

7/14/22

City of Josephine Post Council Meeting Water Update

Stage 1 Water Restrictions remain in effect. Under Stage 1 restrictions, City of Josephine water customers are limited to outdoor watering twice per week. No watering may occur between 10 am and 6 pm. It is critical that our water customers conserve water so that all customers have water for basic necessities. We thank you for doing your part to help in these conservation efforts.

The city appreciates all residents who attended the Council Meeting on July 11 to express concern and those who have expressed concern through social media or by other means. We understand your frustration with the low water pressure periods that were experienced without warning and the sudden implementation of the new water restrictions.

Josephine, along with most of North Texas, is abnormally dry and is experiencing moderate drought conditions. There is also a burn ban in effect for both Collin and Hunt Counties.

Josephine water usage doubled from June 1 to June 30. While water supply was adequate for all needs at the beginning of summer, as dry conditions continued, and irrigation increased, our water system could not keep up with increased demand.

Many cities in our North Texas area have also implemented water conservation efforts and are limiting or eliminating outdoor watering. In addition to implementing Stage 1 watering restrictions, the city has suspended all construction water usage. Construction may continue but developers will have to find an alternative water source until further notice. Some are drafting from their ponds, and some are using water trucks to get the water they need for construction projects.

The Public Works Department is carefully monitoring water levels day and night. We are cautiously optimistic that if residents follow the twice per week schedule, we may be able to avoid tighter Stage 2 restrictions which would limit outdoor watering to once per week. Moving to Stage 2 restrictions will be a certainty if demand comes close to exceeding supply under current restrictions. If a change in water conservation is required, the city will notify residents immediately and will provide as much notice as possible but for public health and safety reasons, it is possible that if there is a sudden jump in water usage, we may have to move to Stage 2 quickly. Public Works employees are patrolling neighborhoods day and night to ensure water customers are following the established schedule. Door hangers are being placed on homes not in compliance with the watering schedule as a courtesy notice to inform and remind residents of the mandatory watering schedule. The City's goal is to gain compliance, but citations may be issued for continued violations.

City representatives met with North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) on Wednesday to discuss needed infrastructure updates to the City's take point. NTMWD will meet internally and confirm a schedule for temporary measures that may help supply some additional water volume. However, the added volume will not be enough to meet heavy demand under current drought conditions so conservation measures will continue through the summer months.

Additional improvements will be required to achieve long term relief. More information on specific improvements and timing will be provided when available. If you have questions about the watering schedule or other questions about water conservation or related matters, please call City Hall during business hours. We appreciate your continued cooperation and support of water conservation efforts.

Sincerely,
Lisa Palomba, City Administrator