



A Message from  
Broward County Mayor  
Lois Wexler

South Florida is facing one of the worst water shortages in history. For the first time since the creation of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), the agency has declared an extreme district wide water shortage that affects more than five million residents and thousands of farms and businesses. The agency has once again imposed water restrictions to help conserve water. There are also a number of programs that Broward County offers that can help individuals and communities conserve water and save money.

The first is the NatureScape Broward program—coordinated by the Water Resources Division—which is an integral part of Broward County’s overall water resource management plan. The NatureScape program encourages the use of native plants in the landscaping of homes, businesses, schools, condominium communities and housing developments. Native plants are uniquely adapted to grow in South Florida’s climate and environment. Native plants require very little watering and are naturally pest resistant, which cuts back on the use of expensive and often-toxic pesticides and fertilizers.

To those of us who do not possess the greenest of thumbs, this may all sound very complicated. However, Broward County’s Water Resources Division is working hard to help Broward County residents plant beautiful, healthy and most importantly, water-conserving landscapes. The Division offers classes and seminars at various locations around the county where master gardeners teach residents about how to design a NatureScape, choosing native plants or implement water saving irrigation techniques. And NatureScape volunteers are available for more hands-on site visits to help homeowners and community associations with landscape ideas and plant identification.

NatureScape Broward maintains an active speaker’s bureau that will send a trained volunteer to speak at community meetings, homeowners association or community events. If you are interested in more information on NatureScape seminars or inviting a NatureScape speaker to your event, please visit [www.broward.org/naturescape](http://www.broward.org/naturescape), e-mail [naturescape@broward.org](mailto:naturescape@broward.org) or call (954) 519-0317.

Another really useful website is [www.broward.org/waterservices/water\\_restrictions.htm](http://www.broward.org/waterservices/water_restrictions.htm). If you then click on “Reduce Your Water Use, NO EXCUSE,” you’ll find water conservation information and

additional information on the current restrictions provided by the South Florida Water Management District.

I also want to encourage you to attend Broward County's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Matters Day, a community-wide water conservation event that uses educational workshops, interactive exhibits and presentations, as well as opportunities to interact with environmental and water management professionals. Water Matters Day takes place on March 15<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Tree Tops Park, 3900 SW 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Davie. The event is free and there will be a native plant and tree giveaway. There is a parking fee of \$1.50 per adult at the park entrance. I hope that you can make it, as the event will be great opportunity to learn about water conservation in Broward County.

Last month I told you about the Charter Review Commission (CRC) and some of the proposed items that may appear on the 2008 ballot that would change the County Charter. The CRC has now set two dates for public hearings: Wednesday, March 12, beginning at 5 p.m., and Wednesday, April 9, beginning at 1 p.m. Both will be held in Room 422 of the Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Both hearings will be televised on participating cable stations and webcast on [www.broward.org](http://www.broward.org). The Commission will accept questions via email at [charterreview@broward.org](mailto:charterreview@broward.org). The Broward County Charter provides a blueprint for the operation of a countywide government that serves all residents in Broward County.

Please feel free to call me at my office, (954) 357-7005 or contact me via e-mail at [lwexler@broward.org](mailto:lwexler@broward.org) with your concerns or ideas. I always enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
Lois Wexler  
Broward County Mayor  
District 5 Commissioner