

# PARKS & COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPES

## WATER USE EFFICIENCY IDEAS



### GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

Increase employee awareness of water use efficiency.

Install signs encouraging water conservation in employee and customer restrooms.

When cleaning with water is necessary, use budgeted amounts.

Install sub-meters and read water meters weekly to monitor success of water use efficiency efforts and to help detect leaks.

Assign an employee to monitor water use and waste.

Seek employee suggestions on water use efficiency; locate suggestion boxes in prominent areas.

Determine the quantity and purpose of water being used.

### SURVEY THE FACILITY

Identify water source points.

Develop a schematic of all water entry points. Know where your faucets, time clocks, solenoids, booster pumps, sprinklers and bubblers are located.

Determine specific use for each entry source.

Identify capacity of each water-carrying unit and frequency of use.

### DESIGN CRITERIA

Contact the Department of Water Resources or your local water supplier about possible landscape water auditor classes for your golf course managers.

Hire a golf course or landscape architect with water use efficiency experience.

Use turf only in immediate picnic areas, outside lunch areas and golf course target areas (greens, tees, landing areas). Limit or exclude turf from roughs.

Mow turf at higher mower settings.

Use native, drought-tolerant plants in nonturf areas.

Design dual watering systems with sprinklers for turf and low-volume irrigation for flowers, trees, and shrubs.

Use automatic irrigation systems. Water only during the late afternoon, night, and early mornings to minimize evaporation.

Use evapotranspiration-based water budgeting, adjusted monthly. Amount of irrigation can be determined by the evapotranspiration rate available online at: [www.cimis.water.ca.gov](http://www.cimis.water.ca.gov).

### MAINTENANCE

Sweep materials from floor instead of washing down whenever possible. Discontinue using water to clean sidewalks, tennis courts, pool decks, driveways, and parking lots.

Instruct clean-up crews to use less water where appropriate.

Check water supply system for leaks.

Repair dripping faucets and running or leaking toilets.

Avoid runoff.

If necessary, use multiple stop/start irrigation setting to allow sufficient soak-in time.

Inspect irrigation system regularly for leaks, broken pipes and heads, and needed adjustments—once a week in traffic areas, once a month in non-traffic areas. Repair and adjust within 24 hours with the correct parts.

Keep sprinkler heads vertical and at the correct height for good coverage and keep the spray pattern uniform.

Use a soil probe to check moisture level.

Use properly treated recycled water for irrigation where available.

Mulch around trees and shrubs.

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## INTERIOR

Use ponded water instead of running water.

Adjust water flows to reduce discharge.

Install water-saving devices such as ultra-low-flush toilets and faucet aerators.

Use recycling systems for chillers and cooling towers.

Install energy and water efficient air conditioning equipment.

Conservation suggestions for clubhouse areas are contained in the *Restaurants* and *Hotels and Motels* checklists.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

And to request this brochure in an alternate format, contact:

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Water Resources**

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