

# PRESS RELEASE

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## CONSUMER NOTICE

### **National Drinking Water Week May 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Waukesha, WI – April 30, 2016,** Recognizing National Drinking Water Week, the Water Utility reminds people that a new city Ordinance for Irrigation Systems is in effect. National Drinking Water Week celebrates the importance of water and reminds everyone that we are all responsible for protecting and conserving this vital resource.

This new conservation Ordinance ensures that all landscape irrigation systems, within the city of Waukesha, are designed, installed, maintained, and operated in a manner that prevents the waste of water, promotes the most efficient usage of water, controls erosion, and applies the minimum amount of water required to maintain healthy plants.

In addition to conservation minded landscape design, the Ordinance mandates the use of a WaterSense labeled controller. According to WaterSense, these irrigation controllers can save homeowners and businesses between 30-50% on their outdoor summer water bills and reduce landscape run off by 71%. The costs of the controllers start at approximately \$200 and go up to \$1,000. The less expensive controllers are essentially a timer with a rain and snow sensor. The more expensive line includes smart controllers that have built in receptors that interpret weather data available from services and water the landscape accordingly. These controllers can be monitored from anywhere with the use of a smart phone.

The Mayor is also commemorating National Drinking Water Week with a Proclamation that encourages conservation by reminding businesses of the grants available to replace equipment with new technology to save water and by reminding citizens about the \$100 toilet rebate, and the annual sprinkling ordinance – in effect May 1<sup>st</sup> – Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

For more detailed information regarding the new irrigation ordinance, the business incentives, toilet rebates, or the annual sprinkling ordinance, please visit the utility's website at [www.waukesha-water.com](http://www.waukesha-water.com).