

**City of Spring Hill, Tennessee**  
**Water Conservation Policy: Alternate Day Outdoor Watering**

**Policy**

It is the City of Spring Hill's policy to use our potable water supplies in an efficient and responsible manner recognizing that it is a finite and valuable resource. The City's Conservation plan relies heavily on reducing summer time peak water use. The City's peak summer day use is 2.5 times greater during the warmer months (May, June, July, August and September) than our average daily use during the cooler months (October-April). The largest contributor to consumption is outdoor watering and irrigation. The conservation strategy is to modify the days when outdoor watering occurs to reduce this peak demand. The City's goal is to reduce peak day demands by approximately 33%. In order to accomplish this goal, an alternate day outdoor watering policy is necessary. The majority of outdoor watering is for irrigation/sprinkling lawns and landscaping. Most lawns require only one-inch of water per week to remain healthy. Watering over the course of alternating three days per week should easily allow enough time to adequately water while also providing water conservation measures. Outdoor watering will be limited to three days per week during the months of May, June, July, August and September for all Spring Hill Water Department customers.

**Customers at locations with an address ending in an odd number will be permitted to perform outdoor water activities on Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday.**

**Customers at locations with an address ending in an even number will be permitted to perform outdoor watering on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday.**

Customers such as subdivision homeowners associations; commercial, industrial or retail developments that have open spaces and landscaped areas maintained collectively or by grouped entities which perform outdoor watering and do not have a specific street number address, will be allowed to perform outdoor watering based on the first letter of the name of the subdivision or development.

**The names of associations with the first letter of "A" through "M" will be permitted to perform outdoor watering on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. The names of associations with the first letter of "N" through "Z" will be permitted to perform outdoor watering on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.**

**No customers will be permitted to perform outdoor watering on Friday.**

It is also recommend, but not mandatory, to perform outdoor watering during the hours of 4:00 am – 10:00 am and 8:00 pm – 2:00 am. Watering during the hottest hours of the day, actually waste water through evaporation and does not allow adequate soil and root absorption compared to watering during the cooler hours of the day.

#### Application of Policy

This policy applies to water drawn from the City of Spring Hill's Water System utilized to water, irrigate or soak turf (grass), seeded and strawed soil, bare soil, annual and perennial ornamental flower beds, and any other landscaping, vegetation material or planting material that is regularly maintained outside of a residence or commercial building by means of outdoor watering. Storing of water to be utilized for the purpose of watering on days other than described above will also be prohibited by this policy.

Water used for other purposes, e.g. car washing, pressure washing and swimming pool filling is not restricted by this policy at this time. Vegetable gardens are exempt from this watering policy as they require watering on a regular daily basis. It is encouraged to water vegetable gardens during either the early morning hours (4:00 am – 10:00 am) or the later evening hours (8:00 pm – 2:00 pm) as to allow soil absorption without evaporation and wasting of water. The City of Spring Hill Water Department encourages everyone to utilize water conservation measures when performing these non-restricted activities and water using tasks. If limiting outdoor watering per this policy, fails to provide adequate reduction of peak day demands, this policy may be revised to limit other non-essential outdoor water uses as described above. Water wasting such as outdoor watering that drains down the sidewalk, street or other conveyance path and into the storm water system when performing outdoor watering will also be in violation of this policy. It is necessary for each customer to oversee the areas being watered as not to waste the water utilized for this purpose. Please note that water wasting in the course of any water use activity will be in violation of this Water Conservation Policy.

#### Controlling Legal Authority

The need for the City to reduce peak day demand is discussed within this policy and will be enforced by the City of Spring Hill Water Department, Public Works Department, Codes Department, Police Department, Fire Department and any other department staff that observes the violations. This policy will be considered as the City's Water Conservation Plan. In addition, the City of Spring Hill's governing body provides the City's Water Department with the jurisdiction to establish rules governing outdoor watering schedules and water use. This policy is established under these authorities.

### Exemptions

Under certain circumstances a customer will be exempted from the outdoor watering policy. The three exemptions include the following:

- Publicly-owned park facilities and playing fields with scheduled activities,
- Newly sodded lawns or newly planted landscape areas, and
- Plants inside greenhouses, regardless of whether they are owned by commercial enterprises or hobbyists.

An example of a publicly-owned facility with scheduled activity is the ball fields located in Evans Park. Failure to maintain these fields and other park facilities by the Parks and Recreation Department between scheduled use will likely result in serious damage to the playing fields. Newly sodded lawns require daily, and often multiple times per day, watering until the sod takes root and the lawn is established. Seeded lawns are not exempt from this policy as they generally only require watering no more than three times per week up to a maximum of three months. New planted landscaped areas may require once daily watering for a few days or weeks. Water customers are encouraged to establish their lawns and plant new landscaping in the early spring or fall so that such an exemption is not needed.

### Enforcement

Enforcement will be handled in the progressive manner set forth in this section:

1. The first time that either a complaint is lodged by the public and verified by City staff or a non-compliance infraction is observed by City staff, the non-compliant customer will be sent educational materials via mail that informs the customer of this policy and the need for it.
2. A customer account receiving a second non-compliance infraction will receive a door hanger identifying that this is their second offense and that the City will terminate water service if there is an additional instance of non-compliance.
3. The third offense will result in the customer's water service being shut off and a door hanger posted indicating the termination of water service. The water service will not be restored until the standard reconnection fee has been paid.
4. A subsequent instance of non-compliance at the same address in the same year will result in the water service again being terminated and a door hanger posted indicating the termination of water service. The water service will not be restored until the standard reconnection fee has been paid and the customer has agreed in writing that he/she will comply with the Water Conservation Policy and Outdoor Watering Schedule.

**City of Spring Hill, Tennessee**  
**Alternate Day Outdoor Watering Schedule (Odd/Even Address Schedules)**

During the hot summer months, Spring Hill water customers collectively is projected to use in excess of 4.5 million gallons per day, this is 2.5 times the average daily use of 1.8 million gallons per day used during the rest of the year. Where does the additional water go? **Outdoor watering and irrigation.**

While most of us enjoy having a lush green lawn and vibrant landscape during the height of our outdoor activities season, large numbers of us watering at the same time can cause stress to the water distribution system. Alternating our outdoor watering days helps conserve our valuable water resources and assists the City of Spring Hill Water Department in meeting the peak use summer demands.

The Spring Hill Water Department has adopted the following outdoor watering schedule for its water customers:

**ODD ADDRESSES**

Addresses ending with an odd number can water and irrigate outdoors on:

- **Saturdays**
- **Mondays**
- **Wednesdays**

**EVEN ADDRESSES**

Addresses ending with an even number can water and irrigate outdoors on:

- **Sundays**
- **Tuesdays**
- **Thursdays**

As an example, a customer with a street number address of 1009 would be allowed to perform outdoor watering on the “Odd Address” days of Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. A customer with a street number address of 202 would be allowed to water on the “Even Address” days of Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Customers such as subdivision homeowners associations; commercial, industrial or retail developments that have open spaces and landscaping maintained collectively or grouped entities which perform outdoor watering or irrigation of open spaces and landscaped areas and do not have a specific street number address, will be required to perform outdoor watering and irrigation based on the first letter of the name of the subdivision or development. The schedule is as follows:

**NAMES BEGINNING WITH**  
**“A” THROUGH “M”**

Names of Subdivisions or Developments beginning with the letter “A” through “M” can water and irrigate outdoors on:

- **Saturdays**
- **Mondays**
- **Wednesdays**

**NAMES BEGINNING WITH**  
**“N” THROUGH “Z”**

Names of Subdivisions or Developments beginning with the letter “N” through “Z” can water and irrigate outdoors on:

- **Sundays**
- **Tuesdays**
- **Thursdays**

As an example, a subdivision homeowners association or retail development named *Campbell Station* would be allowed to perform outdoor watering on the “A” through “M” days of Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. A retail development named *The Crossings* would be allowed to water on the “N” through “Z” days of Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

**Friday is a non-watering day** that will allow the water system to completely refill city reservoirs. The schedules are in effect during the months of May, June, July, August, and September. It is recommended, although not mandatory, that outdoor watering be performed between the hours of 4:00 am - 10:00 am and 8:00 pm – 2:00 am.

**There are exemptions:** outdoor potted plants and hanging baskets can be watered anytime; newly planted sod are exempt; plants growing inside of greenhouses (including commercial greenhouses) are not subject to the policy. Vegetable gardens are exempt as they require watering on a regular daily basis. It is encouraged to water vegetable gardens during either the early morning hours (4:00 am – 10:00 am) or the later evening hours (8:00 pm – 2:00 am) as to allow soil absorption without evaporation and wasting of water. Washing of cars and other vehicles is not affected however water conservation measures should be implemented such as not allowing the water hose to run continuously during washing of the vehicle.

Failure to follow the policy could ultimately lead to discontinuation of your water service. Property owners will first receive a warning; a second instance of non-compliance will result in a notice of violation. Upon the third instance, water service will be shut-off and reconnection fees will be required for continuation of service.

We are confident the new outdoor watering schedule will allow our water customers to maintain landscaping to the level to which they are accustomed while reducing temporary peak seasonal demands on the water system.

**For additional information,** please refer to the City of Spring Hill’s Water Department “Alternate Day Watering Frequently Asked Questions” and the “Water Conservation Policy: Alternate Day Watering” posted on the City’s website at [www.springhilltn.org](http://www.springhilltn.org).

## **City of Spring Hill, Tennessee**

### **Alternate Day Outdoor Watering Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Q. Why is the City's Water Department Implementing Alternate Day Outdoor Watering?**

**A.** Scheduled watering is a strategy to address peak water use demand. This summer, the Spring Hill Water Department projects that our highest daily water usage will exceed 4.5 million gallons per day. During the winter and cooler weather, average daily demand is approximately 1.8 million gallons per day. The difference highlights the increased use of water outdoors and the potential to reduce or save water through improved watering practices. Operationally, this imbalance also creates challenges for the Spring Hill Water Department's treatment, storage and distribution system. These peak water use demands place a strain on the water system during the summer months when water use is greatest. An Alternate Day Watering Schedule is simply a better way to manage our community's valuable water resource. Once implemented, the water management practice has the potential to reduce the peak demand by 1.5 million gallons per day or 33%.

#### **Q. How does the Alternate Day Outdoor Watering Schedule work?**

**A.** Property addresses ending in an odd number may water Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday. Addresses ending in an even number may water Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday. For example, a property address with the numbers 1009 would follow the odd outdoor watering schedule. A property address with the number 202 would follow the even outdoor watering schedule.

Customers such as subdivision homeowners associations; commercial, industrial or retail developments that have open spaces and landscaped areas maintained collectively or by grouped entities which perform outdoor watering and do not have a specific street number address, will be allowed to perform outdoor watering based on the first letter of the name of the subdivision or development. The names of associations with the first letter of "A" through "M" will be permitted to perform outdoor watering on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. The names of associations with the first letter of "N" through "Z" will be permitted to perform outdoor watering on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. As an example, a subdivision homeowners association or retail development named *Campbell Station* would be allowed to perform outdoor watering on the "A" through "M" days of Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. A retail development named *The Crossings* would be allowed to water on the "N" through "Z" days of Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

#### **Friday is a non-watering day.**

#### **Q. Can I water my potted plants and hanging baskets?**

**A.** Yes. A reasonable amount of water used for outdoor potted plants and hanging baskets is acceptable. The Alternate Day Watering Policy is aimed at reducing peak daily water use caused by activities such as watering/irrigating lawns, landscaped areas and gardens.

#### **Q. What if I recently planted a new lawn, which requires more frequent watering?**

**A.** New sod lawns and new landscaping is specifically exempted from the Alternate Day Irrigation/Watering Policy. Seeded lawns are not exempt and will follow the Odd/Even Outdoor Watering Schedule. Spring Hill Water Department encourages the planting of lawns and other landscape items in the early Spring or Fall months, when temperatures are cooler to reduce the duration and the need to water daily.

#### **Q. How long will I have to schedule my outdoor watering?**

**A.** Alternate Day Watering is the new standard on how to best manage and conserve our community's water resource. Each year, Spring Hill water customers will schedule water use based on their property's address or the associations name during the designated days for the months of May, June, July, August, and September. Other months of the year do not apply.

**Q. What if I water my yard with a private well?**

**A.** If you are using a private well or water source to water your lawn, garden, or landscape areas, then the Alternate Day Outdoor Watering Policy does not apply; scheduled watering only affects Spring Hill Water Department customers. In the event you receive a notice for non-compliance, please call (931)486-1265 to provide evidence of an alternate water source providing the property's irrigation needs.

**Q. Are there other exemptions to the Alternate Day Outdoor Watering Policy?**

**A.** There are three exemptions: (1) Publicly-owned facilities with active playfields and scheduled activities, (2) newly sodded lawns or newly planted landscape areas, and (3) plants inside greenhouses, regardless of whether they are owned by commercial enterprises or hobbyists. These exemptions recognize that more frequent watering is needed beyond the Alternate Day Water Policy.

**Q. Does the new policy apply to washing your personal car?**

**A.** No. The Outdoor Watering Schedule does not apply to washing personal vehicles including trailers, boats, and RV's. In addition, routine, but not frequent, power-washing of driveways, patios, or houses is not prohibited by the current Alternate Day Water Schedule. Although these activities are not required to follow the Alternate Day Watering Schedule, it is encouraged to utilize water conservation measures when performing these activities.

**Q. What is the proper amount of water to maintain a healthy lawn?**

**A.** A healthy lawn needs only one-inch of water per week. This amount may vary, however, depending on your individual yard's underlying soil conditions and the exposure to direct sunlight. To assist your efforts in proper lawn maintenance and conservation you are encouraged to visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services website at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/partners/for\\_homeowners.html](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/partners/for_homeowners.html). This site will provide helpful information to homeowners in water conservation measures.

**Q. Where can I find more information on wise water practices?**

**A.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website <http://www.epa.gov/OW-OWM.html/water-efficiency/> provides water efficiency and conservation information.

**Q. Why is Friday a "non-watering" day?**

**A.** Historically, Spring Hill Water Department customers use more water during the weekends compared to a typical weekday. A "non-watering" day provides the water system a beneficial pause. Due to the decreased demand, reservoirs will be able to fill to their maximum levels and crews can take pumps and equipment off-line for maintenance if needed. By providing a non-watering day on Friday, Spring Hill's water system is better prepared to meet the expected increases in the demand for water over the weekend.

**Q. What if someone fails to follow the Alternate Day Water Policy?**

**A.** Failure to follow the policy could ultimately lead to discontinuation of your water service. Property owners will first receive a warning; a second instance of non-compliance will result in a notice of violation. Upon the third instance, water service will be shut-off and a standard reconnection fee will be required to regain water service.

**Q. Does the Alternate Day Water Policy apply to the City of Spring Hill?**

**A.** Yes. The irrigation of public rights-of-ways maintained by the City of as well as public facilities and grounds will follow the Alternate Day Outdoor Water schedule. Frequent watering of playing fields and active areas that do not allow adequate watering during the three day alternate schedule, due to scheduled activities on the facilities, is exempted.

**If you have further questions about this issue, please contact the Spring Hill Water Department at (931)486-2252.**