

WINDERMERE OAKS WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION
424 Coventry Rd. Spicewood, TX 78746

April 26, 2024

Dear Customer,

Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation (WOWSC) secures the water supplied to you directly with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). The source of our water is Lake Travis, which is part of the Highland Lakes water storage.

In response to historic low lake storage levels, the LCRA Board of Directors recently revised its Drought Contingency rules for water use. Effective May 1st, LCRA requires cities, utilities and all lakeside property owners who draw water from the Highland lakes to **limit outdoor watering to once-per-week** until the ongoing severe drought eases. Summer is almost here, and we are starting the season with **15% less water** in Lake Travis than last year. At present time, Lake Travis is only 38% full. Without significant additional rainfall in the watersheds of these lakes, the combined storage will continue to fall.

WOWSC could face up to a \$10,000 penalty per occurrence, if not compliant with LCRA's new rules. Customers who do not limit their outdoor watering of potable water from WOWSC after May 1, 2024 may be subject to fines and other penalties, so please adjust your irrigation controller accordingly.

As a reminder, WOWSC is currently in **Stage 2.5** of its Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). Automatic irrigation systems and hose-end sprinklers are limited to **once-per-week** between **midnight to 7am and from 8pm to midnight**, Monday through Thursday. No watering is permitted Friday through Sunday.

- Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited.
- Filling a new swimming pool or refilling an existing swimming pool is prohibited. Replenishing of water to existing swimming pools and hot tubs is permitted to maintain proper water quality and proper operation of the pool equipment. It is recommended pools and spas be covered when not in use to help avoid evaporation.
- Use of outdoor fountains is prohibited unless to maintain aquatic life.

The Windermere Oaks DCP can be found on the District's website under the [Drought and Conservation Plans tab](#).

Before you turn on your irrigation system, please perform an audit of your system, or hire a professional to do the audit. Verify your controller is set to run only one day per week, and during the designated hours. Look for leaks and broken sprinkler heads. Ensure the sprinklers are only watering vegetation and not the pavement. Set your timer to only water ten (10) minutes per zone. Additional landscaping tips are available on the next page.

Respectfully,

Windermere Oaks Water Supply Corporation

Landscaping Tips During a Drought

Design a Waterwise Landscape

Be sure to choose native or drought tolerant plants. These plants require less water and maintenance. They also attract pollinators such as butterflies. Many of these plants offer colorful flowers, including but not limited to, Bat-Faced Cuphea, Desert Willow, Purple Hearts, Red Yucca and more. Search the web for expert sites that feature drought tolerant plants for central Texas.

Consider Xeriscaping

Some of the most popular ways to have a xeriscape landscape include reducing your amount of turf space, installing drought-tolerant plants, and adding more shade elements to reduce the amount of water needed. You can also make your landscape more sustainable with mulches, an updated irrigation system and using organic materials when possible. The xeriscape idea is all about helping your landscape thrive without much outside help, like supplemental water or maintenance.

Consider drought tolerant grasses over traditional grass. Ask the grass experts when choosing the type of sod you are purchasing. We also recommend planting new sod in cooler months such as October, November, and February. Never plant new plants or sod during the summer months.

Mulch is Key

Adding mulch around trees and flower/plant beds is one of the best things you can do to help keep the moisture underground with the roots. Mulch helps reduce the evaporation of water from irrigation and rainy days.

Install Water Efficient Irrigation Systems

Smart irrigation controllers allow you to monitor your programming and water use with your phone. Most now come with soil and weather sensors so the system will not come on if it detects there is enough moisture or rain in the air. No need to waste water on days that it rains. LCRA offers WOWSC water customers residential rebates of 50% of the total cost, up to \$600 for qualifying purchases. Labor not included. Find out more information by viewing the [Residential Rebates tab](#) of the LCRA website for more information.

Install Soaker Hoses in flower/Plant Beds

While grasses need an irrigation system, the flowers, plants and trees can do well with soaker hoses. Soaker hoses target the areas better and uses less water. And, if the drought gets worse and irrigation systems are no longer allowed, the soaker hose is a good way to help keep plants fed.

Electronic Water Meters

Electronic water meters are helpful for leak detection and to monitor how much water you use. If you would like to purchase an electronic water meter, or have any questions, please email General@awrservices.net.