

TOWN OF IPSWICH UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



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TO: WATER COMMISSIONERS
FROM: VICKI HALMEN
SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY WATER RESTRICTIONS / HYDRANT FLUSHING
DATE: APRIL 5, 2021
CC: TONY MARINO

Due to early signs of drought conditions, including lack of precipitation and reduced stream flow in the Ipswich River, and to ensure water availability to conduct essential hydrant flushing, the Water Department is imposing **voluntary** 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.

We urge everyone to comply with the voluntary restrictions to ensure an adequate water supply through the summer. If these voluntary restrictions are not effective and rainfall is insufficient, mandatory water restrictions will be imposed.

Hydrant flushing will be conducted between April 20th and May 21st and is a necessary maintenance activity to manage water quality throughout the water distribution system. Limited flushing was conducted last year due to concerns over adverse impacts to customers during the pandemic. It is critical that a full flushing program be conducted this year.