

City of Parksville Outdoor Water Conservation Framework



City of Parksville water conservation levels provide a coordinated approach with Regional District of Nanaimo water service providers who determine the conservation levels specific to their needs. In response to unprecedented drought years, the City met with regional water purveyors to review and propose improvements to the watering framework. This new framework approved by Council in February 2025, responds to the recent record-breaking summer droughts and provides an approach to respond to the impacts of these conditions.

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	SPRINKLING BAN 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
Water Conservation Level 3 is intended to encourage residents to reduce water where possible.				
NOTE: Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from all water conservation levels.				

Quick Facts:

Level 1 April consists of night-time watering only, 7 pm to 7 am.

Level 2 (May through October) limits use to “even and odd days” watering between 7-10 am OR 7-10 pm for 2 hours MAX.

Level 3 outdoor water use limited to one day per week (even Thursdays; odd Mondays) between 7-10 am OR 7-10 pm for 2 hours MAX. Voluntary conservation encouraged.

Level 4 non-essential water use banned such as automated sprinkling, outdoor surface washing. Vehicles and buildings may be washed on watering day, 7-10 am OR 7-10 pm.

Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from restrictions.

Hand-watering - delivering water by hose with spring-loaded nozzle shutoff device of handheld container.

Businesses which require water for operations, essential municipal sports fields and nurseries are exempt.

Water conservation timeline extended from April 1 to October 31.

Micro-irrigation and drip-irrigation consists of water delivered to root zone of plant and use less than 20 gallons per hour at less than 25 PSI. Soaker hoses and weeper hoses are not considered to be micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation.

Water Service System Bylaw 1320
Questions should be directed to bylaw compliance
250 954-4650 | bylaw@parksville.ca

Our water is a precious commodity

We enjoy some of the best water in the world and on the 'wet coast' of BC when most of our precipitation occurs during winter months, it is easy to take our water supply for granted.

During our dry summer months is when we receive the least amount of precipitation, it is when water demand typically peaks, and when residential consumption increases by more than 50% with watering of lawns, filling pools and more. Unfortunately, most is inefficiently used to water lawns and gardens.

From June 1 to October 31, the City through Arrowsmith Water Service, 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.

What can I do to conserve water?

It is important we do our part to protect and maintain this precious resource to ensure water quality for years to come. Conserving water will:

- Protect health of our water sources for future generations
- Help to alleviate water supply constraints
- Defer infrastructure replacement costs
- Reduce operational costs (pumping, treating, distributing, and cleaning)
- Minimize environmental impact of extract/release treated water
- Decrease household usage costs (saves you money)



When it comes to water conservation, a few small steps make a positive impact. Watering conservation guidelines are intended to reduce excess water use and manage demand for potable water during the summer months and if necessary, during emergencies. Water conservation is the easiest and best way to reduce the annual stress our water system experiences during the summer.

We need your continued support to protect our water sources and ensure adequate supply for our community. There are many steps you can take to conserve water use both indoors and outdoors. Check our list of water efficiency and water conservation tips for ideas on how you can reduce water consumption.

Team Watersmart conservation partners are the Bowser Waterworks, City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, Deep Bay Improvement District, EPCOR French Creek, North Cedar Improvement District, Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Waterworks, Regional District of Nanaimo, South West Extension Waterworks District, and Town of Qualicum Beach.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Keep this list on your fridge and start checking the boxes!

INDOOR Kitchen and bathroom

- Only run dishwasher and washing machine when full
- When handwashing dishes, fill sink rather than let water run
- Keep jug of water in the fridge instead of running tap for cold
- Wash fruits and veggies in bowl instead of under running water
- Reuse water from food preparation in your garden
- Upgrade to low-flow faucet, showerheads and toilet
- Turn off tap when brushing teeth, shaving or washing hands
- Set timer for shower, five minutes or less
- Use 'eco' or 'water efficient' settings on appliances
- Avoid flushing unnecessarily; don't use your toilet as waste basket
- If it's yellow, let it mellow (don't flush every time)

OUTDOOR Lawn and garden

- Collect rainwater for outdoor plants, such as rain barrels
- Plant drought tolerant flora and xeriscape
- Use rain gauge to water only one inch per week. Deep soaking encourages roots to grow deep
- Minimize lawn area by using ground covers other than grass
- Let your grass grow longer, it needs less water
- Grass cycle by leaving clippings on lawn. Helps with water retention and provides lawn with nutrients
- Water during cooler parts of day
- Install rain shutoff switch to automatic irrigation systems
- Install greywater system
- Check for and repair leaks (outdoor faucets, hoses)
- Cover your pool to reduce evaporation and reduce refilling
- Consider irrigation devices such as micro and drip irrigation, soaker hoses, and sprinklers with timing devices
- Wash your car on the lawn so it also waters the grass
- Sweep driveway and sidewalk rather than spray with hose
- Go golden! Let your lawn go dormant