



**City of Tarpon Springs
Project Administration Department**

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Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
(727) 942-5638

May 2019

Westwinds and Grassy Pointe Residential Reclaimed Water Project Update - Project is Complete!

Dear Westwinds and Grassy Pointe Residents:

This letter is to notify all interested residents that the reclaimed water construction project is now complete. Thank you for your patience, cooperation, and communication throughout the project.

To briefly summarize some highlights, this project now helps to extend the City's reclaimed water transmission and distribution network. By installing new reclaimed water service, up to 310 residential customers in the Westwinds and Grassy Pointe communities will now benefit from having a sustainable alternative water irrigation source. Funding has been provided by the City along with a Cooperative Funding Initiative grant from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

Additional general information on reclaimed water, including a copy of the City's required Utility Availability Statement (UAS) and associated customer agreement are included in this informational packet. General information about using reclaimed water can be found on the City's website here: <https://www.ctsfl.us/reclaimed.htm>

The remainder of this courtesy letter will provide further instructions on how to establish a new reclaimed water account with the City's Utility Billing Department as well as provide a compilation of previous project updates and frequently asked questions for easy reference.

Project Questions and Answers

1. *Since the project is now complete, what are the next steps I need to complete to have a new reclaimed water installed at my house and begin irrigating with City reclaimed water?*
 - a) If you have not already done so, please complete a Utility Availability Statement (UAS) included in this informational packet. Upon completion, please return to the City's Utility Billing Department - 412 North Ring Avenue Tarpon Springs FL 34689; (727) 942-5609 (or scan and email it to utilitybilling@ctsfl.us) for processing. For convenience and ease, you are also able to complete the same form online found on our City website here: http://www.ctsfl.us/utility_availability_statement.htm (or Google Search "tarpon utility availability statement").
 - b) Upon receipt, you will be notified typically within 5 business days by City personnel of the UAS processing approval. You can then bring in your driver's license and sign up for the new reclaimed water account in person at the Utility Billing Department (412 North Ring Ave; next to City Hall). This must be done in person.
 - c) You will be required to sign the City's reclaimed water customer agreement and pay for the corresponding new meter (\$350 for typical ¾-inch residential size) and meter deposit (\$40) at the City Clerk's office located next door to Utility Billing Dept.
 - d) Internally, a work order will then be generated to install and/or connect the new reclaimed meter.
 - e) An inspection by the City Water Distribution staff is required before activation as describe in #3 below.
2. *What are the costs associated with connecting to the City's reclaimed water system?*

Currently, a onetime fee of \$350 will be charged to install a reclaimed water meter to connect into the City's reclaimed water system. A \$40 security deposit for the service meter is also required. These fees cover the cost of the new meter and inspection of the system for proper connections of a typical sized single-family residential meter. Please note that larger meters (typically used for the irrigation of community common areas) are charged at an accordingly higher rate.

The subsequent connection of an existing or new irrigation system (including any costs associated with such) to this new City meter is the responsibility of the homeowner.

3. *What are the homeowners' options to complete the connection from the City reclaimed water meter to the home's irrigation piping? Will these private connections to irrigation systems be inspected by the City? Is a City Building permit required for the irrigation connection?*

A homeowner has several options available to complete the connection from the City reclaimed water meter box to their private irrigation system. If you as the homeowner are so inclined, you can choose to complete the tie-in to the reclaimed meter yourself, or you can contract with an irrigation specialist or plumber. Another option would be to hire a neighborhood handyman to complete the connection.

It should be noted that all available options listed above require a follow up City inspection by the Water Distribution Department. The homeowner (or your hired contractor) must be present to ensure the irrigation system has been installed properly and does not pose a cross-connection risk with the City's potable water (drinking water) system.

The City cannot provide recommendations for specific plumbing or irrigation companies that the homeowner may consider hiring to connect their irrigation system to the City's reclaimed meter

A City Building Permit is required only for brand new installation of an in ground irrigation system that was not present at the property prior to completion of the project. Currently existing irrigation systems (i.e. had used City potable water or had been hooked up to an on-site private irrigation well or a City owned irrigation meter/account), do not require a City Building Permit to complete the connection to the new reclaimed meter. Please contact the City's Building Dept. at **727-942-5617** for further details.

4. *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 (which is voluntary capped at twice per week). **If you choose not to connect to the reclaimed water system, there is no cost to you and no further action is required.**

5. *What are the cost savings from irrigating with reclaimed water?*

The current billing rate for reclaimed water is \$0.99 per thousand gallons of usage. 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 (over and above) a typical water bill for average use within a home.

Water Source	Average Monthly Cost of Irrigating with 10,000 gallons*
Reclaimed Water	\$ 10
Potable Water (Irrigation Meter)	\$ 94
Potable Water (Water Meter)	\$178

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

6. *Will those with existing City 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 contact the City's Utility Billing Department to request removal of the irrigation meter. Reimbursement of the \$60 deposit that was paid by the homeowner to the City when the meter was installed will then be credited to the customer's account. Please note that a customer cannot have both an irrigation meter **and** a reclaimed water meter installed at the same time.

Thank you again for all of your patience and cooperation throughout this important City project. If you would like to view additional information please visit <http://www.ctsfl.us/projects.htm> and scroll down to the Westwinds/Grassy Pointe reclaimed water project section. **If you have any project related questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Nick Makris, the City's Project Site Supervisor at (727) 942-5638 or at nmakris@ctsfl.us.**