



BOARD BYLINE – Your District, Here for You – Kevin Williams, Board President

COVID-19 is having an enormous impact on residents and businesses. As your water services District, we understand and empathize with the challenges you are facing. During these difficult times, Oak Lodge Water Services continues to operate 24/7 with essential staff, providing safe drinking water, sewer, and stormwater management services.

Here are a few essential things to know:

- **Your water is safe to drink and use.** The Environmental Protection Agency reports the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water supplies. Additionally, the process used to treat your water kills bacteria and viruses such as COVID-19.
- **Your water and sewer service will stay on.** We have suspended late fees and water shutoffs. We also offer financial help if you are in need. Learn more by calling 503-654-7765, emailing billing@olwsd.org, or visiting the financial assistance page on our website.
- **We are listening to you.** We want to thank everyone who recently provided comments on our planned 3% or \$5.70 per two-month increase (based on a typical single-family residential customer's bill). In response to your concerns, we have reduced this year's increase to 0.5% or \$0.86 per two-month bill to support the emergency customer assistance program for local residents and businesses.

During the COVID-19 response, you are invited to attend by phone:

1. Visit our website;
2. Call the phone number listed and enter the access code provided.

OLWS BOARD MEETINGS:

*** JULY 21 at 6 p.m.**

*** AUGUST 18 at 6 p.m.**

We will continue to be here for you if you need us. Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or issues with your service. You can also get up-to-date information on our COVID-19 precautions on our website.

CREATING A HEALTHIER WATER COMMUNITY – Your Actions Make the Difference

Thank you for all that you do to help make our water safer and healthier. Here are four top summer activities that make a difference in how our waterways work.

1. If you keep a lawn, consider letting it go dormant in the summer and fertilize with a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer just once in the fall after Labor Day. This conserves water for the fish all summer and then promotes lawn growth in the spring.
2. Remember to pick up after your pet — bacteria left behind from pets can flow into our creeks and rivers without treatment.
3. Washing your car? Remember to keep all soapy water on the grass and out of the storm drain — or take it to a car wash.
4. Shade our neighborhood: trees and native vegetation help keep water cool and filter pollutants before running into local creeks.



Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done – In August the Clackamas River Water Providers begins our annual "Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done" campaign. The purpose of this annual campaign is to encourage our customers to greatly reduce or stop all outdoor water use by September 1st in order to leave water in the Clackamas River for the fall fish migration. Visit the CRWP website for more information on what you can do to help.

Summer Water Outlook for 2020

May and June have been cooler and wetter than expected and flows in the Clackamas are currently above normal for this time of year, but things can change quickly as we move into the summer months. As water managers, we look to tools that help us understand what the rest of our summer may look like and what this will mean for water demands, as well as what kind of management decisions we may need to make. There are two tools that we use to help inform these decisions.

The first is the Oregon Water Resource Department biweekly Water Condition Reports. These reports look at snowpack in addition to current statewide water year precipitation, temperatures, and streamflow conditions. The most recent three-month outlook from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center indicates an increased probability of above-normal temperatures along with below-normal precipitation across the Pacific Northwest.

To see these reports go to:

https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/wr/wr_drought/current_updates.aspx.

The second is the Drought & Climate Outlook webinars for the Pacific Northwest that are put on by the National Integrated Drought Information System. The Pacific Northwest Drought Early Warning System (PNW DEWS) Drought & Climate Outlook Webinar is part of a series of regular drought and climate outlook webinars designed to provide stakeholders and other interested parties in the region with timely information on current drought status and impacts, as well as a preview of current and developing climatic events (i.e. El Niño and La Niña). For more information go here <https://www.drought.gov/drought/>.

We encourage our customers to use water wisely every day all year round, but if our summer ends up being hotter and longer than anticipated we will encourage our customers to take advantage of our conservation resources and tools to find more ways to save and conserve water. This will be especially important in September, at the end of the summer, to ensure there is enough water in the river for the fall fish migration.

This article is brought to you from the Clackamas River Water Providers. For more information and free tools about water conservation, watershed protection information, and source water assessment, visit www.clackamasproviders.org.



Let Your Turfgrass (Lawn) Go Dormant

Many of today's regionally adapted turfgrasses (lawns) can handle a period of drought or heat. Choosing not to water your lawn during the summer and allowing it to go dormant is a great way to save money on your water bill and ensure there is enough water in the Clackamas River for fish. Summer dormancy is simply a state of reduced water usage where the turfgrass plant focuses resources on the roots and is a normal response to the stress of heat and drought. If you choose to let your turfgrass go dormant this year, visit www.clackamasproviders.org to learn about waking up your lawn through: watering, mowing, fertilizing, weed control, and use. Over the years local CRWP customers agree about how quickly their lawns bounce back and begin to green up in mid-August when the nights are longer and cooler. This year we encourage you to give lawn dormancy a try and see how resilient your lawn can be.



**Trash your wipes, don't flush them. Flush only the 3 p's.
Your efforts help stop expensive repairs to
our sewer treatment plant.**

Everyone wants a beautiful and shady yard – however, we also need to think about conserving water. The good news is that landscapes can be maintained with far less water than you think. Want to know exactly how much you should be watering each week? To help people water more efficiently in the dry season, the Regional Water Providers' Consortium publishes a watering number by zip code for the amount of water that lawns and other plants need each week between April and September. To learn more visit: www.regionalh2o.org/weekly-watering-number.

