



**Cobb County Water System - Water Efficiency Program News - Summer 2016**

## Inspect, Direct and Connect to Water Savings and Win a WaterSense Labeled Irrigation Controller

Spring has arrived and summer is around the corner! Warmer, drier weather can lead to an increase in landscape irrigation. Before starting your system, be sure to spruce it up. System maintenance can help save you a lot of money and water! It starts with a simple visual inspection. Cracks in pipes can lead to costly leaks, and broken and misdirected sprinkler heads can waste water and money. You could be losing up to 25,000 gallons of water and more than \$200 over an irrigation season!

Now is the perfect time to spruce up your irrigation system. To help customers get started Cobb Water has created a new program for customers to inspect their systems, flag problems, and find resources for making at home repairs or hiring a qualified professional.

Watching a system run is the first step to efficiency. Sometimes after watching it you can't remember where the problems were and you don't know how to fix them. This program provides a visual marker of system problems and resources to find professionals or provide guidance for do-it-yourself repairs.

Free flags are available at outreach events, the Cobb Water Customer Service facility, and Cobb County Extension office. You can also ask your landscape or irrigation contractor if they can inspect, flag, and repair your system. Information on the program and what to look for can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/sprinklerinspect>.

To promote this program, Cobb Water is holding a contest for customers. If you flag a problem in your irrigation system, snap a before and after photo of the repair. Post the pictures to either <https://twitter.com/TappyTurtle> or <https://www.facebook.com/slowtheflow/> or email them to [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org) you will be entered to win a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller. This smart controller uses site and weather conditions to help control the amount of irrigation water applied to your landscape.

This summer don't let simple problems in your irrigation system waste water. Inspect, Direct, and Connect to water savings by flagging problems and making simple repairs.

## Upcoming Events

For a full schedule of Cobb Water Efficiency Programs or to schedule a civic or school presentation visit <http://tinyurl.com/WaterEffEvents>, email [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org) or call 770-419-6244

### Smart Irrigation Month - July 2016

The Irrigation Association has declared July *Smart Irrigation Month*. Cobb Water will have an interactive display allowing customers to practice setting a WaterSense labeled smart controller. Follow Tappy Turtle on Facebook and Twitter to find out about other events and contest opportunities. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/cobbwater-outdoorefficiency> for information on efficient irrigation.



*Tappy Turtle, Water Efficiency Program mascot, plants an Inspect, Direct, Connect flag on an irrigation trouble spot*

## Community Spotlights

We would like to recognize two very special groups of students from Cobb County schools who are working toward solutions to the global water crisis.

Mrs. King's second grade advanced learning class at Kennesaw Elementary began their year by learning about water. After reading about children in Africa who do not have access to clean running water and must walk long distances each day to collect the water they need, the students were moved to action. They worked together to plan a virtual "Walk for Africa" to raise money to build a village well in Burkina Faso. The building of the well will be coordinated by the non-profit group Engage Burkina.

With a virtual walk, participants can walk wherever they choose – the class even had a participant in London, England! Many of the students and their families met up to walk at Swift-Cantrell Park. The students planned the entire event, including designing t-shirts and walk packets with thank-you notes for the participants. With a total of 84 participants, the Walk for Africa raised \$2200 for their cause. The students invited Paul Richardson from Engage Burkina to visit their class and surprised him with a check made out to the organization.

We would also like to recognize a very special pair of fifth grade students from Nickajack Elementary. Riley Davis and Jonathan Fairgrievs won Best Overall Grade 5 Invention at the STEMIE Coalition's National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo. Their project, "The Succulent Solution", which uses succulents to help those with limited access to clean water, won second place in the elementary division and was chosen as the K-12 People's Choice Award winner at Georgia Tech's Inventure Challenge. This placement qualified them to compete in the national competition in Washington, DC. This summer, the boys plan to learn more about the patent process and pursue a patent for their invention, which they hope will be helpful in solving the global problem of lack of access to clean water.

## Green School 2015/16

2015/16 was a record year for the Cobb County Green School Initiative, with 38 schools and 673 teachers participating. We had 8 schools who were designated as Green Schools for the first time this year. You can view the full Green School Report for 2015/16, including a list of Green Teachers and a summary of some of the activities completed, here: <http://cobbcounty.org/images/documents/water/2015-16-Green-School-Report.pdf>



*Mrs. King's class present a check for \$2200 to Paul Richardson for Engage Burkina*



*Riley Davis and Jonathan Fairgrievs with their award at the National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo in Washington, DC*

## In Touch With Your Tap Water

With everything we read online, in the papers, and hear on the news, you might have questions about Cobb County's Drinking Water Quality. The Cobb County Water System (CCWS) is committed to delivering to you, our customer, water that meets or exceeds federal and state quality requirements.

Our priority is to deliver safe water to your home or business each day. We make significant efforts to protect our water resources for both existing needs and future generations. You can read our full 2016 Water Quality Report here: <http://cobbcounty.org/images/documents/water/2016-Water-Report.pdf>

The bottom line is that we provide safe, quality drinking water to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days each year, because we know that it is vital to the health and well-being of our community.

We would like to ask our customers to take a brief survey about your feelings on your drinking water: <http://tinyurl.com/cobbdinkingwatersurvey>



Our mascot Tappy Turtle is an advocate of drinking Cobb's water from the tap. Will you join him and take the pledge to drink water from the tap at home and to carry a reusable water bottle when you are out and about? Click here to take the pledge: <http://tinyurl.com/TappyPledge>

## Tips from Tappy

An average summer can cause some households to use up to 100 percent more water than in other months, much of it going towards irrigating lawns. We have compiled a list of water saving tips that can help our customers save some green and go green at the same time.

**Timing is everything:** Know how much water your landscape actually needs before you set your sprinkler. Generally, it's best to water lawns and landscapes in the early morning or in the evening, after the sun goes down, because significant amounts of water can be lost due to evaporation during the heat of the day.

**Look for the label:** If your system uses a clock timer, consider upgrading to a WaterSense labeled weather-based controller, which uses local weather data to determine when and how much to water, reducing waste and improving plant health.

**Tune up your system:** Inspect irrigation systems and check for leaks and broken or clogged sprinkler heads. Fix sprinkler heads that are broken or redirect heads that are spraying the sidewalk, street, or driveway.

**Play zone defense:** When planting, assign areas of your landscape different hydrozones depending on sun/shade exposure, soil and plant types, and type of sprinklers, and then adjust your irrigation system or watering schedule based on those zones' specific needs. This helps you avoid overwatering some areas or underwatering others.

Learn more at: <http://tinyurl.com/cobbwater-outdoorefficiency>

WATER \$AVER

4

SUMMER 2016

# The Water Efficiency Team Welcomes Volunteers

The AT&T Pioneers, NW Metro Life Membership Club, have signed up several of their members to work with our team! These active retirees are out and about in the community and can now be found helping with our school programs and working with the team to give residents in Cobb water conservation information at special events. We are excited to have these dedicated folks on board! If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents in the classroom or at outreach events, please contact Gwen at [gwen.baldwin@cobbcounty.org](mailto:gwen.baldwin@cobbcounty.org).



## Cobb County Water System Water Efficiency Program

**Contact Us**  
660 South Cobb Drive  
Marietta, Georgia 30060  
[waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org)  
770.419. 6244

**Staff**  
Kathy Nguyen  
Amy Warnock  
Gwen Baldwin

For more information:  
[www.cobbwater.org](http://www.cobbwater.org)



To sign up for this newsletter or to be removed from this mailing list, submit an email to [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org). Be sure to indicate "Sign Me Up" or "Remove Me from Your List" in the subject line.

### Cobb County Board of Commissioners

- Tim Lee, *Chairman*
- Bob Weatherford, *District One*
- Bob Ott, *District Two*
- JoAnn Birrell, *District Three*
- Lisa Cupid, *District Four*
- David Hankerson, *County Manager*

This is an official publication of the Cobb County Water System, an agency of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.

# Water Source Climate Update

Rainfall this spring has been below average and both Cobb and north Georgia are currently in moderate drought status. Allatoona's current level is 840 feet. The streamflow in local water bodies that feed the Chattahoochee River are less than 25% of the normal streamflow. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/sprinklerinspect> to learn how to identify and repair irrigation system problems.

**Water Restrictions Status:** Non-Drought

**For Irrigation:** No watering between 10AM-4PM (No day of the week restrictions)

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/cobbwater-outdoorwateringrules> for more information on outdoor watering rules.

### Rain Fall March-May

- MAR: 1.96 inches
- APR: 1.96 inches
- MAY: 1.68 inches
- 2016 YTD: 15.43 inches
- JAN-MAY AVG: 20.71 inches
- SOIL MOISTURE: (-2.45)

You can view the finalists for the 2016 H2O in HD video contest at: [www.youtube.com/watersmartprograms](http://www.youtube.com/watersmartprograms)



Follow waterSmart<sup>SM</sup> on Facebook for more tips!

[www.facebook.com/waterSmartPrograms](http://www.facebook.com/waterSmartPrograms)