

# Richardson's Environmental Resources Newsletter



ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR RICHARDSON RESIDENTS • AUGUST 2019

## Corporate Cleanup Program

The Community & Corporate Environmental Cleanup Program allows groups and organizations to clean up areas of the City where wind-blown and



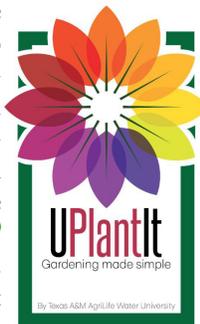
Employees from Metro by T-Mobile cleaned up a railroad easement last month.

waterborne trash tends to accumulate. The City of Richardson Health Department supplies trash and recycling bags, vinyl gloves, and trash tongs free of charge and picks up the trash and recyclables after the cleanup is over.

For more information, visit [www.cor.net/cleanup](http://www.cor.net/cleanup) or click the video button to view a short video produced by Citizens Information Television.

## UPlantIt: Gardening Made Simple

Do you love gardening but aren't quite sure which plants to choose for your landscape to blossom? Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has developed a DIY landscape design plan that includes native and adaptive plants that attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators, all in one easy-to-transport box. You can order the box for \$95 at [wateruniversity.tamu.edu/products/uplantit-gardens](http://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/products/uplantit-gardens) through Aug. 4. The boxes can be picked up on Sept. 28 at AgriLife's Dallas Campus, 17360 Coit Rd. in Dallas, or one of three other locations in DFW.

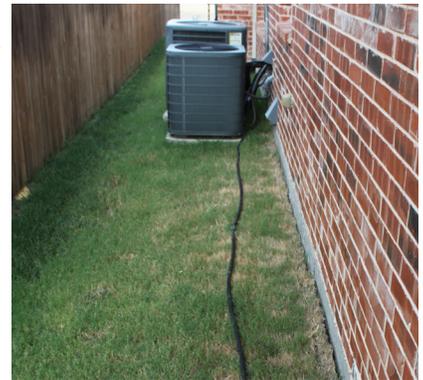


## Tips to prevent foundation cracking

During the summer months, hot and dry weather may cause shifting or cracking in a home's foundation. This can result in the need for expensive foundation work, but luckily there is a way to prevent the damage before it occurs.

When clay soil becomes extremely dry, the soil contracts and the foundation may sink. Try to protect your foundation before this happens by watering the soil around your foundation. Since dry soil shrinks away from foundations, walk around your house and look where the soil is against the foundation. If you do not see a gap between the soil and foundation, your soil moisture is good. If you see a gap between the foundation and the soil, you need to water the ground around your foundation.

To water your foundation, you may use pop-up sprinkler heads, soaker hoses or a drip irrigation system. Suggested placement of soaker hoses and drip irrigation around the perimeter of the house is six to 18 inches away from the founda-



Soaker hoses should be placed six to 18 inches from the home's foundation.

tion. Soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems may operate on any day at any time so long as they do not create excessive water runoff, while pop-up heads may only be used during your designated watering days and times.

Before attaching the soaker or drip irrigation hose to the faucet, make sure you have a back-flow preventer on the faucet. Run soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems until you reach a soil moisture depth of six to eight inches. You can use a soil moisture meter or screwdriver to check soil moisture depth.

*Information courtesy of Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas.*

## UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

For environmental news and videos in Richardson, visit *Richardson Today* online at [www.richardsontoday.com/environmental](http://www.richardsontoday.com/environmental).

Richardson's recycling mascot, Phil-up the Blue Bag, makes appearances each month to hand out free blue bags and talk about recycling. Learn more at [www.cor.net/philup](http://www.cor.net/philup).

VISIT [WWW.COR.NET/EPI](http://WWW.COR.NET/EPI) FOR MORE INFORMATION