

PLANO PARKS AND RECREATION STAGE 3 WATER RESTRICTION VARIANCE REQUEST

Petitioner

The City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department proposes that the following provisions are adopted to better manage the application of irrigation water, while protecting and preserving City landscape assets, programmed surfaces, and structures at sites controlled by the Department.

Purpose of Water Use

Parks and Recreation uses water for the purpose of irrigating landscapes at parks, athletic sites, public building grounds, and medians and right-of ways.

Requested Relief / Adverse Affects / Description / Time Period

The following provisions for relief are requested to be in effect throughout Stage 3.

Continuous Water Window – All sites including median tree irrigation controlled by Parks and Recreation will be allowed to operate any day of the week within a continuous 8 hour window. Start time for each location may begin at 10:00 PM and continue uninterrupted for up to 8 hours as needed, completing the cycle no later than 6:00 AM the following morning.

Adverse affects and justification for relief

- *This request allows the Department to provide adequate amounts of supplemental irrigation water to preserve and protect the majority of City landscape assets. The current water restrictions have reduced Department water consumption by 65%. This reduction does not allow sufficient water to sustain landscape assets. Results of these restrictions will have a costly impact on City assets as well as the City's ecosystem.*
- *This request provides greater flexibility in the programming of large site irrigation systems. The current provisions of the ordinance does not impact home system programming the same as multi acre irrigation systems with extended operation times to cycle through all stations.*
- *This request provides more timely reprogramming operations than currently allowed by the ordinance. There are 540 irrigation systems controlled by Parks and Recreation. The use of city staff time is more efficient.*
- *This request allows the Department flexibility in reducing the effects of the severe drought conditions currently affecting the area. The City has a substantial inventory of landscape assets, programmed surfaces, and structures, all of which are at risk under the current ordinance.*

Water Conservation Measures

Parks and Recreation will institute/maintain the following practices to conserve water.

- a) Irrigation water will only be applied to protect and sustain City assets and will not be used for to maintain aesthetics.
- b) In all applications, irrigation system operation times will be reduced a minimum of 20% and up to 50% in some locations. The reductions at all locations will exceed Stage 3 requirements of 5%. Water will be applied by automatic irrigation systems to sustain turf and protect assets in accordance with the current provisions of the ordinance. Hand watering will be done (as resources allow) in accordance with the current provisions of the ordinance.
- c) Department staff will continue to modify and revise the existing irrigation infrastructure in ways resulting in improved water resource management. This conscience effort will remain at the forefront.
- d) Department will continue to incorporate current and future technology into its operation for improved water management practices.