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## Resources



### Grassroots Revenue for Communities

Communities today face a tremendous challenge in funding infrastructure projects. Creative sources for revenues are available, but require a tremendous amount of time and expertise to research and apply for funds. That's where consultants and grants databases can be helpful to identify and pursue funding.

### Alternative Funding Solutions

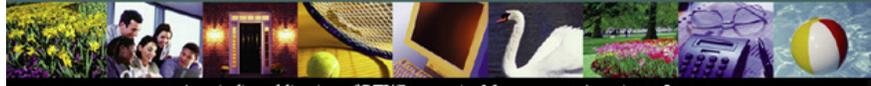
These grant alternatives are often available to municipalities. HOAs should consider partnering with local municipalities to leverage these resources. Bill Campbell a board member of Stonebridge Ranch Community association, says, "Grants offer an exciting opportunity for HOAs to team up with the city that they are in and strengthen their relationships to pursue projects that are win-win for both groups."

For example, your community may have an opportunity to apply for funding through Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) In partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Keep Texas Beautiful awards the prestigious Governor's Community Achievement Awards (GCAA) to ten Texas communities with the best grassroots environmental programs in the state each year.

The awards recognize achievement in seven areas and distribute \$2 million in funding from TxDOT across ten communities, with the amount based on population size. The funds are used for landscaping projects along local rights-of-way.

[Learn more about these programs here.](#)

# CMA'S LEADERSHIP ADVISOR



A periodic publication of RTI/Community Management Associates, Inc.

Winter 2015, Special Edition 4

## Special Edition: Sustainable Living



### What is Sustainable Living?

*Judi M. Phares, President and CEO, RTI/Community Management Associates, Inc.*

Many people may have heard about sustainable living and are not sure exactly what it means. At its most basic, sustainable living means living a lifestyle that uses as few resources as possible and causes the least amount of environmental damage.

Sustainability is about changing your perspective. As the Greek proverb goes, "A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." Adopting sustainable practices in your community is an investment in its future.

Sincerely,

**Judi M. Phares** - CMCA®, PCAM® Publisher



## FEBRUARY EDUCATION EVENT



## Water is Life!

### Water-Wise Strategies for HOAs

- Be better informed about future water supplies.
- Adopt Water Wise strategies for your association.
- Water is Life! Adapt, Conserve, Sustain.

*Guest speaker Dr. Dotty Woodson is a sought-after expert on landscape water conservation worldwide.*

**Date:** February 26, 2015 Time: 2:00-4:00 P.M.

**Location:** Coyote Ridge Golf Club 1640 Hebron Parkway, Carrollton, Texas 75010

**RSVP by February 20 to:**

[rsvpcma@cmamanagement.com](mailto:rsvpcma@cmamanagement.com)

[Click here to download the Invitation.](#)

Lowe's and Keep American Beautiful fund demonstration gardens with Native Garden grants. [Learn more about this program](#) to see if it would be beneficial for your community.

Finally, the **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality** offers [information about sustainable practices](#).

## Thoughts from a Water Management Evangelist

An Awesome Water Management Guide for Landscapes appears on this blog sponsored by Jain Irrigation, manufacturer of irrigation systems. Blogger Richard Restuccia is a water management evangelist, and vice president of Landscape Solutions.



### Excellent example of a rounded border

He writes: "Water management can be a confusing, complicated subject many homeowners and landscapers choose to ignore. This guide will help you with a few basic concepts that can make a significant reduction in water use on your landscape. It will also make water management less confusing and complicated. Consistently review these four basic steps on your landscape and you will save water, money and have a more beautiful, vibrant landscape." [See more at this link](#).

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## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### Going Native Sustainable Materials for Lasting Savings

Since its opening in fall, 2012, the Community Center has quickly become the hub of the community. The 6,520 square foot multi-use facility offers many amenities under one roof.

Shores at Wellington, a Garland lakeside community of some 300+ homes, formed a Master Landscape Committee in 2006. Their mission was to develop a plan for the long term sustainability for the common spaces and entries into the community. The committee is fortunate to have residents with talent and know-how about great resources available to plan such a project. Diane McArdle chairs the committee and has a background in biology. Tammy Risser, another committee member is a Master Gardener (certification of Texas agricultural extension service). Diane's husband and board president also played a key role in the long-term project.



The committee proposed replacing the costly planting of annuals with sustainable materials to give it a consistent, naturalized look in keeping with its natural setting. The committee applied for a grant through The City of Garland's Neighborhood Vitality Program and received matching funds of \$100K to transition the landscaping. A landscape architect was engaged to assist in the planning.

### By moving to native landscaping,

The Shores at Wellington has created long term sustainability as well as significant savings for the community by utilizing drought tolerant plants instead of turf and annuals. Shane Christina

[Read more about the Shores of Wellington project](#).

To View the Facebook Photo Album, [Click Here](#).

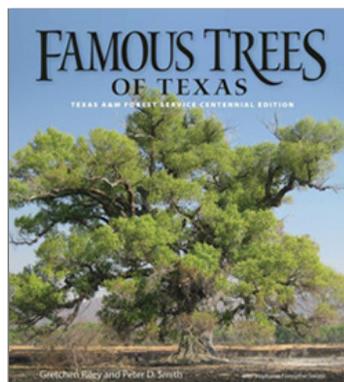


## LEGACIES

### Invest in Sustainability Future Generations Will Reap the Rewards

Excerpted from Texas Co-Op October 2014, [Texas Trees with Legendary Stories](#), by Suzanne Halko.

Reaping the benefits of sustainable living brings to mind these hardy survivors. "They have a story to tell, so they have a personality," says author Gretchen Riley.



Riley is talking about Texas' famous trees who were "witness to some of the exciting periods and events in Texas' frontier history," according to the first edition of "Famous Trees of Texas" (Texas A&M University Press, 1970). An upcoming edition of the book, due out in early 2015 to correspond with the TFS' 100th anniversary, memorializes the tales of 100 historic trees.

### Hubbard Ginkgo, Tyler

In Tyler, City Hall's front desk employees don't know which tree on City Hall property is the historic Hubbard Ginkgo.

Gary Lynch in the Parks and Recreation Department, however, can distinguish the tree from among the pecans, oaks and magnolias because he and his wife sometimes share lunch outside in the park-like surroundings.

Lynch describes the ginkgo biloba, a tree species with fan-shaped leaves that dates back to eighth-century China. He pulls up a street view in Google maps and points out the approximately 80-foot-tall living fossil—the only known member left in its genus—growing on the south side of Tyler City Hall just off the redbrick West Ferguson Street.

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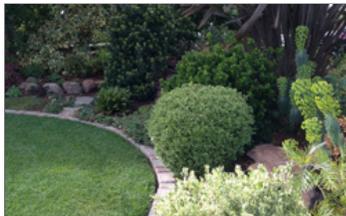
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He writes: "Water management can be a confusing, complicated subject many

"It's especially glorious in fall," he says. "It turns a canary yellow."

In spring, the ginkgo's green leaves ascend almost as high as a nearby magnolia, and the trunk takes about 15 paces to walk around. A bronze plaque on scaly bark with deep fissures honors former Texas Gov. Richard B. Hubbard for the tree's presence in Texas, far from its Asian roots.

The Hubbard Ginkgo began its life in Texas as a sapling 125 years ago. Hubbard, whose second career was serving as a U.S. ambassador, brought two ginkgos back to Texas from Japan.

One ginkgo was planted at the Texas Governor's Mansion but did not survive. The other was planted on private property that the city of Tyler later acquired for its municipal building. There, the Hubbard Ginkgo has lived long because it has had the appropriate amount of care.

"Surprisingly, the tree is doing really well," says Tyler City Arborist Luke Porter, who explains that the tree endured a lightning strike and repair in the 1960s plus a spring freeze earlier this year. "We just try to keep it alive and keep it healthy."

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## Other Leadership Advisor Special Editions

[Leadership Advisor SE-Strategic Planning](#)

[Leadership Advisor SE- Electronic Voting](#)

[Leadership Advisor SE- Energy](#)

[Leadership Advisor SE- Sustainable Living](#)

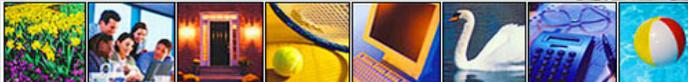
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Use this website to set up a recurring payment to automatically pay your monthly or quarterly assessments. This feature is not available for semi-annual and annual payments. [Find out More.](#)



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