

Stage 3 Watering Restrictions Effective June 15

On June 15, in conjunction with the Regional District of Nanaimo water service areas, the City of Parksville is implementing Stage 3 watering restrictions until further notice. Stage 3 restrictions maintain the same even and odd day watering framework as Stage 2, while requesting residents further reduce consumption to defer a comprehensive watering ban. The Province of BC currently lists eastern Vancouver Island at Drought Level 3, “Adverse Impacts Possible” and is calling for voluntary reduction of water use.

The spring period has been unseasonably hot and dry, with an early and rapid snowmelt which is no longer contributing to surface water levels. Creeks and streams in the region are already experiencing low flow conditions and fire risk remains a concern going into the summer months without significant rainfall forecast. By proactively conserving groundwater and surface water, we will ensure water supply resiliency for essential household use, fire protection, stream flows for fish, and irrigation purposes.

Stage 3 offers flexibility for residents to decide where and how they cut back on water use; however, it is critical reductions are implemented. Here are some ways to conserve in Stage 3. Please note vegetable garden watering and drip irrigation are exempt from restrictions.

- Reduce the lawn irrigation on your property by decreasing run times, cutting back on the number of watering days and refraining from sprinkling certain lawn areas. Lawns naturally go dormant in the summer months and return with fall rains.
- Avoid washing vehicles or boats unnecessarily, unless for safety reasons (windows and headlights).
- Sweep outdoor surfaces such as driveways or decks with a broom rather than a hose or power washing.
- Retrofit old, inefficient or leaking irrigation systems.
- Add mulch/topsoil to aid in landscape water retention so you can decrease sprinkler run times.

RESOURCES:

- Information about water restrictions may be viewed on the City’s [website](#) with conservation tips at this [link](#).
- The City is a partner in the Regional District of Nanaimo’s Team WaterSmart program. For helpful tips on saving water and information on local watering restrictions, visit teamwatersmart.ca.
- Province of BC [drought information](#).

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For more information:

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*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.*
