



Memo

July 10, 2024

To: Canadian Prairie Chapter of the Irrigation Association
Landscape Alberta

From: Ryan Kidd
Deputy Director, Water Services

RE: Clarification on allowable use of irrigation systems in Water Utility Bylaw 40M2006

Thank you for meeting with us on Monday July 8th and for sharing your insights and concerns.

The City acknowledges the challenges experienced by your industry resulting from the outdoor water use restrictions declared on June 6th. We also recognize that irrigation system technology has evolved and that many irrigation systems in place today can be operated to maximize water efficiency.

The City has learnt much about the limitations of the current bylaw through our experiences with drought related restrictions in 2023 and the current situation resulting from the Bearspaw Feedermain Break. Insights are being compiled from both events and will be applied to bylaw updates coming to Council in 2025.

Given that the current Water Utility Bylaw still impacts the use of sprinklers connected to hoses and irrigation systems during outdoor water use restrictions, and to avoid further confusion, we would like to provide clarity on the following activities where water may be used for irrigation.

- 1. Watering of new grass plantings (sod or seed) with reasonable evidence of recent installation: sod within 21 days, seed within 45 days**
 - Stages 1, 2 & 3 - New sod or seed can be watered using any method, including irrigation systems, within the specified timeframes noted in the bylaw. e.g. Sod installed July 1 could be watered using any irrigation method until July 22.
 - This applies in construction and residential settings.

- 2. Watering of lawns**
 - Stages 1 & 2 only - Allowed with sprinklers connected to hoses or irrigation systems. Applies to all water customers.
 - Stages 1, 2 & 3 - *Water Managed Sites* – Allowed with sprinklers connected to a Water Managed System at any time of day, within the specified water use reductions.

- 3. Watering of gardens, trees and shrubs (lawns excluded)**
 - Stages 1 & 2 – Allowed using a sprinkler connected to hose or irrigation system during specified times. Allowed at any time of day using a hand-held container or spring-loaded nozzle with automatic shut off.
 - Stage 3 – Allowed at any time of day using hand-held container. Sprinklers and irrigation systems are not permitted.

- Stages 1, 2 & 3 - *Water Managed Sites* – Allowed with sprinklers connected to a Water Managed System at any time of day, within the specified water use reductions.
- ***New trees and shrubs*** fall into this category unless they are being installed as part of a construction project (*see point 6*). If not part of a construction project, we would encourage commercial customers to use non-potable water from The City's temporary commercial river water pick up station. Details are available on calgary.ca.

4. Testing of Irrigation Systems

- Stages 1,2,3 & 4 - Testing of irrigation systems are not allowed unless:
 - Testing occurs during the allowable watering times in Stage 1 & 2, or
 - Testing is required as part of the contractual obligations for a construction project (e.g. Final Acceptance Certificate (FAC) for a park's irrigation system in a new development, or the occupancy agreement of a new home).

5. Irrigation system testing for Water Managed Sites

- *Water Managed Site* applicants who apply this season during outdoor water use restrictions will not be required to complete their audit test until restrictions are lifted.

6. Water use for Construction

- Water use for construction is allowed at any time in Stage 3,2,1 water restrictions.
- This includes testing of irrigation system to support construction activities
- Examples of construction activities include work related to: new development (greenfield or established area), utility infrastructure projects, riparian habitat restoration, development agreements, development permits or to meet regulatory obligation.

The City encourages customers to submit [Water Managed Site](#) applications for review this season. While there were delays related to the feedermain break, we are committed to reviewing and responding to applications as quickly as possible.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns please reach out to directly to Nicole Newton (nicole.newton@calgary.ca). We are committed to keeping your industry informed as restrictions are eased.

Sincerely,



Deputy Director, Water Services
Operational Services