



# Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / October 2008  
Volume 2008 Number 10



*Volunteers spread out on the banks of the San Diego Creek in Irvine to pick up trash during Inner Coastal Watershed Clean Up Day September 20. Irvine Ranch Water District sponsors this site each year.*



## San Diego Creek Swept Clean of Garbage

Anyone standing on the road above San Diego Creek adjacent the IRWD Michelson Water Reclamation Plant would probably not immediately notice any trash. But climb down the sides of the creek to its banks and dig around in the shrubbery and a bounty of trash waits.

Approximately 150 volunteers did just that in September during the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Inner-Coastal Watershed Clean Up Day, held in conjunction with the statewide Coastal Clean Up Day. This was the ninth consecutive year IRWD has hosted the clean-up site. The volunteers fanned out within a two-mile stretch of the creek, from the 405 Freeway bridge to Campus Drive and pulled out 600 pounds of trash.

There was the usual rubbish – foam cups, soda cans, plastic straws and hundreds of cigarette butts. Many of the volunteers were students from Northwood High School. One intrepid group rolled a tire mounted in a rim from one side of the creek to the other. That same group went back out and found a mattress that apparently had long fallen

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*Kris Kong, a fifth grader from Plaza Vista Elementary School in Irvine, was presented with his winning art work at a recent IRWD board meeting by General Manager Paul Jones and Cheryl Woolard of Public Affairs. Kris was a winner the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's "Water is Life" poster contest. His poster was published in the 2008 calendar.*

Take advantage of IRWD's substantial Residential Rebates: Receive **\$335** when you install a qualifying High Efficiency Clothes Washer and receive **up to \$265** per toilet when you install eligible High Efficiency Toilets. Limit three toilet rebates per residence. For full details visit [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) and click on "Rebates" or call **949-453-5581**.

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## San Diego Creek Swept Clean of Garbage

off a truck on the freeway and came to rest in the creek. Usually there is at least one shopping cart, but none were found this year.

The purpose of Inner-Coastal Watershed Clean Up Day is to collect the trash **before** it gets to the beach. Some other unusual items plucked from the creek included a rubber boot, paint brush, sheets of plywood, an arm from a chair, surveyor's stakes and a kitchen knife.



*Irvine residents who enjoy running the creek trail filled up the truck of their car with trash they picked up in the creek beyond Campus Drive.*

### Suggested Weekly Fall Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turfgrass	Tree, Shrubs & Groundcover	% Option**
October	3 days, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	50%
November	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	40%
December	2 days, 2 cycles of 2 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	30%

\* By "cycling" the irrigation controller to turn on for the recommended number of minutes an hour apart, deeper watering and healthier root growth are gained, while runoff is reduced.

\*\*The % option, either a button or a dial, permits the watering run times for all electric valves managed by a controller to be increased or decreased with just one adjustment by percentage.



## California Friendly Ground Covers

In coastal Southern California we inhabit a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot, dry summers, mild winters, and a susceptibility to wildfires. The natural flora of our region is the chaparral or California shrubland, but, in most local urbanized areas, authentic California-native landscaping is hard to find. That's because we've filled our neighborhoods with palm trees, manicured lawns and tropical flowering plants to create the look and feel of an island paradise or an English garden. In doing so, we've sacrificed the inherent sustainability, and beauty, of our native landscapes.

Native and California Friendly garden plants are perfectly suited to our Mediterranean climate. These plants thrive here for a number of reasons: they use little or no water, don't require elaborate soil conditioning or fertilizers, are naturally pest-resistant and even attract native wildlife like birds and butterflies.

There are thousands of attractive and easy-to-care-for California Friendly plants to choose from; here are three ground covers to start with. These plants are environmentally-savvy alternatives to the use of invasive non-native ground covers such as iceplant, English ivy or periwinkle:



### **beach strawberry** (*Fragaria Chiloensis* or *Fragaria californiica*)

This native to California's coastal bluffs and sand dunes forms a lush compact mat 4" to 6" high. Also called "wild strawberry," it spreads by sending out reddish stems that root and form new plants. Grows best in partial shade and well-drained soil. Mulch around each plant with three inches of organic compost. Water well until soil is completely moist, weekly during the first year only. Beach strawberry won't need extra water once it's established.

### **common yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium*)

A native perennial ground cover that grows from 1' to 4' high, common yarrow can be used as a lawn substitute and will tolerate foot traffic well. It produces clusters of small white flowers (*see inset at right*) and should be pruned or mowed annually. The common yarrow can be planted to combat soil erosion due to its resistance to drought. It is considered a useful companion plant, not only repelling some bad insects but attracting good, predatory ones, while also improving soil quality. Its leaves are a beneficial additive for compost.



### **ivy geranium** (*Pelargonium peltatum*)

This climbing, semi-succulent from South Africa produces glossy, bright green leaves with flowers in white, pink, rose, red and lavender that bloom repeatedly. A vigorous ground cover, ivy geranium is recommended for flat areas only and is not suitable for erosion control; it also grows well in hanging pots. Plant in sun to partial shade and do not over water.

For more California Friendly plant suggestions visit "The Garden Spot" at [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com).

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## IRWD HOLIDAYS

- **Thursday and Friday, November 27 & 28** - Thanksgiving Holiday

## SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- Service hours are available for all volunteer tree planting activities. For more information call (949) 453-5670. Online registration available at [www.shadetreepartnership.org](http://www.shadetreepartnership.org).

## SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS

- **Saturday, October 25 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.** - **Pancake breakfast** at San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. Adults - \$10, children ages 4-10 - \$6 and children three and under are free. Activities include guided bird walk, spotting scope for close-up views of the birds, and used natural book sale. Reservation required. Visit their web site at [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org) or call Audubon House (949) 261-7963.
- **Native Gardening Workshop - November 2, 9 & 15.** Learn how to select, plant and care for California native plants in your garden. A \$30 donation is requested. For more information or to register, call Diane Bonanno at (714) 572-9911.
- **Friday, November 21 - General meeting** at IRWD headquarters, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

## CITY OF IRVINE EVENTS

- **Friday, November 7 from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, November 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** - **26th Annual Irvine Holiday Faire** and Irvine Fine Arts Center. More than 100 crafts people will display handcrafted gift items from ceramics to fine jewelry. Chili served in souvenir ceramic bowls available for purchase. \$2 per person/Children 12 and under free. For more information call (949) 724-6880.
- **Tuesday, November 11 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** - **Veterans Day Ceremony** at Bill Barber Park. Special Veterans Day ceremony to honor and show our gratitude to America's service men and women. Program will feature patriotic music, displays honoring military service members, and will highlight local veterans and veteran organizations. For more information call (949) 724-6606.
- **Friday, November 14 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** - **Healthy Living Expo** at Lakeview Senior Center. This annual event allows seniors (60+) to receive free flu shots as well as an introduction to a variety of services including assisted living options, mobility products, financial management, safety and personal protection, demonstrations and health related screenings. For more information call (949) 724-6908 or (949) 724-6900.
- **Saturday, December 13 at 2:00 pm** - **Joyful Jingles Family Holiday Concert.** Celebrate the season with uplifting music! This year, the City of Irvine's annual Joyful Jingles family holiday concert will be presented for the first time at Irvine Valley College Performing Arts Center. This presentation will highlight seasonal and holiday performances by local choral groups. Meet the performers after the show at a reception featuring complimentary cocoa and cookies. Admission: \$5. For more information visit their Web site [www.cityofirvine.org](http://www.cityofirvine.org) or call (949) 724-6606.

## IRVINE MUSEUM PRESENTS: ALL THE WATER THAT WILL EVER BE, IS, RIGHT NOW

### Exhibit open through January 17, 2009

- In this exhibition they are featuring the perpetual natural cycle of water in our atmosphere and how aspects of that cycle figure prominently in the majestic landscape paintings of our early California artists. As the title of their exhibition states, water, in its three physical forms, liquid (water), solid (ice) and gas (water vapor) is a fixed quantity that has remained the same for the past hundreds of millions of years. The water cycle is the only way that the Earth can be continually supplied with fresh water. Our supply is constantly revived by being cycled, through the ocean, sky and land, over and over again. Without this cycle, whatever water exists would be used up and gone forever and there would be no life on Earth. The Irvine Museum, located at 18881 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 100 in Irvine, is dedicated to the preservation and display of California art of the Impressionist Period (1890-1930). Open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free and they validate parking. A docent tour is available to the public every Thursday starting at 11:15 a.m. For recorded information and directions call (949) 476-2565. Visit their Web site at [www.irvinemuseum.org](http://www.irvinemuseum.org)

## FAMILIES FORWARD

- **Baskets filled with Thanksgiving foods** will be provided to an anticipated 500+ families this year on Saturday November 22 so they can cook and enjoy their Thanksgiving meal with their loved ones. These food items are provided by generous donations from individuals, faith communities, schools, businesses and corporations. Help make this happen. Plan a food drive! Bring all food donations to the Families Forward facility in early November to 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92618, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers needed for the Thanksgiving and Adopt A Family program. Call (949) 552-2727 or visit their Web site at [www.families-forward.org](http://www.families-forward.org).

## ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

- **Assistance League of Irvine Thrift and Gift Shop** - 17801 Main Street, Suite H (Sky Park South), Irvine, (949) 955-3437. Donations welcome during normal business hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To learn more about the Assistance League and membership call (949) 725-9188 or visit their web site at [www.irvine.assistanceleague.org](http://www.irvine.assistanceleague.org).

## MASTER GARDENERS OF ORANGE COUNTY

- The University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Orange County are a dedicated group of trained volunteers that provide assistance and share information about gardening in and around the Orange County area. For more information call their hotline at (714) 708-1646, visit their web site at [www.uccemg.com](http://www.uccemg.com) or send an e-mail to [ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com](mailto:ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com).

## IRVINE GARDEN CLUB

- Come and join the Irvine Garden Club for regular speakers on local gardening topics and to exchange growing tips and ideas. Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. (except Jan./July/Sept.). The meetings are held in the offices of the IRWD. Visit their web site at [www.irvinegardenclub.com](http://www.irvinegardenclub.com) or send an e-mail to [Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com](mailto:Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com).



The mission of Irvine Ranch Water District, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer service in an efficient, cost effective manner and environmentally sensitive way that provides a high level of customer satisfaction.

## IRWD

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### Pipelines Published by the Public Affairs Dept.

IRWD  
P.O. Box 57000  
Irvine, CA 92619-7000

### 24 Hour Service (949) 453-5300

Should you discover a disruption in your water service or other problems call the IRWD 24-hour emergency line and a representative will assist you.

Visit the IRWD  
Web site:

[www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com)

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