

Get in the Water Zone!

The Village of Mokena continually monitors and assesses its outdoor watering program for lawn sprinkling. The program we have in place is one of the most comprehensive in the South Suburbs, making Mokena a leader in pro-active customer service. This year, we've slightly modified our zone program to allow for more flexibility in the event of unfavorable weather conditions and to more closely conform with our upstream supplier's watering regulations. With your help and cooperation, the program should allow you and your neighbors to water your lawns with moderation throughout the summer. We are confident that this program will continue to succeed and that Mokena residents will recognize the need to work together should we experience a hot, dry summer. The sprinkling program is easy to understand and will continue to utilize a "Zone" format which is further defined below. Questions regarding the zone program may be directed to (708) 479-3926.

GREEN ZONE - ODD/EVEN, 7-11 A.M. or P.M.

This is the normal outdoor watering regulation that begins every year from [May 15th to September 15th](#). Since the switch-over to Lake Michigan water, residents have adapted to this schedule quite well. The watering schedule will not change from last year and will still be called the **Green Zone**. As a reminder, the guidelines for the **Green Zone** are listed below:

- Outdoor lawn sprinkling is allowed on an odd/even basis, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- On odd-numbered days of the month, Residents with odd-numbered addresses may water their lawn, and on even-numbered days of the month, residents with even-numbered addresses may water their lawn.

YELLOW ZONE - CONSERVE BY ONE-THIRD

This is the next level outdoor watering regulation. The **Yellow Zone** requests cooperation from the entire community to voluntarily reduce outdoor watering by 1/3 until conditions improve. A Yellow Zone will be implemented when:

- **Continual hot, dry weather conditions exist and;**
- **Daily consumption trends move upward reducing necessary water system storage reserves and;**
- **Forecasted weather conditions are likely to continue or worsen.**

If a **Yellow Zone** is implemented, we all need to **react quickly** by skipping our next regular scheduled watering time. Conservation is the key!! Residents will be allowed to water during normal times without actual restrictions. However, we are urging Residents to voluntarily **conserve** water during a Yellow Zone.

In order for the **Yellow Zone** to succeed (and to avoid entering into mandatory restrictions) a 1/3 reduction in outdoor water consumption is needed to allow the water system to recover. Therefore, talk to your friends and neighbors and encourage them to cooperate by reducing their outdoor watering by 1/3 if the **Yellow Zone** is implemented.

When the **Yellow Zone** is in effect, we all need to work together to quickly reduce outdoor water consumption by 1/3. If we can accomplish this goal, no further restrictions should be required.

YELLOW ZONE - CONSERVE BY 1/3 As easy as . . .

- Skipping next scheduled watering
- Then watering next 2 regularly scheduled days
- And skipping next scheduled watering

ORANGE ZONE - 7A.M. - 11 A.M. (MORNING ONLY)

This is the new Tier 1 mandatory outdoor watering restriction. Should we experience a hot, dry summer and the Yellow Zone does not reduce outdoor watering by 33% we may be required to implement this restriction if necessary

- The **Orange Zone** will allow outdoor watering in the morning only between the hours of 7am and 11am on an odd/even basis.
- No evening sprinkling will be allowed in this zone.

RED ZONE - ONE DAY

The **Red Zone** will consist of Tiers 2 & 3 outdoor watering restrictions. The Red Zone will be put into effect in the event of emergencies which require a major decrease in outdoor water usage. The Red Zone tiers are defined below:

Tier 2

Will allow outdoor watering of lawns one day per week, Monday or Tuesday on odd/even days, based on your address, 7:00 - 11:00 AM & 7:00 - 11:00 PM.

Tier 3

Will be a total ban in case of water system failure, but we hope to never ever get to this type of restriction again.

Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Orange Zone	Red Zone
Normal watering times	Reduce outdoor watering by 1/3 - immediately	Watering allowed on odd/even days 7-11am only	Watering allowed one day per week-based on odd/even

Zone Notification, May 15 - September 15

For easy zone identification, signs will be posted throughout the Village which will be color coded in **Green**, **Yellow**, **Orange** or **Red**. Examples of the signs have been provided below. You can also find the zone currently in effect at the following locations:

- Village's Cable Channel 6
- Village website at www.mokena.org
- Call the Village Hall at (708) 479-3926 or (708) 479-3900 (an automated voice message is available after normal business hours).
- Local news media (subject to their discretion)

You can check out any one of these options at any time to find out which outdoor watering zone is in effect. If you wish to be notified when a zone change occurs, you can register on the home page of the Village website (www.mokena.org) under "Notify Me".

WATERING REGULATION IN EFFECT	WATERING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT	TIER 1 WATERING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT	TIER 2 WATERING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT
WATER ONLY FROM 7-11 AM 7-11 PM	VOLUNTARY SPRINKLING REDUCTION REQUIRED	WATERING ALLOWED 7-11 am ONLY	WATER MONDAY OR TUESDAY ONLY 7-11am/7-11pm
ODD OR EVEN DAYS BASED ON THE LAST DIGIT OF YOUR ADDRESS	PLEASE REDUCE OUTSIDE LAWN SPRINKLING BY 33% TO AVOID INCREASED RESTRICTIONS	ODD OR EVEN DAYS BASED ON THE LAST DIGIT OF YOUR ADDRESS	ODD OR EVEN DAYS BASED ON THE LAST DIGIT OF YOUR ADDRESS

Village of Mokena Uses Rain Barrels

The Village of Mokena has installed rain barrels at a number of the Village's facilities and you can now view them at the Village Hall, Police Station and Waste Water Treatment Plant. For more information call the Public Works Department at (708) 479-3927



The Connection Between Storm Water and Rain Barrels

Rainwater that falls on the ground is used by plants or filtered through layers of soil. As it is cleaned by the soil, it recharges ground water and sustains even flows into streams and rivers. But rain that falls on roads, parking lots and roofs cannot make its way through the pavement and into the soil. Instead, this water collects pollutants that might be lying around, such as fertilizers, pet waste, or sediment. It then runs into our storm sewers and out into creeks and streams without being treated. Rain barrels help ease some of these problems. They catch rainwater before it becomes polluted and runs into the storm drain.

The Benefits of a Rain Barrel

Rain barrels have a number of benefits including:

- Save water for dry spells
- Provide warm, clean unchlorinated water for flowering plants
- Reduce runoff and help prevent stormwater pollution
- Help prevent flooding

In fact, catching rainwater flowing from eaves or downspouts is one of the simplest, cheapest ways to conserve water and prevent it from entering the sewer system!



A Few Words About Rain Barrels

Size: Rain barrels vary in size from 20-150 gallons. If you need additional capacity, barrels can be linked together.

Material: Rain barrels can be made from wood or heavy plastic. Garbage cans also work, but need to be the sturdy type from heavy plastic.

Cost: Rain barrels can cost between \$60 and \$250 (plus shipping) when purchased on-line or at a garden supply store. Cost will depend on size, style and additional features such as extra spigots.

Looking For a Barrel?

The Village of Mokena has a limited number of rain barrels that can be purchased from the Public Works Department for \$130 each as long as supplies last. If you are interested in one of these (pictured above) call the Village at (708) 479-3927. If you would like to purchase or build your own you can visit the following websites for ordering information or directions for constructing a rain barrel.

- www.cleanairgardening.com
- www.composters.com
- www.cwp.org/Community_Watersheds/brochure.pdf

To get in the Water Zone you should . . .

- Know how to use your automated sprinkling system control box
- Talk to a lawn care professional to determine the most efficient method to care for your lawn
- Utilize water conservation methods (see page 7)



Water Conservation

NEW LAWN INSTALLATION

Are you installing sod or planting seed this summer? If this project is on your to-do list, contact the Community Development Department for a sprinkling permit. This no-fee permit will allow you to sprinkle on both odd and even days (7 a.m. - 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.) for a period of 28 days. By the time the permit expires and you're back to normal watering regulations, your new sod or seed will have had the needed time to germinate and root for a healthy lawn.

Should the zone change from **Green** to **Yellow** during your 28 day permit, you may continue to sprinkle every day as allowed per the permit until it expires. Permits will not be issued if **Yellow**, **Orange** or **Red** Zones are in effect, so call us at (708) 479-3926 to verify the current sprinkling zone prior to installation of your lawn.

Residents replacing/repairing lawns will be asked to provide documentation such as a contract from a landscaper or receipt for seed or sod when applying for a sprinkling permit. Documentation will not be required for owners of new construction.

GOING ON VACATION?

Should you leave on vacation and set your lawn sprinkling system for the **Green Zone**, have a neighbor or friend change the setting for you if the zone changes to **Yellow**, **Orange** or **Red**. If conditions warrant a **Yellow Zone** or there is a water system mechanical failure and the **Red Zone Tier 2** or **Tier 3** is instituted while you are on vacation, you risk enforcement action. Do your best to prepare for these more severe conditions in your absence.

Landscaping is important to all of us, therefore . . .

Hand or manual watering of trees, bushes, ornamental landscaping and gardens will be allowed from 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. (odd-even days) in all zones except **Tier 3 Red Zone - Total Ban**. In the event that a **Tier 3 Red Zone** is implemented, **all outdoor watering will be prohibited**.

Manual watering includes:

- 1) *The manual use of a hose and spray nozzle*
- 2) *An unattended hose at a trickle or significantly reduced flow*
- 3) *The limited use of soaker hoses intended for trees, bushes, flowers and ornamental landscaping; and*
- 4) *Misting devices placed directly on landscaping designed to slowly water plants and landscaping within a limited radius.*

How Can You Help?

Now that we've explained the zone program, we're asking for your help. Mokena is one of the only communities to adopt a program of this nature and in order for it to succeed we need everyone's cooperation. The most important thing you can do is talk . . . talk to your neighbors. . . talk to your friends . . . talk to your family. Stress the importance of zone awareness and conservation. Below is our Top Ten list of water conservation tips. Most of these common-sense tips can be utilized throughout the entire watering season. However, we would like to stress the importance of reducing outdoor watering by 1/3 during a **Yellow Zone** and complying with further restriction if necessary. Conserve because it's the right thing to do. We will also be complying with our upstream suppliers regulations. Together we can make a difference!

- 1) If we move to a **Yellow Zone**, do not water on the next scheduled day.
- 2) Cutting back by 1/3 is as simple as watering 2 days per week if you normally water 3 days per week.
- 3) Make sure you are watering your lawn and not the pavement. Water that falls on sidewalks or streets goes into our sewer system, runs up your water bill and wastes water.
- 4) Use a rain gauge. Rain gauges will tell you how much rain fell and how much more water, if any, you should add by sprinkling.
- 5) If you have an automatic system, make sure it has a rain meter installed. This will prevent the system from running during rain storms. Plus, you'll save money on your monthly water bill!
- 6) Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely-clipped lawn.
- 7) Don't water on windy days.
- 8) Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.
- 9) Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground.
- 10) Try to do one thing each day that will result in saving water.

To determine the most efficient program for you and your needs, please check with a lawn care professional. As always, if you have any questions or comments concerning the zone program, please contact the Public Works Department at (708) 479-3926.