



**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**125 Locust Street  
Northampton, MA 01060**

**413-587-1570  
Fax 413-587-1576**

**Donna LaScaleia**  
*Director*

*June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate release**

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON IMPLEMENTS A WATER USE RESTRICTION**

Effective immediately, the City of Northampton Department of Public Works (DPW) is implementing a water use restriction for users of the Northampton Public Water Supply. The City's water supply system is regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP requires that water restrictions be implemented when stream-flow in the Mill River drops below a certain quantity of flow (26.3 cubic feet per second) for a consecutive 3-day period or when the Massachusetts Drought Task Force declares drought conditions at a drought advisory level or higher. At this time, the stream flow in the Mill River has dropped below 26.3 cubic feet per second for a consecutive 3-day period. This requires that water restrictions be implemented limiting non-essential water use to ensure a sustainable water supply and to protect stream flow for aquatic life.

Between the hours of 9am – 5pm no nonessential water use is allowed.

Nonessential water use includes:

- o Irrigation of lawns and watering of gardens, flowers, and ornamental plants by means of sprinklers or other mechanical means,
  - Watering by means of handheld hose is permissible during the hours of 9am and 5pm.
- o Washing of vehicles, other than by commercial car wash;
- o Washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks,
  - Except as needed to apply paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement or cement.

From 5pm until 9am unrestricted outdoor water use is allowed.

The water restriction can be lifted when the stream flow rises above 26.3 cubic feet per second for 7 consecutive days. The City will notify the public when and/or if the water restriction is lifted. Please visit the DPW website at [www.northamptonma.gov/dpw](http://www.northamptonma.gov/dpw) for water conservation tips.

Any person found violating these water restrictions is subject to the fines established in Chapter 325 and Chapter 40 of the City Ordinances. These fines are \$100 for the first violation and \$200 for the second and subsequent violations.

**DONNA LASCALEIA**  
**DIRECTOR**