

Waterline News

July / August 2007



Irrigating a road that won't grow



Floating woodchips in your landscaping



Small geyser caused by a broken sprinkler head



Misdirected sprinkler head



Driveway irrigating

Are you a water waster?

Are you watering concrete pavement that doesn't seem to grow? Do you need to provide flotation devices for your wood chips? Are you trying to compete against Old Faithful for the best geyser? The pictures above were taken by our staff of watering abuse, over-watering and disregard for the maintenance and repair of an irrigation system. Volusia County's watering restrictions have been in effect since 2003. We realize that many people want an attractive, lush green lawn, but over-watering can cause as much damage, if not more, than dry conditions. Over-watering causes fungus and shallow root systems that ultimately cannot go any length of time without water. Eventually, the sod must be replaced and the cycle is started all over.

Please check the timers on your automated sprinkler system and make sure you are in compliance. This also applies to reclaimed water use.

Rain barrels still available

Volusia County Utilities continues to offer a \$30 voucher toward the purchase of a rain barrel. And a \$50 rebate is available for those who replace a toilet installed prior to 1985 with a new 1.6 gpf. Contact Becky Adkins at (386) 943-7027, ext. 2611, for questions regarding the rain barrel program.

Volusia County has experienced drier conditions, so it is important for residents to observe the watering restrictions.

- The restrictions allow yard watering and private car washing for homes with even addresses on Thursdays and Sundays from 4 - 8 a.m. (automatic and manual systems) or 5 - 9 p.m. (manual only).
- Homes with odd addresses may water at the same times Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- Private automobile washing may be done only during the above hours and days.
- No watering or car washing is permitted Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.
- The above applies to ALL water sources including private wells, city water and lakes.
- Watering of new plantings (sod, seed, landscape plants, etc.) is permitted Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2 - 8 a.m. for automatic systems. Manual systems may be used from 2 - 8 a.m. and from 5 - 9 p.m. This new planting irrigation schedule applies only during the first 30 days of planting.
- Hand watering is permitted anytime, but avoidance of hours of high evaporation is encouraged.
- Reclaimed water customers should refer to their most recent door hangers.

For more information, visit
www.volusia.org/environmental/natural_resources/default.htm
or call:

736-5998 in West Volusia
423-3359 in New Smyrna Beach
239-7890 in Daytona Beach

Stormwater Project
Tributary E Stormwater Park

The Stormwater Utility recently completed the first phase of the "Tributary E Stormwater Park." Tributary "E" is a small creek that flows into Turnbull Creek, and then to the Turnbull Bay Estuary. The 22.5-acre project is off S.R. 44, on Glencoe Road, in the unincorporated area west of New Smyrna Beach.

The "stormwater park" concept involves a multi-use approach to managing the land for greatest public benefit. The centerpiece of the project is a four-acre stormwater pond for flood control and aquifer recharge. The pond has been constructed to look like a natural lake. The shoreline will be landscaped with wetland and upland plants and trees. All irrigation for the landscaping will come from the stormwater pond. The park amenities will include walking trails, nature observation areas, benches, restrooms and parking. Projected completion date is January 2008.



Florida law requires installation of rain sensor devices on all automatic irrigation systems

Florida Law requires rain sensors on all new systems. Any person who purchases and installs an automatic lawn sprinkler system shall install, and must maintain and operate, a rain sensor device or switch that will override the irrigation cycle of the sprinkler system when adequate rainfall has occurred.

Volusia County code requires rain sensors on older sprinkler systems. All automatic landscape irrigation systems shall be equipped with rain sensor devices.

Food for thought

According to government and industry estimates, about one-quarter of bottled water is actually bottled tap water, sometimes with additives. The water produced by city and county utilities is more regulated than the water produced by bottle water manufacturers.

In addition, it is unfortunate that one of every five water bottles end up in landfills where it can take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade.

*Waterwise plant
of the month*

Four-o'clocks • *Mirabilis jalapa*



The four-o'clock got its name because it opens in mid-afternoon. It remains open overnight and closes in early morning. It will remain open on cloudy days and is noted for its strong, pleasant fragrance.

This plant is native to tropical areas of North and South America. It also is called "Marvel of Peru" and is a perennial that is grown as an annual in the United States.

The bushy plants make an attractive hedge or border. Flower colors are white, red, pink, yellow and some two-toned blooms. Because the flowers are open during the evening, we recommend you place them in areas where people will see them in early evening hours.

Four-o'clocks typically are grown from seeds, making them easy to plant. They germinate quickly and grow fast, up to 2-4 feet.

In addition, they are propagated by their tubers and prefer full sun, but will tolerate partial shade. Note that in partial shade they may grow lanky. They fit well in borders, as small hedge rows. Try growing them around your mailbox!

Volusia County Stormwater Utilities in the news

A recent publication of Municipal Sewer & Water featured a large article on Volusia County's Stormwater Management's program. Volusia County was recognized for aggressive approach to retrofit old subdivisions with new pipe, land acquisition for future retention ponds, and a program for swale construction that works favorably for stormwater runoff in the areas adjacent to our beaches.

Volusia County Stormwater operates with two assigned positions and the help of more than 35 county employees and equipment from Road and Bridge and Mosquito Control.

Be a leak seeker

Check the outside taps for leaking water, particularly during the summer sprinkling season. A hose mistakenly left dripping in the grass or garden can waste thousands of gallons of water over the course of a week. Remember to close outside faucets tightly every time you shut off the water.