

## Water Recycling



The City water you put on your lawn is treated for drinking. There are other cheap and readily available sources of irrigation water out there:

**Rain:** Use barrels to collect rainwater from your downspouts and use it on landscaping plants and gardens. Many barrels are now made out of attractive materials that match different homes.

**Lake Water:** The Minnesota DNR allows pumping lake water for irrigation. For more information, contact City staff at (952) 447-9800.



The City of Prior Lake pumped about 900 million gallons of water last year from seven wells. In the winter, water demand is about **1.5 million gallons** per day. In the summer, demand reaches **7 million gallons** per day.

As water demand nears the capacity of existing City facilities, new wells, treatment facilities, and storage will need to be considered—and any new facilities have an impact on the rates we all pay for our water. If we all do our part to conserve water we can extend the need for costly new infrastructure.



## Is it my day to water?



Before turning on the sprinklers, residents and business owners should:

- **Determine if it's "your day" to water:** City ordinances require an **odd/even** schedule; addresses ending in an odd number may water on odd-numbered calendar days, and likewise for even-numbered addresses and days.
- **Check the clock:** Lawn watering is only permitted before 10 a.m. and after 5 p.m.

***This schedule is in effect from May 1 to October 1. Set automatic systems to comply with both the day and hour restrictions.***

Working Together to Protect Our Quality of Life

## Water Conservation



### Tips & City Policies

Demand on the City's water system is almost **5 times higher in the summer** than in the winter! This is mostly because of lawn irrigation. You can save money and help cut down on future infrastructure needs by following these useful tips and City policies.



## Soggy Lawn?

If the weather has been dry and you still have a soggy lawn, common causes include:

- **Leaking irrigation system.** *Possible solution:* Check the distribution box and all sprinkler heads.
- **Compacted and/or clay soils under sod** placed in the past 2-3 years. *Possible solution:* Promote infiltration by aerating the lawn and irrigate deeply/less frequently to help improve root development.
- **Automatic sprinkler system set to water too frequently and/or water too much.** *Possible Solution:* Try cutting back on watering for a week. Call Utility Billing for water use stats.

## Healthy Lawn Tips

- Don't overwater—this promotes shallow roots that are less drought-resistant and more prone to winterkill and pests.
- Mow your grass high, around 3 inches. This helps with weed control by shading the soil (weed seeds need sunlight and heat to sprout), and reduces water loss from evaporation.
- Get a rain gauge. This simple device will help you determine when you've reached 1" of water (rain or sprinklers) for the week.



## Statistically Speaking

Water conservation, by the numbers

In general, a lawn needs about **1 inch of water each week, including rainfall, to keep it green. Many residential irrigation systems can discharge that amount each time they run—and many of those systems run every other day, watering at 4 times the cost.**

### COST: Watering 1 inch each week

1" of water on 1/3 acre lot = 5,700 gal.  
During 8-week billing cycle = 45,600 gal.  
COST (first 25,000 gal.) = \$110.00  
COST (next 20,000 gal.) = \$125.00  
Total cost is **\$235 per 60-day billing cycle**

### COST: Watering every other day

Water every other day = 171,000 gal.  
(30 times during 60 day billing cycle,  
5,700 x 30 = 171,000)  
COST (first 25,000 gal.) = \$110.00  
COST (next 146,000 gal.) = \$885.00  
Total cost is **\$995 per 60-day billing cycle**

**That's a savings of \$760 every 2 months!**

For more information on water rates:

City of Prior Lake—Utility Billing  
(952) 447-9800  
4646 Dakota Street SE  
Prior Lake, MN 55372



# Watering Tips

## Effective Watering Saves Money

Your lawn generally needs only about **1 inch of water per week**, including rainfall, to remain green during the growing season. The average 1/3 acre lot requires about 5,700 gallons of water per week. If this water is provided only by irrigation, the cost should be about \$120 per month. Use these tips to help you save money while keeping your lawn green:

- **Water your lawn between 4 and 8 a.m.,** when water demand is low. After 10 a.m., lawn watering is usually a wasted effort because of heat and evaporation.
- **Water only when your lawn needs it,** rather than on a set schedule. Installing a rain sensor on an automatic system should have a quick payback time.
- **Water deeply and infrequently** — watering once or twice each week with a good soaking is usually enough. Allow the grass to dry out between watering to promote deep and healthy root growth.

