



# LCU Water Wise

## GATEWAY WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY EXPANSION

### Lee County Utilities

7391 College Parkway  
Fort Myers, FL 33907

#### Office Hours:

Monday—Friday  
excluding holidays

(Also closed April 2nd & Sept 9th, 2010)

8:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

Phone: 239-936-0247

Toll Free: 1-800-485-0214

Fax: 239-936-0549

The best times to call

Customer Service:

Tuesday through Friday  
early morning or late afternoon

Website: [leegov.com/utilities](http://leegov.com/utilities)

### **DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR EMERGENCY WATER SHUTOFF VALVE IS....?**

In the event that you encounter a catastrophe such as a broken water pipe in your home, accessing your master shutoff valve is VERY important! Please take a moment to locate AND show it to everyone in your family so that you are prepared during an emergency. The valve is typically located near your outdoor hose spigot.

The Gateway Wastewater Treatment facility currently provides wastewater treatment and effluent disposal for the Gateway Community. This community is located south of SR 82 east of I-75. The existing facility was constructed in 1988 by Gateway Utilities to serve the Gateway Community and has a capacity of 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD).

In the 1990's, Lee County approved the 201 Facilities Plan Update, a document that identified the needs for the future Wastewater Service Area for the vicinity of the Airport. This service area was identified as the Airport Sewer District.

In 2003, Lee County purchased the facility to provide sewer treatment for the Airport Sewer District. Its service area includes the Southwest Florida International Air-

port, the lands designated as Airport Commerce, the lands west of I-75 and north of Alico Road, the Gateway Community and the area in the vicinity of Daniels Parkway east of Six Mile Cypress Slough abutting the Three Oak WWTP boundary to the south and the City of Fort Myers Sewer Service Area to the north.

Lee County Utilities plans to expand the Gateway Wastewater Treatment Facility in three different phases for a total capacity of 3.0 MGD for the first phase with subsequent phases of 5.0 MGD for the second phase and 6.0 MGD

for the third and last phase.

The first phase is currently under construction and is expected to be in operation in the summer of 2010. TKW Consulting Engineers designed this phase, Mitchell and Stark Construction Company is working on the construction and AECOM USA is providing the construction administration.



## Your Spring Chore List Can Save You \$\$\$\$ on Your Next Water Bill

**Irrigation System Checkup** - For many homeowners, a significant portion of their water usage can be attributed to their irrigation use. That is why it is important to check your irrigation system to ensure that it is working efficiently. The following is a list of chores you can work on this spring that will help maintain the efficiency of your system:

- Make sure that the timer settings are programmed to turn on during your approved watering days. Go to [www.leegov.com/utilities](http://www.leegov.com/utilities) to obtain water restriction information.
- Make sure all sprinkler components are working properly.
- Check the rain sensor to make sure it is working properly. Your sensor is typically located on the roofline or on top of a fence post. If you don't have a rain sensor, consider installing one so that your sprinkler will not turn on during rainy days.
- Check to see if the sprinkler heads are positioned properly and are not hitting sidewalks, driveways or streets.
- Consider delaying regular lawn watering during the first cool weeks of spring. This will encourage deeper rooting of your lawn.
- Program your irrigation system to deliver 1/2 inch of water per application for each irrigation zone. (Current listed rates would amount to 2" per week.) Turf grass only requires 1" supplemental irrigation per week. We are on a 2 day watering restrictions which equates to 1/2" per application.

**Spring Landscaping** - Before the hot weather is upon us, now is a good time to replenish mulch to maintain a two to three inch depth. This will help reduce water evaporation from your flower beds. If you plan to install new landscaping this spring, consider planting native, drought-tolerant plants. When choosing a fertilizer, pick a slow-release brand that will reduce growth spurts and your lawns demand for water. Before you apply fertilizer, be sure to carefully read the instructions on the package to reduce the risk of chemicals leaching into our area waterways.

For more water saving ideas and tips, visit South Florida Water Management Districts website at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov).

**IMPORTANT:** Please monitor the water usage reported on your bill. If the bill shows zero usage which does not seem correct to you, contact Customer Service at 239-936-0247



Visit

[www.floridayards.org](http://www.floridayards.org)

to learn about

“Florida-Friendly Landscaping”.

Included on this website is an interactive database containing Florida Native Plants that will work in your yard or landscape design.

### Interesting Facts from American Water Works Association:

If everyone in the United States flushed the toilet just one less time per day, we could save a lakeful of water about 1 mile long, a mile wide and four feet deep every day.

High Efficiency Shower Heads use only about 1 ½ gallons of water per minute (1.5 gpm). This represents more than a 50% drop in the amount of water used by most people in the shower.



## Change of Billing Address Requests

If you are one of our many LCU Customers who will return North for the summer, we would like to remind you to inform us of your new billing address. This can be done by completing the information on the back of your payment stub.

In addition, this is a good time for everyone to provide us with updated phone numbers. *It is important that we have valid phone numbers on file in case of emergencies.*

To prevent billing information from being delayed, many customers have opted to request paperless billing. You can request paperless billing by setting up a web account with LCU. By setting up your web account, you are not obligated to pay through the web. For more information on setting up your web account, go to <https://www.LCUPayments.com>.

## My water usage is high. What should I do?

- ✓ Check sprinklers and timing devices regularly to make sure they are working properly. Sometimes the timer may be set to turn on while you are not aware of it, or it may have defaulted to the factory settings in the event of a power outage.
- ✓ Try to remember if you, a family member, a house sitter or a contracted vendor may have mistakenly left the water running during the previous month?
- ✓ Does your pool have an automatic fill system? If so, check to see if the valve was stuck in the “on” position.
- ✓ Check the toilet tank for leaks. This can be done by putting a little food coloring in the tank. Wait about 20-30 minutes. If the color of the water in the bowl changes, then there is a leak. (Be sure to flush the toilet when done, since food coloring may stain your toilet.) Things that can be wrong with your toilet:
  - Flapper valve stuck in open position.
  - Worn flapper not allowing for proper seal.
  - Misaligned chain.
  - Tank float or level adjustment allows water running into the overflow tube.
- ✓ Check other pipes and faucets for leaks. Not only can visible pipes and faucets have leaks, but those not in view can also be leaking.
- ✓ Look at walls where pipes stick out. Look for discoloration, moisture, and sponginess.
- ✓ Make sure all outside hose bibs are turned off completely. Even small leaks can make a big impact on your water bill.
- ✓ Check other appliances in the house (dishwasher, sink disposal system, solar panels, water softener etc) for possible leaks.
- ✓ Monitor your water flow at the meter. To do this, turn off all water in the house then go outside and look at your water meter. Write down the water meter register reading. Do not run water for 2 hours. Check the meter again. If the meter reading has advanced, then there is a leak or use of water. To determine the location of a leak: turn the water off at the emergency shut off valve. Wait 2 hours, check the meter reading as before. If the meter register reading has advanced, then there is a leak between the house and the water meter, in the water service line. If the meter reading has not advanced, the leak is not in the service line but in or around your home.
- ✓ If you need the water meter turned off to repair a leak, call 239 936-0247. No service charges will apply for turn off requests for leak repairs.

