

Irrigation

As we all know, Florida has an increasingly serious problem with the availability of water. We frequently experience severe droughts in the winter months, followed by almost daily rain in the summer months. The SouthWest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD - pronounced swiftmud) has created some strict guidelines to manage this critical resource. Manatee County is the next lower level of irrigation regulation, and then University Park falls under the County. Each of these levels can impose more restrictive, but not more liberal, measures than imposed by the higher level .

Within University Park, our irrigation systems use storm water which feeds the retention ponds. In addition, some wells are used to supplement those retention ponds that frequently run too low to permit irrigation use. The pumps that feed the irrigation systems each currently serve from one to five Neighborhoods, plus Common Areas. The Neighborhoods being served include a mix of maintenance-free that have central irrigation programmers, maintenance-free that have individual-property programmers and non-maintenance-free that have individual programmers.

The University Park Irrigation Committee is charged with managing the complexities of the organization, rules, maintenance parameters and Community compliance system for our irrigation systems. Each pump has an Irrigation Pump Coordinator, and each neighborhood has a Neighborhood Irrigation Representative.

The Irrigation Committee has determined that $\frac{3}{4}$ " of water applied once per week is sufficient to maintain a healthy St. Augustine grass lawn and garden and remain within the SWFWMD guidelines. Individual irrigation schedules take this standard into account, along with the characteristics and capabilities of each Neighborhood's irrigation system.

This complex system can only be effective when each Homeowner responsibly adheres to their assigned irrigation schedule. We are sharing limited resources and systems, and individuals acting outside of the overall plan can place undue wear and tear on their pump, cause an entire system to shut down, and reduce the amount of irrigation that others are receiving.

If you are unsure as to what your individual irrigation schedule is, please contact your Neighborhood Irrigation Representative or Neighborhood Committee.