

NWPA Technical Advisory Committee's Lawn Watering Conservation Ordinance

NWPA Executive Committee Meeting
November 8, 2012

Presented by:
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Metropolitan Planning Council



43 West Galena Boulevard, Aurora, IL 60506 ~ (630) 859-1331 ~ www.nwpa.us

Why a Lawn Watering Conservation Ordinance?

- Deep aquifer levels are declining due to over use
- Lawn watering has a major impact on Peak Water use
- Drought has sharp impacts on shallow aquifers and Fox River
- Lawn watering is a major discretionary use of potable water, and a highly visible one
- Inconsistency between NWPA members on lawn watering policies today



Recommendation Process

NWPA TAC

NWPA Executive Committee

Councils of Government

NWPA Member Communities

Property Owners



Ordinance Development Process

Regional

Inclusive

Broad participation

Use what works

Big impact

Leadership

Responsive

Conservation-oriented

Best practices

Cooperative

Iterative

Local expertise

Easy to understand

Ownership

Ordinance Development Process

Ordinance review

- Existing ordinances in member communities

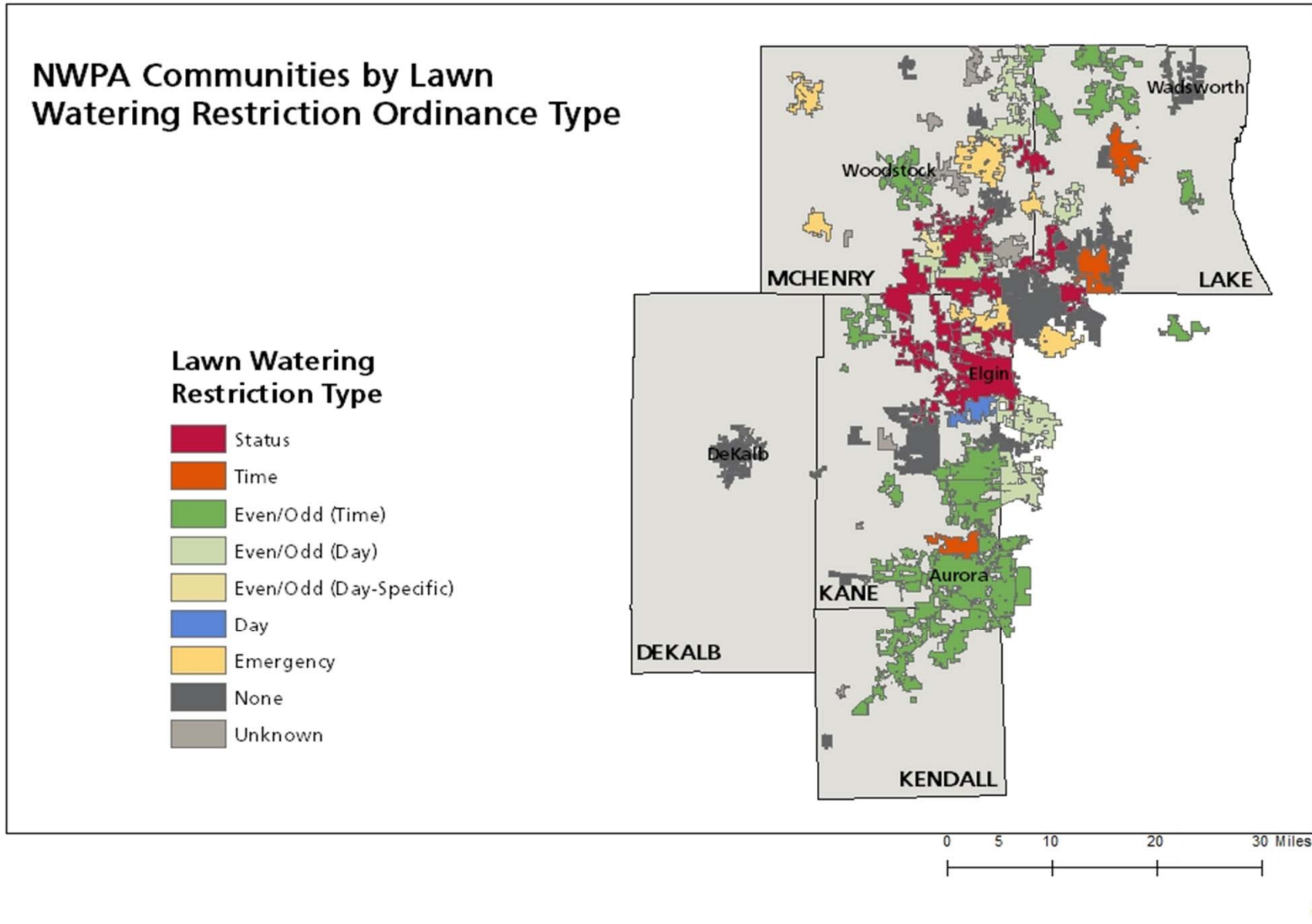
Implementation Survey

- Implementation
- Monitoring and enforcement
- Impact measurement

Ordinance assessment

- Strengths and weaknesses
- Best practices in the region
- Scenarios
- Survey

Ordinance Review: Existing Types



Lawn Watering Ordinance Types

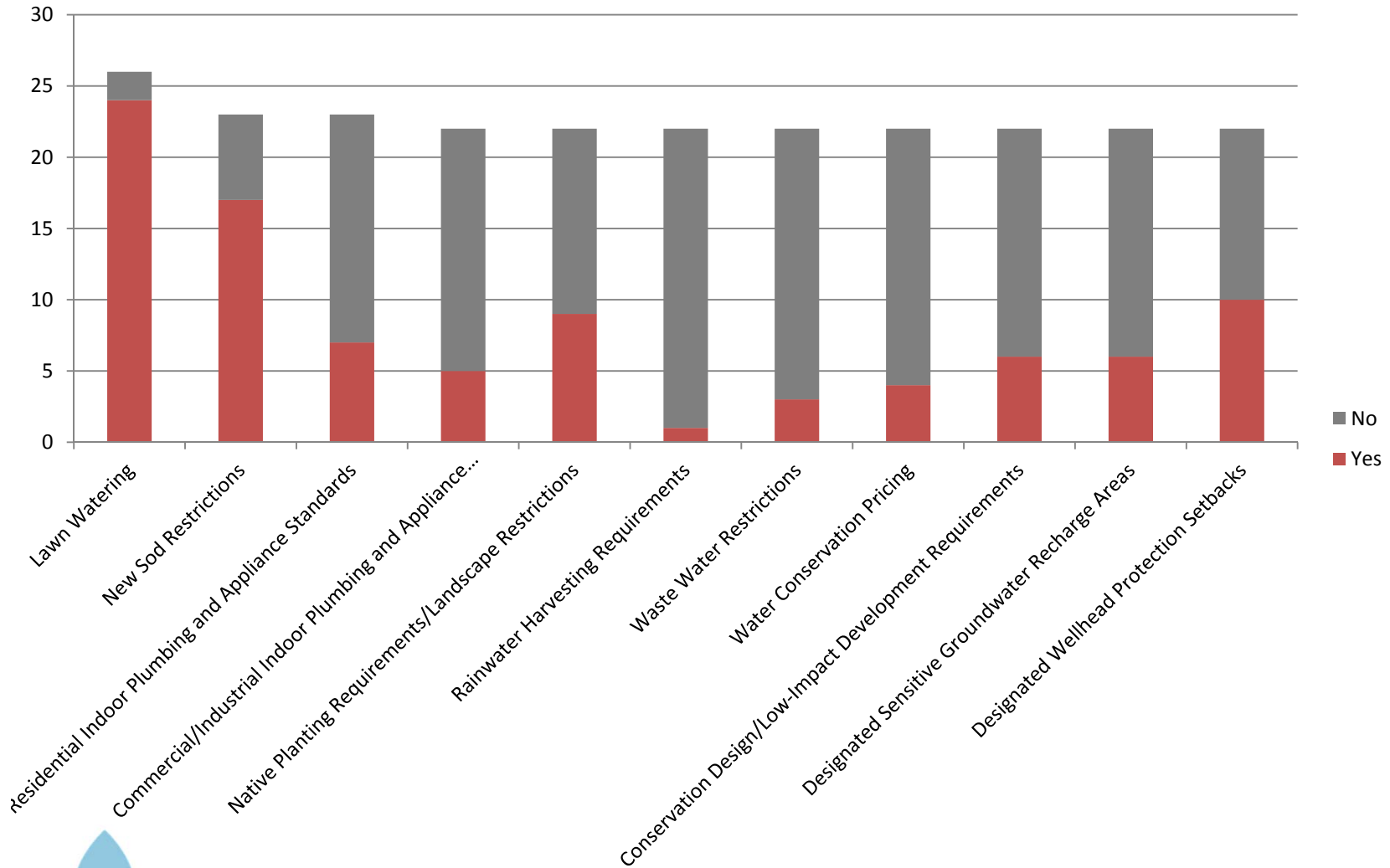
Type	Description	Example	Communities
Status	Uses colors or levels to change restrictions as needed.	Green: Ban from 9am-6pm, Yellow: Evens go on even days, odds go on odd days, follow time restriction, Red: Prohibited	Algonquin, Barrington, Crystal Lake, East Dundee, Elgin, Fox River Grove, Gilberts, Huntley, Lake Barrington, Lakemoor, Pingree Grove, West Dundee
Time	Restricts watering by time only.	Ban from 10am-5pm	Deer Park, Grayslake, Lake Zurich, North Aurora
Even/Odd (Time)	Restricts watering by both time and even addresses go on even days, odds go on odd days.	Ban from 9am-6pm, evens on even days, odds on odd days	Antioch, Aurora, Batavia, Burlington, Elburn, Fox Lake, Geneva, Green Oaks, Hampshire, Lake Villa, Lindenhurst, Montgomery, Oswego, Prospect Heights, St. Charles, Sugar Grove, Woodstock, Yorkville
Even/Odd (Day)	Restricts watering by day according to even or odd address.	Evens go on even days, odds go on odd days	Bartlett, Johnsburg, Lake in the Hills, Sleepy Hollow, Spring Grove, Wauconda, West Chicago
Even/Odd (Day-Specific)	Restricts watering according to even or odd address, but by specific day of the week.	Evens go on Wednesday, Friday & Sunday, odds go on Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday	Lakewood
Day	Restricts water by day only.	No watering on Mondays. Follows Even/Odd (Day-Specific) during emergencies	South Elgin
Emergency	No regular restriction, but Mayor, Village Board or other entity in power has authority to declare a water emergency and restrict lawn watering as needed.	Mayor can make an emergency proclamation and ban all outdoor water use	Carpentersville, Harvard, Island Lake, Marengo, McHenry, South Barrington
None	No restrictions.	None	Barrington Hills, Big Rock, Campton Hills, DeKalb, Hainesville, Hawthorn Woods, Hebron, Inverness, Kildeer, Maple Park, McCullom Lake, Newark, North Barrington, Prairie Grove, Ringwood, Tower Lakes, Virgil, Wadsworth, Wayne
Unknown	Ordinance not yet found.	Unknown	Bull Valley, Cary, Greenwood, Kaneville, Lily Lake, Millbrook, Richmond, Trout Valley, Union

Ordinance Survey: Structure

- General
- Implementation
 - Reasoning behind new ordinances
 - Basis for ordinance specifics
- Monitoring and Enforcement
 - Affects whom?
 - Violations
 - Barriers
- Impact Measurement
 - Metrics
 - Determining success
 - Barriers
- Other Water Resource Management Efforts



Ordinance Survey: Results



Ordinance Assessment: Criteria

Ease of implementation

- Simplicity of recommended actions
- Gains versus effort
- Simplicity of implementation

Ease of enforcement

- Monitoring
- Staffing

Collaboration

- Necessity
- Ease

Impacts and Metrics

- Water use
- Unintended consequences

Ordinance Assessment: Scenarios

Options for Green – Permitted Watering Time

Option	Permitted Hours/Day	Permitted Days/Week	Total Permitted Hours/Week per Property
Time restriction (ban 9a-6p & 9p-6a)	6	7	42
Even/odd (ban 10a-6p)	16	3 or 4	48 or 64
Even/odd (no time restriction)	24	3 or 4	72 or 96
Time restriction (ban 10a-6p)	16	7	112
No restrictions	24	7	168

Ordinance Assessment: Survey

35 Complete Responses:

Algonquin

Antioch

Aurora (2)

Barrington

Batavia

Crystal Lake (2)

DeKalb

Elburn

Elgin

Geneva

Huntley

Island Lake

Kildeer

McHenry

Montgomery

Newark

North Aurora

Oswego

Pingree Grove

St. Charles

Sugar Grove

Tower Lakes

Union

West Chicago

West Dundee

Woodstock

BACOG

Metro West COG

Kane County

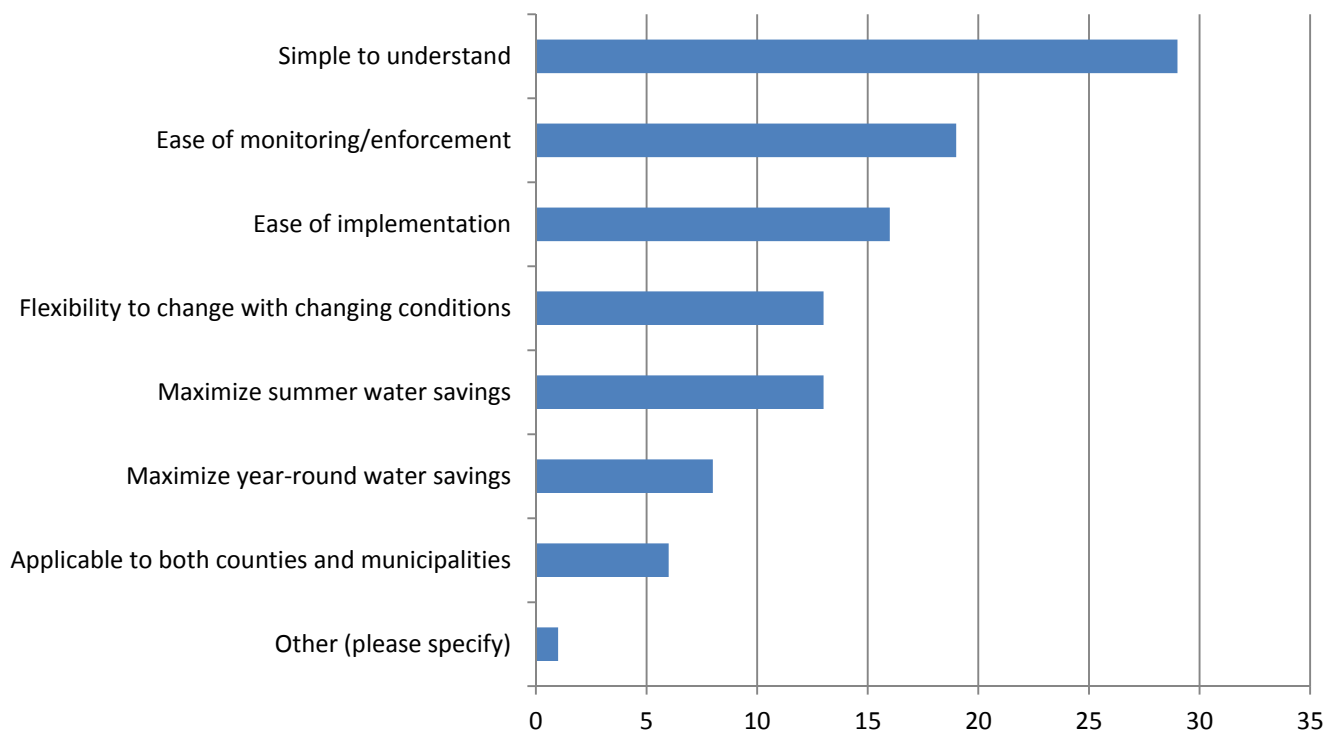
Kendall County

Lake County

CMAP (2)

Ordinance Assessment: Survey

What should be the main priorities for a shared ordinance? (choose top three)



Ordinance Assessment: Survey Results

Given the strengths and weakness [of each type of system], should the proposed ordinance use a color-coded, multi-tier system or a single-tier system?

Multi-Tier, Color-Coded



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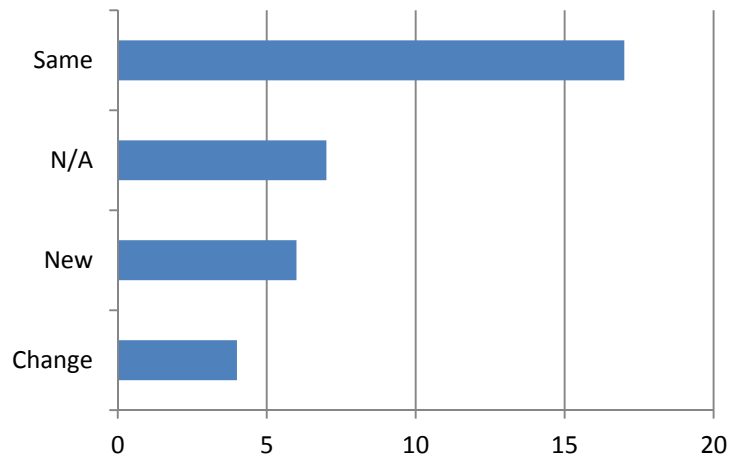
Single-Tier



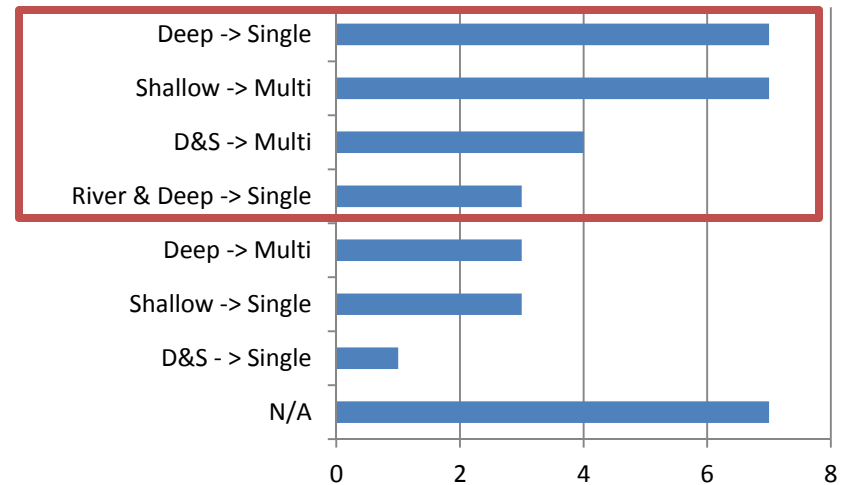
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Ordinance Assessment: Survey Results

Multi-tier vs. Single-tier: compared to current lawn ordinance



Multi-tier vs. Single-tier: compared to water source



Proposed Conservation Ordinance



Year–Round Conservation Ordinance:

Even/odd, sprinklers allowed 6am-9am and 6pm-9pm

- 18 or 24 hours available
- Non-potable water and handheld watering devices can be used any day or time
- Could be the “Green” in a color-coded system

Proposed Conservation Ordinance

Drought Provisions

Drought Provision: Sprinkler system use prohibited

- Outdoor use of water allowed only with non-potable water or handheld watering devices
- Could be the “Yellow” in a color-coded system

Extreme Drought Provision: Total ban on outdoor watering

- Could be the “Red” in a color-coded system



Questions?

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Suburban Population Growth and Water Supply

