

10 Things You (and Your Neighbors) Must Know About Water at The Landings

- 1.** We are limited by Georgia EPD on the amount of water our provider, Utilities Inc. is permitted to draw from the Floridan Aquifer, our only source of potable water. Restrictions are an effort to forestall more salt water intrusion into the aquifer. Intrusion is happening as near to us as Hilton Head and north Tybee.
- 2.** Exceeding permit levels, which happens regularly at The Landings, will have consequences for the growth of our community and for potential state action – possibly reducing levels further or fines
- 3.** Irrigation accounts for 67% or more of residential, potable water use on Skidaway during the dry/hot season -- and 55% year round. About half of that water is wasted. Sources: *epa.gov/WaterSense and Utilities, Inc.*
- 4.** Shallow wells are contributing to the problem, affecting freshwater lagoon levels. Increasing numbers of wells are incurring saltwater intrusion.
- 5.** **How to STOP wasting water?** Understand how your irrigation system works. Turn off automatic functions. Hand water new plantings. Use a rain or humidity gauge on your system. Consider installing drip and micro irrigation.
- 6.** Everyone **MUST** abide by the mandated schedule of days and times for outdoor water use, as ordered by the Director of the Georgia EPD (gaped.org). The schedule is on the other side of this card.
- 7.** Water deeply and infrequently. One inch per week is sufficient for a healthy lawn. Know how much water you are applying. And get an annual professional irrigation audit.
- 8.** Landscape watering may **NOT** occur between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Best time to irrigate is between 1 and 6 a.m. when windspeeds are at their lowest and the water will not promote additional disease since natural plant wetting occurs at this time.
- 9.** Little or no supplemental irrigation is required by our landscape material in December, January or February.
- 10.** Use plant materials that require less water. The University of Georgia has many publications about native drought-tolerant plants and southern-style xeriscaping, as well as water conservation tips. (Search UGA Water Smart.)

For more information, on water conservation from the GA EPD, go to conservewatergeorgia.net
For more information on coastal saltwater intrusion, go to savannahriverbasin.org.



Who we are...

Skidaway Audubon is a not-for-profit dedicated to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and resources on our island.

Focused island wide, Skidaway Audubon initiates programs and joins with others to contribute money and manpower to projects as varied as the Sparrow Field Wildlife Conservation Area, Bottle Brigade, Naturalization Projects, Golf Course Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Certification, Recycling Center, Skidaway Farms, Tallow Terrors, Dave Scott Bluebird Trail, Terrapin Turtle Nest Sites, and Water Conservation Education.

Water Conservation Education. Many Landings residents, aware of the seriousness of our water issues, are taking steps to conserve water, reducing total use (indoor and outdoor) to 150 gallons or less per person per day. This is a generous allotment per person compared to national norms and more than we may be allowed in the future.

With 55% of our drinking water going for irrigation, and as much as 67% in the hot/dry season, the most immediate area for water conservation is in our landscape use. The following are first steps.

Follow EPD-ordered restrictions on days and times you are allowed to irrigate.

NO WATERING between 10 am and 4 pm
ODD-NUMBERED addresses may only water on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday
EVEN-NUMBERED addresses may only water on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday

Residents with shallow wells are asked to observe these mandates.

Turn off automatic systems and water only as needed.

Each of us has the opportunity to demonstrate responsible stewardship of our water, a limited and shared resource.

