

HAYS MATTERS

MAY 2022



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Watering Restrictions go into Effect June 1, 2022



On June 1, 2022, the City's outside watering conservation efforts will go into effect and will last until September 30, 2022. During this summer period, the City of Hays Code of Ordinances prohibits outside watering between the hours of **noon and 7:00 p.m.** daily, when evaporation is at its peak. The ordinance applies to City customers who use the City's water supply for outdoor water use. As in past years, the City has received a control order from the Department of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources restricting the watering of lawns and other vegetation from private wells also during the noon to 7:00 p.m. period from June 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022.

Currently, the City prohibits the following: washing sidewalks, parking lots and driveways; allowing loss of water through leaks in plumbing systems; or by runoff onto sidewalks or into the street guttering from watering yards. Residents are urged to be vigilant and not allow substantial amounts of water to escape and/or drain from private property onto public property such as streets, including curbs and gutters, sidewalks, and rights of way. Repeated violations could result in termination of water service as per City of Hays Code. **The public's cooperation in conserving and making wise use of water year-round is recognized and appreciated.**

Collection of Refuse/Recyclables During Holidays

Due to the observance of Memorial Day (Monday, May 30, 2022) and Independence Day (Monday, July 4, 2022), refuse/recycling route collection schedules will be altered as follows:

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY: Monday, May 30th and Tuesday, May 31st will be collected on Tuesday, May 31, 2022. There will be no change to the Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday collection schedules.

INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY: Monday, July 4th and Tuesday, July 5th routes will be collected on

Tuesday, July 5, 2022. There will be no change to the Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday collection schedules.

Please make sure your refuse and recycling is out by **7:00 a.m.**, and keep in mind that the trucks have no set time schedule.

City of Hays customers that may have questions regarding this notice should contact the Solid Waste Division of the Public Works Department at (785) 628-7350.



Hays Matters Newsletter Moving Online in 2023

Beginning in 2023, the *Hays Matters* quarterly newsletters will be provided online only. If you would like to sign up to receive notifications when the newsletters become available, log onto the City's website at www.haysusa.com. The "Notify Me" signup page can be found on the City's home

page under "How Do I" and then "Sign Up For", "Notifications / Notify Me". Follow the directions at the top, and then scroll down to "News Flash" then "City News and Information". Click on the icons for email and/or text messages to be notified when the newsletter is available.

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Save Water, Earn Cash!

 Invest in water efficiency, and earn some money back! The City of Hays offers several incentive and rebate programs to encourage water conservation, both indoors and out. But, don't wait! Program funds are limited, and rebates will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Rebates/Programs currently offered:

- High-efficiency toilets – eligible for up to a \$150 rebate
- High-efficiency clothes washers – eligible for a \$200 rebate
- Turf conversions pay \$1 per sq. ft., up to \$3,000 per property
- Showerhead exchange and FREE faucet aerators are available at City Hall, 1507 Main Street

Applications and details are available at www.watersmarthays.com (or in the Finance/City Clerk's Office,

1507 Main Street, M-Th 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., F 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.). For more information, please contact Holly Dickman, Water Conservation Specialist, at (785) 628-7350, or hdickman@haysusa.com. The City of Hays is proud to be a leader in water conservation, and we hope you will join in our efforts!

For ongoing information from the Water Resources Department, follow us @WaterSmartHays on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. You can also listen to Holly on 99 KZ Country on Thursday mornings with Theresa Trapp!



Create A “WaterSmart” Landscape

A “WaterSmart” landscape (aka: xeriscape) combines seven gardening principles to create a beautiful landscape that maximizes water efficiency. Here are the seven steps:

1.) Planning and Design

Planning is essential in creating a sustainable, attractive landscape. Consider site characteristics that affect water use (i.e. slopes, exposures, micro-climates) and then design the area with these things in mind.

2.) Soil Preparation

A healthy soil will result in healthier root systems, which, in turn, create a more drought tolerant landscape. Amending soil with organic matter, such as compost, can help loosen heavy, clay soils allowing moisture and nutrients to infiltrate more readily to the roots versus running off.

3.) Efficient Irrigation

Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deep, more drought tolerant roots. Irrigate early in the morning to lessen evaporative losses. Only water when absolutely necessary - check the soil to be sure! Water plants to appropriate depths.

4.) Mulch

The need for supplemental irrigation is reduced when organic mulches are properly applied around plants (i.e. wood chips, cedar mulch, straw, leaves, cottonseed hulls, etc.). Organic

mulches limit evaporation from the soil, moderate soil temperatures, discourage weed growth, and break down over time helping to improve the condition of the soil.

5.) Right Plant, Right Place

Choose plants that are adapted and suitable for your location and climate. Group or zone plants with similar water requirements together. Select low water use, drought tolerant, or native plants if possible.

6.) Practical Turf Areas

Limit cool-season turf areas (i.e. Tall Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass). Avoid odd shaped or narrow strips of turfgrass as these can be difficult to irrigate and may result in wasted water. Consider warm-season turfgrass, such as Buffalo or Bermudagrass, as an alternative to cool-season turf.

7.) Proper Maintenance

While “WaterSmart” landscapes can be low maintenance, they will still require some degree of care throughout the year. At appropriate times, proper pruning, mowing, weeding, fertilizing, watering, and insect/disease control are important to maintain the health of your landscape.

For more information visit:
www.watersmarthays.com

