

ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES
CITY OF ROSEVILLE

Today

April 2007



WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE



PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS SHEPARD, CITY OF ROSEVILLE

CREEK WEEK

Come Meet Your Wild Neighbors

Gather friends and family and come out April 21-28 to meet your finned, furry and feathered neighbors who call Roseville's creeks home. Now in its eleventh year, Creek Week is a regional event offering opportunities to learn about the wildlife in and around our city's creeks, as well as helping our untamed neighbors by doing a little creek maintenance and spring cleaning.

The week begins with a Saturday, April 21 work day and continues with a variety of nature outings and presentations taking place throughout the week. The annual stream and open space cleanup happens on Saturday, April 28, wrapping up with a fair from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Royer Park. The after-cleanup celebration will feature live music, food vendors, displays focusing on our natural community, and many more activities. Cleanup volunteers also receive a free Creek Week t-shirt as a thank you.

The annual event is put on by Dry Creek Conservancy and is sponsored by the City of Roseville, other communities, and local businesses.

- For full details on Creek Week 2007—visit www.drycreekconservancy.org or call 773-6575



EARTH DAY:

Sunday, April 22
Make an Earth Day Resolution

www.roseville.ca.us/eu

At Environmental Utilities, we offer a wealth of programs to help you make and keep an Earth Day resolution to reduce your household's weight on the environment. Our programs include:

- Automatic recycling through the Materials Recovery Center
- Water conservation programs and rebates
- Front-porch pickup of electronics, batteries, and other universal waste
- Battery drop-off tubes at dozens of local stores
- Free household hazardous waste pick-up
- Convenient recycling drop-off locations for cardboard, bottles, cans and newspapers

Water Conservation Program Receives Federal Honors

On February 21, 2007, MIKE FINNEGAN, area manager for the Central California Area Office of the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) presented its regional water conservation award to Roseville Mayor JIM GRAY and Environmental Utilities Director DERRICK WHITEHEAD.

According to the USBR, the award recognizes the department's outstanding water conservation efforts in implementing best management practices, its exemplary programs and services, and serving as a model leader in regional planning and resource conservation.



PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS SHEPARD, CITY OF ROSEVILLE

THINK WATER

May is Water Awareness Month

During the rainless month of January, the word “drought” started appearing again after several years’ absence, reminding us once more that water is a precious resource in our region and across the state. As California’s population continues growing, it’s more important than ever to join together in finding ways we can use our water wisely and keep it clean.

Since the average home uses 50 percent of its water for irrigation, smart watering is one of the best ways to save. Here are a few ideas to consider as we move into summer:

- Water in the early morning or evening. You can lose up to 30 percent of your water to evaporation during the hot daylight hours.
- Water for short periods of time. Twice a day for a few minutes prevents runoff and creates healthier lawns and landscapes.
- Set your irrigation times to match the needs of the lawn or landscape plants you’re watering. You can find inexpensive soil moisture probes at irrigation supply stores and landscape nurseries. You can also receive a free moisture probe by scheduling a free Water Wise House Call.
- Encourage tree health by deeply watering young trees twice a week when temperatures are below 90° and three times a week when they climb over 100°. Watering times vary for mature trees, with some native trees only requiring deep watering every month or two, while others require weekly soaking. Check with your local nursery to get specifics on the trees in your yard.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean off driveways, sidewalks and patios.
- Install drip irrigation to water shrubs, flowers and trees. You’ll save water and keep weeds from growing.
- Plant landscaping that matches your lot. Unless an area is low and wet, install plants that don’t require much water. Ask your nursery for native, drought-tolerant plants. They are beautiful and water efficient.
- Consider installing one of the smart sprinkler controllers recently introduced to the residential market. The new controllers sense rain, wind, temperature and soil moisture automatically and can be programmed for plant types, ground slope and other factors.

www.roseville.ca.us/savewater



Purple Pipes Keep Roseville Green

You may have seen construction crews installing bright purple pipes in the ground around our city. Those unusual pipes are distinctly colored because they represent an entirely separate water system carrying recycled water to irrigate Roseville parks, golf courses, streetscapes, and some commercial landscaping. Recycled water is not for drinking, but it’s a perfectly safe way to conserve drinking water and keep our city green.

Rate Adjustment Set to Take Effect

Beginning April 23, the rate adjustment approved by Roseville City Council in March will begin appearing on your combined water, wastewater and solid waste utility bill. The adjustment is the necessary result of increased costs for implementing procedures required by new state and federal regulations. The city is also facing rising water prices, infrastructure maintenance and upgrades for water and wastewater treatment, as well as inflation and higher fuel costs. The slightly higher rates will cover the increased operational costs and allow the city to keep its systems and equipment up to date and avert costly future repairs.

Proposed 2007 and 2008 Rate Adjustments

UTILITY	CURRENT RATE	PROPOSED 2007 ADJUSTMENT		PROPOSED 2007 RATE	PROPOSED 2008 ADJUSTMENT		PROPOSED 2008 RATE
Water	\$17.54*	\$1.98	10.5%	\$19.52	\$2.18	11%	\$21.70
Wastewater (Sewer)	\$22.60	\$2.05	9%	\$24.65	\$2.20	9%	\$26.85
Solid Waste (Refuse)	\$19.80	\$0.80	4%	\$20.60	\$0.80	4%	\$21.40
TOTAL	\$59.94	\$4.83	8%	\$64.77	\$5.18	8%	\$69.95

**The average use of a typical residential customer is 1,900 cubic feet of water per month. Actual billed amounts will vary depending on actual water use.*

Even with the approximately 8 percent increase in 2007 and another 8 percent in 2008, Roseville will continue providing its customers the lowest overall utility rates in the region.

Did you know? There’s no more water being made

You could be drinking the same water the dinosaurs drank and the same water someone else will drink a million years from now. That’s because the amount of water on earth and in our atmosphere remains constant, though it may be found in clouds, oceans, icecaps, lakes and rivers, swimming pools, or your cup. Every drop of water is endlessly recycled, which is why keeping it clean and using it wisely is so important.

EU HEROES Go the Extra Mile

Each month, an employee is selected to receive the department’s Honoring Excellence and Rewarding Outstanding Employees (HEROE) award.

STEVE GILLETTE, preventative maintenance supervisor for the Dry Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, received the December award for creating a process that makes it easier for employees to comply with new safety regulations when removing and returning equipment into service. Steve dedicated personal time to creating an electronic template tool that minimizes paperwork while improving employee safety.



Steve Gillette

Thanks to a happy customer’s letter, **RALPH HAMMOND** was named January’s HEROE. In his position as Wastewater Utility Maintenance Worker II, Ralph is often praised for his willingness to help. When a homeowner’s sewer backed up on New Year’s Day, Ralph returned her call within minutes, immediately drove to her house, and unclogged her sewer line. The homeowner wrote to say how delighted she was with Ralph’s responsiveness—especially on a holiday.



Ralph Hammond

- *If there’s an Environmental Utilities Department employee who has provided you with outstanding service, we’d love to hear about it—please call us at 774-5770.*



CREEK WEEK:
April 21-28

EARTH DAY:
April 22



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Comments and suggestions are welcome—please send to the attention of Sean Bigley.

www.roseville.ca.us/eu

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