

Contact: Thomas A. Carrier
Deputy Director of Public Works
Phone: 603-432-6144
Fax: 603-432-6130

Municipal Center
14 Manning Street
Derry, NH 03038

Town of Derry
Department of Public Works
Water and Wastewater Divisions

Press Release

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR VOLUNTARY OUTDOOR WATERING CONSERVATION: DERRY CORE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM

Derry, NH – July 28, 2010

As a result of the continuing hot dry weather, the Town of Derry Core Municipal Water System is alerting its customers that they should begin a voluntary reduction of outdoor water use. With the month of July continuing the below average precipitation pattern that we have seen during the spring and early summer, rainfall since April is down nearly six inches from normal.

According to Tom Bowen, Director at Manchester Water Works, Derry's wholesale water supplier, Lake Massabesic (Derry's water source) is approximately 30 inches below its full capacity and while it is not unusual for the Lake to be at that level during some periods of the year, this is approximately six to eight weeks ahead of the typical low point and MWW consumption is currently in the 24 to 27 million gallons per day range up from the annual average of 16 million gallons per day. Derry's water consumption is up 18% to 1.5 million gallons per day compared to last summer. The majority of the additional use is likely attributable to lawn irrigation and if customers follow some simple steps, we are hopeful that mandatory lawn watering restrictions like those that have been imposed by many other New Hampshire communities including Derry's community well systems will not be necessary.

Some specific recommendations which can lead to a reduction in water usage are as follows:

- Deep soak your lawn and garden when watering. Water long enough for the moisture to soak down into the roots where it will do the most good. It is far better to water every other day with a deep soaking than to simply lightly sprinkle your lawn, which can evaporate and encourage a shallow root system.
- Water during the cooler part of the day to avoid evaporation. Watering before 9:00 a.m. in the morning is best for your grass since it helps to prevent the growth of fungus. Position your sprinkler or irrigation sprinkler heads so that the water is landing on the lawn and garden and not on the streets, sidewalks, and driveways. If this requires you to reposition the sprinkler more often, it will certainly be to your advantage.
- For those with automatic sprinklers, check for leaks at sprinkler heads once or twice a week. A stuck sprinkler head can waste a considerable amount of water and cost you a lot of money.
- If a good soaking rain does occur, hold off watering for two or three days or until your lawn needs watering. One easy way to tell when watering is needed is to step on the grass and then move back. If the grass stays flat, then it is time to water.
- When mowing your grass between an inch and a half and two inches high, taller grass will shade the roots and reduce evaporation.
- Cover your pool when not in use and lower the level several inches. This will keep water from evaporating and eliminate loss from splashing from normal use. An average swimming pool will lose nearly a thousand gallons a month, by using a pool cover you can reduce losses by nearly 90%.

- Clean your driveway and sidewalks with a broom or rake, not your garden hose.

These recommendations apply to Derry's core municipal water customers. Derry's community water systems at Autumn Woods, Meadowbrook, Rand-Shepard Hill, Willow Bend and Woodlands, whose water is supplied from separate community bedrock wells, have been issued mandatory outdoor water use restrictions. The Derry core municipal system is asking only for voluntary reductions in outdoor water use at this time.

For more information about water conservation or your public water supply contact the Town of Derry Department of Public Works at 603-432-6144.