



# CITY OF FORT DODGE

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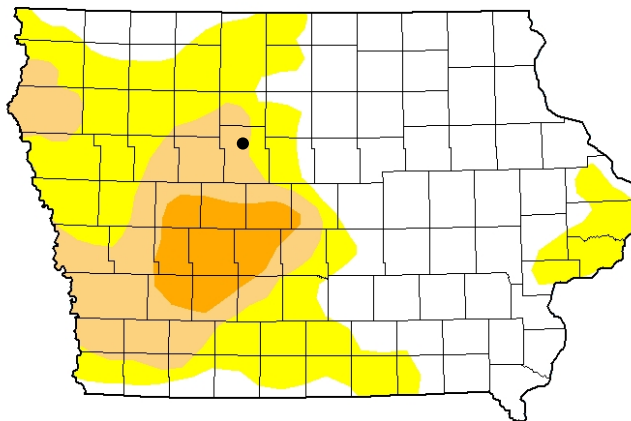
## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2020

The City of Fort Dodge is asking residents and businesses to conserve water as a result of the hot, dry summer and increased usage to date.

“While water conservation should always be considered to some degree in this day and age, our current situation of summer usage, drought conditions and lengthy periods of extremely warm temperatures require additional attention to be paid to specific water conservation efforts. While the City strives to provide adequate water supply for any and all user activities, our primary objective is to always meet, and typically exceed, basic public health and safety standards. During conservation situations such as this, and especially with a “voluntary” request, a community shared endeavor to help conserve water helps ensure the City can meet that objective,” states Travis Pender, Project Manager with U.S. Water Services Corporation here in Fort Dodge.



**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

As you can see outlined in the image above, Fort Dodge is currently in the moderate drought category, D1. D1 corresponds to an area where damage to crops and pastures can be expected and where fire risk is high, while stream, reservoir or well levels are low. By taking voluntary steps to conserve water usage now, we hope to be able to avoid restrictions later.

Thank you to everyone for your cooperation and assistance. In keeping with its request, the City has suspended its hydrant flushing project, stopped non-essential irrigation and will be significantly reducing irrigation on turf deemed essential.

Following are some easy tips you can implement in your everyday life:

**Be smart about your usage outdoors.**

- If you water your lawn, try to cut consumption in half. Don't overwater.
- Water lawns early in the morning during the hot summer months. Watering in the heat of the day leads to evaporation before the moisture reaches your lawn. Watering between 10 am and 5 pm should be avoided.
- There's no need to water your sidewalks or driveways. Use a broom or rake instead.
- When washing the car, turn on the hose only for rinsing.
- If you have a pool or hot tub, make sure to maintain proper chemical levels and adequate circulation time. You'll have safer, cleaner water and avoid the need to drain the pool as often.
- Install a solar cover on your pool. The average uncovered pool loses one inch of water per week. Covering your pool can save up to 50% of water lost to evaporation.

**Be smart about your usage indoors.**

- Turning off the water while brushing your teeth will save about 25 gallons each month.
- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Don't let the water run for the 20 seconds while washing your hands. Water can be turned off while washing and scrubbing and be turned on again to rinse.
- Ice left in your glass? Dump it on a plant instead of in the sink.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap.
- No dishwasher? No problem! Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water to avoid letting the water run.
- Only run your dishwasher and washing machine when full. This will save up to 1,000 gallons a month.