



## Water Conservation Plan Restrictions

The City of Van Alstyne has implemented a Water Conservation Plan that includes restrictions for outdoor watering. The restrictions allow Van Alstyne property owners to irrigate outdoors twice a week on the days provided on the following schedule dependent on property address.

Summer water restrictions also prevent outdoor irrigation between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

### Lawn irrigation schedule (two times per week April 1 through October 31)

<u>Last digit of address</u>	<u>Allowed landscape water day</u>
0,2,4,6,8 (Even)	Wednesday and Saturday each week (irrigation prohibited between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
1,3,5,7,9 (Odd)	Thursday and Sunday each week (irrigation prohibited between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

#### Additional restrictions:

- No lawn irrigation watering is allowed between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. or during times of precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, etc.)
- Excessive water runoff from any landscaped area is prohibited
- Excessive runoff or watering impervious surfaces is prohibited

#### Exemptions - The following water usage is exempt from restrictions:

- Use of drip irrigation systems and soaker hoses to protect foundations is allowed. Recommended maximum 2 hours when needed and not during precipitation periods.
- Hand watering of ornamental flower beds and other ornamental landscaping is allowed; hand watering of lawns is prohibited.
- The operation of ornamental fountains is permitted.
- Washing of vehicles, boats, trailers, etc. is permitted only where a "shut off nozzle" of some reliable type exists so that one can manually turn the water off.
- Newly constructed swimming pools, Jacuzzis and spas may be filled.
- Pools may be drained and refilled for repairs as needed (must follow proper water disposal methods).
- Existing swimming pools, Jacuzzis, and spas may be replenished to maintain operational levels.
- Use of commercial full-service or self-service car wash facilities, including those at service stations and automobile dealership facilities is permitted.
- Washing or hosing down of sidewalks, driveways, patios, porches, parking areas or other similar paved surfaces is permitted by hand held device where a shut off nozzle exists.
- Activities utilizing other sources of water (wastewater effluent, natural water springs, ponds or deep water wells) are permitted.
- Golf courses may water greens and tee boxes as needed.



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### **Variances - The following water usage can apply for variances to these restrictions:**

- Large properties too large to complete watering schedules to allow 1" per week in the allotted timeframe (if it can be demonstrated that the 1" precipitation rate which is the recommended weekly watering goal of lawn experts cannot be achieved in the two allotted days, a variance may be allowed to achieve the recommended rate )
- Public athletic fields or other park too large to complete watering schedules to allow 1" per week in the allotted timeframe
- Newly planted lawns may be granted an exemption for up to three weeks (this could be coordinated through the CO process with the building final. On existing houses, an invoice would suffice )

Variance applications are available at City Hall or on the website

### **Enforcement**

Code Enforcement will canvass neighborhoods and commercial areas to identify violations as well as respond to citizen complaints, which upon receipt will be dispatched to staff in the field for investigation/action

Code Enforcement will also send notices when evidence of watering is observed. The purpose of the notice is to inform the violator that their sprinkler system is very likely operating on an inappropriate day or during an inappropriate time

The City's first efforts toward violations will be warnings or civil penalties for residential customers which may be added to monthly bills. Subsequent violations may require higher civil penalties up to a maximum of \$500.00. The City's efforts towards violations of other users will be maximum penalties of \$2,000.00 which may be added to monthly bills. Appeals would become small claims lawsuits and handled in Justice Court Precinct 4.

The City of Van Alstyne reserves the right to file criminal charges for violations. Any person, firm, corporation or entity violating this Ordinance, as it exists or may be amended, at an address with a nonresidential utility account shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined a sum not exceeding Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000.00). Any person, firm, corporation or entity violating this Ordinance, as it exists or may be amended, at an address with a residential utility account shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined a sum not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). Each continuing days' violation under this Ordinance shall constitute a separate offense. The penal provisions imposed under this Ordinance shall not preclude Van Alstyne from filing suit to enjoin the violation. Van Alstyne retains all legal rights and remedies available to it pursuant to local, state and federal law.

### **Reporting Water Abuse**

Residents are encouraged to report violations by calling 903-482-5426.