

Independence from Wasting Water: Reduce Irrigation Runoff

By Jacquelyn Buck

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality (ACPWQ) is encouraging residents to liberate themselves from overwatering their yards to improve local water quality. Homeowners might be familiar with seeing water run off their lawns, down the sidewalk, or creating puddles in their yards. Did you know that these are signs that you are overwatering or watering your yard too quickly? If everyone is doing this on his or her lawn, this can lead to more than just wasted water; it can lead to degraded water quality in local waterways. When water leaves your yard, it takes whatever it collects on the way, meaning pollutants like herbicides, fertilizers, and pesticides flow off your lawn into our streams.

The average lawn needs only about an inch of water per week to allow homeowners to reach their lawn goal, whether that is through rainwater or irrigation. Watering slowly and intermittently will promote deep roots, allowing your lawn to be less dependent on you. If you notice puddling or water running off your yard, turn off the water for a few minutes and give your lawn time to absorb what you have already given it before adding more. Another tactic to avoid overwatering your lawn is to let the yard completely dry between scheduled watering times, reducing water loss. Also, try watering your grass in the early morning or late evening to reduce the rate of evaporation.

Not only is it necessary to monitor the amount of water that we are adding to our lawn, but it is also essential to consider the soil composition. To help water become more easily absorbed, try adding compost to your lawn and garden. Compost works as fertilizer while improving the soil's ability to retain water.

ACPWQ encourages you to liberate yourself from wasting water by watering your yard only when you need to! Through each homeowner's independence, we can improve water quality!