



PRESSURE IRRIGATION

Operated by the City of Boise

WHO TAKES CARE OF WHAT?

The City of Boise **Public Works Department** operates and maintains:

- The pump station
- The mainline distribution pipe running throughout the subdivision
- Up to the first shut-off valve on your service line.

The **homeowner** operates and maintains:

- The sprinkler system serving their lawn and garden.

An **irrigation district**:

- Diverts and delivers pressure irrigation system water from the Boise River to your neighborhood in their canals.

A local **ditch company**:

- May operate the local ditch that delivers water to the pump station.

PROBLEMS WITH THE SYSTEM

In case of lack of delivery of water, leaks or other problems with the pressure irrigation system, call City of Boise Public Works at **362-8128** during normal working hours or **384-4262** after hours.

EXCAVATIONS

If you are planning any excavation in your yard to install fencing, landscaping etc., call **Digline** first at **342-1585** to mark the irrigation and other utility lines before you dig.

PAYMENT

You will be billed for an annual assessment for the irrigation district, for the City of Boise and, depending on your location, for a local lateral association. The bill is mailed by February and is due April 1. All the assessments are included in this billing. The city bill is based on the size of your lot.

IRRIGATION SEASON

The city activates the pump station when irrigation water is available in the spring, usually around **April 15**. The city winterizes the system when the water is turned off in the fall, sometime around **October 15**.

WATERING SCHEDULE

Because the ditch delivery system was constructed for agricultural purposes in which watering occurred uniformly over several days, it does not have the capacity to allow all residents to water at the same time. Therefore it may be necessary for you to adjust your watering schedule so that you water when the fewest number of your neighbors are watering, even if that means you have to water at a less than ideal time of day.

If you have an automatic sprinkler system, and your neighbors do not, please schedule your watering after 10 p.m. so those homeowners without timer controlled systems can water during daylight. If this voluntary schedule does not work, the city may issue a fixed watering schedule for each address.

DON'T DRINK THE WATER!

The water in the pressure irrigation system is **Boise River water**, and is **not treated** in any way, so it is **not safe to drink**. Please be aware of all faucets and hoses you have connected to the system and make it clear to all members of your family to never drink from them.

It is not necessary to water your lawn every day once it is established. In fact, the healthiest lawns are watered long, deep and infrequently. You should put about 3/4 inch of water on the lawn every three to four days. Set out a tin can the next time you water and watch how long it takes to fill to that height and adjust your timer accordingly.

LIMITATIONS

The water is not metered, but it is subject to irrigation water rights. You have rights to 1/4 inch per day during the growing season, roughly April 15 through October 15.

Although the canals run full of water at all times during the irrigation season, the booster stations can only pressurize and pump out as much water as is coming into it from the ditch. If too many people try to water at once, the water pressure drops and everyone gets just a dribble of water. That is why it is so important to spread the use of the system in your neighborhood out across a 24-hour day. This may take some trial and error as you and your neighbors try different days and times to water.

WHY USE PRESSURE IRRIGATION?

- Pressure irrigation can save you between \$75 and \$150 per year compared to irrigating with United Water.
- Irrigating with drinking water will diminish the ground water wells sooner, and make the cost of our drinking water go up.
- If we stop using our irrigation water right from the river there is the possibility that we as a community could lose that right to other users, possibly outside the Treasure Valley.

CROSS CONTAMINATION

Some homeowners may consider connecting their sprinkler system to the drinking water system as an emergency back up. Such connections are discouraged for two reasons:

- A potential **health hazard**: irrigation water could enter your drinking water system.
- Potentially **expensive**: drinking water could flow into the subdivision pressure irrigation system through your meter.

It is legal to install a backup connection, but it requires a plumbing permit, installation of a reduced pressure type backflow preventer, and an annual inspection (at your cost) of the backflow preventer.

FILTERS

The booster station is equipped with a 30-mesh (30 wires per inch) filter so it should not be necessary for you to filter your line for standard sprinkler heads or hose-supplied sprinklers. However, you may need to install finer filters for things like drip irrigation.

QUESTIONS?


If you have questions regarding anything in this brochure, feel free to call Kent Johnson at 384-3900.

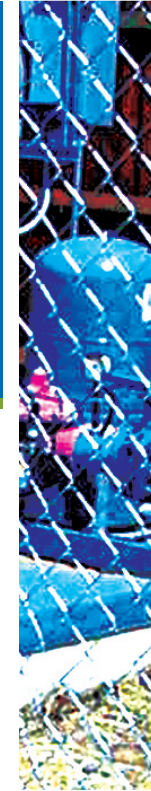
For more detailed information about pressure irrigation visit www.cityofboise.org/departments/public_works/services/pressureirrigation



Public Works

This information provided by
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