

# When it Rains, it Pours in Montgomery!

By: Matt Tindall

The Charles B. Stewart Library in Montgomery has officially broken ground for a new park. The nature-oriented park facility will offer a natural habitat for walking, relaxing and enjoying the outdoors. One of the park's features includes a rainwater harvesting system partially funded and sponsored by the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (District), and designed by a group of senior Texas A&M University students.

Texas A&M Engineering is all about big ideas and transforming those ideas into realities for a better world. The three senior engineering students from Dwight Look College of Engineering at A&M were chosen out of 8,800 potential candidates from the college. Blake Howard, Fernando Valadez and Rodrigo Guadarrama all have big dreams and secure futures ahead of them. "We could not have selected a better group to help with this project!" said Kathy Turner Jones, General Manager for the District. "With their help we

are going to be able to demonstrate to the public the ease and effectiveness of using a rainwater harvesting system. This is an important conservation project."

The project design takes into account several types of harvesting devices in the park. The south-side of the roof will be used as a wet collection system that allows for rainwater to be caught from the existing gutter lines. The water will then be taken through the present underground piping and deposited into a water catch basin. A submersible pump



will then be used to pump the water into a 5,000 gallon holding tank for landscape irrigation use. Rain gardens will also be placed in the park in order to help with the re-charging of the aquifer and decreasing runoff. The students anticipate that the project will save the county over 200,000 gallons of water a year for maintaining the library grounds.





all Montgomery County residents to use our precious water resources as efficiently as possible. The District is proud that it is able to do its part for the public, and to help the residents to be made aware of the importance of using water wisely. Through sponsorship, the District hopes to bridge the rural-urban interface to educate and involve the public in improving and maintaining the quality of water resources for current and future generations of Texans.

For more information, go to [www.lonestargcd.org](http://www.lonestargcd.org) or call 936/494-3436. ●

The rainwater collection project is just one of many examples of how Memory Park seeks to involve the community. The project is also an excellent source for educating the public on different ways to help conserve, protect and save one of our greatest resources.

An interesting fact about Texas water and its use is that well over half of urban

residential water purchased by home owners is used for landscape irrigation. In fact, capturing, conserving and reusing rainwater through harvesting systems is an innovative approach that anyone can use. Collection and distribution systems can be incorporated into almost any existing site.

With a growing population, it is important for

