

Summer Irrigation Reminders

Now that the weather is getting warmer, and irrigation systems are being turned on, it is a good time to check your irrigation system to ensure everything is working properly.

Here are some spring and summer landscape and irrigation tips:



Inspect your irrigation system. Test your irrigation system to make sure it's functioning properly as issues are not always visible unless the system is running. Look for broken and/or misaligned sprinkler heads (to avoid water on driveways and sidewalks) and leaking pipes. Check drip irrigation for broken and/or missing emitters, breaks in the drip lines and any other damage.



Late nights or early mornings are best. Run your irrigation system in the early morning or late at night to prevent evaporation. Be sure to check the batteries in your irrigation controller every 6 months and replace as needed to ensure your controller continues to run properly. Irrigation controllers sometimes revert to factory settings after even a brief power outage.



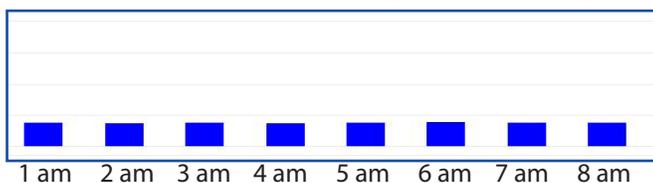
Convert your landscape. Consider removing all or part of your turf and replacing it with low-water use plants. For your existing plants, add a layer of 3 to 4 inches of mulch around your plants to retain moisture, protect against the summer heat and suppress weeds.

Use AquaHawk to Check for Continuous Water Use

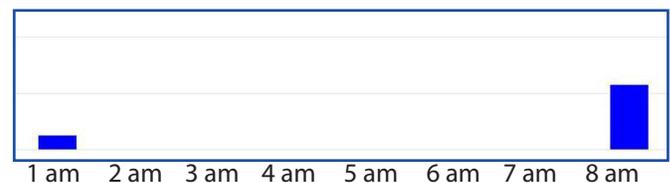
AquaHawk is an online customer water use portal included with your City of Davis water service. If you are not already registered for AquaHawk, visit SaveDavisWater.org for registration information.

If you see continuous water use in AquaHawk (see graphic below) after turning your irrigation back on for the dry season, you may have a leak in your irrigation system. To check for irrigation leaks, turn irrigation off at the isolation valves as well as the timer and then check the next day in AquaHawk to see if nighttime water use drops to zero.

Continuous Hourly Water Usage During the Night



Hours of Zero Water Usage During the Night



Other common causes of continuous water use include toilet leaks, dripping faucets and showerheads, damaged autofills on pools and spas, and other water using appliances and fixtures. Check for hot water leaks in slab foundations by looking out for increases in natural gas bills and checking for warm spots on the floor.

For assistance with AquaHawk, information on detecting leaks or for other water conservation related questions, please visit SaveDavisWater.org.