

# **COVID-19 and Your Drinking Water**



We understand your concerns about COVID – 19. Your tap water is not something you need to worry about. It is safe to drink and use as always. Our treatment and disinfection process kill virus, including the coronavirus. The US has some of the highest standards of tap water in the world and we consistently meet those standards.

Our water providers continue to carry out their day-to-day responsibilities of providing safe and reliable water and sanitation

services to communities. As stewards of public health and the environment, we are wellversed on managing risks associated with protecting the water supply and planning for both routine and extreme incidents.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

What are water providers doing to keep their employees safe while keeping the water flowing?

A few things that our water providers are doing include:

- Identifying essential employees to maintain continuous operations and designating emergency back-up for these employees in case they can't report to work.
- Staggering work schedules to maximize social distancing requirements.
- Working with our IT departments to allow staff who are able, to work from home.
- Encouraging personnel to stay home when they are sick.
- Providing back-up or alternate shift rotation for personnel that need to stay home for themselves or their loved ones.
- Limiting all meetings, gatherings and travel.

#### Is my drinking water safe from Coronavirus?

Yes. All of our drinking water treatment plants meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requirements for the treatment of viruses such as COVID-19. Our drinking water is regularly tested throughout our drinking water systems to make sure the water remains safe. Water is key to reducing the spread of Coronavirus in our community. Remember: hand washing is an important part of the strategy to combat this pandemic. The EPA has a Q&A on COVID-19 and drinking water. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has information about water transmission and COVID-19. Have more questions about water quality? Contact your water provider.

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#### SPRING 2020 News

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# How Water Systems Work About the Clackamas River

The Clackamas River begins on the slopes of Olallie Butte, a High Cascade volcano. The river flows 82.7 miles from its headwaters (elevation 6,000 ft) to its confluence with the Willamette River near Gladstone and Oregon City (elevation 12 ft) and is made up of 16 sub watersheds.

The watershed drains more than 940 sq miles, or 600,700 acres. More than half of its length runs through forested areas over rugged terrain. The lower reaches flow through agricultural and densely populated areas. The watershed crosses two counties and includes federal land administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), state land, and private land.

Unlike the Bull Run Watershed, which is federally owned and managed by the City of Portland, 72% of the of the Clackamas watershed is publicly owned, 3% is tribally owned, and 25% is privately owned. The watershed can roughly be divided in half, with nearly all of the upper watershed in the Mt. Hood National Forest and managed by the USFS. In contrast, most of the lower watershed is privately-owned with much of it used for agricultural. The area in between the national forest and the lower watershed include parcels of land owned by private timber companies and the BLM.

The Clackamas River supplies high-quality drinking water to over 300,000 people in Clackamas and Washington Counties and is targeted in the Regional Water Supply Plan as a source to meet future demand.

### There are five municipal surface water intakes on the Clackamas river. They include:

- City of Estacada
- Clackamas River Water
- Lake Oswego Tigard Partnership
- North Clackamas County Water Commission (City of Gladstone, Oak Lodge Water Services and Sunrise Water Authority)
- South Fork Water Board (Oregon City and West Linn)

PGE operates three hydroelectric dams on the Clackamas River mainstem: Faraday (just East of Estacada), River Mill (West of Estacada) and North Fork (upstream from Faraday). These dams have adult fish passage facilities; Faraday and River Mill also have juvenile fish bypass facilities. The Oak Grove Fork of the Clackamas River has two dams, at Lake Harriet (23 miles East of Estacada) and Timothy Lake.

The watershed supports naturally spawning anadromous fish including steelhead, chinook, coho salmon, as well as

lamprey and sea-run cutthroat trout. It also provides important habitat for many wildlife species, both game and non-game, and offers a wealth of recreational activities such as fishing, hiking, camping, white water rafting, kayaking, and hunting.

In 1988 Congress incorporated approximately 50 miles of the Clackamas River into the Federal Wild and Scenic River System. Four sections of the River are also designated as State Scenic Waterways. The purpose of these designations is to manage designated segments by protecting their outstandingly remarkable values and maintaining and enhancing the natural integrity of river related values.

#### Key Watershed Concerns

1) Naturally spawning and anadromous salmonids. The Clackamas supports a variety of salmon species.

**2) Land Use.** Land use impacts can increase pollution runoff, sediment loads, and water temperatures.

**3) Urban Growth.** Impervious surfaces increase the impact of stormwater runoff.

**4) Water Quantity.** Water for people must be balance with water for fish.

#### What Can You Do to Help? Get involved!

- Attend a Clackamas River Water Providers, city council, or water board meeting.
- Call you water provider for more information.
- Join our local watershed council, the Clackamas River Basin Council.

For more information about the Clackamas River Watershed and what we are doing to protect the river as a high quality drinking water source visit our website at www.clackamasproviders.org.

# **Develop a Water-Smart Landscape**

With the weather getting nicer and most of us staying home and staying safe, a lot of us have extra time to plan and work in our yards. The following article can help you create and develop a water-smart landscape. The <u>WaterSense Water-</u> <u>Smart Landscapes Guide</u> can get you started. Choosing the right plants, supporting soil health, and proper maintenance are all keys to water-smart landscapes. Consider the following suggestions to create a landscape that has curb appeal and is easy to maintain.

#### Plan ahead for a water-smart landscape.

If you're designing a new landscape or rethinking your current one, the <u>WaterSense Water Budget Tool</u> can help you plan your landscape for water efficiency and tell you if you have designed a landscape that will use an appropriate amount of water for your climate.

Use regionally appropriate, low water-using and native plants. Once established, regionally appropriate and native plants require little water beyond normal rainfall. Also, because native plants are adapted to local soils and climatic conditions, they rarely require the addition of fertilizer and are more resistant to pests and diseases than are other species. Be careful when selecting exotic species, as some may be invasive, which may require more water and could displace native plants. For more information on plants adaptive to the Willamette Valley check out our <u>Water Efficient</u> <u>Plants for the Willamette Valley</u> plant guide.

#### Group plants according to their water needs.

Grouping vegetation with similar watering needs into specific "hydrozones" reduces water use and protects the plants from both under-watering and over-watering by allowing you to water to each zone's specific needs. For example, turf areas and shrub areas should always be separated into different hydrozones because of their differing water needs.

#### Place turfgrass strategically.

In traditional landscapes, turfgrass receives the highest percentage of irrigation water. This is because the most

commonly used varieties of turfgrass require more water than many other plants in the landscape and homeowners tend to overwater turfgrass. As a result, landscapes with large expanses of turfgrass generally use



more water than those with a mixture of other plants. To reduce outdoor water use, consider planting turfgrass only where it has a practical function, such as a play area. Choose turfgrass types that don't use a lot of water, such as low water-using or native grasses and those that can withstand drought. For more information on turfgrass and water use, see **EPA's Research Report on Turfgrass Allowance** (PDF).

#### Minimize steep slopes.

Slopes can be challenging because of the potential for erosion and runoff. If slopes cannot be avoided in your landscape design, install plantings with deeper root zones such as native ground covers and shrubs to provide stabilization and prevent erosion.

#### Keep your soil healthy!

Use mulch to save water and improve soil health. In addition to making landscapes attractive, mulch provides necessary nutrients to the soil creating healthy soil and adds an extra layer between plant roots and air, helping to protect plants in a variety of ways. Healthy soils effectively cycle nutrients, minimize runoff, retain water, and absorb excess nutrients, sediments and pollutants.

Have your soil tested for nutrient content, pH, soil composition, and organic matter content. Very sandy soil, heavy clay, compacted soil, or extreme soil pH may impact which plants are right for your yard. In these cases, seek advice from a nursery, horticulturist, Cooperative Extension, or other expert.

Creating a water efficient landscape doesn't have to be complicated. Start with one area of your yard and each season add another section. With a little planning you too can have a water- smart landscape.

Taken from the US Environmental Protection Agency - WaterSense website.

# **Spring Quiz**:

1. The Watershed supports spawning anadromous fish including:

A. SteelheadB. ChinookC. LampreyD. All of the above

2. The USDA announced that it will invest \$56 million to help agricultural producers improve water quality in high-priority watersheds across the US.

A. True B. False

### Answers - Can be found on page 9

#### 3. WES Surface Water Management Program:

A. Develops Woodlands
B. Creates Plans for
Highway Construction
C. Designs regional
water quality and flood
reduction projects
D. None of the above

### 4. We want to thank all who

participated in the survey focusing on:

- A. Soil Health
  B. 'Fish on the Run' Campaign
  C. Toilet Leaks
- **D.** Our Newsletter

# Faces of Drinking Water by Christine Hollenbeck

In light of the current COVID-19 situation and conforming to new "social distancing" requirements we thought we would interview one of ourselves for this issue of "Faces of Drinking Water".

In this article we will get to know me, Christine Hollenbeck and find out how I came to work in public drinking water and how it became my life's passion and career.

# CRWP: Where do you work/who do you work for?

**Christine:** I work for the Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP). I am one of two employees who work for the combined group of Clackamas River Water Providers who make up the CRWP.

### CRWP: How long have you been working for the CRWP?

**Christine:** This August it will be 13 years! I can't believe its been 13 years. Time sure does fly by.

#### CRWP: What is your position?

**Christine:** Lam the Public Outreach and Education Program Coordinator.

### CRWP: How did you acquire your position?

**Christine:** Back in 2007 I had been working for Oak Lodge Water District working in distribution maintenance, and coordinating the conservation and cross connection programs. I was offered the CRWP Public Outreach and Education Program Coordinator position and I accepted.

### CRWP: What is your back ground prior to water?

**Christine:** My road to public drinking water started when I was 30 years old and with the divorce from my husband. Up to that time, I had been a stay at home mother of two wonderful children. I had my high school diploma but had no other schooling. I worked in the landscape industry while enrolled in the Landscape Technology program offered by PCC. During the second year, my irrigation professor suggested I get my cross- connection certification which would be a good way for me to make a little extra money on my own time.

Not knowing anything about the two different certifications provided by the state, I borrowed \$500 from my father and enrolled in a week-long course. A few days into the course I was distressed to find I was being certified to run a cross-connection program for a public water system, not certified as a backflow tester.

As luck would have it the trainer for the course was Mary Howell of Backflow Management Inc. (BMI) and when the course was over, she offered me a job working for BMI.

In the 4 years I worked for BMI, I worked with public water systems in various capacities but most regarding crossconnection issues. Soon I realized I wanted to work for a public water provider rather than in the private sector. Oak Lodge Water District was hiring for a cross-connection specialist and someone to work in distribution maintenance. I applied for the position and was offered the job.

I had found my place! I loved working for Oak Lodge. I learned so much about public water systems working in distribution maintenance, managing the cross- connection program, the conservation program, and customer service.

#### An Interview with Christine Hollenbeck Clackamas River Water Providers



Four years later I was offered and I accepted the Public Education and Outreach Program Coordinator position with the CRWP. The CRWP was just beginning to form their group and needed an individual who would be good at communication. My Manager, Dan Bradley, thought I would be a good fit because, in his words, "I liked to talk a lot."

### CRWP: What is your favorite/ least favorite part of your job?

**Christine:** I really like people. I truly enjoy all of the wonderful people I work with, and I love being able to help them understand their public water systems. Being able to clearly explain to our customers what we do to provide clean safe drinking water, and how we manage and operate our systems is a real joy. I don't really have anything I don't like about my job with the CRWP. I feel blessed to have this position.

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### Faces - continued

# CRWP: What accomplishments are you most proud of in your career?

**Christine:** In many ways I feel my whole career has been an accomplishment of sorts. Considering I started into the work force fairly late in my life. I started out with very little and have worked hard to get to where I am today. Having said that, I would say that all of the amazing relationships I have developed with our customers, all our area partners, and my fellow water industry professionals is an accomplishment. Without these relationships my job would be very difficult to do.

### CRWP: What advice would you give to someone starting out in the public water industry?

**Christine:** Learn as much as you can about the public water industry. Watch closely and listen to the people you are working with. They are a wealth of information and experience. Always remember, while the public drinking water industry is a very large industry, it is also a very small world. It is like a family.

#### CRWP: How has the industry changed since you started?

**Christine:** Oh my gosh! Over the past 20 years technology has been the biggest change. Our computers and the programs we use have changed in leaps and bounds, and made our jobs so much easier. GSI, GPS, cell phones, the iPad, Automatic Meter Reading (AMR), membrane filtration, Ozone disinfection, you name it and it has changed. All of these things and more have given us what we need to do our jobs better so we can continue to provide our communities with clean safe drinking water.

#### CRWP: What do you think is most important about your job?

**Christine:** Supporting our drinking water industry by educating our customers, young and old, about their drinking water, the watershed where the Clackamas River resides, and the process in which it takes to treat and deliver water to their homes and business.

### CRWP: What would you like the public to know about their drinking water?

**Christine:** I would like all our customers to know what a process it is to make and deliver their drinking water. Every stage of providing drinking water takes many different people with a variety of positions and skills. I would like to believe if our customers had this understanding, they would be more likely to support our providers in terms of rate increases, be more involved, and really think about what they are doing with their drinking water and try harder to conserve it.

#### **CRWP: What can the public do to help make your job easier? Christine:** Educate themselves about their drinking water. Visit their water provider's websites and our CRWP website. If they have a question email or call us.

**CRWP: What's the one thing you can't live without at work? Christine:** People. Our customers, our CRWP members and their staff, our partners and their staff. All of the folks who I work with, that make the success of my position possible.

#### CRWP: What would you say H20 is to you?

**Christine:** Life, and I'm proud to say it is my passion and livelihood.

#### CRWP: What do you do for fun when you're not working?

**Christine:** I like to spend time with my family and friends. I have a 5-year-old granddaughter who I see every week and Facetime with as much as possible. I love being outside in the summer when the weather is warm, I have a fairly large yard which needs as much of my attention as I can spare, I love doing puzzles, and walking my dog.

Though my path to a career in public drinking water was a little weird, I believe it was fate that has brought me here. I am a very lucky person!



# Partner Spotlight -Clackamas Water Environment Services

Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES) is a department of Clackamas County that produces clean water and protects water quality for more than 190,000 people living and working in Clackamas County through its Sanitary Sewer System and Surface Water Management Programs.

#### **Sanitary Sewer System**

WES operates and maintains five water resource recovery facilities, 23 wastewater pumping stations and more than 340 miles of sewer pipes. Our treatment facilities clean more than seven billion gallons of wastewater each year while also producing energy and natural fertilizer.

#### **Surface Water Management Program**

This program helps reduce pollution in local rivers, streams, and wetlands caused by stormwater runoff, a leading source of water pollution in Oregon, by implementing programs designed to reduce pollution. Through watershed protection and planning, WES is taking a long-term approach to protecting the health of our water resources.

#### The WES Surface Water Management Program:

- Maintains stormwater facilities, which capture runoff
- Monitors water quality and provides timely spill response
- Ensures buffer zones between new development and wetland/creek areas
- Plans and designs regional water quality and flood reduction projects
- Provides long-term watershed planning
- Provides public outreach and partnerships for pollution prevention.

#### **Improving Watershed Health**

WES focuses on improving overall watershed health with an integrated approach driven by four main components:

• **Hydrology** - Managing stormwater runoff in a manner that minimizes flooding and stream channel degradation

• Water Quality - Reducing in-stream contaminants



• **Habitat** - Promoting the function and/or restoration of functioning and healthy streams and riparian areas

• **Biological** - Maintaining viable aquatic insect and diverse fish and wildlife population

WES accomplishes this by providing grants to organizations who want to help improve the health of watersheds within the WES Surface Water Management Area, by educating youth about the importance of protecting our watersheds through their Watershed Health Education Program, and by working with organization like SOLVE to hold Summer Waterway Cleanups.

#### **Seeking Innovative Approaches**

In 2012, Water Environment Services recognized the importance a piece of property near the river could have on water quality and purchased the former farmland from the Carli family to establish WES' Carli Creek Water Quality Facility. Since December 2018, this facility has been removing harmful pollutants from stormwater runoff from surrounding industrial properties in the Clackamas Industrial Area before it reaches Carli Creek and the Clackamas River.

WES restored 1,700 feet of Carli Creek and installed pipe systems to funnel stormwater runoff through newlycreated wetland-like basins. 70,000 native plants were planted, while 83 wood structures were installed to provide habitat protection for wildlife. This 15 -acre facility ensures a cleaner Clackamas River, protection for endangered wildlife and proves that a balance between nature and industry is possible.

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# **May Is Water Awareness Month!**

*National Drinking Water Week* is in May, and efforts are being made to highlight the importance of drinking water nationwide. With the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic impacting communities throughout the world, water professionals are working around the clock to ensure that safe, reliable water service continues to flow.

#### National Drinking Water Week May 3–9th, 2020

In 1988, a joint congressional resolution signed by then President Ronald Reagan established National Drinking Water Week and for more than 40 years since its creation water providers have celebrated Drinking Water Week. Too often in our industry water utilities only receive publicity when something bad happens - a water main breaks in the middle of rush hour or we have to raise water rates, again. This week provides us with a unique opportunity as water professionals and the communities we serve to join together in recognizing the vital role water plays in our daily lives. This year the theme is "There When You Need It."

Whether you need it to cool off after a workout or warm you up in a hot bath, your tap water is there when you need it. It is even used to produce your morning coffee, the clothes you wear or cleaning the fruits and veggies you like to snack on.

Your water utility works hard around the clock to ensure high-quality drinking water is there when you need it on demand. For over ten years the Clackamas River Water Providers have been implementing programs to conserve and protect the Clackamas River as a high quality drinking water source.



As stewards of public health and the environment, Clackamas River Water Provider members are well versed on managing risks associated with protecting the water supply and planning for both routine and extreme incidents. Our drinking water is regularly tested throughout our drinking water systems to make sure the water remains safe.

Want to learn about your water's journey from source to tap? Visit our website at <u>www.clackamasproviders.org</u> or call us to find out more. We can also give presentations, can add you to our annual watershed tour mailing list, schedule a tour for you of one of our drinking water treatment plants, and much more.

# **COVID-19** continued

### Will my water service be disconnected during this emergency?

During this public health emergency we understand that it is important that all of our customers have access to clean, safe water, in particular for hand washing. Our water providers are working hard to provide flexibility and assistance to their water customers to help them pay their water bills. Contact your local water provider to see how they can help you.

#### How can I pay my water bill?

Our water providers are asking you to assist them in taking proactive steps to help control the spread of the COVID-19 virus so that we can continue to deliver essential services to all our customers. For this reason, most offices are closed to the public for the time being. Customers may pay bills online, by mail, or by phone.

### Do I need to buy bottled water or store drinking water?

No. So if you're among those clearing the store shelves of bottled water, you may want to save those dollars for something more urgent.

Water is the lifeblood of our communities and our economy, which is why we are hard at work so you can stay home and stay safe.

# Leaks Can Run, But They Can't Hide

National Fix a Leak Week was March 16th to the 22nd. In case you missed it, the Clackamas River Water Providers wants you to be ready to chase down household leaks whenever they occur. Nationwide nearly 1 trillion gallons of water annually is wasted due to undetected leaks.

#### **Checking for Leaks**

Nationally, average household leaks can account for nearly 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year and 10% of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons of water or more per day. Common types of leaks found in the home are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. These types of leaks are often easy to fix, requiring only a few tools and hardware that can pay for themselves in water savings. Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners about 10% on their water bills.

#### It is possible to detect leaks in your home on your own.

Most water leaks can be seen or heard, though some can be difficult to detect.

Check each water bill. The bill has a chart that shows 18 months of water usage. Compare your current bill to the last bill for the same month. Is your usage in a similar range? If no, and you don't know why, check for a leak.

Here are some tips to help you determine if you have a leak and where the leak is located.

Turn off all water sources being used in the house or any water features in your yard. Locate the water meter on your property. Remove the meter box lid and lift up the metal cover on the meter, check the small red rectangle or blue star leak detection dial on the face of your meter. Is it moving? If it isn't you do not have a leak and you do not have to do anything more. If it is, you have a leak somewhere.

Next, find the water shut off valve to your house and shut it off. This isolates the house from the main water line. Go back to the meter and look at the leak detection dial. If it is not moving you know you have a leak in the house. If it is still moving your leak is on the water line. If you have an irrigation system shut down the valve to your irrigation system. If the leak detection dial stops, the leak is in the irrigation system. If the leak detection dial is still moving after shutting off the irrigation valve then the leak is on the main water line.



If you discover you have a leak in the house you will want to go through the house and check every water using appliance, all faucets, toilets and outside hose bibs and water features. Look for drips or signs of water on or around the area.

If you discover the leak is outside on the main water line to the house, walk the area between the meter and where the water line enters the house looking for wet, soggy and saturated ground, green patches of grass and plants where it should otherwise be dry.

If you have determined the leak is in your irrigation system, turn the system on one zone at a time and check for broken spray heads, valves, and cracked lines.

If you are at all uncomfortable working on your home plumbing or irrigation system it is recommended to call a professional for assistance.

Visit the Conservation page on our website to get more information. www.clackamasproviders.org/water-conservation.



# How WES is Working with the CRWP continued

WES builds and maintains partnerships and relationships with organizations such as the Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) who share its values and goals for producing clean water and reducing water pollution. WES and the CRWP have worked together on many projects, including the Source Water Quality Protection program in the Clackamas Industrial Area in Clackamas (97015) and Happy Valley. This area's stormwater flows directly into the Clackamas River above four drinking water treatment intakes.

Through these efforts, hundreds of stormdrain markers have been installed at stormwater catch basins and drains to remind the public that these drain to the Clackamas River, a drinking water source. Spill response signs were created and installed at several industrial facilities to provide educational information for employees on what to do if they have a hazardous material spill. A spill prevention/response billboard was displayed along Highway 212 in 2018.

WES also co-chairs the Clackamas River Spill Response and Prevention Committee with the CRWP. This committee meets annually to talk about hazardous spill prevention, spill notification, and spill response if there is a hazardous material spill in the area.



Spring

#### Working for the Future

WES is dedicated to ensuring that our families and neighbors enjoy the benefits of safe, healthy water for generations to come. WES looks forward to continuing its productive partnership with Clackamas River Water Providers for many years to come. Learn more about Clackamas Water Environment Services at www.clackamas.us/wes.

# **Can the Wipes**

Many household cleaning products are labeled and marketed as "disposable" but should not be flushed down the toilet.

These include:

- disinfecting wipes
- baby wipes
- mop refills
- paper towels
- towelettes

These products don't dissolve,

which can clog pipes and cause expensive and time-consuming repairs for homeowners and public pump station equipment leading to sewer backups. Help us help WES, by placing all wipes, rags and towels in the trash, not the toilet!



Answers Question 1 - Answer is D Question 2 - Answer is A

Question 3 - Answer is C Question 4 - Answer is B

# Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Source Water Protection Efforts

With the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill a number of enhancements where made to the bill to recognize the importance of source water protection. This included: 1) Making source water protection a goal of farm bill conservation programs for the first time. 2) Making it easier for water utilities to participate in state and local NRCS advisory groups developing conservation priorities. 3) Authorizes state NRCS offices to designate some practices beneficial to source water protection for up to 90% federal cost share, and 4) Requests that 10% of conservation program dollars to be dedicated to source water protection.

Most of this work is being completed under the USDA's premiere National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) which provides a way to accelerate voluntary, on-farm conservation investments and focused water quality monitoring and assessment resources where they can deliver the greatest benefits for clean water.

In March, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it will invest \$56 million this year to help agricultural producers improve water quality in more than 300 high-priority watersheds

across the country. Five of these new projects are in Oregon, including a project in the Clackamas River Watershed.

The CRWP has received a \$84,500 grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop a Source Water Assessment Plan for a portion of the Clackamas River Watershed where the predominate land use is agriculture. This Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) will characterize watershed and source area conditions, identify contaminates and resources of concern, assess BMPs and conservation approaches for protecting source water areas, document implementation goals and objectives, describe effective monitoring approaches, and outline targeted outreach strategies for working with our agricultural landowners to protect water quality.

Completion of this Plan will result in the completion of the NRCS NWQI "readiness phase". Following this NRCS "readiness phase", the Clackamas would then be eligible to receive federal Farm Bill funding to implement the measures identified in this plan specific to agricultural impacts that would protect drinking water.

# Get a FREE Landscape Water Audit Help Save Water and Money

**The Clackamas River Water Providers** offer free landscape water audits to the following member's service areas; City of Estacada, Clackamas River Water, Sunrise Water Authority (City of Happy Valley and Damascus), City of Gladstone, Oak Lodge Water Services, and South Fork Water Board (Oregon City and West Linn).

Water use in our communities more than doubles during the summer months due to outdoor watering, and is often the sign of inefficient use of water in our yards or an irrigation system that needs repair and scheduling adjustments. A landscape water audit is a way to get your irrigation system and landscape running right.

Saving water and saving money is what a landscape water audit is all about. Our Landscape Auditor will assess your lawn and garden areas, irrigation system, and more. Residential landscape water audits often include but are not limited to:

- A walk through your yard and gardens including all lawn area.
- Making note of existing soil types, plant material, naturally available water, and sun exposure.

• Locating the water meter, noting any existing leaks from the meter throughout the irrigation system.

• Locating the irrigation controller, making note of the make/ model as well as the current schedule. Each zone will be ran separately recording gallons per minute used for each zone. When the audit is complete you will receive a detailed report with all recommendations recorded such as controller schedule adjustments for better water efficiency, irrigation head adjustments/replacements if necessary, maintenance of existing plant material for more efficient watering, i.e....pruning up, soil amendments to reduce weeds; promote soil moisture, and reduce use of fertilizers giving you the tools you need to better manage your outdoor water use.

The Clackamas River Water Providers will provide these free landscape water audits during the spring and summer months only (during the watering season). The audits are available on a first come first serve basis. The audits will be approximately 1.5 hours, please be available to do the walk through with the auditor. Audits will continue through the summer season or until program funds are depleted.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the CRWP Landscape Water Audit program is temporarily on hold. The Program will resume as soon as the social distancing order is lifted. If you would like your name on a list to receive an audit, call **503.723.3511**, or contact christine@clackamasproviders.org. For more information about our free landscape water audits, visit our website at www.clackamasproviders.org.

# We Would Like to Thank You!

Thank you to all of our member customers who participated in the survey focusing on our new summer watering campaign "Fish on the Run Irrigation Done".

We hope the survey will us give insight to better understand how we can improve the campaign, and what kind of information and tools we can provide to customers to help them be successful in conserving their drinking water, leaving more water in the Clackamas River for fish during the late summer and early fall.



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**Our Members:** 







www.ci.gladstone.or.us www.ci.oswego.or.us









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