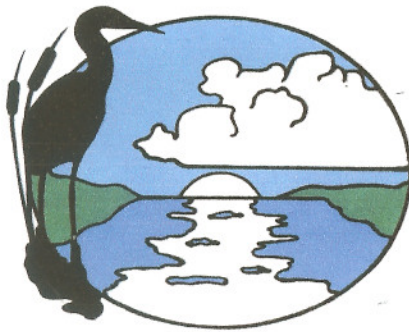


# PROTECTING OUR WATERSHEDS.

## *... Ensuring the Water Quality in Our Creeks and Lakes.*

We all live in a **Watershed**. A watershed is the area around one's home, business and community, from which rainwater drains to a common waterbody such as a stream or lake. Our individual actions in the watershed directly affect these valuable water resources. The watershed of the Trinity River includes Denton, Collin and Dallas counties and three major water supply sources: Lewisville Lake, Ray Roberts Lake and Grapevine Lake. **Upper Trinity Regional Water District** believes strongly in educating the public about protecting our watersheds and water quality. Water is the most critical component of life. Therefore, if we become educated about our watershed and if we understand the effect of our activities, we will act more responsibly to preserve, protect and enhance the watershed.



To help communicate the important role that watersheds have in the water supply for this region, Upper Trinity created a watershed logo. The watershed sign, along with the watershed name, is being placed along roadways and other locations in the Denton County area as a constant reminder that we need to keep it clean. Cities may request a sign for a needed location.

To help educate children about the importance of protecting our watershed, Upper Trinity distributes book covers concerning water quality to elementary and middle schools. Upper Trinity engages in other activities to protect water quality, including: (a) use of an EnviroScape Model to demonstrate the effects of pollutants on our environment, and (b) hosting Household Hazardous Waste Collection events in participating cities.

To showcase both water conservation and water quality opportunities in the landscape, Upper Trinity maintains a demonstration garden, following the principles of *Texas Smartscape*® ([www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com)) with emphasis on native and adapted plants. With earth-friendly landscape practices, one can create beautiful outdoor landscapes that safeguard water quality while helping to conserve valuable water resources. Native and adapted plants in the landscape not only require less watering, but also require less fertilizer. With *Texas Smartscape*® principles, harmful chemicals are avoided, keeping pollutants and chemicals out of the watershed and out of our drinking water supply. And we must not forget that safeguarding the watershed and our landscapes makes them safer for our children and pets, too.

From a sound planning perspective, one of the best strategies that communities can use to protect watersheds is to prevent new development from encroaching on the flood plain. The resulting greenbelts will become major public assets.

To learn more about what you can do to help protect water quality in your watershed, visit Upper Trinity's website at [www.utrwd.com](http://www.utrwd.com) or contact us at 972-219-1228.