

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

September 7, 2016

Portsmouth Water Division Announces “No Lawn Watering” Restrictions

PORTSMOUTH, NH – Due to the extreme drought conditions, the Department of Public Works – Water Division, with support from the City Council, will be implementing “No Lawn Watering” restrictions effective tomorrow, September 8, 2016. Customers are allowed to hand water vegetable gardens, perennial plants and nursery stock, but must refrain from all lawn watering.

With August precipitation totaling only two inches, there have been 11 consecutive months of below average precipitation. For a yearly average, the Portsmouth area is running over 14 inches below normal. While the City’s previous odd/even water restrictions reduced demand in the water system, the continued lack of precipitation has led to this action.

“According to data tracked by the City’s water operations staff, river levels are at historic lows for this time of year and the city’s water supply capability is also lower than normal,” states Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Public Works. “The river flow feeding the Bellamy Reservoir, our surface water supply, is currently flowing at its lowest level in the 80-year history of tracking flows in our watershed area. This summer has been very dry and it will take a significant amount of precipitation to recover from these drought conditions.”

City staff will continue to monitor these conditions, but it is likely these measures will be in effect for the remainder of the summer and into the fall. It is very important that customers take this seriously and cooperate in these measures to help alleviate the water demand. City officials will be notifying and ticketing any violators of this restriction.

Customers can read the full Water Supply Status Report and details behind the current supply status at www.Cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks (click on “water”), and view current State conditions at <http://tinyurl.com/nhwaterbans>. For more information, please contact Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Public Works at 766-1420 or Al Pratt, Water Resources Manager at 520-0622.