

Conservation Around the House

Spring is finally here after a long and cold winter, time to do your spring cleaning and make your to-do lists. Consider including some conservation projects to upgrade your house and save water and money.

Save water indoors by upgrading toilets to ultra-low-flow models that perform much better than the old 1.6 gallons per flush (gpf) toilets. Installing a .8 gpf toilet cuts flush water in half. Keep in mind to only flush the 3 Ps (pee, poop and toilet paper). Products labeled “flushable” are not and don’t break down like toilet paper. Other non-flushable items can wreak havoc on your plumbing and our community wastewater system. It is always a good idea to find and fix leaks, add this to your regular routine along with viewing your water bill.

Watering lawns is the largest water user around the house. Good cultural practices improves the look of your lawn and uses fewer pesticides and less water. Spring is the ideal time to core aerate your lawn, time it a day after and good rain. Adding compost to the lawn after aeration will help replenish organic matter to your soil. When mowing, don’t scalp your lawn, adjust your mower to the highest setting and leave it there and don’t catch your clippings, let them return organic matter and nitrogen to the yard. Utilize slow-release organic fertilizers that feed the roots and soil rather than commercial fertilizers, which stimulate top growth and require more water. Mow high and apply water low and slow.

Practice cycle and soak when watering lawns. Instead of one long period for each zone, divide the run time into two or three cycles. For example, instead of a 15 minute run time, run the zone 5 minutes, then do this for each zone. Then cycle back to the first zone with the second 5-minute cycle, and so on. This only works if the time between cycles is 45-60 minutes. Do not run it once in the morning and once in the evening. You will find this especially effective for spray heads, slopes, clay and sandy soil.

If the only time you walk on your lawn is to mow it, consider removing some of it and replacing it with xeric plantings, an edible herb garden or a livable outdoor space for the family. Do something nice for bees and butterflies and plant a pollinator pocket in your yard. A small 10x10’ area can improve the life of pollinators and be sure to include a water source for them.

Earth Day has been celebrated for 50 years each April. Make small incremental changes every month to honor this wonderful planet. In addition to water conservation, consider saying no to one-time use plastics and using reusable grocery bags, straws and storage containers. Start composting and turn kitchen and yard waste into a valuable soil amendment.

For more information about conservation programs for you, visit greeleygov.com/conserve.

Landscape Lecture Series 2020



Learn expert landscape tips and tricks from home!

Greeley’s Landscape Lecture series will move to an online-only format via a Zoom webinar through June. City of Greeley officials have monitored the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation, and the health and safety of the community are paramount. Presenting the lectures through an online-only format will help limit contact and exposure.

Landscape Lecture: Horticulture for Western Gardeners • WHEN: May 13, 2020 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Landscape Lecture: Habitat Hero – Gardening for the Birds • WHEN: May 20, 2020 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Landscape Lecture: Succession Planting to Support Pollinators • WHEN: June 17, 2020 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Landscape Lecture: Put Your Garden to Bed • WHEN: September 23, 2020 @ 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Landscape Lecture: Worm Composting • WHEN: October 21, 2020 @ 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

