



TOWN OF WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WATER & SEWER DIVISION
20 MUNICIPAL WAY • WELLESLEY, MA 02481

WILLIAM J. SHAUGHNESSY, P.E.
SUPERINTENDENT

MEGHAN CONDON
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT

MATTHEW HERNON
SYSTEMS ENGINEER

TELEPHONE (781) 235-7600
FACSIMILE (781) 489-7755

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPW Declares Water Supply Conservation for Wellesley

Efforts Include Mandatory Outdoor Watering Restrictions for All Customers

May 26, 2021 (Wellesley, MA) – The Wellesley Department of Public Works needs your help to reduce the current demand for water in Wellesley and has issued a Water Supply Conservation Declaration. The decision requires residents and businesses to begin following specific water restrictions effective today, Wednesday, May 26, 2021.

The requirements include a **mandatory** alternate day outdoor watering schedule for homes and businesses, a ban on outdoor watering between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., and a request to reduce the amount of outdoor watering time by 20 percent. Complete details are included below.

According to DPW officials, the measures are needed to ensure that Wellesley's water supply continues to protect the health and safety of residents, including providing enough water necessary to fight fires. Water supplies in Town are low due to that fact that the Morses Pond water treatment plant was taken offline in early May after tests showed higher than allowed levels of [PFAS6 substances](#). This treatment plant supplies over one million gallons of water per day to homes and businesses and its loss is causing a shortage in the system.

“The water in Wellesley is safe to drink and use, but we’re asking for cooperation from everyone in the community by following these restrictions as we head into the summer months,” said DPW Director Dave Cohen. “By taking action now, we hope to avoid a ban on all outdoor water use later.”

Outdoor Water Use Alternate Day Restrictions

Based upon street address numbers, **nonessential** outdoor water use IS ALLOWED according to the following schedule:

- **Odd** numbered addresses are restricted to **Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday**.
- **Even** numbered addresses are restricted to **Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday**.
- Nonessential outdoor use of water on **Monday** is prohibited.

Nonessential outdoor watering hours are restricted to before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. Outdoor watering is prohibited during the daytime.

Essential uses of water are:

- For health and safety reasons
- Irrigation to establish a new lawn and new plantings between the months of May and September
- Agricultural operations to maintain livestock and crops
- Irrigation of lawns, gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by means of a hand-held hose

Nonessential uses are:

- Irrigation of lawns 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 concrete

Reduce Use While Watering

To help maintain appropriate water levels in Town storage tanks, the DPW is also asking residents to reduce the amount outdoor watering time by 20%. For example, this means that if you have an automated irrigation system with a 15-minute watering time in each zone, you should reduce each zone’s watering duration by at least 3 minutes.

Additional recommendations to help reduce water use include checking for and repairing any water leaks in irrigation systems, faucets, showerheads, and toilets.

Visit the DPW webpages for more information on [water conservation](#). The Natural Resources Commission also offers tips for [healthy and sustainable lawn and landscape care](#).

Impact of PFAS6 on Water Restrictions

The Water Division acknowledges that the current PFAS6 situation is a major reason for these new rules.

PFAS6 is a new drinking water standard which tests for the sum of **six** PFAS compounds. PFAS are **Per-** and **PolyFluorAlkyl** Substances, a group of numerous human-made chemicals used since the 1950s to manufacture stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick products. This drinking water standard is set to protect against adverse health effects for all people consuming the water.

“It’s important to note that the Morses Pond plant was the only one in Wellesley with higher than allowed PFAS6 levels. It is closed and will likely remain closed all summer,” said Water and Sewer Superintendent Bill Shaughnessy. “Since May 3, all water for Wellesley is coming from the Town’s two other treatment plants and from the Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs operated by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). While some other communities affected by PFAS6 concerns have bottled water requirements, it is not necessary here. All of the water provided to our residents meets all current MassDEP water quality standards.”

Residents with individual concerns about PFAS should contact their physicians or other health professionals.

For complete PFAS information, [visit the DPW webpages](#) or contact [MassDEP](#).

-END-