

The City of Haverhill Water Division Declares Drought Emergency

Haverhill, MA – March 19, 2025 – The City of Haverhill and the region are still experiencing the effects of an extended dry period and drought.

On November 7, 2024, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) declared a level 3 critical drought condition for the northeast region. More information on MassDEP's drought declaration can be found on the web at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drought-status>.

On a local level, Haverhill declared a drought warning on November 15, 2024, and is now declaring a drought emergency effective March 19, 2025. The drought emergency declaration is in accordance with § 250-25.1 of Haverhill's Water Use Restriction Ordinance. Haverhill's drought emergency status is determined when Kenoza Lake, the City's primary reservoir is between 20% and 35% below the average reservoir capacity on any particular day. As of March 13, 2025, Kenoza Lake is 25.4% below average capacity. More information on Haverhill's water supply status can be found on its website at this URL, <https://bit.ly/wtr-supply-status>.

Effective March 19, 2025, **all non-essential outdoor water use is prohibited** with the following exceptions defined in § 250-26.1.

1. Irrigation with harvested and stored stormwater runoff;
2. Water use for the purposes of agriculture;
3. To meet the core functions of a business (for example, irrigation by golf courses as necessary to maintain tees and greens, and limited fairway watering, or irrigation by plant nurseries or agricultural operations as necessary to maintain stock or establish new plantings, wash equipment to prevent damage and/or maintain performance, pest management and plant cooling).

In addition, we ask that all water customers enact indoor conservation measures such as,

- Fix any toilet or faucet leaks immediately.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines only on a full load.
- Take shorter showers or utilize the flow control feature built into many newer showerheads.
- Using a commercial car wash where water is typically recycled.

Further information and tips for conserving water can be found on the web at the following URLs:

<https://bit.ly/hav-wtr-conserv>

<https://bit.ly/level-3-actions>