

FEATURE

Outdoor water use in your neighborhood

Now that it's getting warmer outside, you may be wondering when you can water your lawn or use water outdoors. Outdoor watering is allowed seven days a week but not between the hours of 10:00am and 4:00pm under both state law and County ordinances. For all other outdoor usage such as filling swimming pools and non-commercial car and power washing, residents must follow the odd/even schedule. Even and un-numbered addresses may use water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, while odd addresses may use water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays; no watering may take place on Fridays.

Gwinnett's water customers have reduced water use over the past decade by following state restrictions, fixing leaks, and installing low-flow toilets and fixtures. For more information about water conservation and details on watering restrictions, visit www.gwinnetth2o.com.

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

Is your yard water wise?

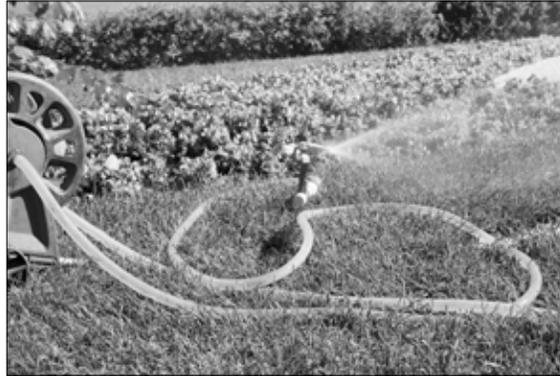
During the summer months, a thirsty landscape can be a burden on homeowners. However, by taking a few simple steps, you can make your yard water wise, saving time, effort, and money.

The best time to water outdoors is in the late evening, overnight, or in the early morning. During the day, wind and sun can cause up to half of the water to evaporate before it is absorbed. Also, let your plants tell you when they need water.

Overwatering can kill plants or cause them to develop shallow roots, leaving them more vulnerable to drought.

A two- to four-inch layer of mulch evens out temperature extremes, allows for better water penetration, and helps plants retain moisture. Choose fine-textured organic mulches such as dead leaves, pine straw, and pine or hardwood bark.

When selecting new plants, be sure to match their sunlight and water requirements with the planting location and group plants according to their water needs.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Burn ban now in effect

A total burn ban is in effect for all outdoor burning from May 1 – September 30, 2011. All types of outdoor or open burning are prohibited during this time period, including the burning of trees, limbs, or any other yard waste, and the use of air curtain destructors for land clearing. For unincorporated residents, please contact your trash hauler to ask about adding yard waste service.

During the months when burning is allowed (October through April), the following safety practices will apply in accordance with the County's burn ordinance:

- No burning on Sunday
- No burning when winds exceed 15 miles per hour or during an air pollution episode
- Burn piles must contain only natural vegetation

For more information about the burn ban, contact the Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services Community Risk Reduction Division at 678.518.4980 or visit www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com.

Department of Water Resources Septic Tank Maintenance Workshop

Attendees who live in unincorporated Gwinnett County or the City of Lilburn will qualify for a five percent Stormwater utility fee credit for the following year.

August 18, 2011 • 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center Auditorium
75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville

Pre-register by sending an e-mail with your name, address, and phone number to dwrswreg@gwinnettcounty.com or calling 678.376.7126. Please arrive early.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out these listings to read the stories behind these popular movies. These selections and others are available at the Gwinnett County Public Library, www.gwinnettpl.org.

Cowboys and Aliens, by Joan D.Vinge

One Day, by David Nicholls

Unknown, by Didier van Cauwelaert

Irish Thunder: The Hard Life and Times of Micky Ward, by Bob Halloran

Limitless, by Alan Glynn

SPLOST

Yellow River historic site gets improvements

Commissioners recently approved a contract that will provide better public access to the historic **Yellow River Post Office** site. Improvements to the site located on the former Hudson-Nash farmstead will include historical interpretive signage for self-guided tours, restroom building, retaining wall, walkways, erosion control, grading, parking, landscaping, picnic tables, and trash cans.



Located off Five Forks Trickum Road in southern Gwinnett County, the historic site was donated to the County by developer Scott Hudgens in 1996. The post office building and slave quarters (both built in the 1840s) as well as a barn, sit on the site that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The post office building has been a general store, a post office, a school, a sharecropper's house, and a barn.

Funding for the project comes from the 2005 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST. Gwinnett County awarded the project to the lowest of eight bidders, Todd Smith Grading, Inc., for \$455,132. The improvements are expected to be completed by spring 2012.

AROUND GWINNETT

Gwinnett generates power from wastes

Gwinnett's Water Resources department has started generating its own electricity using methane gas, a byproduct of sewage treatment.



A new gas-to-energy facility at the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources plant near Buford can produce up to 40 percent of the plant's energy needs plus all the heat it needs to operate its anaerobic digesters. Bacteria in the egg-shaped digesters turn wastewater solids into methane gas at temperatures near 100 degrees Fahrenheit, reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfills. The gas by-product was previously burned off as waste.

Construction will be finished next fall on a companion receiving facility for fats, oils, and grease from restaurants and food service operations and producers of industrial waste. That waste will go into the digesters to increase methane production while helping to reduce clogs in County sewers. Disposal fees will be comparable to the cost of other disposal options.

Water Resources used \$5 million in federal stimulus funds, a \$3.5 million federal grant, and \$500,000 of local water/sewer funds to build the new facilities. The County must repay \$2 million over the next 20 years at 2 percent interest.

The project, known as **POWER** (Processing Organic Waste for Energy Recovery), won an environmental sustainability award from the Atlanta Regional Commission earlier this year.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Tax commissioner appoints chief deputy

Tax Commissioner Richard Steele appointed **Mike Sweigart** to fill the role of Chief Deputy Tax Commissioner. Mike joined the tax commissioner's office May 23, 2011, with a 30-year background in business and operations in the Gwinnett community. As chief deputy, Mike will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the office. For more information, visit www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com.



Water billing enhancements

Gwinnett County water and sewer customers can now view and pay their monthly water bills, enroll in automatic payment, sign up for e-mail notification of bills, and opt-out of receiving paper bills online. Customers can also schedule a move-in, move-out, or transfer of service, in addition to updating personal information. Visit www.gwinnetth2o.com to take advantage of these features.

EVENTS

Sign up for these and other great activities at www.gwinnettparks.com.

Free! Brown Bag Concert

August 5 • 10:30am – 1:00pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Wet and Wild Family Night

August 5 • 5:30pm – 9:00pm
Rhodes Jordan Park
Community Recreation Center
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Disc in the Dark Golf Tournament

August 12 • 7:00pm – midnight
Alexander Park
800 Old Snellville Highway, Lawrenceville

Saddle Up at Sunset Horse Ride

August 19 • 6:00pm – August 20 • 9:00am
Yellow River Park
3232 Juhan Road, Stone Mountain

Beat the Heat with Cool Treats at the Courthouse

August 19 • 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
185 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

Free! Sandcastles and Sidewalk Chalk Fest

August 20 • 9:00am – 11:30am
Bogan Park Community Recreation Center
2723 North Bogan Road, Buford

Free! Craft Market

August 20 • 10:00am – 3:00pm
Pinckneyville Park – Medlock Pavilion
4758 South Old Peachtree Road, Norcross

July is **National Park and Recreation Month** so be sure to visit your local award winning Gwinnett County parks!

gwinnettcountry connection

send questions or comments to shaunieka.taste@gwinnettcountry.com

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linkup

get county government
information from the source

gwinnettcountry.com

