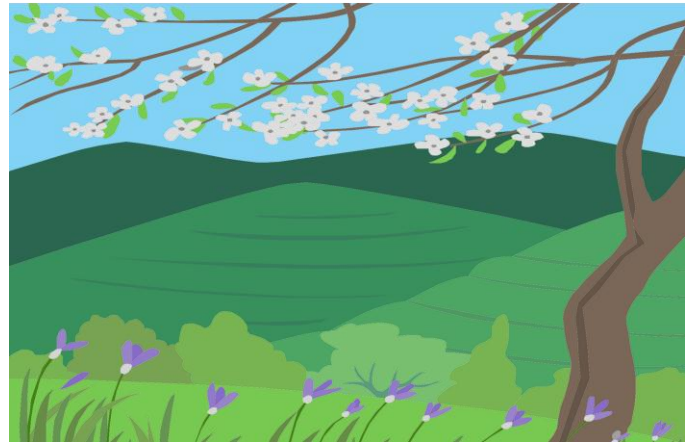


# TOWN OF FAIRVIEW ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

Town of Fairview, 372 Town Place, Fairview, TX 75069  
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## Fairview 2010 Environmental Metrics

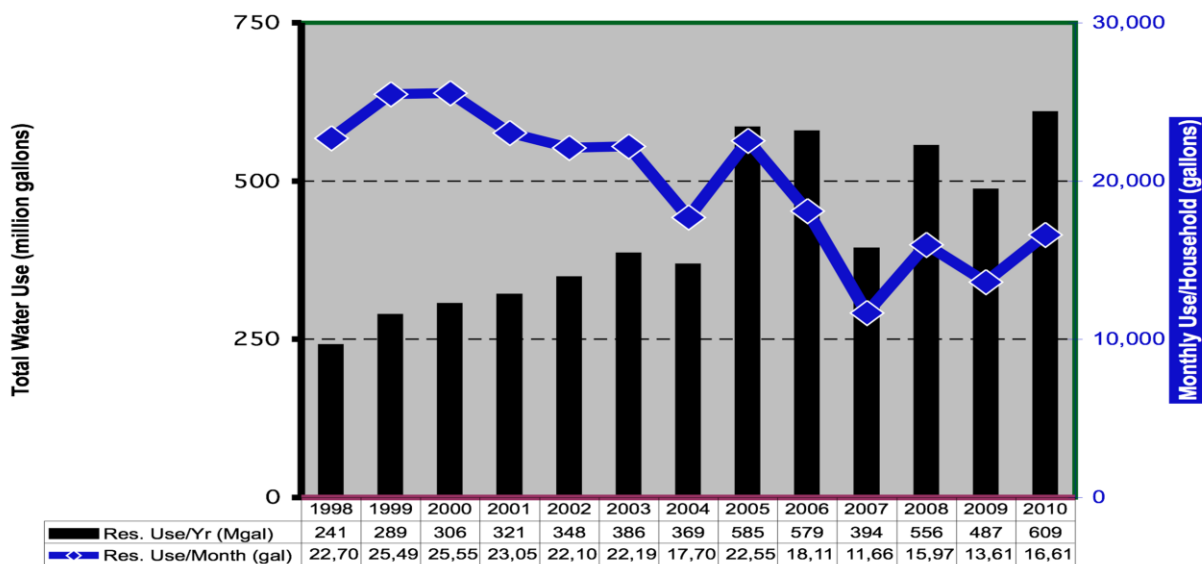
By Paul Westbrook

Following are several metrics on town water use and waste generation for 2010.

### Water

Being efficient in water use helps ensure our water supply – and saves you money. The chart below shows the annual residential water use in black and the average water user per household in blue. The average has trended down as smaller lots were developed on the west side of town, but the gains have leveled off the past few years.

**Fairview Residential Water Use**



The chart below shows average water use per person. After years of decline the Fairview use/person bounced back up to 238 gallons/person in 2010. The state has a goal of 140 gallons/person, so we have some work to do if we intend to reach that goal. There is comparison data from other local cities showing that Fairview has a much higher rate per person. The chart also shows the residential use per person. The difference in the figures represents commercial use, public use, and water that is unaccounted for.

#### 2008 Comparison Data

Fairview avg = 217

Allen avg = 121

McKinney avg = 122

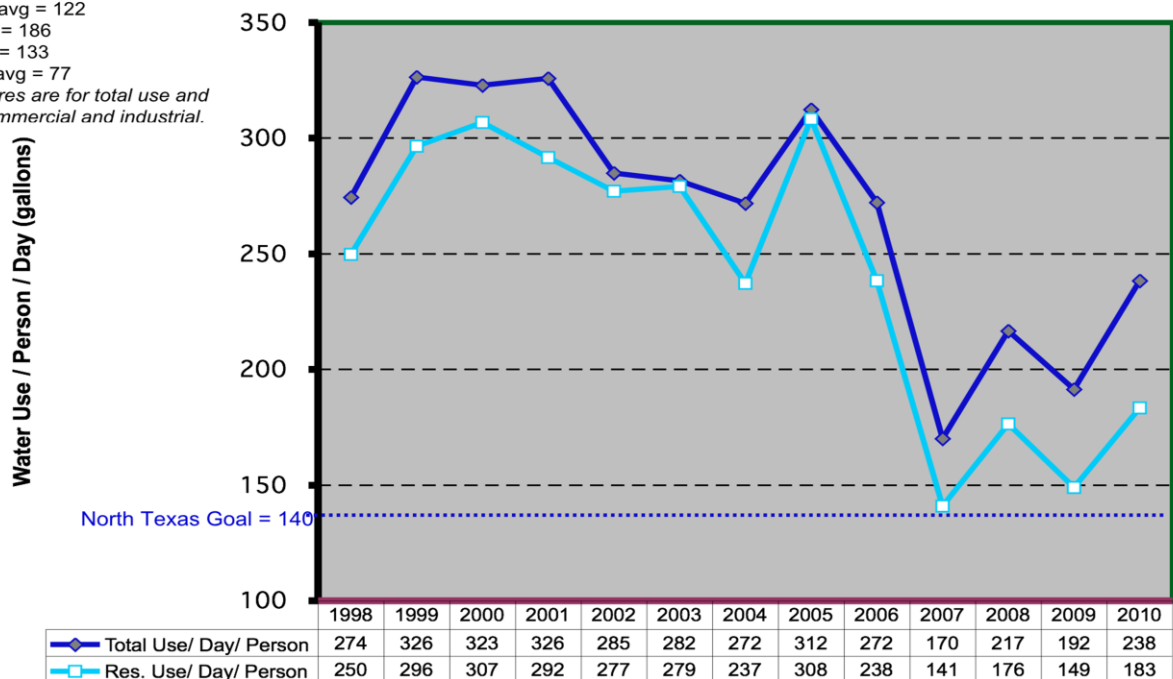
Lucas avg = 186

Plano avg = 133

Princeton avg = 77

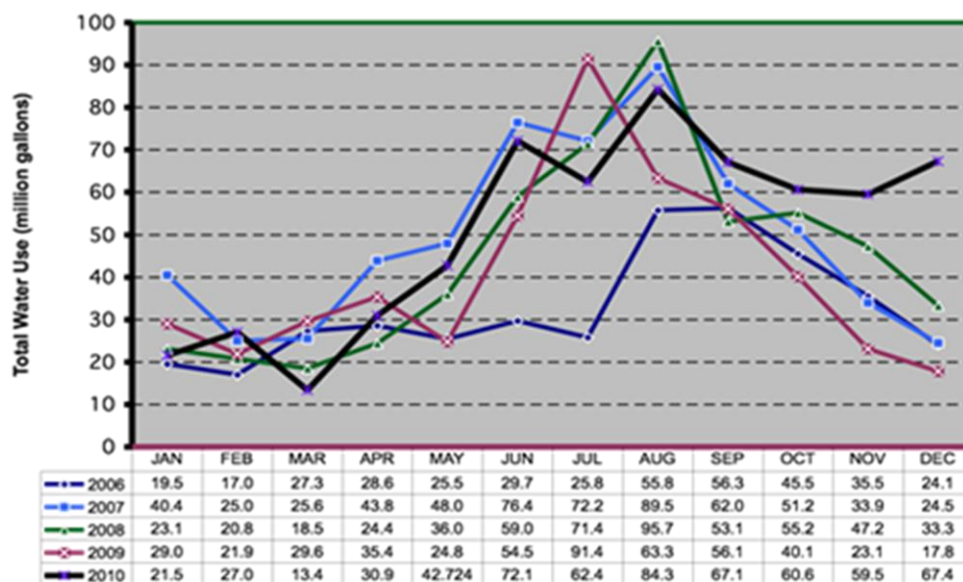
Those figures are for total use and include commercial and industrial.

#### Fairview Residential Water Use



The monthly data shows most years with a typical peak during the summer when more households irrigate and swimming pools are in use. In 2010 there was an unusual rise during the later months of the year. Though we had lower than average rainfall for November and much of December, most plants are dormant during this time and do not require irrigation. Residents can save water and money by adjusting or turning off their irrigation systems in the winter.

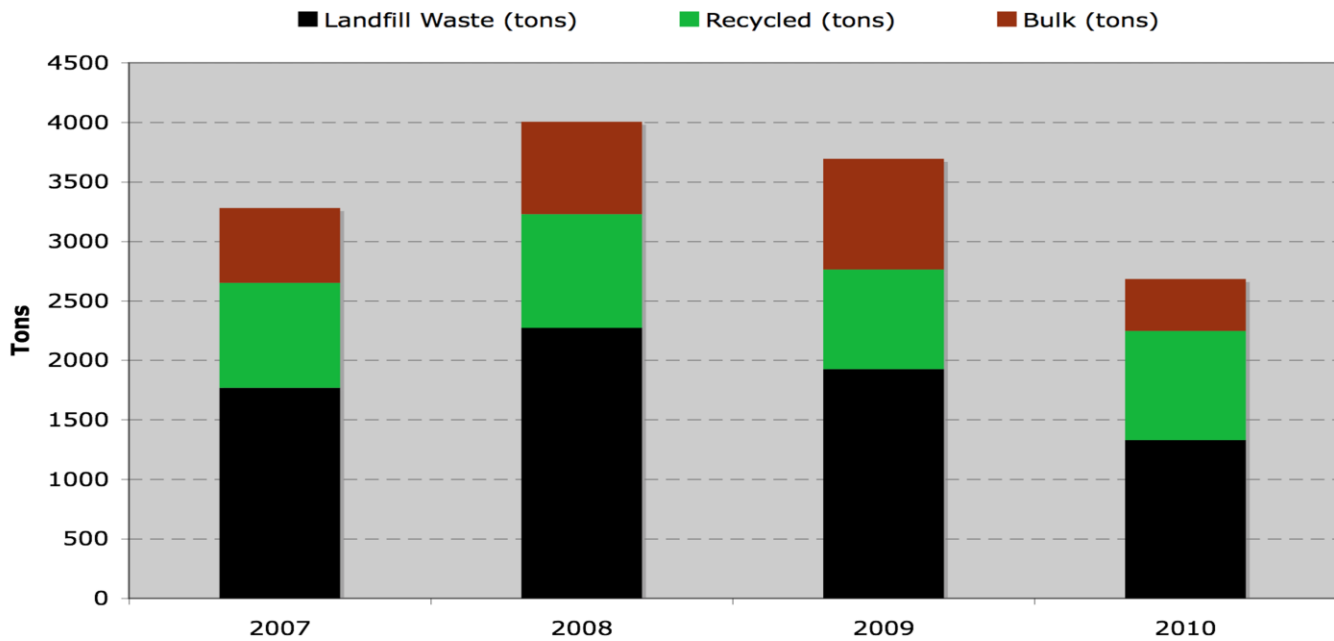
#### Fairview Residential Monthly Water Use



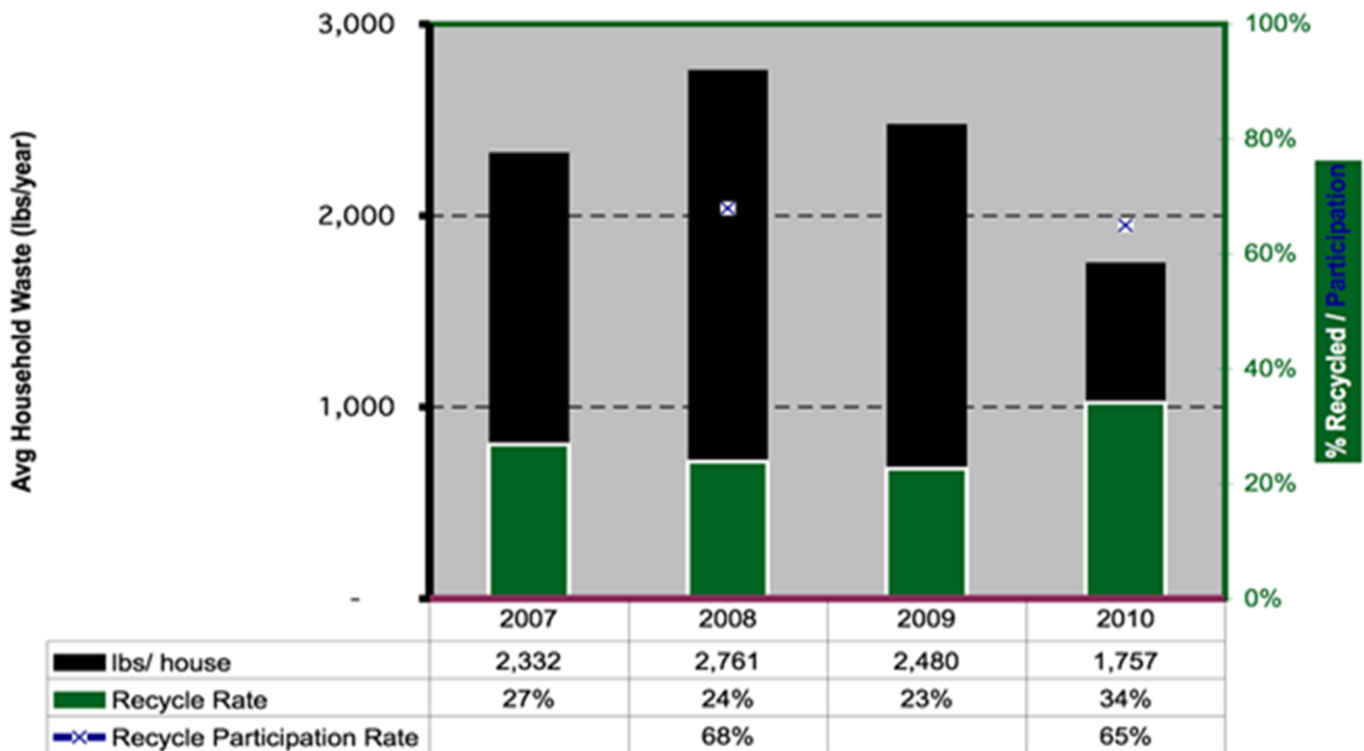
### Waste

The charts below show the past year trends for waste, recycling, and bulk trash. For 2010 there was a decrease in overall waste and reductions in bulk waste. The recycling rate increased to 34%, which is very good, though participation is still only at 65%. Bulk waste is still heavily comprised of yard and tree trimmings. Consider a compost pile for yard waste and hiring a chipper to shred your tree trimmings into useful mulch.

**Fairview Total Waste**



**Fairview Waste Performance**



## Eco-Friendly Disposal of Medications

By Adam Wilbourn

Walgreens has launched the first eco-friendly medication disposal program in the United States. For \$2.99 customers can purchase a sealable bag for unused or expired medication (with the exception of controlled substances), and mail them to a facility for incineration. Law enforcement is present at the facility to ensure that sealed bags aren't tampered with. The ashes from the medications are used to make "green" building materials, rather than going into a landfill where they could enter local water supplies.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends that medications be crushed and mixed with substances such as kitty litter or coffee grounds to deter animals or humans from trying to consume them. The FDA also recommends that the mixture be placed in a sealable plastic bag and thrown into your residential trash. This has been deemed by some as a less than satisfactory disposal method, because the medications can still find their way into local water supplies. However, the FDA does suggest that a local take back program such as the one Walgreens offers is another alternative disposal method.

An Associated Press study has shown trace amounts of pharmaceuticals in the water supplies surrounding twenty four major U.S. cities. The Environmental Protection Agency has stated that these trace amounts pose no threat to the health of citizens, but the discovery of these traces in local water supplies has grown the awareness of proper medication disposal methods.

When determining which method of disposal to use, it's important to remember that we have a responsibility to keep contaminants out of the water that we consume on a daily basis. Drug take back programs such as the one Walgreens

offers are a great way of ensuring that Fairview's water supply is free of pharmaceuticals.

## Water Conservation Tips

By Adam Wilbourn

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated the week of March 14–20 as "Fix a Leak Week". The purpose of this week is to help curb water leaks in homes across the country. Nationwide, more than 1 trillion gallons of water leak from U.S. homes. On average, more than 10,000 gallons can be wasted due to leaks per home. These leaks come from running toilets, dripping faucets, and other household fixtures that dispense or require water to function.

For more information about "Fix a Leak Week" and how you can put an end to leaks in your home, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/>. Once you've accessed this website there will be plenty of educational resources and information on how to stop leaks.

## Computer Recycling

By Adam Wilbourn

The constant evolution of computers can easily label something as cutting edge one week and then obsolete the next. So what do we do with all of the old computers once we've updated? It's important that we dispose of these items in an environmentally friendly way. Simply throwing them into a dumpster or having the garbage company pick them up with your usual rubbish will not do.

An environmentally friendly method of disposal that costs residents no money whatsoever is currently being promoted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). By going to <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/P2Recycle/electronics/manufacturer-list.html> you'll have a list of all the computer manufacturers who participate in this free recycling program. Simply click on your manufacturers' name and follow their instructions for recycling the computer equipment.



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## Important Dates

### Spring Clean Up & Trash Off

Fairview's annual Trash Off, which again this year will include an opportunity to dispose of certain household hazardous wastes, will be **Saturday April 9** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will once again be held at the old town hall, located at 500 S. Highway 5.

As a friendly reminder, the dumpster located at the old town hall is not meant for public use, but for town projects only.



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