

NEWS RELEASE

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City of Nanaimo Moving to Stage 3 Watering Restrictions

Voluntary reduction in usage takes effect June 8, 2026

Summary

The City of Nanaimo is implementing Stage 3 Watering Restrictions starting Monday, June 8, 2026, in response to ongoing dry conditions and increased water demand.

The City's watershed has experienced almost two months without significant rainfall, resulting in steadily declining reservoir levels. At the same time, water use has risen to above-average levels for this time of year, placing increased pressure on available water supplies.

Under Stage 3, reducing outdoor water usage remains voluntary. However, City of Nanaimo residents and businesses are strongly encouraged to reduce consumption and eliminate unnecessary outdoor water use.

Water users can take proactive conservation measures, including:

- Avoiding or significantly reducing lawn watering
- Minimizing irrigation of landscapes, gardens and ornamental plants
- Using water-efficient methods such as hand-watering or drip irrigation
- Limiting vehicle washing and other non-essential outdoor water use
- Fixing leaks and reducing indoor water use, where possible

Stage 3 serves as a critical early warning. If weather conditions do not improve and water use remains high, the City may move to Stage 4 Watering Restrictions.

Under Stage 4, all non-essential outdoor water use would be prohibited, including lawn and garden watering, vehicle washing and other discretionary uses.

For more information on watering restrictions and water conservation tips, visit the [watering restrictions page on the City website](#).

Strategic Link: Managing a resilient water supply supports Council's priority to maintain essential services.

Key Points

- While Stage 3 restrictions are voluntary, reducing demand now is essential to help stabilize reservoir levels and prolong available water supply through the summer.
- These measures are being taken to ensure sufficient water is available to meet essential domestic needs, as well maintain environmental flow requirements critical to supporting fish habitat, including rearing salmon later in the summer.

Quotes

"Taking voluntary action today will help ensure we have enough water for drinking, public safety and to support our natural environment throughout the summer months. Every effort to reduce unnecessary water use makes a meaningful difference."

Mike Squire
Manager, Water Resources
City of Nanaimo

Quick Facts

- Watering of lawns with pop-up spray, rotors and sprinklers is permitted one day per week only between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. for a maximum two hours. Odd-numbered houses on Monday and even-numbered on Thursday.
- Ornamental shrubs, flowers and trees are restricted to hand-held container or hose equipped with a shutoff nozzle.
- Washing of vehicles, RVs, boats and exterior building surfaces using a hand-held container or hose equipped with shutoff nozzle is permitted between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on your assigned watering day.

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View the online edition for more information -

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/NewsReleases/NR260605CityOfNanaimoMovingToStage3WateringRestrictions.html>