

## City of Attleboro Drought Update August 5, 2022

On July 12, 2022, the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs declared a Level 2 Drought for much of the State, including Attleboro. This declaration was continued from the original drought declaration for our region that was set in June. A Level 2 drought is declared when rainfall is below normal for 2 months or more, stream flows are nearing extreme lows in several areas of a region, and brush fire hazards are increased. Since the July meeting, there has been no significant rainfall. The next meeting of the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs concerning drought will be held on August 8. Since the July meeting, the dry weather has continued, and actually gotten worse. It can be expected that our region will be moved to **Level 3 drought status**.

We are seeing the effects of the drought here in Attleboro. Total rainfall for the year remains 8" lower this year than it was the previous 5 years. The Water Department produces drinking water from a system of 7 reservoirs. As of the end of July, all 7 of these reservoirs were already at low levels that usually aren't seen until much later in the summer. The reservoirs are currently between 6 inches and 20 feet below their average levels for this time of year.



Hoppin Hill Reservoir, July 2022

In an effort to preserve adequate water supply for drinking, sanitary use, and firefighting, and to preserve the function of our local businesses that use our water, the following water use restrictions will be in place as of Saturday, August 6, 2022 until further notice.



## CITY OF ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GOVERNMENT CENTER

77 PARK STREET

ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS 02703

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PAUL R. HEROUX, MAYOR

# **MANDATORY WATER BAN – Level 3**

**Effective 8:00 AM – Saturday, August 6, 2022**

Due to lack of rainfall and lower than normal reservoir levels, the following water use restrictions are in place until further notice:

### **OUTDOOR WATER USE IS NOT ALLOWED AT ANY TIME. THIS INCLUDES:**

- **LAWN WATERING OF ANY KIND, EITHER BY IRRIGATION SYSTEM OR HANDHELD HOSE**
- **CAR, DRIVEWAY, OR HOUSE WASHING (ALLOWED IF WATER IS PURCHASED FROM A LOCATION/VENDOR OUTSIDE OF ATTLEBORO)**
- **POOL FILLING (WATER MUST BE PURCHASED FROM A LOCATION/VENDOR OUTSIDE OF ATTLEBORO)**
- **PLAY SPRINKLERS AND SLIP AND SLIDES**

### **WATER USES STILL PERMITTED AT ANY TIME OF DAY:**

- **HAND WATERING OF VEGETABLE GARDENS**
- **WATERING OF LIVESTOCK**
- **WATER USE ESSENTIAL TO THE OPERATION OF A BUSINESS**
- **WELL WATER USE- MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED AND VISIBLE FROM THE STREET. MAILBOXES ARE A GOOD PLACEMENT FOR THIS SIGNAGE.**

**THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN WATER STORAGE FOR DRINKING, FIRE FIGHTING, AND SANITARY USE. FINES WILL BE ASSESSED AS NOTED BELOW FOR ANY NON-ALLOWED USE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**CITY OF ATTLEBORO - MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE**  
**16-12.24 Water Emergency**

a. In the event of a shortage of potable water due to drought or other adverse conditions and/or malfunction of the pumping equipment or other major appurtenances of the water system, the Mayor may declare an emergency to protect the public health, safety and welfare. The Mayor may restrict, curtail or prohibit the use of water for lawn sprinkling, car washing, the filling of swimming pools and other uses of water deemed by the Mayor to be nonessential while the emergency is in effect.

b. Violators of the Ordinance shall be liable to a fine of Twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollars for the first offense, Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars for the second offense and Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars for each additional offense, said penalty to be assessed in accordance with the provisions for the non-criminal disposition of Violations in General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D as amended. Each day shall be considered a separate violation.

These restrictions are in effect until further notice. This restriction is an Operational and Conservational measure. Residents are encouraged to curtail indoor water use as much as possible as well.

For questions, please call 774-203-1850, or email [water1@cityofattleboro.us](mailto:water1@cityofattleboro.us)  
For updates, please see our website at <https://www.cityofattleboro.us/295/Water-Department>  
To receive updates by text or email, please register at  
<https://www.cityofattleboro.us/list.aspx?Mode=Subscribe#alertCenter>