March 2025

waternews

Your source for all things water

San Antonio Water System

WaterSaver Landscape Coupons are back — bigger and better than ever!

2025 marks year 13 for SAWS WaterSaver Landscape Coupons, and that makes it so very lucky — for your landscape *and* your wallet!

That's because the coupons are now more valuable than ever. New this year:

- Coupon value increased to $125
- More native and well-adapted plant choices
- 1-gallon ornamental trees now eligible
- New Plant by Number landscape plans

Through Oct. 15, residential customers can apply for up to four coupons annually to replace part of your water-demanding grass with lush, drought-tolerant garden beds. That's $500 in savings!

For each coupon, you must remove at least 200 square feet of grass where you will place your purchased plants. You must also remove any automatic sprinklers or drip lines within the project area.

Once approved, you'll have until Oct. 31 to redeem your coupons.

Imagine the possibilities, especially in times of drought! Speaking of which, our community is still enduring the worst drought in decades. So, keep this in mind: Planting in spring comes with a commitment to hand water plants throughout the summer in the absence of rainfall.

It might be helpful to spend spring and summer planning your landscape makeover for the fall. Another option? Spend the summer getting rid of any grass.

Get all the details and apply today at **GardenStyleSA.com/coupons**.

Highs and lows of SSOs

For San Antonio Water System, 2024 ended on a high thanks to a new low — of 132 sewer overflows in one year, a new SAWS record.

From cleaning and inspecting every mile of sewer line to weekly strategy sessions to protect against new problems, SAWS crews work around the clock to make sure your sewage stays in the pipes where it belongs.

Grease and debris, including wipes and plastic packaging, continue to be major sources of sanitary sewer overflows, or SSOs.

"We strive to have no more than 10 SSOs per month to achieve two SSOs per 100 miles or less," said Annette Duron, SAWS director of operations support, noting how far SAWS has come over the past decade.

In 2013, SAWS entered into an agreement with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency creating an ongoing sewer spill reduction program, to inspect and clean more than 5,200 miles of pipe and replace and repair aging infrastructure.

SAWS has one of the largest sewer systems in Texas. Even with 18% population growth, SAWS has reduced SSOs by 75% over the last 15 years.

"Not only did SAWS comply and meet all EPA requirements, but we also put best practices in place to continually improve," said Duron.

San Antonio Water System

Embrace your creative mind and connect with your inner voice during the Writing and Mindfulness Class at San Antonio Botanical Garden, Saturday, April 26. Tickets at sabot.org/events.

Event Calendar

Starving Artist Art Show

April 12-13
La Villita Historic Arts Village
418 Villita St.
littlechurchsa.com

Sounds of the Night

April 18
Government Canyon State Natural Area
12861 Galm Road
tpwd.texas.gov/calendar

Gardening Essentials

April 21
San Antonio Garden Center
3310 N. New Braunfels Ave.
gardeningvolunteers.org

Viva Botanica

April 26
San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org/events

Guided Bird Tour

April 27
Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency
210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

Receiving bill assistance from SAWS? It may be time to reapply.

Keeping essential water and sewer services affordable — especially for our most vulnerable residents — is a priority for SAWS.

It's why SAWS Uplift was created. This income-based assistance program helps ease the burden of paying monthly water bills for those who qualify.

Uplift recipients are required to complete a new application every three years. Starting in April, SAWS will begin contacting these customers with a reminder that it's time to reapply at **saws.org/myaccount**.

You must provide proof of income to qualify. Accepted documents include:

- Income tax return (2022).
- W-2 forms.
- Paycheck stub (last 30 days).
- 1099 form.
- Social Security award letter.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) award letter.
- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) award letter.
- Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance (RSDI) award letter.
- Veterans benefits letter.
- Unemployment benefits letter.

UPLIFT
Helping Neighbors in Need

If you're not currently receiving assistance through SAWS Uplift, visit **saws.org/uplift** to see if you or a loved one qualify.

Need in-person help with your application? Visit us at:

SAWS West Side Customer Center
Las Palmas Shopping Center
803 Castroville Rd. Suite 406
Tuesday 9 a.m.-noon Thursday 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Water research survey

SAWS customers are encouraged to participate in a nationwide survey on residential water use.

The Residential End Uses of Water Study is being conducted by the Water Research Foundation, a nonprofit educational organization committed to ensuring water quality and improving water services.

Your input will aid in future infrastructure planning and conservation efforts.

The survey, which is completely voluntary and anonymous, is open until April 15.

To take part, scan the code or visit **qrco.de/WRFsurvey**.

Dispose of household hazardous waste the *safe* way

Pesticides and herbicides can be a convenient way to protect plants from pests and weeds. But when used or discarded incorrectly, these chemicals pose great risks not only to our ecosystem and wildlife, but also to our water, soil, air and human health.

Pesticides and herbicides must be disposed of properly at a household hazardous waste site.

Household Hazardous Waste monthly drop-off

April 4 & 5
8 a.m. - noon
Bitters Bulky Waste Collection Center
1800 Wurzbach Parkway

Missed the April drop-off? No problem: events happen monthly on the first Friday and Saturday (except holidays), same time and place.

For a complete schedule of monthly drop-off events, visit **sa.gov/swmd**.