

## **Stage 4 Watering Restrictions Downgraded to Stage 3 in Most RDN Water Service Areas**

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has downgraded watering restrictions from Stage 4 to Stage 3 effective Thursday, October 5, 2023, except for Decourcey and Surfside RDN Water Service Areas which remain at Stage 4 due to operational needs. The recent rainfall has provided a slight increase in stream flows and curbed outdoor water demand in our communities. Under Stage 3 restrictions, limited lawn watering and outdoor and vehicle washing are allowed but residents are asked to voluntarily conserve water wherever possible as the shift in conditions has not fully alleviated the ongoing drought.

Here are some ways residents can support water conservation in Stage 3:

- Limit watering run times, limit the number of watering days and refrain from sprinkling certain lawn areas.
- Limit washing vehicles or boats unnecessarily.
- Sweep outdoor surfaces such as driveways or decks rather than using a hose or power washing where possible.
- Retrofit old, inefficient appliances and fix leaking irrigation systems.
- Top up mulch/topsoil to aid in landscape water retention.

The drought rating for Eastern Vancouver Island remains high and harmful impacts to ecosystems are still possible due to seasonally low stream flows. October is a critical time for aquatic life such as salmon that require higher water levels to migrate to their freshwater spawning grounds. Our water is a shared resource, thank you for doing your part!

Water system capacity and conditions vary across the region. Please refer to the accompanying table for watering restrictions by location and visit your respective water provider's website for more details and current information. A map of water service areas, including their current watering restrictions, can be viewed at [rdn.bc.ca/watering-restriction-map](https://rdn.bc.ca/watering-restriction-map). For tips on water conservation, visit [teamwatersmart.ca](https://teamwatersmart.ca).

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Watering Restriction Stages as of Oct. 5, 2023	Water Service Areas
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAGE 3</b></p> <p>Voluntary heightened water use reductions <i>(no more than every other day sprinkling between 7-10 a.m. or 7-10 p.m., less is encouraged)</i></p>	<p>Regional District of Nanaimo (Water Service Areas):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nanoose Bay Peninsula,</li> <li>• River’s Edge</li> <li>• French Creek/ Sandpiper</li> <li>• San Pareil</li> <li>• Whiskey Creek</li> <li>• Westurne Heights</li> <li>• Melrose Terrace</li> <li>• Surfside**</li> <li>• Decourcey (Pylades)**</li> </ul> <p>City of Parksville EPCOR French Creek Deep Bay Improvement District District of Lantzville</p> <p><i>**Decourcey and Surfside systems remain in <b>Stage 4</b></i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAGE 1</b></p> <p>Sprinkling permitted between 7 p.m. - 7 a.m., on any day</p> <p>Hand-watering, Drip &amp; Micro Irrigation Exempt Vegetable and Food Gardens Exempt</p>	<p>City of Nanaimo Bowser Waterworks North Cedar Improvement District</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NO RESTRICTIONS</b></p>	<p>Town of Qualicum Beach Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Waterworks</p>

-30-

**For more information, please contact:**

Rebecca Taylor  
Communications Coordinator  
Regional District of Nanaimo



250-390-6502



rtaylor@rdn.bc.ca

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