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## **MARK S. WEPRIN TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO PREVENT WASTING WATER IN PLAYGROUNDS**

Council Member Mark S. Weprin announced legislation that would stop public playground sprinklers from running all day long. The sprinklers in City parks currently spray continuously from about 9 AM to 7 PM during the summer. Often, when no one is using them, they waste a tremendous amount of water. Council Member Mark S. Weprin's bill would require the Parks Department to install a mechanism by which public sprinklers could be turned on, run for a set period of time, and then automatically shut off, thereby preventing the wasted flow of water. In addition to retrofitting existing sprinklers, the Parks Department should use an automatic shutoff system in all new sprinklers.

"There is no reason for sprinklers to operate continuously," said Council Member Mark S. Weprin. "With consumers being hit with double-digit water rate increases each year, this is a slap in the face to taxpayers."

Council Member Weprin noted that leaving the sprinklers on all day impacts both the environment and the City budget. Flooding is a problem in some areas, and the water that flows from the sprinklers contributes to the runoff. In addition, when City residents pay their water bills, they indirectly bear the cost of all the water that the sprinklers use. At a time when the City had to reduce or limit spending in many areas, the cost of continuously operating playground sprinklers represents funding that could go toward schools, hospitals, senior centers, or libraries.