

NEWS SPLASH!

SUMMER 2008

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR MID-SUMMER CHECK UP!

Many landscape companies, irrigation contractors and homeowners turn on irrigation systems in the spring and do a thorough inspection of the system to discover and repair any leaks prior to system operation for the year. However, most people do not generally inspect their systems again until the following spring. In the meantime, lawn mowers and edgers can damage sprinkler heads and cause leaks. Normal wear and tear, an aging system, or a system operating under high pressure can also show signs of leaks. Because we send out your water bill bimonthly (once every two months) some time may pass before you see a high water bill that could indicate a problem. Late night or early morning hours are the optimal times for landscape irrigation, because watering at these times minimizes water loss due to evaporation. However, this also makes it difficult to observe your

irrigation system functioning, unless you're a night owl or early bird!

That's why it's time for your mid-summer checkup! Turn on your irrigation system at least once this summer in July or August to check for any sprinkler heads that might have been damaged by power equipment. Be sure to check each irrigation station and the valve box as well. Ideally, sprinkler systems should be checked for leaks monthly, but if time and budget are concerns, at least one mid-summer check-up may help you address problems more quickly. Take the time to check up on your irrigation system's health, and you may be able to correct the small problems before they become big ones. You may save hundreds of dollars on your water bills by repairing leaks promptly in the middle of the summer!

IRRIGATION REBATES AVAILABLE!

Purchase a conservation or weather based irrigation controller or rain sensor and have it installed by a licensed irrigation contractor and you may be eligible for a rebate from the Cascade Water Alliance!

Go to the District's Conservation page at www.sammplat.wa.org for more information and a rebate application.



NEW MANGANESE TREATMENT FACILITY TO BE OPERATIONAL SOON!

The water provided to our customers is obtained from several different sources, including groundwater wells and from the regional surface water system. Each source of supply has its own unique water quality.

Certain wells tap groundwater that contains manganese. Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral, and is normally unnoticeable in ground water. However, when chlorine is added to the water, either for disinfection of the water supply or by a customer using bleach, the manganese reacts with the chlorine and causes it to discolor the water. Manganese can make the water appear yellowish or tea colored. This discolored water is not a health hazard, but it can be an aesthetic problem.



Construction at the new treatment facility is nearing completion.

During the winter when water use is low, the manganese in the water settles in the water mains. When water use increases in the summer, the water in the pipelines gets stirred up. The manganese is carried through the system, and can show up at the water taps of our customers.

To permanently address this issue, the District has been installing treatment equipment at the wells where manganese is present to



A crane was used to move the filter tanks into the facility.

filter out the manganese before it is distributed to our customers. After eight years of work, the construction the last of these water treatment facilities is nearing completion. Until this treatment facility is completed, District staff has been identifying problem areas and flushing the water mains to remove the discolored water.

This final five million dollar facility will treat approximately five million gallons of water per day, drawn from three different wells. Work began in May 2007 and is scheduled for completion by September 2008. The new facility has been designed to operate more efficiently than past installations by using variable speed motors, and will also recycle more than 90% of the water used to wash the manganese filters each day, which is an average of 32,000 gallons of water recycled per day.

For more information on discolored water caused by manganese, please read the Water Quality Fact Sheet on our website at www.sammplat.wa.org.



Twenty four filter tanks were installed inside the new treatment facility.



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**QUESTIONS? Please call us at (425) 392-6256
or visit our website at www.sammplat.wa.org**



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be water smart.**