

Essential to our daily lives, water cannot be taken for granted.

Parksville is fortunate to have two reliable water sources; a system of groundwater wells and an intake at the Englishman River. The City's water system has two key functions: first to provide clean, safe drinking water to homes and businesses; and second, to manage release of flow from the Arrowsmith Dam to supplement base flow conditions in the Englishman River during drier months.

Domestic water demand typically peaks during the dry summer months when we receive the least amount of precipitation. The City has sufficient capacity in the drinking water system to meet domestic use and fire protection needs; however, the system, and our local ecology, are challenged during drier months, which coincides with increased residential consumption of treated water by more than 50% compared to winter months. This increase in use is related to watering of lawns, filling pools and outdoor washing.

Sufficient water capacity

The City has sufficient water capacity to provide drinking water to all residents and businesses and has plans in place to expand the treatment and transmission systems in response to projected growth. The Arrowsmith Dam is designed to fill in wetter months and be drawn down in summer months to supplement base environmental flows in the river for fish and riparian habitat.



Provincial regulation

From June 1 to October 31, through the Arrowsmith Water Service, the City operates under an order from the Province of BC which regulates the flow release rate from the Arrowsmith Lake Reservoir. There is a finite amount of water stored behind the dam and with longer, drier summers, it has been necessary at times to reduce the daily rate in order to extend the duration for accessing this stored water. If the City reduces the flow released, the province must approve the change, and the provincial enabling order determines when conservation levels must be implemented. The levels set by the province are intended to ensure an adequate water supply for the Englishman River to support in-stream fish habitat.

Making a positive impact

When it comes to water conservation, small steps make a positive impact. Water conservation guidelines are intended to reduce excess outdoor water use and manage demand for potable water during the busy summer tourist season and if necessary, during emergencies. Conservation is the easiest and best way to reduce the annual stress our ecosystem experiences during the summer. We've provided a list of ways you can reduce your water consumption. *Thanks for doing your part!*

Team Watersmart conservation partners are the Bowser Waterworks, City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, Deep Bay Improvement District, EPCOR French Creek, North Cedar Improvement District, Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Waterworks, Regional District of Nanaimo, South West Extension Waterworks District, and Town of Qualicum Beach. TeamWaterSmart.ca



Water Conservation Tips

Start checking the boxes!

INDOOR Kitchen and bathroom

- Only run dishwasher and washing machine when full
- When handwashing dishes, fill sink rather than let water run
- Keep jug of water in the fridge instead of running tap for cold
- Wash fruits and veggies in bowl instead of under running water
- Reuse water from food preparation in your garden
- Upgrade to low-flow faucet, showerheads and toilet
- Turn off tap when brushing teeth, shaving or washing hands
- Set timer for shower, five minutes or less
- Use 'eco' or 'water efficient' settings on appliances
- Avoid flushing unnecessarily; don't use your toilet as waste basket
- If it's yellow, let it mellow (don't flush every time)

OUTDOOR Lawn and garden

- Collect rainwater for outdoor plants, such as rain barrels
- Plant drought tolerant flora and xeriscape
- Use rain gauge to water only one inch per week. Deep soaking encourages roots to grow deep
- Minimize lawn area by using ground covers other than grass
- Let your grass grow longer, it needs less water
- Grass cycle by leaving clippings on lawn. Helps with water retention and provides lawn with nutrients
- Water during cooler parts of day
- Install rain shutoff switch to automatic irrigation systems
- Install greywater system
- Check for and repair leaks (outdoor faucets, hoses)
- Cover your pool to reduce evaporation and reduce refilling
- Consider irrigation devices such as micro and drip irrigation, soaker hoses, and sprinklers with timing devices
- Wash your car on the lawn so it also waters the grass
- Sweep driveway and sidewalk rather than spray with hose
- Go golden! Let your lawn go dormant