

Watering Restrictions and Conservation

On June 28, the Province of BC announced southern-eastern Vancouver Island is now at Level 4 drought ranking. Provincial drought Level 4 is considered extremely dry and the province is urging all water users to reduce water consumption as much as possible.

The City of Parksville is currently on Stage 2 watering restriction. The City's watering restriction stages should not be confused with provincial drought levels. The province's move to Level 4 was done in response to low rainfall and record high temperatures across southern and eastern Vancouver Island. Most streams and rivers are now closed to angling. The area covered by Level 4 extends from north of Campbell River and the Discovery Islands down the east coast of Vancouver Island including Victoria, Sooke and Port Renfrew.

As a result of water conservation efforts last summer, the City is better able to manage water supply this year. Conservation efforts have resulted in the Arrowsmith Lake reservoir now being at above normal levels for this time of year. Because the existing surface water intake from the Englishman River is under capacity and undersized, it is necessary for us to monitor water demands to ensure continued supply. Once constructed, the new surface water intake planned as part of the Englishman River Water Service project, will be able to supply increased water demands into the future.

With the hot dry weather upon us, residents are asked to voluntarily focus efforts on conserving water, particularly discretionary outdoor water use. Pro-active water conservation is critical for protecting stream flows for aquatic habitat and is essential for avoiding or deferring stricter watering restrictions as the summer progresses. Should we not see reductions in water consumption, we will implement Stage 3 watering restrictions and further restrictions should they be necessary. The City appreciates the efforts of residents to voluntarily conserve water this summer.

Stage 2 Watering Restriction

With Stage 2, sprinkling can only occur on even days for even-numbered houses and on odd days for odd-numbered houses. Sprinkling is permitted for a maximum of two hours between 7-10 am or 7-10 pm for a maximum of two hours per day of watering. Please note that vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from all watering restrictions and businesses which require water for operations are also exempt.

What can you do to make every drop count?

- Lawns naturally go dormant in the summer months and return with fall rains. Lawns only need one inch of water each week including rainfall during the hottest, driest weeks of the year.
- Understand your plants watering needs - limit watering of trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetable gardens and use mulch, such as leaves and compost around trees and shrubs to hold in moisture. Water with a container or hose with a shutoff nozzle.
- Avoid washing vehicles or boats unnecessarily, unless for safety reasons (windows and headlights).
- Sweep outdoor surfaces such as driveways or decks with a broom instead of using a hose or power washing.
- Continue to reduce indoor use by turning off the tap when brushing your teeth or washing dishes, take shorter showers and run full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher.

Detailed information about the City's water restrictions may be found on the City of Parksville website at parksville.ca [*Quicklinks/Water Restrictions*]. The City is a partner in the Regional District of Nanaimo's Team WaterSmart programs www.teamwatersmart.ca

For helpful tips on how you can save water and for a map with information on local watering restriction stages, please go to www.teamwatersmart.ca or call 250-390-6560. For more information on the provincial drought ranking and angling closure, please see <http://ow.ly/Dr9l301zeTd>

For more information:

Operations Department 250 248-5412