

New Water Use Management Plan - Effective Monday, July 31st

The City of Lubbock adopted a new Water Use Management Plan by ordinance on July 10th, and this new plan became effective on July 31, 2006. The ordinance includes essential water use and management plans for water conservation, periods of drought and water supply emergencies.

Water conservation efforts continue under the new plan as the City remains in Stage 1 of the drought plan. The new plan encourages greater water conservation efforts by requesting citizens to manage yard and landscape watering as follows:

- Limit yard watering to two times a week for each area or zone.
- Only use a maximum of 1.5 inches of water per zone per week.
- Only water between the hours of 6 pm and 10 am.
- Minimizing runoff may require cycling of the system and adjusting spray heads.

The City of Lubbock has adequate water supplies to meet all essential needs, but City officials are concerned about the level of water in Lake Meredith. During this period of drought, the Lake level continues to experience record lows. Lake Meredith has been the primary water supply for Lubbock for many years, but during this period of drought the City anticipates further reductions in water supplies from Lake Meredith.

One of the alternative sources is the Bailey County Well Field. This source has already served the City for almost 50 years. By conserving water now, this source is projected to last an additional 50 years. The City asks for your help to conserve water, so that the life of the Bailey County Well Field can be extended.

The new plan requires additional conservation by limiting yard watering to twice a week whereas the next step in the previous plan would have been to limit watering to once a week. The new plan has a goal of reducing water use by 10%. Conservation of water by both residential and commercial customers can help achieve this goal.

By following these guidelines in the water use plan, most citizens can still have a healthy lawn and do their part to reduce water use. Citizens can use a variety of ways to measure the 1.5 inches of water recommended for their lawn. Rain gauges are the most common and accurate, however even a tuna can will work. Once the tuna can fills with water, you have applied approximately 1.5 inches of water to your lawn.

Citizens can contact the City of Lubbock for water conservation ideas or to ask questions about the new plan by calling 775-2589. For a copy of the ordinance, visit <http://water.ci.lubbock.tx.us> and click on Current Ordinances.