

CONNECTED



March 2008

GEORGIA RELAXES WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

Starting April 1st, Georgia will ease outdoor watering limitations by making several exemptions to the Level Four Drought Response implemented in September 2007.

State officials say the exemptions will continue to ensure sound management of our water resources, while supporting Georgia industries that depend on water use.



“Georgians have demonstrated their dedication to a culture of conservation,” said Governor Sonny Perdue. “It is important to continue to encourage conservation with the 10 percent reduction, which I believe we can achieve while also supporting industries that are so essential to our state.”

Beginning March 1st, the latest orders from the state Environmental Protection Division (EPD) will allow hand watering of landscapes for 25 minutes per day on an odd-even schedule between midnight and 10 a.m. Odd-numbered addresses can water on

Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Even-numbered addresses can water Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Hand watering is defined as one person with one garden hose with a spray nozzle that shuts off when it is released.

If the water user participates in the Outdoor Water Use Registration Program, the individual can water newly installed landscapes, up to three days a week from midnight until 10 a.m. for a period of 10 weeks based on the odd-even schedule. To register with the Outdoor Water Use Registration Program and take an online class to learn about water conservation, log on to the Urban Agriculture Council’s Web site at www.urbanagriculture.com. The class will be available online starting March 1st, EPD spokesman Kevin Chambers said.

Marietta Water, like other local governments and water utilities in the 61-county Level Four Drought Response area, will still be required to achieve the Governor’s water use reduction goal of at least 10 percent. Beginning April 1, the water savings will be calculated using average monthly water use from April through September 2007.

“These steps will give consumers confidence to buy and plant new trees, turf and shrubbery,” said Governor Perdue. “It will give retailers confidence to stock these items, and it will give producers confidence to grow them. This action will lend renewed strength to the landscaping industry in Georgia.”

For more information about the drought and water conservation, please visit www.georgiaepd.com, www.conservewater-georgia.net and www.mariettawater.com

Marietta Water will continue to monitor the drought situation and will release new Marietta Water service area restrictions based on water conservation concerns. Watch for a complete list of Marietta Water service area guidelines in the April 2008 *Connected*. ⚡

Start Your Day the Water-Saving Way



When you wake up tomorrow, you can help get your day off to a great start by taking a few steps to reduce the amount of water you use as part of your morning routine.

SHORTEN YOUR SHOWER BY ONE MINUTE

You can save money, water and energy by taking slightly less time in the shower. If you really want to try and save water, limit your shower time to five minutes or less. You can save even more by replacing old showerheads with new water-saving models that use only 2.5 gallons per minute.

USE CAPTURED SHOWER OR BATH WATER TO FLUSH YOUR TOILET

Plug the drain while showering or put a bucket in the shower with you to catch some of the water. Then use the water to flush your toilet occasionally. Every time you flush in this manner, you can save water, the amount will depend on the age and efficiency of your toilet.

TURN WATER OFF WHEN NOT IN USE

Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four. Do the same for shaving and washing dishes.

ELIMINATE LEAKS

If you notice a leak during your morning routine, make plans to fix it as quickly as possible. Leaks account for an average of 8 percent of all home water wasted.

PUT YOUR TOILET TO THE TEST

Check for a leaking toilet every so often by lifting the lid off the toilet tank and putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank before leaving the bathroom. After breakfast or your morning cup of coffee, come back and look in the bowl. If you see food coloring inside, you have a leak.

SAVE WATER AND MONEY

Low-flow toilets need only 1.6 gallons per flush, saving thousands of gallons per year. Unlike earlier models, low-flow toilets available today receive high marks from consumers for overall performance.

Marietta Water has a toilet rebate program to provide an incentive for customers in homes built before 1993 to retrofit older high-flow toilets with new low-flow technology. Customers will be eligible to receive rebates for up to three toilets per home. The program has two rebate options. The first is a \$50 rebate for the purchase of any 1.6 gallon per flush toilet on the approved toilet list. The second program option is a \$100 rebate for high-efficiency toilets that use 1.28 gallons per flush and have the WaterSense labeling certification. You will find lists of both types of toilets at www.mariettawater.com.

For more information on reducing your water use at home, please visit www.mariettawater.com. ⚡

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

In observance of Spring Day, Marietta Power and Water will be closed on Friday, March 21, 2008.

Friday, April 25 **Glover Park Concert Series**

8 to 10 p.m.
Glover Park in Marietta Square
The Glover Park Concert Series is "the" place to be in Marietta the last Friday evening of each month April through August.
Call (770) 794-5601 for more information.

Sunday, April 27 **Mmmmmmm.....arietta! Taste of Marietta**

11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Glover Park in Marietta Square
This year' "Taste" is expected to be the best yet! In addition to the food and fun, the family festival has outdoor entertainment all day, culminating with the sunset concert.
Admission is free. "Tastes" range from 50 cents to \$4.
For more information call (770) 429-1115 or visit www.tasteofmarietta.com.

For a complete list of City of Marietta events, please visit www.mariettaga.gov and click on Calendar of Events.

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