



## **DEQ Issues Drought Watch Advisory for Fauquier County and FCWSA Service Area**

***Advisory issued due to several factors, including low recent rainfall, high temperatures, high demand, and future weather forecasts***

***In response, FCWSA is issuing voluntary water restrictions to achieve a 10% reduction in use***

***Customers asked to take simple, low-impact steps to reduce water use during September, including alternating outdoor water usage.***

### **Recommended Outdoor Watering Schedule**

<b>Address</b>	<b>Days to Water</b>
<b>Odd Number Addresses</b>	<b>Sunday, Tuesday, Friday</b>
<b>Even Number Addresses</b>	<b>Monday, Thursday, Saturday</b>

*\* Avoid watering during the hottest part of the day, which is typically 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In the hot weather, most of the water will be lost to evaporation or wind.*

**WARRENTON, VIRGINIA, September 1, 2023:** The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in coordination with the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force (DMTF), evaluates precipitation, groundwater, stream flows, and reservoir levels to determine the risk and facilitate preparedness for a drought. On Wednesday, August 30, 2023, DEQ issued a drought watch advisory for Fauquier County.

A drought watch advisory is the first stage of preparedness where local governments and public water works are advised to increase public awareness about the potential for drought in the near future, including the use of voluntary water restrictions. (A drought warning advisory indicates a significant drought is imminent.)

Several factors led to DEQ's drought watch advisory for Fauquier County and the FCWSA service area. There was abnormally low precipitation over the last two weeks,

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and limited precipitation is forecast for September. In addition, temperatures in the 90s are expected for the first week of September, which is likely to cause increased demand, putting more stress on the local water supply.

As a result of DEQ's declaration, FCWSA is asking our customers to voluntarily reduce their water use throughout September, especially outdoor irrigation. Following the proposed watering schedule can help to maintain adequate water pressure in your neighborhood and reduce high demands.

Here are a few ways FCWSA customers can help limit excessive water usage without noticing it. These water conservation measures are especially important during peak morning and evening service hours.

- Avoid hand-washing vehicles, boats, or other outdoor equipment.
- Make sure hoses and sprinklers are properly working without leaks.
- Avoid pre-rinsing dishes and run dishwashers when they are full.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Run full loads of laundry and/or adjust water settings to match the loads.
- Avoid watering lawns and gardens as much as possible. *If watering is necessary, only water lawns and gardens in accordance with the Recommended Outdoor Watering Schedule and during early morning or late evening hours.*

By taking these steps, DEQ believes a 10% reduction in water use can occur, reducing the potential for Fauquier County to be issued a drought warning advisory.

FCWSA relies solely on groundwater from 46 wells throughout Fauquier County, primarily in the Service Districts, which collect water from fractures in the bedrock deep beneath our water systems. During a drought year, it's estimated that less than 15% of rainfall migrates through these fractures to be captured by FCWSA's groundwater wells, which is why we ask that our customers conserve this vital resource.

FCWSA would like to thank our customers in advance for their assistance during this drought watch advisory. FCWSA will keep our customers updated on the situation on our website, future press releases, and if necessary, customer letters.