

Community Garden Automatic Timer Guidelines

As part of our continued effort to support gardeners and promote healthy, thriving plots, timers may be used as an optional tool to assist with watering, particularly when scheduling conflicts make it difficult to reach the garden during peak watering times. It's important to note that timers are not intended to replace regular garden care, and should be viewed as a supplement, not a primary method, for maintaining your plot.

To ensure timers are used responsibly and effectively, we've outlined specific guidelines for their set-up and use. These must be followed at all times to prevent water waste, avoid disruption to other gardeners, and maintain the sustainability of our shared water resources.

Please be aware that if timer use is found to be inconsistent with these guidelines, or causes any issues, THPRD reserves the right to modify or discontinue timer use at any garden site, at any time. We appreciate your cooperation in using timers thoughtfully and as part of your overall garden care routine.

Timer Setup

- Timers are to be provided and set up by community garden plot renters
- A garden hose two-way splitter must be purchased and installed by the gardener using a timer as this allows for additional access to the water source; timers without y-split valves are subject to removal
- Timers shall not be permanently attached to hose bibbs or faucets
- Timer and water lines cannot cross pathways or obstruct walkways
- Faucets must be shared among all plot holders fairly

Timer Scheduling & Water Conservation Practices

- Set according to local water use regulations and seasonal needs
Example: *Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 6:00 AM for 30 minutes*
- Review and adjust the timer seasonally (e.g., spring, summer, fall) or during droughts/rainy periods
- Avoid watering during peak sun hours; watering to occur early morning or late evening to reduce evaporation
- Use mulch to retain moisture
- Avoid overwatering; signs of over-saturation should be reported
- Repair leaks promptly

Maintenance & Monitoring

- THPRD is not responsible for the maintenance or monitoring of the timer devices
- Gardeners must:
 - Visit plot often to ensure timers are working as intended, and that timers have not been compromised and/or removed
 - Check timers regularly for leaks, clogs, and/or overwatering
 - Ensure system is turned off during heavy rain
 - Watering outside of the garden plot is not desired - overspray into pathways and or neighboring plots may result in requesting the feature to be removed
 - Only the gardener, THPRD staff, or appointed volunteer can turn off or remove a timer

Communication

- Plot holders can submit concerns or suggestions to program staff
- For emergencies, such as broken water lines or valves, please contact community garden staff immediately or call 971-246-0169