

TOWN OF IPSWICH UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



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TO: WATER COMMISSIONERS
FROM: VICKI HALMEN
SUBJECT: MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS
DATE: JUNE 14, 2018
CC: TONY MARINO

Due to the lack of precipitation, decreasing reservoir storage and increased water demand, the Water Department must impose mandatory water restrictions at this time. These restrictions are being imposed in accordance with the Town of Ipswich Drought Management Plan and are effective immediately.

During declared Water Restrictions, the following practices shall be **permitted**:

- (a) irrigation of public parks and recreation fields between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.;
- (b) irrigation of lawns, gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by means of hand-held hose between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

During declared Water Restrictions the following practices shall be **prohibited**:

- (a) irrigation of lawns via any system other than hand held hose or bucket;
- (b) washing of vehicles, except to meet core function of a business;
- (c) washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement or cement; and
- (d) filling or refilling of swimming pools.

The Water Department was required to release approximately 15 million gallons of water from Dow Brook Reservoir after it was deemed “unsafe” by the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety. This challenges the Department’s ability to manage its water sources through the high demand summer months.

We urge everyone to comply with the restrictions to ensure an adequate water supply through the summer. If these restrictions are not effective and rainfall is insufficient, a water ban prohibiting **all** outside water use will be imposed.

I will keep you informed as conditions change.