



# News Release

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## **Columbia Parks and Recreation Following City's Water Use Alert**

Columbia's Parks and Recreation Department has taken measures to comply with the citywide Water Use Alert issued by the Water and Light Department. As with all Columbia residents and businesses, the parks department is following the alternate day watering schedule set by Water and Light. Following are other ways that Parks and Recreation is working to comply with the Alert:

- Parks and Recreation's irrigation systems for the public golf courses and athletic fields use lake water. If the lakes are low, deep wells at Cosmo and at Lake of the Woods are used to replenish them. In Cosmo Park, parks staff is able to use the well to fill up the lakes that are used by LA Nickell Golf Course and Rainbow Softball Center. None of the Parks and Recreation Department's athletic fields or golf courses uses City water for irrigation.
- Stephens Lake Park also has a deep well. This well has been on the property for more than 25 years and is being used to maintain the water level.
- Parks and Recreation staff has turned off the irrigation systems at the ARC, Flat Branch Park and the Martin Luther King Memorial.
- The department's Natural Resources staff takes all measures to water the city's landscape beds and trees early in the morning, to avoid watering in the hottest part of the day. However, the sheer volume of watering that needs to be done makes it impossible to completely avoid watering at hot times of the day.
- At this time, Parks and Recreation has approval from Water and Light to maintain the swimming pools at operational water levels, in the hope that residents will come out to swim in city pools.