

## New Outdoor Water Conservation Framework

In response to unprecedented drought years, City of Parksville staff met with regional water purveyors to review and propose improvements to the City's water framework in place since 2016. The new framework approved by Council through Water Service System Bylaw 1320, responds to changing conditions, the impacts of these conditions, public response, and water system requirements. City conservation levels provide a coordinated approach with regional water providers who can determine the conservation levels specific to their needs.

From June 1 to October 31, as a partner in the Arrowsmith Water Service, the City operates through an order from the Province of BC which regulates the flow release from the Arrowsmith Lake Reservoir. The provincial [enabling order](#) determines when water conservation levels will be implemented to ensure an adequate water supply for the Englishman River to support the in-stream fish environment and the residents of Parksville.

Changes to the City's new water conservation framework (included with this release) are highlighted here:

- **Restriction period extended to October 31.**  
This change responds to the trend of longer, hotter summers. In recent years, restrictions have been in place beyond the previously defined September 30 end date.
- **New level 3 limits watering days to one day per week; odd-numbered houses on Monday and even-numbered houses on Thursday.**  
Adjusting this voluntary level to include tangible and measurable water conservation will provide clear direction to residents on how to reduce water use and provide clarity on specific actions that can be taken to limit water use should drought conditions become more severe.
- **New level 4 to be identical to previous stage 4 but with vehicle washing allowed when a shutoff nozzle is used.**  
Vehicle washing has minimal impact on our water supply and with car wash businesses open during level 4, water would be used to wash cars regardless of whether it was at home or at a car wash business.

It should be noted vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from all water conservation levels as are businesses which require water for operations, essential municipal sports fields and nurseries.

Utility notices mailed to homeowners in late March will include additional details about changes to the City's water conservation framework as well as indoor and outdoor water conservation tips. Please refer to [Let's Talk Parksville](#) for more information.

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### For more information:








Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications  
[communications@parksville.ca](mailto:communications@parksville.ca); 250 954-3073

\*\* New water conservation framework attached

*The City of Parksville is located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations,  
home to the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Qualicum First Nation.*

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# City of Parksville Water Conservation Framework

CONSERVATION LEVELS	1	2	3	4
EFFECTIVE DATES	April	May 1- October 31	As advised	
 Frequency	ANY DAY	Every other day Even # houses = Even # days Odd # houses = Odd # days	One day per week Even # houses = Thursdays Odd # houses = Mondays	<b>SPRINKLING BAN</b> LAWN WATERING NOT PERMITTED
 Lawn Watering times	Between 7 pm - 7 am	Between 7-10 am OR 7-10 pm for 2 hours MAX (on your watering day)	Between 7-10 am OR 7-10 pm for 2 hours MAX (on your watering day)	
 Washing vehicles, RVs, boats, buildings (siding)	ANYTIME	ANYTIME (on your watering day)	Between 7-10 am OR 7-10 pm (on your watering day)	Between 7-10 am OR 7-10 pm (on your watering day)
 Hand-watering, drip irrigation, micro irrigation	ANYTIME	ANYTIME	ANYTIME	Between 7-10 am OR 7-10 pm
 Filling fountains, pools, hot tubs	ANYTIME	ANYTIME (on your watering day)	ANYTIME (on your watering day)	NOT PERMITTED
 Pressure washing walkways, driveways, buildings (siding)	ANYTIME	ANYTIME (on your watering day)	Between 7-10 am OR 7-10 pm (on your watering day)	ONLY prior to application of paint, preservative, stucco, or sealant
 New lawn permits	Can apply for permit	Can apply for permit	NO PERMITS ISSUED	NO PERMITS ISSUED
<b>Water Conservation Level 3 is intended to encourage residents to reduce water where possible.</b>				
<b>NOTE: Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from all water conservation levels.</b>				

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