



CASE STUDY

Water Stewardship in Fort Worth

At Facebook, we aim to minimize our energy, emissions, and water impact, while embracing the responsibility and opportunity to impact the world beyond our operations.

The opportunity

Average temperatures in the Fort Worth area can range from a cool 45 degrees in January to nearly 90 degrees in the summer, and some days reach well over 100 degrees. Higher temperatures mean a higher demand for water to irrigate land in the area. This, coupled with the growing gap between water supply and water demand in Texas, presented Facebook with a unique challenge when we decided to build a data center in Fort Worth in 2015.

Facebook data centers are among the most energy- and water-efficient facilities in the world, using approximately 80% less water than the average data center, and are supported by renewable energy. We built the Fort Worth Data Center to be as efficient as our other data centers, but we also knew we needed to find a creative solution that would extend that efficiency to the 150 acres of land on which our data center was being constructed.

The solution

We found a new native turfgrass that was developed specifically to grow in dry climates like Texas. This type of grass grows quickly, requires little maintenance and, most importantly, protects natural resources by requiring less water.

During the installation process, we were lucky to be able to collaborate with and learn from the experience of great community partners, such as Hillwood Properties, who had restored the 15-acre Bluestem Park with this particular species of grass. Hillwood shared our commitment to environmental stewardship and were supportive of our sustainable efforts to plant this ecological lawn at our data center.

1.5 billion

gallons of water use avoided in a single year through water stewardship efforts



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Across our 15 data center locations, we pursue a landscaping strategy that requires very little — if any — water for irrigation by using mostly native or adaptive grass species. We install water meters to ensure efficient water performance and use green infrastructure techniques to restore natural processes to manage stormwater. And we also try to find solutions that are specific to the locations of our facilities.

The impact

Water stewardship is a key pillar of Facebook’s sustainability program and we are constantly looking for new ways to innovate in this area. This decision to landscape sustainably has reduced our irrigation needs and landscaping needs and is estimated to reduce water use by twelve million gallons, or 75%, annually.

In a single year, our water stewardship efforts have avoided 1.5 billion gallons of water use overall through innovative design choices and circular water use. The decision to landscape our Fort Worth data center with this native turf grass is one of the ways we have done that.



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More information

For more information visit our Sustainability site at sustainability.fb.com