Water Requirements for Established Lawns

The greatest waste of water is watering too much, too often. The type of sprinkler system you select, the time and frequency you dedicate to watering, and the attention paid to your soil and lawn’s needs will help you water more efficiently and will result in a healthier lawn. Overwatering your lawn can lead to a variety of problems including shallow-rooted lawns, increased leaching of fertilizers and nutrients, and an increased potential for disease problems. Supplying too much water also causes grass to grow faster, which means more maintenance for you!

How much water? As a rule of thumb, an established lawn requires about 1 inch of water per week—more during the peak of summer and less during spring and fall. To figure out how to measure 1 inch of water with your sprinkler system, try this: Place a few empty tuna cans around your lawn while you’re watering and measure how long it takes your sprinkler to fill them with ½ inch of water. Then, try watering that amount of time twice a week.

What days? To conserve water in our community, it’s a good idea to set your watering days to odd/even dates according to your address. For example, if your address is an odd number, set your sprinkler system or watering schedule to odd numbered dates.

What time of day? Avoid watering in the middle of the day when the hot sun will evaporate much of the water before it can get to thirsty plants. Water before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m. when temperatures are cooler.

How long? If water begins to pool, turn off your sprinkler to prevent overwatering and runoff. Watering plants, including lawn areas, too much or too frequently can drown plants or result in shallow roots. Remember, most of your plants will need less water than your lawn.

Play “zone defense.” Schedule each individual zone in your irrigation system to account for the type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure, and type of plants and soil in the specific area. The same watering schedule rarely applies to all zones in the system.

“Smart” sprinkler system controllers. There are new controllers on the market that can help you schedule your irrigation system based on the weather conditions. If you are considering replacing your current controller, look for EPA’s WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers which have passed third party testing requirements. These controllers can either have on-site weather information or use a third-party communication tool (paging technology, radio, internet, cell phone) to get the most current weather-station information to the controller.

Soil moisture sensors. Another tool is a soil moisture sensor that can be used with controllers. Soil moisture sensors work by measuring the moisture in the soil, and enabling or disabling the controller to water, based on the moisture content of the soil.

A well designed watering system will help you use water more efficiently and avoid water waste as long as you regularly check your system for proper programming, scheduling, and maintenance needs. Knowing how much water your plants need, and periodically monitoring and maintaining your sprinkler system, are the keys to saving both water and money.
Street Preservation Project

This year’s street preservation project kicked off in mid-May, and the areas of work for this project include:

- Repaving 2nd Street between C Street and H Street
- Stormwater system installation and pavement patching on North 5th Street between Oakland Street and Annie Place
- Pavement patching on North 4th Street between Oak Street and Oakland Street
- Improvements to the 50 Acre Park off Betz Road—driveway, sidewalk, and pathway work

While we will make all efforts to limit the impacts to traffic and property access during the work, some inconvenience can be expected during construction. Work is expected to be completed by the end of June.

For more information about the project, please contact Engineering Technician Shane Nilles at snilles@cityofcheney.org or (509) 498-9229.

Cheney Rodeo and Parade

The Cheney Rodeo Parade participant registration forms are now available on-line at cheneyrodeo.com, can be picked up at Cheney Zips, or can be mailed to you by calling (509) 235-2754. Show your Cheney spirit by participating in the Rodeo Parade! Registration forms should be returned by July 1. The Rodeo Parade is Saturday, July 11, at 11:30 a.m. in downtown Cheney. It’s a fun time for all!

And save the date for the 48th annual Cheney Rodeo! Rodeo excitement kicks off Friday evening, July 10, at the Bi-Mart Arena. A dance follows the Rodeo both Friday and Saturday nights. The “Happy Hoofer Fun Run,” which benefits the Children’s Miracle Network, starts at 8 a.m. on Saturday, July 11. The Rodeo starts up again Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. To find out more about Cheney Rodeo, visit www.cheneyrodeo.com.

June Recreation Programs

For more information or to register for any programs, please contact Cheney Parks & Recreation at (509) 498-9250, or visit our website at www.cityofcheney.org/recreation.

June 1: Swim Lessons & Swim Team Registration Opens
June 13: Junk in the Trunk Sale
June 15: Camp CASLO Begins
June 19: Pool Bash/Pool Opens
June 20: Men’s Singles Tennis Tournament
June 27: Erickson Open—Doubles Tennis Tournament
July 6: Tennis Lessons Begin (Preregistration now open)
July 6: Summer Ball Begins (Reg deadline June 12)

Pool Bash 2015!

POOL OPENS: June 19th 1pm - 5pm

Join the Cheney Parks & Recreation Department for an exciting day at the pool! Activities include:

- Pool Safety
- Pool Backstroke
- carnival Games
- Water Aerobics
- Aqua Fitness
- Life Jacket Safety
- Purchase Swim Passes
- Swim Sock Distribution
- Summer Pool Programs
- Make it Splash Swim Pass Distribution
- and much, much more!

Learn about our NEW Pool Programs!