Leak Detective
March 14-20, 2016

When thinking of where to check for leaks, many first think of checking toilets, sinks, and irrigation equipment. While those are places where leaks often occur, it is important to remember that some leaks aren’t quickly noticeable and require more investigation. Sometimes leaks can go unnoticed for a period of time and will not be discovered until the monthly invoice arrives. “Fix a Leak Week” is the perfect time to acknowledge that challenge and highlight an instance where a Stanford Leak Detective uncovered a leak before it could run unchecked for long.

Stanford Utilities staff is able to closely monitor the water use of specific sites on campus. When there is an alert for a water meter using more water than usual, staff can quickly contact the campus group that is responsible for investigating and correcting the issue in that area. In a recent example, an irrigation meter for the landscaping between the Arrillaga Center for Sports and Recreation (ACSR) and Ford Center became abnormally high for two days in February 2016.

Because that area is managed by Athletics, Stanford Utilities staff quickly notified the Director of Facilities Services to send out a leak detective. After a quick investigation, Athletics’ landscaping contractor rapidly found, shut off the water, and repaired the leak. Without the use of leak alert technology, this leak could have continued until the next invoice was sent.

Stanford Utilities staff will continue to keep on the lookout for metered use alerts. But you can help too! Whether you are a student, faculty, staff, or visitor to Stanford’s campus, if you see a leak, please report it to the LBRE Operations Center by calling 723-2281.