

pipelines



Osprey Chick Hatches at San Joaquin Marsh Nesting Platform

More than 200 species of birds have been sighted at the IRWD San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, including many raptors, such as the osprey.

Now for the first time, an osprey pair has hatched a chick in a nest they constructed on a 40-foot-tall nesting platform installed last summer. The platform is located on a peninsula in one of the marsh's ponds, which gives the birds the illusion of being surrounded by water, but also allows access for maintenance crews. Currently, the trail to the platform is not accessible to the public, but the birds may be best viewed from adjacent trails.

IRWD installed the platform in partnership with the Sea and Sage Audubon Society. It is modeled after the successful platform at Newport Back Bay's Shellmaker Island.

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Webtastic! ~ IRWD Launches Updated Website



The new and improved www.irwd.com launched in July. The redesigned website features new technology to make the website experience better for our customers. The content features all current information about IRWD's services and programs, including simple ways to pay water bills, our innovative recycled water program and all things conservation in the www.alwayswatersmart.com section. Website visitors can easily access the District's social media pages like YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. Additionally, customers can learn more about IRWD, where our water comes from, and how its treated. There's also plenty of tips, tools and resources for all of our customers.



24-Hour Service 949.453.5300

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

24-Hour Online or Mobile Access

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IrvineRanchWD

Plan to Attend October 2 Landscape Open House

Save the date! On October 2, IRWD, University of California Extension and Orange County Master Gardeners are hosting an open house event, **Water Smart Landscapes**, at the South Coast Research & Extension Center located at 7601 Irvine Blvd., Irvine 92618. Stop by anytime



Attend our next residential landscape open house to learn more about planning, maintaining and watering low-water-use gardens like this local beauty.

between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to see displays of California Friendly plants and lawn alternatives, mulch or composting materials, and high efficiency irrigation products.

There will be presentations on how to "makeover" your landscape to use up to 50 percent less water. You'll have an opportunity to talk to, and ask questions of, experts in gardening, irrigation, pest control and much, much more!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 2. We'll see you there!

Shadetree Partnership featured in Online Calendar

Shadetree Partnership invites you to help prune, weed and replant trees at an upcoming once-a-month nursery event. The nursery is located on the UC Irvine campus, off California Avenue on Anteater Drive, just past the university's recreation center.

Dates for Shadetree's nursery events are August 7, September 18, October 16 and November 13. The hours for the events are 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Community service hours are available for all volunteer planting activities.

Visit www.irwd.com and click on "Community Programs" to find the entire community calendar. All online calendar information is continuously updated.



Irvine Ranch Water District

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.

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"In January, we observed the nesting pair gathering material for the nest," said Jason Tran, wetlands specialist for IRWD. "The chick hatched in early May."

Interestingly enough, the chick's mother was born in 2008 at the Shellmaker Island platform. She was tracked to that site by leg bands biologists at Shellmaker's Marine Science Center had placed on her. Experts say female ospreys usually don't nest until they are at least three years old.

In June, Sea and Sage held a banding event at the marsh. Local raptor biologist Pete Bloom and raptor expert Scott Thomas removed the chick from the nest and put bands on its legs then returned it to the nest.

Recently, the chick flew from the nest for the first time. It is still dependent on the parents for food, so it frequently returns to the nest.

It is estimated that osprey nests had not been reported in Orange County for more than 70 years, until the platform at Shellmaker Island was built four years ago. Since then, there have been several successful nests there. It is hoped that the platform at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary will see many more osprey chicks hatched there in the future.



Osprey parents keep watch at empty nest, while a raptor biologist applies leg bands to their absent chick.



Raptor expert Scott Thomas carefully grips both osprey legs before the alert, newly-banded chick is returned to its nest.

Smart Ways to Reduce Urban Runoff this Summer



As August's long hot days arrive, outdoor watering increases as well as the chance for increased urban runoff. By making these simple changes to your water-use habits, you can help reduce the volume of runoff which leaves your property and eventually drains to the ocean:

- Water only in the early morning or after dusk.
- Make sure you don't over-water with timed sprinklers. (Follow irrigation schedule below.)
- Landscape with California Friendly plants, which need less water and suit our climate.
- Wash your car at a car wash or on the lawn, not in your driveway or curbside.

Cut along dashed line and post this schedule near your irrigation controller.

Suggested Weekly Summer Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turfgrass	Trees, Shrubs & Ground Cover	% Option**
July & August	4 days, 3 cycles* of 3 minutes each	2 days, 3 cycles of 4 minutes each	100%
September	4 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	70%

The above chart suggests a weekly schedule for spray-head irrigation, assuming heavy clay soils common to most local coastal and foothill areas. Generally, these are the MAXIMUM times you will need for full sun areas. Your landscape's particular watering times may vary. Start with this schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the watering time.

*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.