

# ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES CITY OF ROSEVILLE Today

April 2008



WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE

## Drought or No Drought—Water Conservation Is the Right Answer



Folsom Lake, December 2007.

**Q I heard we might be heading into a drought, did this winter's storms give us the rain and snow we needed?**

**A** Thanks to a bevy of winter storms, Roseville has seen some reprieve from looming drought conditions, but the California Department of Water Resources says that "long-term, dry hydrologic conditions still prevail." In other words, it's better than we hoped for, but we're still not out of the woods.

**Q So I don't need to worry about saving water this summer, true?**

**A** False! Saving water is like saving electricity—the less you use, the more you leave for nature's delicate ecosystems. After all, our local environment used all the rain and snowmelt before we came along, so every drop we use is subtracted from nature's allocation. Remember, too, we live in a region that gets virtually all its drinking water from the Sierra Nevada snowpack, so it doesn't take much to send us into a drought. A few dry years like last year can put us on drought's doorstep.

**Q But what can I do about that now?**

**A** Put in water-saving devices like low-flow showerheads, high-efficiency toilets, rain sensors on sprinkler systems, and water-efficient plants. Roseville offers generous rebates on many items and will soon start its Cash for Grass program that pays you to replace thirsty lawns with water-saving options. And practice water-smart habits like taking short showers, turning off water when you're washing dishes or brushing your teeth, and taking your car to a commercial car wash (most recycle and reuse water).

**The bottom line is this—water is a limited resource. The more we take out of the system, the less is put back in over time. Practicing water conservation simply makes sense—no matter what the weather brings.**

**Roseville is offering great incentives to make water-wise changes inside and out.**

### High-Efficiency Toilets

To encourage residents to upgrade to new high-efficiency toilets (HETs), we're offering rebates of up to \$175 per HET to replace toilets made before 1992. Toilets made before 1992 use more than 20,000 gallons each year when flushed just eight times a day. Ultra-low-flow toilets introduced in 1992 cut that down to about 4,500 gallons per year and the new HETs trim that figure to less than 3,700 gallons. For a city with more than 43,000 homes and apartments, plus more than 5,500 businesses, the water savings is huge. We're still giving rebates of \$125 per toilet on ultra-low-flow models to replace pre-1992 toilets, too!

### Swimming Pool Covers

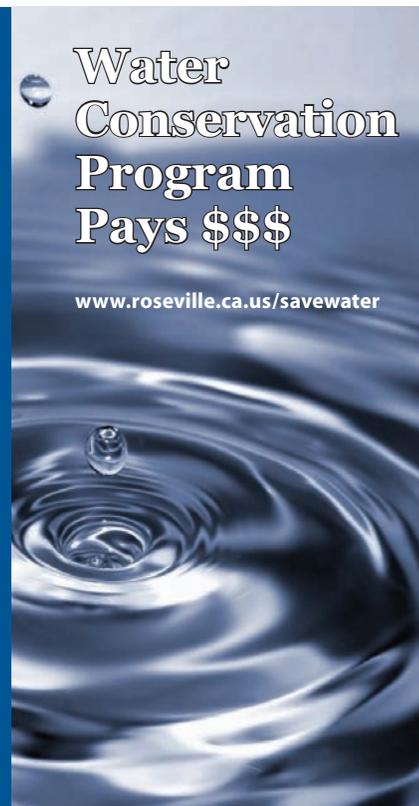
During an average 15-week swimming season, a normal-sized pool can lose more than 5,300 gallons to evaporation, or 50.5 gallons per day. Pool owners can cut that rate by almost 50 percent just by installing a pool cover. Roseville is offering a choice of pool-cover rebates. Sign up to receive a \$50 rebate for a non-mechanical cover or collect up to \$200 when you install a permanent, mechanical cover.

### Cash For Grass

Your lush, green lawn may be guzzling up drinking water—more than 5,000 gallons each week for the average U.S. lawn. That's why Roseville is offering residents cash for their grass. Starting July 1, 2008, we'll start paying residents \$1 per square foot, up to \$1,000 per site, to replace grass with low water-use plants or hardscape. Your rebate could pay for a new, low-water yard that looks beautiful all year and takes mowing off your to-do list.

Water  
Conservation  
Program  
Pays \$\$\$

[www.roseville.ca.us/savewater](http://www.roseville.ca.us/savewater)





## Great Roseville Cleanup Needs You!

If the thought of a litter-free Roseville's makes you smile, we have a job for you. This year's **Great Roseville Cleanup** is happening on **Saturday, May 10** along Industrial Boulevard. Join your neighbors and come pick up trash between 8 a.m. and noon that day. We're tackling one of the city's busiest roads this year, so volunteers must be 16 years or older. Thank you to Dave Albright and the all-volunteer Citizens Involved Means Better Living ([www.CIMBL.org](http://www.CIMBL.org)) for generously agreeing to supply all materials needed for this event.

For more information, visit [www.roseville.ca.us/eu](http://www.roseville.ca.us/eu). If you'd like to volunteer, contact Stephanie Gillis at 774-5569.

## Step Out and Celebrate Earth Day

Come join the Roseville Utility Exploration Center's Celebrate the Earth festivities on Saturday, April 19.

The center's first Earth Day celebration offers something for everyone in the family—a panel discussion on climate change, demonstrations by artists and environmental experts, vendors offering eco-friendly wares, music, food and plenty of fun. Guided nature walks of the park and other areas will take place throughout the day, as well, giving up-close views of the beautiful natural spaces Roseville holds.

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Creek Week also kicks off at the celebration. This year's theme for the Dry Creek Conservancy event is Wild Places in Urban Spaces. Throughout the week, residents can learn more about contributing to our region's sustainability through cleanup activities, guided nature walks, workshops, planting projects and other community events. As with previous years, Creek Week events will be held throughout Placer County, including Roseville, Rocklin and Loomis.

Get the latest Earth Day celebration updates at [www.roseville.ca.us/explore](http://www.roseville.ca.us/explore) and find out more about Creek Week at [www.drycreekconservancy.org](http://www.drycreekconservancy.org).



## Three Cheers for Our HEROEs

Each month, an employee is selected to receive the department's Honoring Excellence and Rewarding Outstanding Employees (HEROE) award.



Kristofer Zanardelli

December's award was given to Industrial Waste Specialist **KRISTOFER ZANARDELLI** in the Water/Wastewater Analysis Lab, for stepping up to keep the city in compliance with state requirements. Kris showed fantastic initiative, reapplying for an expired lab certificate while filling in during his supervisor's extended absence. After preparing the required paperwork, Kris drove the renewal application and payment to Oakland



Rick Thompson

The January HEROE award goes to **RICK THOMPSON**, a wastewater utility maintenance worker who operates one of the city's closed circuit television (CCTV) trucks used for inspecting its sewer system. Rick received two unrelated nominations from his fellow employees for the month's award. The first was for consistently going beyond his duties and using his considerable expertise to trouble-shoot and repair the department's CCTV equipment. The second nomination was for his commitment to ensuring the accuracy of the wastewater infrastructure map, including submitting data corrections that helped resolve map inconsistencies.

*If there's an Environmental Utilities Department employee who has provided you with outstanding service, we'd love to hear about it—please call us at 774-5770.*

## Water System Spring Cleanout Begins

The city's annual water system maintenance takes place from April 28 until June 27, 2008. This year, city crews will be flushing out fire hydrants and water mains in the area east of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, bounded on the eastern edge by Sierra College Blvd., and by the city limits on the north and south. The crews will open each fire hydrant and water main valve in that area to ensure lines are clear and all valves are working properly. When crews are in your neighborhood, you may notice a slight water pressure drop lasting no more than 10 minutes.

The water division divides the city into four sections, performing the maintenance on a different quadrant each year, so that every city hydrants and main is checked in a four-year period. The program helps protect the health and well-being of Roseville by maintaining fire safety levels and making certain water mains remain clear. If you have any questions about the scheduled maintenance, please call us at 774-5750.

## Did You Know?

Experts suggest you water your grass one inch every week during summer months. Since the average U.S. yard covers one-fifth of an acre, that adds up to more than 5,400 gallons of drinking water just to ensure the grass is always green on your side of the fence.



## Purple Pipes Keep Roseville Green

YES, WE EVEN RECYCLE WATER. Purple pipes are popping up in parks and public places all across Roseville. Those pipes carry wastewater treated and recycled to the state's highest standards, greening Roseville and saving our drinking water.

This year, we'll deliver almost 815 million gallons of recycled water to 61 sites, including four golf courses, 10 parks, and many acres of streetscape. The new Roseville Energy Park also uses recycled water for its industrial cooling. To supply the growing demand, we opened a new pump station to carry recycled water to parks, schools, streetscapes and commercial customers in the West Roseville Specific Plan area.

Visit [www.roseville.ca.us/recycledwater](http://www.roseville.ca.us/recycledwater) to learn more about Roseville's recycled water program.



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Comments and suggestions are welcome—please send to the attention of Sean Bigley.

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