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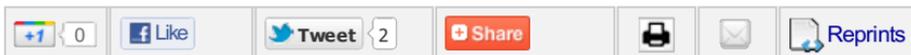
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# Orland Park seeks water conservation input

By Mike Nolan [mnolan@southtownstar.com](mailto:mnolan@southtownstar.com) February 20, 2012 11:32PM



Orland Park officials are seeking input from residents on how the village can better conserve water.

The village is working with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to develop a water conservation ordinance that village trustees could consider this spring. As part of the process, the village and CMAP are holding a public meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Orland Park Public Library, 14921 Ravinia Ave., to solicit suggestions from residents and business owners. Another public meeting is planned for March.

CMAP is studying water use in the village and will be recommending to trustees areas where more effective conservation measures could be used.

Orland Park has seen a decrease in water use as residents have installed low-flow toilets and faucets, according to village manager Paul Grimes.

The village's limits on lawn watering during the summer is one way the village tries to promote water conservation, Grimes said. Orland Park also has a water pricing system in which rates increase as a homeowner's water use rises, which can be an incentive to conserve water.

Chicago's recent 25 percent water rate increase that was also imposed on suburbs that buy Lake Michigan water from the city could also further curb water use, Grimes said.

He said the aim of the proposed ordinance is to keep the village in the "vanguard of reasonable, prudent water conservation," and that village officials aren't considering any onerous measures to restrict water use by either homeowners or businesses. But the measure could potentially require more water conservation equipment in new homes and businesses, he said.

Orland Park also has been working to reduce water consumption in municipal buildings, including installing low-flow toilets and faucets as part of ongoing remodeling, according to Grimes.