**Level 2 Significant Drought Notice**

**DROUGHT & WATER USE RESTRICTIONS**On September 9, 2025, the Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared that the Connecticut River Valley is currently in a Level 2 - Significant Drought as a result of below normal rainfall over the last three months. The state Drought Management Task Force will meet again the first week of October to reassess precipitation, stream level, and groundwater elevation data. The Holyoke Water Works surface water supply remains stable at 95% capacity and is not currently threatened by the drought situation. However, in accordance with the City's Water Management Act Registration, the **Holyoke Water Works is implementing the following water use restrictions:**

* **All nonessential outdoor water uses are banned**
* Exception: watering of ornamental and flower gardens with drip irrigation, handheld hose, or water cans

**Essential uses of water**

* Health and safety reasons, including public facilities used for cooling such as the splash pad and swimming pools
* Production of food, including privately-owned home vegetable gardens
* Maintenance of livestock
* Core function of a business, limited to plant nurseries, golf courses, wedding venues and professional washing for construction purposes
* Irrigation of public or interscholastic athletic fields, and public parks, with restrictions
* Watering of publicly funded shade trees

 **Nonessential uses of water are:**

* Irrigation of lawns via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems
* Washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash or as necessary for operator safety
* Washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply surface treatments such as paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement, or concrete

As always the Holyoke Water Works encourages residents to practice water conservation methods including: minimize overall water use, take shorter showers, run dishwashers and washing machines only on a full load, address leaks as soon as possible, and think carefully about what you plant. Please click on "tips to save water" below to find out what else you can do to help conserve water, or visit the state's Water Conservation webpage [here](https://www.mass.gov/conservemawater).