

As Mayor of Rochester Hills, I appreciate the cooperation residents have demonstrated in adhering to last year's alternate day watering programs. As concern for our natural environment grows, and residents become more cost conscious, the need to preserve and maintain our infrastructure has become vital. Since our community has progressed from a rural township to a mature city, the demands on our water and sewer system require careful management. With that in mind, the water conservation program that was implemented in 2005 by Executive Order #2005-01 will continue to be in effect throughout the summer/fall of 2007. The restriction includes the following provision:

“Water use restrictions prohibit the outside use of watering to the extent that homes and business with EVEN numbered mailing addresses (The last number in a mailing address) shall NOT water lawns or use water for any other exterior purposes except on EVEN numbered dates, and homes and businesses with ODD numbered mailing addresses shall not water lawns or use water for any other exterior purposes except on ODD numbered dates.”

The alternate day watering program provides cost saving benefits and helps to protect our environment. Rochester Hills purchases drinking water from the City of Detroit. Our purchase price is based on daily peak hour demands that are greatly influenced by the amount of water residents use during lawn watering. By adhering to alternate day watering, we can reduce the peak hour factors resulting in a lower water purchase price.

Did you know that watering during our hot, windy spring and summer days can cause over half of your water to miss its mark due to evaporation and wind drift? Research shows that the best time to water is in the early morning between midnight and sunrise, when humidity is high but temperatures and wind speed are low. If morning watering isn't practical for you, try watering in the evening. If you were watering during the daytime before, you'll find you are now able to water less while keeping your plants healthy and attractive. Whether you choose to water in the mornings or evenings, be alert to weather conditions. If it is windy or rainy, postpone watering until conditions are more appropriate.

Treated water is a carefully manufactured product, delivered to homes after undergoing a lengthy treatment process and traveling through many miles of pipeline. As concern for our environment increases, so does the cost to meet State and Federal water quality mandates. In the face of these rising cost, conservation can be a way for citizens to do themselves and the environment a favor. Water conservation is something we should all practice for the betterment of our community and ourselves.