

## **Irrigation Ordinance Works**

In an effort to control the water rate increases we receive from our water supplier Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), the Troy City Council adopted a change to the City Ordinance regarding water use restrictions six years ago. The intent of the ordinance change was to shift the peak hour water usage to a non-peak time (11pm-5am).

While the last two years have shown reduced water usage due to cool, wet summer months, Troy water users must continue the great effort to shift the underground irrigation use to the non-peak 11pm – 5am time to get the best rates possible from GLWA.

The new “Model Contract” with GLWA that was negotiated with suburban water customers and Detroit is structured to reward communities that manage their water systems efficiently in the rate methodology. Keep up the good work!

### **TROY’S IRRIGATION RESTRICTIONS**

- **Applies to all outdoor automatic underground sprinkler systems**
  - **They must only be run between 11 pm and 5 am**

**[troymi.gov/outdoorsprinklers.asp](http://troymi.gov/outdoorsprinklers.asp) for ordinance details**

### **Reduce Outdoor Water Use**

- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.
- Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.
- Plant during the spring or fall when the watering requirements are lower.
- Check your water meter and bill to track your water usage.
- Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
- Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation & save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- Check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.
- Don’t water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don’t need water.

- Make sure you know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save gallons of water and prevent damage to your home if a pipe were to burst.
- Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light and water.
- Use a commercial car wash that recycles water, or use a hose nozzle and turn off the water while you wash your car and save more than 100 gallons.
- Teach your family how to shut off your automatic watering systems. Turn sprinklers off if the system malfunctions or when a storm is approaching.
- Set a kitchen timer when watering your garden with a hose.