

# PATEROS PARKS

SUMMER 2012 NEWSLETTER

## KEEPIN' KOOL

Our hot spring has brought out the shorts, beach blankets, and lawn chairs at the new Mall fountain/splash pad. The splash pad has proved to be a popular spot for little feet to get wet. **Bring the kids and play safe!**

Douglas PUD is making swimming improvements at Peninsula Park this summer. The project is currently in the bidding phase, construction should begin early summer. Improvements to look forward to are a sidewalk down to the swimming area with a short retaining wall separating the lawn and the beach area of the swimming area.

We may see an automated irrigation at Peninsula Park before the end of summer also. We asked Douglas PUD to help us with this. This would definitely help keep things green in summers to come.

**Please practice good water safety this summer:**

1. **Buddy up** – Bring your parents or swim partner.
2. **Get Skilled** – Take swim lessons this summer
3. **Know your limits** – Stay where you can touch. Wear a life jacket. Don't try and keep up with your friend that is a super swimmer. If you're a great swimmer, keep an eye out for those that are not. If your friend is getting tired, suggest they take a break.
4. **Swim in safe areas only** – The Methow and Columbia look deceptively calm. They are both powerful rivers with strong currents. Be safe and swim in designated swim areas this summer.
5. **Practice Safe Boating** – Know your boating rules and regulations and **PLAY SAFE!**

### **THANK-YOU VOLUNTEERS!**

We had a couple of volunteers help with spring planting. The mall planters were planted with Blue and White Wave Petunias, Dark Red Zonal Geraniums, White Bacopa, Dracena Spikes, Variegated Plectranthus, and Sky Blue Lobelia. The planter soil was all removed, rocks and sand added to the bottom, and the planters were put up on pavers to ensure good drainage, essential for healthy plants. Slow release fertilizer, Osmocote, was also added to the planters. **Thanks!**

## A PATEROS SUMMER MEANS WATER, WATER, AND MORE WATER



Summers in Pateros are hot and dry. Keeping grass and plants watered during our hot summers can be a serious challenge.

Good watering practices make for healthier, happier plants and will also help cut your water bill.

### **LAWNS**

- ✓ Water deep less frequently than watering shallow is healthier for your lawn. Your lawn will be better able to withstand sudden jumps in temperature and hot drying winds.
- ✓ Raise your blade on your mower. Taller grass shades the roots, keeps the soil cooler, and dehydrates slower than short cropped grass.
- ✓ Consider a "low-water" grass variety. They are good green lawn grasses that require less water and less mowing.

### **PERENNIALS, SHRUBS, & TREES**

- ✓ Water deep and you will have to water less frequently. The plants will be healthier and less fragile in hot weather.
- ✓ Switch from lawns which require high water usage, weekly mowing, and fertilizer to perennial and shrub beds.
- ✓ Use low-volume shrub sprays and drippers. They are easy to install, and the local hardware has all the parts you need.
- ✓ Use drought tolerant plants and even natives.

### **CONTAINER GARDENING**

- ✓ Water in the morning before the plants get stressed from the sun.

- ✓ Bigger is Better! The bigger the pot the easier it is to maintain moisture.
- ✓ Don't go cheap on soil. Use a high quality soil supplemented with soil polymers for slow water release.
- ✓ In addition to a slow release fertilizer in the soil, like osmocote, use ¼ solution of water soluble fertilizer a several times a week. Our frequent watering requirements quickly leach all of the fertilizer out of the soil. *Never fertilize a dry, stressed plant.*
- ✓ Select appropriate plants. South and west exposures plant sun loving plants. North exposures plant shade loving plants. East exposures is gardeners choice. The morning sun is cool enough for shade plants and intense enough for most sun loving plants.

## HELP US RETURN YOUR PET.

Regularly we receive calls to pick-up loose dogs. Usually they are well taken care of and obviously a well-loved family member.

However, without dog tags we do not know how to return your pet. Dogs that are picked up are immediately watered and fed and put in "doggy jail". *Don't make your pet spend a night in doggy jail.* Make sure your dog wears a dog collar and current dog tags. You can purchase 2012 dog tags at City Hall.

### **UP COMING EVENTS...**

- Swim lessons -
- Apple Pie Jamboree – July 21-22
- Hydros -
- Hawk Migration Festival September -

### **HAVING A FAMILY EVENT?**

Don't forget to fill out a Facilities Use Agreement at City Hall to reserve park facilities.



