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## State Drought Declaration Forces Stricter Outdoor Watering Restrictions

Due to a state drought declaration, the Littleton Board of Water Commissioners voted Wednesday to limit non-essential outdoor watering and allow only the use of handheld hoses and watering cans during limited hours.

Under the new water restrictions, which were effective immediately, all Littleton Water Department consumers are prohibited from using lawn sprinklers, irrigation systems or other types of unattended outdoor watering. Hand watering with a hose or watering can is permitted prior to 7 a.m. and after 7 p.m.

The water commissioners acted after the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force declared a Level 2 drought earlier Wednesday. The drought is the result of below normal precipitation and high temperatures throughout much of Massachusetts.

“The state’s drought declaration requires the Littleton Water Department to implement the restriction on unattended outdoor watering, and we urge our consumers to help us conserve water,” said Nick Lawler, general manager of the Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments.

LELWD had eased watering restrictions in early June after a completed infrastructure project brought the Spectacle Pond Treatment Plant and well partially into service. However, the state drought declaration on Wednesday forced the imposition of stricter outdoor watering restrictions. For a complete description of the watering restrictions, visit [lelwd.com](http://lelwd.com).

Any person violating this regulation shall be liable to the Town of Littleton Water Department as follows: 1st Violation: Written warning; 2nd Violation: \$50.00 fine; 3rd Violation: \$200.00 fine; 4th Violation: \$400.00 fine and reduction in water availability to allow for basic water use needs. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Residents and consumers are encouraged to call the water department with any questions at 978-540-2222.

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