

B.I.G. Water News

Drinking Water Information for Business, Industry & Government

Tualatin Valley Water District



Our Mission

To provide our community quality water and customer service

Water-Efficient Plants for the Willamette Valley & the Seven Basic Steps to Water-Efficient Landscaping

Water Efficient Plants for the Willamette Valley will appear as a series of excerpts in upcoming editions of the BIG Newsletter. This FREE and informative guidebook was produced in partnership by: Clackamas Community College, City of Corvallis, Eugene Water & Electric Board, OSU Extension Service, Regional Water Providers Consortium and the South Fork Water Board.

Winter is here and it's a great time to start making plans for next spring. This is particularly true for landscape installations or renovations. With that in mind, we are happy to present this installment of The Seven Basic Steps to Water-Efficient Landscapes, Planning & Design.

Planning and designing your landscape is one of the most important steps. Whether you are starting from scratch or changing your existing landscape, begin by creating a plan. Your plan can range from a drawn sketch to a professional survey. A thoughtful design can allow you to install

your landscape in phases and avoid costly mistakes. Be sure to include the location of existing structures, trees, shrubs, paths or walkways and important views you want to keep (or eliminate), as well as the orientation and direction of prevailing winds.

Your landscape is typically made up of microclimates. A microclimate is the climate of an area that is different from the areas surrounding it. It may be more wet or dry, warmer or colder, or more or less prone to frost than other areas. Microclimates in the landscape can be influenced by buildings, balconies, rooftops, fences, walls,

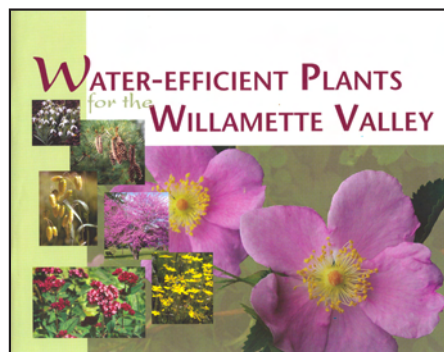
large rocks, trees, and paved surfaces. It's important to note those areas in your plan.

Begin by dividing your landscape into four different light exposures - north, south, east and west. What kind of light is available during various parts of the day- bright sunlight, filtered sunlight or shade?

Remember, morning sunlight is cooler than afternoon sunlight. Then identify specific plants that you want to incorporate into your landscape. For example, a shade tree planted in the southeast section of your property will provide cooling for your building and landscape.

When selecting trees, take time to look for things such as overhead and underground utility lines. Think about how the tree will look when it reaches maturity and how it will work in the location you are considering. Coordinating with your local nursery is a good way to ensure that you select a suitable tree.

By identifying and understanding microclimates, you have the ability to put the right plant in the right place and create a healthier, water-efficient landscape. If you need help with your landscape layout, consult your local nursery, landscape construction professional, or perhaps even a landscape architect.



To get your FREE copy of *Water-Efficient Plants of the Willamette Valley*, contact BigConservation@tvwd.org or visit conserveh2o.org.

January 2012

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Receive This Newsletter Electronically!

In the interest of sustainability and saving costs, TVWD is exploring the possibility of turning this into an electronic-only newsletter. If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please send your name, E-mail and regular address to bigconservation@tvwd.org or call (503) 848-3064.

Your E-mail address will only be used to receive this newsletter. It will not be used by or given to anyone else.

Interested In How You Can Become A More Sustainable Organization?

Visit www.tvwd.org and click on "Practicing Sustainability" under the "About Us" tab.

Next Issue...Step 2: Compost & Cultivate

Backflow Assembly Testing Helps Keep Water Safe

Drinking water flows from the source to the tap in pressurized water pipes. Normally it flows in one direction, although under certain circumstances it can flow in the opposite direction, or backflow. When backflow occurs, water runs backwards through the system. The water flowing backwards could contain something that might contaminate the drinking water supply.

A cross connection is any connection between the public water supply and any source of non-potable (substances that are not safe to drink) water which could contaminate the potable water supply or may impact the taste or odor of water. Did you know that all potential or actual cross connections are required to be protected with a backflow prevention assembly and are required to be tested annually by a certified tester to ensure they are working properly?

Facilities required to have high hazard backflow prevention assemblies include but are not limited to:

- Car Washes
- Dry Cleaners
- Hospitals & Medical Facilities
- Mortuaries
- Wastewater Treatment Plants
- Sites with an auxiliary water supply connected to the potable water supply
- Sites treating the water with chemicals

Common types of hazards include but are not limited to

- Fire Sprinkler Systems
- Landscape Irrigation Systems
- Boilers
- Pumps
- Chemical Injection Equipment



\$35 Annual Backflow Testing Service For Residential And Irrigation Customers

Tired of the hassle? TVWD has an annual backflow assembly testing service available to residential and irrigation customers only. Contact our Backflow Program today to sign up for this convenient service. For an annual fee of \$35, we'll make sure your backflow assembly is tested every year by a licensed and certified tester. The \$35 annual fee also covers repairs up to \$50! Following the test, you will be provided with a test report and the testing fee will be applied to your TVWD account.

For more information about backflow and cross connections, contact TVWD's Backflow Program at (971) 327-6285 or visit tvwd.org and look at "Backflow Prevention" under the "Your Water" tab.

Are You Letting Profit Go Down The Drain?

Leak Detection Plans Can Save You Money

Does your business have a leak detection plan? Periodically inspecting your property for water leaks can prevent damage and ensure your profits end up in the bank instead of going down the drain.

It's a good idea to get familiar with the typical amount of water your facility uses during a billing period. When you know what you use, it's easier to recognize a potential problem by reading your billing statement.

If you're unsure of your typical water use, give us a call and request a copy of your account history. This is a great way to establish your baseline as well as observe use patterns that could tip you off to the presence of a leak.

Case Study

In December, 2009 a local business called TVWD to look into water use at their facility. After it was clear that there was a significant water leak, further investigation determined the service line from the water meter to the building needed replacing. After repairs, average water use at the site dropped from 1,613 to 301 CCF per month. That amounts to a savings of \$5,341 per month in water and sewer charges!



TVWD Staff Updates

Chief Executive Officer Named President-Elect of the American Society of Civil Engineers

CEO Greg DiLoreto was elected as the 2012 president-elect of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). As president-elect, DiLoreto will work alongside 2012 President Andrew W. Herrmann and succeed to the presidency in 2013.

DiLoreto has been involved with the ASCE for more than 30 years in a wide variety of local and national positions and committees. This includes president of the Oregon Section from 1986-1987 and chair of the Pacific Northwest District Council from 1989-1990. He will assume his new role during the Society's annual business meeting this October.



TVWD Hires New Chief Financial Officer and Human Resources Director

We are also pleased to welcome Paul Matthews as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Amy Heinlen as Human Resources Director. Matthews replaced retiring CFO Bernice Bagnall and Heinlen succeeded retiring Human Resources Manager Debbie Erickson.

Matthews joined TVWD from HDR Engineering, where he was Vice President and National Service Area Lead for Finance and Economics. He has worked extensively with TVWD over the years; managing various studies including those for water rates, system development charges, and contract negotiations with the City of Portland. Matthews is active in the American

Water Works Association and has served on various national committees, including those for Rates and Charges and

Finance, Accounting and Management Controls. He has a Master's of Science Degree in economics from the University of Oregon.



Retired CFO Bernice Bagnall (left) and new CFO Paul Matthews (right).

Heinlen was formerly the HR Director for the City of Hillsboro, which has 700 full-time employees. She worked in the City's HR Department for the past



Todd Heidgerken (left) talks about retired Human Resources Manager Debbie Erickson (middle) and introduces new Human Resources Director Amy Heinlen (right).

12.5 years. Prior to that, she was the HR Manager for Yamamoto Manufacturing, a private company about the size of TVWD. Heinlen holds a Bachelors Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in HR management from San Diego State University. She has more than 20 years experience in human resources that includes 14 years of high level management.

TVWD's Annual Report Now Available

Are you interested in TVWD's statistics and accomplishments for the last fiscal year?

Request an annual report by E-mailing outreach@tvwd.org or call (503) 848-3058.

Tualatin Valley
Water District
2011 Annual Report

Tualatin Valley Water District
Washington County Oregon
Delivering the Best
Water • Service • Value

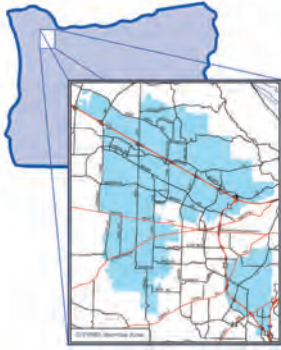


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The Tualatin Valley Water District serves an estimated 200,000 customers in parts of Washington County, Oregon, west of Portland. Our service area covers more than 45 square miles and includes portions of Beaverton, Hillsboro and Tigard.



Download a QR scanner app on your smartphone and take a picture of our QR code for more information about TVWD



Thompson Pump Station Improvements

TVWD is in the final design phase of a new water system pump station located at the Thompson Reservoir site. When complete, the pump station will provide greater reliability and redundancy of service to portions of the West Hills within the District's service boundary. It will provide a second way to pump flow up to the District's fourth largest pressure zone, which provides service to critical customers including St. Vincent Hospital.

Construction is expected to take about a year. The new pump station will share the same characteristics of the neighborhood and will be the height of a small two story house – a tall first story with the addition of a vaulted ceiling. Water pipeline work will also be installed along Thompson Rd. simultaneously to pump station construction.

Is Your Business Ignoring Free Money?

Take Advantage of Rebate Programs

- \$75 to install high-efficiency WaterSense labeled toilet
- Up to \$400 to install a S.W.A.T weather-based irrigation controller
- \$3 rebate to install high-efficiency rotating nozzles (each sprinkler)

Did you know our B.I.G. customers can also propose their own rebate? If you have an innovative water saving idea for your business, give us a call!

Free Showerheads for Multi-Family Properties

TVWD has partnered with Energy Trust of Oregon and Portland Energy Conservation Inc. to provide **FREE HIGH-EFFICIENCY SHOWERHEADS** to Multi-Family residential TVWD customers. Please contact our conservation staff to verify fixture availability and apply today! Showerheads can provide instant savings on water and energy expenses.

Interested in a rebate or free showerheads? Contact our Conservation Technician at (503) 848-3064 or bigconservation@tvwd.org.