



# WATER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Port Washington Water District

## Protecting Our Water

### PWWD Receives Compliance Deferral from NYS to **Construct Advanced Treatment Facilities**

**Consumers must reduce irrigation by 20% to meet District's goal of keeping impacted wells offline until treatment is complete.**

The Port Washington Water District (PWWD) has received a compliance deferral from New York State, which will allow the District the needed time necessary to design and construct advanced treatment systems to successfully remove 1,4-dioxane from its water supply.

The State will only grant the two-year compliance deferral to water providers that have an action plan to construct advanced oxidation process (AOP) treatment systems. AOP is the most technologically advanced treatment process and a proven solution that removes compounds from drinking water. By constructing these systems, PWWD will meet the State's new maximum contaminant level (MCL) standard for treating 1,4-dioxane.

The District will work towards design, construction and completion of these treatment facilities throughout 2021.

**Customers must reduce irrigation by 20%**

"The District's goal is to keep the impacted wells offline while we work aggressively to get the needed treatment systems up and running," stated David Brackett, Chairman of the PWWD. "To meet consumer demand during the summer months, while simultaneously keeping



David R. Brackett,  
Chairman of the Board

wells offline to construct required treatment, the **Port Washington community must reduce irrigation usage by 20 percent...**it's that simple."

**ACT NOW**  
  
**And SAVE!**

### SMART IRRIGATION REBATE PROGRAM

By January 1, 2025, all PWWD customers will be required to replace standard automatic irrigation system clock timers with EPA WaterSense labeled smart irrigation controllers. Make the switch now and receive a \$150 rebate! To apply, go to [pwwd.org](http://pwwd.org) and search under '**Conservation.**'

## 2021 Mandatory Irrigation Guidelines **Inside**



### INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR WATER CONSERVATION SUCCESS:

#### Page 1:

- Reduce Irrigation by 20 Percent
- Irrigation Rebate Program

#### Page 2:

- Drip Irrigation Techniques

#### Page 3:

- Important Guidelines for Water Irrigation
- Mandatory Irrigation Water Schedules & Zone Map

#### Page 4:

- Town of North Hempstead's Native Plant Residential Rebate Program
- Tips for Water Wise Gardening and Lawn Watering

# Drip Irrigation 101

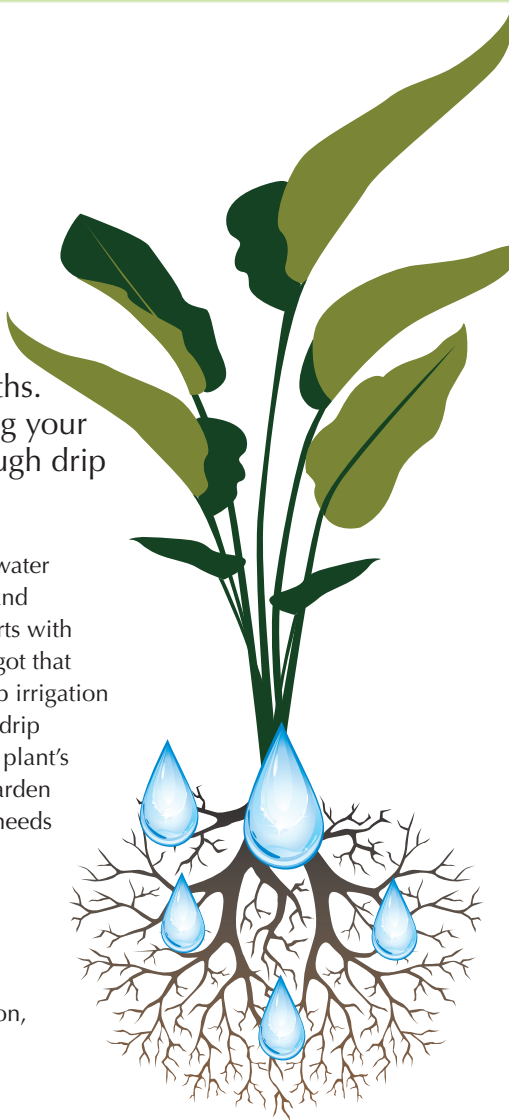
Gardening and lawn care account for the majority of the increase in water usage during the warmer weather months. A way to conserve water while irrigating your plants and vegetables optimally is through drip irrigation.

Drip irrigation is a system that emits small drops of water directly to the plant's root. According to landscape and irrigation expert Michael Dwyer, "Drip irrigation starts with using a simple device that connects to a hose or spigot that many homeowners already have. Simply run the drip irrigation connector within your garden or landscape and the drip irrigation delivers water and nutrients directly to the plant's root zone, at the right time. It's beneficial for your garden because a plant gets exactly the amount of water it needs when it needs it."

## Did You Know?

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 29 billion gallons of water used daily by households in the United States, more than 8.5 billion, or 30 percent, is devoted to outdoor water use.\*

Source: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)



## ADVANTAGES OF DRIP IRRIGATION



### 1 CONSERVE WATER WASTE

By targeting the plant's root zone directly, water isn't wasted on areas that won't benefit the plant.

### 2 KEEP PLANTS HEALTHY

The best way to feed a plant is at the root. Overhead watering is not recommended.

### 3 PREVENT MILDEW

Wet leaves may cause fungus such as mildew to spread. Drip irrigation will help a plant's leaves stay dry.

### 4 PREVENTS SOIL EROSION

Drip irrigation is a steady drip and lowers the amount of runoff water, therefore reducing soil erosion.

Source: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

## Message From The Superintendent

As we enter our peak pumping season, it's important to understand the importance of reducing lawn and landscape irrigation by 20 percent. Our infrastructure will be under great strain this season as several of our well sites will be taken offline this summer to begin the construction of our advanced treatment systems. In cooperation with our professional engineers, we have created a proactive plan, and our District is prepared to meet and exceed the water quality standards recently set by New York State. Our newsletter is filled with clear guidelines and tools on how to conserve water. It's also vitally important to follow our Automatic Irrigation Zones and Timing Map which is broken down by different geographic regions of Port Washington. If you have any questions, please call the District at (516) 767-0171 and a member of our team will assist you.

Lastly, don't forget to test your backflow device. If you are installing a new irrigation system, you must contact our District first to receive requirements and approval before you begin. The law requires ALL backflow devices be tested every 12 months by a New York State Certified Backflow Tester. The results must be filed with our District and Nassau County Department of Health.

*Let's continue to stay safe, stay healthy and enjoy our summer season!*



**Italo J. Vacchio,**  
Superintendent

## Commissioner News



**Peter Meyer,**  
Water Commissioner

## Water Commissioner Peter Meyer Re-Elected

Congratulations to Peter Meyer on his re-election as Water Commissioner of Port Washington Water District.

The annual election of a Water Commissioner is for a three-year term. Mr. Meyer is a member of the Lions Club of Port Washington, the Manhasset Bay Sportsmen's Club and the Port Washington Sail and Power Squadron. As a dedicated member of the community for 50 years, he has supported PYA (Port Youth Activities) through Roller Hockey team sponsorship. He is a member of the Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners' Association and Long Island Water Conference.



IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR

# AUTOMATIC WATER IRRIGATION

**Taking Pressure Off Infrastructure During Treatment Facility Construction**

When you or your irrigation contractor turn on your automatic sprinkler system, it is mandatory that you adhere to the following:

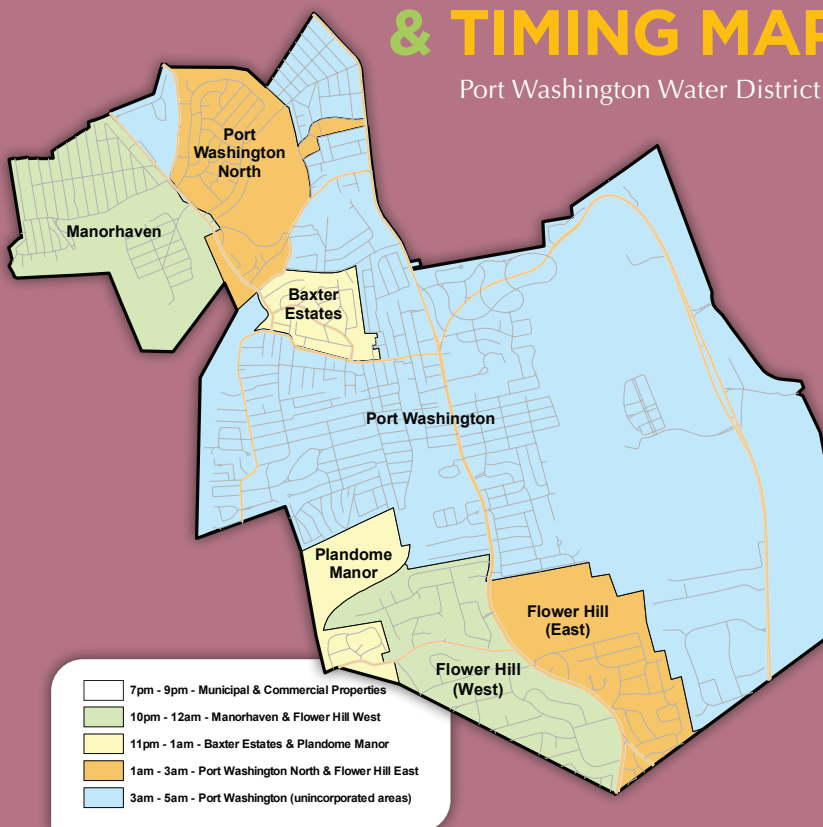


- Turn back watering times for each zone by 4 minutes. This will save up to 20 percent on overall usage.
- Addresses within a particular geographic zone are required to follow the time schedule for their automatic irrigation system. (See Irrigation Geographic Zone/Map)
- Check for leaks or broken sprinkler heads that unnecessarily waste water.
- Customers must adhere to Nassau County's Odd/Even Lawn Watering Ordinance. (See "4 Easy Steps" in adjacent article)
- Ensure automatic rain and soil moisture sensors are working properly and confirm this with written certification from your contractor.
- Save money by installing a smart irrigation controller. The District has \$150 rebates available to residents who make the switch (learn more at [pwwd.org](http://pwwd.org)).
- Make good landscaping choices, such as integration of native/drought resistant plants and xeriscaping, as this will lead to lower water usage.
- According to the EPA, by installing a WaterSense labeled soil moisture sensor, the average home could save more than 15,000 gallons of water each year!



## AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION ZONES & TIMING MAP

Port Washington Water District



To help alleviate the sharp increase in water demand during the early mornings, the District has created the above irrigation zoning map for customers to follow. This coordinated effort will prevent the District's infrastructure from becoming overwhelmed during peak times.



For those residents who manually water their lawns and gardens, it is required that you adhere to the following:

- 1 Turn back watering times for each zone by 4 minutes. This will save up to 20 percent on overall usage.
- 2 Lawn watering is prohibited between 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- 3 Even-numbered addresses and non-numbered homes can water only on even-numbered days; odd-numbered addresses can water only on odd-numbered days.
- 4 Restrict irrigation to 15 minutes per area with a maximum watering of two hours per day.



Mindy Germain,  
Water Commissioner

### "WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER!"

PWWD appreciates everyone's assistance in helping us attain this critical water reduction goal for our community. If you have questions, please call the District at (516) 767-0171."



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[www.pwwd.org](http://www.pwwd.org)

#### Commissioners:

David R. Brackett, Chairman  
Peter Meyer, Secretary  
Mindy Germain, Treasurer

#### Superintendent:

Italo J. Vacchio

#### Board Meetings:

Every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. All meetings are held at the District Office unless otherwise announced.

#### Business Hours:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., weekdays

#### 24-Hour Emergency Number:

(516) 767-0171

#### Member:

American Water Works Association  
Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners' Association  
Long Island Water Conference

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## Water Conservation & Landscapes

### Water-Wise Gardening

#### Choose plants that require less watering

Landscape watering is one of the biggest uses of water at your home. When planting your garden, consider choosing native trees, plants and shrubs that do not require a lot of watering.

#### Get Rewarded!

A great way to start your native plant landscape is to enroll in the Town of North Hempstead's Native Plant Residential Rebate Program. Eligible residents may receive up to \$500 per household for the purchase of native plants on a first come first served basis. To apply, visit [www.northhempsteadny.gov/sustainability](http://www.northhempsteadny.gov/sustainability).



## WATERING TIPS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 **Don't overwater lawns.** Keep your lawn approximately two inches long. This will help reduce evaporation and require less water.
- 2 **Create your own water supply** to water flowers and gardens by collecting rain runoff in rain barrels.
- 3 **When irrigating your lawn** and flower or vegetable beds, avoid watering driveways and sidewalks.
- 4 **Water retention in your garden** is enhanced by compost. Start a compost pile and add it to your garden. Mix in wood chips and peat moss to boost water retention.
- 5 **Avoid wasting water** by installing a spring-loaded shutoff nozzle on garden hoses to avoid water waste.

Source: [www.nswcawater.org](http://www.nswcawater.org)

