

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In the 2013-2014 school year, the maintenance and grounds departments worked together with Hillsborough Recreation to limit our use of water district-wide. Our internal water usage is already optimized with efficient systems in place since the completion of our bond program. Accordingly, attention was paid primarily to our outside water usage. We tightened up our watering schedules and watered less often and for shorter periods of time.

As our drought continues, we must continue to adjust our water usage and conserve more of this precious resource.

This school year, we are limiting the watering of our fields to no more than two times a week for between 10-15 minutes at a time depending on the field. This is down from three or four times a week depending on the field. Fields should remain green, safe, and playable, though there will be a visual difference to the fields in the next few months.

Landscaping areas have also been scaled back. Although drip irrigation systems are very efficient in the District, every bit of conservation helps and we have cut back some of these cycles as well.

We have also made the decision to stop watering some areas of grass in our District. These areas are not being used for recreation, sports, physical education, or play, and are simply areas that have grass in order to be more appealing than some other surface. No safety issues should arise from these decisions. During these times of drought, it is no longer appropriate to water these areas.

We have identified the following section at Crocker. As you see from this picture, there is grass on either side of the road used to drive out of Crocker's pick up area. These two grass sections are no longer being watered.



In addition, this narrow section of grass at North will also not be watered during our drought.



Though this section of grass near the Recreation Office will receive some modest irrigation, we are cutting the water significantly in this section as well.



We are continuing to work to identify other areas at each of our four schools that allow us to limit water consumption while not affecting play, safety, physical education, or Recreation. It is important to note that if this drought continues, we may need to make additional water conservation changes, including changes that may affect our programs.