



DPR DROUGHT RESPONSE – 2013 STAGE 2 DROUGHT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DPR's 2003 Water Conservation Plan balances the Departments' needs with a high priority of service to the citizens and the reality of our climate and current weather conditions. The plan is based upon those values expressed by the people of Denver and staff and are reflected in the Game Plan: sustainability, equity, engagement, and sound economics. The Game Plan also identified youth and youth facilities as the priority users and uses.

Implementation of the Water Conservation Plan, first and foremost, is based on monitoring weather and water supply to determine the corresponding level of response.

DPR prioritizes watering for public park land in descending order:

- Trees and long-lived plant materials
- Turf areas for youth activities (balanced geographically)
- Swimming pools
- Regional park high activity use areas
- Golf Courses

A Stage 2 Drought declaration by Denver Water in 2013 impacts parks operations in the following way:

- DPR is considered a large volume irrigator, meaning the Board approves the use of water budgets with a maximum allowable amount of water, within which the irrigators will be permitted flexibility to choose how to irrigate without exceeding the budget. DPR is exempt from the limited 2 day a week watering, however, overall water use is reduced by 20%.
- Use of potable water at 1,853 irrigated acres is limited to a water allotment by Denver Water of 1.17 billion gallons of water; 205 irrigated acres utilizing raw water are also limited in water use to 130 million gallons. Sites using recycled water, 860 irrigated acres or approximately 30% of irrigated acres, will not be restricted in water use.
- All flower beds will be watered with irrigation and will not be reduced in number or size.
- Trees will be watered as usual and will utilize the Save our Shade recommendations developed by Forestry experts.
- 5 Interactive Fountains to remain open (Bear Creek, Central Park, Parkfield, City Park H2Odyssey & Argo) as well as one water quality fountain (City Park Prismatic Fountain in Ferrel Lake); all other fountains (26) will be closed however normal startup and shutdown procedures will be followed in the Spring and Fall to protect fountain infrastructure.
- All pools and pool water features will remain open and in use.
- Establishment watering will be tracked and permitted by Denver Water and DPR will try to schedule establishment watering for Spring and Fall where possible on construction projects.
- An Athletic Field closure response and policy has been developed that requires DPR to assess field conditions monthly and give 30 days notice if field will be closed.

DPR is enhancing communications with Denver Water and staff during a Stage 2 drought, including:

- Information on the Water Conservation webpage
- Establishment watering communications with contractors working on City Projects as well as signage in parks where activity is taking place
- Monthly water budget meetings with field staff
- Training 3-1-1 Operators
- Utilizing the 24-hour 7day/week water line that allows staff to react to leaks/waste quickly
- Enhanced signage for irrigation maintenance activities
- Typical media communications through press releases and social media

Key dates to be aware of:

- April 1 Stage 2 Drought measures start
- April 8 Major athletic fields begin watering & irrigation systems starting up
- May 1 Full irrigation start up & irrigation improvement projects/maintenance taking place during working hours
- May 15 Flower beds begin being planted
- July 1 Irrigation Association Smart irrigation month
- July 15 Athletic Fields analyzed for fall closure as necessary
- Oct 15 Irrigation season recap

Impacts of Stage 2 Drought for Golf Courses

Use Reduction Target: 20% reduction based on 2010 use.

Response Target: 79 million gallons annually conserved. 317,702,643 gallons used, mostly from raw water sources.

- Response Measures:
 - All Stage I response measures;
 - Finish in-progress construction projects;
 - Discontinue initiation of projects or practices requiring seed or sod establishment;
 - Raise HOC of rough, fairways, tees, and surrounds as necessary;
 - Discontinue mowing of stressed turf areas;
 - Eliminate mowing whenever possible
 - No herbicide applications;
 - No golf carts after a significant rain event;
 - Pre stress conditioning; and
 - Discontinue irrigation of conservation areas; ornamental and landscape;
 - Irrigate to 55-60% ET on greens; tees, fairways, and 50-55% rough;
 - Hand water hot spots on greens, tees, and fairways.
 - Limit equipment washing to once per week;
 - Some facilities may require carts only down middle of marked lane on fairways;
 - Fertilize only on greens, tees, and fairways; and
 - Irrigation use recorded daily and reported weekly and upon request.