

Latest on Water Restrictions

Once-A-Week Watering Extended Through June

Homeowners now have a chance to pressure wash unsightly outdoor tile, walkways and fences, but watering of established lawns and landscaping is still only allowed once a week.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District's governing board recently eased up on the pressure washing restrictions, but extended other water restrictions through June 30.

Although groundwater and surface water levels have shown signs of rebounding from the effects of a four-year drought, and Tampa Bay Water's 15-billion-gallon reservoir is full, the District is still suffering from a 28-inch rainfall deficit for the past 48 months.

Pressure washing for any reason is allowed once a year. Pressure washing for necessary purposes, such as cleaning prior to painting or sealing, maintaining a paint or material warranty, addressing a health or safety hazard and complying with local, state or federal health laws, is allowed at any time.

Under the once-a-week schedule, residents may water established lawns and landscaping on the following days:

Mondays-Addresses ending in 0 or 1

Tuesdays-Addresses ending in 2 or 3

Wednesdays-Addresses ending in 4 or 5

Thursdays-Addresses ending in 6 or 7

Fridays-Addresses ending in 8 or 9, locations with no address (common areas, entry areas), and locations with mixed addresses (office complexes, shopping centers)

Water before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.

For complete information, you may:

- Visit www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water
- Call (813) 275-7094 for a recorded message;
- Call the Water Conservation Team at (813) 272-5977 during regular business hours.

County Water Plants Win Award

Hillsborough County's Lake Park and Fawn Ridge water treatment plants, the main source of drinking water for 186,000 residents, have received the *2009 Plant Operations Excellence Award* from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The award recognizes facilities that demonstrate excellence in operations, maintenance, innovative treatment, conservation, reuse, waste reduction and pollution prevention.

The two plants are the primary water treatment facilities serving Water Resource Services' Northwest Service Area. This is the second consecutive year that Hillsborough County received the DEP award.

Water Conservation (Continued from Front)

program, customers have cut their average daily water use by nearly one-third, saving up to 32 million gallons of water a day over what they were using 21 years ago.

Water Resource Services provides 45 million gallons of drinking water a day to more than 500,000 people in unincorporated Hillsborough County. In 1989, the average water use per person was 146 gallons a day. Today, thanks to heightened awareness because of the impact of a four-year drought, that number stands at 88 gallons per person, per day. Savings of 34 million gallons of water a day adds up to approximately 12.5 billion gallons a year.

There is no substitute for water. Living creatures and plants need it to survive. We use it to quench our thirst, keep our bodies in good working order, to bathe, to raise our food and to prepare our meals. We use it for transportation, recreation, and to make the clothes, products and other goods we use every day. Water maintains our environment and restores our spirits with its calmness.

During Water Conservation Month and year-round, Hillsborough County encourages every resident and visitor to do their part to help conserve and protect one of our most precious natural resources.

Drool Rules For Budding Scientist

Normally, a trip to a laboratory isn't a good thing for a dog. But combine a 12-year-old boy's curiosity, a school assignment, three family pets and two enthusiastic assistants from Water Resource Services, and you have the perfect formula for a winning science fair project.

Parker Duet, a 6th-grade student at Tampa Bay Christian Academy, took home a blue ribbon from his school's science fair with his project, "Does Dog Saliva Kill Bacteria?" He got the idea from observing his own dog, a Havanese nicknamed GoGo, and a school lesson about ancient peoples and their belief that a dog's licking could heal wounds.

He had a hypothesis, GoGo and his aunt's two dogs, and would provide all of the supplies, but lacked two big-ticket items: the right kind of lab where he could incubate the cultures, and scientists to supervise him. After a trail of many phone calls and a lot of "no's," Parker's dad, Gary, found WRS' Environmental Laboratory.

There, Chief Environmental Scientist Laura Cintron and Environmental Supervisor Sandra Fernandez-McCoin, both dog lovers themselves,

couldn't resist the opportunity to mentor a budding scientist. They juggled their schedules to fit in Parker's visits, taught him proper safety techniques, oversaw his work and signed the many related forms. Parker said his time at the WRS lab was a great experience.

"I really liked the people that helped me," he said. "I thought they were really caring, and they were good teachers."

And the answer to the question: does dog saliva kill bacteria? Nope-not even by a nose.



Wearing a borrowed lab coat, 12-year-old Parker Duet works on his science fair project at the WRS Environmental Laboratory.

Watering In Chemical Treatments

Do you hire a lawn company to fertilize your yard or spray it for weeds and bugs? One change to watering restrictions that SWFWMD made in November and that is still in effect narrows the window of time that chemical treatments applied by a professional company can be watered in.

The old rule was 48 hours. The new rule is that these treatments can be watered in according to manufacturer's instructions within 24 hours following application, before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m., provided a dated chemical advisory marker is clearly posted in the yard. Typically, this new rule means that the watering-in must be done either the evening of the chemical application, or the following morning.

Homeowners who apply the chemicals themselves, rather than using a professional company, can water these in only on their designated days.

Join the County Budget Discussion

Hillsborough County will be facing some tough budget decisions again this year. To join the discussion:

- * Become a member of Hillsborough County on Facebook (www.facebook.com/HillsboroughFL)
- * Become a Follower on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/HillsboroughFL>)
- * Join the Discussion on Blogspot (<http://hillsboroughfl.blogspot.com>)
- * e-mail hcbudget@hillsboroughcounty.org
- * voicemail or text message budget concerns to 813-704-0181

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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMUNICATOR

Published quarterly by the Communications Department to inform residents about the programs, services and activities of their County government.

For more information, call the Hillsborough Information Line at (813) 272-5900, or visit the County's website at: www.hillsboroughcounty.org

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COMMUNICATOR

Keeping You Informed About County Government
Spring 2010

April is Water Conservation Month

Hillsborough County is joined by other local governments and utilities across the state in the annual declaration of April as "Water Conservation Month."

Florida is the only state in the nation that sets aside an entire month in recognition of the need to conserve one of our most precious natural resources. April is celebrated as "Water Conservation Month" because it's typically the driest month of the year in our state, and water demand is often at its highest as residents put in new plantings for spring and water their lawns to make the grass green.



Hillsborough
County Water

Resource Services (WRS) promotes water conservation through a wide variety of educational efforts, community outreach, rebate programs, enforcement of water use restrictions, partnerships with other agencies and a residential reclaimed water system that is among the largest in the United States.

Our customers have done their part, too. Since 1989, when the County began a formal water conservation

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