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## FALL 2022 News

# The CRWP Thank You!

For the fourth year in a row, the CRWP launched our annual summer watering campaign **“Fish On the Run, Irrigation Done”**. We have asked our customers to participate, and help the Clackamas River by reducing or shutting-off outdoor watering by the beginning of September for the fall fish migration.



This year we had 28 customers who submitted pledge applications, and they all received yard signs to show neighbors that they are doing their part to keep water in the Clackamas River.

The CRWP would like to thank all of you for your support and participation in this very important campaign. THANK YOU!!!!!!

For more information contact Christine Hollenbeck at **(503)723-3511** or via email at [christine@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:christine@clackamasproviders.org)

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# Supporting Low Impact Recreation on the Clackamas River

**CLACKAMAS RIVER, OR** - On a busy summer day the five-mile float from Barton to Carver Park on the Clackamas River can see as many as 5,000 visitors. Other areas of the river such as High Rocks and Promontory Park also get crowded. The high volume of people on the river has led to stream bank erosion, rampant littering, and other issues that affect water quality.

Cleanups, public outreach, *“Stash the Trash”* bags, and improved signage have helped mitigate these problems, but there was no single online place with mapping and stewardship information for a Clackamas River visitor (to float or boat or swim). Through a State Drinking Water Source Protection grant received by the Clackamas River Water Providers and in partnership with We Love Clean Rivers, the **‘Clackamas Water Trail’** website was born.

The purpose of this new website is to highlight access points, local amenities, and known river conditions and hazards along the lower 22 miles of the Clackamas River. It differentiates private and public property, sensitive fish and wildlife habitat areas that are not to be disturbed, and includes information on how to be good river stewards and protect our drinking water source. The site was designed to be mobile friendly, and can evolve as information changes over time.

Visit it at [www.clackamaswatertrail.org](http://www.clackamaswatertrail.org) to see how you can enjoy the Clackamas while being a good steward of the river.



*(Continued on page 2)*

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## Low Impact Recreation *continued*

For more information about the Clackamas Water Trail website, please contact Kim Swan at **(503) 775-6864** or via email at [kims@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:kims@clackamasproviders.org).



**We Love Clean Rivers** is an Oregon nonprofit agency focused on community-based river stewardship projects. They clean high use rivers by mobilizing the recreation community and provide expertise in sustainable river recreation planning and management.



## Time to Shut Off Your Outdoor Irrigation Systems

Summer is over, the days are shorter, nights are longer, and it is beginning to be much cooler. All of the plants are going into their dormant stage which means they do not need any supplemental water. For those of you who let your lawns go dormant during the summer and did not water (thank you), you are beginning to see your lawns turn green again.

The *Weekly Watering Number* ended Thursday, October 13th, and if you haven't already done so, it is time to shut off your outdoor irrigation systems and drain the water out for the winter to prevent freezing.

### **Putting Your Irrigation System to Bed for the Winter**

Water left in the pipes of your irrigation system can freeze over winter, causing damage to the entire system. You owe it to yourself to make an annual habit of winterizing your irrigation system. That means removing the remaining water from the pipes so there's nothing to expand when temperatures dip down below freezing.

There are three basic methods for draining water from your irrigation system. Which method you should use will depend on the type of irrigation system you have.

### **Manual Valve Systems**

Some irrigation systems are equipped with manual drainage that allows you to empty excess water from the system by simply opening a valve. If you have such a system, shut off the supply of water to the system, look for the manual valves at the ends and low points of the piping. Open all of

the valves and drain the water from the system, including the backflow assembly.

### **Automatic Valve Systems**

Other irrigation systems are equipped with valves that will automatically drain water out of the pipes if pressure falls below a certain number of pounds per square inch (PSI). These can be activated by turning off the water supply and briefly running one of the sprinkler heads to relieve the water pressure in the system. You may still need to drain the water between the shut off valve and the backflow assembly. If the sprinkler heads are equipped with check valves, you will need to empty those separately.

### **Irrigation System Blow-Out**

The final method of winterizing your irrigation system is to force compressed air through the system to discharge excess water through the sprinkler heads. This method is potentially hazardous, both to the wrong types of irrigation systems and to anyone who attempts to do this without taking the proper safety precautions. If you've never worked with compressed air or have blown out an irrigation system, we highly recommend you hire a licensed landscape professional for assistance.

Winterizing your irrigation system is a critical part of annual irrigation system maintenance. It can save you from having to pay for the repair of costly leaks and water line breaks in the spring.

Visit our website for [more water conservation tips](#).

## Partner Spotlight

# The Environmental Learning Center @ Clackamas Community College

The Environmental Learning Center, ELC, has a rich history as an educational resource for the college, regional schools, industry, and the community. Located on the former site of a Smucker's processing plant in Oregon City, the ELC was created to demonstrate what people could do to reclaim industrial sites, address stormwater issues, and restore wildlife habitat in urban areas. Each year thousands of people visit the ELC to explore the site and learn about watershed health. The site serves as an important stormwater facility for the College campus and provides critical wetland habitat for resident and migratory birds, such as Great Blue Heron, Red-winged Blackbird, and Hooded Merganser.

The ELC site is a conduit for stormwater for nearly half of the College's 165-acre campus, plus stormwater from Oregon City High School, and other areas along Beaver Creek Road. The original ELC ponds were once considered state-of-the-art, but they no longer functioned effectively for stormwater management. The need for a larger-scale stormwater management system, coupled with the spread of invasive plants left the site physically degraded, and impaired the quality of water flowing from the ELC downstream into the Newell Creek Canyon. Because it is the headwaters of Newell Creek, the ELC plays a vital role in the overall health of the watershed. Newell Creek could not be adequately protected until the water that flows through the ELC site could be effectively cooled and filtered.

In 2014, Clackamas Community College applied for and received a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant for the Newell Creek Headwaters Restoration and Education project (aka ELC).

Thanks to this grant, community members and the College, the Environmental Learning Center underwent a major restoration June 2017-May 2018. During that time, the 5-acre site was redeveloped into an outdoor learning laboratory, demonstration project, and natural area that showcases the important benefits of wetlands in stormwater management.

The ELC offers many opportunities for adults and children alike to explore and learn about the outdoors through hands-on environmental education: field trips, live streams, day-



camps and more for K-12 students, continuing education trainings for professionals, and workshops and special events for community members. The ELC is open daily from dawn to dusk, and welcomes all to explore its trails and discover native plants and wildlife.

### **CRWP Partnership with the ELC**

The Clackamas River Water Providers have partnered with the Environmental Learning Center since 2007 supporting the ELC's community education efforts by providing annual financial support to put towards the K-12 field trips, day camps and a preschool program, Water Industry Career Events for high school students, and Professional Development workshops for all who live with-in our CRWP member [service areas](#). CRWP staff also acts as a guest speaker for the Water Industry Career Events for our high schools and at the Professional Development workshops.

The ongoing partnership between the Clackamas River Water Providers and the Environmental Learning Center provides the CRWP with another avenue in which to reach our member customers, young, old, and in-between supporting environmental education and ensuring everyone in our communities understand the importance of watershed health and what all our roles are in protecting our natural water ways.

For more information about the Environmental Learning Center, their history, resources, and educational opportunities [CLICK HERE](#).

# 2023 Water Calendars are Now Available!



Each year the Clackamas River Water Providers invite teachers and their students to participate in our annual *Kid's Water Calendar* coloring contest.

The theme for the 2023 Calendar is "Our

Healthy Watershed". Students from 22 classes and 15 different schools submitted pictures depicting what a healthy watershed looks like to them. One picture from each class was chosen to be in the calendar and displayed on the CRWP website for two weeks so family, friends, and our community members could vote for which one

of the 22 pictures would be on the cover. The remaining pictures are displayed each month and on the "Honorable Mention" page at the back of the calendar.

During the month of October each school that participated in the contest receives a box of calendars to give away to students and families.

In addition, the 2023 calendars are available to the public at your water providers front offices, local libraries, and upon request by contacting our office at 503-723-3511 or by emailing [christine@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:christine@clackamasproviders.org).

The CRWP annual calendar contest continues to be one of our most successful projects because of the enthusiastic participation of our teachers, students, and community members. Thank you to everyone for your participation and support.

## Indoor Home Water Audit Kit

The Clackamas River Water Providers has a **FREE Indoor Home Water Audit Kit** to help you figure out how much water you are using and where you can save. Conducting an audit is simple, it will help you locate leaks so you can prioritize fixing them, and identify which fixtures may need to be upgraded to new low flow fixtures so you can start saving water and money today.

### **Indoor Home Water Audit Kit Includes:**

- **Audit Kit Instructions** - This brochure will guide you through the steps of how to conduct an indoor home water audit.
- **Flow Meter Bag** - Use this bag to measure how much water your household fixtures (kitchen faucet,

showerhead, bathroom faucet) use.

- **Drip Gauge** - Use this to measure drips around your house. Even a seemingly small drip can waste a lot of water. This gauge will give you an idea just how much that might be.

- **Leak Detection Tablets** - Use these tablets to see if your toilet has a leak.



For more information about our Home Water Audit Kit and additional FREE Water Conservation Tools, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Fall Quiz:

**1. What are the methods used to drain water from your irrigation system?**

- A. Manual Drainage
- B. Automatic Drainage
- C. Forced Compressed Air Drainage
- D. All of the above

**2. How much water per day does one person need to store for Emergency Preparedness?**

- A. 5 quarts
- B. At least 1 gallon
- C. No water is needed
- D. 10 liters

**3. It is true, that the water needs of plants drop dramatically in the Fall.**

- A. Yes
- B. No

**4. The CRWP 'Indoor Home Water Audit Kit' includes:**

- A. Flow Meter Bag
- B. Drip Gauge
- C. Leak Detection Tabs
- D. All of the Above

*Answers - Can be found on page 7*

# Source Water Protection Week – Annual Watershed Tour



During the week of September 25th through October 1st, the Clackamas River Water Providers joined the American Water Works Association (AWWA) in celebrating the second annual **Source Water Protection Week**.

Source water protection is the foundation of any drinking water utility and is one of the primary ways we can reduce the risk to our drinking water source from contamination. Source water protection can also:

- Reduce the need for additional treatment to meet water quality standards.
- Help us be prepared and reduce the impacts and costs of an emergency when we understand the risks to sources quality from contamination.
- Help us preserve the Clackamas River as a high-quality drinking water source and minimize future drinking water treatment costs while being good stewards of the river.

Throughout the week, we raised awareness about the importance of protecting the Clackamas River, our drinking water source, with posts on our Facebook page each day - [Facebook@CRWP.ClackamasProviders](https://www.facebook.com/CRWP.ClackamasProviders).

The week concluded with our Annual Watershed Tour on October 1st. This year's tour consisted of floating the Clackamas River from Carver Park to Clackamette Park.

Along the way we saw bald eagles, blue herons, stormwater outfalls, two of Clackamas River Basin Council's restoration projects, lower river tributaries that



flow into the Clackamas, and all four of our lower river drinking water intake structures, providing everyone with an unique perspective of this amazing river that we get our drinking water from.

Protecting and conserving our drinking water plays a key role in making the best overall use of the precious resource we share. For more information about what we are doing to protect the Clackamas River or for more information about our annual watershed tour contact Kim Swan at [kims@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:kims@clackamasproviders.org).

# How Water Systems Work

## Emergency Preparedness

We don't just plan for the "Big One," we plan for "Every One." Out of sight out of mind, service on demand, and it's as easy as turning on your tap.

As water providers we not only ensure that you have water 24/7/365 days per year, but we also plan for emergencies which can come in all shapes and sizes.



Be it an earth quake, an eruption, a drought, ice storm, power outage, or a major water line break, people still need water. The Clackamas River Water Providers are working together, and with other

providers in the region, to plan for events that could impact your water supply. Our job is to make sure water is there for you when you need it - even in an emergency.

**Planning Ahead** - To avoid emergencies before they happen, the Clackamas River Water Providers are replacing old water lines, seismically upgrading facilities, planning for future or alternative water supplies, monitoring watersheds, and ensuring regulatory compliance.

**Being Prepared** - Practice makes perfect. We conduct yearly emergency exercises to test our capabilities and constantly look for ways to improve our coordination and communication during an emergency.

**What You Can Do** - As prepared as we are, some emergencies are potentially bigger than us - especially



natural disasters. That's why everyone needs to help. If an earthquake, winter storm, or other disaster strikes our community, you may not have access to food and water for days or even weeks. Take time now to prepare for you and your family. The most important thing you can do to prepare for an emergency is to plan ahead and have essential emergency supplies on hand. Here's what you can do to plan for the "Big One" yourself - and help us, help you.

Having an ample supply of WATER is a top priority in an emergency. You can live for weeks without food, but without water, you can die in as little as 3 days. Help your water provider, emergency responders, and other relief organizations help you by having an adequate emergency supply of water, food and other essentials.

You will need to store at least one gallon of water per person per day. According to the Red Cross and FEMA, **you should store at least a two-week supply of water for each member of your family.** A minimum three-day supply is essential. Don't forget to store additional supplies of water for your pets.

In an emergency, drink at least 2 quarts of water a day, 3 to 4 quarts a day if you are in a hot climate, pregnant, sick, or a child. If supplies run low, don't ration water: Drink the amount you need today and look for more tomorrow.

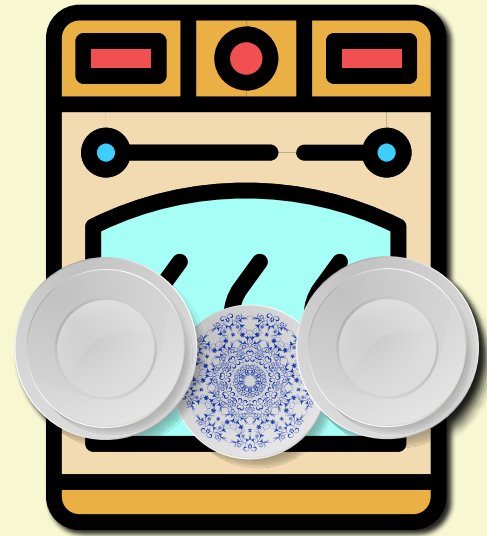
For more information on how you can prepare for an emergency, visit these helpful links,

**Clackamas River Water Providers**, Emergency Preparedness webpage: <https://www.clackamasproviders.org/emergency-preparedness/>

**Regional Water Providers Consortium**, Emergency Preparedness webpage: <https://www.regionalh2o.org/emergency-preparedness>

# Fall Water Conservation Tips

- **Water needs of plants drop dramatically in the fall.** It is time to winterize and shut off the irrigation system.
- **Mulch garden beds to feed the soil** and prevent weeds from growing.
- **Aerate your lawn** and add a top dressing of compost mix to feed the soil promoting root growth during the winter.
- **Fall is the perfect time to plant trees** and shrubs. The soil is warm, and there is plenty of natural moisture.



- **Wash your car** at a commercial car wash that recycles its water.
- **Thaw frozen food** in your refrigerator, not in the sink with running water.
- **Run the dishwasher** only when it is full.
- **Get a free CRWP indoor home water audit kit** and find ways you can save water indoors this winter.

## Fall Quiz:

### Answers

**Question 1** - Answer is D  
**Question 2** - Answer is B

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

# Faces of Drinking Water *by Christine Hollenbeck*

**Kim Anderson**  
Government Relations Manager  
Sunrise Water Authority

For our Fall 2022 interview article we interviewed Kim Anderson, the Government Relations Manager for [Sunrise Water Authority](#).

**CRWP: Kim, how long have you been working for Sunrise Water Authority?**

**Kim:** My start date was February 8, 2000, so I guess that means I've been here for 22 years so far.

**CRWP: How did you acquire your position at Sunrise?**

**Kim:** I was originally hired as an administrative assistant. Through the years, I have been able to learn and grow and turn my hand to a variety of tasks and the position has evolved over time.

**CRWP: What was your background prior to working in drinking water?**

**Kim:** I was co-owner of a company in Missoula, Montana that performed real estate closings, real estate contract collections, and provided IRC Section 1031 tax deferred exchange intermediary services.

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

**Kim:** One of my favorite parts of my job is the work I do with the SDAO Water Legislative Committee. I really enjoy digging into proposed legislation and getting a clear idea of its potential impacts on the water industry and working with the others on the committee to formulate alternative language and rebuttals or endorsements.

My least favorite part is probably prepping the Board room for meetings.

**CRWP: Do you plan on retiring from Sunrise Water Authority?**

**Kim:** I haven't really thought too much about retirement yet. It still seems

quite far off, but I don't have plans to leave Sunrise.

**CRWP: What accomplishments are you most proud of in your career at Sunrise Water Authority?**

**Kim:** With a long career there's a lot to choose from, but two recent projects come to mind.

We were able to initiate a low-income assistance program that is administered by Clackamas County. It is the first water utility bill assistance program that the County has been involved in and they have expressed interest in expanding the model to other water utilities. One benefit of the program, in my opinion, is that by referring customers that are in need of assistance with water bills, Social Services has the opportunity to connect them to other sources of aid that they may not have been aware of.

The other accomplishment is a comprehensive inventory of the easements held or granted by Sunrise. Our amazing GIS technician, Ashley Baker, is helping me transform a very long list of properties where Sunrise holds or has granted an easement into a mapping tool that allows our engineers to tell at a glance where Sunrise holds easements. Tracking down copies of all the documents related to the many easements we hold has been a monumental task. The easement documents are available for viewing by clicking on the property, so there's no longer a need to dig through dusty files and the County Recorder records to find out that information. An internal process is being set up to make sure any new easements get added to the tool moving forward, so this will be a dynamic tool for our engineering staff.



**CRWP: : What advice would you give to someone starting out in the field (What do you wish you knew your first week working in drinking water)?**

**Kim:** Memorize acronyms quickly.

**CRWP: How has the industry changed since you began working in the water industry?**

**Kim:** A lot has changed since I started. As with many industries, I would say that technology has had a huge impact. When I started, we had a thermal paper fax. Maps were all paper. Payments were by cash, check or doing an imprint of a credit card. I even set up the first email accounts for Mt. Scott Water District, before Sunrise Water Authority was formed, early in my career here.

Advances in technology have improved so many aspects of how we do business. GIS mapping, online payments, digital media, smart meter technology and so many other technology solutions have dramatically expanded the accessibility of data to inform our decision making and advance our efficiency and effectiveness in reliably delivering safe water to our customers.

*(Continued on page 9)*



# Sign-up for Public Alerts



By signing up, you can receive emergency notifications for your home or any other address (such as a business). You will only be contacted when the associated address is affected by an emergency.

If the call is picked up by an answering machine, it will leave a message and not call back. If the number is busy or there is no

answer, the system will try contacting your other contact methods. Once you have acknowledged receipt of a message on one device, the system will stop trying to contact your other devices.

## #ClackCo PublicAlerts



By providing your contact information as a county resident you can opt-in to receive critical emergency messaging via email, phone call, and text during times of disasters. Important messages that could be relayed include notices to evacuate, shelter-in-place, shelter locations, and other extremely important information. To learn more and sign-up [CLICK HERE](#).

## Faces continued

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

**Kim:** To me the most important thing about my job is knowing that what we do every day is critical to protecting the health and wellbeing of people. Few people really comprehend that water providers aren't only a supplier of an essential service, but are also protectors of public health.

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

**Kim:** I would like the public to know that local water providers are here to protect their health and wellbeing and that our employees are committed to that principle. My specific role on our team is to assure that decisions are made in a timely manner, communicated within and outside the organization, and assist in making sure the agency is operating efficiently and effectively.

### **CRWP: What can the public do to help make your job easier?**

**Kim:** There is an unprecedented level of distrust of government these days. Local government is the most trusted of all levels of government, but even at this level I still hear from customers about how all we want to do is take more money from their pockets.

It would help tremendously if people could understand that we are cost of service funded, meaning we only charge what we must to perform the functions that provide safe water to their taps, and that those costs are unique to each agency. So, comparing what you pay for water to what your friend across town pays isn't an accurate way to gauge if you are paying too much for water. I guess my ask would be that ratepayers educate themselves just a bit on how we

work and the amazing value they actually get for the rates they pay.

### **CRWP: What is the most significant project you've been involved with in your career?**

**Kim:** Possibly the construction of Reservoir 11 or the new administration and operations building that is currently under construction.

### **CRWP: What is the one thing you can't live without at work?**

**Kim:** My foot heating pad. Hopefully I can retire it when we move into our new building sometime in 2023.

### **CRWP: What would you say water is to you? Kim:** Life.

### **CRWP: What do you do for fun outside of work?**

**Kim:** I am an active small-scale farmer. I raise and show registered Simmental and SimmAngus cattle and have a small herd of Boer meat goats. That pretty much consumes every hour outside of work.

The CRWP thank Kim for this interview. One of the things I (Christine) really enjoy about doing these interviews for our E-newsletters is that even though I have worked with a lot of these people for many years, I still learn something new about them from the articles.

Kim and I have worked in the water industry together for a very long time which brings a level of comfort and mutual understanding. Not only for our positions in drinking water, but for each other personally.

Thank you, Kim for all that you do for Sunrise Water Authority and we here at CRWP look forward to many more years together.



**Clackamas River  
Water Providers**



*Working together to protect and conserve our drinking water.*

14275 S Clackamas River Drive, Oregon City, OR 97045 • [www.clackamasproviders.org](http://www.clackamasproviders.org)

**Our Members:**



[www.cewater.com](http://www.cewater.com)



[www.cityofestacada.org](http://www.cityofestacada.org)



[www.ci.gladstone.or.us](http://www.ci.gladstone.or.us)



[www.ci.oswego.or.us](http://www.ci.oswego.or.us)



[www.oaklodgewater.com](http://www.oaklodgewater.com)



[www.sfwb.org](http://www.sfwb.org)



[www.sunrisewater.com](http://www.sunrisewater.com)



[www.tigard-or.gov](http://www.tigard-or.gov)

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