

This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

watersmartinnovations.com





Filling Buckets:

Improving Water Quality and Conservation in Our Communities

2021 Water Smart Innovations Conference
October 2021
Las Vegas, Nevada



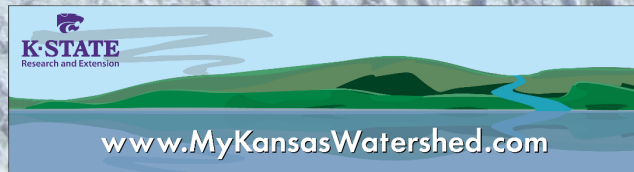
Holly Dickman

Water Conservation Specialist
City of Hays, Kansas



Stacie Minson

Watershed Specialist
Kansas State University

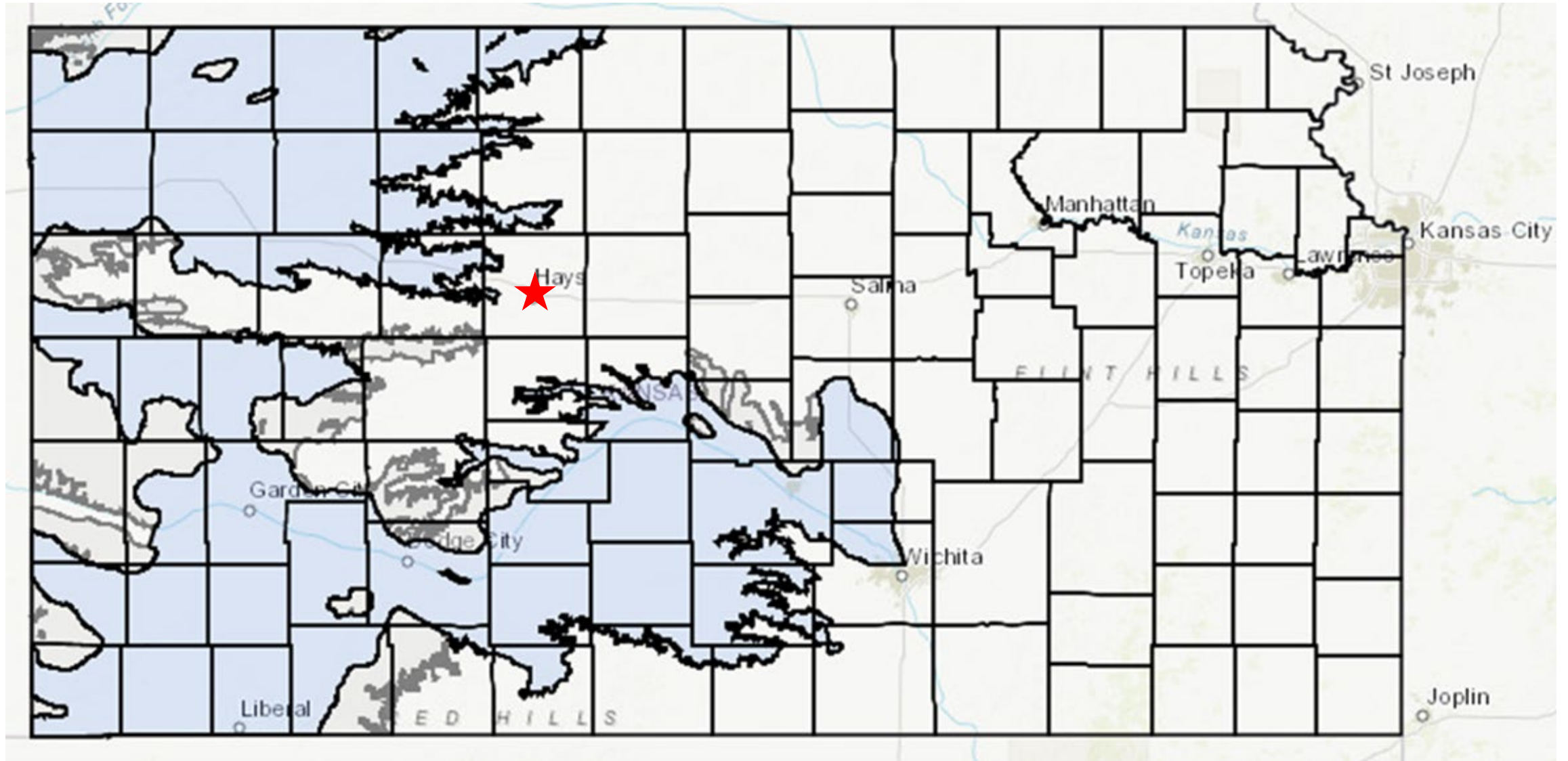


Big Creek Middle Smoky Hill River Watersheds



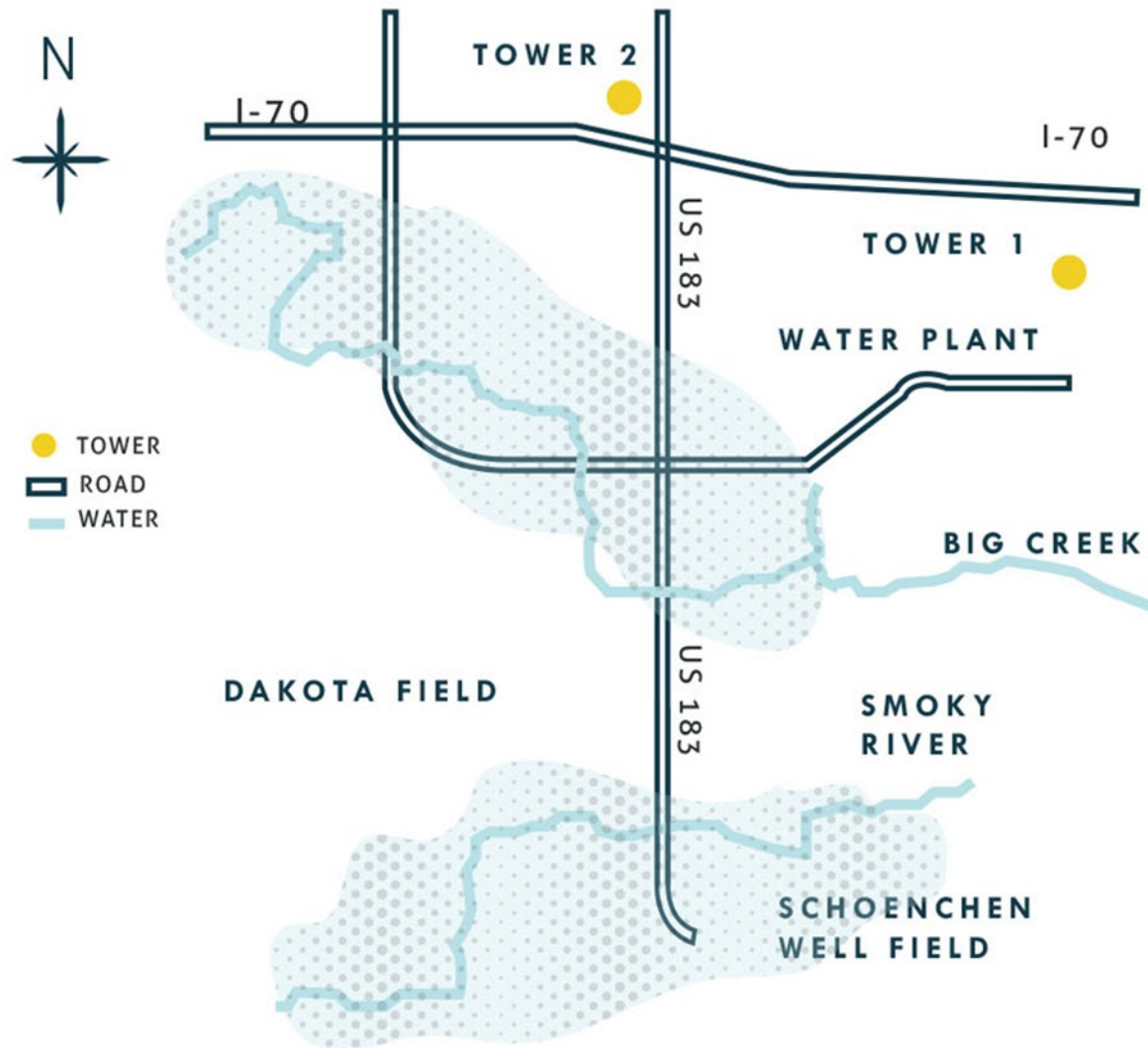
- Hays, KS
 - County Seat of Ellis County
 - Population ~20,500
 - Fort Hays State University
 - Hays Medical Center
 - Average precipitation ~23"/year





Map: Kansas Geological Survey

HAYS



Water
Conservation
has been a
major priority
in Hays for
decades...

Water restrictions

Water rate structure that encourages conservation

Waste of water is prohibited

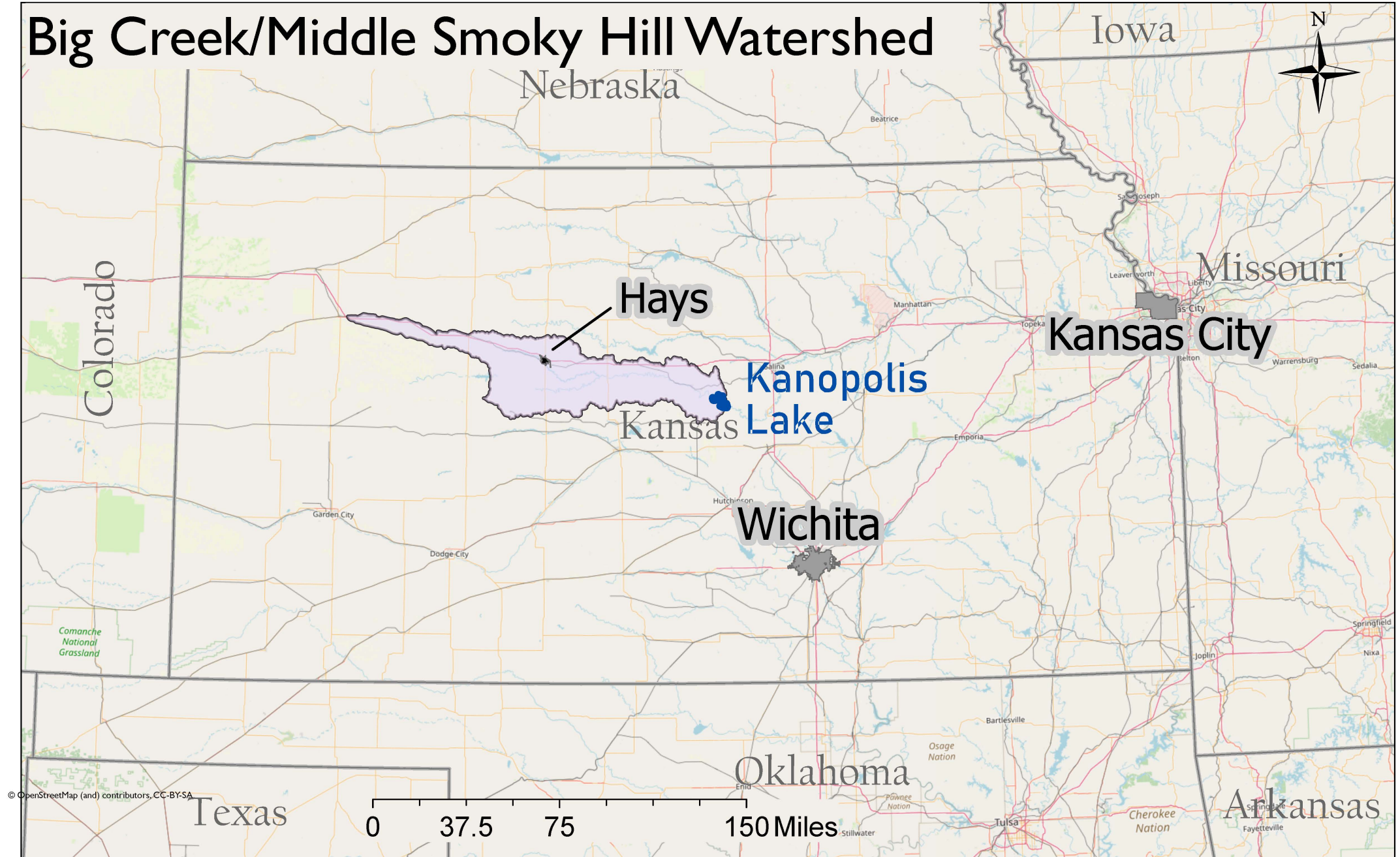
Plumbing and landscaping ordinances that promote conservation

Incentives (i.e rebates and showerhead/aerator program)

Education and outreach

The employment of a Water Conservation Specialist...

Big Creek/Middle Smoky Hill Watershed



Creating Strong Partnerships



Informal
partnership
created



K-STATE
Research and Extension

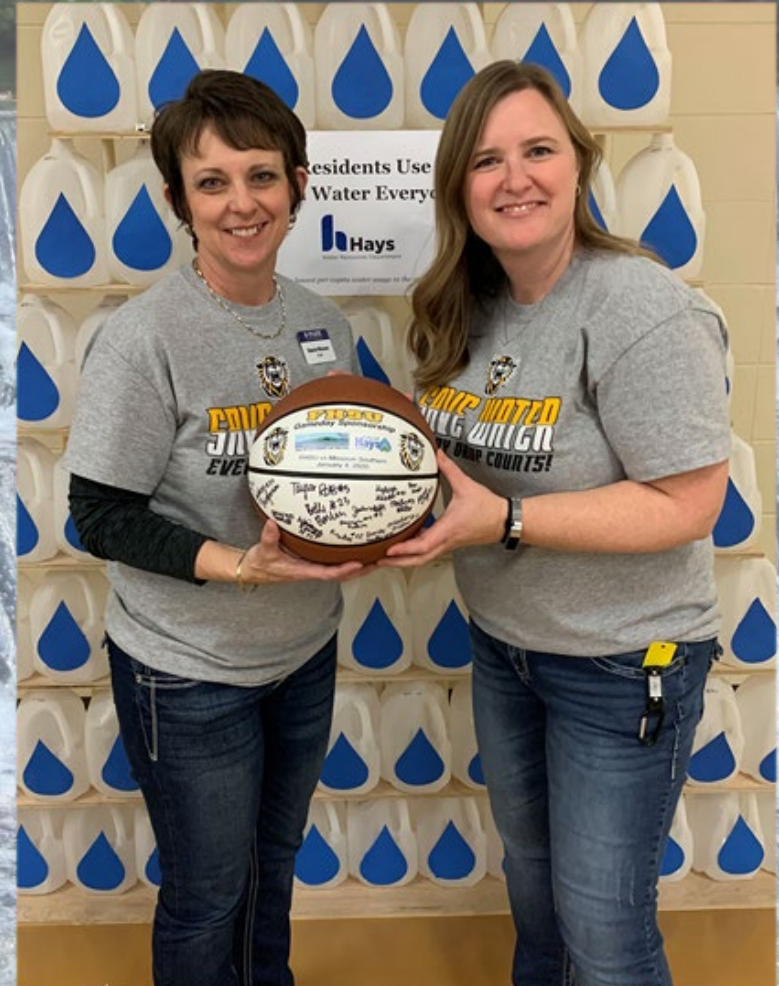
- Formalized MOU
- Budgets created
- Preliminary calendar of events

- Regular meetings
- Annual budgets (\$3,700-\$11,500)
- Annual reports submitted to City of Hays
- Expanded calendar of events



Water Education and Outreach: Teamwork keeps it flowing!

- Shared knowledge and experience
- Cooperative mindset
- Small, but mighty!
- Try, fail ... Try harder



Collegiate Game Sponsorships



World Water Day Fun Fest

The image is a collage. The background is a photograph of an indoor event, likely a museum or community center, with people of various ages gathered around tables. In the foreground, a large circular inset shows a craft project. The project consists of a collection of colorful paper water droplets and hearts pinned to a board. The text "I Love Water" is prominently displayed at the top of the circular inset, with "Because..." written below it. The droplets contain various messages about water conservation and the importance of water.









DO YOUR PART... BE WATER SMART IN 2020



2020 WATER CALENDAR



Approximately 130 million gallons of effluent water is reused annually for use by the City of Hays Parks Department.



GAUGE HORLICK - 7th Grade

AUGUST 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	<p>Do the GREEN thing - Be a "Poo-poo-Scooper"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pet waste carries bacteria and parasites that spread diseases. • Pet waste carries nutrients that cause excess weed and algae growth in water bodies. • Pet waste is not a substitute for lawn fertilizer. • Pick up pet waste from yards and dispose of it in the trash. • Carry disposable bags for picking up pet waste while dog walking. 				



CITY OF HAYS
& KSU WATERSHEDS

WATER POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

K-STATE
City of Hays



DO THE
GREEN
THING

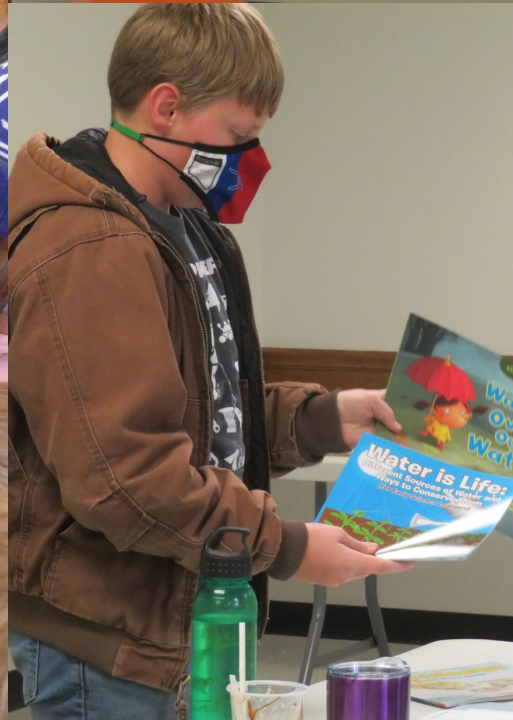


Pick up after
your pet

SIGN UP TO
WIN!!!













Now

**"When the well is dry,
we know the worth
of water."** - Benjamin Franklin

1867 - Hays City was founded near Big Creek which became the sole water source for the town.

1934 - The Civilian Conservation Corps completes several dams along Big Creek.

1950s - The City of Hays invests in water infrastructure, including the water treatment plant and the Smoky Hill water wells that provides water to Hays.

1991 - The Smoky Hill water wells nearly go dry causing the city to implement emergency water conservation efforts.

1994 - The City of Hays purchases the R9 Ranch in Edwards County as a possible long-term water source.

Present - Water conservation continues to be a top priority and the City of Hays leads the way with education, ordinances, and incentives.

in on Big Creek, Hays, Kans

Now

Water Conservation, A Way of Life.

- 25% of the water treated by the Water Reclamation and Reuse Facility is reused as irrigation for outdoor recreation facilities. Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course effluent water pond shown here.
- Tiered water rates, codes, and ordinances are in place to encourage water conservation both indoors and out.
- Incentive programs for high efficiency fixtures, appliances, and landscaping are offered.
- Water conservation specialist employed to provide consistent education and outreach.

Lowest per capita water use in the state, averaging 90 gallons/person/day.

Despite population growth, the City of Hays uses less water now than nearly 40 years ago.

Forward

The Future of Hays is Dependent on...

- Unrelenting water conservation efforts
- A strong and healthy community
- A strong and healthy mental





Hays Chamber of Commerce “Welcome Buckets”





Do the Green Thing...Protect Our Water Supplies

Water is a vital, finite, natural resource and one that must be protected for long-term use and sustainability. It's everyone's responsibility to conserve, protect, and preserve local water supplies in Ellis County. Wise use of water, proper application of fertilizer determined by soil testing, private well inspections, proper disposal of yard waste, used oil, used batteries, electronic waste (E-Waste), and household hazardous waste will insure a safe, reliable water source for future generations.

Please call before you haul – some items may not be accepted.

City of Ellis

City of Ellis Compost & Recycling Site
Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri. – 8:30 am - 11:30 am
Wed. 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
1st & 3rd Sat. – 8:30 am - 11:30 am
(785)726-4741

Compost Items collected: Only trees, shrubs, and bushes.
Recycling Items collected: aluminum and metal cans, plastic containers 1-7, glass, paper, and cardboard.

City of Victoria

City of Victoria Recycling
Collection Trailers located south of the ball park
Items accepted: cardboard, paper, and co-mingled aluminum, plastic and glass.

City of Hays

City of Hays Compost Site
South of E. 13th Street at 1002 General Custer – Hays, KS
7 days/week • (785)628-7357
Items collected: yard and garden waste, straw and mulch (no trees or bushes).
Household tree limbs accepted at Ellis County landfill at no cost for Hays residents.

City of Hays Blue Bag Recycling Program

Picked up weekly with regular trash service. Separate and place in blue bags: paper and cardboard; and aluminum and metal cans, glass, and plastic (1-7).

City of Hays Recycling Facility

1780 W. 55th Street – Hays, KS
(785)628-7357 or mhonas@haysusa.com
Bins available on the north side of the facility for after-hours drop-off
Items collected: aluminum and metal cans, plastic containers 1-7, glass, paper, and cardboard.

Ellis County Residents

Ellis County E-Waste (electronic waste)
A list of items accepted is available on the Ellis County Website: www.ellisco.net

Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Ellis County Landfill
1515 55th Street – Hays, KS
Mon. – Sat. 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Daily Limit/Person – 5 gallons or 50 pounds
No charge for Ellis County Private Households
For used oil collection questions, call (785)628-9460
For larger quantities or questions, call (785)628-9449 or karen@ellisco.net
A list of items accepted is available on the Ellis County Website: www.ellisco.net

Private Well Testing Services

Ellis County Environmental staff will collect a water sample from the private water well and screen for nitrates and bacteria for \$20.00. Please call (785)628-9449 to set up an appointment or karen@ellisco.net

Soil Testing

Don't guess, soil test! Reduce the potential of applying unnecessary fertilizer to landscapes and gardens which is a waste of money and can be a source of water pollution. Help and advice on soil testing available:

Holly Dickman, Horticulture Agent
K-State Research & Extension,
Cottonwood Extension District
601 Main St, Suite A – Hays, KS
(785)628-9430 or hmwerth@ksu.edu

Roll Out the Rain Barrel Project

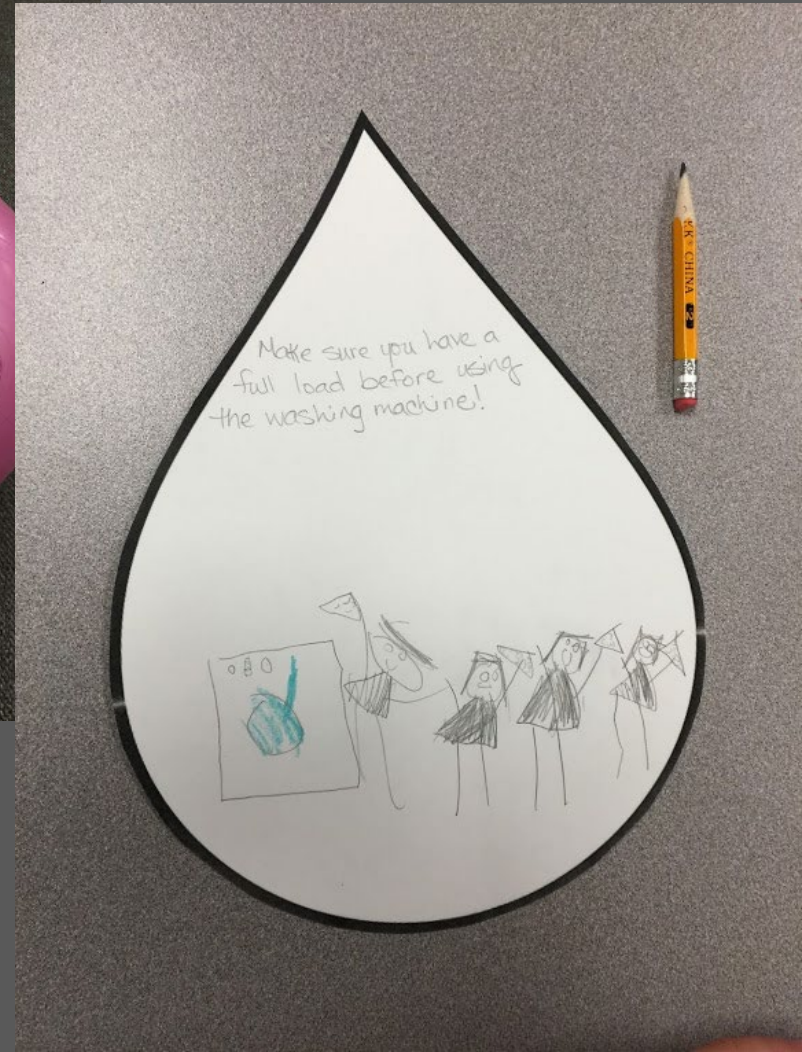
55 gallon, plastic rain barrels available for purchase to collect stormwater in the home landscape for water quality and conservation efforts. Available year-round.

KSU Watersheds

120 N Main St – WaKeeney, KS
(785)769-3297 or sedgett@ksu.edu



School presentations



Fall H²O \$mart Landscape Tour



Tuesday, September 26th

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm



**Tour begins at Great Plains Dermatology -- 2708 Sternberg Drive
and concludes at Hays Medical Center
Nature Trail – 2200 Canterbury Drive**

This is your opportunity to see how to incorporate native vegetation into the landscape with color, diversity, and drought tolerant species. Learn how to take soil samples and prepare the soil for planting, plus we will pay for the soil test. Understand how vegetation protects local water supplies. See first hand how cool season grasses can be utilized while still conserving water.

Drinks and finger foods provided. Please RSVP at 785-628-7350 by September 26th at 12pm

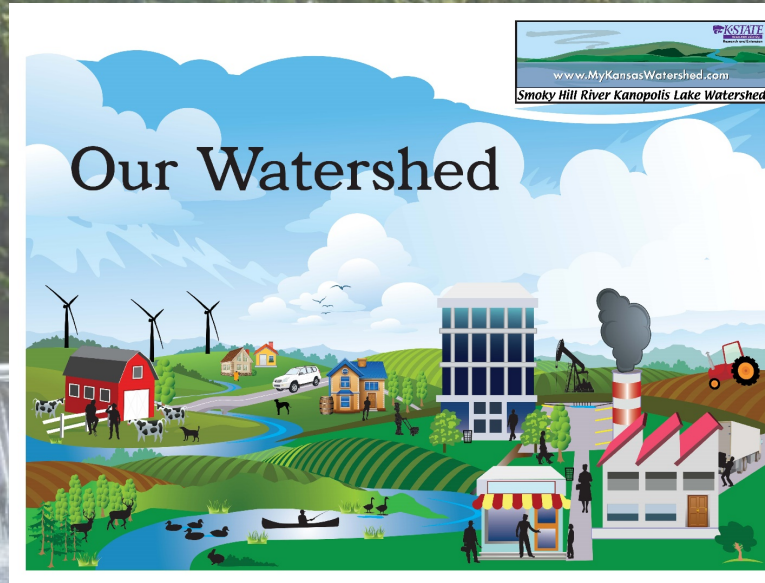
Sponsored by the City of Hays, Great Plains Dermatology, Dr. Don Tillman, Hays Medical Center, & KSU Big Creek Middle Smoky Hill River Watersheds.



Knowledge
for Life



Water Quality Education



Roll Out the Rain Barrels



Roll Out the Rain Barrel

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

KSU Agricultural Research Center
1232 240th Ave, Hays, KS
4pm to 6pm -- No Early Pick-up
Limit 4 barrels/address*
\$26.00/barrel

Registration form available at www.mykansaswatershed.com/rain_barrels/

Contact Information: *Payment in advance to guarantee barrels
Stacie Minson, KSU Watershed Specialist, 785-769-3297, sedgett@ksu.edu

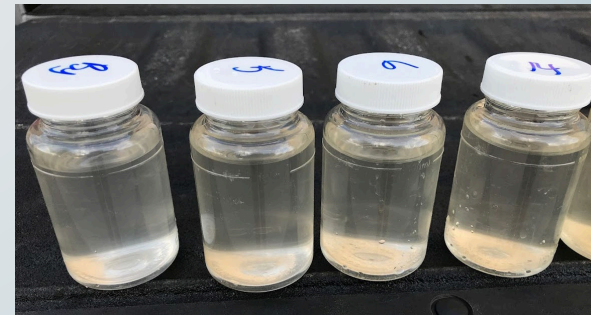
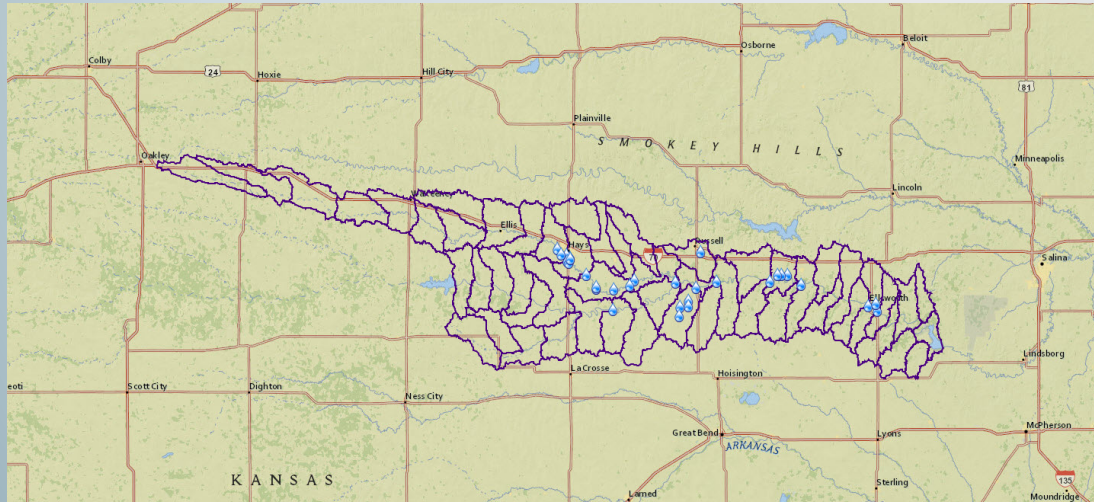
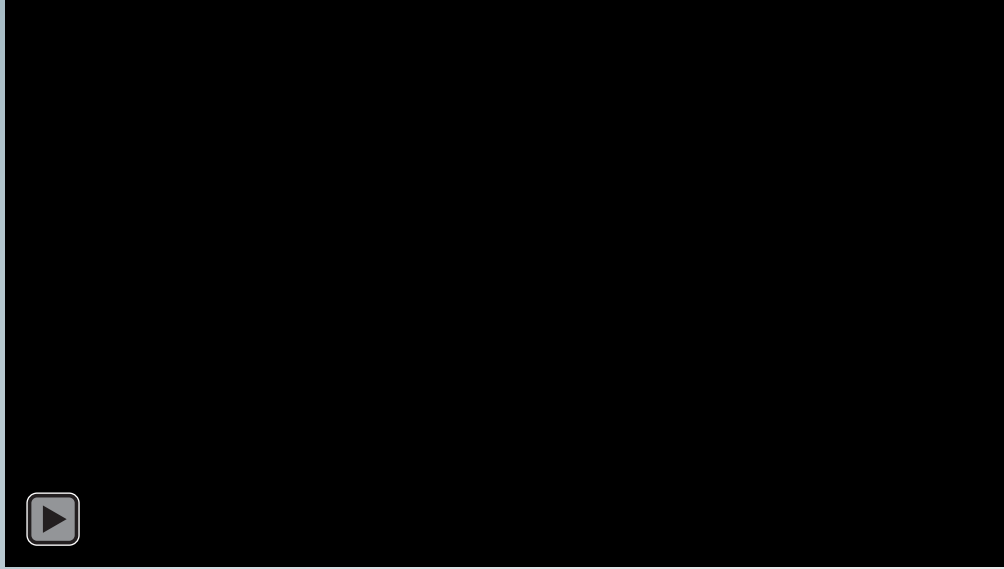
Checks Payable to:
Ellsworth Co. Conservation District
c/o KSU
120 N. Main St.,
WaKeeney, KS 67672

Theresa Meis, Ellis County Extension Office,
785-628-9430, tam3@ksu.edu



Water Monitoring Project

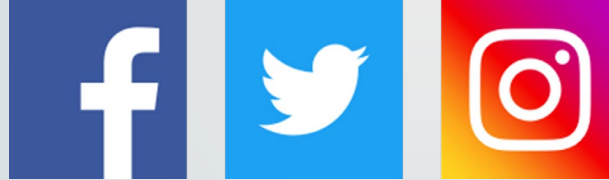


Find Out More



Water Conservation

www.watersmarthays.com



[@WaterSmartHays](#)



Big Creek Middle Smoky Hill River Watersheds

Thank you to our partners

K-STATE
Research and Extension



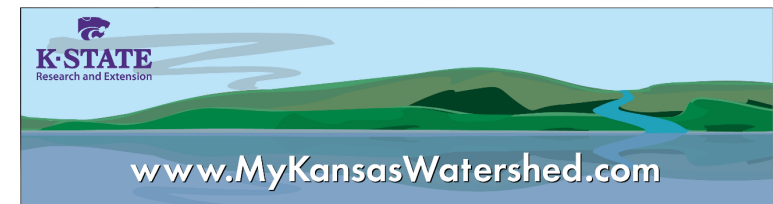
Holly Dickman

hdickman@haysusa.com



Stacie Minson

sedgett@ksu.edu



www.MyKansasWatershed.com

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