

FAQs: Water Restrictions Engagement 2022

This summer, the City of Campbell River is launching public engagement on revised watering restrictions, by asking residents of single family homes and relevant local businesses for feedback on the effectiveness of the revisions. The goal is to offer more flexibility for water users while ensuring that the City can always provide water for critical services, such as fire protection. Community feedback will help guide decisions on possible formal changes to the water restriction bylaw moving forward.

Why is the City changing the water restrictions bylaw?

While water restrictions are necessary to ensure flows for essential services like fire protection, the increased restrictions between existing stages in previous years have proven too constrictive for the community and often fail to meet the City's operational goals. The City is considering formal changes to its Water Regulations Bylaw (No. 3216, 2006) so that restrictions better meet everyone's needs and is first testing out the revised restrictions as a pilot project.

What are the revised restrictions?

The revised restrictions introduce a transitional stage between what was previously known as Stage 1 and Stage 2, reducing the amount of change as the City moves up the scale of restrictions. For example, under the revised restrictions, Stage 2 will allow for an extra day of watering, revised watering times, new watering permits and various washing/filling activities, which were previously not allowed. To ensure more moderate steps between the stages, there will also now be 4 stages of restrictions, instead of 3. To learn more about the stages and changes, see the infographic at: www.campbellriver.ca/water-restrictions-engagement

Why is this a pilot project?

The City has received extensive feedback in the past about challenges posed by previous water restriction phases. With proposed changes ready, the City has decided to try them out for the 2022 summer season and collect feedback on the revised restrictions, so that comments can be considered and further refinement completed before formalizing the change through a bylaw amendment.

What is the timeline for this pilot project?

Engagement with the community on the revised water restriction phases will run from June 20 to September 15, 2022. Public surveys for collecting feedback will be open until 4:30 p.m., September 15, 2022. A summary report of engagement results will follow in October.

How can residents provide their feedback?

Feedback from residents of single family homes and relevant local businesses (landscaping/lawncare) is being captured in an online survey. Surveys are available online (hard copies can also be picked up and filled out at City Hall, 301 St. Ann's Road, Campbell River) at: www.campbellriver.ca/water-restrictions-engagement

What will happen once the pilot project is complete?

Results of the survey will be collected into a summary report that will be published in October. This report will provide insights and recommendations from engagement with the community to help inform the City as it considers formalizing changes to the water restrictions bylaws.



Why are water restrictions necessary?

The City of Campbell River draws water from the John Hart reservoir, using a diversion license from BC Hydro. This finite supply can be stressed in summer, or periods of dry weather, as residents' usage increases and the City must always ensure there is enough capacity to meet critical needs – which includes approximately 300 litres per second required to ensure fire flows.

Capacity at a glance:

- The diversion license allows for approximately 11.8 billion litres to be drawn each year
- In 2021, the City drew about 10.5 billion litres from the 11.8 billion litres allowable
- This usage was up ½ billion litres from the year prior, in 2020

How can residents help conserve water?

Finding the right balance between water restrictions and voluntary water conservation practices will be key to managing supply and keeping triggers for restrictions at bay, as increases due to climate change effects and population are expected to continue.

Tips include:

- Watering in the early mornings to ensure water gets to the plant roots with less evaporation
- Watering by hand, using a soaker hose or drip irrigation to get water to plant roots
- Capture free rainwater with an outdoor barrel or other tools to use for garden waterings
- Minimize lawn watering by keeping grass at least 2-3 inches high to help shade soil
- Adding mulch to the base of trees and shrubs will help retain soil moisture
- Skip the hose and use a broom instead for sidewalk, driveway or structural siding

Would infrastructure updates resolve capacity issues?

Infrastructure upgrades are part of the solution – but water restrictions are still required. The City has a comprehensive water system capital plan to support further growth and provide more immediate-demand flexibility, however these are costly, take time to implement, and will not solve the short-term issue or long-term pressure on withdrawal limits.

How can I learn more?

Join us at the Campbell River Farmers Market & Arts Faire in downtown Campbell River this summer to find out more about the revised restrictions in place and get access to the survey. We'll have pop up booth at the market on Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Questions?

- For information and updates visit: www.campbellriver.ca/water-restrictions-engagement
- Follow the City on Facebook: www.facebook.com/cityofcampbellriver
- Email Steve.Roehr@campbellriver.ca or call the Water Wise Phone: 250-203-2316



For more information: www.campbellriver.ca
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