

IPSWICH WATER DEPARTMENT

DROUGHT UPDATE

October 24, 2016

Drought Status: **DROUGHT EMERGENCY**

No outdoor watering

Limit all non-essential indoor water use - Use water more wisely!

Current Activities:

- On the 21st Ipswich participated in a meeting to confront the drought crisis with concerned town officials from neighboring communities and state regulatory agencies. The discussion included potential regional possibilities involving one or more towns working together. All parties agreed to review the 2003 Ipswich River Watershed Action Plan and reconvene in one month to further the discussion.
- The residential seasonal rate structure normally switches to lower winter rates on October 1st. This year, due to continued drought conditions, the Water Commissioners have extended the summer rate through October 31st. The winter rate will become effective November 1st. The full water ban will remain in place.
- A Town-wide leak detection survey of the 93 mile water distribution system is underway. This is done on an annual basis to limit water lost to leaks. No major leaks have been discovered to date.
- The Water Department has received a declaration of water supply emergency from MassDEP. The declaration allows the Town to pump its wells in the Ipswich River Watershed beyond registered limits. This provides flexibility to manage our sources in the most effective manner. We have temporarily suspended our proposal to utilize recently installed test wells on the former Lynch property as we evaluate water quality results. To comply with the emergency declaration, Ipswich must continue the ban on all outdoor water use, as well as continue to urge all private well users to restrict their outdoor water use.
- **Discounted rain barrels are still available to Ipswich residents at Corliss Bros. for \$45!**

Emergency Declaration Clarification:

- The references in the document to endangerment of public health, safety or welfare are not in response to water quality, but water quantity. The water remains safe. The statements are to warn that public health will be compromised

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DROUGHT UPDATE

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if the Town is unable to provide residents with a continuous supply of drinking water.

- "The Town shall have the authority to enforce these regulations through the assessment of penalties or the imposition of fines." This statement does not grant the Town authority to enforce the terms of the declaration beyond what is currently established by local regulations and by-laws.

REMINDER: Commercial customers are not exempt from drought requirements. Only those water use activities that are essential to conduct business are allowed.

Surface Water Supply

Reservoir Capacity, Total:	91,400,000 million gallons
Usable Storage, Total:	71,400,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 8/5/16:	20,300,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 8/12/16:	20,700,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 8/19/16:	17,800,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 8/26/16:	16,000,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/02/16:	14,000,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/09/16:	12,900,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/16/16:	11,500,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/23/16:	12,300,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 9/30/16:	10,500,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 10/7/16:	13,900,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 10/14/16:	15,600,000 million gallons
Usable Storage as of 10/21/16:	13,200,000 million gallons

Due to the rain over the weekend Usable Storage on 10/24/16 has increased to 20,400,000 million gallons.

Where did last week's water come from? 39% Reservoir Water
61% Well Water

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October 24, 2016

WARNING

More well water use means the amount of water supplied by Browns and Fellows Road Wells is increasing. These wells meet all primary drinking water standards, however, they do have elevated levels of Manganese.

System wide Manganese levels are currently below the health advisory levels.

With elevated Manganese levels, parents are advised to use bottled or treated water for their young children, in particular to make formula.

Winter Average Daily Demand:	0.8 million gallons per day (mgd)
Last Week's Average Daily Demand:	0.8 million gallons per day (mgd)
Current Average Daily Demand:	0.9 million gallons per day (mgd)

Days of Supply Remaining at current demand of 0.9 mgd: 15 - 60 days

Precipitation

2014 Total Precipitation Jan 1 - Aug 1:	29.36 inches
2015 Total Precipitation Jan 1 - Aug 1:	32.13 inches
2016 Total Precipitation Jan 1 - Aug 1:	18.24 inches

Total Precipitation Aug 1 - Aug 8:	0.20 inches
Total Precipitation Aug 9 - Aug 14:	1.05 inches
Total Precipitation Aug 15 - Aug 21:	0.90 inches
Total Precipitation Aug 22 - Aug 28:	0.00 inches
Total Precipitation Aug 29 - Sept 4:	0.00 inches
Total Precipitation Sept 5 - Sept 11:	0.54 inches
Total Precipitation Sept 12 - Sept 18:	0.30 inches
Total Precipitation Sept 19 - Sept 25:	0.20 inches
Total Precipitation Sept 26 - Oct 2:	1.46 inches
Total Precipitation Oct 3 - Oct 9:	1.85 inches
Total Precipitation Oct 10 - Oct 16:	0.00 inches
Total Precipitation Oct 17 - Oct 23:	1.40 inches

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DROUGHT UPDATE

October 24, 2016

What is the Water Department doing?

- **Asking the community to share their water saving tips! Visit www.ipswichma.gov and click "Community Voice" to share suggestions.**
- Increasing enforcement of the water ban. One warning is issued, a subsequent violation results in shut-off of water service
- Increasing use of well water
- Additional long term alternatives are being considered to augment our current sources
- The Water Department received permission to breach a beaver dam and conduct trapping in an area along Bull Brook (see 9/6/16 update). We have breached the dam and completed installation of a pond leveling device to ensure water flows uninterrupted to Bull Brook Reservoir.
- On September 13th, the Water Department hosted a meeting with local town and state officials to discuss current drought conditions impacting the region. Those in attendance included Secretary Matthew Beaton (EOEEA), Bethany Card (DEP), Representative Brad Hill, Senator Bruce Tarr and several others.

Your Water Saving Tips Shared on the Community Voice Forum

Flush only when necessary

Older toilets can use up to 7 gallons per flush. All for a few ounces of liquid. Newer toilets, although more efficient can still use between 1 and 5 gallons for each flush. You can save tons by flushing only when necessary.

Wash counters/sinks/icky surfaces with natural cleaning products and towel

I prefer just soap and water, but to save water I've been using a plant based cleaner and towel.

Lolly Plates

Let you dog lick plates clean after eating and before washing; pots & pans too! Whoof, whoof. Water is precious. (Idea contributed Charlotte the dog, typed by her human.)

Fix a leak

Small household leaks can add up to gallons of water lost every day. Try the drip calculator to see how much water is being wasted: <http://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/public-affairs/public-information/dripcalculator.aspx>

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DROUGHT UPDATE

October 24, 2016

Shower with a Friend

Overheard recently at Rotary

Shower using catch basin

In Australia during their huge drought, people were standing in catch buckets while showering and then reusing their collected water for plants, etc. For the most part, we aren't all that dirty when we are showering. The water that we catch is perfect for reuse.

Capture water in the shower and sinks

Keep a bucket in the shower to capture water while it is heating up; use the water for cleaning, flushing or watering plants. Keep a pot or bowl in the sinks to capture water from washing fruits and vegetables, hand-washing, etc. and use the water to water plants.

If you haven't already installed a water-efficient showerhead, it's so easy to do and it will save water and money. It takes just a few minutes to change showerheads - you don't need special tools or expertise. Not only will you save water and help save our rivers, but you'll save money on your water bill and on sewer charges - or if you're on a septic system, you'll help prolong the functionality of your septic system. Don't wait another day...

Water Saving Programs & Incentives

If the Water Dept and Selectmen are serious about conserving water now and in the future there should be water saving programs and incentives created immediately. A program similar to what the MWRA offers should be created to provide free water saving audits for home owners. Energy providers across the state offers this to electricity and natural gas customers to help save energy, why not do this for water. No cost or reduced cost water fixtures should be provided to customers to allow them to get these directly from the Water Dept or provide customers with rebates to cover all or most of the cost of WaterSense fixtures. Water use in homes will always occur, why not provide water saving fixtures including showerheads, faucets, toilets, etc. This is a realistic water saving answer. \$45 rain barrels are not the answer at all...especially when it doesn't rain and the plants are dead! Provide incentives for low monthly water use - reduced rate for lower usage based on household size.

Less soap to wash requires less water to rinse

When washing dishes and/or lathering in the bathroom, the less soap used the more water saved from rinsing.

A sink strainer also eliminates the need to run water

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October 24, 2016

A sink strainer also eliminates the need to run water for the garbage disposal -we empty it into our curbside compost receptacle. More information here:<http://www.zerowastehome.com/2014/02/3-things-you-can-do-to-save-water-using/>

Water-wise gardening tips

Here are some tips on water-wise gardening from the Ipswich Garden Club:
<http://ipswichgardenclub.blogspot.com/>

The Town of Ipswich thanks you for making every drop count!

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DROUGHT UPDATE

October 24, 2016

Rain Barrel Sale!

Big discount!

\$45*

These barrels are

- 100% recycled
- Equipped with screw lid and spigot
- Made from certified food grade plastic
- Terra-cotta color
- Great size:
 - 50 gallon capacity
 - 36 inch height
 - 23 inch diameter
- Perfect for:
 - Car washing
 - Gardening
 - Irrigation



- Save money
- Conserve water
- Ease the drought

*Limited to one per customer

*Available while supplies last; only at Corliss Bros.

*Offer valid for Ipswich residents only (proof of residency is required)

Corliss Bros. Fall Hours

Sunday 9:30am—4:00pm

Monday through Saturday, 8:30am—5:00pm

Proudly sponsored by:

JACK'S
RAIN BARRELS



Corliss Bros.
INCORPORATED
Garden Center and Nursery