

Dear Monarch,

I never see the sprinklers go on! Should I be watering the plants myself?

DRIP IRRIGATION

Dear Concerned Resident,

Your landscape contractor is responsible for watering plants in common areas. You will not see traditional sprinklers running if drip irrigation is installed, or there may be a combination of overhead and drip.

- Drip irrigation lines are usually hidden under mulch which adds a layer of insulation to the soil and traps the moisture, preventing evaporation.
- Drip irrigation waters plants at the root zone. This type of watering is the most efficient type of irrigation.
- This is the preferred method of watering small-to-medium sized planting beds as it eliminates all overspray and can eliminate wasteful runoff. Spraying plants with water is inefficient and wasteful.
- Many plants (including trees) do not tolerate being watered with traditional overhead sprinkler heads. Wet leaves can foster pests and fungal infestations. Trees can also be structurally damaged from direct spray of overhead irrigation.
- Adding water to areas that are already appropriately irrigated wastes water and prevents soil from receiving enough oxygen. Plants that are chronically over-saturated will typically discolor from stress and may not survive.
- If you notice plants exhibiting water stress (wilting, yellowing, dry leaves), contact your community manager to have the irrigation inspected by a landscape professional.

MONARCH TIP

Did you know? As of 2015, California laws do not allow for overhead sprinkler heads to be installed within two feet of a hard surface that water cannot penetrate.