



TOWN OF WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WATER & SEWER DIVISION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DPW Declares State of Water Supply Conservation for Wellesley
Efforts Include Mandatory Outdoor Watering Restrictions for All Customers**

June 11, 2024 (Wellesley, MA) – The Wellesley Department of Public Works needs your help to reduce the current demand for water in Wellesley and has issued a State of Water Supply Conservation Declaration. The decision requires residents and businesses to begin following specific outdoor watering restrictions effective Tuesday, June 11, 2024.

The requirements include a **mandatory** alternate day outdoor watering schedule for homes and businesses, a ban on outdoor watering between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., and a request to reduce the amount of outdoor watering time by 20 percent. Complete details are included below.

According to DPW officials, the measures are needed to ensure that Wellesley's water supply is sufficient to protect the health and safety of residents, including providing enough water necessary to fight fires. This is a preventative measure to ensure adequate water supply throughout Town while the PFAS filter media is being replaced at the Morses Pond Groundwater Treatment Plant. Typically, this treatment plant supplies over 750,000 gallons of water per day to homes and businesses. We anticipate that the plant will be down between 1 to 3 weeks. Please keep in mind that if our region experiences drought conditions, additional restrictions may be required.

"We're asking for cooperation from everyone in the community by following these restrictions as we head into the summer months," said DPW Director David Cohen.

Outdoor Water Use Alternate Day Restrictions

Based upon street address numbers, **essential** and **nonessential** outdoor water use IS ALLOWED according to the following schedule:

- **Odd** numbered addresses are restricted to **Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday**.
- **Even** numbered addresses are restricted to **Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday**.
- Nonessential outdoor use of water on **Monday** is prohibited.

Nonessential outdoor watering hours are restricted to before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. to ensure adequate water supply and to avoid loss of water through evaporation.

Essential uses of water are:

- For health and safety reasons
- Irrigation to establish a new lawn and new plantings between the months of May and September
- Agricultural operations to maintain livestock and crops
- Irrigation of lawns, gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by means of a hand-held hose

Nonessential uses are:

- Irrigation of lawns via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems
- Washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash or as necessary for operator safety
- Washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply surface treatments such as paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement, or concrete

Reduce Use While Watering

To help maintain appropriate water levels in Town storage tanks, the DPW is also asking residents to reduce the amount outdoor watering time by 20%. For example, if you have an automated irrigation system with a 15-minute watering time in each zone, you should reduce each zone's watering duration by at least 3 minutes.

Additional recommendations to help reduce water use include checking for and repairing any water leaks in irrigation systems, faucets, showerheads, and toilets.

Water and Sewer Superintendent, Stephen Olson, encourages water customers to "use the Water Customer Portal to monitor water use and identify potential leaks".

Visit the DPW webpages for more information on [water conservation](#) and [irrigation system tips](#). The Natural Resources Commission also offers tips for [healthy and sustainable lawn and landscape care](#).

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