

Use of the Atwood Gardens Water System

If you have a problem with the water system or see a serious leak call Steve (608-556-0157), Ralph (757-604-1843) or John (608-338-4011) - If necessary, turn off the water at the fire hydrant near Talmadge Street (no tools are needed—just move the valve until the handle points away from the pipe).

The water will be turned on in May, around Mother's Day. (The City will not turn it on earlier because the pipes could freeze.) Gardeners need to have their own hose or bucket to move water (or work it out with your neighbors and share).

Please be responsible. Gardeners must be present while watering their garden plot - no leaving sprinklers or soaker hoses running when you're not present. Please limit use of the spigot to about 15-20 minutes, especially if others are waiting. Mulching is a great way to make the most out of the water you apply.

Spigots. Do not over-tighten the spigots—should be finger tight, only. Over-tightening will damage the seal, eventually, you cannot stop the leak and the spigot must be repaired or replaced. Do not use pliers to turn off the spigot because this can twist the riser pipe and break the connection to the main underground pipe (expensive to repair). Goodman/Atwood water volunteers repair spigots and the water delivery system before the spigots. **However, gardeners are responsible for water delivery beyond the spigots to plots. Heavy-duty hoses used for crossing the street are purchased and maintained by Atwood Gardens. Any hoses within the gardens are provided and maintained by gardeners. Atwood Gardens only repairs the water system, up to and including the pipes and spigots.**

Turning on the water. At the hydrant near Talmadge St. there are two main valves that control the main water line. These valves should remain on throughout the summer, but can be turned off if necessary. One controls the water flowing towards Corry St. and the other controls water flowing towards Ohio St. **If there is a leak or damage anywhere in the system, please turn the respective valve off and contact someone on the Water Committee immediately.**

For those with a garden plot between Ohio St. and Corry St., simply connect a hose to the desired spigot and turn the water on. Turn the water spigot off when you are finished, but only finger-tight. For plots west of Ohio Street or between Corry Street and Waubesa Street, you will find a long, heavy, rubber hose hung on the back of the mural on the corner. There is a double spigot on the standpipe connected to the mural. Connect the hose to one side of the double spigot and drag the hose across the street.

Do not turn on the water yet!! Be sure no hose ends or unions are in the street, as cars will damage these very quickly and they may damage car tires. Once across the street, connect the hose to one side of the double spigot on the end standpipe. Open this spigot so water can flow into the system, the other spigot on the end standpipe remains closed. Open the spigot on the main water line your hose is connected to so water flows across the street. This will fill the underground pipe across the street and you can connect a hose to any spigot to water your plot.

Hoses. When you are done, please ask the other gardeners if they will need to use the hose soon, and if not, turn the water off, disconnect the hose, coil it loosely, and store it on the wall-mounted hose brackets located behind the mural next to spigot. **Do NOT leave hose on the ground in mowed or shared areas.** Hoses have been mowed over because they were overlooked or not visible. Similarly, if you are the last person at the garden, please shut the water off and make sure the hose is disconnected and carried back across Ohio/Corry, neatly coiled and placed on mounted brackets so that it is ready for the next gardener to use.

Do not dig or drive posts deeper than 18 inches. The plastic water pipe is buried in the gardens near St. Paul Avenue. The pipe meanders around buried and above-ground obstacles and is generally 4 to 25 feet from the curb. The water pipes are buried between 2 - 4 feet deep.