



# TOWN OF BURLINGTON, MA

## *Board of Selectmen*

### Water Restriction

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Effective Thursday, July 23, 2020 as recommended by the Department of Public Works:

#### **OUTDOOR WATERING RESTRICTIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES**

##### **STEP 2: MANDATORY OUTDOOR WATERING - LIMITED TO ONE DAY PER WEEK**

##### **BASED ON STREET ADDRESS NUMBER**

With rainfall amounts remaining below average and continued warm weather, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Kathleen Theoharides has declared a Level 1 – Mild Drought in the Northeast region.

In addition to the lack of rain, the town is experiencing an increase in residential water use during the pandemic. We have also seen a dramatic, unsustainable increase, in the outdoor water use.

Although the water demand during outdoor watering days had remained stabled at 4.6 million gallons per day for the last few weeks, yesterday's demand increased to 5.1 million gallons. With the increased demand, the treatment facilities and storage tanks are strained to their limits.

In order to reduce water demand, I am recommending that a 2nd Step water conservation in accordance with the March 27, 2017 Board of Selectmen policy be approved effective Thursday July 23, 2020 such that all non-essential outdoor water use be limited to:

- Tuesdays for even street address numbers
- Saturdays for odd street address numbers
- Only between the hours of 7 PM and 10 PM

#### **The following uses are prohibited by this restriction:**

- Irrigation of lawns via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems outside of the permitted day and time.

#### **The following uses are permitted:**

- Irrigation of public parks and recreational fields by means of automated sprinklers
- Watering of gardens, flowers, and ornamental plantings by means of a hand-held hose only.
- Car washing and filling of pools.
- To meet core functions of a business or commercial activity
- Applying necessary surface treatments (aka washing exterior surfaces) such as paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement, or cement.

**Exemptions for establishing new lawns are given only during the months of April, May, September, and October, and only by written permission from the DPW.**

**PENALTIES:**

According to the Town Bylaws Section 5.4 the Town, through its Board of Selectmen, may declare a State of Water Conservation. Section 5.9 states the Penalties for violating the Water Restriction are:

- Any person violating shall be issued a warning for the first violation,
- shall be liable to the Town in the amount of \$50 for the second violation,
- and \$100 for each subsequent violation thereafter.
- These fines are non-criminal disposition.



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Paul F. Sagarino, Jr., Town Administrator  
on Behalf of the Burlington Board of Selectmen