



NEWS SPLASH

Spring 2004

SPRING IRRIGATION AND LANDSCAPING TIPS

Spring is in the air! Birds are singing, plants are blooming, and grass is growing. It will soon be time to select a landscape company and start up your automatic irrigation system. Here are some tips for you as we enter the spring season:

When you start up your irrigation system, it is a good time to get your backflow prevention device tested and inspected by a state certified backflow tester. State and District regulations require you to get your backflow prevention device tested each year. Irrigation systems are required to have backflow prevention devices installed to prevent used or non-potable water from flowing back into the pure, potable drinking water supply in the event of a change in pressure or system malfunction. Please contact Chic Nessly, Senior Customer Service Technician/Cross Connection Specialist at (425) 392-4931 x213 or email him at chic@sammplat.wa.org to get a list of certified backflow testers and other information about cross connection.

Ask your landscaper if they regularly maintain and adjust irrigation systems:

- Check the system throughout the year for leaks and replace broken heads or lines
- Adjust your controller monthly to water less in the spring in fall and more in mid-summer
- Install a rain sensor on your system to turn it off during rainy periods

Ask your landscaping company how they make water conservation a priority. Overwatering invites plant disease and makes for high summer water bills! Ask them if they do the following:

- Plan watering zones to meet plant needs without overwatering
- Water deeply, to moisten the whole root zone, but infrequently
- Plant waterwise or native plants in your landscape

Ask your landscaper if they do the following horticultural practices:

- Offer an organic or environmentally friendly program for control of weeds, diseases and pests - many landscapers now provide earth friendly alternatives
- Offer a turf aeration program - aerating in the spring and fall will improve soil conditions for healthier turf
- Mulch shrub beds with organic material to retain moisture and control weeds

Please contact Janet Sailer, Conservation and Public Information Specialist at (425) 392-4931 x204 or email her at janet@sammplat.wa.org if you would like further information on waterwise gardening and landscaping.

Some of the material in this article was adapted from the brochure "How to Choose a Landscape Company" produced by the King County Hazardous Waste Management Program and Seattle Public Utilities. Copies are available free of charge from the District office.



REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY CONNECTION UPDATE

The District is pursuing additional water supply to serve its customers by connecting to the regional water system. The Cascade Water Alliance, a consortium of eight eastside municipalities and districts, obtained a contract to purchase water from Seattle's regional system. The regional system connection will consist of the construction of large diameter pipe along on 1st Avenue NE in Issaquah, adjacent to I-90 at the south end of the District. Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2004 with project completion in mid-summer 2004.

In addition to the Regional Water System Connection at Issaquah project, the District is also proceeding with the installation of chlorination and fluoridation treatment facilities

at certain District wells. The District is in the process of requesting proposals from consultants to assist District staff in identifying options for those customers who choose to remove fluoride or chlorine at their tap. As these projects proceed, periodic updates will be posted on the District's website at www.sammplat.wa.org.

This newsletter is printed on "Environment" paper, which contains 100% post consumer recycled paper. In printing 15,000 copies of this newsletter, the following was saved:

- Seven trees
- Landfill amount reduced by 150 pounds
- Energy consumption reduced by 1,920 BTUs
- Water consumption reduced by 1,417 gallons
- Net greenhouse emissions reduced by 291 pounds

WATER QUALITY INCIDENT UPDATE

The District experienced a water quality incident in mid-January 2004. Routine testing indicated the presence of coliform bacteria. Here is how we dealt with this water quality incident:

How the District originally respond to the water quality incident?

After the first set of samples were discovered to show the presence of coliform bacteria, the District was required by the Washington Department of Health to re-test water samples to ensure that a sampling error had not occurred. When the follow-up tests came back positive for the bacteria, the District sent a letter to its customers in early February informing them of the incident, and also sent out a press release to the media. Temporary chlorination was implemented on January 26, 2004 to disinfect the District's water supply, under the direction of the Department of Health.

Where do you do your water testing? How often?

Water is collected by field technicians and sent to outside laboratories for analysis. All of the labs are state certified for testing water according to state and federal regulations. The District normally takes fifteen samples a week, or sixty water samples each month.



What did you find in the water?

The test results were positive for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are generally considered harmless, but their presence may be indicative of the presence of disease-producing organisms that may be found with them. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. The samples that showed the presence of coliform were further tested to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli were present. None of these other bacteria were found.

What is the current status of the District's water quality?

As of this writing, we are continuing to add a low level of chlorine to the water in order to protect water quality and customer health. We will continue to add chlorine to the water until we begin chlorinating on a permanent basis later this year, when we receive water from the regional surface water supply system and blend it with the groundwater supply.

Where can I get more water quality information?

Information on water quality and the District's water supply can be found at our website at <http://www.sammplat.wa.org/>. You can also check out the Washington State Department of Health's Division of Drinking Water website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/>, or call them at 1-800-521-0323. Additional information on drinking water can be found at the United States Environmental Protection Agency's website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>, or you can call their Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

***Watch for your Annual Water
Quality Report later this spring!***

MEET YOUR COMMISSIONERS



Stanley E. Stone is an attorney with over 41 years of legal and judicial experience. He is a University of Washington Law School Graduate. He served as a Deputy Prosecutor for King County early in his legal career. He held the position of Municipal Court Judge for the cities of Renton and Enumclaw in South King County before accepting a position as a Court

Commissioner for the King County Superior Court in Seattle. Stan frequently sat as a Judge Pro Tem in both the District Courts and the Superior Court of King County before being appointed as a Court Commissioner.

Stan is a member of the Washington State Bar Association and authorized to practice before all Washington Trial and Appellate Courts, the United States Supreme Court, as well as the Ninth Circuit of Appeals and the Western District Federal trial court.

Stan has enjoyed returning something to the community throughout his legal career. While residing in Renton, Stan served the Renton community as the first Chairman of the Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Medical and Retirement Board, as a member of the Renton Airport Board and as a member of the Renton Planning Commission.

Stan was appointed to fill the position of a retiring Commissioner at Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District in 2001 and ran unopposed for election in 2002. He currently resides in Brookshire Estates.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Stanley E. Stone, President
W. F. Stevlingson, Vice President
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Lloyd J. Warren, Commissioner
Mary Shustov, Commissioner

GENERAL MANAGER: Ron Little

**Commissioner meetings are held the first,
second and third Mondays at 3:00 p.m. at
the District office.**