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Waukeee Activates Stage 1 of Water Conservation Plan

Goal: reduce irrigation by 25%

Waukeee, Iowa —As a result of continued hot temperatures and higher than usual water demand for irrigation, the City of Waukeee initiated Stage 1 of its [Water Conservation Plan](#) on July 29, 2022. As a preventative measure to avoid strain on the water system, the City asks that residents, businesses and property managers immediately reduce irrigation by at least 25%. If demand outpaces supply, further restrictions may be required.

“Waukeee is currently using more than 4 million gallons of water per day versus a typical 1.6 million gallons per day in non-summer months when irrigation is less prevalent,” said Public Works Director, Rudy Koester. “If all Waukeee residents take simple measures to reduce water usage, we can protect our water supply.”

In Stage 1, the City highly encourages residents and businesses to focus on reducing water usage for lawns and turf by adjusting sprinkler settings, watering on optimal schedules and repairing any leaks in hoses or faucets. The City is also taking measures to reduce water usage in addition to existing water conservation strategies.

5 helpful actions to reduce water usage at your home or business

1. Follow the [odd-even irrigation](#) schedule designated by Des Moines Water Works. Established lawns can even go more days between watering (1-2 times per week).
 - Avoid watering on Mondays.
 - If you have an even-numbered address, water on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays before 10 a.m. or after 5 p.m.
 - Odd-numbered addresses water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays before 10 a.m. or after 5 p.m.
2. Avoid watering your lawn and gardens during the hottest part of the day, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. During these hours, more water is lost to evaporation and cannot benefit your grass and plants. Further conserve water by skipping water-heavy activities during midday, such as washing your car, playing in the sprinkler or filling swimming pools.

3. Adjust your sprinkler settings:
 - Skip days between watering.
 - Only run them in early morning hours (6 a.m. to 9 a.m.).
 - Turn sprinklers off during rain or after a good rainfall.
4. Check for and repair leaks inside and outside; even small leaks or dripping faucets can quickly waste many gallons of water.
5. Reuse water from your daily activities:
 - Instead of dumping extra ice or half-full water glasses in the sink, water a plant.
 - Water gardens with collected water from a dehumidifier or even cooled water from cooking vegetables.
 - Use leftover water from your child's water table for potted plans.

How the City of Waukee is conserving water

The City is minimizing high water use activities, such as suspending the hydrant flushing program except for water quality purposes. The Parks department has reduced irrigation at Centennial Park by 25%.

In addition, the City has several sustainability practices in place to conserve water. For example, the Fox Creek Splash Pad has a recirculation system that treats and reuses water, which saves thousands of gallons. Sugar Creek Golf Course, some City parks and NW High School athletic facilities are irrigated from retention ponds, which does not impact the city's potable water supply.

To improve water conservation long term, residents can also apply for a [Stormwater Grant](#) from the City to install a rain barrel or other stormwater management projects, such as installing drain tile in a wet year, soil quality restoration, native landscaping or erosion prevention. Learn more about qualifying projects [here](#).

For questions on the Water Conservation Plan, contact Rudy Koester, Director of Public Works at 515-978-7388 or rkoester@waukee.org.

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The City of Waukee is recognized as the fastest growing (large) city in Iowa and is located in Dallas County—one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S. The current population is 26,495 residents. Waukee offers a friendly environment featuring quality parks, schools and trails. The City is also dedicated to economic development and expanding business opportunities, including the creation of the mixed-use development, Kettlestone. For more information, visit Waukee.org.