

## Even/Odd Water Sprinkling Restrictions Now In Effect





*Where can I call if I need more information?*

River Falls Municipal Utilities  
125 East Elm Street  
River Falls, WI 54022

Phone: 715-425-0906  
Website: [www.rfmu.org](http://www.rfmu.org)  
Email: [rfmu@wppisys.org](mailto:rfmu@wppisys.org)



*In accordance with Water Conservation Ordinance, Section 13.080.040 of the City Code, before turning on your sprinkler, remember that:*

-  Lawn watering is prohibited between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. from May 1 to September 30.
-  Watering is allowed before 8:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m. on an odd/even schedule. This means that residents and businesses with addresses ending in an even number may water lawn on even-numbered calendar days. Likewise, those with addresses ending in an odd number may only sprinkle lawns on odd-numbered calendar days.

## Why Conserve Water?

Every summer our water system is impacted by the additional stress of irrigation efforts during dry weather. During the summer of 2007, we experienced so much water use that one of our wells had difficulty recharging, resulting in the need to implement an emergency water restriction to help reduce the demand on the system. As a result, a Water Conservation Ordinance that balances consumer needs with environmental concerns was adopted to prevent overuse of water resources and ensure a sufficient water supply for fire protection purposes.

## The Fine Art of Lawn Watering

A healthy lawn requires about one inch of water per week. As a general rule, apply the water all at once rather than in several light waterings. Before you water, do some arithmetic. If it just rained 1/4 inch, you probably only need to apply 3/4 inch with the sprinkler. Use common sense, however, and consider the weather forecast. If there is a good chance of rain soon after that 1/4 inch rainfall, don't water at all. If the rain doesn't come, you can make up the difference.

## Reduce the Need for Watering

Let grass grow taller. To promote deep rooting and lawns that tolerate dry conditions, mow grass no shorter than two inches.

Use chemicals wisely. Control weeds to reduce competition for soil moisture. This may be done by hand, or with careful use of proper fertilizing.

Consider the weather. Don't mow during the heat of day, especially when conditions are hot and dry; newly cut grass blades lose water quickly.

Be creative. Plan and establish a landscape that has less lawn and requires less water and maintenance. Consider planting groupings that include drought tolerant species and organic mulches that help keep the soil moist.

## Simple Concept. Major Benefits. Rain Barrel Rebate Program

Rain barrels simply attached to downspouts to collect and store rainwater from your rooftop which can be used later to water your lawn or garden, or to wash your car. Using rain barrels not only help protect the environment from runoff, they save you money and energy through decreased demand for treated municipal tap water. If rain barrels seems like a lot of work for a little water, remember that one inch of rain falling on a 1,000 square foot roof adds up to 625 gallons of water! Obviously one rain barrel will not be able to catch all that water, but every little bit helps!

Through a joint effort with the City of River Falls, a refund of 50% of the purchase price of a rain barrel(s) up to a maximum of \$30 is available as a water conservation promotion. To learn more about rain barrels, including how to order a barrel from St. Croix County and redeem the rebate, contact Kristy Treichel at 425-0900, ext. 152 or go to [www.rfcity.org](http://www.rfcity.org).

Here's how River Falls' 435 million gallons of water use in 2007 varied during the year:

August 1  
2.697 million gallons  
(maximum day use)

July  
2.019 million gallons per day  
(summertime average use)

February  
0.908 million gallons per day  
(wintertime average use)

