

Westwinds and Grassy Pointe Residents: Do you want reclaimed water?



We need to hear from you!

Please go to www.ctsfl.us/projects.htm and click on the
“Public Interest Survey” link to let us know!



Alternatively, you can call Cheryl Stedge or Bob Robertson at 727-942-5610 to let us know your street address and if you are interested in connecting to reclaimed water when it becomes available. You can also email us at cstedge@ctsfl.us or rrobertson@ctsfl.us.



City of Tarpon Springs
Public Services Department

Westwinds & Grassy Pointe Reclaimed Water Distribution Project

Project Information - March 2017

The City of Tarpon Springs is excited to announce that reclaimed water will soon be coming to your neighborhood!

The project includes the design and construction of new reclaimed water distribution pipes in the Westwinds and Grassy Pointe neighborhoods. The funding for the construction of these new transmission pipes is being provided by the City along with a grant from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). Other costs to be borne by the homeowner for optional connection are described below.

Under the terms of the City's grant funding contract with the SWFWMD, the City must ensure that 50% or more of the customers in a new project area will connect to reclaimed water within one year of project completion. In order to help us plan for new connections, ***we are asking you to indicate your interest via electronic survey*** in connecting to the new reclaimed water service at some point during that time period. This is not a commitment on your part, but simply a survey to gauge the level of community interest. The survey can be found at www.ctsfl.us/projects.htm. Please take a moment to let us know your interest.

The initial design work for the transmission pipelines is beginning now. Over the next month you may see crews in your area conducting utility locates, surveys, and soil sampling. Please do not remove utility locate flags that may be placed temporarily on or near your property. If they must be removed for lawn maintenance, please replace them in the exact same location. It's ok to discard them after about 30 days from initial placement.

Below you will find some project details in a question and answer format pertaining to the design and construction process, reclaimed water connections, and reclaimed water service.

Project Questions and Answers

1. Does the City require reclaimed water connection? If not, how does the City ensure participation?

The City does not require connection to reclaimed water. It is our belief that participation will be ensured by two factors: (1) the economic advantage: depending on usage and configuration, irrigating with reclaimed water is up to 15 times less costly than irrigation with potable water service; and (2) convenience: reclaimed water is not subject to the same strict watering restrictions imposed by the City or the SWFWMD for all other sources, including wells or ponds. Please note that the City has its own watering restrictions that generally limit watering to once per week for all water sources except for reclaimed water.

2. What are the costs associated with connecting to reclaimed water?

The City charges a one-time fee of \$300 to install a reclaimed water meter to connect into the City's reclaimed water transmission pipes and a \$40 security deposit. Connecting an existing or new irrigation system to this new meter is the responsibility of the homeowner including any costs associated with such. The City does not provide recommendations for specific plumbing or irrigation companies.

3. How much does reclaimed water cost?

The current rate for reclaimed water is \$0.95 per thousand gallons of usage plus a \$3 monthly backflow preventer base charge. A comparison of using 10,000 gallons in a month for irrigation is provided below for different water sources. The costs shown in the table represent what could be expected in addition to a typical water bill for average use within a home.

Water Source	Monthly Cost of Irrigating with 10,000 gallons*
Reclaimed Water	\$ 12
Potable Water (Irrigation Meter)	\$ 88
Potable Water (Water Meter)	\$172

**This is the additional cost of irrigation over a typical water bill*

4. Will those with existing irrigation meters be provided some sort of credit for converting from potable irrigation meter to reclaimed meter?

If a customer has an existing irrigation meter in service, they can request removal of the irrigation meter by the City and reimbursement of the \$60 deposit that was paid by the homeowner to the City when the meter was installed.

5. Will the HOA Boards be kept up to date on the project? When might the next update be provided?

We are currently planning the design of the project and are providing information packets to individual homeowners in both communities. Future communications will include the location and date of a public meeting in a convenient location. We will transmit this information to the HOA boards as well so as to keep everyone informed. A project website is being created for tracking of project status at www.ctsfl.us/projects.htm.

6. Will there be a public meeting (joint with Westwinds and Grassy Pointe) before the project starts?

Yes, per above responses, we plan to have a joint public meeting sometime near the 30% design point. This is an ideal point in the design process to have enough preliminary information to be meaningful (such as preliminary pipeline alignment) but still early enough to be able to make adjustments as needed.

7. Will there be a way to coordinate placement of service/meter box? We would like to coordinate with existing communications equipment and services, if possible.

We plan to install the boxes in the most accessible location within a utility easement, expected to be between the sidewalk and the street. Often this leaves limited options for placement.

8. Will private connections to irrigation systems be inspected by the City? How will this private connection construction quality be ensured, i.e. proper depth of excavation, workmanship, materials? Does this provide a risk to the public utility?

Private connections to the City's reclaimed water meter box and irrigation system connections are not typically inspected by the City. However, a homeowner has several options available to them:

- a. Homeowner-installed, not permitted: Homeowners are permitted to install their own connection to the City's systems if they feel they are qualified to do so. No City permit is required.*

- b. *Homeowner-installed system, homeowner-permitted: Homeowners can install their own systems and can apply for a City Building permit to have their installation inspected by the City. A typical permit fee would be \$45 depending on the project size and value.*
- c. *Plumber-installed system, homeowner permitted: Homeowners have the option of hiring a licensed plumber to complete the connection from the City system to their private irrigation system. The homeowner can apply for a City Building Permit on behalf of the plumber. The homeowner would be obligated to hire a licensed plumber to complete the work. A typical permit fee would be \$45 depending on the project size and value. With this option, the homeowner is acting as a general contractor and assuming the liability associated with the project work.*
- d. *Plumber-installed system, plumber-permitted: Homeowners have the option of hiring a licensed plumber to complete the connection from the City system to the homeowner's private irrigation system. The homeowner can request that the licensed plumber apply for a City Building Permit to complete the installation. A typical permit fee would be \$45 depending on the project size and value. Under this option, the licensed plumber is assuming the liability associated with the project work.*

9. What will be the route of the reclaimed water line and will tree roots be considered in routing?

The route will also be influenced by survey, soils conditions, trees/roots, underground conflicts, and other factors. The presence of tree roots could influence the choice of construction method, including possible use of directional boring.

10. Will the project require removal of existing turf, pavement, sidewalk, or driveways? If so, how will this be addressed?

The City will attempt to choose routes that would require the least disruptive construction activities. However, removal of some of these items will most likely be unavoidable. In those cases, the City will require the contractor to restore such items to meet or exceed pre-existing conditions. Turf will be replaced with sod that matches pre-existing turf type(s).

What's Next?

As we work through the design process over the next several months, we will be posting the scheduled joint neighborhood meeting for Westwinds and Grassy Pointe communities to review the project. We will reach out to HOA contacts to help spread the word. Please check the City's website (www.ctsfl.us/projects.htm) to see the latest information and the meeting date/time/location and to fill out an interest survey.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact project manager Bob Robertson at 727-942-5610 or via email at rrobertson@ctsfl.us (preferred).