

Frequently Asked Questions – Water Restrictions

As of July 7/11

Why is there a water restriction? A mandatory water restriction is in place because the Water Treatment Plant cannot currently meet normal summer capacity due to ongoing filter problems caused by the fast-flowing and turbulent river. At its current speed, the river stirs up a lot of sand, clay and fine particles that must be removed from the water in the treatment process. This is taking much longer than usual due to the quantities of these particles in the water. This means the Plant can only function at 80% of its normal capacity. The restriction ensures that the City can continue to meet city-wide demand.

Exactly what can fines be issued for? Fines can be issued only for the following:

- Watering lawns/gardens outside of the irrigation schedule

Other outdoor water use (filling of backyard pools, hot tubs, sprinklers for children)... There is no restriction on various backyard water recreation activities (filling of backyard pools, hot tubs, sprinklers for the kids). However, the City does ask that residents use the water wisely and not be wasteful.

How does the watering schedule for lawns/gardens work? Citizens are allowed to water their lawns, trees, and gardens on specific days.

Buildings with a street address that ends in an odd number (or for locations without a street address) can be watered on Tuesdays and Saturdays at any time.

Buildings with a street address that ends in an even number can be watered on Wednesdays and Sundays at any time.

The City will be carefully monitoring water consumption to ensure the Plant can continue to meet demand, and will adjust the restrictions if required.

Are parks and sport fields allowed to water their turf? City-maintained parks and sport fields are now allowed to water on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays at any time. The City maintains over 1,000 hectares of park space in our community although watering of these spaces will be split over the three days allowed in the restriction. Please note that some maintenance on the irrigation system is happening during the day which may require a quick line test. This should not last longer than a few minutes.

Is indoor water use restricted? Indoor water use is not restricted, but the City does ask that you use your water wisely. Water conservation is never a bad idea.

Are spray parks open? Why are they open? The 15 spray parks located around the city are open. At the start of the mandatory restrictions, when the Water Treatment Plant was operating below 60% capacity, the City did ask residents to voluntarily stay away. However, because of the small amount of water these facilities use, they were reopened as Plant capacity increased.

Are the paddling pools open? Three paddling pools will open on Friday, July 1. They are Massey Place (Archibald McDonald Park), Sutherland (Sutherland Park) and College Park (Dr. Hertzberg Park).

Kinsmen Park Play Village paddling pool will also open on Friday, July 1. The remaining paddling pools will be opened in phases.

Can I be fined for watering my lawn or garden outside the scheduled restrictions? Yes. Saskatoon Fire & Protective Services will investigate if watering takes place outside the restriction and fines can be issued for non-compliance. Tickets start at \$300.

Can businesses be fined for irrigating its lawns? Businesses found to be irrigating its lawns outside of the restriction can be also be fined.

Why are car washes still operating during the water restriction? The water restrictions are limited to discretionary watering. The City is trying to ensure businesses can continue to function despite the necessary restriction.

New sod and newly seeded grass – anyone who has put down sod within the last 14 days or seeded lawn within the last 30 days is allowed to water each at any time. This also applies to anyone laying sod today or anytime during the restriction.

Commercial fertilizer applications to lawns - Companies and citizens may water their lawn following lawn fertilization within 24 hours of fertilizing.

Can I use a hand-held watering can/pail to water my garden? Anyone using a hand-held watering can or pail can water on any day.

What happens if the Water Treatment Plant can't meet demand as restrictions are lifted? Plant capacity has been partially restored, and as such the City is able to take measured steps towards lifting the water use restriction. However, the City will be carefully monitoring water consumption to ensure the Plant can meet demand, and will adjust the restrictions if required.