

## **Mandatory Watering Restrictions**

We are asking citizens to conserve water in any way they can. It is not the individual actions that are creating the problem or that will solve the problem, it's the cumulative impact of all our actions together. We appreciate the efforts of our community members who are working together to reduce their water consumption.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### ***Why is there a watering restriction?***

There is organic material clogging the filters at the water treatment plant so it is taking longer and requiring more water for the treatment process. Meanwhile, the unusually hot weather is contributing to high demand. The water treatment plant is unable to produce enough water to keep up with demand, while still maintaining water reserves required for fire flow and emergency services.

#### ***What if we can't produce enough water to keep up with demand?***

Neighborhood water reservoir levels go down, causing a loss of pressure in the system. This is especially bad for emergency services, like the hospital and fire department.

#### ***How can I save water?***

Stop watering outdoors. Let your lawn go dormant in the summer. While waiting for the shower to heat up, collect the water in a bucket and use it later to water the plants. Don't wash your car or play with water toys that require a constant stream of water. Visit a lake to cool off instead.

#### ***What do I do if see someone watering their lawn?***

We are encouraging people to talk to their neighbors and communicate the watering restrictions. The city has also established an anonymous hotline for people to report violations. Date, time, address and observations about the violation can be left on a voice message at 778-7707.

#### ***How long will this last?***

The Public Works Director has correctly determined that mandatory outdoor watering restrictions are needed until we can ensure an ample water supply. These restrictions will be in effect until further notice. So far the community is doing a good job of conserving and if that continues we will be able to lift the mandatory restriction and go to voluntary odd/even watering next week.

#### ***What if I have new plants or a lawn that needs watering to be established?***

The restriction applies to established lawns and landscaping. New plants or lawns will not be subject to this restriction. That being said, citizens should still conserve and water as little as possible to keep their new plantings healthy (please see below).

#### ***What if I live in the Urban Growth Area (UGA) or I'm served by a water district?***

Restrictions apply to city water customers within the city limits. We cannot enforce these restrictions in the water districts or outside city limits, but water conservation efforts county-wide are always encouraged.

### **What are the City Procedures?**

Crews and other COB personnel are out distributing door hangers to properties they see sprinklers and irrigation systems operating on. This procedure is for notification of the restrictions. We will continue to provide information and updates through the city website, signage, and media outlets.

We would like to encourage people to talk to their neighbors and friends to communicate the watering restrictions. A hotline has been established (778-7707) where people can report violations anonymously. When violators are reported, the report goes to the Police Department and they will notify the violator about the restriction and will issue a warning citation. If the behavior continues, the violator will be fined and possibly have their water shut off.

### **What is OK to water and not OK to water?**

<b>OK to water: (minimal hand watering)</b>	<b>NOT OK to water: (no irrigation systems, sprinklers, hoses)</b>	<b>Recommended to be discontinued</b>
Vegetable gardens	Established Lawns	Car washing
Hanging baskets	Established Landscaping (shrubs, trees)	Filling of swimming pools
Potted plants		Activities that require constant water flow
Flowers		Pressure washing
Fruit trees		
Washing pets		
Kiddie pools		
Nurseries		
Swimming pools		
Newly planted lawn sod or plants*		

\*please see above

### **Smart Watering Practices**

In the Northwest, most plants and landscaping in our area only need 1" of water per week. Any more than that can affect the health of the plants and their root system. It is recommended by landscape professionals that most watering of established plantings can be terminated or reduced in August, to help prepare plants for the fall and winter conditions.

- water early in the morning or late at night to reduce evaporation,
- hand water with a spray nozzle or watering can, this helps to eliminate runoff as well
- apply mulch which will help retain water

### **What about the City Watering?**

Squalicum Creek Park's irrigation water comes from a well and Lake Padden Golf Course's water comes from Lake Padden. The watering restrictions do not apply to these locations.