

YOUR CITY, YOUR SERVICES



Jason Beard, Director of Environmental Services

WATER A NECESSITY FOR BUSINESS OR PLEASURE

There are many ways to beat the summer heat, maybe jump into a pool or stop by a neighborhood lemonade stand. Those who are a bit older may fondly remember drinking from a hose to quench a healthy thirst. There was no need to go inside when making memories with friends. Of course, all these remedies involve water. Many have never stopped to ponder how the water we use every day makes it from Richland Chambers, Lake Halbert or Navarro Mills Lake, to pools, or wondered just how it becomes safe to drink. Corsicana is fortunate that Jason Beard, the city's Director of Environmental Services, understands the importance of the planet's most necessary resource.

Jason has worked for the city in several capacities since July of 2003. He was named Corsicana's Director of Environmental Services in Feb. of 2022. Since then, he has overseen four departments, including the city's two water and wastewater treatment plants, and Environmental Sampling & Analysis. The ES&A reviews building plans, of both remodels and new construction, to ensure the safety of Corsicana's water and wastewater systems.

In addition, the department inspects all of the industrial and commercial wastewater users. Beard is also responsible for the city's landfill. He oversees budgets, operations, State requirements, and all other services provided by the department. "The position is definitely busy, but it is rewarding. I certainly don't do it alone," he said.

Beard credits both the city and the support of the department's 42 additional employees, for ensuring that everything flows as smoothly as possible. "The city utilizes two water and

wastewater treatment plants to provide water to an estimated 55,000 people throughout Navarro County, and others in Ellis, Hill and Freestone counties," he said. That is a responsibility Beard and others take seriously.

Beard acknowledged recent industrial, commercial and residential growth in Corsicana has led some to believe there may be a shortage of water. "That notion is simply not true," he said. The City of Corsicana has water rights totaling just over 31.5 million gallons per day, although there are days during the summer when demand surges to 12 million gallons per day, he said. "The average annual usage is six million gallons for the service area per day, according to Beard.

Just how those six million gallons get to and from Corsicana's homes, businesses and industries is a testament to innovation and science, but the process is one that is necessary for the health and wellbeing of Corsicana residents and visitors. Surface water is taken from Lake Halbert, Richland Chambers and Navarro Mills Lake. Two treatment plants, one on each end of Corsicana, produce quality drinking water distributed to residents. Corsicana's water system has a Superior rating from the State of Texas. The finished product is pumped to town through transmission lines into water towers. Ready to be used. The system has over 220 miles of waterline in the ground.

A similar process is undertaken for wastewater collection and sanitation. Pipes outside homes and businesses carry the water to large lines known as "trunk lines." "Sewer collection depends on gravity, we have to use pumps to move the contents to higher elevations from the lower elevations," he said. "All sewer eventually makes its way to the treatment plant on the east end of Corsicana. Every street has a sewer line, some have several," said Beard. All together there are 184 miles of gravity sewer line in the city.

Beard pegged the cost of water and waste water treatment at a combined \$7.8 million. A portion of increasing budgets for water and sewer treatment can be attributed to increased chemical costs which have increased 25% on average. As an example, chlorine has increased around 20%

and directly affects pricing for other treatment chemicals. "The cost of two other critical water treatment chemicals needed to remove organics have nearly tripled in 5 years," he said. How much of these chemicals are needed depend greatly on the water levels of the lakes, but are vital to meeting state standards, said Beard. Beard expects that Corsicana's water system will only improve with the implementation of future capital improvements. "Our water system has great bones," he said. "We have to thank former city employees who had the foresight to plan for the city's future growth and water needs." Beard also credits forethought of city leadership as a main reason why Corsicana's landfill will serve the city's needs for decades to come. "The landfill currently shows a life of over 75 years. Current plans include the diversion of shingles, which will help to extend its lifespan," Beard said.

Jason Beard has already worked for the City of Corsicana for over 20 years, but because of his commitment to safeguard the city's water supply, the husband and father will continue to impact Corsicana and area communities for generations to come.

If citizens have more questions about Environmental Services, they can contact Jason at 903-654-4889 or email him at jbeard@corsicanatx.gov

CITY OF CORSICANA
HAS WATER RIGHTS
TOTALING OVER
31 MILLION
GALLONS PER DAY.



Navarro Mills water treatment plant



Lake Halbert water treatment plant