

Today

City of Roseville
Environmental Utilities

-  WATER
-  WASTEWATER
-  RECYCLED WATER
-  STORMWATER
-  SOLID WASTE

This team likes staying out of sight and mind.

Flush and forget; that's the approach most of us take to sewer systems. Fortunately, there's a team of about 30 city employees in our Wastewater Collections Division that thinks about the system constantly. Their job is to keep the sewer collection system flowing smoothly, and it isn't an easy or simple task.

The team builds, repairs and maintains 722 miles of sewer mains and service lines and 14 neighborhood lift stations, along with collection basins, pumps and other equipment. You may have seen the team in your neighborhood with their Vactor® trucks cleaning out the main sewer lines or heard about their closed-circuit TV system that inspects 47 miles of sewer line each year.

They're also available 24 hours a day if you ever experience a sewer backup or spill. You can call the hotline at [\(916\) 774-5750](tel:9167745750) to report a problem. The team's first responder will come out, usually within 30 minutes, to diagnose the cause and recommend the next action. If there's a clog or break in the city's portion



of the line, they'll get to work on repairs immediately. If the problem is on your property, they'll provide the information you'll need when you call a plumber to fix the problem.

The team also offers some good advice for residents.

If you start to experience a backup or spill, "Stop running water completely," says Wastewater Collection Superintendent Chris Bracco. "Everything—showers, sinks, washing machines—drains out through the sewer line, so you need to stop all water in the house."

Don't flush those wipes. "We started seeing wipes getting caught in our lift station pumps starting in 2011," says Bracco. "In the last nine months or so, we've begun finding them in the sewer lines, and add some fats, oils and greases in the pipes—and then you're in big trouble." While the package may say "flushable" trust these wipes cause problems for you and for sewer systems when flushed into the sewer. If you use wipes place them in the garbage for collection and disposal.

While the reasons for calling the hotline are never good, there is an up side. "Customers can fill out comment cards after we respond to a call," says Bracco. "And in all the cards we've received, I've never read a single negative comment."

One customer comment summed it up best, "They make my family feel great about living in Roseville."

Sanitary Sewer Problem 24-hour Hotline: (916) 774-5750

Are we in a drought?

To keep up to date on whether our region is headed into a drought, check our website at www.roseville.ca.us or the city's Twitter or Facebook for the latest.



Irrigation Tune-Up Quick Tips

The time to tune-up your irrigation system is when you don't need it at all. Before summer's dry heat calls your sprinklers into active duty, take some time to make sure your irrigation system is ready.

Turn the system on, one station at a time. Look for any wet spots, indicating a leaking pipe or fitting. Repair or replace as needed.

Check the sprinkler bodies for any leaking caps or seals. Replace as needed.

Look for malfunctioning nozzles or drip system emitters. Clean or replace as needed. Check the markings on top of the sprinkler nozzles and make sure to replace them with the same type to maintain even water distribution.

Straighten leaning sprinkler heads to prevent dry spots and water waste.

Check coverage areas. In a normal sprinkler spray pattern, the edge of the spray will hit the sprinkler next to it and so on. This head-to-head coverage is critical for even water distribution.

Adjust the sprinklers to avoid spraying driveways, sidewalks, patios, etc.

Observe each sprinkler's spray pattern. If it looks like mist, the water pressure is too high. You can adjust the pressure at the valve if it's equipped with a flow control. You can also use the small adjustment screw on the top of the nozzle to reduce pressure and eliminate misting.

Fix low-head drainage. Sprinklers that spit, sputter or hammer when they turn on are suffering from low-head drainage—the cause of most sprinkler system failures. When water drains out through the lowest sprinkler head, it's replaced by air, which is forced out when the system turns on again. End the problem by replacing them with sprinkler heads that have internal check valves.

Replace your irrigation controller back-up battery. Controllers revert back to factory settings if the program is lost, which could lead to overwatering.

Fix leaking valves. Look for water coming from the valve, or running onto sidewalks when the sprinkler system is off. Clean the valve, or simply replace it.

HINT! Buy new sprinklers that are identical to the old ones if you want to save time and avoid digging up old parts. Just unscrew the cap, pull out the old pop-up mechanism, and replace it with the one from the new sprinkler. Easy!

Don't forget to do a quick check of your system every month to keep it in tip-top shape.



Environmental Utilities



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www.roseville.ca.us/eu

Water Report: Protecting Our Future

If you've heard about our joint effort with other local water agencies to safeguard our region's water supply, you know that our city's future water supply has become a pressing concern. Today, Roseville is lucky to hold water contracts with the Federal Government through the United States Bureau of Reclamation, giving us reliable access to high-quality water, primarily from Folsom Lake. But that could be changing. The state's water future is unclear, and that uncertainty is jeopardizing our future.

Environmental shifts, new regulations, and population growth are causing water providers across the state to rethink how to best serve their customers. To address these changes, our state's leaders want to implement the Bay Delta Conservation

Plan (BDCP), a plan designed to restore the Delta and increase water-supply reliability for Southern California. However, the BDCP doesn't address how changing conditions will affect the Sacramento region, putting our economic and environmental future at risk.

As a growing city of more than 125,000 residents, we depend on Folsom Lake for our drinking water. Our water contracts give Roseville priority access to Folsom Lake water before Central and Southern California during a drought. Yet the current BDCP draft modeling projects Folsom Lake being drained to extreme lows at least once every decade, which could leave Roseville without reliable access to water for months at a time.

As it stands, the draft BDCP is problematic. Though promoted to be a statewide plan, the BDCP does not address our region. The Sacramento region must be included in discussions to find better solutions to California's water-supply concerns. We agree that there needs to be a plan that ensures water-supply reliability of all of California. But we believe that developing the BDCP should be a collaborative effort—not a game of winners and losers. The entire state deserves a smart solution and we are working hard to ensure we achieve that.

Visit www.protectourfolsomwater.com for more information and find out what you can do to help.

Mark Your Calendars

7th Annual Celebrate the Earth Festival

Saturday, April 26, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville



Free for all ages!

Roseville's annual Earth Day celebration has become one of the city's don't-miss events. It's bigger and better each year—and still free!

Among the featured fun, The Wild Things, Inc. animal show returns, and Mad Science demonstrations for kids debuts. The Sacramento Electric Vehicle Association will be back with their very cool electric cars and Sac Mo Fo traveling food trucks will be among the tempting food vendors.

Join us for a day of tasty food, live music, local green vendors, family entertainment and more! The festival's family-focused fun is once again hosted by Roseville Electric, Roseville Environmental Utilities and the Utility Exploration Center, and sponsored by Whole Foods Market in Roseville. For more information, visit www.roseville.ca.us/earthday or call (916) 746-1550.

Pest of the Month: Weed Control

It's that time of year again when weeds are popping up everywhere.

The best strategy for control is to prevent weeds from growing by applying a 3"-thick layer of organic mulch, or a layer of weed cloth or cardboard with mulch on top.

You can use a pre-emergent herbicide, which stop seeds from germinating, but most contain toxic chemicals known to harm aquatic life in our local creeks. Look for herbicides made from corn gluten, which are clearly marked, for a better alternative.

If you missed your chance for prevention, removing young weeds is your best (and easiest) bet. You can pull them by

hand or with a weed puller while the ground is still wet. You can also mow them down or cut them with a hoe. Just remember that most weeds grow back if you don't remove the roots.

If you choose to spray weeds with an herbicide, read the labels and choose your chemicals carefully. There are selective herbicides that kill either broadleaf or grassy weeds and nonselective herbicides that kill all plants. Check out some of the new products on the market that use iron-based ingredients to kill broadleaf weeds and nonselective herbicides that use potassium salts and fatty acids as their active ingredients. The good news is the growth of commercial organic growers

is fueling research into safe alternatives, so look for new weed control products coming to garden center shelves.

Please avoid weed-and-feed combinations of herbicides and fertilizers for lawns. Spot control works better and these granular combinations can harm landscape plants and run off into storm drains, contaminating our creeks and rivers.

For more information, the Integrated Pest Management Program at UC Davis provides tips on identifying and controlling weeds on their website at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/weeds



Wayne Roderick Seaside Daisy
Erigeron 'W.R.'

Plant of the Month: Seaside Daisy

Also known as the Wayne Roderick Seaside Daisy, this California beauty is a natural for Roseville gardens and a favorite of native bees and butterflies. Cheery lavender blooms with bright yellow centers are 1-1½" across, coming up from an evergreen base that grows to 1' high and about 2' across. You'll get blooms from spring through fall, and more prolifically if you trim off spent flower stalks. Though it likes some shade, this little evergreen can take the heat and cold, yet doesn't require much water.