

District Water Saving Practices – April 2014

At this time the Maintenance, Operation and Transportation Department is currently addressing the water conservation situation by:

- Replacing faucets with low flow metered faucets as needed.
- Installing waterless urinals and low flow flush toilets which are 20% more efficient as needed.
- Increase the height of lawns to 2½ inches to help maintain moisture in the soil.
- Add slow release fertilizers and soil conditioners to lawns to loosen compaction on clay soils and allow for better water penetration. This has allowed us to reduce our watering times by one-third of what is normal for irrigation at all our sites.
- Applying water storing crystals around plants in flower beds allowing for longer periods between watering.
- Installing locks on our outside water spigots so water hoses and valves are not left running when unattended or schools are closed.

Our irrigation system is controlled on-line as well as by remote which allows our Irrigation Technician to control the on and off times wherever he is within the district. This allows him to turn the watering system off if there is a break in a line at a site or an area is too wet. This gives us about a 10 – 15% savings on water use yearly from overwatering poor ground conditions. We continue to upgrade this system as well as reconfigure the irrigation system to optimize our water savings even more.

Recommendations for more reductions –

- Provide training to the custodial staff on best practices to minimize the use of water
- Raise height of lawns to three inches if the need arises
- Have the buses washed on the racks so that we can take advantage of our oil-waste separator
- Reduce grass areas and move to drought tolerant plants that are native

We have achieved well over a 20% reduction in our water usage and we will continue to reduce what we need through strict conservation measures that allow us to keep schools safe and clean without compromising the safety of our school site.