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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Watering restrictions are still in effect for the year

MURPHY (April 7, 2016) With memories of the five-year drought still fresh, Murphy officials are reminding residents that watering of lawns and landscapes with automatic sprinkler systems remains under some restrictions, says Candy McQuiston, Customer Service Manager.

“We’re in a weather cycle that has filled the area lakes and reservoirs,” she said. “But anyone who’s familiar with the changing climate patterns knows that we could very easily enter into another prolonged drought. It’s really a matter of when, not if.”

To conserve the water that is at the disposal of residents even during the current non-drought period, residents are expected to adhere to a maximum of twice-a-week watering with automatic sprinkler systems.

“That’s the maximum,” she added. “However, most lawns do not need twice a week watering. With natural precipitation, many times only once a week or perhaps none for that week would be sufficient.”

In any case, residents should limit watering to not more than twice weekly between now and Oct. 31. Choosing which days to water is up to the discretion of the homeowner, but only twice within a seven-day period is allowed.

Regardless of the day or days chosen for watering, there is still a prohibition of watering during the hottest part of the day. No watering with automatic sprinklers should occur between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. In addition, Murphy officials are encouraging residents to turn off the automatic timer on their systems and operate them manually, deciding when to run a watering cycle based on weather conditions.

“To aid residents in determining when to water, we advise them to sign up for text or email alerts from the Water My Yard website,” she said.

Water My Yard is a web-based program that accurately measures the atmospheric conditions in the local area and provides detailed advice on when and how much to water yards. The site depends on the meteorological information supplied to it from weather stations throughout the North Texas area.

The watering advice is science-based and has been successfully tested over years of use. It was developed by scientists working with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the North Texas Municipal Water District. When signing up for the free service, Murphy residents can choose from a variety of active weather stations in the nearby vicinity.

Once the appropriate choices are made on the website, then a text or email message will be delivered to the resident advising them of the watering recommendation. “We strongly encourage residents to use the Water My Yard service, as it is both accurate and localized for our area,” said McQuiston.

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ABOUT MURPHY -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 18,020, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income above the state average. With more than 70 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a country feel while exhibiting an aggressive economic development stance. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27th Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.