



# Water. *lines*

BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT  
SERVING THE GREATER BIRCH BAY AREA SINCE 1968

## A VERY BIG THANKS!



After a wet June, Birch Bay did not receive any precipitation during the month of July, the busiest time of the summer season for the area. Thanks to our customers' support for the Water Wisely Voluntary Watering Schedule and other conservation practices, usage did not experience any significant spikes and remained below the District's historical peak record of 1.93 million gallons. This enabled the District to serve our customers while keeping enough water in storage to provide for fire fighting and other contingencies, despite the challenging weather pattern.

In September, the District will meet with the other members of the Whatcom Water Alliance to review this year's conservation program and develop next year's regional program. **THANKS AGAIN!**

### DID YOU KNOW!

The **Whatcom Water Alliance** is a regional water conservation group comprised of cities and districts in Whatcom County.

**GOALS**— Promote water conservation by coordinating public information efforts and related activities.

**MEMBERS**—Bellingham, Blaine, Everson, Ferndale, Lynden and Sumas as well as Birch Bay Water and Sewer District, Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District, Point Roberts Water District, Water District #2 and Water District #7.

## District Gets New Water Rights

On June 8, the Department of Ecology (DOE) issued new water right permits to the City of Blaine and the District for 3.24 million gallons per day of groundwater. The new water rights increase the water available to the two utilities from the previous level of 4.28 million gallons per day to 7.52 million gallons per day. A 2002 wholesale water agreement between Blaine and Birch Bay provides for sharing water resources between utilities on a fair and equitable basis. This increase provides for expected growth in Blaine and Birch Bay for at least 20 years and enhances reliability for current customers. The City and District have been working together to secure the new water rights since 2008. The wholesale water supply contract was amended in August to increase the District's share of the water supply from 2.11 million gallons per day to 3.73 million gallons per day.

# District WWTP Upgrades Increase Facility Efficiency

The District recently upgraded their Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Process Water and Chlorination System. Both upgrades greatly improved the water and energy efficiency of the systems. The existing process water system, which re-uses water for cleaning and spraying around the plant, was in need of immediate replacement and the existing chlorination system, which helps regulate bacterial growth within the plant, used large amounts of potable water for its operation.

The District is the fifth highest water customer in its service area, averaging about 12,000 gallons per day year round. The District uses over 11,000 gallons per day for chlorination. By switching the existing chlorination system from potable water to recycled water, the District is now able to significantly reduce the amount of water used for its daily plant operations. The District is also able to use more process water for spraying and cleaning and heating/cooling around the plant due to the upgrades.



## FALL PLANTING!

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 plant a successful garden without extra effort or time!

Fall is a highly favorable period for planting trees, shrubs and perennial flowers. Plants require less water 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. MORE FALL PLANTING TIPS BELOW!

### Published by

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## AUTUMN YARD CARE TIPS

### WATERING

- Reduce watering for cooler weather in September.
- When rain comes, shut-off and drain watering systems.
- Put away soaker hoses or cover with mulch if left out.

### TREE AND SHRUB BEDS

- Plant trees, shrubs and many perennials in early fall to give them a good start.
- Mulch Tree and shrub beds with leaves, wood chips or bark.

### LAWN CARE

- Plant new lawns between **Sept. 1—Oct. 15** to give them the best start before next summer.
- Improve thin areas of lawns in Sept./Oct. by aerating, over-seeding and top dressing with compost.

### FLOWER/VEGETABLE GARDENS

- Pull emerging weeds in beds when ground is moist and before they develop deep roots.
- Mulch garden beds with leaves or compost to reduce winter weeds and feed the soil. OR plant winter cover crops in open beds.



## SAVE THE DATES!

### “Native Plants Workshop”

**Date:** September 18

**Time:** 9am - 1pm

**Place:** Birch Bay Water & Sewer

**Details:** Come and learn about native plant identification, proper planting techniques and alternatives to turf landscaping in this hands on workshop!

### “Gardening Green Workshop”

**Date:** October 2

**Time:** 9am - 1pm

**Place:** Birch Bay Leisure Park

**Details:** Learn about gardening practices that will give you a beautiful landscape that is easy to maintain and protects the water quality in Birch Bay at the same time!

For more information contact Emily at 360-371-7100.