Lost Creek switched to a new tiered water rate system on Oct. 1

Beginning Oct. 1, Lost Creek changed from a flat water rate system to a tiered rate structure to offset cost increases from the City of Austin and provide customers an opportunity to save money through water conservation.

Under the tiered system, the minimum bill of $8.50 will remain unchanged. The tiered system will include three tiers of water usage:

- **1st Tier**: Less than 10,000 gallons = $4.09 per 1,000 gallons
- **2nd Tier**: 10,001 – 35,000 gallons = $4.69 per 1,000 gallons
- **3rd Tier**: Above 35,000 gallons = $6.40 per 1,000 gallons

Although an increase over the current rate, the tiered rate increase will cost less for customers that use under 30,000 gallons per month than if Lost Creek had continued with a flat volumetric water rate system increase.

In order to continue with the current flat rate system, the MUD would need to increase the rate from its current $3.62 per 1,000 gallons to $4.49 per 1,000 gallons.

### Estimated Water Cost Per Month Based on Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Use Per Month in Gallons</th>
<th>Cost Under a Flat Rate</th>
<th>Cost Under a Tiered Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>$17.48</td>
<td>$16.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>$682.00</td>
<td>$902.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rather than continue with a flat rate system, the August 23 meeting the Board of Directors implemented a tiered system that will become effective for all bills received after Oct. 1. The tiered rate is intended to provide an opportunity for water customers to save money by conserving and watering wisely and to help reduce peak usage that will affect future water rate increases from the City.

Regardless of which system the MUD uses, it would have to raise water rates due to an 18.6 percent water cost hike from the City of Austin that began on Oct. 1. The rate increase is caused by several factors, including construction of Water Treatment Plant 4 and other capital needs of the City to continue providing service to us.

However, a portion of the increase from the City of Austin is caused by Lost Creek’s peak water usage increasing 9.4 percent over the last three years.

In 2010, 26 percent of the homes in Lost Creek used 50 percent of the water and 24 homes used between 500,000 and 934,000 gallons of water annually, while average summer time use by Lost Creek customers was approximately 23,000 gallons a month.

The new tiered rate system is intended to promote water conservation and will shift a portion of cost increases to customers who choose to continue to use more water.

For additional information, check the Lost Creek MUD website [www.lostcreekmud.org](http://www.lostcreekmud.org) or call the District office at 327-6243.

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**Lost Creek Resident Surveys Are on Their Way!**

To continue improving the neighborhood, the Lost Creek MUD Board would like your valuable input on our Residential Survey, which should be showing up in your mailbox within the next few weeks.

Please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it to the MUD office. You will also be able to respond online. See www.lostcreekmud.org for more information.
Letter from the President

Fall Focus on Conservation; Wildfire Preparedness

Dear Lost Creek Neighbor:

Do you know how much water your household used last month? Probably, the answer is no. And that answer is understandable since paying your monthly MUD water bill is just another utility bill one has to pay to keep our homes livable and functional. However, with the extreme drought, exceptionally high summer temperatures, lack of significant rainfall and constant dropping of the nearby lake levels, which are the source of our water, I am hopeful that all of us will try to be more careful in our water use both inside and outside of our homes.

Since the MUD purchases potable water from the City of Austin, every year they calculate from the peak water usage how much of a rate increase we will receive. This year we received an 18.6% rate increase. Therefore, we have decided that in order to make our residents more aware of water conservation and to reduce our peak water usage, we have gone to a tiered water rate system. (Please see Page 1 for more info on the new tiered water rate system).

Since January 2008, when your MUD Board approved becoming a part of the national Firewise Communities/USA, we have been working diligently to clear our greenbelts of ladder fuel and to promote efforts to make our homes and yards more fire resistant. This year we provided the chipper/shredder service at the beginning of the month to allow residents to clear and safely dispose of underbrush and tree trimmings. We do maintain and monitor all of the fire hydrants in Lost Creek to make sure they are in good operating order. Please don't allow any vehicles to park in front of a fire hydrant. In case of an emergency, a fire response team would need to have direct access to the hydrant.

We also invite you to register your cell phone with the free Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) Emergency Notification System (ENS) in order to be immediately notified whenever property or human life is in jeopardy. (Please see the article on Page 3).

Our request to be a part of Travis County's Transportation and Bond Referendum for the construction of new sidewalks in Lost Creek was approved in August. We have been working with an engineering firm to determine where new sidewalks should be built to provide more safety and recreation for the many adults and children who walk, jog and bike around our beautiful Lost Creek. A map of the proposed locations is on our website and we do plan to have a sidewalk public hearing to get more feedback on these locations and how they would be constructed.

The date of the Travis County Transportation and Bond referendum is Tuesday, November 8. Please vote in support of these bonds, as there are many other projects included to improve Travis County roads and parks.

And please remember that October is Fire Safety Month and we are still under a Travis County Burn Ban. Hope to see you at the LCNA's Fall Family Picnic on Sunday, October 23!

Nancy J. Naev
President
Lost Creek MUD Board

P.S. Don't forget to check your last water bill to see your usage last month, as well as your usage for the past 12 months! We all need to do our part to save our precious water!
Notes and News in the Neighborhood

Don’t Have a Landline? Get emergency alerts through your cellphone.

Our Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) Homeland Security and Emergency Communications divisions are working together to implement a new CELL PHONE REGISTRY to notify residents in an emergency situation. Residents are called only when property or human life is in jeopardy. Messages are distributed to people via phone and email.

Cellular Phone Registry
Go to http://wireless.capcog.org to register your cell phone number and the location/address of your home or any other area you wish to receive important public safety announcements about. You may register up to five (5) locations — your home, school, business, family and friends. It’s quick. It’s easy. And it could save your life.

For more information about this free emergency notification service call: Capital Area Council of Governments, Homeland Security Division (512) 916-6026 • Register today!

2011 Tax Rate
At its September 20 meeting, the Lost Creek MUD Board voted to keep the same property tax rate of $0.1711 for 2011. This is the same property tax rate as in 2010.

Special News Bulletin

The Texas Department of Transportation will be holding an Open House on Tuesday, November 2 from 6 – 8 p.m. at Westlake High School to show us and the surrounding neighborhoods their Loop 360 study of intersection improvements to move traffic more quickly and smoothly. As many people as possible should try to attend this TxDOT Loop 360 Open House to see how these innovative intersections are designed and how they will affect our daily auto trips in and out of Lost Creek to nearby schools, employers and businesses.

Please attend this important Loop 360 Open House to let the planners know how you feel about these intersection and traffic improvements!
Stage III Water Conservation Measures

Lost Creek is currently in Stage III Water Conservation Measures. Under Stage III, the following restrictions are in effect:
• Watering with permanently installed irrigation systems or hose-end sprinklers is prohibited between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
• Watering with hand held hose or bucket or alternative water source such as rainwater or re-used water is allowed at any time.
• Washing a vehicle or mobile equipment is allowed on designated watering days only however, not between 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.

A twice (2X) per week watering schedule is in effect:
• Odd numbered addresses may water on Wednesdays and Saturdays only.
• Even numbered addresses may water on Thursdays and Sundays only.
• Multi-unit (townhomes, condominiums, and commercial) irrigation systems may water on Tuesdays and Fridays only.
  - Individually metered townhomes or condominiums may water based upon their unit number:
    • Odd numbered addresses may water on Wednesdays and Saturdays only.
    • Even numbered addresses may water on Thursdays and Sundays only.

The following activities are prohibited during Stage III:
• Use of automatic fill valves to add potable water to a swimming pool, wading pool, fountain or pond.
• Washing a sidewalk, driveway, parking area, street, tennis court, patio, or other paved area, except to alleviate an immediate health or safety hazard.
• Watering the ground around a foundation to prevent foundation cracking.

The Lost Creek MUD may be issuing citations after Oct. 1 to anyone violating the plan.
• Violators will receive a Courtesy Notice without penalty for the first violation;
• A second violation may result in a $100 penalty;
• A third violation may result in a $200 penalty;
• Subsequent violations may result in a $500 penalty and the customer will be subject to termination of service.

For additional information or help in implementing this plan, please see the Lost Creek MUD website at www.lostcreekmud.org or call 512-327-6243.

LCNA Round-Up

Oct. 23: Fall Family Picnic

Join your neighbors at the annual LCNA Fall Family Picnic on Sunday, October 23 from 4–6 p.m. Enjoy Rudy's barbecue and live music from The Seekers bluegrass band at Lost Creek Boulevard Park. Please remember that this is an LCNA members-only event. If you're not current on your dues, you can pay them at www.lcna.com or at the picnic.

Lost Creek Directory is Here

The 2011-2013 Lost Creek Directory is available for current LCNA members. Along with family directory information and household listings by street, the directory includes helpful information such as:
• Info about the neighborhood association and Lost Creek MUD
• Contact info for utilities, schools, and government
• Electronic resources
• Neighborhood organizations
• Community information
• Other helpful info (water management tips; oak wilt info)
• Lost Creek street map with trail entrance markers

Each household for current members is entitled to one copy of the directory. There are no provisions at this time for selling additional copies. If you're current on your dues and haven't already picked up your copy, the LCNA plans to hand-deliver the rest of the directories soon.
Prepare your home to prevent wildfires

The fires over Labor Day weekend demonstrated how quickly wildfires can move and how much damage they can leave in their wake. Until central Texas gets significant rainfall, conditions will remain dangerous. It never hurts to keep your home – and your family – prepared in the event of a wildfire. Below are some tips from the Firewise Communities program on what you can do now to help prevent fires later. More information and resources can be found at the MUD office and at www.firewise.org.

10 Steps to Prepare for a Wildfire

1. Cut grass and weeds, rake leaves and pine needles, and remove yard debris and branches.
2. Store woodpile and left over building materials away from the house.
3. Ensure that signs, addresses and access ways are well marked, and visible both night and day.
4. Keep trees and shrubs pruned 6 to 10 ft. from the ground. Remove all dead vegetation in brush and shrubbery.
5. Store all gas, oil and other chemicals away from the house. This includes propane tanks on BBQ pits.
6. Keep roof and gutters free from leaves and needles.
7. Enclose spaces under porches, decks, foundations and overhangs, and roof/astic vent openings with 1/8" metal screening. Remove any debris from under decks and porches.
8. Have garden hoses connected on all sides of your house.
9. Keep firefighting tools handy (such as ladders, shovels, rakes and buckets)
10. Keep homeowners/renters insurance current and have a copy of your policy available to take with you in case of evacuation.

Other Tips to Help Protect Your Home

Create a 30-ft. safety zone around the house. Keep the volume of vegetation in this zone to a minimum. Swimming pools and patios can be a safety zone and stone walls can act as heat shields and deflect flames.

In this zone, you should also do the following:

- Create a “fire-free” area within 5 ft. of the home, using non-flammable landscaping materials and/or high-moisture-content annuals and perennials.
- Prune branches and shrubs that are within 15 feet of chimneys and stove pipes.
- Replace highly flammable vegetation such as pine, eucalyptus, junipers and fir trees with lower growing, less flammable species.
- Mow the lawn often, keeping the grass at a maximum of 2 inches. Watch grass and other vegetation near the driveway, which can be a source of ignition from automobile exhaust systems.
- Remove dead vegetation from under deck and within 10 ft. of house.

In Case You Need to Evacuate

Always be ready for an emergency evacuation. Know where to go and what to bring with you. Know all emergency exits from your house and learn all routes leading out of your neighborhood.

If fires actually approach, you should take the following actions:

- Park your car facing the direction of escape.
- Place combustible patio furniture inside.
- Seal vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- Place lawn sprinklers on roof and near above-ground fuel tanks. Wet down the roof and place the ladder you use for this against the roof, on the opposite side of the fire.
- Close windows, vents, doors, blinds and noncombustible window coverings. Remove flammable drapes and curtains. Close interior doors and windows to prevent drafts.
- Have a shovel, rake and long water hose accessible. Fill buckets and other bulk containers with water.
- Turn off propane tanks and shut off gas at the meter. Only a qualified professional can safely turn the gas back on.

Get Your Free Austin Preparedness Guide eBook

The City of Austin Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has just released a free eBook entitled "Austin Preparedness Guide" specially written for disasters most likely to affect Central Texas. Visit www.AustinHSEM.com to download the eBook or view it digitally and for other resources on disaster preparedness.

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ABOUT LOST CREEK MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

Lost Creek Municipal Utility District is the local government serving more than 1,250 families in the Lost Creek neighborhood by providing drinking water, wastewater, solid waste collection, deed restriction enforcement, beautification and recreational services.

Pinnacle Texas Management, LLC

Have a question about your deed restrictions? Are you concerned that a neighbor may not have applied for and/or received the required ACC (Architectural Control Committee) approval prior to beginning the new construction or remodeling project that is currently underway (or about to commence)? Has that fence been approved?

For these and any other questions or concerns that you may have regarding deed restriction enforcement in Lost Creek, please contact Tanya Emmons via email at lostcreek@pinnacletx.com, by phone at 512-795-8461, by fax at 512-795-8463, or online at www.pinnacletexas.com (Residents link).