

Water Conservation Policy

Town of Yarmouth

Approved by Yarmouth Board of Selectmen on June 21, 2022

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to protect, preserve and maintain the public health, safety, welfare and the environment in the Town of Yarmouth by ensuring an adequate supply of water for drinking and fire protection and to protect the quality and quantity of water in local aquatic habitats such as ponds, rivers and wetlands. This purpose will be accomplished by providing for the imposition of any duly implemented best management practices or nonessential outdoor water use restrictions imposed by the Town in accordance with this policy and/or by the Department of Environmental Protection under its state law authorities.

Applicability:

All customers and users of the Yarmouth public water supply system shall be subject to this policy.

Policy:

The Town of Yarmouth recognizes that several factors must be considered when evaluating the state of the drinking water supply. These factors include drought level, ground water levels, drinking water supply availability and demands on the drinking water system. Therefore, this policy was developed to address the need for water conservation through best management practices or restriction of nonessential outdoor water use based on various thresholds for each factor. The policy includes five levels of conservation that correspond to the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force (DMT) drought levels. The policy also takes into account Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Water Management Act (WMA) Permit requirements that will likely be imposed on Yarmouth with our next WMA Permit renewal. The Town will follow the drought level for Cape Cod as indicated by the DMT or utilize local criteria as follows:

Level 0: Normal Conditions

Supply Capacity: All Wells Online (12.33 MGD available) and

7-day Demand Average: Below 56 MG (8 MGD) **or**

WMA Trigger - USGS Groundwater Level: Less than 60 days below 25th percentile

Level 1: Mild Drought

Supply Capacity: 4 Wells Offline (Less than 10.21 MGD available) and

7-day Demand Average: Greater than 56 MG (8 MGD) **or**

WMA Trigger - USGS Groundwater Level: 60 days below 25th percentile

Level 2: Significant Drought

Supply Capacity: 6 Wells Offline (Less than 9.35 MGD available) and

7-day Demand Average: Greater than 60 MG (8.6 MGD) **or**

WMA Trigger - USGS Groundwater Level: 60 days below 20th percentile

Level 3: Critical Drought

Supply Capacity: 7 Wells Offline (Less than 9.2 MGD available) and

7-day Demand Average: Greater than 64 MG (9 MGD) **or**

WMA Trigger - USGS Groundwater Level: 60 days below 10th percentile

Level 4: Emergency

Supply Capacity: 7+ Wells Offline (Less than 8.9 MGD available) and

7-day Demand Average: Greater than 68 MG (9.5 MGD) **or**

WMA Trigger - USGS Groundwater Level: 60 days below 2nd percentile

Water restrictions will be implemented at the level of the highest criteria that is met. For example, if the DMT declares a Mild Drought on Cape Cod, but the Town's supply capacity is reduced by six wells and the 7-day demand average is greater than 60 MG, than a Significant Drought restrictions will be followed.

The following restrictions of non-essential outdoor water use will be imposed at each drought level:

WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT STAGES:	LEVEL 0: Normal	LEVEL 1: Mild	LEVEL 2: Significant	LEVEL 3: Critical	LEVEL 4: Emergency
Lawn Watering In-Ground Irrigation Systems	Voluntary odd/even watering before 9am and after 5pm	Max 2 days/week watering permitted before 9am or after 5pm.	Max 1 day/week handheld watering permitted before 9am or after 5pm.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Lawn Watering Hand-Held Watering & Drip Irrigation Systems	Any time	Max 2 days/week watering permitted before 9am or after 5pm.	Max 1 day/week watering permitted before 9am or after 5pm.	Prohibited	Prohibited
Flower Beds, Shrubs & Vegetable Gardens	Any time	Any time	Any time	Prohibited	Prohibited
Private Residential Swimming Pools	Any time Filling or Topping Off	Restricted Topping Off Only	Restricted Topping Off Only	Prohibited	Prohibited
Hand Washing of Vehicles/Boats	Any time	Restricted Washing Vehicles with an automatic shutoff (spring loaded nozzle) hose or bucket only	Restricted Washing Vehicles with an automatic shutoff (spring loaded nozzle) hose or bucket only	Prohibited	Prohibited
Pressure Washing	Any time	Restricted No use of water for cleaning of streets, driveways, sidewalks or other impervious areas.	Restricted No use of water for cleaning of streets, driveways, sidewalks or other impervious areas.	Prohibited	Prohibited

An **odd/even restriction** would allow use of in-ground irrigation systems on the following schedule based on street number:

- Odd Numbered Customers can water Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- Even Numbered Customers can water Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- No Watering on Sunday.

A **maximum two day per week restriction** would allow use of in-ground irrigation systems, handheld watering and drip irrigation on the following schedule based on street number:

- Odd Numbered Customers can water Monday and Wednesday.
- Even Numbered Customers can water Tuesday and Thursday.
- No Watering on Sunday, Friday and Saturday.

A **maximum one day per week restriction** would allow use of in-ground irrigation systems, handheld watering and drip irrigation on the following schedule based on street number:

- Street number ending in 1, 3 or 5 can water Monday.
- Street number ending in 7 or 9 can water Wednesday.
- Street number ending in 0, 2 or 4 can water Tuesday.
- Street number ending in 6 or 8 can water Thursday.
- No Watering on Sunday, Friday and Saturday.