

Park and Recreation Department
Water Reduction Approach
June 2015

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order B-29-15 and direction from Mayor Kevin Faulconer, the Park and Recreation Department is implementing the following phased approach to meeting the required 16% reduction in potable water use within the City park system. Parks being irrigated by recycled water are currently exempt from these water use reductions.

- Three Tiered Turf Irrigation Reductions:
 - Active Turf (athletic fields, historically designated areas, high-tourism areas, and special community spaces): The Department continues with current irrigation practices of watering three (3) times per week and only renovates turf to address safety concerns.
 - Passive Turf (well-utilized areas around picnic areas, playgrounds, and athletic fields): The Department reduced irrigation from three (3) times per week to two (2) times per week. Turf appears stressed but is kept alive.
 - Ornamental Turf (turf useful for aesthetic purposes including strips of turf adjacent to public rights of way or buildings and other nonessential turf): The Department decommissioned turf by turning irrigation systems off except as needed to preserve trees. As funding permits, the Department will explore ways options to replace turf with drought tolerant landscape.
- Dog Off-Leash Areas: The Department eliminated the use of potable water for turf irrigation in dog off-leash areas except as needed to preserve trees.
- Eco-Ponds including Chollas Lake: The Department continues to preserve these ecologically important water bodies while exploring ways to save water.
- Facilities and Buildings: In cooperation with Public Works Department, the Department is exploring ways to save water at recreation centers, comfort stations, pools, and showers.
- New Parks: Together with Planning Department and Public Works Department, the Department will ensure future parks currently under development utilize drought tolerant landscaping and will prioritize natural turf only for active areas such as athletic fields.
- Shrub Areas (non-turf irrigated areas): The Department reduced irrigation from three (3) times per week to two (2) times per week or less depending on landscape drought tolerance.
- Special Sites (Mt. Hope Cemetery, City-operated Golf Courses, Maintenance Assessment Districts, and Gas Tax Medians): The Department reduced potable water irrigation by 16% by reducing frequency of irrigation and ceasing irrigation in certain locations.
- Trees: All existing trees will be irrigated as necessary to protect their health and to keep parks safe. The Department implemented simulated rain events to provide deep watering once or twice per month depending on tree species.
- Turf Medians: The Department eliminated the use of potable water for turf irrigation in turf medians except as needed to preserve trees.
- Water Usage: The Department monitors water usage and manages it in accordance with historical evaporation and transpiration rates as identified by California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS).