

Irrigation Update

As many of you are aware, we are currently in a "severe drought" receiving less than half our normal rainfall in 2025.

We have 2 wells within Willowbend that provide water for irrigation. We've had problems with the system not providing enough water, and after diagnosing the irrigation system and the pumps, decided on the following:

- 1) Pull the north pump (located near 677 Crane Prairie Way).
- 2) Confirmed the pump wasn't operating at 100%
- 3) Ordered a new pump, along with 60 ft of extra pipe (est install is mid-May)
- 4) The extra pipe will put the pump at 120ft

At that point we had only one functioning pump, the south pump near the gazebo on Crane Prairie Way. Over the Easter weekend the irrigation system was hardly functioning. The pump was between 6-20 PSI, normal function requires 40-60 PSI. Then mysteriously, starting April 22 the pressure increased to normal levels providing normal function for a week. This past Tuesday the pressure dropped, once again causing limited irrigation. On Saturday we pulled the pump/pipe. We found the pipe was galvanized (not PVC or stainless steel), and was severely corroded, with holes of up to 1/4 inches. The pump is in extremely poor condition and needs to be replaced. We think this situation occurred due to the heavy sulfur influence of the water. We've ordered a second pump along with the stainless steel pipe.

As stated above, the new pump/pipe for the north well won't be installed until mid-May, but it should provide the water we need. Without irrigation we will suspend grass cutting.

We recommend watering your lawns per Sarasota County restrictions as follows.

Addresses ending with the following numbers may water:

Monday 0/1
Tuesday 2/3
Wednesday 4/5
Thursday 6/7
Friday 8/9

You are permitted by the County to water 3/4 of an inch. Willowbend's normal irrigation schedule for the lawns is for 30 minutes (2 15 minute sessions) so we recommend watering of 30 minutes on your assigned day. For example, 517 Habitat may water on Thursday.

Sorry for the inconvenience, but the lack of rain and low water tables isn't something we can control. We'll keep everyone updated with changes as they occur.