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Irrigation Design Information

Hydro Zones

A hydro zone is a watering area that is separated by sidewalks, driveways, medians, fences, front - back - side yards (see Figure 1 next page). In each hydro zone there may be numerous individual zones.

You should not water flower beds and shrub beds on the turf zones because they have different watering requirements. Heavily shaded areas should be on separate zones, not watered on the same zone as a sunny area. Back yards, side yards and front yards should be separated.

In the example in figure 1 there are 5 hydro zones for the turf areas plus 2 flower bed areas and one shrub area, also the parkway is considered a separate zone. So, in this example, we will have a minimum of 9 zones, and in each hydro zone there may be 2 to 3 valves. The number depends on the size of your water meter, the service line size and the static pressure.

With a 5/8" water meter each zone should not flow more than 10 to 15 gallons per minute, if in hydro zone 1 we had a total flow of 35 gallons per minute and the static pressure was 55 psi we would have 3 valves in this area flowing approximately 12 gpm each.

Hydro zones 3 and 5 are side yards and should be kept separate from the front and back yards, hydro zone 2 is separated from hydro zone 1 by the driveway so it will be on a separate valve.

Do not consider the sidewalk as part of the turf area, some municipalities are handing out fines if you are watering over the walk ways.

The parkway is always a separate zone, if the utilities have to dig in the parkway they can shut down this zone without shutting off the entire system.

The front and back flower beds should be separated because of their locations, also the shrub bed should be separated from the flowers because of the different watering requirements of the plants.

Sloped areas are to be kept separate from flat areas because of the potential runoff.

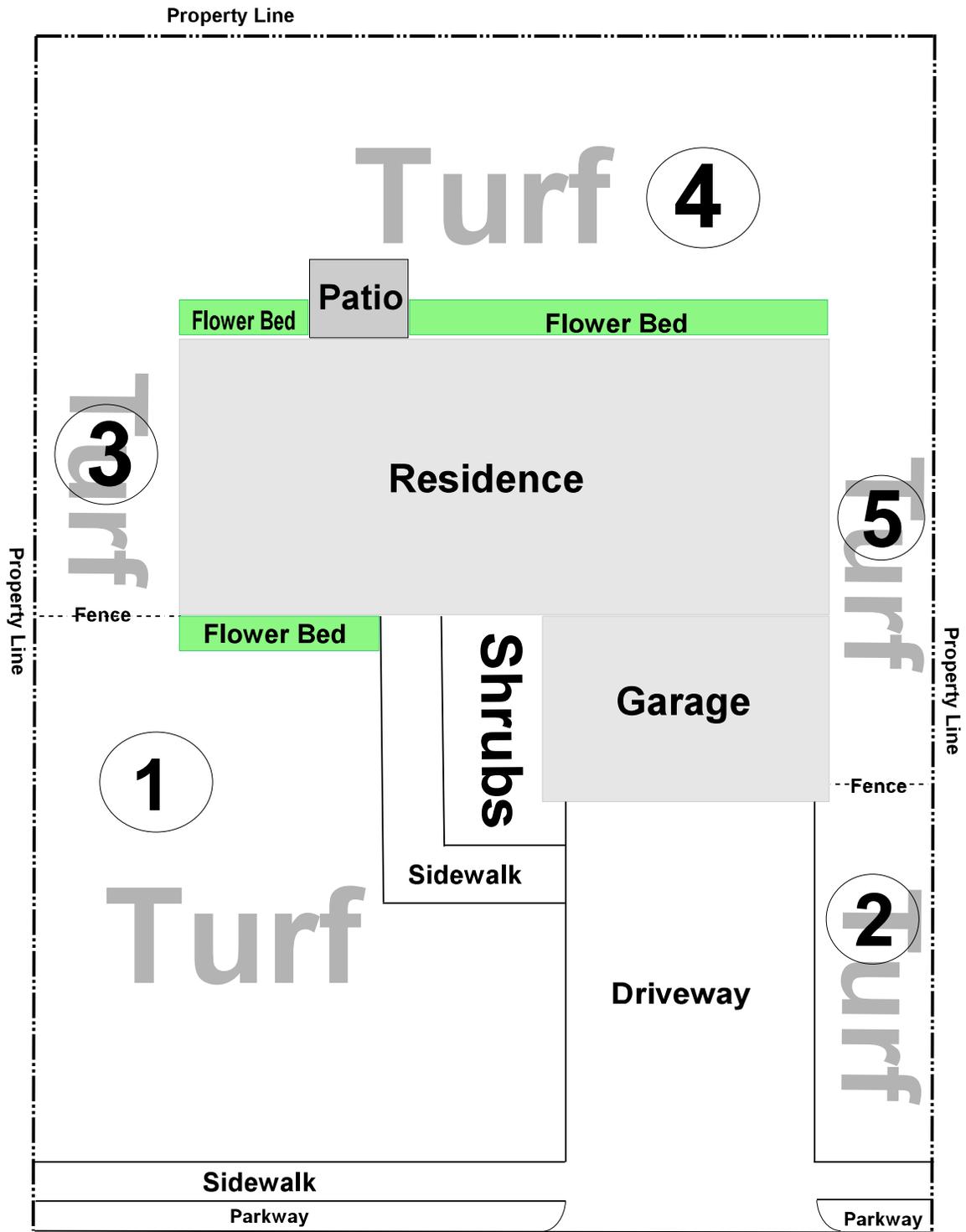


Figure 1. Typical Residential Plat showing different Hydro-zones