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## Outdoor Water Use Regulations (2021)

Approval Date: June 21, 2021

Resolution No.: R163/21/06/21

Rescinded: N/A

Contact Department: Public Works / Corporate Services

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### **Purpose**

- To establish the water use allowed at the various stages of outdoor water use restrictions for users connected to the City water system.

### **Guiding Statement**

The City of Grand Forks recognizes that a variety of conditions exist which can affect the volume of water available for outdoor uses including lawn and garden irrigation and the washing of vehicles, and that there is a need to ensure sufficient water capacity in the delivery system for household and emergency use.

### **Regulations**

- Schedule A, attached to these regulations, outlines the permitted times and uses for outdoor water consumption in the City of Grand Forks.
- The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or designate is authorized to issue water use restrictions from time-to-time as conditions warrant. Hours of usage may be varied from those presented in Schedule A.
- Restrictions will be determined by considering factors including weather, overall water consumption, environment factors such as drought conditions, river levels, and wildfire risks, emergency requirements, reservoir levels, pumping station and well capacity, or other criteria.
- Stage 1 restrictions are active year-round except when a higher level restriction has been declared by the CAO or designate.
- In the event of infrastructure conditions (ie: equipment breakdown, reduction of capacity) which may affect pumping capacity to be reduced or reservoir levels to drop, the CAO or designate may cancel outdoor water usage entirely.
- When changes to the Water Restriction Stage can be anticipated or planned in advance, notice of up to 7 days will be provided through local communication channels.
- Should urgent or emergency needs demand a quicker change to the Water Restriction Stage, the City will provide as much advance notice as is reasonably practicable.
- At Stage 3, municipal watering will be reduced, however City Park and boulevards may be prioritized over other grassy spaces to protect those city assets.

## SCHEDULE "A"

**STAGE 1 – Alternate Days Watering**

Stage 1 is in effect year-round unless a higher stage has been declared.

Excepting the 31<sup>st</sup> day of the month, premises with **ODD** numbered Civic addresses may water on odd-numbered calendar dates, while premises with **EVEN** numbered Civic addresses may water on even-numbered calendar dates. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of the month, no sprinkling is permitted.

Manual Sprinklers:

Residents using manual sprinklers may water from 7:00am to 9:00am and from 7:00pm to 9:00pm on their designated even or odd watering days.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of the month, no sprinkling may occur.

Automatic Timed Sprinklers:

Residents with automatic timed sprinklers may water either from 12:00am (midnight) to 4:00am **OR** during manual sprinkling hours on their designated days.

In addition, Flower gardens, vegetable gardens, newly planted lawns, and newly planted or replanted trees may be hand-watered at any time using a hand-held nozzle (not manual sprinklers).

**STAGE 2 – Twice per Week Watering**

When Stage 2 restrictions are in effect, outdoor watering is limited to the following days and times.

- **ODD** numbered Civic addresses: Sundays and Wednesdays only.
- **EVEN** numbered Civic addresses: Saturdays and Tuesdays only.

Manual Sprinklers:

Residents using manual sprinklers may water from 7:00am to 9:00am and from 7:00pm to 9:00pm on their designated watering days.

Automatic Timed Sprinklers:

Residents with automatic timed sprinklers may water either from 12:00am (midnight) to 4:00am **OR** during manual sprinkling hours on their designated days.

In addition, Flower gardens, vegetable gardens, newly planted lawns, and newly planted or replanted trees may be hand-watered at any time using a hand-held nozzle (**not** manual sprinklers).

### **STAGE 3 – Once per Week Watering**

When Stage 3 restrictions are in effect, outdoor watering is limited to the follow days and times.

ODD numbered Civic addresses: Sundays only.

EVEN numbered Civic addresses: Saturdays only.

During Stage 3 restrictions, no person shall fill a swimming pool, garden pond, or decorative fountain, or wash vehicles, boats, bikes, RVs, ATVs, sidewalks, decks, or driveways at any time.

#### Manual Sprinklers:

Residents using manual sprinklers may water from 7:00am to 9:00am and from 7:00pm to 9:00pm on their designated watering day.

#### Automatic Timed Sprinklers:

Residents with automatic timed sprinklers may water either from 12:00am (midnight) to 4:00am **OR** during manual sprinkling hours on their designated day.

In addition, Flower gardens, vegetable gardens, and newly planted lawns may be hand-watered at any time using a hand-held nozzle (**not** manual sprinklers).

To spread water consumption throughout the week, municipal watering will be scheduled to avoid overlap with residents' use on the weekend. Watering of municipal assets may be prioritized in order to preserve boulevards, planters, and City Park over other grassy spaces.

### **STAGE 4 – Emergency Restrictions**

When Stage 4 is in effect, all outdoor water use is prohibited with the following exceptions:

- Spot cleaning of vehicles with a sponge and bucket for health or safety reasons (ie: windows, lights, licence plates),
- Cleaning of outdoor surfaces where required by law to comply with health and safety regulations, or to comply with an order of a regulatory authority having jurisdiction (ie: WorkSafeBC, public health inspector),
- Firefighting