



MACOMB TOWNSHIP

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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MACOMB TOWNSHIP
MICHIGAN 48042

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WATERANDSEWER@MACOMB-MI.GOV

Interoffice Memorandum

Date: April 9, 2023

To: Commercial Sprinkler Accounts

From: Kevin Johnson, DPW Director

CC: Macomb Township Board of Trustees

Re: Outdoor Watering Use Ordinance

In order to keep water at affordable rates for residents, Macomb Township continues to enact irrigation restriction ordinance to shift heavy use from automated irrigation systems on non-peak hours. The shift in peak usage will assist in managing water rates. Failure to comply with this ordinance may result in a citation.

Enclosed is a copy of the ordinance for reference purposes. If you have any questions pertaining to this ordinance, please feel free to contact the DPW at (586) 598-0687.

Please be advised that winterization of these systems is prohibited with the meter in place. Meters become damaged with large volumes of high air pressure being put through them in the winterization process. These meters will be tested in the fall when they are removed and any meters that are found to be damaged or broken will be replaced and charged to the account.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this memo.

Sec. 15-59. - Irrigation restrictions; limitations on water use.

- (a) *Irrigation systems restrictions.* Property which has an automatic activated or manually operated lawn and landscape irrigation system which is connected to the municipal water system is restricted from irrigating pursuant to the following restrictions between May 15 and October 15 of each calendar year:
- (1) Automatic lawn and/or landscaping irrigation is prohibited between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (6:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time) except as provided in subsection (a)(5) below.
 - (2) Properties with an even numbered address shall be allowed to irrigate on even numbered dates within the month.
 - (3) Properties with an odd numbered address shall be allowed to irrigate on odd numbered dates within the month.
 - (4) If a property has a mixture of odd and even numbered addresses or an undetermined address, the water and sewer superintendent, or his designee, may assign an odd-even designation for compliance with the ordinance from which this section derives.
 - (5) A property with a newly-seeded or sodded lawn may for the first twenty-one (21) days following planting, irrigate such lawn as often as required, except that irrigation is prohibited between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time).
- (b) A water user may manually irrigate residential landscaping utilizing garden hoses and sprinklers provided the irrigation is not connected to an automatic system, is attended and monitored by the water user and is prohibited between the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time).
- (c) The Board of Trustees for the Township of Macomb may declare an emergency and require that lawns and garden sprinkling and private car washing be limited to such periods as it deems advisable in order to assure an adequate supply of water for household and industrial uses.
- (d) Whenever the Board of Trustees for the Township of Macomb shall declare an emergency as specified, it shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the township a notice of its determination and of the rules and regulations limiting the periods and setting forth the regulations governing domestic use of water. A violation of the regulations so determine and published shall constitute a violation of this chapter.
- (e) This chapter may be enforced by representatives of the Township of Macomb Water and Sewer Department, Building Department, Macomb County Sheriff Department, and/or any other employees authorized to issue appearance tickets.
- (f) If the above provisions create a practical hardship for a large commercial water user, the water

user can petition the superintendent, asking for relief from one of the above referenced restrictions. The petition shall set forth the requested relief, and shall detail the extraordinary circumstances that would justify the requested relief, as well as the duration of the requested relief. The superintendent can grant or deny or modify the petition, taking into consideration the contractual obligations of the township as well as the articulated circumstances of the petitioner. The decision of the superintendent shall be final.

- (g) Any person who disobeys, neglects, or refuses to comply with any provision of section 15-59 or who causes, allows, or consents to any of the same shall be deemed to be responsible for a violation of section 15-59 and the same shall be deemed to be a nuisance per se.
- (h) A violation of section 15-59 is a municipal civil infraction, for which the fines shall not be less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The foregoing sanctions shall be in addition to the rights of the township to proceed at law or equity with other appropriate and proper remedies. Additionally, the violator shall pay costs which may include all expenses, direct and indirect, which the township incurs in connection with the municipal civil infraction.
- (i) Each day during which any violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense.
- (j) In addition, the township may seek injunctive relief against persons alleged to be in violation of section 15-59, and such other relief as may be provided by law.
- (k) Violations of section 15-59 shall be administered and enforced by the ordinance enforcement officer of the township, Macomb County Sheriff's Department or by such other person(s) as designated by the township board from time to time.

(Ord. No. 242, § 2, 5-13-09; Ord. No. 277, 7-24-19)

Watering Basics



WHY DOES MACOMB TOWNSHIP HAVE AN OUTDOOR WATERING ORDINANCE?

On May 13, 2009 the Macomb Township Board passed Ordinance No. 242 which puts limitations on water use.

“Chapter 15 of the Code of Ordinances for The Township of Macomb is hereby amended and revised for the purposes of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare; providing for decreases in maximum water usage at peak hours in order to achieve a better water rate from the GLWA; provide for a decrease in peak water usage in order to provide for better water pressure throughout the entire system during peak flows in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.”

WHAT IS PEAK WATER USAGE?

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) monitors each communities water usage during peak periods. The peak period for all communities is from 6 AM to Midnight EDT (5:00 AM to 11:00 PM EST) daily. The highest amount of water used during this time period equals a community's Peak Usage.

MACOMB TOWNSHIP'S PEAK USAGE HABITS:

Macomb Township has continued to have a higher water demand during peak periods, especially due to automated irrigation systems. The consequence of not shifting heavy use from automated irrigation systems to NON-PEAK HOURS (Midnight to 6 AM EDT) is a higher water supply charge incurred to the Township from GLWA.

HOW CAN MACOMB TOWNSHIP MANAGE WATER RATES?

The only way to manage the rates charged from GLWA is to shift the heavy water use to non-peak hours which are midnight to 6 AM EDT (11 PM to 5 AM EST)

Watering Basics

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The only way to manage the rates charged from GLWA is to shift the heavy water use to non-peak hours which are midnight to 6:00 AM EDT (11 PM to 5 AM EST)

HOW IS THE ORDINANCE ENFORCED?

The Macomb Township Water & Sewer Department will be taking a more aggressive approach to enforce the Outdoor Watering Ordinance. Violators will be given a notice of the violation with the following posted on their door.

WATER CONSERVATION DOES NOT AFFECT WATER RATES?

Despite what may be happening in other parts of the country, water conservation does not have an effect on water rates in our area. Michigan is fortunate to have an abundance of water available in the Great Lakes for use as drinking water. The GLWA has designed its water system and rate structure so that customers may use as much water as they need. It is the extra cost of supplying water during peak times that drives water rates higher.

Public water systems are similar to the road system in that a water system must be designed to handle its "rush hour traffic" between 6:00 AM and midnight EDT (5 AM to 11 PM EST). If Macomb Township took part of this traffic (water demand) and moved it to early morning (between midnight and 6:00 AM EDT, when most people are sleeping, GLWA would spend less to provide the same amount of water. This cost-saving would help keep water rates lower for all Township customers.

IMPORTANT

THIS IS A
FINAL NOTICE

YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN
VIOLATION
OF MACOMB TOWNSHIP'S
OUTDOOR WATERING ORDINANCE

*Please reset your irrigation timers
to water between the hours of*

**ANOTHER VIOLATION MAY
RESULT IN A CITATION**

Macomb Township enacted this ordinance for the purpose of shifting heavy use from automated irrigation systems to NON-PEAK HOURS. In addition, the shift in peak usage will assist in managing water rates.

To review this ordinance, go to
www.macomb-mi.gov
and click on the *Water & Sewer page*
or call the *Water & Sewer Dept.*
586-598-0687

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMPLOYEE: _____



MACOMB
TOWNSHIP