

Brenham | Washington County Economic Development

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 3

Summer, 2023

Water Is The Driving Force Of All Nature. And Business.



Over the last few years, one of the first questions Texas economic developers have to ask relocating businesses is, “how much water will you need?”

The resulting answer will help city leaders determine if capacity for serving water is possible.

There is no endless supply of water anywhere.

In Brenham, we get our water from Lake Somerville. Water is pumped through a 24’ pipe that travels about 14 miles until it reaches the water treatment plant. This one water source serves Brenham residents and businesses.

As Washington County grows, leaders have to rely on water experts to track this precious commodity daily. **Yes, daily!** Some water users have wells, but with the drought conditions of the last few years, monitoring all sources, including reservoirs and aquifers, becomes important.

ARE WE IN A DROUGHT?

Several agencies have gotten together to produce the U.S. Drought Monitor, which can be found at WaterDataForTexas.org. As of the

week of 7/18/2023, Washington County is considered “Abnormally Dry”.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

We have to make tough choices as a growing community. If a large water user wants to relocate here because of everything that makes Washington County a fantastic place to live and work, we may have to carefully consider the project.



WHAT CAN RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES DO?

Experts in the local utility industry have been managing this challenge for a long time, but we don’t have to wait to start the process of meaningful solutions.

1) Conservation—There are so many ways to conserve. Find information here:

www.takecareoftexas.org/water

2) Consider high efficiency appliances and equipment.

3) Be water wise—Think “drought tolerant” when selecting plants and flowers for landscaping. There are many to choose from in a



Blackfoot Daisy



Texas Lantana

wide variety of styles and colors!

3) Landscape—Think xeriscape design.

4) Fix faulty equipment—Make sure your equipment is free from leaks and is in good overall working order.

WHAT CAN GOVERNMENT DO?

Government is already doing it! Our local water companies, counties, and cities monitor capacity and create plans for the future. You will regularly see agenda items at City Council Meetings or Commissioner’s Court Meetings related to water wells, water treatment, potential drought restrictions, etc. Keep up to date with your community and help to be part of the

solution by conserving this precious, natural resource.





The Green Business Bureau produces the [Water Conservation Guide for Business: 20 Tips To Reduce Water Usage.](#)

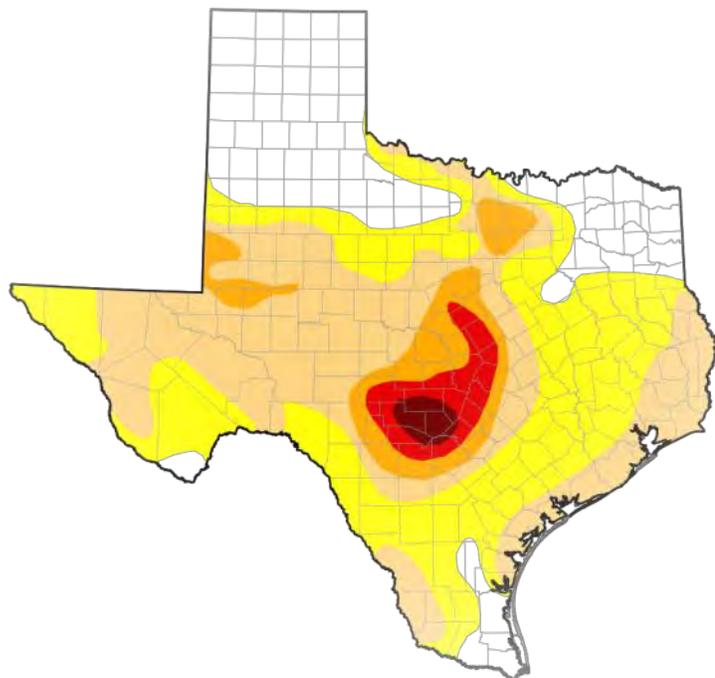
Find it at GreenBusinessBureau.com



U.S. Drought Monitor

As of 7/18/2023

-  NO DROUGHT
-  ABNORMALLY DRY
-  MODERATE DROUGHT
-  SEVERE DROUGHT
-  EXTREME DROUGHT
-  EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT



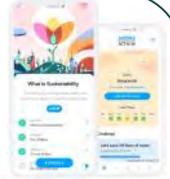
Source: WaterDataForTexas.com



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015. This agenda provides a shared blueprint for peace and posterity for people and the planet, now and in the future. At the heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) which are an urgent call for action by all countries—developed and developing—in a global partnership. For a list of all 17 goals, go to SDGS.UN.org/goals. Goal #6 is highlighted below.

Take action on climate! Act Now.



The App for Living Sustainably in the Modern World

In Support of the United Nations ACTNOW Campaign



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL



FOR AT LEAST **3 BILLION PEOPLE,**

THE QUALITY OF THE WATER THEY DEPEND ON IS UNKNOWN DUE TO A LACK OF MONITORING

733+ MILLION PEOPLE



LIVE IN COUNTRIES WITH HIGH AND CRITICAL LEVELS OF WATER STRESS

(2019)

MEETING **DRINKING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE** TARGETS BY 2030 REQUIRES A **4X** INCREASE IN THE PACE OF PROGRESS



ONLY ONE QUARTER

OF REPORTING COUNTRIES HAVE **>90%** OF THEIR **TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS** COVERED BY **OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS** (2020)

The Economic Development Toolbox

The State Tax Code outlines criteria for local governments related to economic development. The City of Brenham and Washington County are utilizing the following economic development tools to promote development in our community.

Chapter 312—Property Tax Abatement (Tax Phase-In)

Purpose:

- Create or retain primary jobs
- Add new real and/or personal property value to tax rolls
- Duration of 10 years
- A % of property tax is abated each year

Chapter 380 & Chapter 381—Economic Development Programs and Grants



Purpose:

- Grants of public funds for the purpose of promoting economic development and stimulating business and commercial activity
- Chapter 380—City
- Chapter 381—County

Chapter 311—Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone

Purpose:

- Promote development or redevelopment in an area that would not occur in the foreseeable future solely through private investment (**See TIRZ map on next page**)

For more information on any of these programs, please scan QR code or reach out to Teresa

Details

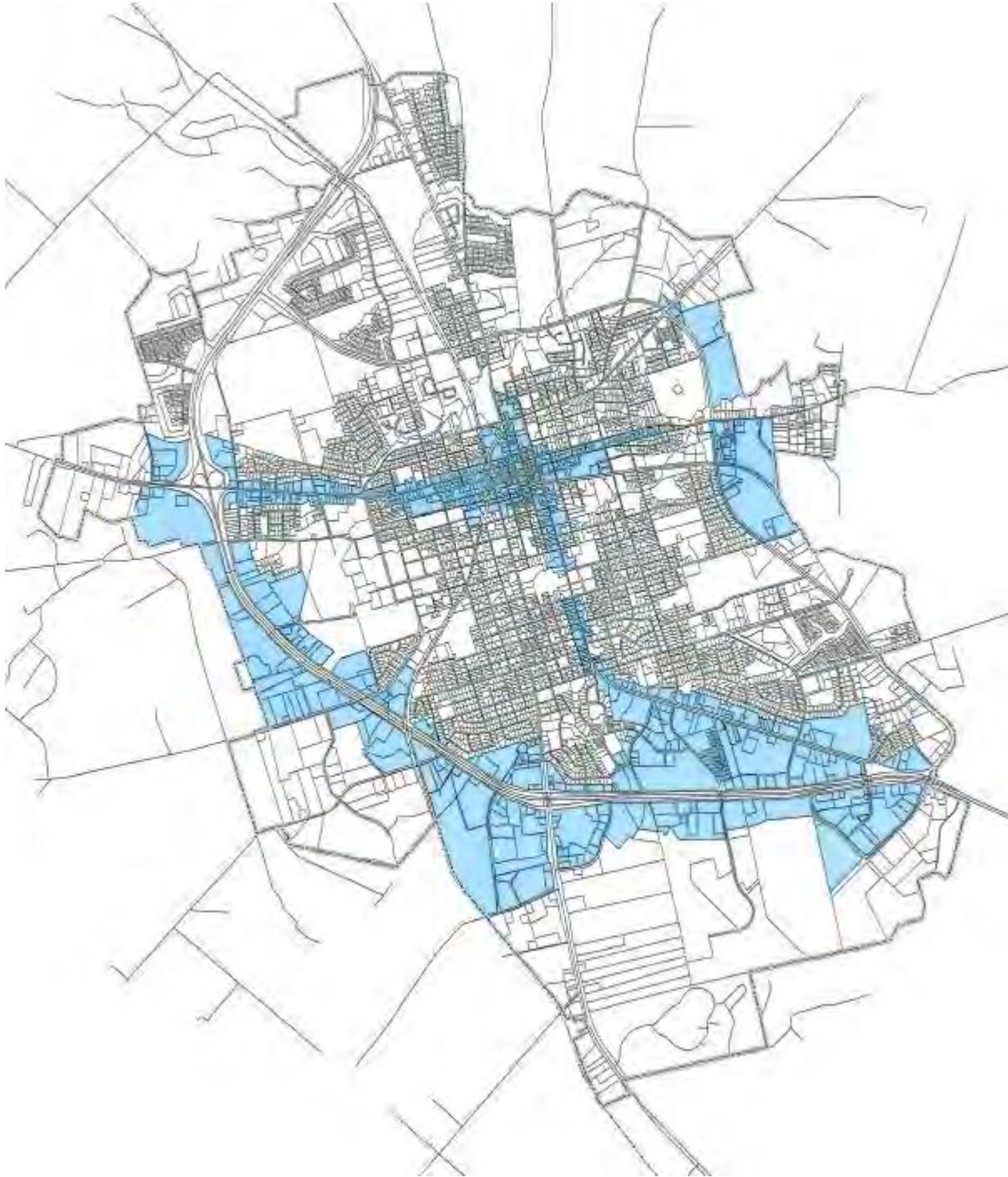
For more information about these incentives along with others, please visit: BrenhamED.com and click on "Locate Here" and then "Incentives."



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City of Brenham, Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) map



ARE YOU HIRING?

Request a FREE Account to post your open positions by scanning QR code or visit

WashCoTXJobs.com



Housing Task Force Highlights

A report was provided to Brenham City Council in April outlining the recommendations from the Housing Task Force.

The Task Force met six times since its establishment in July of 2022 and their report can be viewed online at CityofBrenham.org as part of the 4/6/23 Agenda Packet.

City staff has met and divided recommendations into short, medium, and long-term goals.

The first set of recommendations deal with changes to the municipal code which will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Committee on July 24, 2023 and then to City Council on August 3, 2023.



Washington County Housing Snapshot

2023 Median Home Price



**Washington
County, Tx**

Source: South Central Board of Realtors,
Texas Realtors and Texas A&M
University Texas Real Estate Research
Center

Economic Development Partners



On Friday, September 9, 2022, the Chappell Hill Water Supply Corporation initiated a GoFundMe page to support their "Save the Water Tower" campaign. The iconic water tower is in serious need of repair. Built in 1967, the water tower has provided water for customers in the Chappell Hill area for more than 56 years. These customers include both residential and business entities. There is not a shortage of water, but the storage and delivery of the water that are issues.

The Chappell Hill Water Supply Corporation has a forgivable loan application in place with the TWDB (Texas Water Development Board) but the process takes several months before a decision is made. The GoFundMe donations are designated for immediate tower repairs as well as a generator that is mandated by TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality). Donations are gratefully accepted at www.chappellhillwater.com. Donations can also be made directly to the SAVE THE WATER TOWER campaign account in person or mailed to Chappell Hill Bank, P.O. Box 280, Chappell Hill TX 77426.

Chappell Hill Water Supply Corporation Strategy

Phase 1

Replace the ladder and safety cable \$ 24,000

Add a back-up generator to the system \$ 120,000

Phase 2

Refurbish the elevated tower \$ 430,000

Phase 3

Replace aged pipes on Main, Poplar,

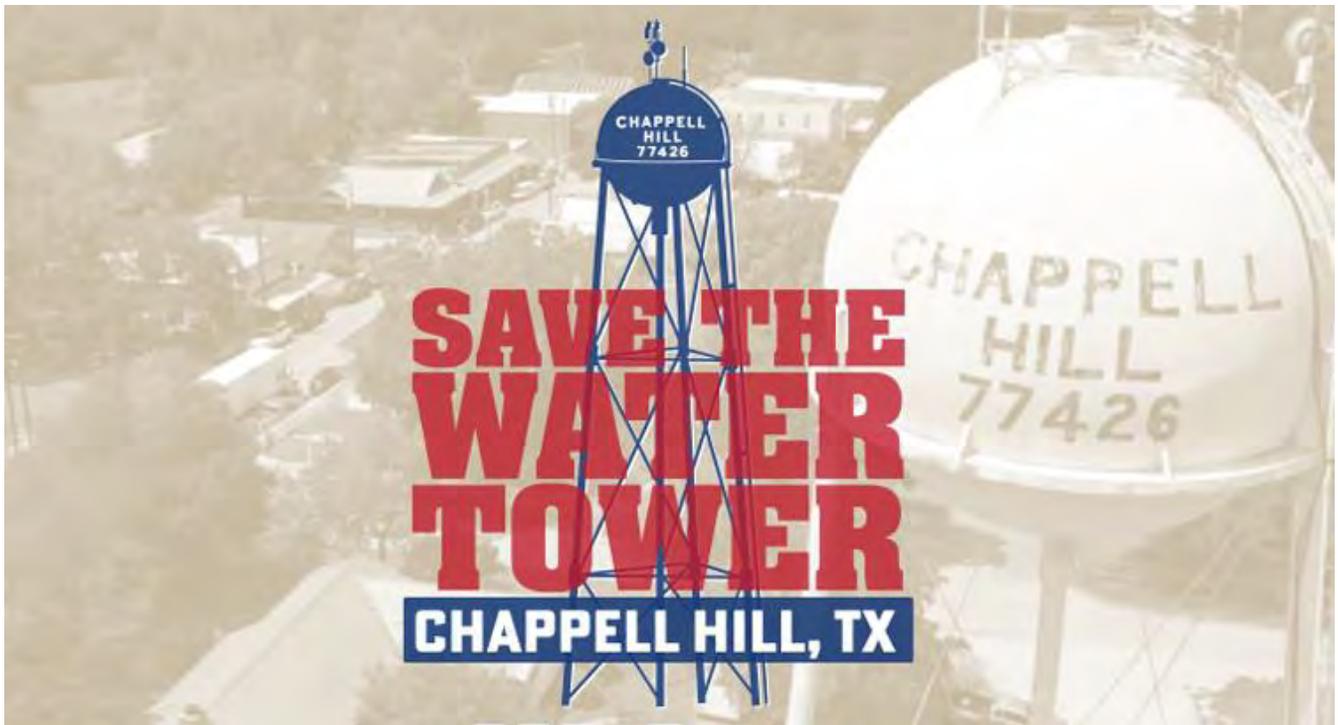
Willow Bend & Cedar Streets \$1,920,000

TOTAL COST \$2,494,000

These improvements will allow Chappell Hill Water Supply Corporation to continue to support the growth of our small, rural community.

Sharlie Douglass, President
Chappell Hill Water Supply Corporation

www.ChappellHillWater.com



Economic Development Partners (continued)



The Washington County Chamber represents nearly 800 business members in a variety of industries and employers throughout the county. The business community of Washington County knows the value of water and they depend on access to these lifeline services for their economic prosperity, as well as for the health and quality of life for their employees, customers, and families within this community. The Chamber will continue to partner with Lake Somerville initiatives to keep the business community a priority. Water is essential to economic development and contributes to all

economic sectors. Due to its necessity, the Washington County Chamber of Commerce believes that every job, is a water job.

May God continue to bless you, your business, and your family,

Jamie Rankin

CEO & President Washington County Chamber of Commerce



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