

The Water Connection

Summer 2007

The newsletter for Concord Water customers

New Water Treatment Facility Soon to go Online

Construction of a new drinking water treatment facility at the Deaconess well site located off Old Road to Nine Acre Corner is nearing completion. This new facility will greatly reduce levels of iron and manganese, which cause discolored water and staining. These two naturally occurring drinking water compounds do not have health-based standards but have aesthetic standards that we will be able to maintain, thanks to the new treatment processes.

The new treatment facility, with its barn-like façade and natural landscaping, will blend in with its immediate environs. This structure will house water treatment equipment



for both the Deaconess and White Pond wells, an emergency generator, and a small water testing laboratory. The treatment equipment utilizes a pressurized vessel containing a manganese dioxide media.

Raw water is oxidized using liquid chlorine and the media provides both a physical removal (filtration) and a chemical removal (adsorption) of the iron and manganese.

As part of this project, a new water transmission main is being constructed between the Deaconess and White Pond Well sites. The installation has commenced at the Deaconess site and is moving along roadways with an anticipated completion during the late summer at White Pond. By constructing a joint treatment facility, the need to build and operate a separate water treatment plant at the White Pond well has been eliminated.

Most importantly, enhanced water quality will be made available to a greater number of customers in a shorter time period.

This project has been in the works for several years and its successful completion will represent the

single greatest investment Concord has made in drinking water quality in the past decade. As the project wraps up, more information will be made available concerning the treatment process and the plant. ♠

The Challenge Begins!

The Community Conservation Challenge, an outreach campaign that links fundraising for community groups with water conservation, is underway. One hundred and thirty-nine households, totaling over 450 residents, are participating in the Challenge.

Teams have been formed by the following groups: the Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee (raising funds for the Hugh Cargill Trust), Boy Scout Troop 132, Concord-Carlisle High School Earth Science (raising funds for Gaining Ground), Concord Family Network, Elm Park Neighbors (raising funds for Willard School's Earth Care Club), League of Women Voters, Organization for the Assabet River, Public Works Commission/ Planning Board (raising funds for the Hugh Cargill Trust), West Concord Women's Club, and the Willard Aqua-Nauts (raising funds for Willard School's Earth Care Club).

This summer, they will try to use less water than they did the previous three summers. If they do, they earn money for their organization.

Workshops were held this spring to help participants learn how to save water indoors and out. In addition, they are encouraged to replace old, water-guzzling toilets with new low-flow models as a quick way to reduce water use and to take advantage of free water use audits.

In fact, all Concord water customers can still participate in

Continued on reverse



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Outdoor Watering Guide

Over-watering can damage lawns. Cutting down on lawn watering will reduce your water bills and conserve drinking water for its purpose – drinking. To maintain healthy grass while saving water and money, keep the following in mind:

- ◆ Healthy lawns only need one inch of water a week, including rainfall. Consider whether it has recently rained or if rain is forecasted before you turn on your sprinkler. A hearty rain can eliminate the need for watering for up to two weeks. Get a free rain gauge from Concord Public Works to keep track of rainfall.
- ◆ Check to see if your lawn is thirsty by sticking a screwdriver into your lawn. If it doesn't go through the top five inches of soil easily, then your lawn may need to be watered. Another sign that watering may be needed is if your footprints are visible for more than a few seconds after walking across your lawn.
- ◆ Measure how much water you use by setting out tuna fish cans on your lawn when you're watering.
- ◆ Water before 9:00 a.m. to minimize water lost to evaporation.
- ◆ Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deep roots. Healthy grass has deep roots that are better able to withstand drought and pests.
- ◆ Cultivate healthy soil. Healthy lawns grow best in healthy soil. Get it tested once a year. The UMass Extension will analyze your soil samples. Go to www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest/soilbrocha.html for instructions.
- ◆ Aerating your lawn prevents runoff and gives water easier access to root systems. You can rent an aerator from local equipment rental outlets.
- ◆ Mow high. Keep your lawn 2.5"-3" high to encourage a stronger root system, reduce evaporation, and crowd out weeds.
- ◆ Fertilizers increase water consumption. Apply the minimum amount needed. Better yet, use compost. Not only will it add nutrients to your soil, it will enhance its texture and ability to retain moisture. Screened compost is available free of charge for Concord residents at the Composting Site on Walden Street.

Money-Saving Tips From Concord Water

Special Offer for In-Ground Irrigation Owners

Want to learn how to water your lawn more efficiently? Concord Public Works will send a certified irrigation system auditor to check out your system top-to-bottom. You will receive a report documenting your property's irrigation water use with recommendations for repairs and/or improvements that can save water and cut summer water bills. Call 617-553-0386 or email tedmoriarty@smartwatering.com to schedule an audit (limited time offer).

CPW Offers Free Water Audits

Want to conserve but aren't sure where to start? Concord Public Works will send a certified water-use advisor to your home or business to conduct a free water-use audit. You will receive a computer printout documenting your household's water consumption and recommendations for conservation. The report even calculates potential savings on water bills that can be achieved by adopting conservation recommendations. To sign up for an audit, call 888-772-4242 or email dfitch@energynewengland.com.

Have Special Medical Needs? We Can Help!

The Water and Sewer Division maintains a contact list of special water customers, typically individuals with compromised immune systems, those undergoing dialysis, or anyone with a water-dependent medical treatment process. In order to keep this list updated, we are asking that all special users contact us and provide an address, email address (if applicable), and phone number that enable us to reach you should a water emergency occur. Working together we will make every effort to contact you if a major disruption to water quality is going to occur, such as seasonal flushing and construction, or if a water quality concern is identified that could affect people with certain medical conditions. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss your concerns, please contact Matthew Mostoller, Environmental Analyst, at 978-318-3250 or mmostoller@concordma.gov.

Conservation *from page 1*

the Challenge by "donating" their toilet rebates to the participating organization of their choice through October 31, 2007. Simply indicate which organization on the rebate application form (available from CPW).

Team progress this summer can be tracked on www.ConservationChallenge.org. This project is funded in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust. The funds come from sales of environmental license plates.

Tour the Water Saver Home on the Net



Learn more about what you can do in and around your home to use water more efficiently. This online tour includes many conservation techniques for the homeowner including how to:

- ◆ Read a water meter
- ◆ Install water-efficient fixtures
- ◆ Conserve water through creative landscape design
- ◆ Detect and repair leaks

View water-saving tips room-by-room by taking the Virtual Home Tour at www.h2ouse.org/tour.