



Water Conservation Notice

The North Reading Water Department is experiencing lower than normal water levels in the Town's three water storage tanks due to a combination of high water demand and mechanical problems at the Town's water sources. The mechanical problems have been corrected and the Town is currently producing 2.5 million gallons of water per day (MGD) but the water use is exceeding this and the water levels in the tanks are not recovering.

North Reading's average annual water demand of 1.4 MGD has historically jumped to a peak of 2.1 MGD or more on hot summer days. This additional demand of 0.7 MGD is primarily the result of automatic lawn irrigation systems that run between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. The Water Department has recorded water level drops of 20 feet in the storage tanks in these two hours.

The average water level in the storage tanks has fallen about 36 feet since June 20 which has resulted in a decrease in water pressure throughout the Town. Additionally, the surging of water to both fill the water tanks and meet the daily water demand is causing discolored water. The water is safe to drink and the color is caused by suspended iron.

The Town still has a sufficient volume of water in storage for fire protection. However, the extended weather forecast for the Fourth of July weekend calls for warm dry weather that could lead to even lower tank levels and may reduce water volume and pressure for fire protection.

We are asking residents and businesses reduce or stop outdoor water use (lawn watering) for the next seven days in order to allow the water storage tanks to refill. Odd number homes should only water lawns on odd number dates, even numbered homes water on even number dates. If we cannot improve water tank levels the Town may have to declare an emergency which will severely restrict or eliminate outdoor use.

Please contact the DPW at 978-664-6060 if you have questions. Thanks for your support.