



Town of Scituate

Yesterday at 10:00am · 🌐

WATER SYSTEM UPDATE 11/17/16

Please note that this update contains new information and does not repeat information already provided in previous updates

The Drought Management Crisis Team met on Tuesday, November 15th Water Supply

- Supply: The Water Department continues to supply all of the Town's water exclusively from the wells.
- Rainfall and Reservoir level: As a result of 0.8 inches of rainfall over the past 14 days, the Reservoir level has increased by 7 inches to 43% full. While this is very encouraging, we are still far below the 62% level we typically see this time of year. This indicates that the watershed is becoming saturated so that rain that falls in the forest flows into the streams that feed the Reservoir. We still have a long way to go before we reach normal fall levels. Secretary Mathew Beaton of the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs recently declared a "Drought Warning" condition for large portions of the Commonwealth including the South Shore. This means the restrictions on outdoor water use must remain in effect.
- Forecast: NECN meteorologist Tim Kelley provided this weather outlook: "The weather turns dry and pleasant for the most part into the weekend. We will witness the merging of two systems, one from the east, and another one coming out of the Midwest. It may not be all that rainy, probably less than an inch, but the rain may turn to snow here on Monday. It looks cold and windy for Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Then a series of fast moving systems could bring more rain, possibly ending as snow on Thanksgiving Day."

Water Usage

- Scituate residents and businesses continue to reduce water usage! In October Total Scituate water usage was averaged 63 gallons per person per day. Thus far in November we have averaged 60 gallons per person per day, a 5% drop in daily consumption. Great work!
- Calculate Your Water Use: When you get your next water bill calculate how much water your family is using per day. First, determine the number of days between the "Current Reading" and the previous one. Divide "Usage Gallons" by the number of days and then by the number of people in your household. {Note: Your family's water use will probably be below the 60 gallons per person per day we report in this newsletter. The 60-gallon number is a gross number calculated by dividing Total Scituate water use by the number of days and then by 18,000 people. The Total Scituate water number includes schools, municipal buildings, fire fighting, restaurants, industry, nursing homes, system losses, etc.
- Recycling: A resident recently offered the following tip for conserving water: "Before I throw my recyclable items into the bin, I always wash them out. Until recently, I would fill up the plastic milk jug (for example) with water to clean it. Now I fill it only ¼ of the way and shake it vigorously. This does the trick and saves water." Thanks for the tip! Send

water: "Before I throw my recyclable items into the bin, I always wash them out. Until recently, I would fill up the plastic milk jug (for example) with water to clean it. Now I fill it only ¼ of the way and shake it vigorously. This does the trick and saves water." Thanks for the tip! Send your water saving tips to conservewater@scituatema.gov.

- Violations: There were no water ban violations this past week.
- Flushing Water Lines: The Water Department will begin targeted flushing of water lines to get ready for winter. You may see water running down the street, but Department personnel will be carefully monitoring the flows to ensure only the minimum amount is used in this required work.
- Water Main Work: After Thanksgiving the water main work that was suspended on Barker Road, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Avenues will be completed. This work was suspended when the Reservoir dropped below 35%, but needs to be completed before winter sets in. You may see some limited running of water in the street as the contractor and the Water Department chlorinate and flush these new pipes.

Future Resiliency

- Expansion of the Reservoir: We still are waiting to hear if we will receive a grant from the Commonwealth to continue the work to raise the Reservoir height.
- Satellite Well: A Request for Proposals is being issued to drill a new well adjacent to Well 22 to enable this well field to return to its previous level of productivity.
- Dolan Well: The Capital Plan will include a request to fund the preliminary engineering and permitting for this new well off Country Way near Hollett.

Outreach and Education

- Rain Barrels: The special price on rain barrels will be in effect through November. You can purchase one via the Town website www.scituatema.gov. (Click on the "On-line Services" icon in the box to the left side of the screen, then click on the \$-sign. Use your receipt to pick-up the rain barrel at the Transfer Station.)
- Faucet Aerators: The two hardware stores in the Harbor are offering discounts on faucet aerators in the month of November. These will reduce your water usage and save you money.
- Schools - Water Conservation Education: The 5th graders at Jenkins, Hatherly, Cushing and Wompatuk Elementary Schools learned about their local water resources and water conservation by participating in the "Water All Around You" program. This curriculum was created and presented by the North and South Rivers Watershed Association and funded by the Scituate Water Department. The students participated in a series of activities that illustrate important concepts about water. They witnessed how pollutants, including fertilizers and dog waste left on the land, wash into local water bodies via a simulated rainstorm on a watershed model. They did a taste test of three different types of water, including Scituate's own tap water, filtered water and distilled water. They also observed through a sophisticated ground water simulator how water travels below ground, carrying pollution with it to streams and ponds. A

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