

Jason Schubert

Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

Nature of the Problem

Over the years, the Texas urban landscape has become more populous and concentrated. Along with this increase has come an increase in the use of water resources. More Texans are now dependent upon fewer water sources. In many instances, cities and other smaller municipalities have a limited quantity of water available, a limited number of sources of it, or both. As a result, many of these entities have taken steps to sustain their water resources through ordinances and other conservation programs.

In more recent times, there has been much emphasis placed on protecting and preserving our water resources from pollution, possible sabotage by individuals or groups, and naturally occurring weather patterns that deplete our water reserves. As part of the Master of Urban Planning program, I will complete the Environmental Hazards Management emphasis. The emphasis curriculum consists of courses and research in environmental planning, risk analysis, disaster response, and hazards management and mitigation. Research and study into these topics will provide the technical and policymaking background necessary to address the future water needs of Texas.

My research interests regarding water resources fall within the scope of Environmental Hazards Management. More specifically, some research topics include: developing greater water resource reserves, creating feasible water recycling programs, and formulating appropriate water crisis preparation and response plans. My research will help to create more complete solutions to these topics and will help meet the water resource challenges that lie ahead.

Intended Career Path Statement

With the background from my undergraduate Geology degree, I feel I have an adequate understanding of environmental issues, particularly as related to surface and groundwater. The Environmental Hazards Management emphasis area within my Master of Urban Planning program will broaden my knowledge and allow me to take part in many water-related issues that face the various municipalities and regions of Texas. In preparation against possible sabotage of water sources by individuals or potential natural disasters, there has been much emphasis placed on protecting and sustaining our water resources. I look forward to becoming an active part of these preparations and precautions that will ensure a safe, reliable water source for years to come.