

Rainwater Harvesting and Turf Management training

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program is hosting a residential rainwater harvesting and turf management training in San Antonio on Feb. 23.

Event is free and open to the public. Participants can also have their soil tested free of charge. Training will have a review of how to understand soil test results so residents and provide nutrient recommendations.

The Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program aims to improve and protect surface water quality by enhancing awareness and knowledge of best management practices, coordinators said. Attendees will learn about the design and installation of residential rainwater harvesting systems and appropriate turf and landscape species based on local conditions.

This training, is in collaboration with the Upper San Antonio River Authority Watershed Partnership, will be from 1-5 p.m. Feb. 23 in the conference room at the [AgriLife Extension office in Bexar County](#), 3355 Cherry Ridge St. suite 208 in San Antonio.

Seating is limited, so attendees for this program are requested to register at the Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters website. Those planning to attend the San Antonio program should register at <https://hlhw.tamu.edu/workshops/2018/san-antonio/>.

Dr. Ben Wherley, Texas A&M AgriLife Research turfgrass ecology scientist, College Station, said management practices such as irrigation delivery equipment, interpreting soil tests and understanding nutrient applications can help reduce runoff and provide additional landscape irrigation water.

"These practices can improve understanding of rainwater harvesting and landscape management," he said.

Dr. Diane Boellstorff, AgriLife Extension water resource specialist, College Station, said proper fertilizer application and efficient water irrigation can protect and improve water quality in area creeks and collecting rainwater for lawn and landscape needs reduces stormwater runoff.

Reagan Hejl, research associate in the soil and crop sciences department, said soil samples will be submitted to the AgriLife Extension Soil, Water and Forage Testing Lab for routine analysis, including pH, conductivity, nitrate-nitrogen and other parameters.

Residents in the Upper San Antonio River Watershed area can pick up a soil sample bag and instructions at the Agrilife Extension office in Bexar County For more information on that program or how to collect soil samples, contact the office at 210-631-0400.

At the San Antonio program, Lee Marlowe, sustainable landscape ecologists at San Antonio River Authority, will discuss updates on watershed protection plan activities to improve and protect water quality in the San Antonio River.

For more information about the Upper San Antonio River Watershed Protection Plan, go to http://www.bexarfloodfacts.org/watershed_protection_plan/.