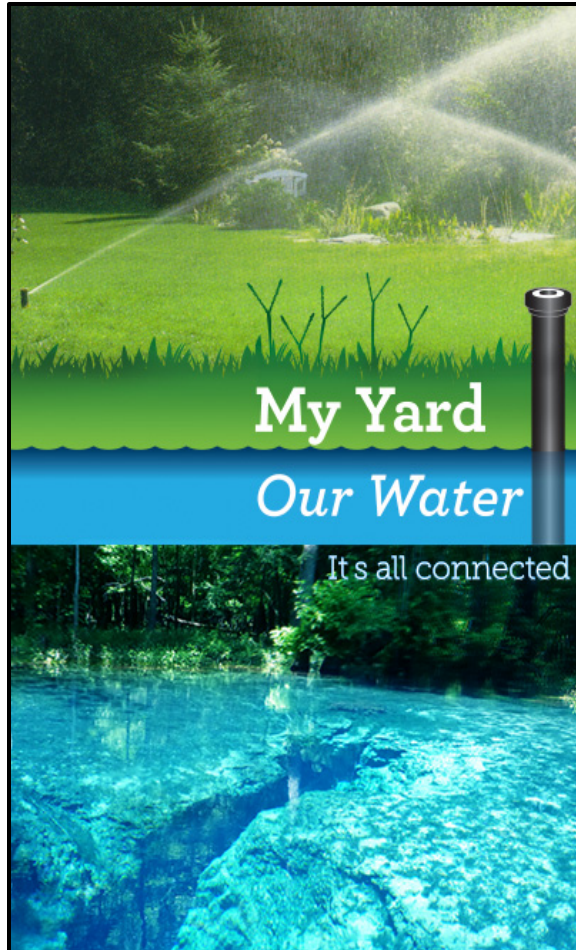




# Alachua County Landscape Irrigation Efficiency Code



#150188A

May 19, 2016

# Typical Residential Water Use

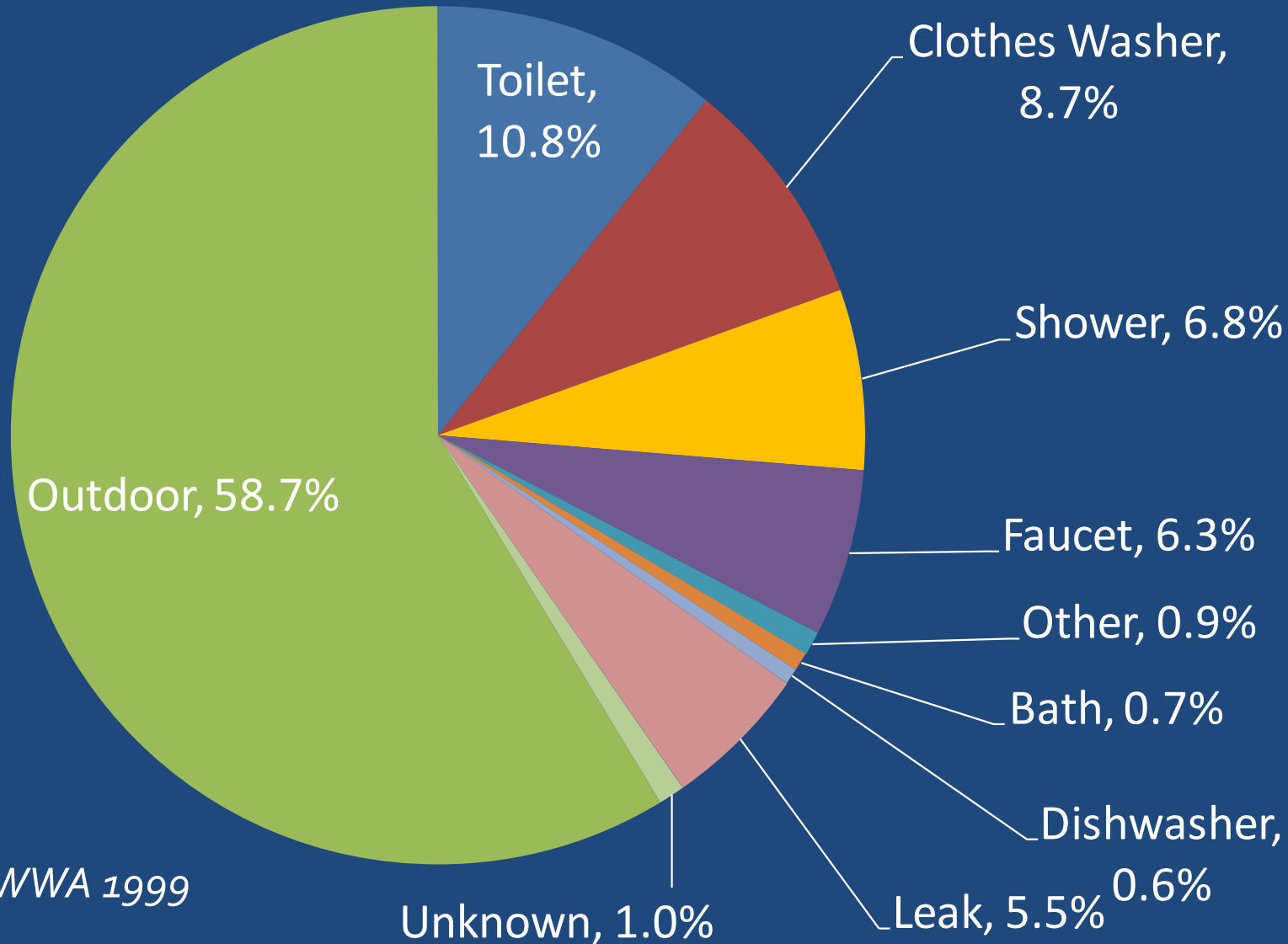


Chart Source: AWWA 1999



# Local Water Use

Average daily water use in homes built since 2000:

- 💧 358 gallons- with irrigation system
- 💧 190 gallons- without irrigation

90% of new homes (in GRU's service area) have irrigation systems



# Intent of Ordinance

- Improve water quality by reducing lawn chemical pollution from inefficient irrigation
- Reduce discretionary outdoor water use



# Design Standards

- High volume irrigation shall not exceed 60% of landscaped area (applicable on lots over 1/8 acre).
- Maximum irrigated area of residential lots shall not exceed 0.5 acres.



# Design Standards

- No high volume for trees and shrubs
- Separate zones for spray heads and rotors
- Separate zones for turf and mulched areas
- Pressure regulating spray heads
- No overspray to impervious areas



# Adopted Fees

## Irrigation Efficiency Ordinance Fees

Category	Fee Type	Amount
Residential	Approval (plan review)	\$50
	Inspection	\$85
	Re-inspection	\$50
Non-residential	Approval (plan review)	\$100
	Inspection	\$170
	Re-inspection	\$100



# Process

- All irrigation professionals installing and/or maintaining irrigation systems must register with Alachua County.
  - 31 have registered to date
- All new irrigation systems in unincorporated Alachua County require county approval
  - Submit completed Application Review Form, irrigation site sketch, and fee (on-line or in-person)
  - County will review and send approval notice





# Process

All new systems must be inspected by one of these methods:

- A. Irrigation professionals that obtain state training can self-inspect their own jobs\*  
Irrigation professionals can hire a 3rd party inspector (with state training)\*
- B. County will inspect for a fee

\*County will randomly inspect some



# Process

- If Gainesville opts in, city staff would add a note during the development review process.
  - Irrigation contractors would follow up with the County
- Irrigation tends to be the last step of construction
  - Until now irrigation professionals have not been part of the official building process
- The approval process is not a permit and cannot be tied to the building permit.
- When contractors seek building permits, they will be given information about the irrigation code.



# Code Implementation

- County is offering training opportunities for local irrigation professionals (~80 attendees).
- Violations of the code may lead to written warnings, fines, court appearances, and loss of self-inspection status.
- Retrofitting of non-compliant irrigation systems may be required to achieve compliance.



# Water Quality Code Example

- Adopted in 2002
- EPD implements the code countywide
- Warnings and/or citations are issued to violations
  - Erosion and sediment control at construction sites
  - Grass clippings





# Hazardous Materials Code Example

- Adopted in 1991
- EPD implements the code countywide
  - Review of projects within city limits for compliance with code
  - Inspection of business and complaint investigations within city limits for compliance with code





# Thank You!

Stacie Greco, Water Conservation Coordinator  
Alachua County Environmental Protection  
Department  
352-264-6829  
Sgreco@AlachuaCounty.us