SPRING IRRIGATION AND LANDSCAPING TIPS

Now that the weather is getting warmer, people should again look at their water use habits, and what they can do to continue to conserve resources. Here are some springtime landscape and irrigation tips:

- **Inspect your irrigation system.** Test your irrigation system to make sure it’s functioning properly. Look for broken and/or misaligned sprinkler heads and leaking pipes.
- **Check the batteries.** Irrigation controllers sometimes revert to factory settings after even a brief power outage. Check the batteries in your controller every 6 months and replace as needed to ensure your controller runs properly.
- **Soil moisture is key.** The soil may look dry on the surface but it can be wet at root level. Use a soil moisture meter or screwdriver to go down a couple of inches into the soil and see if the soil is still moist.
- **Just add mulch.** Add a layer of 3 to 4 inches of mulch around your plants to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

Water waste prohibitions remain in effect for the City of Davis and, based on recently released draft language from the State Water Resources Control Board, are likely to become permanent statewide. Water use restrictions include no watering outdoors between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., no watering during periods of rain or for 48 hours after measurable rainfall, and no excessive water flow or runoff onto pavement. Visit [SaveDavisWater.org](http://SaveDavisWater.org) for the full list of water use restrictions.

Whether in a dry or wet year, there are actions we can take to reduce water usage long term. The State’s Save Our Water Rebate program still has funds available for converting turf to low water use landscapes. For more information and the online application for the state program, visit [SaveOurWaterRebates.com](http://SaveOurWaterRebates.com). There are other ways to increase long-term water use efficiency, including replacing high water use appliances and fixtures with EPA WaterSense labeled models, replacing traditional irrigation controllers with weather-based controllers and installing a rain sensor that turns off irrigation when it rains.

For more water savings tips, information on water-wise landscaping and links to helpful indoor and outdoor water use efficiency websites, visit [SaveDavisWater.org](http://SaveDavisWater.org).

**Updates and Events**

**Pollinator Discovery Day - May 20, 2018 (1:00 pm to 4:00 pm)**

Learn about pollinators and the critical role they play in the health of our environment. The event will feature tours, demonstrations and interactive investigation stations. Visit the City of Davis table for information on low water use plants that support pollinators. The event is being held at the Arboretum Hummingbird GATEway Garden, located north of the Arboretum.
Teaching Nursery and east of the newly constructed Veterinary Medicine Student Services and Admin Center. Find more details at publicgarden.ucdavis.edu/event.

**Partners for a Greener Davis**

Partners for a Greener Davis is a green business certification program that educates and encourages Davis businesses to operate in an environmentally friendly fashion. Green Business Partners receive recognition in the community for their environmental efforts, and may also save money by reducing water, waste and energy. Interested businesses can visit [GreenerDavis.org](http://GreenerDavis.org) to learn more about becoming a Partner for a Greener Davis!

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