

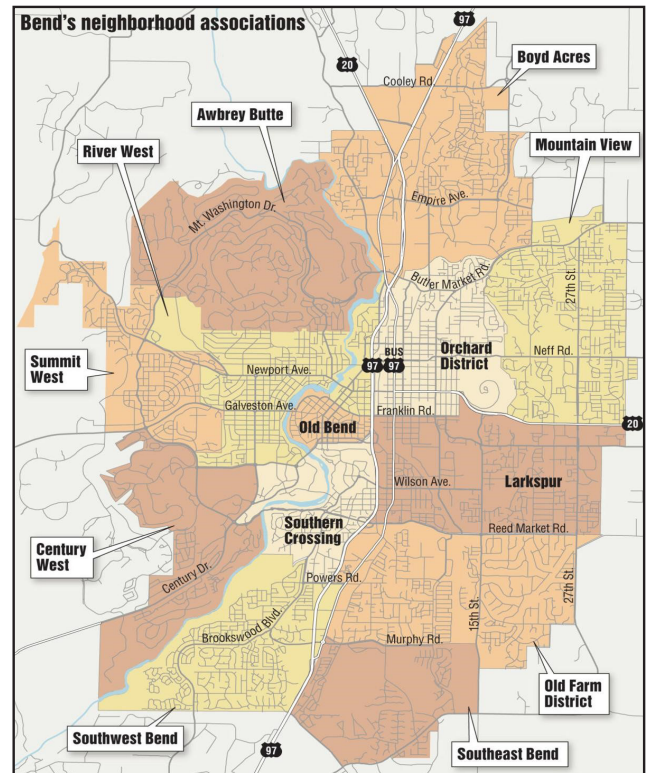


# CONSERVATION Connection News

## Neighborhood Association Edition

With our Fall 2021 edition of the Conservation Connection newsletter, we acknowledge Bend's Neighborhood Associations. Comprised of 13 designated areas, our neighborhood associations form an effective partnership between the city and its residents. For residents, the associations provide insight into the unique challenges each neighborhood faces. For the city, the associations provide a way to disseminate information and collect feedback regarding future development and sustainability goals.

The Conservation Connection is a quarterly newsletter for Bend's local landscape and irrigation industry professionals. Topics center around best management practices, irrigation technology, and climate-appropriate landscape choices. Bringing the same information to Bend's Neighborhood Associations only makes sense. The goal of the newsletter is to provide the latest in industry information along with WaterWise program updates. We will start by taking a closer look at what the WaterWise program represents and why water conservation is so important to the future of Bend.



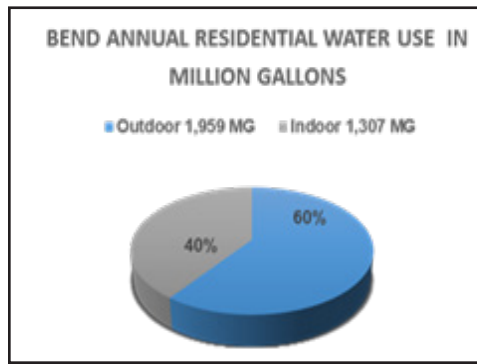
### WATER SOURCES AND WATER USE

The City of Bend Utility Department provides water and sewer services to approximately 26,000 customers. Approximately 13,000 customers receive sewer services only. Our water comes from two sources, pristine surface water from the Bend Municipal Watershed and 20 area wells that access the Deschutes aquifer. The majority of water we use on an annual basis (60%) goes to water outdoor landscapes during the summer season. It's during this period (Peak Season Demand) that our surface water must be supplemented with well water to meet the additional demand for landscape watering.



## PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES

Water is an essential resource to all. Water is also a resource that can be taken for granted. We simply turn on a tap or activate an irrigation cycle, and water magically appears. In Bend, our current price for water is two dollars and sixty-two cents per one thousand gallons. It's safe to say, we are well accustomed to our convenient access to this precious resource. The City of Bend is committed to managing our award-winning water sustainably and delivering water to our customers at an affordable price. An important piece in accomplishing this is by way of water conservation. Through the process of updating our Water Management Conservation Plan (WMCP), a requirement by the state of Oregon to ensure we are managing water resources sustainably, the Utility Department has quantified conservation as a cost-effective method and integral piece in meeting current and future demand.



## THE WATERWISE PROGRAM

The City of Bend Utility Department's WaterWise program focuses on reducing water waste, increasing water use efficiency, and prolonging our existing water supplies into the future. We offer various programs to help our customers evaluate water use and identify ways to achieve savings. The WaterWise Team offers accredited workshops to green industry professionals and hosts community-based seminars and field day events centered around irrigation efficiency and climate-appropriate landscaping. For larger-scale properties such as parks, schools, and large area commercial properties, we provide water use data, technical assistance, and sprinkler system evaluations to help manage water more efficiently.

## 2021 SPRINKLER INSPECTION PROGRAM RE-CAP

With 147 appointments, the 2021 Sprinkler Inspection Program provided City of Bend customers with a customized irrigation system report containing an optimized watering schedule and tips to improve efficiency. Common landscape recommendations on how to apply water properly and without waste included:

- Raising and leveling sprinkler heads that have tilted or sunken
- Adjusting sprinklers to avoid overspray and run-off
- Freeing sprinklers of obstruction
- Replacing broken or worn equipment
- Converting to climate-appropriate plantings
- Eliminating mixed sprinkler types that are on the same sprinkler station
- Adjusting sprinkler controllers in step with seasonal changes in water need.



## LIST OF EXISTING PROGRAM EFFORTS:

### COMMUNITY ED AND OUTREACH

- Workshops/Field Day Events
- Landscape and Irrigation Guides
- Indoor Conservation Kits
- Hollinshead Demonstration Garden Partner

### FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Sprinkler Inspection Program
- Large Landscape Program
- Water Waste Prevention Program
- Street Strip Landscape Conversion Program (Pilot-Spring 2022)
- Efficient Irrigation Equipment Rebates (Pilot-Spring 2022)



CITY OF BEND



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities  
To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact Utility Staff at: [Utilities@bendoregon.gov](mailto:Utilities@bendoregon.gov) or 541-317-3000 Ext 2; Relay Users Dial 7-1-1, and fax: 541-317-3046