CITY OF BOZEMAN WATER CONSERVATION

A Guide to Identifying Common Irrigation Issues

Sprinkler issues may affect irrigation system efficiency

A well designed and well maintained irrigation system ensures water is applied efficiently on the landscape. These systems require regular maintenance and repairs to stay water efficient. Take a look below at common issues that could affect the efficiency of your irrigation system. These are all issues City of Bozeman Water Conservation Staff scan for during a sprinkler system assessment.

Common irrigation issues

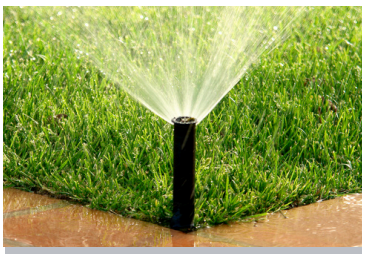
Take a look at the images below and learn to identify common issues you may find on your own system:

Unlevel

Sunken or tilted heads can create dry spots on the landscape.

Mixed Precipitation

Drip irrigation and sprinklers on the same zone leads to underwatering in some locations or overwatering in others.



Inefficient nozzles

Different spray nozzles use water differently. Install multi-stream multi-trajectory (MSMT) nozzles to ensure uniform watering.

Clogged Nozzles

Sputtering nozzles often indicate the nozzle or its filter is clogged. This can cause dry spots on your landscape.

Obstructions

Look for vegetation, landscape features, or movable objects that may be blocking a sprinkler's spray pattern.

Low Head Drainage

Sloped zones often allow water to seep from the lowest lying sprinkler head on the zone, causing water waste.

Overthrow/underthrow

Sprinklers that throw water further than or shorter than adjacent sprinklers can cause runoff or dry spots on the landscape.

Arc Adjustments

Sprinklers usually spray parallel to a landscape edge. When spraying too far or short on either side of its arc, it may lead to runoff, dry spots, and/or property damage.

***Did you know?** The City of Bozeman offers a rebate for the installation of water efficient MSMT nozzles? Visit www.bozemanwater.com and click on the water conservation button to learn more.

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