

## EDUCATION/PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT WATERSHEDS.

*... Sharing information about vital watersheds and their preservation.*

Watercourses extend into and through each community in the watershed - - knitting neighborhoods and communities together, creating a shared environmental resource. Strong public education, public awareness and outreach programs are needed to inform the public about the importance of water quality preservation and protection measures. Public education in the schools and in communities help everyone gain understanding of how their actions can impact water quality. Informed citizens become more involved in protection of water quality in their neighborhoods and communities, right where they live.



**The use of mulch preserves moisture, requires less water and less maintenance.**

Each community in the Lewisville Lake Watershed can help spread the word about protecting water quality and conserving water. In a collaborative effort, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, Texas Agrilife Extension and the Denton County Master Gardeners offer special information programs about landscape and garden practices. This collaborative effort focuses on practical concepts for irrigation efficiency, plant selection, use of mulch, proper fertilizer application, insect control, composting and organic practices - - to conserve water and to

protect water quality. Informative programs are available to be presented to homeowner associations, garden clubs, civic organizations and other group meetings.

Annual landscape water conservation seminars, homeowner seminars, and tours or open house for conservation gardens are examples of on-going efforts to provide useful information in various interesting ways. Gardening groups and public officials may schedule guided tours of the Upper Trinity Water Conservation Gardens in Lewisville by calling 972-219-1228.

Texas Smartscape is a self-directed educational website and available for personal and community use, providing information about landscape design, plant selection and landscape maintenance to conserve water and protect water resources. The Smartscape program is highly recommended for the potential to benefit the Lewisville Lake Watershed. The easy-to-use website at [www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com) is available to everyone.

Upper Trinity and Texas Agrilife Extension support Denton County Master Gardeners who visit schools to present hand-on educational activities about water conservation and protecting watersheds and water resources. Providing basic knowledge about water resources to these future decision makers is vital. It is never too early to start learning about water conservation and the protection of the watersheds where we live.

Upper Trinity offers “Enviroscape Model” demonstrations on a table-top scale about how a watershed works and about how our everyday activities can effect water quality in nearby streams and lakes. Especially for school children, it is an eye opener to learn how a watershed functions. Upper Trinity provides textbook covers with educational messages about various water resource subjects to the schools - - something that the children use and enjoy. Also, Upper Trinity has a continuing program for installation of watershed awareness signs throughout the watershed in public places and along road-ways. These attractive watershed signs are available to communities throughout Denton County; just call Upper Trinity Regional Water District.



**A Typical Watershed Awareness Sign**

**Note: This information is presented as a joint effort of Upper Trinity Regional Water District and Texas A&M University Research and Extension Center of Dallas.**