

2011 TEEA Winner Water Conservation, North Texas Municipal Water District

Narrator:

The East Fork Wetlands cover nearly two thousand acres and are home to more than a million aquatic plants.

Denise Hickey, Public Relations Coordinator, North Texas Municipal Water District:

It provides the water that we need for the future and we get to educate and have research opportunities at the same time.

Narrator:

The wetlands are filled with water diverted from the Trinity River. It's moved through a series of ponds where aquatic plants naturally remove sediment, phosphorus and nitrogen. Then once it's cleansed, it is piped to Lavon Lake to help meet the district's growing demand for water.

Jim Parks, Executive Director, North Texas Municipal Water District:

Our current service population is expected to increase over 3.5 million people and we look at conservation and reuse in our planning process to meet about twenty-five percent or more of that growth over that planning period.

Narrator:

The wetlands bolster conservation efforts by contributing over 102 thousand acre feet of water per year to the communities drinking water supply. The North Texas Municipal Water District also built a new

education center. Already more than 2,000 school children from all over North Texas have come here for hands-on science projects.

Satchel Brooks, student:

I wanna be here because I have visual and it's better than looking at pictures.

John Defilipo, Director, John Bunker Sands Wetland Center:

That's when the textbook comes alive and that's where they can draw those connections and say "Oh, I remember that—I was at the wetland."

Narrator:

North Texas Municipal Water District emphasizes the importance of water conservation through the Water IQ Public Education Program. Combined with the wetlands project, the effort helps the district meet immediate demands while also influencing the way an entire generation views this precious resource.