



Thurston PUD Newsletter

We are committed to providing safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable water services to our customers.

May 2023

Happy Drinking Water Week!



Drinking Water Week 2023

May 7-13, 2023

Drinking Water Week, a decades-long tradition led by the American Water Works Association (AWWA), takes place May 7-13 this year.

Drinking Water Week is a celebration recognizing the vital role water plays in everyday life for both water professionals and the communities they serve.

In 1988, AWWA brought Drinking Water Week to the attention of the U.S. Government and formed a coalition along with the League of Women Voters, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Representative Robert Roe and Senator Dennis DeConcini subsequently sponsored a resolution to name the first week of May as Drinking Water Week, and the week-long observance was declared in a joint congressional resolution signed by former President Ronald Reagan.

This year, Drinking Water Week encourages participants to recognize and honor the critical work that water professionals accomplish around the clock to deliver quality tap water while bolstering resilience for water in the future. Thurston PUD is observing Drinking Water Week by encouraging the public to learn about the how truly vital clean, safe water is in daily life and its role in protecting public health and the environment now and in the future.

"Access to clean, safe drinking water is vital to our daily health, hygiene and hydration," said American Water Works Association CEO David LaFrance. "Professionals in the water sector work tirelessly to ensure we have affordable access to the high-quality water we need to strengthen our everyday life and broader communities today and in the future."

To ensure safe, clean drinking water now and in the future, water professionals everywhere are hard at work building infrastructure, advancing technology and protecting the environment.

For more information on Drinking Water Week, please visit the AWWA website at www.awwa.org/events-education/drinking-water-week.

Thurston PUD Commissioners

District 1

Linda Oosterman

District 2

Russell E. Olsen

District 3

Chris Stearns

In This Issue

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- Kids Activity—The Water Cycle on Page 4.

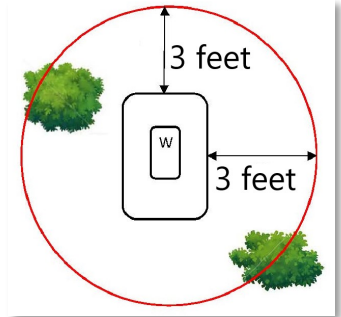
Thurston PUD will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 29, 2023.



Thurston PUD
1230 Ruddell Road SE
Lacey, Washington 98503
(360) 357-8783
Toll-Free: (866) 357-8783
Fax: (360) 357-1172
www.ThurstonPUD.org

Accessing Your Water Meter

Thurston PUD employs two full-time meters readers who are responsible for reading over 9,000 meters every month. Please keep your meter accessible so they can quickly read your meter during their scheduled meter reading route. If your meter is obstructed, Customer Service may have to estimate your meter read for billing purposes. Water consumption and actual bill amounts will be reconciled on the next month's bill when staff is able to get a meter read. If your meter is obstructed for multiple months, you may be charged a non-compliance fee. By keeping your meter box free and clear, you can avoid this charge. Additionally, an easy-to-access box makes it easy to ensure that the meter can be quickly turned off in an emergency.



Recommended clearance area for meter boxes



Meter hidden beneath bushes

Trees, bushes, and plantings. Trim bushes, trees, and grass that block the way or cover the meter. During the spring season, plants can cover a water meter box very quickly! Please minimize plants in the area which meter readers must travel by to get to your meter. We would like to avoid any accidental damage to your prized plantings.

Pets. Keep pets away from the path that leads to your meter during your scheduled meter reading day. We understand many customers have guard dogs for security, we ask that you arrange to confine the dog during the day that your meter will be read. You can look at your bill to find the approximate date your meter reader shows up each month, or call our Customer Service Team for your approximate monthly meter read date. Meters are read between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. (*Continued on Page 3*)

Tips for Conserving Water While Gardening

Gardening season is here! Below are some tips to help you get the most out of your water when gardening this year.

Water the roots. Standard sprinklers, especially when run during the middle of the day, can have a lot of loss due to evaporation which results in your plants becoming dehydrated since the roots are not receiving enough water. Soaker hoses and drip irrigation can minimize evaporation loss and target the plants that need water which conserves water in the long run and can also save you money on your water bill!

Add compost to your soil. All soil is not created equal. Some soil has large particles that water passes through quickly, while other soil has small particles that water penetrates the soil much slower. By adding organic matter in the form of compost (chopped up leaves, composted manure, etc.), it will improve the texture and permeability of your soil. It's recommended you add at least an inch of compost each year.

Use mulch to retain water. By adding a 6-8" layer of mulch you can cut your watering needs in half by blocking invasive weeds and reducing evaporation. Mulch can retain water and increase humidity around plants keeping them well hydrated. Some examples of organic mulch are shredded leaves, straw, and grass clippings.



Soaker hoses have tiny pores that drip water slowly and evenly at low pressure.

Choose plants carefully. A plant that is able to get most of its needed water from the natural rainfall will require a lot less work from you and help you conserve water. For more information or examples on water-wise plants or other publications on gardening and landscaping for our region, please visit the WSU Extension website at <https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/general-gardening>.

Accessing Your Water Meter (*Continued from Page 2*)



There's a meter buried under there!

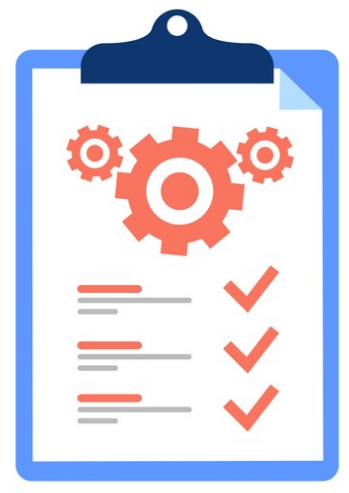
Objects that cover or block your meter. Please make sure that no objects cover or block access to the meter box. Some items we have found blocking access to water meters include vehicles, trailers, garbage cans, beauty bark, and gravel.

Locked gates. If your meter is located behind a gate that is normally kept locked, please contact us to arrange access. We often obtain access codes from customers who wish to secure their property. And, as long as the lock is accessible from the exterior of the gate, our meter readers will still be able to access the meter.

If you see a blue flag near your meter box, please leave it there for at least 90 days. Meter readers are responsible for knowing where over 9,000 meters are; the flags help them memorize where the meter is on your property. We thank you on behalf of our meter reading staff!

Completed Water System Maintenance

Our Field Operations Crew stays busy visiting our water systems daily to perform routine maintenance and ensure our water systems are functioning properly. Below is a short list of some of the important work they completed in March 2023.



- ◆ **Countrywood water system:** Performed routine flushing of the water mains for water quality.
- ◆ **Crowder water system:** Replaced failing 120-volt wall outlets.
- ◆ **Eastridge West water system:** Replaced a failed well pump.
- ◆ **Grant water system:** Installed new 81-gallon pressure tanks to replace the original units which were at the end of their life cycle. The crew also installed a new pressure switch and gauge.
- ◆ **H Muck 1 & 2 water system:** Performed repairs on the treatment system.
- ◆ **Loma Vista water system:** Repaired a broken 4" PVC water line.
- ◆ **Meadows water system:** Performed routine flushing of the water mains for water quality.
- ◆ **Olin water system:** Installed a new breaker to restore electrical power to the submersible well pump motor.
- ◆ **Pattison water system:** Installed an electrical flow switch on the Kagy street reservoir fill line as a failsafe to ensure the chlorine pumps turn off in case the well shuts down unexpectedly.
- ◆ **Pleasant Valley water system:** Performed routine flushing of the water mains for water quality.
- ◆ **Quail Run water system:** Performed routine flushing of the water mains for water quality.
- ◆ **Sandra Ave water system:** Replaced a broken valve in the pumphouse.
- ◆ **Tahoma Meadows water system:** Replaced an electrical fuse on the booster pump.
- ◆ **Tish Hinkle water system:** Replaced a failing well pump.
- ◆ **Walczak water system:** Performed routine flushing of the water mains for water quality.
- ◆ **Webster Hill water system:** Made pump house upgrades and installed new valves.
- ◆ **Wildrose water system #3:** Replaced the well pump and pipe.

Customer Service Reminder—Payment Options



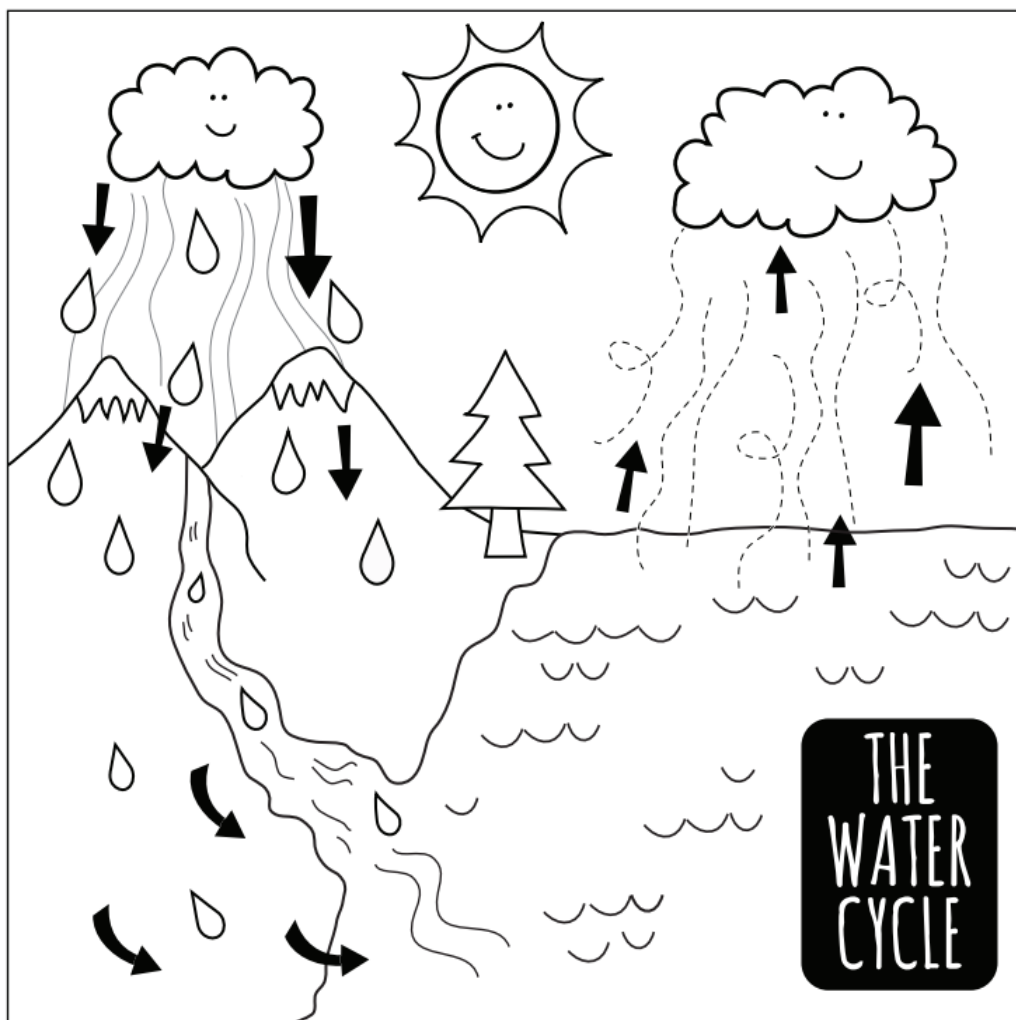
If you use your bank's Bill Pay option to make your water bill payment, please note that the PUD is not able to accept these payments electronically due to banking restrictions. Instead, these payments are printed on a paper check by a third-party and mailed to the PUD with your account information. These payments may take several business days to reach our office.

If you wish to make a payment that we will receive instantly, we have options available for paying your water bill, all without any added fees.

- You can pay online at www.thurstonpud.org, and click the 'Pay Bill Online' link in the upper left corner of the webpage.
- You can call our office at (360) 357-8783 and select Option 1 to make a payment using our automated system. You can also call our office during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and speak with a Customer Service Representative who will take your payment over the phone.

The Water Cycle for Kids

Drinking Water Week is a perfect time to educate children about their water supply in a fun atmosphere! Below is a visual representation of The Water Cycle that they can color in.



DRINKING WATER WEEK

WATER VAPOR



Water vapor is invisible in the air

WATER ICE



Water freezes into ice and snow on mountains

WATER LIQUID



Water liquid can be found in rivers, oceans, and lakes