

TOWN OF OLD FORT

WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE ORDINANCE (updated April 2023)

ORDINANCE NO. 20220515

An ordinance authorizing the Old Fort Water Shortage Response Plan; authorizing the declaration of water shortage; establishing procedures and measures for the essential conservation of water resources; and prescribing certain penalties.

Be It Enacted by the Governing Body of the Town of Old Fort

Section 1. Purpose The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the declaration of official phases of water supply shortage situations and the implementation of voluntary and mandatory water conservation measures throughout the Town in the event a shortage is declared. The Town of Old Fort and its elected officials and employees shall follow the Town's Water Shortage Response Plan and Ordinance procedures in its conservation measures.

Section 2. Definitions

- (a) "Allotment," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean the maximum quantity of water allowed for each customer over any applicable period as established in the water rationing provisions of this ordinance.
- (b) "Any Water," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean any type of water, including fresh water, brackish water, wastewater, or reclaimed water.
- (c) "Brackish Water," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean water containing more than 1000 parts per million of dissolved salts.
- (d) "Customer," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean any person using water for any purpose from the Town's water distribution system and for which either a regular charge is made or, in this case of bulk sales, a cash charge is made at the site of delivery.
- (e) "Emergency," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean that water supplies are below the level necessary, to meet normal needs and that serious shortages exist in the area.
- (f) "Excess Use," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean the usage of water by a water customer in excess of the water allotment provided under the water rationing provisions of this ordinance for that customer, over any applicable period.
- (g) "Fresh Water," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean water withdrawn from surface or groundwater which has not been previously used, other than brackish water.
- (h) "Mandatory Conservation," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean that raw water supplies (i.e., streamflow, reservoir levels or groundwater levels) are consistently below seasonal averages, and if they continue to decline, may not be adequate to meet normal needs.
- (i) "Non-Residential Customer," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean commercial, industrial, institutional, public and all other such users, with the exception of hospitals and health care facilities.
- (j) "Rationing," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean procedures established to provide for the equitable distribution of critically-limited water supplies, in order to balance demand and limited available supplies, and to assure that sufficient water is available to preserve public health and safety.
- (k) "Reclaimed Water," as the term used in this ordinance, shall mean wastewater which has been treated to allow reuse.
- (l) "Residential Customer," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean any customers who receive water service for a single or multi-family dwelling unit. The term residential customer does not include educational or other institutions, hotels, motel, or similar commercial establishments.
- (m) "Service Interruption," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean the temporary suspension of water supply, or reduction of pressure below that required for adequate supply, to any customer, portion of a water supply, or entire system.
- (n) "Voluntary Conservation", as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean that conditions exist which indicate the potential for serious water supply shortages.

- (o) "Waste of Water," as the term is used in this ordinance, includes, but is not limited to (1) permitting water to escape down a gutter, ditch, or other surface drain, or (2) failure to repair a controllable leak of water due to defective plumbing.
- (p) "Wastewater," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean water which has been previously used for industrial, municipal, domestic, or other purpose, and has not been returned to the surface or groundwater source.
- (q) "Water," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall mean water available to the Town of Old Fort treatment by virtue of its water rights or withdrawal permit or any treated water introduced by the Town into its water distribution system, including water offered for sale.
- (r) "Water Use Classes," as the term is used in this ordinance, shall be established as follows:

Class 1: Essential Water Uses

Domestic Use:

Water necessary to sustain human life and the lives of domestic pets, and to maintain minimum standards of hygiene and sanitation.

Health Care Facilities:

- Patient care and rehabilitation, including swimming pools used for patient care and rehabilitation.

Public Use:

- Fire Hydrants
 1. Firefighting
 2. Certain testing and drills by the fire department if performed in the interest of public safety and if approved by the municipal governing body.
- Flushing of Sewers and Hydrants: As needed to ensure public health and safety and if approved by the municipal governing body.

Class 2: Socially or Economically Important Uses of Water

All Domestic Uses Other Than Those Included in Classes 1 and 3:

- Home water use including kitchen, bathroom and laundry use
- Minimal watering of vegetable gardens
- Watering of trees where necessary to preserve them

Commercial, Agricultural, Industrial and Institutional Uses

- Outdoor commercial watering (public or private) using conservation measures and to the extent that sources of water other than fresh water are not available to use.
- Irrigation for commercial vegetable gardens and fruit orchards or the maintenance of livestock.
- Watering by commercial nurseries at a minimum level necessary to maintain stock.
- Water use by arboretums and public gardens of national, State, or regional significance where necessary to preserve specimens.
- Use of fresh water at a minimum rate necessary to implement vegetation following earth-moving, where such vegetation is required by law or regulation.
- Watering of golf course greens.
- Filling and Operation of Swimming Pools:
 - Residential pools which serve more than 25 dwelling units.
 - Pools used by health care facilities for patient care and rehabilitation
 - Municipal pools
- Commercial car and truck washes
- Commercial Laundromats
- Restaurants, clubs, and Eating Places
- Air Conditioning:
 - Refilling for start up at the beginning of the cooling season
 - Make-up of water during the cooling season
 - Refilling specifically approved by health officials and the municipal governing body, where the system has been drained for health protection or repair purposes.

- Schools, Churches, Motels/Hotels and Similar Commercial Establishments

Class 3: Non-Essential Uses of Water

- **Ornamental Purposes:**

- Fountains, reflecting pools, and artificial waterfalls

- **Outdoor Non-Commercial Watering (public or private):**

- Gardens, lawns, parks, golf courses (except greens), playing fields and other recreational areas.

- Filling and operation of recreational swimming pools which serve fewer than 25 dwellings

- Non-commercial washing of motor vehicles

- Serving water in restaurants, clubs, or eating places except by specific request.

- Air Conditioning: refilling cooling towers after draining except as specified in Class 1

- **Public Use:**

- Fire Hydrants: any purpose, including use of sprinkler caps and testing fire apparatus and for fire department drills, except as listed in Class 1

- Flushing of Sewers and Hydrants except as listed in Class 1

The Mayor is authorized to declare and implement a water shortage emergency and associated restrictions. In the absence of the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Temp has this authority.

Rickey Hensley, Mayor
828-668-4244, ext. 304
mayor@oldfortnc.com

Jamie Grindstaff
828-668-4244, ext. 303
mayorprotem@oldfortnc.com

Section 3. Declaration of Voluntary Conservation: Whenever the governing body of the Town finds that a potential shortage of water supply is indicated, it shall be empowered to declare by adoption of an ordinance that Voluntary Conservation conditions exist, and that the water manager or superintendent shall, on a daily basis, monitor the supply and demand upon that supply. In addition, the mayor (or his/her agent) is authorized to call upon all water customers to employ voluntary water conservation measures (see Section 13) to limit water use (especially Class 3 uses) and eliminate the waste of water. This resolution shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area which qualifies under GS 1-597, and may be publicized through the general news media or any other appropriate method for making such resolutions public.

Section 4. Declaration of Mandatory Conservation: Whenever the governing body of the Town finds raw water supplies (i.e. streamflow, reservoir levels or groundwater levels) to be consistently below seasonal averages, and if they continue to decline and may not be adequate to meet normal needs, it shall be empowered to declare by adoption of an ordinance that Mandatory Conservation conditions exist.

The Town shall continue to encourage voluntary water conservation measures defined under the Voluntary Conservation declaration, and further shall impose a ban on all Class 3 water uses for the duration of the shortage until it is declared ended by ordinance of the governing board.

Publication of these ordinances shall follow the provisions declaration in Section 3 of this ordinance.

Section 5. Declaration of a Water Shortage Emergency: Whenever the governing body of the Town finds that raw water supplies are below the level necessary to meet normal needs and that serious shortages exist, it shall be empowered to declare by adoption of an ordinance that a water shortage Emergency exists. Class 1, Essential Uses shall be identified, in specific, as targets for voluntary conservation initiatives. Also, all Class 2, Socially or Economically Important uses shall be banned in addition to the Class 3, Non-Essential Uses. These restrictions shall continue until the emergency is declared ended by ordinance of the governing body. Publication of these ordinances shall follow the provisions in Section 3 of this ordinance.

Section 6. Shortage Water Rates Upon the declaration of a water supply shortage as provided in Sections 3-6 the governing body of the Town shall have the power to adopt shortage water rates by ordinance designed to conserve water supplies. Such rates may provide for, but not be limited to: (a) higher charges per unit for increasing usage (increasing block rates); (b) uniform charges for water usage per unit of use (uniform unit rate); (c) extra charges for use in excess of a specified level (excess demand surcharge); or (d) discounts for conserving water beyond specific levels.

Section 7. Regulations Any person who violates the provisions of this ordinance, who fails to carry out the duties and responsibilities imposed by this ordinance, or who impedes or interferes with any action undertaken or ordered pursuant to this ordinance shall be subject to the following penalties:

(a) If the mayor, water superintendent, or other municipal official or officials charged with implementation and enforcement of this ordinance or a water supply shortage resolution learns of any violation of any water use restriction imposed pursuant to this ordinance, a written notice of the record shall be affixed to the property where the violation occurred and mailed to the customer and to any other person known to the Town who is responsible for the violation or its correction. Said notice shall describe the violation and order that is to be corrected, cured, or abated immediately or within such specified time as the Town determines is reasonable under the circumstances. If the order is not complied with, the Town may terminate water service to the customer subject the following procedures:

1. The Town shall give the customer notice by mail that, due to the violation, water services will be discontinued within a specified time and that the customer will have the opportunity to appeal the termination by requesting a hearing scheduled before the Town governing body or a Town official designated as a hearing officer by the governing body;
2. If such a hearing is requested by the customer charged with the violation, he or she shall be given a full opportunity to be heard before termination is ordered; and,
3. The governing body or hearing officer shall make findings of fact and order whether service should continue or be terminated.

(b) a fee of \$100 shall be paid for the reconnection of any water service terminated pursuant to subsection (a). In the event of subsequent violations, the reconnection fee shall be \$200 for the second violation and \$300 for each additional violations.

(c) Any customers charged with violation of this ordinance may also be prosecuted in District Court. Any person so charged and found guilty of violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Each day's violation shall constitute a separate offense. The penalty for violation shall be a maximum fine of \$350 or imprisonment for not more than 30 days.

Section 8. Civil Penalties In addition to or in lieu of criminal prosecution, violation of this ordinance may subject the offender to civil penalties in the amounts provided, or otherwise an amount of \$25 per day, collectible in a civil action in the nature of debt.

Section 9. Variances Customers may request a variance from water restrictions in Phase II (Mandatory) and Phase III (Emergency) by completing a Variance Request Form (available at Town Hall and included as an addendum to this Ordinance). Variances will only be granted in cases of extraordinary hardship. For these purposes "extraordinary hardship" means a permanent damage to property or economic loss which is substantially more severe than the sacrifices borne by other water users subject to this ordinance. Variances will be considered by the Old Fort Mayor and Board of Aldermen and answered by mail within seven days of submittal.

Section 10. Evaluation of Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the Old Fort water shortage response plan will be determined by comparing the stated water conservation goals with observed water use reduction data. Other factors to be considered include frequency of plan activation, any problem periods without activation, total

number of violation citations, desired reductions attained and evaluation of demand reductions compared to the previous year's seasonal data.

During and after each utilization of this ordinance's conservation measures, the Water Shortage Response Committee, consisting of the Old Fort Mayor and Board of Aldermen along with the Old Fort Water Supervisor and Old Fort Director of Public Works shall evaluate the effectiveness of the ordinance in reducing the Town's water use. The time period of the conservation measures shall be compared as closely as possible to the same time period of the preceding year. A Voluntary Phase should produce savings of 10%; a Mandatory Phase should produce savings of 20%; and an Emergency Phase should produce savings of 40%. If these savings are not produced, the Water Shortage Response Committee should study and revise the Ordinance to better respond to water shortages.

Section 11. Review and Revision -- the Water Shortage Response Plan shall be reviewed and revised as necessary after: 1) every five years; 2) each triggered use of the Plan; 3) any significant new addition to or subtraction from the Old Fort Water System (i.e.: large customers, infrastructure construction, etc.)

Section 12. Public Comment and Review -- the public will be encouraged to comment upon the Water Shortage Response Plan when it is adopted and each time it is reviewed and/or revised. The Town will publish an announcement on the Town of Old Fort web site, notifying the public that copies of the Plan will be available at Town Hall and identifying the date of the Old Fort Board of Aldermen meeting when the Plan will be discussed. The published announcement will be at least three weeks prior to the Board meeting. Time will be allotted at the meeting for public comments and questions.

Section 13. Severability -- if any provision of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the constitutionality of the remainder of the ordinance and its applicability to other person and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Section 14. Effective Date -- this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption or passage by the Town's governing body.

Section 15. Effective Period -- this ordinance will remain in effect until terminated by action of the Town's governing body.

Section 16. Conservation Measures:

Direct users to adopt the conservation measures listed in this Ordinance's Addendum.

**WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN (WSRP)
TOWN OF OLD FORT (PWSID: 01-56-025)**

I. TOWN OF OLD FORT WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN PROCEDURE

When the thresholds established in Section IV of this plan are reached, the Mayor and the Old Fort Board of Aldermen may declare a water shortage and shall be responsible for instituting the provisions of this plan, if conditions warrant it. Upon the declaration of a water shortage, a press release will be forwarded to the following media outlets: The McDowell News (828-652-3313), Asheville Citizen-Times (828-452-1470), The Old Fort News-Bulletin (828-668-7024), WBRM Radio (828-652-9500).

II. YEAR-ROUND WATER CONSERVATION POLICY IN OLD FORT

The Old Fort Board of Aldermen encourages all municipally supplied water users to use water efficiently at all times. Old Fort's Water Supervisor will monitor water demand and the available supply of water. The findings will be available to the Town Mayor and Board of Aldermen. In the event of a declaration of water shortage by the Mayor and the Board, the Water Supervisor will submit a weekly report on water supply conditions to the Town Mayor and The Board.

Public education and outreach consists of the following activities:

Independent Mailings to Major Users; Bill Announcements to All Customers; Press Releases; Flyers/Handouts; Signs & Posters; Radio (public service announcements);

III. OLD FORT WATER USE CLASSIFICATION

To aid implementation of this plan the following classes of water use have been established.

CLASS I: ESSENTIAL POTABLE WATER USES FOR OLD FORT

Domestic: Water to sustain human and domestic pet life; minimum standards of hygiene and sanitation.

Patient Care: Patient care and rehabilitation, including swimming pools used for patient care and rehabilitation.

Public Use: Firefighting and approved flushing of sewers and hydrants to ensure public health and safety.

Class II: SOCIALLY/ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT POTABLE WATER USES FOR OLD FORT

Domestic: Minimal use for kitchen, bathroom and laundry. Minimal watering of vegetable gardens and trees to preserve them.

Public Use: Filling and operation of public swimming pools, which serve more than 25 residents.

Commercial: Commercial vehicle washes and laundromats; restaurants and hotels, irrigation of golf course greens, watering by commercial nurseries at a minimum level to maintain stock, minimum amount required to maintain essential cooling operations.

Agricultural: Minimum amount required to maintain crops, livestock and associated activities.

Industrial: Minimum use necessary to operate production facilities and maintain jobs, minimum amount required to maintain essential cooling operations.

Industrial: Efficient use by schools, churches, and government facilities.

CLASS III: NON-ESSENTIAL POTABLE WATER USES FOR OLD FORT

All: Ornamental uses (fountains, reflecting pools, artificial waterfalls, etc.); Residential lawn irrigation; Non-commercial washing of motor vehicles; Washdown of impervious surfaces; Filling and operation of recreational swimming pools serving less than 25 residents.

Public Use: Gardens, lawns, parks, golf courses (except greens), playing fields and recreational areas.

Commercial: Serving water in restaurants except by request.

IV: DROUGHT RESPONSE TRIGGERS AND PHASED WATER USE REDUCTIONS

When following water supply thresholds (TRIGGERS) are reached, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen shall initiate the following PHASE reduction measures as outlined under the corresponding RESPONSE heading.

PHASE I: VOLUNTARY WATER USE REDUCTION FOR OLD FORT

TRIGGERS

Exceptional or extreme drought conditions declared by NC Drought Council;
Or greater than 80% of the system's capacity is being used for 5 consecutive days within a 30-day period;

RESPONSE

The Mayor and the Board of Aldermen may declare a Water Shortage Advisory, if conditions warrant it.
Begin public notification as previously outlined and distribute water conservation tips;
Begin distribution of Water Use Reduction Education Materials;
Request Voluntary Conservation for all users of the Old Fort water system as outlined in distributed information;
Request Class III non-essential uses to be reevaluated;
Commercial and Industrial water users are required to prepare a 25% Water Use Reduction Plan to be submitted within 30 days of a water shortage advisory declaration.

PHASE II: MANDATORY WATER USE REDUCTION MEASURES FOR OLD FORT

TRIGGERS

Loss of 20% of well pumping capacity;
Or greater than 90% of the system's capacity is being used for 3 consecutive days within a 30-day period;
Or any combinations of the above conditions for 3 consecutive days within a 30-day period;
Or failure of Phase I measures to result in a reduction of potable water-use demand.

RESPONSE

The Mayor and the Board of Aldermen may declare a Water Shortage Alert, if conditions warrant it.
All voluntary measures become mandatory in addition to the following measures:
Enforce a system-wide 25% water use reduction goal (including industrial and commercial plans);
Notify water use customers by any or all methods as previously outlined;
Ban all non-commercial car washing & residential outdoor watering;
Ban all non-commercial pressure washing and washdown of impervious surfaces;
Ban the filling of newly constructed or recently drained pools;
Public recreational areas are limited to watering on Monday between the hours of 6pm-8am;
Institutional automatic toilet flushing systems will operate only during business hours;
All non-public hydrant use by permit only;
Ban ornamental uses;
May authorize additional water use restrictions, or bans, or conservation pricing on water usage to be enforced 10 days after public notification.

PHASE III: EMERGENCY WATER USE REDUCTION MEASURES FOR OLD FORT

TRIGGERS

Loss of 40% of well pumping capacity;
Or greater than 95% of the system's capacity is being used for 2 consecutive days within a 30-day period;
Or any combinations of the above conditions for 2 consecutive days within a 30-day period;
Or failure of Phase II measures to result in a 25% reduction of potable water-use demand.

RESPONSE

The Mayor and the Board of Aldermen may declare a Water Shortage Emergency, if conditions warrant it.

In addition to the above measures the following measures will also be imposed:
 Notify water use customers by any or all methods as previously outlined;
 Ban Class III non-essential uses;
 Request additional conservation from Class 1 (essential) users as may be possible;
 Enact advanced restriction pricing with fines for overuse;
 Ban all landscape irrigation (including golf course greens, school grounds, and residential lawns);
 Ban all recreational use.
 May authorize additional water use restrictions or bans or conservation pricing on water usage to be enforced 10 days after public notification

	Voluntary Phase	Mandatory Phase	Emergency Phase
Class 1: Essential	Voluntary Conservation	Voluntary Conservation	Additional Conservation as possible
Class 2: Socially or Economically Important	Voluntary Conservation	Mandatory Restrictions	Mandatory Restrictions
Class 3: Non-Essential	Voluntary Conservation	Mandatory Restrictions	Mandatory Restrictions

V: OLD FORT ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES

OFFENSE	PHASE I: VOLUNTARY	PHASE II: MANDATORY	PHASE III: EMERGENCY
FIRST	NOTICE OF VIOLATION (NOV)	NOV AND \$50 FINE	\$100
SECOND	NOV	\$100	\$350
THIRD	NOV	\$250	WATER SERVICE DISCONNECTION + ASSOCIATED RECONNECT FEE
MORE THAN 3 OFFENSES	NOV	WATER SERVICE DISCONNECTION + ASSOCIATED RECONNECT FEE	WATER SERVICE DISCONNECTION + ASSOCIATED RECONNECT FEE

VI: OLDFORT RESIDENTIAL & NON-RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION RATES (if enacted)

<u>Water System Operating Status</u>	<u>Conservation Rates</u>
Normal Conditions or Phase I Advisory;	Normal Rate
Declaration of Phase II Alert;	1.5 x Normal Rate
Declaration of Phase III Emergency;	2 x Normal Rate

VII: RETURN TO NORMAL OPERATIONS IN OLD FORT

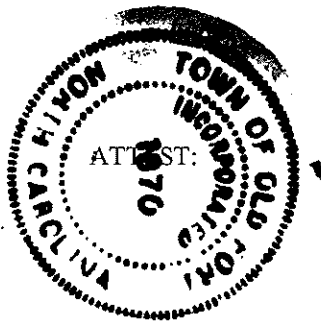
Phase conservation measures and restrictions will expire incrementally when the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, after consultation with the Water Supervisor and Public Works Director, finds that the water supply has returned, or is returning, to normal.

When the well pumping capacity returns to 80%, the Town will move from Phase III Emergency Measures to Phase II Mandatory Conservation Measures.

When the well pumping capacity returns to 100%, the town will move from Phase II Mandatory Conservation measures to Phase I Voluntary Conservation Measures.

When the NC Drought Council declares that McDowell County is no longer in extreme or exceptional drought conditions, the Town will move from Phase I Voluntary Conservation Measures to normal operation.

Passed by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Old Fort this 15 day of May, 2023



[Handwritten Signature]
(Mayor's Signature)

Renee Taylor
(Town Clerk's Signature)

ADDENDUM 1

INDOOR RESIDENTIAL USE:

Conservation for Voluntary and Mandatory Conservation Phases

- Use dishwashers only when they are full. Washing dishes by hand (don't let the tap run!) Saves about 25 gallons
- Adjust water level on clothes washing machines, if possible. Use full loads only, if not adjustable.
- Turn off faucets while brushing teeth, etc. Saves about 5 gallons per day
- Reduce water used per flush by installing toilet tank displacement inserts. A plastic jug may often be used as an alternative. **DO NOT USE BRICKS** - they disintegrate when soaked and the resulting grit hinders closing of the flap valve.
- Do not use the toilet as a trash can?
- Use sink and tub stoppers to avoid wasting water.
- Keep a bottle of chilled water in the refrigerator for drinking.
- Find and fix leaks in faucets and water-using appliances. Faucets can usually be fixed cheaply and quickly by replacing washers.
- Adapt plumbing with flow-restricting or other water-saving devices. These are usually inexpensive and easy to install. See list of devices in Appendix E.
- Learn to read your water meter so you can judge how much water you use and what difference conservation makes.
- Take shorter showers and shallow baths. Saves about 25 gallons.
- Reduce the number of toilet flushes per day. Each flush uses about 5 gallons (2-3 if you have water saving toilets).
- Don't use a garbage disposal
- Use non-phosphate detergent and save laundry water for lawns and plants.

Conservation for Emergency Conservation or Rationing Phase (In addition to measures listed above).

- Turn off shower while soaping up.
- Use disposable eating utensils.

OUTDOOR RESIDENTIAL USE

Conservation for Normal Conditions and Voluntary Conservation Phase

Lawns

- Water before 10:00 a.m. to prevent evaporation which occurs during the hottest part of the day. Morning is better than evening, when the dampness encourages growth of fungus.
- Water only when lawn shows signs of wilt. Grass that springs back when stepped on does not need water.
- Water thoroughly, not frequently: long enough to soak roots. a light sprinkling evaporates quickly and encourages shallow root systems. Water slowly to avoid runoff.
- Don't let the sprinkler run any longer than necessary. In an hour, 600 gallons can be wasted.
- Allow maximum of one inch of water per week on your lawn. To measure, place cake tins outside to collect rain and water from sprinklers.
- Use pistol-grip nozzles on hoses to avoid waste when watering flowers and shrubs.
- Aerate lawns by punching holes 6 inches apart. This allows water to reach roots rather than run off surfaces.
- Position sprinklers to water the lawn, not the pavement.
- Avoid watering on windy days when the wind not only blows water off target, but also causes excess evaporation.
- Keep sprinkler heads clean to prevent uneven watering.
- Adjust hose to simulate a gentle rain. Sprinklers that produce a fine mist waste water through evaporation.

- Know how to turn off an automatic sprinkler system in case of rain.
- Use an alarm clock or stove timer to remind you to shut off sprinklers that don't have timers.

Vegetables and Flower Gardens

- Water deeply, slowly and weekly. Most vegetables require moisture to a depth of 6 to 8 inches.
- Keep soil loose so water can penetrate easily.
- Keep weeds out to reduce competition for water.
- Put the water where you want it and avoid evaporation by using soil-soakers or slow-running hoses, not sprinklers.

Trees and Shrubs

- Water deeply using a soil-soaker or drip-irrigation.
- Water only when needed. Check the depth of soil dryness by digging with a trowel.
- Mulch to reduce evaporation. a 2" to 3" layer of wood chips, pine needles, grass clippings, or straw keeps the soil cool in summer.
- Dig troughs around plants to catch and retain water.
- Water trees growing in full sun more often than those in shade.
- Do not use sprinklers. Apply water directly at base.
- Do not fertilize during the summer. Fertilizing increases a plant's need for water.
- Postpone planting until fall or spring when there is generally less need for water.
- Install trickle-drip irrigation systems close to the roots of your plants. By dripping water slowly, the system doesn't spray water in to the air. Use soil probes for large trees.
- Water when cloudy, at night, or even when a light rain is falling.

OUTDOOR RESIDENTIAL USE

Conservation for Voluntary Conservation Phase (in addition to measures listed above).

- Do not allow children to play with hose or sprinklers.
- Limit car washing.
- Be ready to catch rainfall that occurs. Place containers under drain sprouts.
- Use leftover household water if available.
- Consider delaying the seeding or sodding of new lawns.
- Determine the amount of water being used outdoors by comparing water bills for summer and winter.

Conservation for Mandatory Conservation Phase (In addition to measures listed above).

- Vegetable gardens and food trees should be given minimal amounts of water on an individual basis only.
- Do not water lawns and inedible plants.
- Do not use sprinklers.

Most outdoor watering is prohibited under Emergency Conservation conditions.

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE FACILITY USE

- Reduce laundry usage or services by changing bed linens, etc. only when necessary to preserve the health of patients or residents.
- Use disposable food service items.
- Eliminate, postpone, or reduce, as they may be appropriate, elective surgical procedures during the period of emergency.

INDUSTRIAL USE

- Identify and repair all leaky fixtures and water-using equipment. Give special attention to equipment connected directly to water lines, such as processing machines, steam-using machines, washing machines, water-cooled air conditioners, and furnaces.
- Assure that valves and solenoids that control water flows are shut off completely when the water-using cycle is not engaged.

- Adjust water-using equipment to use the minimum amount of water required to achieve its stated purpose.
- Shorten rinse cycles for laundry machines as much as possible; implement lower water levels wherever possible.
- For processing, cooling, and other uses, either re-use water or use water from sources that would not adversely affect public water supplies.
- Advise employees, students, patients, customers, and other users not to flush toilets after every use. Install toilet tank displacement inserts; place flow restrictors in shower heads and faucets; close down automatic flushes overnight.
- Install automatic flushing valves to use as little water as possible or to cycle at longer intervals.
- Place water-saving posters and literature where employees, students, patients, customers', etc. will have access to them.
- Check meters on a frequent basis to determine consumptive patterns.
- Review usage patterns to see where other savings can be made.

TOWN OF OLD FORT
WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

VARIANCE REQUEST FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

DATE RECEIVED: _____

REASON FOR VARIANCE REQUEST:

RESOLUTION OF VARIANCE REQUEST AND REQUIREMENTS OF VARIANCE
(IF ANY):

DATE: _____

AUTHORITY'S SIGNATURE: _____

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVING WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (1) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water services or plans to provide such services shall, either individually or together with other such units of local government, prepare and submit a Water Shortage Response Plan; and

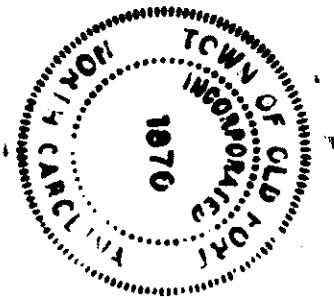
WHEREAS, as required by the statute and in the interests of sound local planning, a Water Shortage Response Plan for the Town of Old Fort. Has been developed and submitted to the Board of Aldermen for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen finds that the Water Shortage Response Plan is in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (1) and that it will provide appropriate guidance for the future management of water supplies for the Town of Old Fort as well as useful information to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the development of a state water supply plan as required by statute;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Old Fort that the Water Shortage Response Plan entitled Old Fort Water Shortage Response Plan dated May 15, 2023 is hereby approved and shall be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen intends that this plan shall be revised to reflect changes in relevant data and projections at least once every five years or as otherwise requested by the Department, in accordance with the statute and sound planning practice.

This the 15 day of May, 2023



Name: Rickey Hensley

Title: Mayor

Signature:

Rickey Hensley

ATTEST: Renee Taylor

May 15, 2023