Definitions of Functional and Non-Functional Turf

Under the Executive Order N-7-22, to prevent the unreasonable use of water and to promote water conservation, the use of potable water is prohibited for the irrigation of non-functional turf at commercial, industrial, and institutional sites (CII). Non-functional turf cannot be watered with potable water unless watering occurs directly under the canopy of a tree or shrub.

**Functional turf is defined as turf grass that is:**

- Needed to serve a human function, including, use for recreational purposes, civic or community events.
- On the property of a single-family home.
- On the property of a park used for sport, gathering, or recreation.
- On a golf course used directly for sport (driving ranges, chipping, and putting greens, tee boxes, greens, fairways and rough).
- On a school field used for sport, gathering, or recreation.
- On a sports field.
- Needed for pet relief at veterinarian offices, boarding facilities and animal shelters.
- Within cemeteries used for visitation and gathering.
- A species of turf that has a plant factor ≤ 0.3 per the California Code of Regulations Section 491 Title 23.
- Watered directly beneath tree canopies and shrubs.

**Non-functional turf is irrigated lawn grass area not meeting the definition of functional turf.**

**Non-functional turf includes, but is not limited to:**

- Streetscape turf:
  - Along private or public streets, including turf that is owned and maintained by the city/municipality (e.g., mow strips on either side of street).
  - Along streetscape sidewalks (narrow spaces of turf that line the sidewalk).
  - Along driveways and parking lots.
  - Within community, and business streetscape frontage areas.
  - Within medians and roundabouts.
- Turf that is solely ornamental.
- Other turf that is not functional turf, as defined on the left.
CII properties include, but are not limited to:

- Homeowner association owned properties, common areas of mobile home parks, and apartment, condominium, and townhome complexes.
- Manufacturing plants and facilities
- Industrial and commercial construction sites
- Retail and shopping malls
- Hospitals
- Religious institutions
- Government facilities (including parks but not sports fields).

- Restaurants
- Grocery stores
- Educational institutions
- Sporting arenas
- Office buildings
- Other properties that provide commercial, industrial, and institutional services.

Questions?
Please contact us via email at WaterWise@valleywater.org or by calling 408-630-2000.