



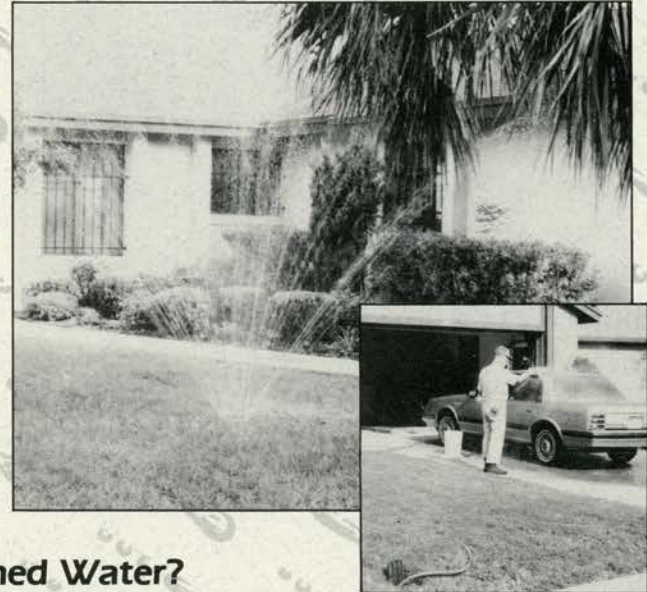
Project APRICOT: A Reclaimed Water System

Water Conservation: Priority # 1

Increasing population, water wasting habits and drought-like conditions have taken their toll on Florida's fresh water supply. Water levels in the Floridan Aquifer have dropped so low that permanent water restrictions have been mandated by the St. Johns River Water Management District. Water is a finite resource. It is precious and it must be conserved.

The City of Altamonte Springs' solution to the water conservation problem involves using an alternate source of water for non-essential purposes such as irrigation and car washing. Project APRICOT, the City's reclaimed water program, conserves potable water, decreases effluent discharge into the Little Wekiva River, and replenishes water being withdrawn from the Floridan Aquifer.

APRICOT is an acronym for A Prototype Realistic Innovative Community of Today — an appropriate name for a project of its magnitude. At completion, the Project APRICOT will be the most comprehensive reclaimed water system of its kind in the Nation.



What Is Reclaimed Water?

Reclaimed water is wastewater that has been treated and transformed into a product that is clear and odorless. With the exception of nitrates and phosphates, reclaimed water meets standards normally applied to drinking water.

How Can Reclaimed Water Be Used?

Since 1989, the City has delivered reclaimed water to homes, businesses, apartments, condominiums and parks primarily for irrigation purposes. Reclaimed water is also used to wash cars, supply heat pump systems, fight fires, and regulate water levels in retention ponds. In instances where reclaimed water is used to irrigate vegetable gardens, the food should be peeled, cooked or thermally processed before being consumed.

Access to the reclaimed water system can be obtained through an underground irrigation system or through an in-ground service box that features a special attachment for a garden hose. Reclaimed water pressure averages between 60-80 psi. **Above ground hose bibs are prohibited by State law.**

Reclaimed water can NOT be used for drinking purposes or for filling swimming pools or hot tubs.

How Much Does Reclaimed Water Cost?

Single Family Homes:

Single family residents who elect to use reclaimed water are charged a flat rate of \$8.00 per month for unlimited use of the product. This fee consists of a \$5.00 use charge and a \$3.00 availability fee. In neighborhoods where reclaimed service is available, customers who DO NOT hook into the system are charged only the \$3.00 monthly availability fee.

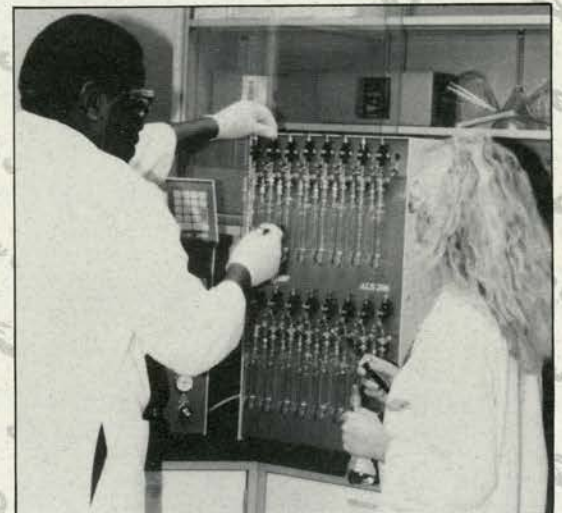
Commercial/Industrial/Multi-family:

Commercial, industrial and multi-family customers are charged .50 per thousand gallons for consumption, plus an availability fee of \$3.00 per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). Connection is mandatory.

Is It Safe?

Reclaimed water goes through a high level filtration and disinfection process. The water reclamation facility houses a certified laboratory where state-of-the-art equipment is used by skilled technicians who conduct tests to ensure stringent State and Federal quality standards are met. Testing of the water is completed seven days a week and monitoring occurs 24 hours a day.

Physical contact with the water is not known to have any negative effects. Being splashed or sprayed by the water should not cause reason for alarm, however, it is advisable to irrigate during evening hours when direct contact is least likely.



Am I Obligated To Use Reclaimed Water?

Single Family Homes:

Connection to the system is suggested but NOT required for customers living in single family homes in subdivisions built before January 1, 1989. Customers living in developments constructed after January 1, 1989 ARE required to connect to the system.

Commercial/Industrial/Multi-family:

Commercial, industrial and multi-family properties must connect to the reclaimed water system within 90 days of availability.

What If I Own A Well?

If well owners desire to use reclaimed water for irrigation purposes, the well must be permanently disconnected from the irrigation system.

How Do I Obtain Reclaimed Water Service?

Single Family Homes:

Applications for reclaimed water service must be completed by all reclaimed water customers. Once the local transmission system is installed in a neighborhood, notices of availability are mailed. Customers must schedule appointments with personnel from the Reclaimed Water Division who will connect or inspect the service connection and install the quick disconnect device on the customer's garden hose.

New customers moving into an area where the reclaimed system has already been installed must sign the lower portion of the Utility Work Order to indicate a desire for reclaimed water service. Appointments must be scheduled with the Reclaimed Water Division in order to unlock the service and receive the quick disconnect device.

Commercial/Industrial/Multi-family:

Notification of availability and service applications will be mailed to property managers or owners. Connection to the system is required within 90 days.

Benefits Of Using Reclaimed Water

Using reclaimed water conserves potable water and enhances the appearance of grass and plants. Reclaimed water use also results in less effluent discharge to the Little Wekiva River.

Conserving water and preserving the local environment shows a government with foresight in planning for a better tomorrow. That is what The City of Altamonte Springs and Project APRICOT are all about.

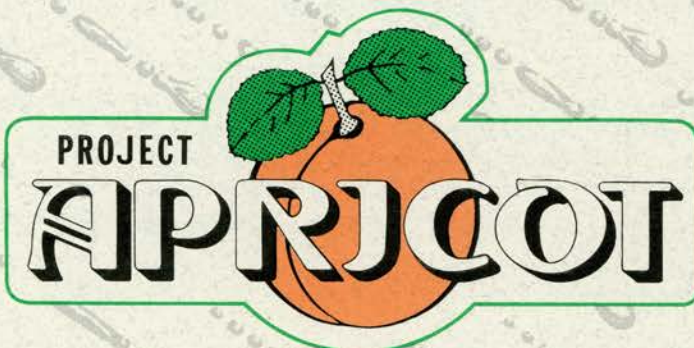
For more information on Project APRICOT, call the Reclaimed Water Division at 660-4422 or 660-4427.



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THE CITY OF ALTAMONTE SPRINGS



A Reclaimed Water System

