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Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

If you want to learn more about Texas SmartScape gardens, mark Saturday, July 18, on your calendar. David Lenartowicz with the City's environmental services division and Keep Burleson Beautiful members will be on hand, 8 a.m.-10 a.m., at Russell Farm to showcase the City's SmartScape garden. There will also be a display showing how you can set up a solar powered rain barrel and drip irrigation.

The garden at Russell Farm includes a rain barrel painted by Bettie Bailey, a solar drip, and a drought tolerant garden project. The donors include Home Depot, Bluebonnet RC&D, Harley Davidson, Total Pallet Solutions, United Cooperative Services, and CP&Y. Steve Witherspoon, also a City employee, built the frame to mount the solar panel.

The purpose of Texas SmartScape is to educate citizens on the ecological, economic and aesthetic benefits of using landscaping plants, shrubs, grasses and trees that are native or adapted to our regional climate and local conditions. The ultimate goal is to conserve local water supplies and improve storm water runoff quality by reducing the amount of water needed to maintain landscapes while also decreasing the amounts of pesticide, fertilizer and herbicides used in landscaping practices.

This SmartScape website, <http://www.txsmartscape.com/index.asp>, is an interactive "how to" guide that walks you through the SmartScape concept and offers a "Search Plants" feature. You pick out what you like and what would work in your yard. There is information on more than 200 plants, shrubs, and trees that thrive in North Central Texas.

Russell Farm is located at 405 W. CR 714. Call David Lenartowicz at 817-426-9842 or email dlenartowicz@burlesontx.com for more details.