

# Water Conservation

## NEW LAWN INSTALLATION

Are you installing sod or planting seed this summer? If this project is on your to-do list, contact the Community Development Department for a sprinkling permit. This no-fee permit will allow you to sprinkle on both odd and even days (7 a.m. - 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.) for a period of 28 days. By the time the permit expires and you're back to normal watering regulations, your new sod or seed will have had the needed time to germinate and root for a healthy lawn.

Should the zone change from **Green** to **Yellow** during your 28 day permit, you may continue to sprinkle every day as allowed per the permit until it expires. Permits will not be issued if **Yellow**, **Orange** or **Red** Zones are in effect, so call us at (708) 479-3926 to verify the current sprinkling zone prior to installation of your lawn.

Residents replacing/repairing lawns will be asked to provide documentation such as a contract from a landscaper or receipt for seed or sod when applying for a sprinkling permit. Documentation will not be required for owners of new construction.

## GOING ON VACATION?

Should you leave on vacation and set your lawn sprinkling system for the **Green Zone**, have a neighbor or friend change the setting for you if the zone changes to **Yellow**, **Orange** or **Red**. If conditions warrant a **Yellow Zone** or there is a water system mechanical failure and the **Red Zone Tier 2** or **Tier 3** is instituted while you are on vacation, you risk enforcement action. Do your best to prepare for these more severe conditions in your absence.

Landscaping is important to all of us, therefore . . .

Hand or manual watering of trees, bushes, ornamental landscaping and gardens will be allowed from 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. (odd-even days) in all zones except **Tier 3 Red Zone - Total Ban**. In the event that a **Tier 3 Red Zone** is implemented, **all outdoor watering will be prohibited**.

Manual watering includes:

- 1) *The manual use of a hose and spray nozzle*
- 2) *An unattended hose at a trickle or significantly reduced flow*
- 3) *The limited use of soaker hoses intended for trees, bushes, flowers and ornamental landscaping; and*
- 4) *Misting devices placed directly on landscaping designed to slowly water plants and landscaping within a limited radius.*

## How Can You Help?

Now that we've explained the zone program, we're asking for your help. Mokena is one of the only communities to adopt a program of this nature and in order for it to succeed we need everyone's cooperation. The most important thing you can do is talk . . . talk to your neighbors. . . talk to your friends . . . talk to your family. Stress the importance of zone awareness and conservation. Below is our Top Ten list of water conservation tips. Most of these common-sense tips can be utilized throughout the entire watering season. However, we would like to stress the importance of reducing outdoor watering by 1/3 during a **Yellow Zone** and complying with further restriction if necessary. Conserve because it's the right thing to do. We will also be complying with our upstream suppliers regulations. Together we can make a difference!

- 1) If we move to a **Yellow Zone**, do not water on the next scheduled day.
- 2) Cutting back by 1/3 is as simple as watering 2 days per week if you normally water 3 days per week.
- 3) Make sure you are watering your lawn and not the pavement. Water that falls on sidewalks or streets goes into our sewer system, runs up your water bill and wastes water.
- 4) Use a rain gauge. Rain gauges will tell you how much rain fell and how much more water, if any, you should add by sprinkling.
- 5) If you have an automatic system, make sure it has a rain meter installed. This will prevent the system from running during rain storms. Plus, you'll save money on your monthly water bill!
- 6) Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely-clipped lawn.
- 7) Don't water on windy days.
- 8) Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.
- 9) Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground.
- 10) Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water.

To determine the most efficient program for you and your needs, please check with a lawn care professional. As always, if you have any questions or comments concerning the zone program, please contact the Public Works Department at (708) 479-3926.