

News & Updates from
Des Moines Water Works
MARCH 2020

H₂O LINE

THINK DOWNSTREAM

Summer Irrigation Odd-Even Watering Schedule

Landscape irrigation makes up a large portion of water consumption, particularly during the warmer months of the year. There are many sophisticated automated, in-ground lawn sprinkler systems in use today; however, these systems require regular maintenance to operate efficiently. Even the most properly maintained system can be operated unwisely.

Des Moines Water Works encourages central Iowa businesses and homeowners to use water wisely, a recommended program and schedule aimed at smart summer irrigation. By improving the efficiency of irrigation practices, businesses and homeowners can reduce consumption, save money, and reduce the peak load on water facilities. For more information, visit: www.dmww.com/education/using-water-wisely.

Recommended Schedule

The recommended outdoor irrigation schedule applies to all spray irrigation systems for businesses and homes:

- Watering is not recommended on Mondays.
- Watering is not recommended during the hottest part of the day, between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm.
- Even-numbered addresses are encouraged to water on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- Odd-numbered addresses are encouraged to water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.







Example

My home or business address is: **5018**
(even-numbered address)

Recommended irrigation schedule: Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, before 10:00 am or after 5:00 pm.

Central Iowa Participating Communities:

- Alleman
- Altoona
- Ankeny
- Berwick
- Clive
- Des Moines
- Greenfield Benefited Water District
- Johnston
- Norwalk
- Pleasant Hill
- Polk City
- Polk County Water District
- Runnells
- Unincorporated Polk County
- Urbandale
- Waukee
- West Des Moines
- Windsor Heights

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
EVEN		ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD
						

2020 Capital Improvements

Water utilities are an infrastructure intensive industry. Des Moines Water Works maintains over 10,000 fire hydrants and approximately 1,400 miles of buried water mains which have 9,800 valves. Des Moines Water Works has over 80,000 water meters and automated reading devices serving our customers. Each of Des Moines Water Works' three water treatment plants and more than 50 remote sites (i.e. ground or elevated water storage facilities, pump and booster stations) have multiple mechanical, electrical, and controls systems. These systems require a high degree of maintenance to ensure they work at peak efficiency and allow us to treat and distribute the highest quality water at the least possible cost.

The Board of Water Works Trustees has recognized the utility can most cost effectively maintain our infrastructure assets by generating the necessary capital through water rate revenue. This allows the utility to pay for the maintenance and replacements on a "pay as you go" basis. The 2020 utility budget included an upcoming rate increase (effective April 1) to allow an operating budget growth of 5.4%, and produce an estimated \$24.1 million for new capital improvement projects.



Des Moines Water Works will be investing \$2.8 million in building and facility maintenance, \$2.1 million in new pumping and storage facilities, \$3.3 in equipment updates, \$4.7 million in treatment plant improvements, and \$11.2 million in water main replacement and distribution system improvements as the major areas of focus for 2020.

The largest capital improvement elements involve treatment plant improvements (\$4.7 million) and water main replacements (\$11.2 million). The treatment plant improvements are typically accomplished with very little impact on the public because the work takes place within the treatment plants. Water main replacement efforts, however, are often very visible to the public because the water distribution system extends into the neighborhoods where customers live, work and play. The water main replacement effort is a preventative approach that saves money on repairs, reduces the loss of water that occurs as a result of water main breaks, and ultimately minimizes potential disruption of service to customers. Des Moines Water Works uses a multi-variable approach for prioritizing the water mains that in need of replacement. Type of pipe, soil conditions, break history, and pipe age are the most prominent influencers. Additionally, Des Moines Water Works considers the extensive work of others involved in roadway modifications and reconstruction.

City of Des Moines, Iowa Department of Transportation, and Polk County are other entities that often perform infrastructure improvements within the right-of-way. Des Moines Water Works coordinates with these agencies, and in many cases, it is in the best interest of all for water main replacement to occur when these construction activities are taking place. Of the \$11.2 million targeted for water main replacement, more than 80% of this year's capital allocation will be on projects that involve coordination and cooperation with the City of Des Moines and Iowa Department of Transportation. The projects that involve multiple agencies require a higher level of coordination and effort during design and construction. Such efforts, in the end, provide benefit to the tax-paying and rate-paying customers in the Des Moines metropolitan area.