



## City of Waverly, Nebraska

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www.citywaverly.com

Mayor  
William D. Gerdes

August 1, 2023

Council Members  
Abbey L. Pascoe  
David L. Nielson  
Aaron J. Hummel  
David M. Jespersen

City Administrator  
Stephanie A. Fisher

City Clerk  
Deputy Treasurer  
Megan K. Frye

City Treasurer  
Deputy Clerk  
Cheris R. Cadwell

Dear Waverly Resident,

This letter is to inform you of the declining water level in City wells and the additional mandatory water conservation measures being implemented. I implore everyone to take these matters seriously and to manage those options within your power to help conserve water during this challenging time.

2023 has been the biggest drought the City has seen since 1936. While we have been seeing drought conditions for about 3 summers now, this is the first year we have seen a considerable drop in the aquifer. While we realize it is normal to see an increase in usage due to summertime activities (running sprinklers in lawns, filling pools, washing cars, etc.), we are now at risk since the aquifer did not get its normal fall/winter/spring recharge due to the sustained drought.

On June 3, 2023, I issued a Water Warning declaration asking the public to voluntarily follow the outdoor watering schedule. Limiting outdoor watering has a significant impact on usage, but no significant change in water consumption was shown during the water warning.

On June 28, I issued a Water Emergency declaration pleading to the public to conserve water and follow the mandatory watering schedule. This schedule led to a temporary remarkable 40% decrease in water consumption for the month of July 2023. When we stayed at or below 700,000 gallons per day for the City, the well static levels rose slightly. However, when the temperatures climbed on the last few days in July, we saw usage spike from over 900,000 gallons to over 1 million gallons of usage. There are likely a couple months of the hot summer season ahead of us, so further reduced mandatory outdoor watering conservation measures are necessary to ensure our well levels remain sufficient.

**EFFECTIVE AUGUST 5, OUTDOOR WATERING IS LIMITED TO ONE DAY PER WEEK WITH NO WATERING BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:00 a.m. TO 4:00 p.m.**

- **Addresses ending in even numbers – Saturdays.**
- **Addresses ending in odd numbers – Sundays.**
- **No watering Monday through Friday.**

**Violations to the watering schedule will be monitored and enforced** according to Section 51.37 of the municipal code. In the event of a violation of the outdoor watering schedule, a written notice shall be affixed to the property. In the event of subsequent violations, the City may terminate service and a \$50 fee shall be assessed on the first violation after the warning, a \$200 fee shall be assessed on the second violation, and a \$300 fee shall be assessed for any additional reconnections.

Please visit [www.citywaverly.com](http://www.citywaverly.com) and review 51.37 in the Waverly Municipal Code, the water emergency declaration, water conservation links, and City Council meeting agendas and attachments from recent presentations. Feel free to contact us at 402-786-2312 or via the Contact Us button on [www.citywaverly.com](http://www.citywaverly.com) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

William D. Gerdes  
Mayor

## Frequently Asked Questions

### City of Waverly – Water Conservation Measures

1. *Will commercial users also be required to follow water conservation measures?* Our commercial users are aware of the gravity of the situation and will be held to the same mandatory outdoor water conservation measures as our residents. Some of our commercial users need water to function and will still be using only what is necessary to operate their business.

2. *Are new homes being added to the water system? Will residential pool permits be issued?* Only permits approved PRIOR to the declaration of the Water Emergency are allowed to complete the permitting process, which includes connecting to the City's water system or filling pools. Since the declared Water Emergency, permit issuance which require using City water supply have been suspended.

3. *Why is the City proposing Ordinance 23-10 issuing high fees for residents going over 10,000 gallons per month, especially when there are no fees to recoup?* This ordinance has not been passed yet. The Emergency water rate fees may be enacted to deter water usage. The fees collected will be used for enforcement, mailings to customers, and any other expenses related to the declared emergency.

4. *Why did the City fill the municipal pools when we were heading into a water emergency?* On May 16, the old pool was filled to create a place for our young people to spend their summer days as well as allowing children to complete necessary swimming lessons. The new aquatic center pool was filled and put in operation on July 4, 2023 for contract completion and warranty period performance.

5. *We've been in a drought for a few years. Why are we just now issuing an emergency?* The Public Works Director and Water Operator have been checking, reviewing, and sharing information with the City Administrator and Mayor on a now daily basis as the well levels have finally reached a level where they have fallen within five feet of the screen, deeming it an emergent situation.

6. *What if we run out of water?* Our wells seem to be able to maintain sufficient pumping levels when water usage is 700,000 gallons or less per day. In fact, when were under this amount for two consecutive weeks, our static well levels increased slightly. The City is looking for another water source but until then, we need YOU to conserve water!

7. *Can I still water my garden?* We are not asking you to stop watering your gardens and young trees. But we are asking you to be mindful in your watering outside of your allotted one day per week. You may use a garden hose with nozzle to spray down your garden on the "non watering" days. Sprinkler use outside of the specified day per week and time is not permitted.

Remember to turn off your lawn sprinkler system when it rains. In addition to the outdoor watering schedule, we encourage our residents to be mindful and conserve water when possible while the City looks for a long-term solution. Together we can make an impact. But we need EVERYONE to get involved. No one wants to run out of water.

THANK YOU ALL FOR HELPING MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND MAKING WAVERLY A GREAT PLACE TO GROW!