



## *NEWS RELEASE*

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### **West Des Moines Water Works Asks the Community to Voluntarily Reduce Irrigation and Garden Watering; Use Water More Wisely**

**WEST DES MOINES, Iowa** (June 14, 2021) — In light of the hot, dry temperatures in the Metro area **West Des Moines Water Works** along with other regional utility partners, is asking customers to voluntarily reduce irrigation and watering, while using water more wisely.

In addition to treating up to 10 million gallons of water per day through the AC Ward Water Treatment Plant, WDMWW can purchase an additional 9 million gallons in water capacity from Des Moines Water Works. With the drought of 2020 continuing into 2021, DMWW has asked its customers to reduce outside irrigation usage by 25 percent.

“The majority of West Des Moines water comes from deep and shallow wells, which are largely unaffected by short-term drought conditions and water-quality issues that can plague surface water,” explained **Christina Murphy**, general manager of West Des Moines Water Works. “Though we typically purchase approximately 30% of our water from DMWW, when temperatures spike this early in the summer after a drought previous year we need to work together to protect our water resources. Reducing usage at this time will help everyone.”

The request for voluntary water conservation has been effective in the past. In 2012, during a blistering drought, WDMWW asked for voluntary reductions and water usage declined by a million gallons a day. This year as in 2020, metro utilities have asked customers to participate in the “Use Water Wisely” campaign, which essentially asks for people to water every other day while avoiding Monday, which is normally a high peak usage day. A customer who is currently watering four days a week could cut down three to help meet the 25-percent decline in irrigation water usage.

“We want to underscore that the water supplied to our customers continues to be safe and available, but it is important that we be smart about conserving our capacity, especially as summer temperatures rise,” Murphy added. “We ask that people use common sense be generally aware of their water use.”

For example:

- Don't irrigate or water if it's raining
- Water lawns and gardens every other day in the early morning or evening rather than during the heat of the day
- Avoid watering sidewalks, driveways, patios and other impervious surfaces

The request from WDMWW echoes that of Des Moines Water Works.

"We are working with Des Moines Water Works in this endeavor as we share the same mission of providing safe, quality drinking water," Murphy added. "We thank our customers and citizens ahead of time for their help and cooperation in this water conservation effort."

Should the drought worsen, WDMWW will take appropriate actions according to its Water Shortage and Conservation Plan approved in 2014.

The West Des Moines Water Works is owned by the citizens of West Des Moines and governed by a five-member Board of Trustees. Appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council for staggered six-year terms, the trustees formulate policies and govern the operations of the water utility. Managed by a professional staff, West Des Moines Water Works is supported solely by the revenues it generates by supplying water to the community's residents and businesses.

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