

What is the City of Atascadero Doing

In Response to the Drought?

All of the City's Parks are equipped with Calsense Irrigation Controllers.



Calsense is the industry leader in advanced irrigation technology. The system allows the City Parks Staff to monitor water use in real time at the Public Works Corp Yard, and adjust water usage as needed.

The system:

- Tracks water use to the gallon
- Monitors and measures all flows in the irrigation system
- Sends data by radio signal to a central computer
- Measures actual evaporation rates year round and adjusts the irrigation water applied accordingly
 - Shuts down the irrigation system when it rains
 - Lowers water applied when humidity is up
 - Adds water when there are high temperatures or dry winds
- Allows “water budgets” to be set-up to limit the total water use
- Sends alarms / warnings if water is flowing in the system at a non-programmed time
 - Early detection of broken pipes or sprinkler heads
 - Identifies illegal connections

On February 12th the Atascadero Mutual Water Company declared a Stage 2 Water Shortage which limits outdoor water use, with a goal to reduce water usage by 20%.

In response the City:

1. Does not irrigate after 10 am
2. Irrigates every other day
3. Is not planting any new landscaping
4. Periodically monitors landscaping during irrigation periods to minimize or eliminate runoff
5. Uses shut-off nozzles when working on projects
6. Does not perform hard surface wash downs with hoses
7. Repair leaks and breaks immediately

The City typically does not water our parks on the weekends due to heavy use by the public. The Atascadero Mutual Water Company has allowed the City to maintain our given irrigation schedules due to our monitoring capability. The City Public Works Department Parks Staff continues to adjust water usage to minimize water use but keep the turf areas green per Council's direction.