



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY

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- ENGINEERING
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- WATER TREATMENT PLANT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tewksbury Calls for Voluntary Outdoor Water Use Ban

Region experiences nearly six months of dry conditions

Tewksbury, MA (9/7/2016) – Last month, with most of Massachusetts continuing to experience dry conditions, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton issued a Drought Warning for Central and Northeast Massachusetts. In response to the Secretary’s issuance of a Drought Warning in the region, the Town of Tewksbury is implementing a Voluntary Outdoor Water Use Ban. All non-essential outdoor water use should be limited until further notice.

Under this voluntary ban, all non-essential outdoor water use should be limited to every other day, using an “even/odd” approach. Properties located on the odd-numbered side of a street should limit their outdoor water use to odd-numbered dates; those on even-numbered sides should use water outdoors only on even-numbered dates. Homeowners should limit outdoor watering to the hours between 6:00PM and 9:00AM. In theory, participation should reduce non-essential outdoor watering by up to fifty percent. Additionally, contractors and developers are urged to use water responsibly and take measures to reduce any potential waste.

The National Weather Services has indicated that the month of September is expected to be hot and dry, and drought conditions will persist. The Tewksbury Fire Department reminds residents to be mindful of the use of open flames within the Town. “Dry conditions are conducive to brush fires,” stated Fire Chief Michael Hazel. “These can have a negative effect on property and neighbors.”

Limiting outdoor water use helps ensure that enough water is available for essential needs, including drinking water, fire protection, crop irrigation and harvesting, and our natural resources.

For its part, the Town will be restricting its outdoor watering use to every other day and will limit its hydrant flushing program to address only areas of high concern. “It is important for us to lead by example,” said Public Works Superintendent Brian Gilbert of these measures. “Limiting outdoor water use would increase our pumping reserves and our capacity to assist neighboring communities in the event of severe drought conditions.”



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About the Tewksbury Water & Sewer Division: The Water & Sewer Division strives to provide the highest quality drinking water possible, improve the water system infrastructure, including treatment and distribution, and maintain a network of sewer pipe and facilities to ensure the safe collection and discharge of the Town's wastewater.

For information about the Voluntary Outdoor Water Use Ban, please visit:
<http://www.teWKsbury-ma.gov>

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