

July

Independence from Wasting Water: Reduce Irrigation Runoff

This July, Allen County Partnership for Water Quality (ACPWQ) is encouraging residents to liberate themselves from overwatering their lawns to improve local water quality. Homeowners might be familiar with seeing water run off their lawns down the sidewalk or creating puddles in their yards. Did you know that these are signs that you are overwatering or watering your lawn too quickly? If everyone is doing this in his or her lawn, this can lead to more than just wasted water; it can lead to degraded water quality in our local waterways. When water leaves your lawn, it takes what it collects along the way, often times meaning pollutants such as herbicides, fertilizers, and pesticides are running off your lawn into our streams.

The average lawn needs only about [an inch of water per week](#) to allow homeowners to reach their lawn goal, whether that is through rainwater or irrigation. Watering slowly and infrequently will promote deep roots, allow for your lawn to be less dependent on you. If you



notice puddling or water running off your lawn, turn off the water for a few minutes and give your lawn time to absorb what you have already given it before adding more. Another tactic for avoiding overwatering your lawn is to be sure to let the lawn completely dry out between scheduled watering times, as this can help reduce the amount of water that is wasted in the process. In addition, try watering your lawn in the early morning or late evening to reduce the rate of evaporation.

Not only is it important to monitor the amounts of water that we are adding to our lawn, but it is also important to consider the soil composition that makes it up. To help water become more easily absorbed into your lawn, try adding compost to your lawn and garden. Compost serves as fertilizer while also improving your soil's ability to retain water throughout the rest of the season.

This July, we encourage you to liberate yourself from wasting water and water your lawn only when you need to, reducing runoff. Through each homeowner's independence, we can improve water quality!