

Help us drive to 65!

Water conservation program in effect

Customers urged to follow odd/even watering schedule

As we enter the growing season, we ask our customers to observe our odd-even water conservation program in order to stay in compliance with state requirements. The department's latest Water Management Act permit from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) requires us to step up our efforts to decrease residential consumption to less than 65 gallons per day (gpd) per person within five years. Regardless of a system's capacity, the state can restrict utility's ability to withdraw water in an effort to meet conservation criteria.

While we have always planned successfully to meet the consumptive requirements of the community and will continue to explore new well sites and other means of increasing capacity, we must redouble our efforts to conserve water on our own, lest the state mandate more severe restrictions on its use.

Outdoor watering accounts for the greatest water use and is the most serious threat to a community's ability to meet the per capita residential standard. Daytime watering is not only costly, but largely ineffective. While we understand that people are trying to maintain their landscapes, this objective can still be met with much less water during the early morning or evening hours. Only one inch of water per week is sufficient to maintain a healthy lawn, so we ask that our customers use common sense when watering outdoors. We have tried to take a reasonable approach to water restrictions over the years, for most summers asking only for voluntary restrictions unless drought conditions dictated a mandatory program. Those days may be over if we don't make a genuine effort to reduce consumption.

Under our odd-even conservation program, odd numbered addresses are allowed to water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and even numbered addresses are allowed to water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. No watering is allowed during the daytime (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.), and no watering is permitted on Mondays, giving the system a day to recover.

In past, when we have had to make the program mandatory, it has been successful, with a high level of compliance. For that we are thankful, and appreciate your support. Please join us now in observing the watering schedule so that we can try to get through the season without more serious restrictions.