAR - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



After a fairly warm and dry winter, a “Super El Niño” could be bringing a strong rainy season later in 2026 to Texas. Depending on how warm ocean surfaces stay this fall in the Northern Hemisphere, forecasters think the rainfall could be record breaking. A “super” event happens when temperatures climb more than 4 degrees above normal. These rare events have only happened a few times in history and often bring noticeable changes around the world.

The Southwest has been under drought conditions for almost six years, and all water planners have stated that it would take sustained rain over months to reverse the lasting impacts of this drought which has reduced the Edwards Aquifer and Trinity Aquifer to near record lows over the past year. What’s often not realized is that quick rounds of heavy rainfall are not enough to replenish these aquifers. It takes continued rainfall over many weeks to allow the large amounts of water to actually seep into aquifers and steadily replenish aquifers over time.

A large pool of warm water below the ocean surface is now rising and spreading. This shift is a key step in forming a powerful El Niño event. When the extra heat stored in the ocean is released into the atmosphere, it can influence weather patterns far beyond the Pacific. That is why scientists pay close attention to these changes. Recent weather updates from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts show a stronger signal than first predicted for 2026, and confidence has grown that warming will continue through 2026.

While this strong El Niño is slated to develop in May, it’s largest impacts will likely come later in the year. Currently, the National Weather Service says there is a 62% chance of the Super El Niño development. [You can read more about this potential shake up in our weather patterns this year at this link.](#)

NATIVE LANDSCAPING TEMPLATES For the Hill Country

A Tool for Designing
Water-Wise Yards



As the Hill Country, which includes parts of Northern Bexar County, continues to grow, so does the need to change the mindset of how landscapes should look for Hill Country homes. While there are many great resources, including the Trinity Glen Rose District's own *Go Gardening Show*, we think this particular landscape guide provides a concise strategy for installing a beautiful native plant landscape.

The Hill Country Alliance partnered with the San Antonio Water System, Native Plant Society of Texas, and Native American Seed and developed "Native Landscaping Templates for the Hill Country" to help homeowners transform their lawns into native, water-wise landscapes. These well-designed templates offer simple, scalable examples that show the common principles for helping residential landscaping shift away from water-hungry turf lawns towards drought-tolerant native landscaping.

Great Water Conservation Tip - If you are thinking about converting your lawn to a native landscape, it may be a good time to rethink your irrigation system. If you are using native plants and planting them at the right time of year, you may be able to do away entirely with in-ground irrigation. The savings can be great for both your water use and your bill. [Get the HCA Guide Here](#). The Hill Country Alliance and Native Plant Society will be holding a webinar on June 16 to go through this landscape guide. You can learn more about the webinar and [register at this link](#).

GO GARDENING

Check out what's happening in this edition of your favorite landscape show - **Go Gardening!**



Go Gardening is back for a fifth season! Let's take a look at what's showing now.

In June, the Go Gardening crew put together a great segment on how to transform a part of your yard to a beautiful native plant bed. The example we used was our very first "Front Yard Makeover" contest winner's home in central San Antonio. The Gardening Volunteers of South Texas, a great TGR partner, got all of the native plants, soil materials, landscape rock, project design and installation donated. Then GVST gathered its volunteers to install the new native plant bed. You'll not only learn which plants were chosen for the project, but also get a great step-by-step tutorial in how to properly install and maintain a new native plant bed.

Next, we talked to a truly amazing woman who not only has become a native plant expert, but she also raises various vegetables from around the world to gather their seeds and share with people in various countries. She was a delight to be around and we all gained a new appreciation for how this former military officer has focused her retirement years on becoming a true source of knowledge about native plants in Texas. She also shares her knowledge through seminars, community presentations and a podcast.

[Click here to watch the latest Go Gardening Show.](#)

TGR'S DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANT PICKS

Having a water-saving garden doesn't mean you have to sacrifice color in your landscape. Here are two great suggestions to consider.

Inland sea oats, *Chasmanthium latifolium*, perfect for **shady areas** that needs some interest and movement! Inland sea oats are a clumping perennial grass reaching 2' to 4' in height. Particularly beautiful when planted en masse and during the fall when the oat-like seed heads mature. Inland sea oats are deer-resistant, but the seeds and leaves provide a wildlife benefit to birds and small mammals.

Woolly ironweed, *Vernonia lindheimeri*, another beauty to add interesting texture in the landscape, woolly ironweed is a perennial pollinator favorite. It will need a very well-draining, sunny spot. Ironweed is deer-resistant and can grow upwards of 2' in height and topped with deep pink to purple flowers that bloom from spring through the summer and into fall.

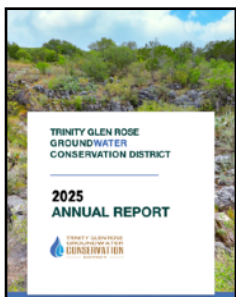


Photo credit: Sam C. Strickland, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Phot credit: Marilyn McBroom Knight, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

NEWS BRIEFS



TGR 2025 Annual Report - The TGR District recently published its approved 2025 Annual Report. In the report you'll find how the District performed against its management plan goals, an update of the growth of District operations, and a rundown on how District staff and board members interacted with the community regarding new policies, water conservation opportunities and programs for protecting the water quality in the Trinity Aquifer. [Click here to read and download a copy of the TGR 2025 Annual Report.](#)

The Trinity Glen Rose District has greatly enhanced its website's ADA capacity. We have applied a detailed compliance app to the [website](#) and added an accessibility widget (upper right corner) which gives the user many options to enhance font size, color saturation, contrast, text spacing and much more.

Unique Water Project in Texas - People are usually curious about how **desalination** of salt water from the ocean plays into water planning efforts for cities, states and countries. One interesting desalination pilot project is in operation in Texas' Rio Grande Valley. The Laguna Madre Water District provides water to South Padre, Port Isabel, Laguna Heights, Laguna Vista and Long Island Village. While it does get some source water from the Rio Grande River, it is ramping up its efforts to develop a robust seawater desalination program. [You can watch an interesting video about the project here.](#)

TWDB Water Dashboard - Water Data at your Fingertips - In addition to water itself, the water industry is powered by data. Water utility operators rely on real-time information about water quality and system demand; water resource engineers analyze data to make decisions about designing infrastructure; and hydrologists and other scientists analyze everything from streamflow to meteorological data.

You can view all types of water data regarding the State of Texas at Texas Water Development Board's Water Data for Texas website. [Click here to take a look around.](#)

Well Owner Fact Sheets and Publications - Do you own and operate a water well? If so, you know there is a little bit of work that goes into maintaining that well each year. The Texas Well Owner Network provides some great informational materials to help you through the process. [Click here to read more.](#)

TGR DID YOU KNOW?

That's a lot of water to waste...

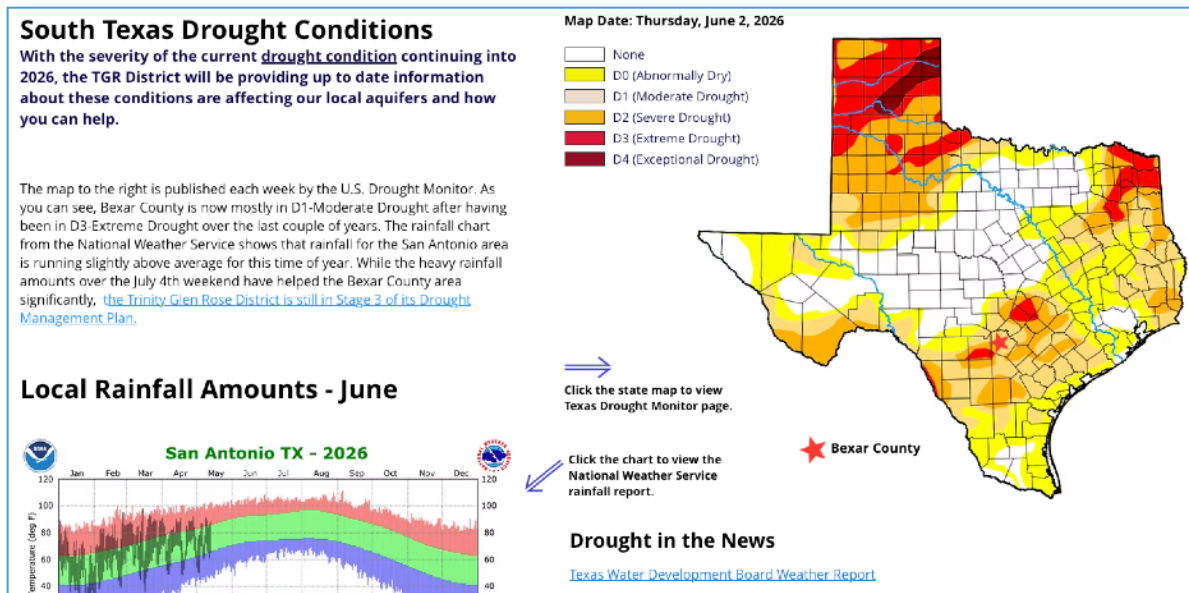
As much as 60% of irrigation water can be wasted due to common sprinkler system issues like leaks, broken sprinkler heads, and poor scheduling

A single broken sprinkler head can waste up to 25,000 gallons per year. Now is a great time to have your sprinkler system inspected to make sure it runs efficiently this summer. [Don't Waste the Wet Stuff!](#)

DROUGHT DASHBOARD

Get the latest updates on the state of the ongoing drought in the State of Texas.

With drought conditions easing just a bit in early 2026, the TGR District is providing up to date information about these conditions affecting local aquifers and how you can help.



At the TGR Drought Dashboard on the District's website home page, you will find the current U.S. drought monitor map, the rainfall chart from the National Weather Service, current drought news articles and a link to some great water conservation recommendations at our Don't Waste the Wet Stuff page.

[Click here to go to the latest TGR Drought Dashboard.](#)

TGR DETAILS

Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District



Board of Directors

Dr. Stuart Birnbaum - Precinct 1
Joe duMenil - Precinct 2 (Chairman)
Steven Peterson - Precinct 3
Joe Silman - Precinct 4
David Timmermann - Precinct 5

General Manager

Amanda Maloukis

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TGR Mission

The Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District was created in 2001 to conserve, preserve, and protect the Trinity Aquifer within the District.