

Give your sprinklers some more time off this summer.....

With the heat of a glorious Tahoe summer upon us, water conservation becomes an important topic. Between the months of June and October, our community water use increases drastically, mainly due to landscape irrigation. For example in January, IVGID Public Works pumps an average of 1.5 million gallons per day. In August, the amount of water pumped increases to an average of 5.6 million gallons per day.

There are easy ways to maintain your landscaping and still reduce your landscape water use:

Review the Landscape Site

Analyze your site. What are your current water uses? In general, landscaping is the most significant area a homeowner can make cost-effective changes which can result in reduced water bills. Consider how the landscape will be used: a child's play area, erosion control, wildlife habitat, defensible space, for beauty and climate control.

Chose the right plant for the right place

Redesign with low water need or native plants whenever possible. There are many fabulous choices in native and adapted low water use plants. Many homeowners find success by designing with a limit of 20% high water use turf or plants, and 80% medium/low water use plants. Space plants correctly, allow them to reach their mature size without crowding. Avoid invasive plants, which may escape from your landscape and become "weeds" in this area. Use the principles of fire safe landscaping in high risk areas.

Reduce your lawn area to functional turf space

Most lawns are heavily water and chemical-dependent. Replace with low water use ground cover, landscape features such as rock, tile, or wildflowers.

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IVGID Waste Not offers a free landscape water use consultation to all District customers. Call the Waste Not Hotline at 775-832-1284 to arrange an appointment.

Free BMP evaluations are available in the Tahoe Basin, contact Waste Not for more information.



The North Lake Tahoe Demonstration Garden (located on the SNC campus) offers many ideas on low water use landscaping. They also offer free gardening classes every Thursday evening during the summer.

Visit www.demogarden.org to learn more!

Director's Corner

No increase of water or sewer rates

On May 21, 2009, your elected IVGID Board of Trustees approved the 2009-10 budget which held water and sewer rates the same for next year. The Board had directed staff to bring back a budget that did not raise rates to residents in this difficult economic year. This is possible for the upcoming year, even though costs are increasing, because of the long term strategy of sound utility management and fiscal responsibility that has generated reserves to pay for future capital work and to be able to weather a tough economic year. Your Public Works staff will continue to provide the high level of service and quality you have come to expect from us.

-Joe Pomroy, Director of Public Works

OTHER NEWS



CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY NEWS

In general, each 1,000 sq. ft. of lawn requires at least 700 gallons of water a week—low water use plants require less than half the water. Turfgrass in Tahoe needs about 1/2 inch of water applied in two sessions per week. Water in the morning or evening to reduce evaporation loss (ET). Don't water when it is in the mid-day heat, is windy or rainy.

Manage water wisely: Use efficient irrigation

Hydro-zone: create zones of water use; group plants with similar cultivation requirements. Place higher use zones above lower use zones to maximize natural drainage patterns. Consider investing in a drip or micro-spray irrigation system if you do not already have one in place. There are replacement pop-up sprinkler heads (multi-trajectory rotators) that use 30% less water simply because they are a more efficient design.

Watch your pressure

Many irrigation systems in the District benefit from a pressure reducing device. When the system is on: if you see a lot of mist (rather than droplets) coming from your sprinkler heads - your system could probably use a pressure reducing device.

Repair and reprogram regularly

Remember to conduct monthly inspections of irrigation systems; check the irrigation system for leaks and adjust emitters and sprinkler heads to minimize overspray. Re-program the automated controller monthly. Never allow runoff to occur.

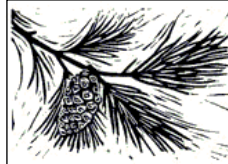
Don't over-water!

Many landscapes are regularly overwatered by a factor of 30 to 50%. Follow a minimal irrigation schedule, or monitor the ground moisture. Even in the hot season, many established plants can handle dry soil to 6" deep before needing water.

Use mulch to conserve water and soil

Mulch reduces weeding, watering and moisture evaporation, and also moderates soil temperature. Apply any 'dry' mulch at least 30 feet from structures. Apply a 2 to 4 inch layer of bark, pine needles, leaves, crushed rock, or other attractive material. Allow space between the mulch and the trunks of shrubs and trees. Return lawn clippings to the lawn as beneficial mulch. Mulch directly reduced soil erosion, even more than vegetation.

Adopt green gardening practices and help preserve water quality. Use compost and slow-release organic fertilizers; if you must use a traditional lawn chemical, limit your application to a minimum. Runoff carries these chemicals into the lake, creeks and water table; and harms humans, pets and aquatic life. Corn meal gluten is a great option as a fertilizer and weed suppressant for established turf grass. Compost is a great source of organic soil amendment, and reduces the need for fertilizers. Compost creates healthy soil; healthy soil creates healthy plants that are less susceptible to attack by insects and diseases. Always dispose of unused chemicals responsibly (IVGID Waste Not's HHW program accepts them for free).



FREE Pine Needle DROP-OFF

Clean, loose pine needles can be recycled seven days a week through August 16th. Bring pine needles to Diamond Peak Ski Resort at 1210 Ski Way, Incline Village, NV (middle parking lot).

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday through Friday: 8 AM to 4 PM
Saturday & Sunday: 10 AM to 3 PM

Remember to Stash Your Trash!

The bears are out and about - and have been causing some problems in town lately. It is especially important to "Stash Your Trash" from now until December. We have created a new bear sighting and activity reporting webpage. **If you wish to report or review the District's bear activity, visit:** http://ivgid.org/news_events/view/bear_activity

Golf and Tennis News

The Tennis Center Pro Exhibition is July 31 to August 1, 2009. For details, please visit www.inclinetennis.com or call (775) 832-1235.

Kids 12 and under can play at the Tennis Center daily after 12:00 pm.

Families play free on Sundays after 12 pm.

We want to know what you think!

Take the golf survey: <http://www.golfincline.com/survey> or the tennis survey: <http://www.inclinerecreation.com/tennissurvey> for a chance to win great prizes!

Local Water Conservation / Landscaping Resources:

IVGID Waste Not: www.ivgid.org
UNR Cooperative Extension: www.unce.unr.edu
Nevada Fire Safe Council: www.nvfsc.org
Nevada Tahoe Conservation District: www.ntcd.org
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency: www.trpa.org
Tahoe Resource Conservation District: www.tahoercd.org