

water rings

July - September 2015

Volume 10, No. 3

Water Quality Goals for the Wissahickon Creek

In cooperation with local water authorities and the State, the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) works to protect the Wissahickon Creek from potential water quality problems through scientific studies, monitoring programs, and restoration projects. By meeting their mission goals they try to enhance water quality as well as protect the Watershed for future generations.

The Watershed, which is home to almost a quarter million people, is directly affected by all of our activities on land. In our upper section of the Creek (including the North Wales area), WVWA is trying to change or influence our land-use behaviors to benefit the Wissahickon Creek. As part of this effort, WVWA has established an education-outreach program to inform the public of environmental concerns, trends in water quality and what we

can do as residents of the Watershed. This includes controlling water that runs off our roads and residential properties, reducing fertilizer use, and disposing of pet waste properly. To tackle these problems, we can reduce water and nutrients leaving our properties through:

- 1) the use of rain gardens and rain barrels;
- 2) planting shrubs and trees which uptake more water;
- 3) reducing fertilizer use,
- 4) picking up after our pets, and
- 5) conserving water use in our homes and businesses.

Everyone has a part to play in protecting our Wissahickon Creek! Visit the WVWA website (www.wvwa.org) to learn more about them and get involved!

Swimming Pool Safety

Now that summer is here, private and public pool owners, as well as pool management companies, should remember that pool and chlorinated wastewater must be handled responsibly.

Old water must be disposed of properly and wastewater containing chemicals such as chlorine and muriatic acid should be neutralized.

Where allowed, the wastewater should go into the sanitary sewer - not into storm sewers. If sanitary sewers cannot be accessed, the wastewater should be hauled off-site for disposal at an approved treatment facility.

When chlorinated water is drained from a swimming pool into a storm sewer, it quickly makes its way to a stream or other body of water, where aquatic life is damaged or killed. Discharging swimming pool water to Pennsylvania's waters without a permit violates the Clean Streams Law, and property owners and pool companies who violate this law may be prosecuted and penalized for damages.

To view or print a copy the PA Swimming Pool Wastewater Guidelines, visit:
www.nwwater.com/go/pool

Also, be sure to contact your local municipality regarding potential local ordinances.



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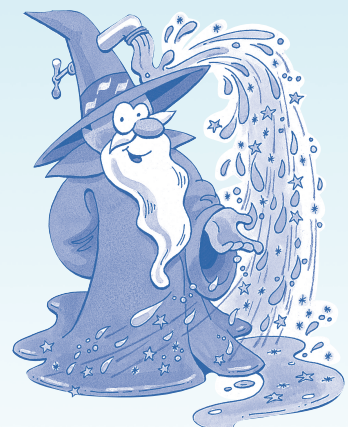


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Handling Pool Water

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Times



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Time To Tune Up Your Home's Irrigation System!

Homes with automatically-timed irrigation systems use about 50 percent more water outdoors than those without irrigation systems. Your system can waste even more if it's programmed incorrectly, a sprinkler head is pointed in the wrong direction, or you have a leak.

Simple Tips for Sprucing Up Your Sprinkler

When it comes to a home's irrigation system, a little maintenance goes a long way. A home with an automatic irrigation system that isn't properly programmed or maintained can waste as much as 30,000 gallons of water annually. A broken or missing sprinkler head could waste as much as 25,000 gallons of water and more than \$90 over a six-month irrigation season.



Spruce up your irrigation system by remembering four simple steps—inspect, connect, direct, and select.

Inspect. Check your system for clogged, broken or missing sprinkler heads. If you're not the do-it-yourself type, go with a pro - look for an irrigation professional certified through a WaterSense labeled program.

Connect. Examine points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes or hoses. If water pools in your landscape or you have large wet areas, you could have a leak in your system. A leak about as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen (or 1/32nd of an inch) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.

Direct. Are you watering the driveway, house, or sidewalk instead of your yard? Redirect sprinklers to apply water only to the landscape.

Select. An improperly scheduled irrigation controller can waste water and money. Update your system's watering schedule with the seasons, or select a WaterSense labeled controller to take the guesswork out of scheduling.

You can save even more water outdoors by incorporating water-smart landscaping principles into your landscape design. And you can find more tips by visiting the WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor.



Q: *How can I help my garden and landscaping survive a dry summer?*

A: For many gardeners the past few years have been a challenge. Since a prolonged dry period or drought can strike any year, anywhere, it makes sense to come up with a sustainable plan to help your garden survive through the driest summers.

When it comes to watering your garden, how you water is as important as how frequently you water, especially during dry periods. Oversaturating your garden can lead to soil and important nutrients running off your garden, along with wasting precious water. The most efficient way to irrigate is to apply low volumes of water at a slow rate to allow plants to absorb it properly.

Timing is also important. Watering early in the morning is the best because water will evaporate fast in the midday heat. If conditions are extremely hot and dry, it can also be beneficial to give your plants a little water in the late afternoon or early evening to relieve their stress.

Micro-spray and drip irrigation can help you water more accurately and effectively. Drip irrigation allows you to apply water directly to the root zone of your plants, which is where they need it most. Many of these systems can be placed on a timer so you don't have to worry about getting up at dawn or rushing home at night to water at the optimal time.

Put back into your soil what you take from it. Adding compost or other organic matter periodically can help amend dry soil and retain more water. Adding mulch around plants once they've sprouted can also help conserve water. A layer of mulch can prevent weeds from sprouting and stealing water from your plants and it can also keep the soil cooler to slow evaporation.

**Water Rings is published Quarterly to Serve our Customers in:
North Wales Borough and Lower Gwynedd, Montgomery,
New Britain, Upper Dublin, Upper Gwynedd, and Whitpain Townships.**