

## Let Sammi Sailfish Catch Your Eye to Reduce Water Use!

Next time you are traveling north on Colorado Avenue towards Confusion Corner, you may notice a new eye catching sign with a barometer, encouraging Stuart residents and businesses to reduce their water usage. On this colorful sign, Sammi Sailfish, the City of Stuart's water conservation mascot reminds us that the average water usage per person per day in the City is a whopping 181 gallons. The largest contributor applies to outdoor water using irrigation. In Florida, between 50 and 70 percent of household water usage is used on lawns and landscapes. In July 2010, the City implemented a 2-day year-round landscape irrigation conservation measure designed to accomplish a measurable change in water use and develop a lasting water conservation ethic. In addition, planting native Florida-friendly plants and shrubs help to reduce the need for excessive watering. For a free helpful resource booklet of native plantings, the Water Wise Guide is available at your local South Florida Water Management District office. Pick one up today!

To encourage continued awareness, the sign was created as a barometer to allow Stuart citizens to track the progress of the water usage as it decreases. As you see the blue water line go down, the effect is positive. Per the City's Water Conservation Plan, our goal is to decrease the overall water usage by 10% to reach 163 gallons per person per day. Do your part to reduce your water use and check the barometer often for the results. It's a fun way to keep track of our progress and be environmentally responsible.



### Water Saving Tips

- Don't overwater your lawn. Follow the 2-day water conservation measure and keep in mind that lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days in the summer, and every 10 to 14 days in the winter. A heavy rain eliminates the need for watering up to two weeks. Try the tuna can test, place a tuna can on your lawn while watering, when the tuna can is full, you have watered the right amount.
- Use a broom or blower instead of a hose to clean leaves and other debris from your driveway or sidewalk.
- Replace old, high volume showerheads with an ultra-low flow (ULF) version. New styles allow for sufficient water, you won't even notice the difference!
- Replace toilets put into use prior to 1995 with an ultra low-flow toilet. Old toilets use between 5 to 7 gallons per flush while ULF toilets are 1.6 gallons or less.

For more water saving tips or a refresher on the irrigation days for your address, please visit [www.cityofstuart.us](http://www.cityofstuart.us) or call 600-1206.

Conserving water is good for all of us. Using less water means using less energy to treat it, pump it, and distribute it. By conserving water, you are helping to maintain our natural resources. So...how low can you flow?