

# Sustainability Snapshot

## MCC'S SPRING SUSTAINABILITY WEEK HIGHLIGHTS



April 4: Adopt-A-Street Cleanup volunteers



April 5: Highlander Ranch Tour Hay Ride



April 6: Birding for Beginners



April 7: Arbor Day Observance



April 7: Arbor Day – three new campus trees



April 7: MCC's Shred Day

## MCC'S ADOPT-A-STREET CLEANUP

MCC's Summer street cleanup is planned for Wednesday, June 22. All participants will meet at parking lot R on Powell Drive at 3:30 p.m. Supplies for the clean-up will be provided by Keep Waco Beautiful Inc.

Please bring a filled water bottle, wear close-toed shoes, and dress for the weather. Long pants are preferred.

If you need more information about this event, please email Donna Wiley at [dwiley@mclennan.edu](mailto:dwiley@mclennan.edu) or Michele Anderson at [manderson@mclennan.edu](mailto:manderson@mclennan.edu).

All volunteers must complete this attached link before the clean-up begins: <https://signup.com/go/fniKHmt>



*Volunteers  
Needed*



To contact the MCC sustainability committee, please feel free to send an email to [sustainability@mclennan.edu](mailto:sustainability@mclennan.edu)

# Sustainability in the Community

## KEEP WACO BEAUTIFUL RIVER CLEANUP

### DOS EQUIS + KEEP TEXAS BEAUTIFUL WATERWAYS DAY

RIVER CLEANUP. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. FREE FOOD. FREE DRINKS.

**JUNE 11 | 12 - 3  
BRAZOS PARK EAST**

PRESENTED BY:



Keep Waco Beautiful will be hosting a river cleanup starting at Brazos Park East on Saturday, June 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is in conjunction with Keep Texas Beautiful and Dos Equis, who is sponsoring the Texas Waterways Cleanups. Paddle boats will be provided for those who want to get in the river; others can walk the banks to clean up litter along the Brazos. For more details please click here:

<https://www.keepwacobeachful.org/take-action>

## ANNUAL MOSQUITO AWARENESS EVENT AND TIPS

**BUZZ OFF**  
**2022**

**Saturday, June 25, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**@ Farmer's Market**  
510 Washington Ave. (across from McLennan Co. Courthouse)

**FOR MORE INFO:** 254-848-9654, [noras@wacotx.gov](mailto:noras@wacotx.gov)  
254-744-4156, [dkaywiley@yahoo.com](mailto:dkaywiley@yahoo.com)

**Participating Organizations**

- City of Waco Solid Waste
- Bonnie's Greenhouse
- Waco-McLennan County Public Health District
- City of Waco Lake Waco Wetlands
- Heart of Texas Master Naturalists
- CreARtIVE Event Planning

**FIGHT THE BITE!**

**AMCA**  
THE AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Warmer weather in Texas brings residents out to enjoy it, unfortunately, mosquitoes come out too! Did you know that there are over 200 types of mosquitoes in the U.S.? Mosquito bites have the potential to spread diseases such as Zika, West Nile, and Malaria, and can be deadly.

Here are some helpful tips from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to prevent pesky mosquito bites:

- Get rid of standing water, where mosquitoes lay their eggs. A female mosquito can lay 100 to 300 eggs at one time.
- Replace water in birdbaths on a weekly basis.
- Check your window screens to keep mosquitoes outside!
- Wear protective, light colored clothing & cover exposed skin.
- Make sure your pets are on heartworm prevention year round. A mosquito bite can cause heartworms in animals.
- Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved insect repellent. More information can be found at: [epa.gov/insect-repellents](http://epa.gov/insect-repellents).

**Small bite, big threat**  
**Fight the bite, destroy mosquito breeding sites**

## CITY OF WACO GRASS CLIPPINGS & LEAVES

- Must be placed in **paper bags** (not plastic) for collection or placed in the City of Waco green waste cart. Paper bags can easily be mulched.
- Bags can also go at the curb during green weeks.
- Plastic bags will be the responsibility of the resident.
- Paper waste bags are available for purchase at these stores: Lowe's, Home Depot & Walmart; **please, no more than 20 bags at a time.**
- Do not put any other trash in the same paper bag or yard waste cart.





## HEART OF TEXAS POND TOUR



## LAKE WACO WETLANDS

(A division of the Water Utilities Department)  
The vision of Waco's future is how the Lake Waco Wetlands came to be. In 2000, the Waco City Council voted to increase the level of Lake Waco by seven feet, providing an additional 20,000 acre-feet of water. Over 180 acres of Lake Waco Wetlands was created to mitigate the habitat loss when Lake Waco was raised by those seven feet. With the addition of the Research and Education Center, it has grown to become an important living laboratory for research, education, and recreation. Functions of the Lake Waco Wetlands include: providing a habitat for native animals and plants, environmentally showing how plants in a wetland help "clean" water, and providing educational programs and science based activities for wetland visitors.

## TIPS FOR HANDLING AND DISPOSING OF ASBESTOS

Attached is a link offering safety tips on asbestos disposal resources from the Mesothelioma Center: <https://www.asbestos.com/exposure/handling-disposing-asbestos/>. This guide covers information such as:

- How to Handle Asbestos
- How Asbestos is Recycled
- Asbestos Safety

The best way to handle, dispose of and recycle asbestos is to hire licensed asbestos abatement professionals. The guide will help you learn more about how asbestos is recycled and how professionals safely handle and dispose of asbestos-containing materials.

### OLDER ASBESTOS-CONTAINING PRODUCTS CAN INCLUDE:

- Insulation
- Flooring materials
- Ceiling & roofing materials
- Adhesives
- HVAC ductwork
- Electrical components
- Drywall
- Shingles and siding
- Plumbing
- Fireplace materials



Learning about asbestos products that may be common in homes and schools can help you protect your family from asbestos exposure. This will also help your family members learn to recognize and avoid waste that was improperly dumped that may contain asbestos.

## WATER CONSERVATION IS IMPORTANT

The City of Waco needs your help! Rainfall predictions continue to be lower than usual. Waco has experienced seven months of continual drought in our region. Heavy water use has reduced Lake Waco to less than 80% of its normal capacity and we need residents to conserve where they can, to avoid having to restrict water use. Remember, conserving water saves you money!

Recently, Lake Waco, our regional, primary water source, stood at about 457 feet above sea level, about five feet down from its normal level of 462 feet. Dropping just two more feet (down to 455 feet) will automatically trigger Stage One of the city's Drought Contingency Plan. Reports on water use from our residents and businesses show that water use from November 2021 to March 2022 was at a four-year high for that period.

Attached are some general water conservation tips we can all practice. Every little bit helps!

- Water your lawn and outdoor plants in the morning or evening, when temperatures are cooler and there is less evaporation.
- Use a timer when watering to avoid forgetful over watering.
- Check pipes and faucets, indoors and out, for leaks on a regular basis.
- Shorten your showers by just a minute or two and save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Defrost food in the refrigerator instead of under running water.
- Wash dishes and clothes only when loads are full.
- Turn off faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- If you have a pool or spa, use a cover to decrease evaporation.



## SAVE THE DATES: MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

- ✓ September 13: **Sustainable September Opening Mixer**, will be held at the Cameron Park Zoo and hosted by the Waco Sustainability Network.
- ✓ September 14: **Green Cities Sustainability Conference**, hosted by the Waco Sustainability Network.
- ✓ October 12-16: **Ironman Waco Festival**. Keep Waco Beautiful will need many volunteers to help with trash pickup and waste diversion to reduce waste impacts to our local environment. You can sign up by looking for "Keep Waco Beautiful" at: <https://ironman.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=59963>
- ✓ October 20: **MCC's Adopt-A-Street Cleanup**: Participants will be meeting at parking lot R, at 1:15pm.
- ✓ October or November: **Free Trees for the Climate**: Friends of the Climate will distribute free Crepe Myrtle trees to increase the City's carbon sinks, help mitigate extreme heat, and increase biodiversity.