

RESULTS OF NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP'S NEW WATER IRRIGATION ORDINANCE

In these difficult economic times, it is important for the municipal government to be creative and innovative in finding ways to save money to avoid unnecessary rate increases. In December 2009, the Northville Township Board of Trustees passed a water ordinance that regulates the times that its residents can water their lawns as a way to save significant money in payments to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD). **The ordinance has resulted in avoiding more than \$300,000 in additional annual charges from DWSD.**

The contract between the City of Detroit and Northville Township sets the water rates based (in part) upon the "peak flow rate" of usage. DWSD uses a formula to determine the rates for each community based upon their expected peak flow rate. Generally, if a community has a lower peak flow rate, it will have lower overall rates paid to DWSD. However, if any hour of any day exceeds the peak flow rate, there will be additional charges to that municipality. Therefore, it is important for communities to properly set their peak flow rate with DWSD; too high and they will pay rates that are too high, too low and there will be significant financial penalties.

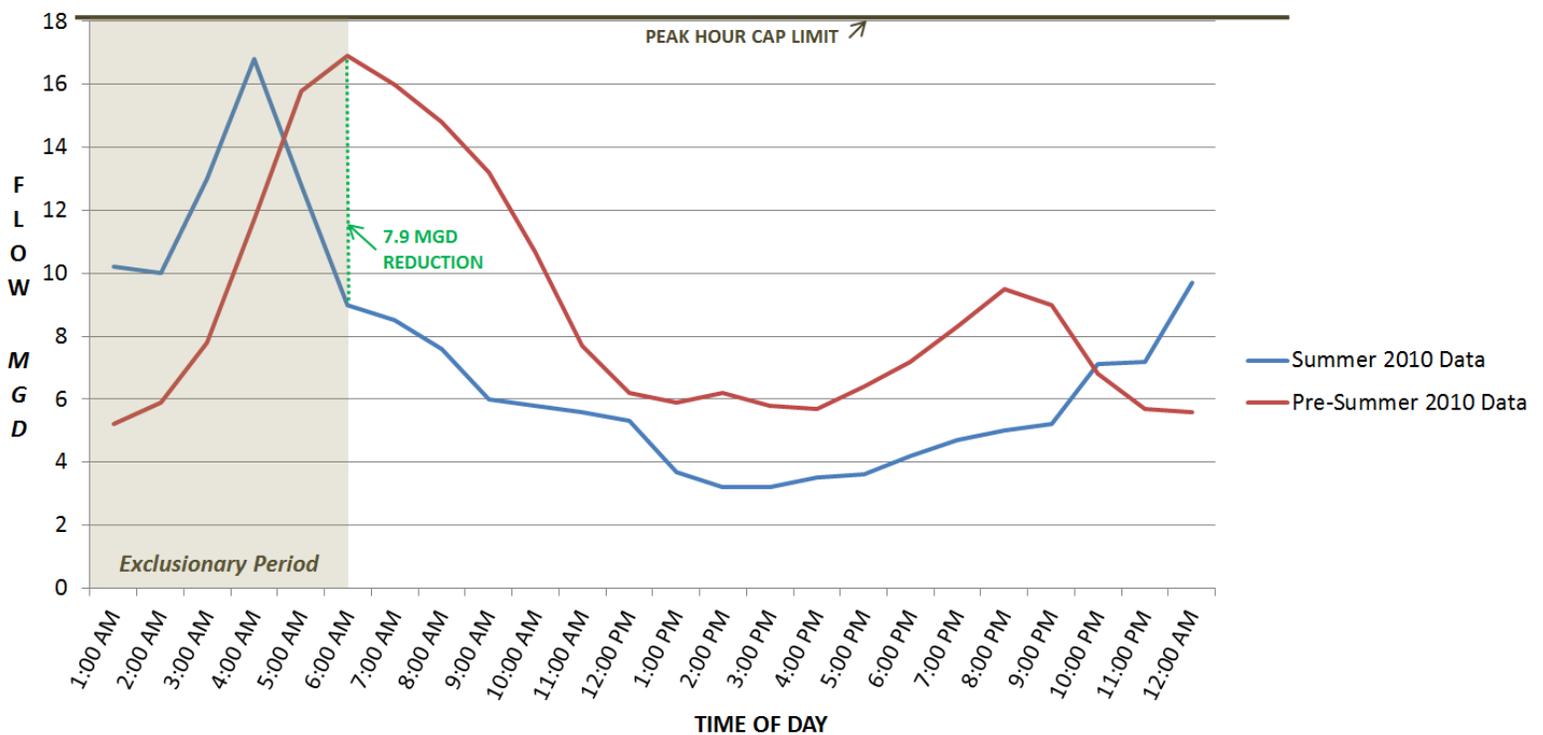
In 2009, the Township's Department of Public Services met with the DWSD for the purpose of determining Northville Township's future maximum flow rate. DWSD indicated that it believed that, based on the current and past water use patterns by Township residents, it was necessary to raise the peak flow rate contract limit which would lead to an increase in the water rate paid by the Township. A way to save the Township money was to shift the time of day that the Township reaches its peak flow rate, as the contract provides for an exclusionary period (12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.) where peak flow rates do not count towards the contract limit.

Pursuant to the ordinance, residents can water their lawns only between 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Following the passing of the new ordinance in December 2009, the Department of Public Services took steps to raise resident awareness of the requirements. Further, early in the summer of 2010, the ordinance enforcement officers visited the homes of residents who were watering their lawns during the prohibited hours and informed them of the ordinance. As a result of these efforts, the Township was able to successfully shift the peak hour

of water use into the exempted time period. The shift in the pattern of use is identified on the graph below.

Northville Township’s new ordinance has been an unqualified success due to the cooperation of its residents. The new ordinance is working to avoid unnecessary rate increases and the Township looks forward to continued cooperation during irrigation months.

NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP
Summer Water Use Pattern



MGD = Million Gallons per Day