

## Ongoing drought conditions are stressing our region's water resources.

While we expect our groundwater supply will be sufficient, we need to work together to reduce pressure on it. Sustainably using our water helps preserve the livability and beauty of this place we call home.

In the summer, our water usage spikes due to irrigation. Anything you can do to water more efficiently, to prevent water waste, and to minimize irrigated areas will help protect the resiliency of Sisters Country.

Here are some ways you can join our outdoor water conservation efforts this growing season:

Time it right. Water your lawn and garden before 8 am to reduce water loss to evaporation.

**Don't overwater.** Lawns need less water than you might think! Once or twice a week is generally sufficient.

**Fix leaks.** Check for leaks in irrigation lines, sprinkler heads, and outdoor spigots—even a slow drip adds up to a lot of wasted water.

Eliminate runoff. Adjust sprinkler heads to prevent runoff on your driveway, sidewalk, or street. Runoff can also be a sign that you are applying too much water too quickly.

Use efficient irrigation tools. For shrubs or gardens, switch from sprinklers to drip irrigation or soaker hoses combined with a hose timer. For in-ground systems, install a weather-based irrigation system controller or use a soil moisture sensor to prevent overwatering.

Rethink your landscape. Replace all or part of your lawn with native or low-water-use plants. Use the Water-wise Gardening in Central Oregon guide to help you: https://bit.ly/3xiC566

**Keep soil moist.** Add mulch around plants to help the ground retain soil moisture.



