



May 17, 2023

Residential Irrigation Water Usage Policy for Wood Ridge

Effective Dates: Annually from May 1st through Sept 1st

Background: In an effort to extend the life of the Wood Ridge water system and to avoid excessive pressure drops for residents during periods of peak residential water usage, we are instituting the following requirements for residential irrigation. In addition to protecting our water system, these measures will also contribute to healthy landscaping and conservation of natural resources. By restricting water to late evening and early morning hours, it minimizes evaporation and enables the water that is applied to the lawns to be effectively absorbed by the root system. (Watering during the heat of the day leads to excessive evaporation and minimal actual delivery of water to lawns and vegetation.) These water requirements are also intended to prevent excess watering which prevents lawns and vegetation from developing strong root systems and depletes nitrogen in the soil. (Nitrogen is what causes lawns to be green!)

Irrigation Requirements:

- Areas with no irrigation system must use a hand-held hose with a shutoff nozzle, a hand-held container, or a garden hose sprinkler system on a timer.
- Homeowners should be mindful of running their sprinkler during or immediately after a rain event, which overwaters the landscape.
- Landscape irrigation is limited to no more than four days per week before 9 a.m. or after 8 p.m.
- Use of recycled or non-potable water, when available, is required for construction purposes.
- Prohibition of irrigating non-functional turf (artificial turf) with potable water.
- All installed property irrigation controllers (as required on new homes per May 2021 board requirement) to be wifi connected and to be programmed to not water when there is a 40% or greater chance of rain on any scheduled watering days.

Permanent Mandatory Water Restrictions

- Homeowners shall not allow potable water to irrigate outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff, such that, water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures.
- Homeowners shall repair or stop all water leaks upon discovery or within 72 hours of notification by the Wood Ridge Homeowners Association.
- Homeowners shall not wash down sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, or other paved areas without using a power washer or a hose with a shutoff nozzle.
- Homeowners shall not overfill swimming pools and spas.
- Homeowners shall not use non-recirculating potable water in ornamental fountains or cascading fountains.
- Homeowners shall not use a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use.