

# Travis County W.C.I.D. #18

## Stage 2 Watering Restrictions

Because your District's wholesale water supplier, the L.C.R.A. has initiated **Stage 2** Water Restrictions, Travis County W.C.I.D. #18 is required to do the same.

Irrigate outdoors using automatic or manual irrigation systems or hose-end sprinklers no more than **ONCE per week** for up to **15 hours** and only during scheduled days and times as indicated below.

### Residential automatic irrigation systems

Odd number addresses: Wednesdays

Even number addresses: Thursdays

### Residential hose-end irrigation

Odd number addresses: Saturdays

Even number addresses: Sundays

**Commercial** (including large landscapes such as HOA common areas and public schools)

Even number addresses: Tuesdays

Odd number addresses: Fridays

### Watering Hours

Midnight to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to midnight

**Please adjust irrigation schedules to follow the "one day per week" as per the requirements above.**

Irrigation of Landscaped Areas:

- a. Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic or manual irrigation systems shall be limited to no more than **ONCE** weekly as determined by **Travis County Water Control and Improvement District No. 18**. Irrigation of commercial landscapes and recreational areas (including public parks) may apply for a variance but must still develop a schedule where no part of the landscape is watered more than once per week

- b. Outdoor watering hours will be limited to **15 hours** per day before 10 a.m. and after 7 p.m. on designated days as determined by **Travis County Water Control and Improvement District No.** This prohibition does not apply to irrigation of landscaped areas if it is by means of:
  - i. a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off device; or
  - ii. a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of 5 gallons or less.
  
- c. New landscapes may be installed and revegetation seeding performed under these specific criteria:
  - i. A completed variance form for new landscapes has been submitted to the **Travis County Water Control and Improvement District No. 18** and has been approved prior to the installation of the landscape, or revegetation seed application.
  - 2. Irrigation of the new landscape follows the schedule identified in the new landscape variance. The schedule will be developed to minimize water waste.
  - 3. Areas being revegetated for soil stabilization must also comply with the (i) and (ii) specific criteria above. Alternative options to revegetation such as mulch may be available in times of low water supply. Additional information regarding options is available in the LCRA Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance Technical Manual.
  - 4. Variances for new landscapes may be issued for a period of no more than 30 days from the day of issuance. A variance is not an exemption from compliance with the permanent water use restrictions. Variances will not be granted for seasonal “color bed” or temporary grass installation (overseeding).
  - 5. New landscapes may only be installed if no more than 50% of the new irrigated landscaped area is water-conserving natural turf and only drought-tolerant or native plants are installed.

#### Vehicle Washing:

Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, such as a motorbike, boat, trailer or airplane, is prohibited except on designated watering days before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m. Such activity, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle. A vehicle may be washed anytime at a commercial car wash facility or commercial service station. This activity is exempt from these regulations if the health, safety and welfare of the public are served by washing the vehicle, such as a truck used to collect garbage or used to transport food and perishables.

#### Pools:

- a. Draining and refilling is permitted only onto pervious surfaces or onto a surface where water will be transmitted directly to a pervious surface, and only if:
  - i. Draining excess water from pool due to rain in order to lower water to maintenance level;
  2. Repairing, maintaining or replacing pool components that have become hazardous; or
  3. Repair of a pool leak.
- b. Public/community swimming pools are allowed to fill or replenish water in order to maintain safe levels of water quality for human contact and for maintenance as outlined above.

#### Outside Water Features:

- a. Operation of outside water features except for ornamental fountains with a 4-inch emission or fall of water<sup>1</sup> that are recirculating is prohibited except where such features are used for aeration necessary to sustain aquatic life or maintain water quality. (This provision includes recirculating fountains associated with aesthetic ponds and swimming pools unless required for filtration).
- b. Operation of outdoor misting systems at a commercial facility is allowed only between 4 p.m. and midnight.
- c. Splash pad type fountains must be recirculating and should have an automatic timer shut-off feature when not in use unless public health and safety is compromised by installing a shut-off feature.

#### Ponds:

Ponds used for aesthetic, amenity and/or storm water purposes may maintain water levels only as necessary to preserve the integrity of the liner and operating system. Travis County Water Control and Improvement District No. 18 may request specific design documentation regarding a pond and the intended purpose.

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted from the City of Austin's 2012 Drought Contingency Plan update, which went through an extensive public input process. This measure was proposed by the fountain industry through that process.

#### Events:

Events involving the use of water such as: car washes, festivals, parties, water slides and other activities involving the use of water are permitted, if the water being used drains to a recirculating device or onto a pervious surface to prevent water waste.

- a) A charity car wash may not be conducted unless it occurs at a commercial vehicle washing facility.

#### Restaurants:

Restaurants, bars and other commercial food or beverage establishments are encouraged not to provide drinking water to customers unless a specific request is made by the customer for drinking water.

#### Hotels/motels:

The owner or operator of a hotel, motel short-term rental or other establishment that offers or provides lodging or rental accommodations for compensation are encouraged to offer a towel and linen reuse water conservation option to its lodgers, renters or customers and maintain signage about the opportunity to participate in each guest room, suite, or property.

#### Fire Hydrants:

Use of water from fire hydrants shall be prohibited for landscape irrigation, filling pools, operating fountains and car washing. Water should be transported only for the purpose of firefighting or providing minimal water needed for indoor use where auxiliary sources are inadequate and activities necessary to maintain public health, safety and welfare, or for construction use. Transport of water other than for firefighting requires a variance and a meter.

#### Athletic fields

Watering should follow a no more than once-per-week schedule per irrigated area unless the athletic fields are actively used for organized sports practice, competition or exhibition events when irrigation outside of the standard weekly

schedule is necessary to protect the health and safety of the players, staff or officials present for the athletic event.

- a) All ornamental landscape areas around facilities with athletic fields shall follow general landscape irrigation restrictions.
- b) A variance must be filed with the Travis County Water Control and Improvement District No. 18 for watering outside of the once per week irrigation schedule.

#### Water Waste

The following nonessential uses of water are prohibited during periods in which restrictions are in effect:

- a. Washing sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, street, tennis courts and other impervious surfaces is prohibited except for immediate health and safety.
- b. Use of water to wash buildings, houses or structures with a pressure washer is restricted to equipment that is fitted with a water recycling unit and a spray nozzle using no more than 3.5 gallons of water per minute and employing a working trigger shut-off with a protective weep mechanism. Use of water to wash buildings with a hand-held hose with a positive shut-off nozzle is allowed.
- c. Use of water to control dust is prohibited, unless there is a demonstrated need to do so for reasons of public health and safety, or as part of an approved construction plan.