

Parksville Residents Encouraged to Conserve Water

With the hot, dry weather in April, water demand in most community systems across the region is higher than normal and even higher than this time last year. While elevated restrictions will not be implemented at this time, residents are urged to take voluntary action to markedly reduce water use in an effort to avoid and/or defer the need for further restrictions. Should the drought continue throughout the summer, these efforts will help to ensure we have a safe and reliable drinking water source available later in the year. Please note, Stage 2 watering restrictions (every other day watering) are in effect in the City of Parksville since May 1 will continue.

Prompted by low flows in most rivers and streams on Vancouver Island and dry weather conditions which are expected to continue, the province moved the Island to Level 3 drought ranking. The province uses a four level drought classification to explain the severity and appropriate level of response to drought conditions. Drought Level 3 is considered “*Very Dry Conditions*”.

The May 31 Regional District of Nanaimo news release states, “snowpack accumulation was better this winter than last, but much of that snow has already melted with the early warm spring weather. The snowpack is now down to similar levels as this time last year, resulting in low streamflow conditions. Long-range forecasts predict a summer that is warmer and drier than average.”

Should June not see significant rainfall and water demand continues to increase where there is potential for drought conditions to put water supply at risk and impact aquatic habitat, it may be necessary for the City to move to Stage 3 or Stage 4 watering restrictions. The City encourages residents to conserve water; information at www.teamwatersmart.ca

Link to BC Drought Information

<http://bcgov03.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=9042807690964463b268dfd91949d65b>

Link to City of Parksville watering restrictions information

<http://www.parksville.ca/cms.asp?wpID=377>

Irrigation system

The City operates a technical irrigation system. Should irrigation heads require regular maintenance or repair as a result of vandalism, it is necessary for the irrigation system to be tested during normal working hours to ensure repair is effective. Should there be a large break in the irrigation system, the system reports the problem; on smaller systems, workers perform manual checks during the day to ensure water is not wasted.

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For more information:

Operations Department 250 248-5412