



The Corporation of the District of North Cowichan

Waterworks Amendment Bylaw

Bylaw 3874

The Council of The Corporation of The District of North Cowichan enacts in open meeting assembled as follows:

Title

- 1 This Bylaw may be cited as "Waterworks Amendment Bylaw No. 3874, 2022".

Amendment

- 2 Waterworks Bylaw No. 3620 is hereby amended by deleting the definitions of "sprinkler" and "micro-drip irrigation" in section 1 [Definitions] and replacing them with the following:

"micro-drip irrigation" means an irrigation method that saves water by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of plants, either to the soil surface or directly onto the root zone, through a network of valves, pipes, or tubes that uses less than 20 gallons per hour at less than 25 psi. A weeper hose, which slowly emits water through very small holes, is considered micro irrigation or drip irrigation. A soaker hose, which emits water as a spray stream, is not considered micro irrigation or drip irrigation;

"sprinkler" means a conventional irrigation system, a sprinkler system, or a hose connected to a sprinkler, but excludes a hand-operated hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle or a micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation system;"

- 3 Waterworks Bylaw No. 3620 is hereby amended by striking out the words "Director of Engineering and Operations" and inserting the words "Director of Engineering" throughout the Bylaw.

- 4 Waterworks Bylaw No. 3620 is hereby amended by deleting section 17 in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

"17 (1) Stage 1 water conservation measures are in effect from May 1 through October 31 each year.

(2) The Director of Engineering must determine when stage 1 water conservation measures are insufficient for effective water conservation and may authorize stage 2, stage 3, or stage 4 water conservation measures.

(3) A person shall only use a sprinkler to water a lawn, vegetable garden, fruit trees, ornamental trees, shrubs, or flower gardens between the hours of 7:00 p.m. in the evening and 9:00 a.m. the following morning for a maximum of 2 hours per day,

as follows:

- (a) for even numbered addresses on
 - (i) Wednesdays and Saturdays during stage 1
 - (ii) Wednesdays during stage 2
- (b) for odd numbered addresses on
 - (i) Thursdays and Sundays during stage 1
 - (ii) Sundays during stage 2
- (4) A person must not use a sprinkler to water a lawn, vegetable garden, fruit trees, ornamental trees, shrubs, flower gardens, at any time during stage 3 and stage 4.
- (5) A person shall only hand water or use micro-drip irrigation on vegetable gardens, or fruit trees between the hours of 7:00 p.m. in the evening and 9:00 a.m. the following morning as follows:
 - (a) for a maximum of 4 hours per day during stage 1 and stage 2; or,
 - (b) for a maximum of 2 hours per day during stage 3 and stage 4.
- (6) A person shall only hand water or use micro-drip irrigation on ornamental trees, shrubs, or flower gardens between the hours of 7:00 p.m. in the evening and 9:00 a.m. the following morning as follows:
 - (a) for a maximum of 2 hours per day during stage 1 and stage 2; or,
 - (b) for a maximum of 1 hour per day during stage 3 and stage 4.
- (7) Despite subsection (3) above, a person may hand water or use micro-drip irrigation on lawns between the hours of 7:00 p.m. in the evening and 9:00 a.m. the following morning as follows:
 - (a) for a maximum of 2 hours per day during stage 1; or,
 - (b) for a maximum of 1 hour per day during stage 2.
- (8) Despite subsection (3) above, a person shall be permitted to use a sprinkler on new lawns between the hours of 7:00 p.m. in the evening and 9:00 a.m. the following morning as follows:
 - (a) for a maximum of 2 hours per day during stage 1; or,
 - (b) for a maximum of 1 hour per day during stage 2 and stage 3,subject to the person obtaining an irrigation permit for additional watering in accordance with section 20 of this Bylaw.
- (9) Despite subsections (4) above, a person shall be permitted to hand water or use micro-drip irrigation on new lawns between the hours of 7:00 p.m. in the evening and 9:00 a.m. the following morning as follows:
 - (a) for a maximum of 2 hours per day during stage 1; or,
 - (b) for a maximum of 1 hour per day during stage 2; or,

- (c) for a maximum of 1 hour per day during stage 3, subject to the irrigation permit for additional watering being issued in accordance with section 20 of this Bylaw.

(10) A person shall only:

- (a) fill a swimming pool or hot tub during stage 1 and stage 2; or,
- (b) fill a swimming pool or hot tub during stage 3 and stage 4 for the purpose of topping up the swimming pool or hot tub; or
- (c) wash a vehicle or boat during stage 1 and stage 2; or,
- (d) wash a vehicle or boat during stage 3 for the purpose of applying paint or preservatives; or
- (e) wash a house, driveway or sidewalk during stage 1; or,
- (f) wash a house, driveway or sidewalk during stage 2 and stage 3 for the purpose of preparing to apply paints or preservatives, or to pour concrete.

(11) A person must not hand water or use micro-drip irrigation on lawns at any time during stage 3 or stage 4.

(12) During stage 4, a person must not:

- (a) use a sprinkler to water a new lawn; or,
- (b) hand water or use micro-drip irrigation on a new lawn; or,
- (c) wash a vehicle or boat; or,
- (d) wash a house, driveway, or sidewalk.

(13) Schedule 1 (Water Restrictions Table) is included in and forms part of this Bylaw."

5 Waterworks Bylaw No. 3620 is hereby amended be deleting section 18 (1) in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

"18 (1) The Municipality shall notify a consumer of a prohibition or limitation imposed on the use of water in accordance with this Bylaw."

6 Waterworks Bylaw No. 3620 is hereby amended be deleting section 18 (2) in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

"18 (2) The notice requirement under subsection (1) shall be given using at least one of the following methods: website, social media, signage placed in relevant public locations, publishing in local newspaper, radio, television station broadcasting in the area where the prohibition or limitation is to be imposed."

7 Waterworks Bylaw No. 3620 is hereby amended be deleting section 19 in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

"19 (1) Despite section 17 of this Bylaw

- (a) the Municipality is exempt from the sprinkling restrictions under section 17 and may water any lawn, tree, shrub, garden, planter, or sport field on

municipal lands, subject to reduced water use and irrigation timings being adjusted to reduce evaporation and avoid time of higher water consumption; and,

- (b) School District 79 is exempt from the sprinkling restrictions under section 17 in relation to sport fields only, subject to reduced water use and irrigation timings being adjusted to reduce evaporation and avoid time of higher water consumption,

unless ordered otherwise by resolution of Council.

- (2) Despite subsections 17 (10)(d) and 17 (10)(f), Council may authorize, by resolution, during stage 2 and stage 3, that a commercial enterprise be exempt from the restriction under subsection 17(10)(d) and 17 (10)(f), if that commercial enterprise requires water use to facilitate normal business activities, including but not limited to nurseries, turf farms or tree farms, power washing, window washing, and commercial car wash or detailing businesses."

- 8 Waterworks Bylaw No. 3620 is hereby amended be renaming section 20 [Sprinkling permits] to "Irrigation permits" and deleting section 20 in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

- "20 (1) A person must apply to the Municipality for an irrigation permit when additional watering is required during stage 1 to:
 - (a) use a sprinkler on a new lawn when water conservation measures are in effect; or,
 - (b) hand water or to use micro-drip irrigation on a new lawn during stage 3, in accordance with the terms of the irrigation permit. No new irrigation permits will be issued during stage 2 or stage 3.
- (2) An applicant must pay the Municipality the irrigation permit fee set out in the Fees and Charges Bylaw."

READ a first time on
READ a second time on
READ a third time on
ADOPTED on

CORPORATE OFFICER

PRESIDING MEMBER

Schedule 1
Waterworks Bylaw No. 3620, 2016

WATER RESTRICTIONS TABLE

Outdoor watering is permitted only between 7pm and 9am.

Watering in the evening, nighttime or early morning reduces water wasted due to evaporation and reduces the peak water consumption by spreading out the use over a longer period of time.

STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
May 1 – Oct. 31	Provincial Drought Code 3 ¹ Effective Date As Required	Provincial Drought Code 4 ¹ Effective Date As Required	Provincial Drought Code 5 ¹ Effective Date As Required

Conventional Irrigation Systems and Sprinklers

Lawns, Vegetable Gardens, Fruit Trees, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Flower Gardens	2 hours / day Even Addresses – Wed & Sat Odd Addresses – Thu & Sun	2 hours / day Even Addresses – Wed Odd Addresses – Sun	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
New Lawns ²	2 hours / day Any Day Require Irrigation Permit	1 hour / day Any Day Require Irrigation Permit (Permits must be obtained prior to stage 2)	1 hour / day Any Day Require Irrigation Permit (Permits must be obtained prior to stage 2)	Not Permitted

Hand Watering, Micro/Drip Irrigation³

Vegetable Gardens, Fruit Trees	4 hours / day	4 hours / day	2 hours / day	2 hours / day
Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Flower Gardens	2 hours / day	2 hours / day	1 hour / day	1 hour / day
Lawns	2 hours / day	1 hour / day	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
New Lawns ²	2 hours / day	1 hour / day	1 hour / day Require Irrigation Permit (Permits must be obtained prior to stage 2)	Not Permitted

Other Outdoor Water Use

Filling Pools & Hot Tubs	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	Not Permitted ⁴	Not Permitted ⁴
Washing Vehicles or Boats	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	Permitted under certain circumstances ⁵	Not Permitted
Washing Driveways, Houses, Sidewalks	No Restrictions	Permitted under certain circumstances ⁵	Permitted under certain circumstances ⁵	Not Permitted
Sport Fields ⁶	Reduced Watering	Reduced Watering, Conservation Measures	Reduced or Eliminated Watering	Reduced or Eliminated Watering
Private Wells, Agriculture ⁷	Regulated by Provincial Government (Not Supplied from Community Potable Water Systems)			

Notes:

- The various restriction Stages will be imposed in conjunction with the corresponding Provincial Drought Code. Jurisdictions may move to a given Stage ahead of the corresponding Provincial Drought Code based on state of the water system.
- Irrigation of new lawns must follow the restrictions for established lawns. If additional watering is required, a permit must be obtained at which point water restrictions for New Lawns must be followed.
- Micro/drip irrigation delivers water to the root zone of the plants and uses less than 90 L/hr (20 imperial gallons per hour) at less than 25 psi. Weeper hoses are considered micro/drip irrigation, and are permitted; soaker hoses are not permitted. A weeper hose emits water through very small pores in the rubber; there is no water spray stream emitted from the hose, resulting in less evaporation than a soaker hose. A soaker hose has holes that are large enough to emit water as a spray stream, resulting in more evaporation than a micro/drip irrigation system or a weeper hose.
- Pools filled prior to Stage 3 water use restrictions being implemented may be topped up to account for evaporation losses in order to avoid damage to pumps, etc. Municipal recreation facilities exempt.
- For residential properties, washing driveways, houses or sidewalks is only permitted during Stages 2 and 3 in preparation for applying paints, preservatives or for pouring concrete. Residential washing (i.e. not at a car wash facility which reuses water) of vehicles and boats is only permitted in Stage 3 in preparation of applying paints or preservatives. Commercial enterprises which require water use to facilitate normal business activities are exempt from some Stage 2 and 3 water restrictions. These include nurseries, turf farms or tree farms, car wash / detailers, power washing companies, window washing companies, etc.
- School and Municipal playing fields are often sand-based and require regular watering. For that reason they are exempt from sprinkling regulations. Regardless, efforts are made to reduce water use and the irrigation timings are adjusted to reduce evaporation and avoid times of higher water consumption.
- If necessary the Provincial Government can require the curtailment of water use for private wells and for agricultural purposes.