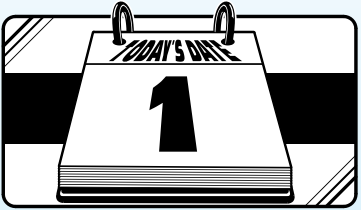




# Waterlines

MAY 2017

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION



## Water Events

If you missed us at the Spring Garden Fair, don't worry, there are many other opportunities coming up in the year to learn about efficient water use and other water-related issues:

- **Drinking Water Week**  
May 7-13
- **Infrastructure Week**  
May 15-19
- **Smart Irrigation Month**  
July 1-31
- **National Water Quality Month**  
August 1-31
- **World Water Week**  
August 27-September 1
- **Imagine A Day Without Water**  
October 12

Stay tuned to our website and social media pages for more information, or call (541) 774-2436.

### Committed to:

Excellence in Water Quality  
Professionalism  
Customer Satisfaction  
System Reliability

### Contact us:

200 South Ivy Street, Room 177  
Medford, OR 97501  
(541) 774-2430  
water@cityofmedford.org  
www.medfordwater.org

Find us on Facebook @MedfordWater

## SPRINKLE START, SPRINKLE SMART

With summer around the corner, be sure your irrigation equipment is in order and turned back on properly after being winterized.

Here are some tips to help avoid damage when turning on your sprinkler system:

- Open the valve(s) on the main irrigation line that are farthest from the connection to the pipe that supplies water to your home, in order to allow air to escape.
- Next, **partially** open the system shut off valve to avoid filling the pipes too quickly, which can cause damage. If you don't have a shut off valve for the sprinkler system, it is advisable to have one installed.
- As water and air come out of the valves that have been opened, open the main system valve slightly more, but **not yet all the way**. Then slowly close down those farthest valves.



- Look for any other open valves that need to be closed, especially drain valves and the test cocks on the backflow assembly that may be open. Once all valves are confirmed closed and no problems are visible, **fully** open the main system shut off valve.

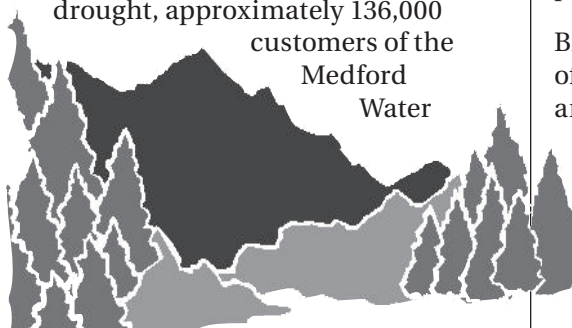
Read more about Spring Start-up for Sprinklers and other landscaping resources on our website under the Conservation tab, or call (541) 774-2436 for a copy.

## PROTECTING OUR WATERSHEDS

In the Rogue Valley, we are fortunate to have one of the most dependable and high quality drinking water sources in the nation.

While the rest of our region might often suffer from scant supplies and drought, approximately 136,000

customers of the  
Medford  
Water



Commission have a steady, year-round supply of water from two different sources. These are Big Butte Springs, a groundwater source within the Big Butte Creek Watershed, and the Rogue River, a surface water source (see map on next page).

Big Butte Springs is the primary source of drinking water for the City of Medford and surrounding communities. Piped to us from the slopes of Mt. McLoughlin, the springs provide 26.4 million gallons per day of pristine water that is consistently cold and clear.

(Continued on Page 2)

## ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT COMING SOON

Medford Water Commission celebrates another year of excellent drinking water, detailed in our annual Consumer Confidence Report available July 1, at [www.medfordwater.org/ConsumerConfidenceReport.pdf](http://www.medfordwater.org/ConsumerConfidenceReport.pdf)

The report includes water quality testing results for the year 2016, along with information explaining what the results mean. Information on the sources of our drinking water is also included.

Call us at (541) 774-2430 to request a copy by mail; paper copies will be available at our office in the Medford City Hall Lausmann Annex building at 200 S. Ivy, Room 177.

\*\*\*

*El informe anual sobre la calidad de su agua estará disponible en línea el 1 de Julio en: [www.medfordwater.org/InformeDeConfianzaDelConsumidor.pdf](http://www.medfordwater.org/InformeDeConfianzaDelConsumidor.pdf)*

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

## OUR WATERSHEDS

*(Continued from Page 1)*

According to the Oregon Health Authority, there are approximately 3,450 public water systems in Oregon. Of those systems, 88 percent rely on groundwater as a permanent or backup supply of drinking water. Most of these come from shallow wells located in highly developed river valleys, which increases the risk of contamination.

The springs, however, are a well-protected groundwater source because they are located in an undeveloped area and flows are collected underground, requiring only minimal treatment (disinfection only) to meet all water quality standards.

While the springs meet the population's drinking water needs during the winter, supplemental flow is added from the Rogue River during the summer season while the demand is high. This surface water source requires a higher degree of treatment than Big Butte Springs, but the river is largely undeveloped upstream of the Commission's intake near TouVelle State Park, and is relatively clean compared to the vast majority of drinking water sources in the nation.

Commission staff works extensively with the U.S. Forest Service and many partners to enhance water quality and protect against potential causes of pollution that can enter the river before it gets to the water treatment plant.

You too can help protect our water sources by using and disposing of toxic substances properly. Many products you use at home can contaminate ground or surface water if they travel through the soil, such as cleaning supplies, pesticides, insecticides, swimming pool chemicals, gas, motor oil, fluorescent light ballasts, batteries, thermostats, flea collars, unused or expired medications, and paint. Make sure you know when and where to dispose of this hazardous household waste; look for annual collection events with Rogue Disposal or Southern Oregon Sanitation.

The Commission has long-recognized the importance of watershed management as a valuable tool for safeguarding our most valuable resource: our water.

By proactively caring for the Rogue River and Big Butte Springs watersheds, we can keep drinking water treatment costs down, reduce capital expenditures to supply clean drinking water, and avoid expensive restoration activities.

## Waterlines

is a quarterly publication of the

### Medford Water Commission

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

### Commissioners

John Dailey • Jason Anderson • Bob Strosser  
Leigh Johnson • Daniel Bunn

### Interim Manager

Eric C. Johnson, P.E.

### Serving these cities:

Medford, Ashland, Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Phoenix, Talent

### Also serving:

White City area and the following water districts: Elk City and Charlotte Ann

