

Update on major PSD water supply projects

Hilton Head PSD has been busy working on a pair of important projects recently. A new drinking water Booster Pumping Station has been completed, and a deep well is being constructed to bring water to the PSD's Water Treatment Facility.

- Work is progressing on the construction of a new, 600-foot-deep well on the Old Welcome Center site. The well will pump brackish water for treatment in the PSD's Reverse Osmosis (RO) Drinking Water Treatment Facility on Jenkins Island. Additional RO membrane filters and an emergency generator, along with other equipment, are being added at the RO Facility to expand its treatment capacity from 4 million gallons of fresh drinking water a day to 6 million gallons, which is the PSD's average daily demand for drinking water. When the new well is finished, the same drill rig will be taken to the Ashmore Tract to construct the PSD's second Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) Facility. The ASR Facility will be capable of storing more than 250 million gallons of treated drinking water in the underground aquifer during the winter months, and then withdrawing and re-treating the water for distribution in the spring and summer months of higher demand, yielding 2 million gallons of drinking water a day. The ASR Facility is critical for hurricane recovery and resilience. These projects are being funded in part by a \$10-million grant from the State of South Carolina using American Rescue Plan Act funds.

- The PSD has completed construction of a new drinking water Booster Pumping Station at its Leg O'Mutton water tank and well off Gardner Drive. The Booster Station replaces water distribution system pumps that had been in service for more than 40 years. The project also included installation of an emergency generator for the site, which is critical for hurricane recovery and resilience. The project was funded in part by a \$1-million grant from the Beaufort County Government using American Rescue Plan Act Funds. County Council Member Larry McElynn of Hilton Head District 10 was instrumental in securing the grant funding for the PSD.



The drill rig for the deep well at the Old Welcome Center location



Hilton Head PSD's new Booster Pumping Station: exterior (left) and interior (right)

Generator for the new Booster Pumping Station

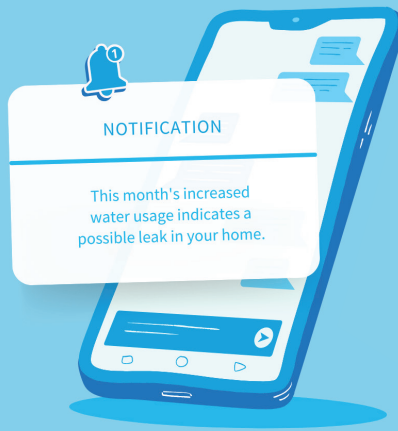
Freezing temps and your water service

Whenever near- or below-freezing temperatures descend on the Lowcountry, PSD customers are encouraged to do the following:

- Locate the main water shut-off valve for your home so that it can be shut off quickly in the event of a water pipe leak.
- Disconnect garden hoses from the spigot. Turn off irrigation systems.
- Keep a slow trickle of water flowing through faucets. This will help prevent the water in pipes from freezing.
- Keep kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors open to allow warm air to circulate around pipes.

If pipes do freeze:

- Shut off the water immediately. Do not attempt to thaw pipes without first turning off the main shut-off valve.
- Thaw pipes with warm air — not direct heat. Never use any type of open flame to attempt to thaw pipes.
- Be careful turning water back on. Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for cracks or leaks.



To register for Hilton Head PSD's water usage portal, go to: hhpsd.smartcmobile.com/portal or scan the QR code with your phone's camera



Monitor your home's water use in our portal

The PSD's water usage portal makes it easy to view and track your household's water usage. It's a great way to make sure you're sticking to your water-saving goals — and the portal even has a "leak alert" feature that can help you figure out if you have a potential leak in your home.

Any leaks that are promptly fixed can qualify you for a leak adjustment to your water bill.

Follow smart irrigation practices during Winter

The PSD encourages all customers to be mindful of water efficiency year-round — especially during the cooler winter months. Supplying tap water to our barrier island takes considerable effort and cost, and nearly 40–60% of that water is used for residential landscape irrigation. With Hilton Head Island receiving over 50 inches of rain annually, winter is the perfect time to reassess how (and if) your irrigation system needs to run.

Here's what you should know this season:




- Warm-season grasses (like St. Augustine, zoysia, centipede, bermuda,

and bahia) typically go dormant in winter and do not need irrigation. If there's no rainfall for about 3 weeks, a light watering (1 inch) can help retain soil warmth and prevent stress.

- Cool-season grasses (like fescue or ryegrass) may stay green and need occasional irrigation, but only during extended dry periods — and far less than in spring or summer.
- Avoid overwatering! Most winters provide enough rainfall to meet plant needs. Excess irrigation can waste water

and even harm your lawn if a freeze follows.

- Ensure turf is not on the same irrigation sections or zones with ornamentals and showy annual beds, where winter irrigation may be required to maintain blooming.
- Winterizing an irrigation system is generally not required in South Carolina (except for above-ground pump drainage). However, there are no detrimental impacts if you do choose to have it winterized.
- Above-ground pumps should always be drained completely unless they are housed in a heated location.

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21 OAK PARK DRIVE
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC 29926
(843) 681-5525
hhpsd.com



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