



SPRING 2021 News

2021 Water Conservation Calendar Voting

Each year the Clackamas River Water Providers holds a coloring contest with elementary schools in our service areas to create our annual water conservation calendar. The 2022

Calendar theme is "Conserving Our Tap Water at Home". We typically receive around 600 pictures and from these pictures 13 pictures are chosen for the calendar.

To determine which picture is on the cover of the 2022 Calendar we ask our students, their families, and our communities to help decide by casting their vote for their favorite picture.

Cast your vote for your favorite picture by going to our website starting May 3rd, 2021!



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Journey Down the Clackamas Conference

The Clackamas provides drinking water to more than three hundred thousand people who live in Clackamas and Washington Counties. The River is also resource, classroom and playground for tens of thousands more, including conservation professionals, anglers, rafters, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts as well as timber producers, nursery farmers, agricultural landowners and many others.

On March 9, the Clackamas River Basin Council (CRBC) launched a year-long series of free seminars about our unique watershed and its natural resources, from the river's birth in alpine springs to its confluence with the Willamette River. Subjects of these talks range from geology, water quality and forestry to fish, recreational, cultural, and public policy issues. The series consists of 33, one-to-two-hour sessions, taught by an impressive array of engineers, scientists, political leaders, agency officials, educators and many others who have volunteered to share



(Continued on page 2)

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Give Your Irrigation System a Spring Check-Up

Before the summer watering season starts, go through this preseason check list to ensure your irrigation system is ready for peak summer performance. It's one of the most important things you can do to ensure your system is operating efficiently.

Spring Checklist:

1. Close all manual drains – the sprinkler system was probably drained last fall – and make sure that none of the manual drain valves have been left open.

2. Slowly open the main valve and allow the mainline piping from the main valve to the backflow prevention assembly to fill with water.

3. Have the backflow prevention assembly tested by a state certified tester – your local water provider can supply a list of local testers.

4. Pressurize the mainline from the backflow preventer to the control valves. Have one of the control valves open while you do this so that air trapped in the piping can escape through the sprinkler heads as the pipes fill with water.

5. Most important! Run the entire sprinkler system, one zone at a time. As you do this, check for the following:

- Signs of leakage, caused by damage spray heads or piping during the winter months. Repair as needed.
- Spray Pattern of the sprinklers can be inefficient. Sometimes nozzles get clogged and need to be cleaned. Also, nozzles and sprinklers may need adjustments to reduce overspray onto walks, driveways, etc.
- Interference of the spray pattern can occur if plants have been moved, play equipment has been installed, or if plants have just grown too tall. Adjusting the sprinklers to accommodate the changing landscape will eliminate dry spots and puddling caused by blocked spray.
- Overgrown Grass can impede spray heads – make sure to trim the grass away from the sprinkler heads.

By following this simple check list before the summer watering season starts, and making periodic checks throughout the watering season you can be sure your lawn and garden are being watered properly all summer long without wasting water!

Journey Continued

their expertise about the many facets of the Clackamas River basin, including some of the latest research occurring within its boundaries.

The sessions are free and open to everyone and will be presented on Tuesdays twice a month on Zoom. Live sessions will offer time at the end for questions and answers. They will also be recorded for viewing on YouTube at a later date if attendees cannot make the live seminar date. Many of the sessions may also qualify for Professional Development Hours, to be determined on a case-by-case basis, or for Continuing Education Units through Clackamas Community College.

Registration is required for each talk to ensure that attendees receive the correct zoom meeting links. To learn more, to see a list of all the talks that will take place over the next year, or to register for an upcoming seminar



please visit <http://clackamasriver.org/journey-down-the-clackamas-conference>.

The Clackamas River Water Providers is an active partner in supporting this conference.

Partner Spotlight

The Regional Water Providers Consortium

Formed in 1997, the Regional Water Providers Consortium is made up of 24 water providers in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. The Consortium serves as a collaborative and coordinating organization to improve the planning and management of municipal water supplies. Together, these entities provide most of the Portland metropolitan area's drinking water. Through these efforts the Consortium and its members have been working together for over 20 years to ensure we have long-term, reliable, efficient, and safe water supplies.

The Consortium has a unique role in the region. It formed around the development of a regional water supply plan – identifying long-term water needs and water sources for the region through 2050. Today the Consortium runs public outreach campaigns on television, radio, and social media that connect people with the information and resources they need to [use water wisely](#) and to [prepare for emergencies](#). The Consortium also brings together its members and partners to train and prepare for emergencies, assists members with securing grant funding for emergency equipment, and prepares studies and other resources that assist its members with their collective work.

All Clackamas River Water Provider members are also members of the Consortium with the exception of the

City of Estacada. CRWP staff play active roles in both the Consortium's Conservation Committee and the Consortium's Communicator's Network. Through this partnership the CRWP is able to enhance this regional work by bring these messages into our local communities through our youth education program and in participating in local community events. The Consortium and CRWP both support Clackamas River water users in different ways. But our goal is the same – keeping our region's water supply safe and reliable long into the future.

Find out more about the Consortium, its members, and its work at www.regionalh2o.org. Here are some of the great resources that you will find there:

1. Before there's an emergency. Get Ready. Get Water.

How to [start your emergency prep](#) with water.

2. Use water wisely this summer with the Weekly Watering Number. We'll take the guess work out of how much to water each week. Sign up to receive your weekly email or text [click here](#).

3. Find out who your water provider is or if you are affected by a drinking water advisory with this [tool](#).

<https://www.regionalh2o.org/>



How Our Water Systems Work

Drinking Water Distribution Systems

Our water systems have hundreds of miles of transmission, distribution and service lines, hundreds of valves and fire hydrants, reservoirs and pumping stations which move water from our treatment plants to homes, offices and industries in our service areas. These systems allow us to provide an uninterrupted supply of pressurized safe drinking water to our consumers.

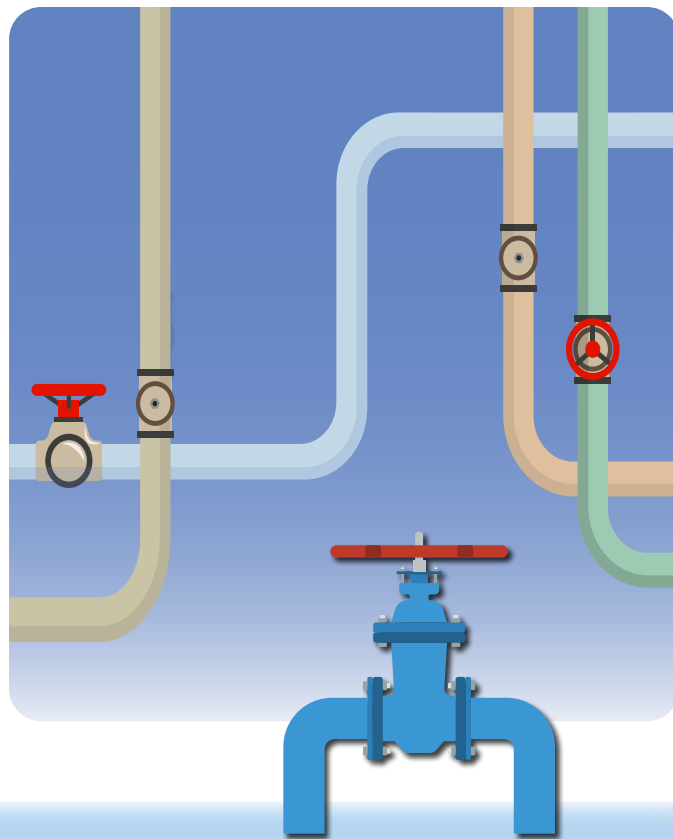
As these systems age, deterioration can occur due to corrosion, materials erosion, and external pressures that result in water main breaks, storage tank leaks, water pressure fluctuation, and other situations that can pose intermittent or persistent water quality issues.

Therefore, these systems need to be maintained year-round to ensure that we are able to deliver high quality drinking water to our customers. This is largely done through the conscientious operation and maintenance of the system facilities and includes both preventive and corrective maintenance.



Preventive maintenance is maintenance that is specifically scheduled, while corrective maintenance is not scheduled but is done when a problem, such as a main break, must be corrected to continue satisfactory operation.

Some examples of ongoing operation and maintenance programs include: Water Main Flushing programs, Leak Detection programs, and Meter Maintenance programs.



Spring Quiz:

1. How many miles of transmission and service water lines do our systems have?

- A. 75 miles
- B. Under 50 miles
- C. Hundreds of miles
- D. None

2. Regional Water Providers Consortium is made up of how many providers?

- A. Over 100
- B. 24
- C. 9
- D. 50

3. Each year, CRWP holds a coloring contest in the elementary schools.

- A. True
- B. False

4. The Source Water Assessment Plan will:

- A. Characterize conditions
- B. Identify contaminants
- C. Document goals and objectives
- D. All of the above

Answers - Can be found on page 7

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Source Water Assessment Plan

Towards the end of 2020 the CRWP received a National Water Quality Initiative grant from the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop a source water assessment for a portion of the Clackamas River watershed where the predominant land use is agriculture (shown in figure). The purpose of this effort is to provide an avenue to accelerate voluntary, on-farm conservation investments and focused water quality monitoring and assessment to determine where they can deliver the greatest benefits for clean water.

In November the CRWP contracted with Geosyntec Consults to complete the development of the Source Water Assessment Plan for the CRWP. This effort is now underway and is expected to be completed in early 2022.

The Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) will:

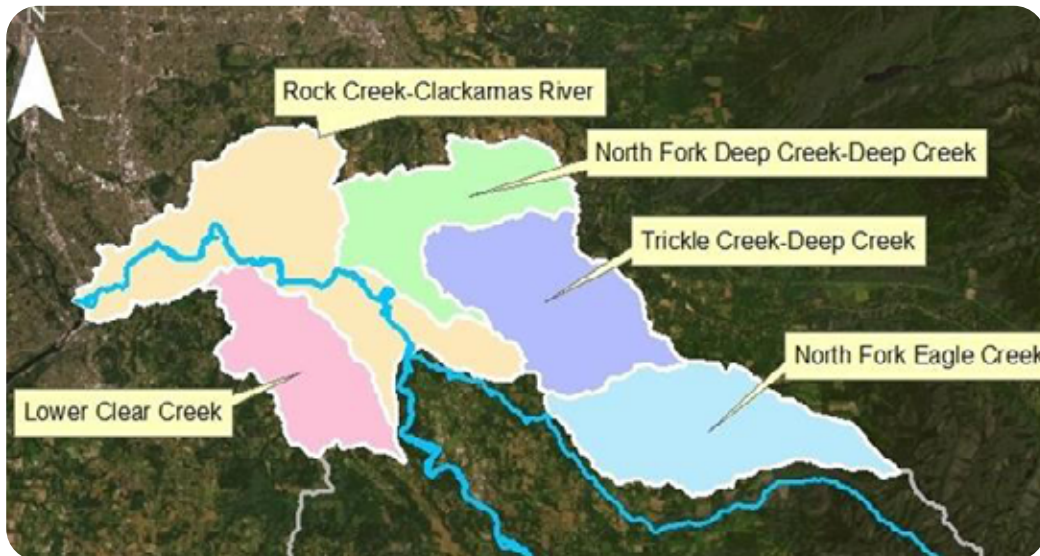
- **Characterize** watershed and source area conditions,
- **Identify** contaminants and resources of concern,
- **Assess** Best Management Practices and conservation approaches for protecting source water areas,
- **Document** implementation goals and objectives,
- **Describe** effectiveness monitoring approaches, and
- **Outline** targeted outreach strategies for working with agricultural producers to protect water quality.

Why are we doing it? For Future Federal Farm Bill Funding Eligibility.

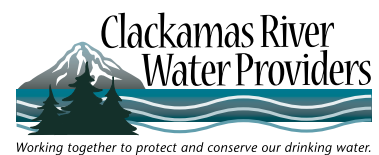
Completion of the SWAP will include a detailed watershed assessment and an outreach strategy for agricultural producers and will result in the completion of the NRCS “readiness phase”. Following this NRCS “readiness phase”, the defined area will be eligible to receive federal Farm Bill funding to implement the measures identified in this plan specific to agricultural impacts.

CRWP is working with partners to make them aware of this ongoing process and encourage involvement. To the extent possible, CRWP hopes to leverage existing basin efforts, relationships and communication avenues, such as meetings, mailings, and email updates to provide synergy between other projects.

During the summer of 2021 Geosyntec will be conducting GIS and pollution load modeling analysis to identify areas where surface water could be impacted by agricultural activities with the goal of exploring pollutant load reduction opportunities with agricultural producers centering around current practices to better understand what is currently happening on the ground. The next step will be exploring these potential treatment strategies in the watershed to see which strategies have the most landowner interest in implementing on a voluntary basis.



For more information, contact
Kim Swan at CRWP:
kims@clackamasproviders.org.



Faces of Drinking Water

by Christine Hollenbeck

For our Spring 2021 E-Newsletter we thought it would be nice to interview someone who holds a position with one of our water providers that people may not traditionally think about when they think of working for a public water provider. There are many important positions that all make the working wheel of providing public drinking water possible.

For this interview article we interviewed Karin Holzgang, Contracts Coordinator/ Executive Assistant for Clackamas River Water District.

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

Karin: I have worked at CRW for just over 9 years.

CRWP: What is your position?

Karin: I am the Contracts Coordinator/ Executive Assistant. As Contracts Coordinator, I coordinate the process from the bidding of a project or the solicitation of professional services the execution of the contract. As Executive Assistant, I directly support the General Manager and the Board of Commissioners.

CRWP: How did you acquire your position?

Karin: My position started out as a job share working 3 days a week. I had stayed home for 12 plus years raising my daughters and at the time I started at CRW my daughters were both in high school and I was looking for something of my own to challenge me, and get me back into the workforce. I really was looking for just part-time, so the situation was a perfect fit. My position is no longer a job share and I work an 80% schedule.

CRWP: What is your back ground prior to working for a drinking water provider?

Karin: Before having children, I worked for a law firm in their law library and then managed the office for an interior designer. As a part time position when my kids were in grade school I worked as admin support for a church and then managed the office for a Civil Engineer before going to work at CRW.

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

Karin: The favorite part of my job is that it is rarely the same day to day, there are new things that pop up on a regular basis which keeps it fresh, and I truly like the people I work with.

CRWP: : Do you plan on retiring from CRW?

Karin: Hum, good question. I am only 52 so retirement for me may not be at a traditional age, but I think this will be my last career. Since I don't sit still easily, I may decide I want a very part-time job for fun later on.

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

Karin: Obtaining my Construction Contracting Certificate. This is a certificate program through Portland State that is a four-part series designed to provide training on public and private contracting processes from bidding projects through the award of contracts.

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

Karin: For me learning the differences between Public service and Private sector service was my biggest learning curve and learning all of the hundreds of acronyms.

Karin Holzgang
Contracts Coordinator
& Executive Assistant
Clackamas River Water



CRWP: How has the industry changed since you started?

Karin: I don't know how much the water industry has changed in the past 9 plus years, but I would say CRW has changed for the better.

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

Karin: Since I have a blended position, I would say there are two equally important roles I play; direct support to our General Manager, as well as the contracting piece for Capital Improvement Project contracts, and personal and professional services contracts.

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

Karin: Their drinking water is produced and delivered to them by highly skilled staff who take pride in providing a great product. As a part of the Administration team, I support their efforts by supporting our Board of Commissioners, our General Manager and the contracting work I perform.

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

The Clackamas River Water Providers offer free Landscape Water Audits during the watering season (May-October) to the following member 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. Higher than normal outdoor water use 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 on track and 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/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.

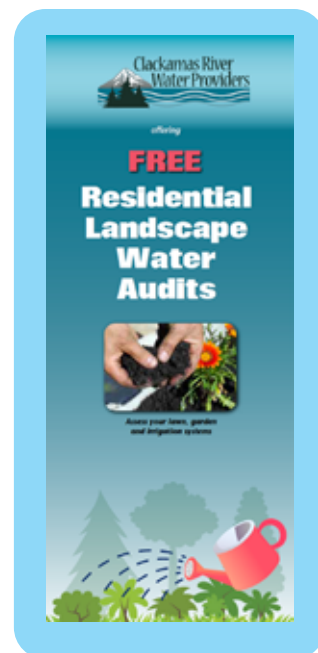
- **Locating the irrigation controller**, making note of the make/model as well as the current schedule. Each zone will be ran separately recording gallons per minute used for each zone.

When the audit is complete you will receive a detailed report with all recommendations recorded such as irrigation and controller schedule adjustments for better water efficiency, and maintenance of existing plant material giving you the tools you need to better manage your outdoor water use.

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. Our Auditor will practice social distancing requirements.

To schedule your free landscape water audit contact Christine at christine@clackamasproviders.org or call **503.723.3511**.

For more information about our free landscape water audits, conserving water during the summer months, and other Clackamas River Water Provider programs, visit our website at www.clackamasproviders.org.



Spring Quiz:

Answers

Question 1 - Answer is C
Question 2 - Answer is B

Question 3 - Answer is A
Question 4 - Answer is D

Spring Into Outdoor Water Savings

Water use can double in the summer, mostly due to inefficient outdoor water use. In addition to getting your irrigation system in shape there are a lot of things you can do this spring in your yard and garden to achieve a beautiful summer landscape while reducing watering needs and maintenance.

Start with a Plan. The planning and design of your landscape is one of the most important steps. Whether you are starting from scratch or changing your existing landscape, begin by creating a master plan. Your plan can range from a drawn sketch to a professional survey, but should include all existing structures, trees, shrubs, and streets, as well as sun orientation and the direction of the wind. In this planning stage, you will identify micro climates within your landscape and select the appropriate plants for each location. Micro climates are broken into high, moderate, and low water using areas, group plants together based on similar soil needs, sun exposure, and watering requirements.

Use Mulch. Organic mulches included aged manure, compost, and bark chips, or wood chips. Organic mulches increase the soil's ability to store water by covering and cooling the soil thereby minimizing evaporation. Mulches also reduce erosion and help with weed control. Inorganic mulches such as rocks and gravel will actually re-radiate the sun's heat and can increase the amount of water plants will need.

Grass and Ground Cover. Turf requires more water and maintenance than other plants. So, it is important

to evaluate your yard to see where lawn is practical and functional. Consider new lawn varieties that are more water efficient than standard varieties. Where foot traffic is infrequent or undesirable, or on steep slopes consider low water using ground covers, or hardscaping with rock, wood, or concrete pavers.

The Right Plant in the Right Place. Your yard probably has areas which get more sun or shade than other areas. Placing plants together with like soil and watering requirements can optimize water use. Some plants just don't need much water or are adapted to our local soils and rainfall. [Click here](#) to view our "Water Efficient Plants for the Willamette Valley" booklet to help you chose appropriate plants for your yard and garden areas.

Need Help? Receive a Free CRWP Landscape Water Audit. Before the watering season starts take advantage of our free landscape water audit program. The audits are available on a first come first serve basis beginning in the spring and continuing through the summer months (during the watering season). [Click here](#) for more information about our landscape water audits or [contact](#) us to schedule your free landscape water audit today.

The Clackamas River is spawning habitat to endangered Coho and Chinook salmon returning in the late summer/early fall. Taking a little time this spring to create a beautiful and more water efficient landscape keeps water in the river and maintains a healthy habitat for fish.

Faces Continued

CRWP: What's the most significant project you've been involved with in your career at CRW?

Karin: CRW's "Backbone" Project, Phase 1. This project was aimed at building and improving the infrastructure that connects CRW's treatment plant and the north service areas with our south service areas. This was a huge undertaking and I was able to be a part of the process from the public outreach phase through the completion of the project.

CRWP: What's the one thing you cannot live without at work?

Karin: Post-It notes.

CRWP: What would you say H2O is to you?

Karin: I have always felt Oregon has the best water in

the country and I'm very fortunate that I can turn on the tap and enjoy great tasting water and not have to buy bottled water, which is great for me since I have always been a big water drinker.

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

Karin: I like to spend time with family and friends, golfing, hiking, exercise of all types, and traveling.

Thank you, Karin, for this wonderful interview and more insight into the important position you hold for Clackamas River Water. We at Clackamas River Water Providers know that having you as a part of the CRW staff makes our jobs much easier.

Flume Smart Home Water Monitor

HOW DOES IT WORK? In July of 2020 the Clackamas River Water Providers began working with [Flume](#) to pilot a \$100 rebate to eligible CRWP customers if they purchase a new Flume Smart Water Monitoring device.

Since this is a new device that we are encouraging our citizens to purchase, we figured that some firsthand experience would help us be able to help our customers understand how to install and operate the Flume device. So we purchased a Flume device and I installed it at my own home.

The device was delivered quickly and came in a box with everything I needed for the installation and set up.

In the box, I received the Flume monitoring device, the bridge (internet connection), a pair of gloves, a tool to open up my meter box (very handy), and the instructions.

Following the instructions, the first thing I did was download and open the Flume mobile app on my phone. I clicked on "sign up", and followed the very easy instructions. At this point I also had a dash board available on my computer specific to my Flume device.

Once I was all signed-up and my Flume monitor device was registered, I followed the instructions and plugged the bridge into a power source. The bridge has to be next to the monitor device during the process. I pushed the button on the bottom of the bridge so it could connect to my WIFI and to the Flume monitor. When the blue light on top of the bridge came "on" I knew the device and the bridge were connected. Per the instructions, I placed the bridge in my front window where it has a clear line to my meter box.

Now it's was time to install my Flume monitor. I located my meter box. Generally, the meter box is located in front of your home along the street. My meter box is located out

front near my mailbox. If you cannot find your meter box, call you water provider and they will be able to tell you where it is.

Using the tool that came with my Flume, I opened the top/lid of my meter

box. Your meter may be buried. If it is you will have to uncover it and clear away the dirt exposing the head/top of the meter. The head/top of the meter is where the dial is located.

I took the Flume monitor and the attached rubber strap out of the box.

Following the instructions, I attached the monitor with the red "do not remove" label facing up, on the street side of the meter. The instructions provide a picture of how it should be installed which makes this very easy.

Once my monitor was installed, I left the meter box open, went inside my house, opened my Flume app and computer dash board, and I could see that the water is running! When I shut the water off it stopped! Very cool.

The Flume monitor allows me to see real-time water use as well as daily, weekly or monthly water use. Flume also allows me to set daily, weekly or monthly budgets and notifies me when I am approaching my limit and I can measure my water use against like homes in the Flume family. I'll never be surprised by a high water bill again.

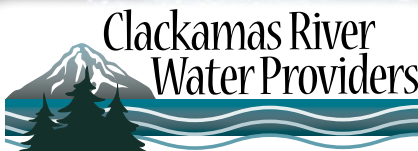
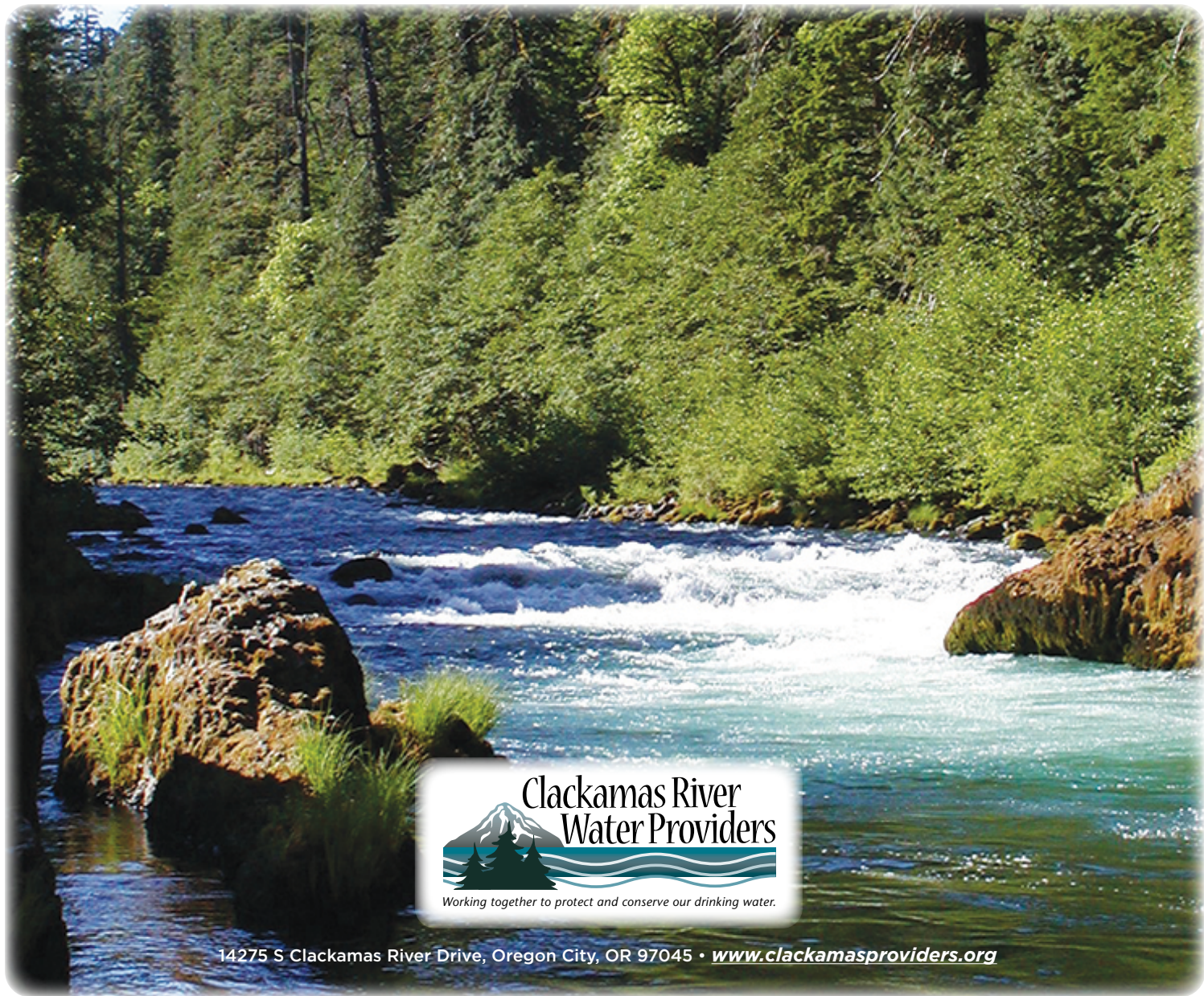
Installing the Flume monitor device was very easy and having the app on my phone and the dash board on my computer makes tracking my home water use fun and easy.

Because the water meter/box belongs to the water provider, as a courtesy, I called my water provider to let them know the device was on the meter and told them what it is.

For more information about the Flume Smart Home Water Monitor and how to apply for our CRWP rebate, please visit our [website](#).

Conserve water and save money.





Working together to protect and conserve our drinking water.

14275 S Clackamas River Drive, Oregon City, OR 97045 • www.clackamasproviders.org

Our Members:



www.cwater.com



www.cityofestacada.org



www.ci.gladstone.or.us



www.ci.oswego.or.us



www.oaklodgewaterservices.org



www.sfwb.org



www.sunrisewater.com



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