

Grand Rapids Public Utilities Water Conservation Notice

Help protect our water resources during current drought conditions

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has placed the Mississippi-Headwaters Watershed, which includes Grand Rapids, into Drought Warning Response Phase as of June 25, 2026.

Grand Rapids Public Utilities encourages all residents and businesses to reduce non-essential water use to help preserve our local water supply. Significant demand reduction is achievable by restricting non-essential outdoor water use, especially watering lawns, power washing buildings, washing cars and filling swimming pools. GRPU encourages customers to fix leaks, install water saving devices and water-efficient appliances.

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

- Water grass as needed – Most lawns only need one inch of water per week. A heavy rain eliminates the need for watering for up to two weeks.
- Turn off automatic irrigation – Turn off any automatic watering controls and only turn the water on when your lawn shows signs of excessive dryness and do so, early in the morning or later in the evening, when temperatures are cooler.
- Mulch your trees and plants – Mulch helps prevent water evaporation.
- Leave grass clippings in place – grass clippings provide shade for the soil.
- Check for Leaks – Leaks in hoses, pipes, couplings, or sprinklers are a significant source of wasted water.
- Invest in a water barrel – Water collected in these barrels can be used for watering flower gardens.
- Change your expectations – allow for temporary discoloration during drought periods.



Indoor Water Conservation Tips During a Drought



- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily. Dispose of tissues, insects, and other similar waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- Take short showers instead of baths. Turn on the water only to get wet and lather and then again to rinse off.
- Avoid letting the water run while brushing your teeth, washing your face or shaving.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets. A dripping faucet or a running toilet can waste a significant amount of water. Fix leaks promptly to conserve water and save money.

For additional information, go to:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/appropriations/water-conservation-residents.html



Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission (GRPU) is a municipal utility established by the City of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Utilities under the jurisdiction of the GRPU include electric distribution, water treatment and distribution, and wastewater collection and treatment.

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