

ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES CITY OF ROSEVILLE Today

August 2010



WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE

UEC Fall Classes **Begin Soon!**



Living
Green



The UTILITY EXPLORATION CENTER (UEC) lineup of fall classes features new classes and popular favorites that offer something for every member of the family. Class categories include:

- Gardening, Landscaping and Irrigation
- Composting and Vermicomposting
- Saving Green (environmentally friendly ways to save money)
- Children's Programs

Among the offerings, you'll find classes on chemical-free and low-water gardening, including a class on California native plants ideally suited to our area. You'll also have the opportunity to learn the secrets of composting—with and without worms—and find out fun ways to help the environment and your pocketbook. Children's programs are always a big hit, and include classes that introduce kids to gardening and teach them how to make things for back-to-school, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and more.

- To learn more, download the UEC class schedule at www.roseville.ca.us/explore, call 746-1550 or stop by the center.
- You can register for classes online, by phone, mail or fax, or in person.
- The Roseville Utility Exploration Center is located at 1501 Pleasant Grove Boulevard in Mahany Regional Park.

Register early—space is limited!



A New Clean & Bright Idea for Charity Car Washes

Carwashes are a great way for organizations to raise money, but they can also carry soap, grease and other pollutants down stormwater drains and straight into local creeks. To help create a win-win for fish and fundraisers, we're developing a new approach that teams up fundraising groups with commercial car washes.

New regulations prohibit fundraising carwashes from allowing water and pollutants to drain into the stormwater system, requiring groups to follow rules similar to regulations that commercial car washes have followed for years. By partnering up, fundraisers who hold events at local car washes or sell car wash coupons eliminate the runoff worry. Commercial car washes that sign up as partners benefit by building their community and environmental image, attracting new customers and building loyalty among existing customers. Together, they keep our creeks clean for the fish, birds and wildlife that call them home.

Similar programs in Sacramento County (www.riverfriendlycarwashes.com) and other California cities have already proven successful. We're currently developing our program and talking with commercial car wash owners interested in hosting fundraising events. While we get the program rolling, we're still providing free car wash kits that prevent runoff to fundraising groups. We'll continue to offer the kits after the program launches, as well.

- For more information about the new program or to reserve a car wash kit, contact our Stormwater Management Program at 774-5751.

Eliminating Junk Mail

Visit www.DMAchoice.org to remove your name and address from mailing lists for catalogs, credit and magazine offers, and mailings addressed to "current resident," donation requests and offers from retailers, cable and phone companies and banks.



Innovative Solution Speeds Waterline Replacement

Revitalizing a historic district that is more than 100 years old in some areas and separated by a matrix of railroad tracks takes more than cosmetic beautification. The bulk of the work lies in upgrading the infrastructure.

The over 100 year old waterline that ran between the Vernon Street and Historic Old Town and under several railroad tracks represents a good example of the challenge. Replacing the line using traditional methods would have required digging up the line, closing down Vernon and Atlantic streets, excavating under the tracks, and tearing up the Pacific and Lincoln streets on the other side and could have taken several traffic-crippling weeks to complete. Instead, the city took advantage of recent developments that allow new PVC pipe to be slipped into the existing waterline. Using the new product innovation, the pipe replacement was completed in days versus weeks and required no street closures.



Native Plants: A Natural Choice for Roseville Gardens

If you're looking for trouble-free plants for your yard, consider going native. Plants native to our region have adapted to our soil chemistry, wet winters and hot, dry summers. They fit perfectly into our landscapes, require less water than most ornamental varieties and help you avoid using pesticides.

Watering Natives

The list to the right includes only plants with low and very-low requirements. Still, you need to water them as you would any new plant for the first two to three weeks to encourage root growth. For the first year or two, they'll need water two to three times a week, but make sure they dry out completely in between. By the end of the second year, drought-tolerant native will only need watering a couple of times a month.

Suggested Natives

UC Davis Arboretum has created an Arboretum All Star list featuring 100 native and drought-tolerant plants proven to do well in valley gardens (visit <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>). To refine that list even further, we asked the experts which plants on the All Stars list they recommend as top picks for Roseville. Their recommendations include low-water use plants on the All Stars list, with comments, and similar varieties to consider.

Where to Buy

Several local nurseries carry native plants, including UC Davis Arboretum All Stars. You can also find natives through the California Native Plant Society (www.cnps.org) local chapter (Redbud, Sacramento and El Dorado) plant sales, usually held in the spring and fall.



When it comes to drinking water sources, Roseville is unusually fortunate. Our main source of water is surface water originating from melting snow that flows down the north, middle and south forks of the American River for storage in Folsom Reservoir. From there, we convey the water to our 100 million gallon per day treatment plant that filters and disinfects water needed by the community. This source water is of exceptionally high quality with very little upstream activity that can introduce contamination.

Through our regional water-use agreement, we can also receive up to 10 million gallons a day of treated water from Placer County Water Agency. That water, too, comes from Sierra snowmelt flowing down through the Yuba-Bear River watershed and into a canal network that takes it to the agency's Foothill-Sunset Water Treatment Plant. This water source provides reliability and redundancy needed for our system.

Our final water source is four permanent groundwater wells and one standby well for emergency and backup supply. Wells draw from underground aquifers fed by rain and snow that seeps slowly into the ground. This water supply is typical drinking water provided to more than two-thirds of Americans. Whether your water comes from groundwater or surface water sources, it meets the same water-quality and health standards.

Over the past few years, we have equipped our groundwater wells with aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) systems that allow us to store treated surface water in the underground aquifer for later retrieval. Living in a drought-prone region that relies on winter snowfall to supply summer water puts us at risk of water shortages. The underground wells, ASR systems and robust interties with neighboring agencies protect our water supply during dry years and help us maintain year-round reliability.

Recommended Native Plants for Roseville

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	SUN/SHADE	NOTES	ALSO NOTABLE
Blue Grama Grass	Bouteloua Gracilis	Full sun	G: Great lawn substitute	Festuca Idahoensis; Siskyou Blue; Green
Deergrass	Muhlenbergia Rigens	Full sun/part shade	G: Easy to grow, low screen plant	
California Fuchsia	Epilobium Canum	Full sun/part shade	P: Bright orange/red blossoms, hummingbirds love it	
Rosada Coral Bells	Heuchera 'Rosada'	Shade/part shade	P: Good rebloomer	Heuchera Micrantha
Canyon Snow Pacific Iris	Iris 'Canyon Snow'	Part shade	P: Reliable Pacific Coast hybrid iris	Other colors of PCH; Iris Douglasii
Santa Margarita Foothill Penstemon	Penstemon Heterophyllus 'Margarita B.O.P.'	Full sun/part shade	P: Thrives in gardens, long bloom period	
Hummingbird Sage	Salvia Spatheacea	Full sun/part shade	P: Attracts hummingbirds, great for dry shade	Salvia apiana; Salvia Clevelandii 'Winnifred Gilman'
Evergreen Currant	Ribes Viburnifolium	Part shade/shade	P: Good under oaks	Chaparral Currant
Vine Hill Manzanita	Arctostaphylos Densiflora 'Howard McMinn'	Full sun/part shade	S: Great screen	'Emerald Carpet'; 'Wood's Compact' (ground covers)
Ceanothus 'Concha'	Concha California Lilac	Full sun/part shade	S: Another great screen, great for clay soils	Ceanothus 'Centennial' (ground cover)
Western Redbud	Cercis Occidentalis	Full sun/part shade	S: Bright pink blooms	
Saint Catherine's Lace	Eriogonum Giganteum	Full sun/part shade	S: White flower clusters, fast growing	Red Buckwheat; California buckwheat
Toyon/California Holly (Hollywood)	Heteromeles Arbutifolia	Full sun/part shade	S: Best in the rocky areas of Roseville	
Valley Oak	Quercus Lobata	Full sun	T: Native to our area	

G= Grass P=Perennial S=Shrub T=Tree



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