

# the Connection

We deliver competitive, safe, and reliable utility services, supporting the communities we serve.

JULY 2025

## Wastewater Treatment Facility Stack Filter Update

The Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is working on an upgrade to the Stack Filters and Final Clarifiers. The stack filters provide most of the wastewater treatment. They are filled with 11 layers of synthetic media, 20 feet deep, that provide a large surface area for the growth of aerobic bacteria as part of the secondary treatment process. The first picture below shows the West stack filter at the beginning of demo with the old media still intact. The second picture shows new media being installed. This project is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2026.



## Community Solar Garden Production

The sun is shining and our solar garden is producing! The Community Solar Garden went live in the middle of December and has expectedly seen a significant increase in production as we enter into summer. **Why does production increase in the summer?**



Daylight hours are longer.

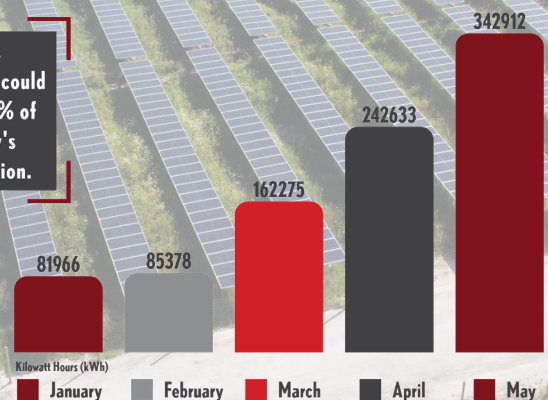


The sun is higher in the sky causing more direct sunlight to the panels.

One of the benefits of a solar garden are that the panels have been installed with optimal placement. Additionally, the panels are programmed to shift direction as the sun shifts, which helps alleviate snow accumulation in the winter and capitalize on the sunshine during the daylight.

The Community Solar Program is fully subscribed, but we are maintaining a waiting list as people move and subscriptions become available. To learn more about the Program, or to join the waiting list, visit our website at [www.mpu.org/conservation-renewable/community-solar-program](http://www.mpu.org/conservation-renewable/community-solar-program).

May's production could power ~1% of the City's consumption.





# Sprinkling Forgiveness

The Sprinkling Forgiveness Program is in effect from now until October. During these months, you will pay for the water that you use, including water used for sprinkling, but your sewer usage charge on your bill is capped at your winter usage. This is in place to accurately charge customers for their sewer usage even when water usage is inflated due to summer irrigation. If you have any questions about your bill, please contact our customer service team at 920-683-4600.

## How can you get the most out of your irrigation?

- ❶ Avoid watering in the middle of the day when the hot sun will evaporate much of the water before it can get to your lawn/plants.
- ❷ Inspect your irrigation system to ensure there are no clogged, broken, or missing sprinkler heads. Redirect any heads that may be pointed at a driveway or sidewalk.
- ❸ Regularly evaluate how long each zone is watering. If water begins to pool, turn off your sprinkler to prevent overwatering and runoff.

Tips from the Environmental Protection Agency ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)).



## Diggers Hotline

Summer is the perfect time to complete home landscaping. Landscaping often involves digging, grading, or installing posts. These changes can make your home look beautiful, but if the correct safety protocols are not followed, they can be very dangerous. The first step in planning your landscape changes is calling Diggers Hotline to have all utilities located. Digging into utility lines, can be incredibly dangerous and destructive resulting in injuries and/or added costs. Once you call Diggers Hotline, utility companies that serve your home will be notified to locate all

materials in the area where you will be digging. You can reach Diggers Hotline by dialing 8-1-1 or file a request online at [www.diggershotline.com](http://www.diggershotline.com). This is a free service that helps keep you safe. A FAQ is listed on their website for any questions you may have.



## Summer Energy Conservation Tips

As the weather warms up, your electric usage may increase causing a higher utility bill, but there are steps you can take to help maintain lower usage.

- ☀️ Install window coverings to prevent heat gain through your windows during the day.
- ☀️ Set your thermostat at a temperature you find comfortable and that provides humidity control, if needed. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be. Get your a/c unit tuned-up for maximum operations.
- ☀️ Turn off ceiling fans when you leave the room. Fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect.

Tips from [energy.gov](http://energy.gov).

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### Online

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### Report an Outage

Electric: 920-683-4622  
Water: 920-683-4633  
Diggers Hotline Quick Dial: 8-1-1  
Toll Free: 1-800-242-8511



### Physical & Mailing Address

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