

Sprint Drought Policy

In response to the extreme drought conditions in the Kansas City area during the summer of 2012, Sprint took measures to reduce the use of landscape water for its headquarters campus in Overland Park, Kan. Using a five-level drought-contingency policy created for the 200-acre campus, Sprint began following the Level 4 guidelines. The policy's goal is to optimize the use of water based on the scarcity of local supplies, while maintaining high-value landscaping and plants that will not tolerate a dormant state and caring for fish and other wildlife. A summary of the policy's five levels can be found below.

During that same period, other Sprint locations across the country took action, as well. For example, Sprint facilities in Reston, Va., scaled back landscape watering to twice a week. Sited in Missouri and Texas complied with city ordinances to reduce water use where the action did not increase the potential for grass fires. In addition, facilities located in areas long affected by dry conditions continued water conservation measures implemented years ago.

Sprint Headquarters Campus Policy:

Level 1

At Level 1, rain levels are at a normal level. Sprint uses standard water conservation techniques, including the use of ponds that store storm water run-off and a computer-driven irrigation system that rations pond-water based on calculated rainfall and evaporation. However, Sprint implements no additional water restrictions.

Level 2

At Level 2, rain and pond-water levels are low, but not critical. Sprint maintains usual water-use levels through existing pond water.

Level 3

As drought conditions grow more severe, Sprint enters into Level 3. Procedures put into place in Level 2 are retained, while additional water-conservation solutions are implemented (e.g., cutting off water to the Relaxation Creek – a non-critical water feature that uses approximately 3,000 gallons of water per day).

Level 4

At more severe drought levels, Level 4 is entered. At this level Sprint cuts and reduces watering of additional non-critical features (e.g., the athletic field is not watered, some shrubs are allowed to go dormant, and campus turf grass is irrigated less frequently). Sprint also begins using metered water purchased from the city in order to preserve fish, wildlife and landscape. Other procedures from Levels 2 and 3 remain in effect.

Level 5

At the most severe drought conditions, Level 5 is implemented. All campus water features including fountains are turned off, but not drained, saving approximately 2,000 gallons of water per day of city water re-fill through evaporation. Levels also 2-4 remain in effect.