

City Moves to Elevated Stage 3 Watering Restriction

The City is requesting residents voluntarily reduce water consumption as watering restriction Stage 3 becomes effective June 14. Adhering to watering restrictions as well as proactive water conservation is critical to maintain water supply for fire protection, essential household use and environmental flows in streams. The City will continue to monitor demands daily and we do appreciate the efforts of residents to voluntarily conserve water.

Earlier this month, the Province of BC elevated the Vancouver Island Drought Ranking to 'Level 3 – Very Dry'; in response to lower than normal groundwater levels and low flows in most rivers and streams due to dry weather conditions experienced since March. Snowpack accumulation was less than normal this winter and has melted several weeks early due to a warm spring. Long-range forecasts project a warmer and drier than average summer ahead. The province is asking for increased water conservation, particularly discretionary outdoor water use.

Under Stage 3 watering restrictions, the same even and odd day watering framework as Stage 2 is maintained, but residents are requested to further reduce water use in order to defer a Stage 4 comprehensive watering ban. While Stage 3 calls for additional conservation on top of Stage 2, it offers flexibility for residents to decide where and how they cut back on water use. Should we not see reductions in water consumption, it will be necessary to implement Stage 4, a comprehensive watering ban which prohibits all outdoor watering, filling of pools, washing vehicles, etc.

As a reminder to residents, Stage 3 watering restrictions are as follows:

- Residents are encouraged to voluntarily reduce watering of lawns in an effort to avoid potential future watering ban if City water demands cannot be managed.
- Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from all watering restrictions.
- Odd numbered addresses may water on odd numbered days and even numbered addresses on even numbered days. Watering times are 7 am to 10 am OR 7 pm to 10 pm for a maximum of two hours watering per day. However, Stage 3 requests residents reduce watering times within this framework.

Detailed information about the City's water restrictions on the website at parksville.ca [*Quicklinks/Water Restrictions*]. The City is a partner in the Regional District of Nanaimo's Team WaterSmart programs. For helpful tips on saving water and information on local watering restrictions, visit www.teamwatersmart.ca.

For more information:

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