

# WEKIVA TERRACE

APRIL 2023, Volume 85

## INCLUDED FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL:

- Tips for dealing with drought, indoor and outdoor
- Crime prevention Through Environmental Design (from the Orange County Sheriff's Office)
- REMINDER: Watering is twice a week only—Sunday and Thursday for even numbered houses; Wednesday and Saturday for odd numbered houses. The only exception: We are allowed to water new sod for two weeks after installation...

## OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION TIPS



### GENERAL

- If you have a well pump, check it periodically. If the automatic pump turns on and off while water is not being used, you have a leak.
- Plant native and/or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees. Once established, your plants won't need as much watering. Group plants together based on similar water needs.
- Don't install ornamental water features (such as fountains) unless they use re-circulated water.
- Consider rainwater harvesting where practical.
- Contact your local water provider for information and assistance.

## LAWN CARE

- Position sprinklers so water lands on the lawn and shrubs and not on paved areas.
- Repair sprinklers that spray a fine mist.
- Check sprinkler systems and timing devices regularly to be sure they operate properly.
- Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches or to its highest level. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper and holds soil moisture.
- Plant drought-resistant lawn seed. Reduce or eliminate lawn areas that are not used frequently.
- Don't over-fertilize your lawn. Applying fertilizer increases the need for water. Apply fertilizers that contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen.
- Choose a water-efficient irrigation system such as drip irrigation for your trees, shrubs and flowers.
  - Water manually in fall and winter only if needed.
  - Use mulch around trees and plants to retain moisture in the soil. Mulch also helps control weeds that compete with plants for water.
  - Invest in a weather-based irrigation controller—or a smart controller. These devices will automatically adjust the watering time and frequency based on soil moisture, rain, wind, and evaporation and transpiration rates. Check with your local water agency to see if there is a rebate available for the purchase of a smart controller.



## LAWN CARE

- A heavy rain eliminates the need for watering for up to two weeks. Most of the year, lawns only need one inch of water per week.
- Check the soil moisture levels with a soil probe, spade or large screwdriver. You don't need to water if the soil is still moist. If your grass springs back when you step on it, it doesn't need water yet.
- If your lawn does require watering, do so early in the morning or later in the evening, when temperatures are cooler.
- Water in several short sessions rather than one long one, in order for your lawn to better absorb moisture and avoid runoff.
- Use a broom or blower instead of a hose to clean leaves and other debris from your driveway or sidewalk.
- Avoid leaving sprinklers or hoses unattended. A garden hose can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours.
- In extreme drought, allow lawns to die in favor of preserving trees and large shrubs.

## POOL

- Install a water-saving pool filter. A single back flushing with a traditional filter uses 180 to 250 gallons of water.

## INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION TIPS



### BATHROOM

- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- Take short showers instead of baths. Turn on the water only to get wet and lather and then again to rinse off.
- Avoid letting the water run while brushing your teeth, washing your face or shaving.

### LAUNDRY

- Operate clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or set the water level for the size of your load.

### KITCHEN

- Operate automatic dishwashers only when they are fully loaded. Use the "light wash" feature to use less water.
- Hand wash dishes by filling two containers—one with soapy water and the other with rinse water containing a small amount of chlorine bleach.
- Clean vegetables in a pan filled with water rather than running water from the tap.
- Avoid wasting water waiting for it to get hot. Capture it for other uses such as plant watering or heat it on the stove or in a microwave.
- Don't rinse dishes before placing them in the dishwasher, just remove large particles of food.
- Avoid using running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave.

### CAR WASHING

- Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- If you wash your own car, use a shut-off nozzle that can be adjusted down to a fine spray on your hose.

# PRINCIPLES OF Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)



CPTED is based on the premise that the design of our environment directly affects our behavior. It influences both the opportunities for crime to take place and our fear of crime. This has an important impact on our quality of life.

## CPTED PRINCIPLE #1

Natural Surveillance  
(increases visibility)



Reduce areas of solid walls



Low shelving in retail stores



Quality lighting

## CPTED PRINCIPLE #2

Natural Access Control  
(limits access)



1

Maintained Landscaping

2

Fencing

3

Use of Transparent Materials

## CPTED PRINCIPLE #3

Territoriality  
(promotes a sense of ownership)



Decorative Signage



Maintenance



Landscaping



### CPTED and the 'Broken Window Theory'

suggests that one "broken window" or nuisance, if allowed to exist, will lead to others and ultimately to the decline of an entire neighborhood. Neglected and poorly maintained properties are breeding grounds for criminal activity.



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