

ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES CITY OF ROSEVILLE Today

August 2007



WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE

Water Wise House Call



FREE
Advice on how to
save money on your water bill.
How?
Call us today for a *free*
Water Wise
House Call.
774-5761

Free Irrigation System Check: Too Good to Be True?

Calling in an irrigation expert to assess your system can cost you a lot of money—or nothing at all. Our Water Wise House Call program is an **absolutely free** service that brings the expertise of a trained water-use specialist to your home. That may seem unbelievable, but it is true.

All you have to do is call. We'll set up a weekday time that's convenient for you to meet with our trained specialist at your home. Our Water Wise expert will perform a thorough assessment of your indoor and outdoor water use.

- Outside we'll help you set up an appropriate watering schedule for all lawn and landscape areas, evaluate your system for leaks, and assess irrigation uniformity and water runoff characteristics to identify problem areas.

If there are leaks or problems that need repair, we'll let you know what needs to be done. Armed with this knowledge, you can fix the problems yourself or hire a repair service.

- Inside your home, we'll check the faucet and showerhead flow rates and test toilets and other plumbing fixtures for leaks.

We'll also provide free low-flow, water-saving aerators for bathroom and kitchen faucets, toilet flappers to fix leaks, and high-quality water-efficient showerheads.

Water Wise House Calls are FREE and available weekdays to suit your schedule. Call 774-5761 to schedule your appointment today.

Online Utility Bills Coming to a Computer Near You

Starting this summer, the City of Roseville will offer customers the chance to view and pay their utility bills online. Once customers complete the one-time registration and receive a user name and password, they can logon to a secure Web site to pay their bills from a checking account or credit card. Customers can also elect to stop receiving paper bills and instead receive email notification when bills are ready for viewing and payment. Customers will have the ability to review their energy and water consumption. The secure site will also allow customers to view newsletters and other inserts included in the paper bill mailing and to see their usage and payment histories.

- When the system is ready, a front-page button on the city's site (www.roseville.ca.us) will appear, allowing fast access direct to the bill pay section.





Green is Back-to-School Cool

Kids have a special interest in protecting our planet's future and they're often more willing than adults to adopt new habits. Here are a few ideas kids can take back to school this fall to show they care and set an example for others:

- Choose school supplies wrapped in minimal packaging, refillable pens and pencils, concentrated products, and bulk products that can be used throughout the year.
- Save packaging, egg cartons, magazines, colored paper and other items for artistic school projects.
- Use last year's backpack or donate last year's and buy a sturdy new one you can use for many years. Better yet, there are backpacks now on the market that are made from recycled content, like soda bottles.
- Look for school supplies that incorporate recycled materials, such as paper, binders and other items.
- Go retro on school lunches by using a lunch box, cloth bag or reusable plastic bag to carry lunches and packing cloth napkins and reusable utensils.
- Put food and drinks in reusable containers and remember fresh fruit already comes naturally packed.

Support your kids' efforts and help them develop long-term habits that support sustainability.

Greening West Roseville with Recycled Water

As development continues and the grass, plants and trees in West Roseville's public and commercial areas take root and grow, they can thank nutrient-rich recycled water for keeping them green. We can all thank West Roseville's use of recycled water for saving our city more than 570 million gallons of drinking water each year—enough to meet the annual needs of about 1,750 people.

Because West Roseville's infrastructure of utility pipes and lines was newly installed, the city was able to incorporate a sophisticated recycled water delivery system that reaches most of the area's commercially serviced irrigation customers, including the business parks, multifamily dwellings, schools, parks and streetscape areas. Only residential customers in single-family homes will use drinking water to irrigate their lawns and landscape.

Recycled water, certified to the state's highest safety standards for everything except drinking, offers a pure green alternative for keeping West Roseville green.



Looking for Irrigation Leaks in Likely Locations

Irrigation system leaks can occur when the valve fails to shut off, a pipe breaks or develops a hole, or when a sprinkler head or drip irrigation emitter becomes clogged or breaks. Here are some indicators to help you spot irrigation system leaks with possible causes and repairs:

Symptom: Areas where grass grows faster or is unusually green

Possible Cause: Broken pipe or leaking connection between pipes and sprinkler risers.

Remedy: Determine the central point of the green patch that runs along the irrigation pipe path and dig down to locate the break or faulty connection. Replace or repair parts.

Symptom: Soggy spots and bubbles under sod.

Possible Cause: Broken pipe or sprinkler riser .

Remedy: Locate break, replace broken section.

Symptom: Small puddles or wet pots in areas not targeted by sprinklers or drip irrigation systems.

Possible Cause: Perforated pipe or tube (for drip irrigation). Faulty drip irrigation connections can also cause leaking near the connection.

Remedy: Dig gently down from the wet area to locate the pipe or tube, replace or repair.

Symptom: Sprinklers and drip emitters that continue to run after the system has been turned off.

Possible Cause: Leaking valve.

Remedy: Turn off water to the system, remove the valve, take it apart to clean out debris and replace any visibly worn parts.



Volunteers Needed to Install New Storm Drain Markers

The City is looking for a few good volunteers to help replace painted stencil storm-drain markers with new rugged metal markers. Unlike painted markings that wore away in less than two years and sent a small amount of dry paint into creeks, the new metal markers are expected to last 30 years or longer.

"For all the benefits, there is one drawback," said Stormwater Program Manager Delyn Ellison-Lloyd. "Installing the markers requires drilling a hole in the concrete and setting in the markers in two steps, first the marker is glued and then it is nailed, so it's harder to install the markers than it was to paint stencils—and we need to install more than 7,000 of them."

- **Dedicated individuals and groups willing to volunteer their time to help out with the effort should call Stormwater Management at 774-5751.**

Paving Coming Soon to Roseville's Newest Recycling Center

To help keep you clean while you're helping to keep the environment green, the city will soon be paving the way to and around the new recycling drop-off site at Mahany Park (next to Bear Dog Park). The new recycling site offers bins for cardboard, newspaper, bottles and cans and is open 24 hours a day, every day. For directions and other recycling and drop-off locations, visit www.roseville.ca.us/recycle.

Thank you to our HEROES

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

Our April HEROE **STEVE DECROIX** is a plant and equipment mechanic II well-known for his helpful attitude. His skill in developing ingenious devices has made many tasks safer and easier for his fellow Wastewater Division employees. But he doesn't stop there. Steve recently came up with a custom-made device that relieves Solid Waste Division crews from climbing out of their trucks to position 90-gallon waste containers for pick-up—saving considerable time while improving safety.



Steve Decroix

In May, Water Division employee **RUBEN HERNANDEZ** earned the award for going the extra mile to help a resident who called to report that his water meter box had filled with water that was leaking out onto the street. After Ruben went out to the home, the resident called to let Ruben's supervisor know how nice and helpful Ruben had been in getting the situation handled.



Ruben Hernandez

- **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.**

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

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