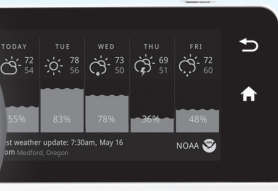




Waterlines

MAY 2021

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION



Smart Irrigation Is a No-Brainer

Experts estimate that as much as 50 percent of residential water used is wasted due to overwatering, caused by inefficient irrigation methods and systems.

Smart irrigation controllers can significantly reduce overwatering by applying water only when plants need it, using local weather to tailor watering schedules to actual conditions. Take advantage of our **Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate**; you can get up to \$250 back if you qualify!

Go to medfordwater.org, and click on **Rebates** for more information, or call (541) 774-2435. Learn about other ways to conserve in the "Love Your Water, Use It Wisely" article at the right.

We're here for you:

Our office is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19 precautions and to protect the health and safety of our essential employees, but we're still here to help! Contact us:

(541) 774-2430
customerservice@medfordwater.org
medfordwater.org

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

Socialize with us!

facebook.com/MedfordWater

twitter.com/MedfordWater

LOVE YOUR WATER, USE IT WISELY

Here in the Rogue Valley, we are fortunate enough to have access to reliable, high-quality drinking water—just by turning on the tap. We wake up in the morning, take a shower, brush our teeth, grab a cup of coffee, and head out for the day.

While having water readily available at the tap may make it seem like there is an abundance of water, the reality is that water supplies are becoming more stressed each year. With drought occurring more frequently in Southern Oregon it is even more essential for our communities to work together to find ways to use the water we have as efficiently as possible.

Medford Water Commission (MWC) prioritizes the responsible use of water and promotes water efficiency practices throughout our community. Making conservation a part of your daily life can help us to preserve this essential resource.

In our area, water use triples during the summer months largely due to the increase in lawn and landscape watering. We encourage our customers to love the water we have and use it wisely, especially in the landscape this summer, and offer several programs, rebates, and resources to the community to assist in maximizing water use and minimizing water waste.

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BACKUP POWER PROJECT TO PROVIDE SYSTEM RESILIENCY

Work is nearly complete on a project that will bring backup power to the Robert A. Duff Water Treatment Plant, allowing it to continue to provide water in the event of a loss of utility power. The project consists of three generator sets that are wired to switches that can transfer power from the grid to the generator if needed.

Two out of three of the required generator sets were received and wired earlier this year; the final set was recently delivered, coming in two separate loads: a 7800-gallon fuel tank, and the 65,000-pound generator portion. This was a very technical installation that went seamlessly thanks to the hard work of contractors and staff.

Power at the plant needed to be shut down for three days to facilitate the connection of this final machine to utility power, and during this time, the two that had been previously installed worked perfectly.

If the plant experiences a loss of power, this project will provide enough onsite emergency power generation to satisfy maximum wintertime system demand, and is part of our mission to improve our system's resiliency and reliability.

The third generator before and after being set into place



USE IT WISELY

(Continued from Page 1)

For ways to reduce your water usage inside and outside, start with the following tips:

- **Stop leaks.** Check all water-using appliances, equipment, and other devices for leaks. Running toilets, steady faucet drips, home water treatment units, and outdoor sprinkler systems are common sources of leaks.
- **Provide only the water plants need.** Since automatic landscape irrigation systems are a home's biggest water user, adjust your irrigation controller routinely to make sure you are not overwatering.

Call our prerecorded Lawn Watering Infoline (541-774-2460) during the summer months to learn how much water you need to apply each week based on local weather trends, and the best time of day to water.

Better yet, install a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller, which uses local weather and

landscape conditions to water only when plants need it. The average household can save an estimated 8,800 gallons of water annually, and you can get up to \$250 back if you qualify for our Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate Program.

- **Plant the right plants.** Whether you're installing a new landscape or changing the existing one, select plants that are appropriate for your climate. Consider landscaping techniques designed to create a visually attractive landscape by using low-water and drought-resistant grass, plants, shrubs, and trees.

Our Water Wise Gardening website (medford.watersmartgardening.com) highlights water-wise gardening concepts tailored to the climate of the Rogue Valley, and includes hundreds of diverse photos providing a wide variety of attractive examples.

- **Schedule a Free Sprinkler Survey.** MWC offers free sprinkler system

evaluations to help you use water efficiently in the landscape. Call 541-774-2435 to schedule a survey.

- **Replace old toilets.** The major water use inside the home is toilet flushing. If your home was built before 1992 and you haven't replaced your toilets recently, you could benefit from installing a WaterSense labeled model that uses 1.28 gallons or less per flush.

A family of four can save 16,000 gallons of water per year by making this change. Get up to \$85 back with our Toilet Rebate Program!

- **Install WaterSense labeled faucet aerators and showerheads.** WaterSense labeled products use at least 20 percent less water than standard models, while providing equal or superior performance.

Find out more about stopping leaks, our rebate programs, and how you can conserve water this summer at our website, medfordwater.org, or by calling 541-774-2435.

Did you know... Medford Water Commission publishes an annual Consumer Confidence Report that includes water testing results?

The report includes water testing results for the year 2020 and information explaining what the results mean. It focuses on and provides additional details about compliance with regulations; it does not include data on all of the parameters tested (for a comprehensive listing of results, see our 2020 Water Quality Analyses on the Water Quality page of our website).

The Consumer Confidence Report will be available by July 1 at <http://www.medfordwater.org/consumerconfidencereport.pdf> or you may request a paper copy by calling 541-774-2430.

El informe anual sobre la calidad de su agua estará disponible en línea el 1 de Julio en: <http://www.medfordwater.org/informedeconfianzadelconsumidor.pdf>.

Por favor llame al 541-774-2430 si desea una copia en papel por correo.



Medford Water Commission

Established in 1922 by the City of Medford and governed by the Board of Water Commissioners.

Commissioners

Jason Anderson • Bob Strosser • Daniel Bunn
John Dailey • Mike Smith

General Manager

Brad Taylor

Serving Medford and Partner Cities:

Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland*

Also serving:

White City area and the Elk City and Charlotte Ann Water Districts

*Emergency intertie only

