

## TIPS FOR A HEALTHY LAWN

- Many experts believe that the best time of the day to water your lawn is at 3:00 a.m. or 4:00 a.m. for the following reasons:
  1. The water will have a chance to sufficiently soak into the topsoil.
  2. Whatever water remains will be evaporated when the sun comes up eliminating the chance of creating fungi.
- It is also recommended that watering for longer periods, less frequently will result in a stronger root system for your lawn.
- An inch of water twice a week, whether from rain or sprinklers is all that is required to produce a healthy lawn in good soil conditions.
- Get the most from your sprinklers and avoid costly leaks by inspecting and maintaining your system on a regular basis.
- Adjust your system to avoid puddling and runoff.



**IN 2010, APPROXIMATELY 1/3 OF ALL WATER USED IN SHELBY TOWNSHIP WAS FOR LAWN IRRIGATION.**

## AREA MAINTENANCE METERS

For customers with both water and sewer service, an area maintenance meter is available. This meter records water used for irrigation, and sanitary sewer fees are not charged on that portion of the water bill. For more information, please see the contact list below.

### IN SUMMARY

We encourage everyone to use as much water as they may require, but please do it responsibly. Working together and shifting peak usage to between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m., we can have a positive impact on future rate increases, based on peak usage, from the City of Detroit without incurring any costly infrastructure improvements.

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONTACT INFORMATION

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF SHELBY  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
6333 23 MILE ROAD  
SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MI 48316-4405  
Phone: 586-731-5990  
Fax: 586-726-7221  
Website: [shelbytwp.org](http://shelbytwp.org)  
E-mail: [dpw@shelbytwp.org](mailto:dpw@shelbytwp.org)  
Hours: Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

## SHELBY TOWNSHIP

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



**WORKING  
TOGETHER WE  
CAN IMPACT  
WATER RATES**

## “PEAK HOUR” DEMAND

Did you know that the majority of the rate charged by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) to their customers like Shelby Township, is driven by water usage during peak hours and max days? Like most utilities, DWSD’s costs increase during peak periods of usage. Traditionally, these periods have been before people go to work in the morning and when they return home in the evening. Coincidentally, during the warmer months, these periods are primary lawn sprinkling times. Asking people to water their lawns during **non-peak** periods from 12:00 midnight to 5:00 a.m. helps to reduce Detroit’s capital investment and energy costs, which in turn impacts the rate charged to the Township.



**IN 2010, SHELBY TOWNSHIP HOUSEHOLDS USED AN AVERAGE OF 46,200 GALLONS OF WATER FOR LAWN IRRIGATION.**

As part of Shelby Township’s contract with the City of Detroit, water used between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 5 a.m. is not factored into the calculation of peak demands. Therefore, if the majority of lawn irrigation is shifted to this period, the Township can minimize future rate increases based on peak usage.



*Irrigating your lawn doesn't have to break the bank! Water during non-peak hours*

## THE TOWNSHIP BOARD TAKES ACTION

The Shelby Township Board of Trustees recognized the potential savings to the residents with the adoption of the voluntary Odd/Even Sprinkling Ban Ordinance No. 253. Briefly, it states that between May 1 and Sept. 30 of each year:

- Homeowners with addresses ending in even numbers are to water on even numbered calendar dates and homeowners with addresses ending in an odd number are to water on odd numbered calendar dates.
- Automatic irrigation of lawns and/or landscaping is **strongly discouraged** between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

- Newly seeded properties may irrigate as often as required during the first 21 days following planting, but it is strongly discouraged during the hours listed above.
- A water user may manually irrigate residential landscaping utilizing garden hoses and sprinklers in accordance with the above odd/even watering schedule, provided it is attended and monitored by the water user. However, **manual irrigation is strongly discouraged** between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

To read the entire Ordinance, please see the website, [shelbytwp.org](http://shelbytwp.org).



**MAINTAINING A LAWN HEIGHT OF 2-1/2" to 3" WILL REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF IRRIGATION NEEDED.**