

# Using Reclaimed Water

## Purpose of Document:

This document is a summary of the important facts concerning the use of Reclaimed Water for irrigation within the City of Palmetto. The information contained in this document is based on City Ordinances and official policies regarding the availability and use of reclaimed water. More specific and technical information can be obtained by direct reference to the Reclaimed Water Ordinance # 609 and the City of Palmetto Area Reclaimed Water Master Plan and Chapter 62-610 F.A.C., Reuse of Reclaimed Water and Land Application.

## What is Reclaimed Water?

Reclaim water is water that has been reclaimed from wastewater that has received advanced treatment and high-level disinfection. Reclaimed water can be used safely for irrigation and decorative purposes in areas open to public access and for residential and commercial irrigation.

## Advantages of Reclaimed Water:

The use of reclaimed water for irrigation is a proven technology that is safe and beneficial. It has several advantages over irrigation with well and potable water. The use of reclaimed water conserves valuable potable water. This means less pumping of our precious underground aquifer and from the Lake Manatee Reservoir, which supplies potable water. Reclaimed water is cheaper to use than potable water, and contains small amounts of nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which both lawns and plants need. There are also fewer restrictions during periods of drought.

## Palmetto Area Reclaimed Water System:

The City has adopted the Palmetto Area Reuse Water System (PARS) Master Plan. The plan was prepared for the development and operation of a reclaimed water distribution system throughout the city. The reclaimed water is produced at the Palmetto Wastewater Treatment Facility located at 1300 28th Avenue West in Palmetto.

## Connection Requirements:

Once service is made available to an area, the use of potable water for irrigation will not be permitted. All utility customers in the area will be required to connect to the reclaimed water for irrigation of lawns and landscaping. No wells will be permitted in areas where reclaimed water is available. Residents will be responsible for connection to the City provided service valve. Once the water line is connected, the City will come out to do an inspection.

## Connection Procedure:

Services are installed where reclaimed water is available. There will be a purple box, with a connection valve, adjacent to the property line. Individual users may choose one of two ways to connect. The first way is to connect to a sprinkler system. The second way, is to connect to a hose connect which has an on and off valve in a box underground. The valve box, installed by the City, may only be used by the City. The customers control valve will be required to be installed in a separate control box. The specifics of Chapter 62-610 F.A.C. must be followed.

Above ground hose bibs (valves that can be turned on and off above-ground) shall not be utilized. Hose bibs shall be located in, service boxes, or compartments. The lid shall be clearly labeled in English and Spanish "Do Not Drink", together with the standard international symbol. Hose bibs, which can be opened only by a special tool, may be located above ground.

## Restriction on the Use of Reclaimed Water:

Reclaimed water is safe for irrigation and other ornamental uses, but is not considered safe for drinking. Certain safeguards are required in order to reduce the possibility of accidental drinking of reclaimed water. No cross-connection or inter-connection is permitted between reclaimed water lines and potable water lines. *Above-ground spigots and faucets may not be connected to the reclaimed water system.* Reclaimed water cannot be piped into, or used inside, a structure. The City may inspect any property to insure no cross-connection exists. In the event a cross-connection is found to exist, the user will be disconnected from the reclaimed water system until the connection is corrected.

Reclaimed water may be off from time to time because of shortages in supplies. We try hard to minimize this inconvenience.

## Cost:

The current cost for unlimited reclaimed water is \$13.62 per month, if available to their property. Rates are subject to change. Please contact Department of Public Works at the phone number below for current rates.

## Conclusion:

The City of Palmetto would like to encourage you to use reclaimed water. Please contact the Department of Public Works at 941-723-4580 for additional information.