

## **Stage 2 Water Conservation CHANGES Effective August 23, 2011**

We've heard you. Over the past several weeks, the City has received a lot of resident feedback on the water map designed for watering restrictions in Stage 2. The water map was made in the best interest of the water system, however considering the needs of the residents and taking a different look at our water system, we have made a change to the watering restrictions. We realize the water map was in place for a very short period of time, but providing a timely response to your concerns was necessary in this case. Last night the Plano City Council adopted a different approach to watering restrictions, while continuing to limit watering to 2 days per week.

### New Residential Watering Restrictions – Effective August 23, 2011

In order to achieve the 5% reduction in use, residential irrigation watering should be programmed for two days per week based on the building's address.

- Even number                      Monday and Thursday
- Odd number                        Tuesday and Friday

Watering is prohibited between 10:00am-6:00pm.

Hand watering and the use of soaker hoses or drip irrigation provides property owners with a means to protect their foundation, plant materials, and other outdoor assets. This practice is acceptable at any time on any day of the week, provided there is no run off. The refilling of swimming pools continues to be acceptable in Stage 2.

### Variances

Variances are available to meet specific needs. These may be allowed for large water consumers such as the City, School Districts and those with large campuses where the amount of time needed to water may not fall within times allotted. Variances may be requested by contacting the Director of Public Works.

### City of Plano and Large Water Consumers

Plano's water conservation plan allows the City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department and Plano Independent School District to operate with a variance. The City and School District will exceed the 5% reduction goal by managing all sites and campuses as a whole. Some irrigated areas will be reduced well beyond the 5% goal to offset watering at high use sites that have safety implications. The scale of operation for over 4,000 acres of parkland and 1,200 irrigated acres of park land, athletic fields, and other public property, requires alternative conservation methods. Large site irrigation systems cannot water all stations in the system within the same water window as a residential lawn, but they can still be programmed to apply less water than when in non-drought conditions. One athletic site has over 500 stations, which cannot all be run in one or two nights. The need to water play surfaces and high use areas must also be balanced with scheduled activities and public use patterns. Parks and outdoor sports venues are typically used in the early morning or after school/work hours up to 11 pm, so watering schedules must be adjusted accordingly. Irrigation in scheduled or high use areas is necessary for the safety of the users. Cracks in the ground or injuries caused by falling on a very hard surface are thereby reduced.

The Plano Parks and Recreation Department is committed to participating in the water conservation plan. In fact, during the drought of 2005-06, the department reduced water consumption by 45%. Significant water reduction also has the potential to damage grass, trees, trails, pavilions slabs, and other site features paid for with taxpayer dollars. The protection of

these public assets using best available practices and existing irrigation systems is being done for the purpose of mitigating future repair and replacement costs by the taxpayers.

The Pecan Hollow Golf Course and Legacy Business Park irrigate using reclaimed water rather than treated drinking water, so it does affect the reduction goals.

Oak Point Park is currently receiving extra water to insure the safety of those attending the city's largest event, the Plano Balloon Festival in September.

### The Reason for Stage 2

At the direction of the North Texas Municipal Water District, the City of Plano entered into Stage 2 Water Conservation Measures on August 19th. Stage 2 measures should achieve a reduction in water usage of 5%. A city-wide limit to landscape watering of only two days per week has been enacted.

The move to Stage 2 is a result of the loss of water supply from Lake Texoma due to Zebra Mussel infestation, increased demand during prolonged extreme heat, lack of significant rainfall, and planned construction at one of the District's water treatment plants.

**We need the cooperation of all our residents to help reduce water consumption by 5%. We appreciate resident's comments and concerns and will continue working together to address this Stage 2 Water Conservation effort.**

**For additional information on water conservation measures visit, [www.plano.gov/water](http://www.plano.gov/water) or call the water information hotline, (972) 769-4338.**