

SUNSHINE LINES

JULY 2022

Beautiful News From Bay to Beach

10 REASONS TO USE RECLAIMED WATER

Using reclaimed water saves water that the public needs for other uses. The city of Clearwater encourages all residents with access to reclaimed water to use it – for 10 very good reasons.

1. It's less expensive than using potable water. If you water your lawn using reclaimed water, it costs so much less than potable, or drinking, water.
2. Millions of gallons of water can be saved each day. Using reclaimed water reduces the use of drinking water and saves it for future needs, such as cooking and hygiene. When a neighborhood gets access to reclaimed water, those neighbors can save up to 10 percent of an area's drinking water supply.
3. Irrigation with reclaimed water is allowed seven days per week. With reclaimed water, you can water your lawn and landscaping any day of the week or every day, even during the summer. You can water before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
4. You'll help save natural resources. Overuse of water resources can seriously impact plants and animals that depend on healthy systems for survival. Relying on reclaimed water for irrigation can save natural resources and systems.
5. You can decrease your fertilizer application. Reclaimed water has the same nutrients in it that fertilizers do. With reclaimed water, you can fertilize your lawn a lot less – or not at all.
6. It reduces discharge into rivers and bays from wastewater plants. When reclaimed water is not used, it is discharged into the gulf and Tampa Bay, not only by Clearwater Public Utilities but by municipalities all over Tampa Bay. Using reclaimed water keeps it from being wasted by reusing water that would otherwise be discharged.
7. It is a better use of treated wastewater. Reclaimed water is highly-treated water, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection encourages all communities to use it instead of wasting it.
8. Well-water users can benefit from reuse. If you are currently using a well to irrigate, you can get better water pressure than most well pumps generate and more irrigation coverage with a reclaimed water system.
9. It does not leave stains or smell bad. Some people mistake the smell of well water with that of reclaimed water, which has no odor and does not leave stains on fences or personal property.
10. Most importantly, you will help ensure a sustainable, cost-effective water supply. Using reclaimed water to water your lawn, wash your car and clean your driveway will help conserve water resources for ourselves and future generations.

To request reclaimed water service, contact Clearwater Public Utilities at (727) 562-4600, or visit myclearwater.info/reclaimed to sign up for service.

WATER REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Each year, the city of Clearwater's Public Utilities Department presents residents with important information about the city's drinking water quality in an annual consumer confidence report. This year's Water Quality Report is now available electronically at myclearwater.com/waterreport.

The report contains pertinent water quality information of interest to Clearwater residents. Printed copies are available upon request, and the report is also available in Spanish. If you'd like one mailed to you, call Public Utilities at (727) 562-4960.



CLEARWATER LIBRARY BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

The Clearwater Public Library System will offer free backpacks, books and school supplies for students in kindergarten through grade 12. School supplies can be picked up at any of the five library locations from

Aug. 1 to 5, during open hours. School supplies are limited to one backpack per child, if the child is present, while supplies last. If the child or children are not present, there is a limit of two backpacks per family.

This program is presented with generous support from the Clearwater Library Foundation. For more information and library hours, call (727) 562-4970, or visit MyClearwaterLibrary.com.

ALERT PINELLAS

Receive alerts about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for Alert Pinellas, an emergency notification service for Pinellas County. Alert Pinellas allows

you to sign up to receive urgent messages on a variety of situations, such as severe weather, boil-water notices, missing persons or evacuations. This service is free to residents.

When you sign up, you choose how to receive alerts. This could be on a cell phone or landline or by text or email -- you can enter multiple methods. Receive alerts for up to five locations. Register at PinellasCounty.org/AlertPinellas.

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MOSQUITOES & YOUR HOME

Mosquitoes pose a health risk by transmitting illnesses, such as West Nile and Zika. Pinellas County's Mosquito Control team provides mosquito treatment and prevention services to the entire county, including Clearwater. Their staff use an integrated pest management program, focusing on surveillance, prevention, and treating these pests before they become biting adults.

We all must do our part to combat mosquitoes and mosquito-borne illnesses. Remember to dump or cover standing water, dress in loose-fitting long sleeves and pants while outdoors, and use a CDC-approved repellent, such as DEET, picaridin, IR3535 or oil of lemon-eucalyptus.

If you are having mosquito issues at your home or in your neighborhood, visit [PinellasCounty.org/Mosquito](https://www.pinellascounty.org/Mosquito) or call (727) 464-7503 to make a service request. Their website includes information about the mosquito life cycle and prevention/protection tips.

SAVE MONEY WHILE AWAY FROM HOME

Going away for two or more months this summer? You can place your residential water account on vacation status. Save money and protect your home from water leaks while you're away.

The water meter will be turned off, and you will be charged only for wastewater/sewer, solid waste and stormwater at the dormant rates. For more information, call Utility Customer Service at (727) 562-4600.

LET YOUR RECYCLING "HANG LOOSE"

This summer and beyond, remember to let your recycling "hang loose," and do not bag your materials before placing them in your blue bin. Recyclables should be loose in the bin, as plastic bags tangle in sorting machines and create dangerous situations for workers. Even if your bags contain recycling, they are not able to be

processed and cannot be recycled. Return plastic bags, bubble wrap and other soft plastics to local retailers, or throw them away. Materials that are placed in your blue bin for recycling should be empty, dry and unbagged. This will keep your bin clean and free from unpleasant smells, too.

NEW ART COLLECTION COMES TO THE MAIN LIBRARY

A vibrant collection of art comes to the Clearwater Main Library. See the talents of Niki Butcher, who captures places and people that stand out as beautiful, unique, endangered and authentic, in her collection titled "Daydreaming: Niki Butcher's Hand-Painted Photography." This exhibit features more than 60 images of hand-painted photography captured through five decades.

Discover a view of the world that adds a bit more color, a good dose of humor, and an infusion of positivity. See the display for free, now through Jan. 31, 2023.

FERTILIZE LIKE A FLORIDIAN

Summer rains wash fertilizer into our lakes, bays, canals and Gulf of Mexico, contaminating our water. It is illegal in Pinellas County to fertilize lawns from June 1 to Sept. 30 of every year. During this time, fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus cannot be applied to lawns or landscape plants, according to a Pinellas County ordinance in place since 2010. Incorrect use of fertilizer can allow nutrients to leach into the groundwater

and wash into storm drains that flow to creeks, lakes, Tampa Bay or the Gulf of Mexico. Excess nutrients can cause harmful algae blooms, which lower oxygen levels and lead to fish kills, such as the recent red tide outbreak. Instead of applying fertilizer to your lawn right now, use Florida-friendly yard products that contain micronutrients to green up your lawn. To learn more, visit [befloridian.org](https://www.befloridian.org) or [watmatters.org](https://www.watmatters.org).



Your Leadership Team

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CITY MANAGER
Jon Jennings

CITY ATTORNEY
David Margolis

COUNCILMEMBERS
David Allbritton
Mark Bunker

Kathleen Beckman
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For information in English, call (727) 562-4682.
Para información en español, llame al (727) 562-4047.

Sunshine Lines is produced by the city of Clearwater
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[MyClearwater.com](https://www.MyClearwater.com)