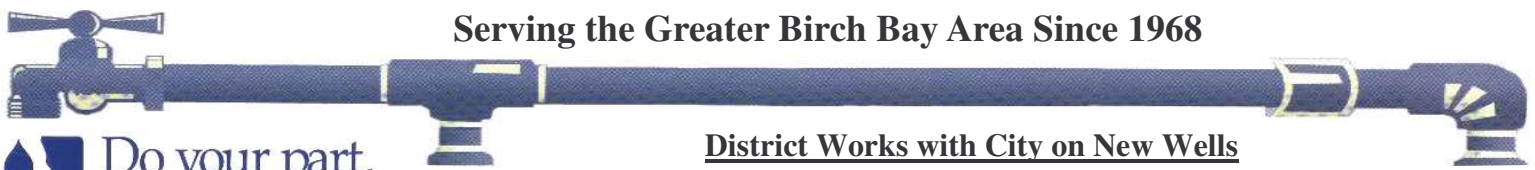




Birch Bay Water and Sewer Water Lines

Fall Newsletter 2007

Serving the Greater Birch Bay Area Since 1968



 Do your part,
be water smart.

FALL PLANTING

“Put on Your Rubber Boots and Plant for Dry Summers Ahead”

Autumn in the Pacific Northwest is a great time to get busy in the garden. The cooler weather, increase in rainfall, and shorter days allow the northwest gardener to easily plan for next year’s growing season.

Fall is an ideal planting period for many species. Plants require less water in autumn because of the cooler air and the warm soil temperatures allow plant roots to grow faster, reducing transplant shock. Well established plant roots help to decrease the amount of water needed during our peak summer months. In addition to the ideal growing conditions, the fall rains can keep your plants watered and healthy.

When designing your planting, group your plants according to site conditions and water needs. Drought tolerant plants tend to do well in our dry summer soils, but sometimes these plants die in our soggy winters. Understand how to assess your soil type and discover plants that can thrive in both wet and dry conditions. Grouping your plants according to water needs pre-

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District Works with City on New Wells

About a year ago, the District’s Board of Commissioners and the City of Blaine agreed to work together to develop new groundwater resources to help meet current and future needs. This joint effort has produced positive results for both parties, enhancing available water supply by approximately 743,000 gallons per day.

New wells 5.1 and 8.1 have been drilled to supplement existing City wells 5.0 and 8.0 because these facilities were producing less water than their full water right capacity would allow. The District has assisted City crews in bringing new well 5.1 online for our 2007 peak summer season. The depth of well 5.1 is 820 feet below ground level with an intake screen located between 720 and 805 feet. It is currently adding up to 445,000 gallons per day to available supplies. At well 8.1, crews drilled down to 700 feet but only found abundant water at around 200 feet. Well 8.1 is expected to add 288,000 gallons per day to current supplies.



Testing Well 5.1 on April 24, 2007

Do You Know Where Your Water Meter Is?

Your water meter is located in a square water meter box made either of plastic or concrete and is usually located at one of your front property corners. Knowing the location of your water meter is very important and enables the District to come out and quickly access the water meter and shut-off valve in case there is a leak or water emergency.

Shrubs, planters, and other landscaping details can obscure access to the water meter. You can help maintain access to the water meter box by:

- Keeping items off the meter box such as trash canisters, potted plants, vehicles,

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Little leaks can cause BIG bills!





This past June District crews replaced 1500 feet of water line along Arnie Rd. to replace the original water main that was built in the 1950s. The new line will enhance water pressure for area residents.

LEAK AWARENESS

It's Only a Drop...

Indoor and outdoor water leaks can waste large amounts of water over time. One drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year! Therefore, we encourage you to take a few minutes to check around your home or business for water leaks.

To make sure that your home or business is leak-free turn off all water in your house and look at your water meter. If the meter is moving after several minutes you have a leak somewhere in your home. You should also check for a possible leak from your water line to the water main. If the grass is greener near the area of your water line while the rest of your lawn is not, you probably have a leak.

Some other tips to detecting leaks around your home or business include checking the crawl space under your home for wet areas and putting food coloring in the toilet tank. If

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vents you from over-watering or under-watering your garden to accommodate different watering needs.

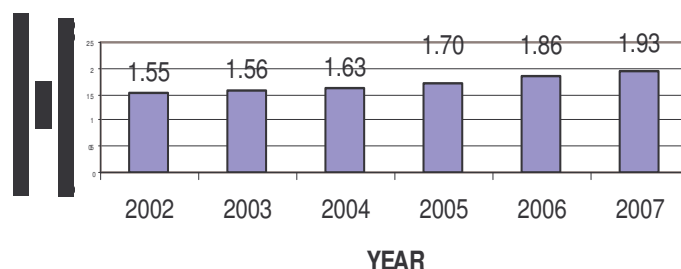
Choose native plants when designing your garden. Plants native to the Pacific Northwest have evolved and adapted to tolerate the cool, wet winters and dry, hot summers. Native plants are less expensive and require little to no maintenance (i.e. watering, pruning, and fertilizing) once they are established and provide additional habitat for local wildlife.

Good planning and layout on your part can create lush, colorful gardening without requiring lots of water or your time. If you would like more information, please contact the District office for our Fall Planting Guide brochure.

Peak Day Water Use Trends Higher

After a 1% increase between 2002 and 2003, the District's peak day water use has increased at more than 4% annually for each of the last four years. Much of the cost of the District's water system is based on the need to purchase and maintain facilities needed to meet these peak day requirements. The District's Conservation Program is designed to help alleviate peak day requirements and save money for District rate payers.

PEAK WATER USE DAYS 2002-2007



you find any discoloration in the bowl, the flapper should be replaced. A toilet is one of the main sources of residential water leaks.

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and debris

- Trimming the grass around the water meter box
- Keeping shrubbery and other landscaping from obstructing clear access to the meter box

In addition to your personal efforts to keep the area around your water meter box clutter free, the District offers two free services to further maintain an unobstructed view. At no cost to you, the District will come out and raise the level of your water meter box for better visibility if you are planning to do any landscaping or install a traffic box if you are planning to black-top your driveway. So call ahead!



Water Meter Box