

AN ORDINANCE

AMENDING: Chapter 6-24 Water Use Ordinance to add Section 6-24-130 Large Landscape Irrigation Systems

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARIETTA, GEORGIA, THAT:

Section 1: Section 6-24-130 Large Landscape Irrigation Systems shall read:

All new large landscape irrigation systems constructed after July 8, 2020 shall be designed, installed, maintained, and operated to prevent runoff from leaving the target landscape due to low-head drainage, overspray, or other similar conditions where water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, walks, roadways, parking lots, or structures. This requirement helps ensure compliance with, and is in addition to, the City of Marietta/ Marietta Board of Lights and Water's more general ordinances, prohibiting water waste.

A. Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to reduce water waste from leaking and/ or inefficient landscape irrigation systems.

B. Definitions

"Flow Sensor" - means an inline device that produces a repeatable signal proportional to flow rate.

"Landscape Irrigation System" - means an assembly of component parts that is permanently installed for the controlled distribution of water to irrigate landscapes.

"Landscape" - means ground cover, trees, shrubs, and other plants.

"Large Landscape" - means the landscape areas associated with a development (excluding single-family homes) served by one or more landscape irrigation systems where all irrigated areas added together total more than 1 acre (or 43,560 square feet).

"Master Shut-off Valve" - is an automatic valve such as a gate valve, ball valve, or butterfly valve) capable of being automatically closed by the WaterSense controller. When this valve is closed water will not be supplied to the landscape irrigation system.

"Rain Sensor Shut-off" - means an electric device that detects and measures rainfall amounts and overrides the cycle of a landscape irrigation system so as to turn off such system when a predetermined amount of rain has fallen.

“WaterSense Controller” - means weather-based irrigation controllers labeled under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s WaterSense program, which includes standalone controllers, add-on devices, and plug-in devices that use current weather data as a basis for scheduling irrigation.

C. Applicability

The Article applies to all landscape irrigation systems except those (a) used for commercial agricultural operations as defined in the Official Code of Georgia Section 1-3-3, (b) used for golf courses, and (c) dependent upon a nonpublic water source.

D. General Landscape Irrigation System Requirements

Regardless of whether an irrigation meter is used, all new landscape irrigation systems for single family residences shall include the following:

1. A backflow prevention assembly if required by the applicable backflow prevention requirements; (as outlined in Marietta/ BLW Code 6-20-070 & State of Georgia Plumbing Code)
2. A WaterSense controller; and
3. A rain sensor shut-off installed in an area that is unobstructed by trees, roof over hangs, or anything else that might block rain from triggering the rain sensor shutoff. (as outlined in official code of Georgia Code Title 12. Conservation and Natural Resources § 12-5-6)

E. Large Landscape Irrigation System Requirements. Regardless of whether an irrigation meter is used, new landscape irrigation systems for large landscapes shall include the following:

1. Applicable backflow prevention, a WaterSense controller, and the rain sensor shut-off as required of all new landscape irrigation systems;
2. A master shut-off valve for each controller installed as close as possible to the point of connection of the water but downstream of the backflow prevention assembly;
3. Pressure-regulating devices such as valve pressure regulators, sprinkler head pressure regulators, inline pressure regulators, or other devices shall be installed as needed to achieve the manufacturer’s recommended pressure range at the emission devices for optimal performance; and
4. At least one flow sensor, which must be installed at or near the supply point of the landscape irrigation system, that when connected to the WaterSense controller will detect and report high flow conditions to such controller and automatically shut master valves

Section 2: It is hereby declared to be the intention of this Ordinance that its sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases are severable, and if any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, it shall not affect any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases of this Ordinance.

Section 3: All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 4: This Ordinance shall become effective upon the signature or without the signature of the Mayor, subject to Georgia laws 1983, page 4119.

DATE: July 8, 2020

APPROVED: 
R. Steve Tumlin, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Stephanie Guy, City Clerk

Approved as to form: _____
Douglas R. Haynie, City Attorney