

DROUGHT WATCH

The City declared a Drought Watch due to Colorado's dry conditions and record-low snowpack, and its impact to the City's projected water supply. A Drought Watch is a voluntary measure for conserving water. This helps protect Westminster's water supply during the summer months and depends on our collective action as a community.

For residents, ways to reduce water usage include:

Watering your lawn no more than three days each week

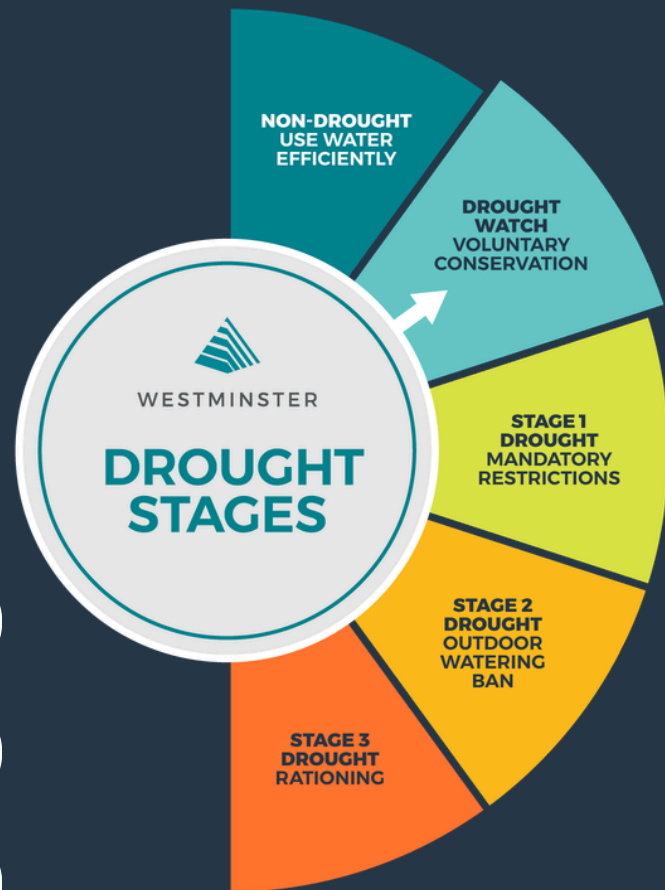
Water lawns between 6 pm and 10 am to minimize evaporation.

Check irrigation systems for leaks or overspray

Stay informed about drought updates from the City

The city offers four free or discounted programs to help you reduce outdoor water use.

- **Lawn Replacement:** Free turf removal service and DIY options available
- **Slow the Flow:** Free sprinkler audit with follow-up report
- **Garden In A Box:** Discounts on professionally designed, plant-by-number garden kits
- **Waterwise Yard Seminars:** Free online education about gardening and low-water landscaping



SCAN ME



Drought FAQ

1. **Is my water rate/bill going to go up?** There are no planned water rate changes related to drought watch or possible continued drought conditions. The City reviews and votes on rates annually. The new WATER Task Force was set up to learn about these rates, and it will support City Council as they set water utility rates for 2027.
2. **What is the situation with Westy's water supply?** We had one of the hottest and driest winters on record and our snowpack is exceptionally low. However, our storage account in Standley Lake is 95% full. Staff is actively monitoring conditions and will call for increased response if conditions warrant. Learn more at westminsterco.gov/drought.
3. **What exactly is a drought?** Drought is a naturally occurring, temporary event when there is not enough water in our streams and reservoirs due to low snowfall and precipitation. Reduced water supplies cause lower storage levels, so there is less water for residents, businesses, farms, and recreation. With the help of our residents and businesses, we can work together to extend our water supply.
4. **If water is scarce, why is the city watering at its facilities?** Under Drought Watch, the voluntary guidelines are to water turf grass no more than three (3) days per week. Some high-use public facilities may be watered more frequently to prevent turf damage that can be extremely costly. Across the city, departments are reducing water use. One of the most important tools in this effort is reclaimed water. Reclaimed water is wastewater that has been specially treated and disinfected so it can be safely reused for irrigation, which the City uses at many facilities.
5. **Can an HOA fine you if your lawn dries out because you are following City rules about watering?** No, as long as you are following your water provider's requirements for responding to drought.
6. **When might the City restrict residential watering?** At this time, the City is under Drought Watch with voluntary guidelines to water turf grass no more than 3 days per week. Staff is actively monitoring conditions and will call for increased response if conditions warrant. Learn more at westminsterco.gov/drought.
7. **Is there help from the city to pay for my water bill?** Yes, the City has several water assistance programs available to customers. Information on all water assistance programs can be found at westminsterco.gov/waterbillassistance or by calling/emailing 303-658-2392 or ubassist@westminsterco.gov.
8. **Is there a program to help me use less water in my yard by planting with native plants?** Yes! Our Garden in a Box program provides discounts on Colorado-friendly plant kits. We have many water conservation programs aimed at helping residents use less water outdoors. Learn more at westminsterco.gov/conservation.
9. **Will water flow in the ditch at the dog park or in other ditches?** The ditch in the Westminster Hills Dog Park area is Dry Creek Valley Ditch, which is fed by the Church Ditch. This year has been extremely dry, so there is a possibility the Church Ditch will not come into priority this year which means it will not be allowed to take any water from Clear Creek. In the general Westminster area, the Farmers' High Line Canal (FHL) is currently flowing, which is now delivering water to Standley Lake and it continues to flow to downstream shareholders through Westminster. The FHL feeds the Allen Ditch which is also currently flowing through parts of Westminster.
10. **Who decides the amount of water we use now and plans for future droughts?** Ultimately, each customer makes the decision about how much water they use. City Staff use long-term averages for each type of customer to make projections about how much water we will use in the future. These are part of the City's long-term water supply planning efforts, which are tightly integrated with short-term drought response. The City has a plan for drought that outlines guidelines, rules, and procedures the City will use to manage water supply and water use during drought.