

VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION

Many of our customers have inquired about the state of our water supply caused by the worsening rainfall deficit. Due to our proactive management and strong relationship with Kittery Water District, Chases Pond is currently at our normal level for this time of the year.

With that said, because we are still in drought conditions, pumping record volumes out of the plant, and our normal recharge periods are still a couple months away, ***we are now asking for your help in voluntary water conservation on all non-essential water use.***

Why do you need to conserve if the pond is at a normal level?

In mid-July, Chases Pond was just over a foot below full level. Staff had discussions with Kittery Water District to discuss the levels of their reservoirs and see if they had ample supply to give us some water through our raw water siphon between Folly Pond and Chases Pond. Because YWD has peak demands during the summer and KWD has peak demands during the winter (due to the usage on the shipyard) KWD was in great shape and eager to help. That temporary transfer of water enabled us to maintain Chases pond at normal levels until mid/late August. We are grateful for Kittery's help, but to maintain healthy reservoir levels for them, the siphon had to be stopped. Since drought conditions are ongoing and YWD is still pumping record volumes out of the plant, Chases Pond may soon be affected. Therefore, the need for voluntary water conservation ***on all non-essential water use is now necessary.***

We understand that several aspects of some businesses are reliant on water, and we strive to maintain that availability for you by pursuing options to ensure continued ample water service through conservation, local partnerships, and emergency interconnections. However, our neighboring utilities are also feeling the effects of current drought conditions and temporary water availability is not guaranteed through them.

The following voluntary measures on all our parts can be an effective means of addressing water quantity deficits until natural recharge occurs:

- **Educate employees, guests, or residents of the conservation effort.**
- **Avoid watering lawns. Water garden plants only when necessary, before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m. to avoid water loss by evaporation. Use a soil trickle hose not a sprinkler.**
- **Keep grass longer than usual to promote soil moisture retention and help develop deeper roots.**
- **Use mulch and dig troughs around plants to hold moisture. Delay planting, seeding, and sodding.**
- **Avoid washing vehicles or using water to clean walkways, decks, or driveways. Use a broom instead.**
- **Cover swimming pools when they are not in use to prevent evaporation.**
- **Adapt plumbing with water saving devices. These are inexpensive and easy to install.**
- **Fix any leaks or drips you may find around the premise, including leaky toilets, which can use up to 200 gallons of water per day.**

On behalf of the staff of York Water District thank you for your assistance!

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