

Winterization of City Irrigation Systems

On October 24, City crews will begin the annual winterization of irrigation systems located in our parks and along roadway streetscapes. Winterization is an important maintenance procedure to help ensure the longevity of the City's irrigation infrastructure. The City has about ninety irrigation systems with up to 35 zones per system and the winterization process is expected to take about four weeks.

Irrigation winterization involves the use of large compressors which force air through the irrigation system, removing any residual water so it will not freeze within the underground pipes. On October 4 and the City's move to Stage 4 watering restrictions in line with provincial drought level, the City turned off all water supply to our irrigation systems. The only water being expelled during winterization is water which now exists in the irrigation lines and heads. We can no longer wait to complete irrigation winterization now critical before temperatures fall below freezing.

How the City winterizes:

- Water is shutoff at the point of connection
- Compressor is attached to the irrigation system
- Compressed air is run through each zone until the water no longer streams out of the irrigation heads becoming a fine mist
- Compressor is shutoff and moved to the next system.

Winter is coming, time to winterize home sprinklers

We are reminding homeowners with lawn sprinkler and irrigation systems connected to the City's water and sewer system it is time to winterize your home irrigation systems as well. Home irrigation systems including garden hoses should be cleared of all water by shutting off the water, deactivating the system and draining remaining water. Properly prepared for cold weather, automated watering systems can last for many years with few repairs. So don't forget to winterize your irrigation system by blowing out the water and preventing damage from freezing water.

###

For more information:

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications
dtardiff@parksville.ca; 250 954-3073