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LOCATED AT

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Town of Natick • Public Works

TO: Jonathan Freedman, Chair Board of Selectmen
Melissa Malone, Town Administrator

FROM: Jeremy Marsette, P.E.
Director of Public Works

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JTM".

DATE: August 10, 2020

SUBJECT: Water Use Restriction on Non-Essential Outdoor Use

The Department of Public Works recommends that the Town Administrator implement a mandatory water use restriction on non-essential outdoor use. The attached provides detail for the recommended two day per week outdoor watering restrictions. The Select Board previously authorized the Town Administrator to implement such use restriction.

This past week, the Department was required to shut off the Elm Bank Water Supply Wells in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection issued Water Withdrawal Permit requirements and flow measurements of the Charles River. When in operation the Elm Bank Wells supply an average of 1.5 million gallons of water per day, a significant portion of our total daily water consumption.

The remaining wells we may keep online are able to pump just over 6 million gallons per day at maximum capacity. We lose some capacity during backwash cycles and for pump maintenance. Daily use trends have crept up over 5 million gallons per day.

Over the past month, much of the region as well as Natick has been experiencing drought conditions, combined with multiple heat waves. This dry condition increases water use demands with the corresponding additional non-essential outdoor water use. The heat and lack of precipitation are predicted to continue into the near future based on current weather forecasts.

Considering these factors, it is recommended that the Town implement a mandatory water use restriction on non-essential outdoor use in order to keep up with demand given the available well capacity and to ensure adequate water supply is available for emergency fire response.

MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTION

EFFECTIVE 08/11/2020

During summer months, the Town of Natick water system experiences high water demand due to non-essential outside water use for lawn and garden watering. The Town Administrator as authorized by the Natick Board of Selectmen, acting as the Natick Water Commissioners, has implemented a mandatory non-essential outdoor water use restriction, effective immediately until further notice. Mandatory non-essential outdoor water use restrictions limit daily demand on the water system to ensure adequate water is available to meet the public health and safety needs of the Town. This measure will assist in maintaining water levels in the storage tanks for fire protection and normal consumption use.

Compliance with this important water conservation measure will help avoid the need to implement more severe restrictions.

Watering Schedule

- Residents and businesses occupying a building with an odd number street address will limit non-essential water use including lawn and garden watering to Monday and Thursday from the hours of 5:00 pm on the select day until 9:00 am the following day.
- Residents and businesses occupying a building with an even number street address will limit non-essential water use including lawn and garden watering to Tuesday and Friday from the hours of 5:00 pm on the select day until 9:00 am the following day.
- No non-essential outdoor water use Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday.

Non-Essential Outdoor Water Use Recommendation

- Water lawns only when necessary. Please be aware that a healthy lawn only requires a maximum of one (1) inch of water per week.
- Maintain your lawn at a height of at least two (2) inches. This practice will protect roots and retain soil moisture.
- Water is lost to evaporation when watering during hot days
- Visit <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/watering-tips> for additional watering tips.

Essential Outdoor Water Use Definition

Essential Outdoor Water Use shall mean those uses that are required for the following:

- For health or safety reasons;
- By regulation;
- For the production of food and fiber;
- For the maintenance of livestock;
- To meet the core functions of a business (for example, irrigation by golf courses as necessary to maintain tees and greens, and limited fairway watering);
- Irrigation by Plant nurseries;
- Agricultural operations as necessary to maintain stock or establish new plantings;
- Pest management;
- Wash equipment to prevent damage and/or maintain performance;
- Irrigation of parks and recreation fields