



CONSERVATION

Connection News

2019 SUMMER UPDATES

As another summer season begins to take shape, the City of Bend's WaterWise program is gearing up for another active year. You may come across us through one of our seasonal public programs, workshops or at the local irrigation store. We are also busy working behind the scenes to cultivate additional relevant, data driven offerings for the landscape community.

Over the recent years, the WaterWise team has

developed several public programs to assist industry professionals and homeowners with seasonal water management and water use efficiency, as well as programs that focus on identifying and reducing water waste.

The WaterWise team has recently shown a presence in the plan review process for future City of Bend landscape projects. This evolution was driven by the focus of improving our own utility landscapes to be

examples of well managed irrigation systems. We recognize we have a moving ship with a dynamic set of challenges, but our priority is to improve things going forward, because we can only shape the future. With capital improvement projects happening around the City, it is an ideal opportunity to execute some new ideas about what a right of way landscape should entail.

INDUSTRY NOTE

City of Bend requires a contractor to be "pre qualified" before working in a right of way. Yes, that means even the street strips in a residential neighborhood.

Contact Kyle Thomas for more information engineering@bendoregon.gov.

Smart Irrigation Controller Giveaway!



Do you have a site or customer that would benefit from a Smart Controller? The City of Bend's WaterWise program will be raffling off Smart Controllers this July for Smart Irrigation month.

Reply to conservation@bendoregon.gov with your contact info and enter

the drawing to win. Two winners will be drawn on July 31st. Recipients will preferably have an operational in ground irrigation system that is in reasonable working order, so they can achieve the maximum benefit of utilizing a Smart Controller. In addition to the controllers, winners can take advantage of a

free assessment visit by a WaterWise team member to help calculate Distribution Uniformity and Precipitation rates for programming an efficient schedule in the new controller. The free visit is not conditional of receiving the controller. Enter today and take a step toward supporting the efficient use of water.

New Capital Improvement Projects Include Better Right-of-Way Landscapes

EMPIRE CORRIDOR

Improvements to Empire Blvd. east of 18th St. began last year and saw the completion of the first phase in 2019. Phase Two is underway and expected to be complete in 2020.

Inline drip irrigation was installed to eliminate overspray from planter areas. Overhead irrigation should be avoided in these



areas as it leads to wasted water and transportation of organic material and excess nutrients into storm drains and water bodies.

The drip system was installed complete with air relief valves and auto end flushes and is controlled by a Weathermatic Smart timer.

Low water use/native plant material was used to reduce the amount of water required to maintain a healthy landscape in Central Oregon. Rock mulch was used as a durable alternative to plant based mulch and was installed with the proper grade to prevent rock from being kicked out into the roadway.

14TH STREET

The improvements to 14th St. were recently completed showing an example of a thoughtful transition to a WaterWise streetscape.

A low water use plant palate is combined with efficient irrigation, including inline drip in the planters and MP rotators on any areas with turf. The irrigation



system is controlled by a Weathermatic Smart Central Control system, which utilizes local weather data to make adjustments to runtimes as needed.

The turf that was replaced was in large dimensions and is irrigated with low precipitation rate, high efficiency sprinkler nozzles. Frequent adjustments to spray patterns are needed to prevent overspray even in a 20ft wide planter.

MURPHY CORRIDOR

The Murphy Corridor is currently in the planning phase and will also incorporate improvements with WaterWise landscape and irrigation themes.

Water Waste Prevention

With the dog days of summer just around the corner, it is sometimes difficult to keep up with the demands of our landscapes. The stressed areas in lawns and landscape will appear but customers' expectations will not waiver.

Sprinkler efficiency affects how long sprinkler stations must run to get water to areas of poor coverage. This season, please do your part to complete the basic checks for tilted heads, obstructed heads, nozzle radius and alignment, cycle soak, etc. This will keep water off the roadway and make your customer's lawn the greenest on the street.



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conservation@bendoregon.gov



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