



CONSERVATION – Utilizing Our Resources Wisely

Water Conservation Information and Resources for Residents at The Landings

Courtesy of Skidaway Audubon, Inc.

OUTDOOR WATER USE RESTRICTIONS AT THE LANDINGS

- ! NO watering allowed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- ! NO watering allowed on Fridays.
- ! Odd-numbered addresses may water only on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.
- ! Even-numbered addresses may water only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Level 1 Drought Restrictions

Residential Landscape Maintenance Guidelines at The Landings

Use of rain or humidity gauge with irrigation system is recommended under current standards (Tier 1, 2 and 3). Lawn and Landscape Maintenance Guidelines, The Landings Residential Directory 2010, Page 233.

RAIN GAUGES

According to WaterSense (<http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/>) as much as 70% of a home's total water use during the dry season may go to landscaping irrigation, and some experts estimate that more than 50% of landscape water is wasted because of evaporation, wind or overwatering. Among many gauges available as add-ons to existing systems:

- ◆ Rain-Click by Hunter – Basic (www.hunterindustries.com)
- ◆ WR2 Series Wireless Rain Sensors by Rain Bird – Basic (www.rainbird.com).
- ◆ Smart-Y by Rain Bird - Delivers soil saturation and wilt rates; may not be compatible with existing systems.
- ◆ Solar-Sync by Hunter - The Landings Association uses on all clocks; requires an electronic clock.

SMART CONTROLLERS

Smart controllers self-adjust and recalculate how much and where and when to water based on a plant's evapotranspiration rate, or ET, which considers environmental factors like weather, plant type, soil type, slope, sun exposure and root depth. For more information go to www.irrigation.org/smartwater. Or become your own smart controller. Put your irrigation system on “manual” and go to the Georgia Automated Environmental Monitoring Network, www.GeorgiaWeather.net, find Skidaway (our weather station is located on the Magnolia golf course, between holes 1 and 9) for access to much of the same information a smart controller can deliver. This is the site The Landings Club accesses to determine when and how much to irrigate.

RAINWATER HARVESTING

Rainwater harvesting is a technology used to collect, convey, and store rain from relatively clean surfaces such as a roof...for later use. The water generally is stored in a rainwater tank. There are many varieties of systems available, from very simple above-ground rain barrels, to more complex

underground storage and pumping systems. Many resources are available. The following are only a few examples: www.rainxchange.com, www.rainsaverusa.com, www.gardenwatersaver.com, and www.spricreekrainsaver.com. Irrigation Auditing Conserve Water Georgia (www.conservewatergeorgia.net) recommends hiring a professional auditor to test your system and make necessary adjustments. To verify that an irrigation professional is currently certified or to find an Irrigation Association Certified Auditor go to www.irrigation.org/directories.

EFFICIENT IRRIGATION

Here are tips from www.irrigation.org for reducing the cost of operating and maintaining an automatic irrigation system:

- ◆ Know how to run your irrigation controller and change watering times.
- ◆ Adjust the watering times (number of minutes) and the frequency of watering (daily, twice a week, etc.) based on weather conditions.
- ◆ Change your settings to adjust for seasonal differences and reset the timer when needed.
- ◆ Ask your contractor to install an inexpensive rain shut-off device or soil moisture sensor.
- ◆ Regularly have a certified irrigation auditor check for leaks, broken heads, and other problems.
- ◆ Make sure the maintenance contractor is certified and licensed (if required), is insured, experienced, reputable, and is legally authorized to maintain irrigation systems in your area.
- ◆ Only water after the sun has gone down or in the early morning. (Specific day and time regulations for The Landings noted earlier.)
- ◆ Make sure your spray and sprinkler heads are properly adjusted to avoid watering pavements and other non-landscape areas.
- ◆ Water areas in the shade about 30 percent less than sunny areas.
- ◆ If possible, use drip irrigation to water trees and shrubs.
- ◆ To eliminate runoff, set your clock to cycle two-to-four start times (no longer than five minutes each), one to two hours apart to allow water to soak into the soil. For example, water three times for five minutes, instead of 15 minutes all at once.
- ◆ Develop a separate drip watering schedule for trees, shrubs, and flower beds.
- ◆ Aerate in the spring and fall to loosen soil and reduce runoff.

INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

www.conservewatergeorgia.net

Conserve Water Georgia is a site loaded with resources. Click waterSmart to find brochures such as “**Developing a water Smart Landscape,**” “**Managing a WaterWise Landscape,**” and more.