



Georgetown Water Department
1 Moulton Street
Georgetown, MA 01833
Phone: 978-352-5750

Four Phase Water Restriction Policy

The Georgetown Water Department, on behalf of its Board of Commissioners Chapter 156 Outdoor Water Restrictions, has enacted a Four Phase Water Restriction Policy based on Parker River Streamflow Triggers and increased seasonal water demand. The Board of Water Commissioners may declare a water supply emergency as declared by the Department of Environmental Protection under M.G.L.c.21G, §15-17

Phase 1: Watch

In anticipation of drought conditions or excessive pumping demands that may interfere with water quality due to stress of infrastructure.

Voluntary ban of Non-Essential outdoor watering between the hours of 7 am and 7 pm daily.

Phase 2: Warning

Streamflow Triggered Restrictions based on minimum flows.

May 1st through June 30th when levels fall below the designated flow trigger of 20 cfs for THREE consecutive days based on USGS local stream gage 01101000 Parker River at Byfield.

July 1st through September 30th when levels fall below the designated flow trigger of 6 cfs for THREE consecutive days based on USGS local stream gage 01101000 Parker River at Byfield.

Mandatory ban of Non-Essential outdoor watering between hours of 7 am and 7 pm daily.

Unattended Non-Essential outdoor watering restricted to 2 days a week:

ODD house numbers MONDAYS and THURSDAYS (outside the hours of 7 am and 7 pm)

EVEN house numbers TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS (outside the hours of 7 am and 7 pm)

No weekend sprinkler system watering.



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Phase 3: Emergency

Mandatory Restrictions due to severe low-flow Streamflow triggers.

USGS stream gage below 7 day low-flow statistic of 0.5 cfs for THREE consecutive days based on USGS local stream gage 01101000 Parker River at Byfield.

Mandatory ban of Non-Essential outdoor watering between hours of 7 am and 7 pm daily.

Unattended Non-essential watering restricted to ONE day per week only:

Odd house numbers Thursdays (outside the hours of 7 am and 7 pm)

Even house numbers Tuesdays (outside the hours of 7 am and 7 pm)

Phase 4: Critical

Maximum Mandatory Restrictions due to severe low-flow Streamflow triggers as deemed necessary by vote of Board of Water Commissioners.

No Unattended Non- Essential outdoor watering

**Once a Phase is implemented, the restrictions shall remain in place until streamflow at the gage meets or exceeds the triggered streamflow for SEVEN consecutive days.



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**** Definitions:**

Nonessential outdoor water uses that are subject to mandatory restrictions include:

- irrigation of lawns and landscaping via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems;
- washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash or as necessary for operator safety;
- washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply surface treatments such as paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement or cement.

The following uses may be allowed when mandatory restrictions are in place:

- irrigation to establish a new lawn and new plantings during the months of May and September;
- irrigation of public parks and recreational fields by means of automatic sprinklers
- watering lawns, gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by means of a hand-held hose.

Water uses NOT subject to mandatory restrictions are those required:

- for health or safety reasons;
- by regulation;
- for the production of food and fiber;
- for the maintenance of livestock; or
- to meet the core functions of a business (for example, irrigation by golf courses as necessary to maintain tees, greens, and limited fairway watering, or irrigation by plant nurseries as necessary to maintain stock).

Adopted as amended here in by Georgetown Water Commissioners on October 14,2020

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