



**CITY OF
FOLSOM**
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

L&L Monthly

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Special Interest Articles:

- Tree Pollination
- TOP TEN ITEMS
OF INTEREST



This month's Tip:

One of the best water-saving practices is simply to improve the soil by mixing in organic materials like leaf mulch or aged manure. These will promote good root growth and hold more water for the plants to absorb. Adding a few inches of mulch on top of the soil also helps it stay cool and retain moisture.



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Oak Avenue Water Conservation Retrofit Project-Update

The project is in its final stages of completion and we expect it to be done by early June just in time to evaluate how well the new irrigation system works and saves on water use!



Water Conservation Efforts in the L&L's

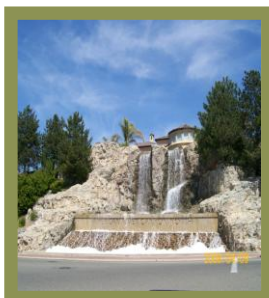
In an attempt to find creative ways to save water by reducing water applied, the City is trying out a product called "RootGel" on 2 of our mini-parks (Big Foot in Natoma Station and Windsor Park in Broadstone). The use of RootGel can reduce irrigation by 50%. RootGel is mixed with water and then applied to the soil. The gel, when added to soil, draws in the water and nutrients before they slip through the soil, then stores it until the roots demand more water and nutrients during dry conditions. As part of our evaluation of the product, the City is reducing the water applied even more than required by the current Stage 3 water alert, to see if the product's virtues can sustain even less water than the current cut back of about 60%. More to come on how the product works and the results we get with the use of it.

Other things that we are doing in connection with water conservation are cutting the grass a little longer than normal. The L&L turf areas are currently being cut to about a 3 ½ height which is about 1" longer than normal. The premise in doing so is to retain and maintain the moisture in the soil and minimize soil exposure to the sun. If the grass was cut shorter, there is a higher likelihood for die out and burns due to the minimum watering schedule. By leaving it longer there's a greater chance for our turf areas to survive the drought and summer heat.

Just some interesting facts about trees...

Trees are the longest living organisms on the planet and one of the earth's greatest natural resources. They keep our air supply clean, reduce noise pollution, improve water quality, help prevent erosion, provide food and building materials, create shade, and help make our landscapes look beautiful. Here are some more thought-provoking facts and figures about our oldest citizens and living treasures...trees!

- The shade and wind buffering provided by trees reduces annual heating and cooling costs by 2.1 billion dollars.
- Each average-sized tree provides an estimated \$7 savings in annual environmental benefits, including energy conservation and reduced pollution.
- A single tree produces approximately 260 pounds of oxygen per year. That means two mature trees can supply enough oxygen annually to support a family of four!
- Water originating in our national forests provides drinking water for over 3400 communities, and approximately 60 million individuals.
- One tree can absorb as much carbon in a year as a car produces while driving 26,000 miles.
- Over the course its life, a single tree can absorb one ton of carbon dioxide.
- An average American uses about 750 pounds of paper every year, and 95% of homes are built using wood. That means each person uses the equivalent of one 100 foot tall, 16 inch diameter, tree every year for their paper and wood product needs.
- About one third of the United States of America is covered by forests.
- According to the last forest inventory, there are almost 247 billion trees over 1 inch in diameter in the U.S.
- The average tree in an urban/city area has a life expectancy of only 8 years.



Top 5 L&L Items of Interest:

1. ARCN Waterfall light replacement-working with vendor
2. Oak Avenue Water Conservation project-almost complete
3. ARCN irrigation timer retrofit-working with SJWD
4. Encroachment Letters and Notices to residents in ARCN and other areas
5. L&L Inventory of Assets