



## NEWS RELEASE

### Drought Watch in effect for Northern Virginia

Herndon, VA (July 29, 2024) – A [Drought Watch](#) for the region was put into effect today by the Drought Coordination Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). Herndon residents and businesses are asked to take voluntary measures to conserve water and use water wisely as part of their daily routines to help reduce demand on the region’s water supply systems.

Officials have emphasized that while there currently is an adequate supply of water in the Potomac River and back-up reservoirs, implementing voluntary water conservation practices now will help complement measures already in place and reduce water demand and environmental needs of the river. A Drought Watch is the level in the [regional drought response plan](#) before Drought Warning, when additional water restrictions are requested and could become mandatory should conditions worsen.

Residents and businesses can limit indoor and outdoor water use by:

- Monitoring watering lawns, plants and shrubs;
- Sweeping sidewalks and driveways (instead of using a hose);
- Avoiding washing your car, or instead using a commercial car wash that recycles water;
- Fixing any plumbing leaks – especially toilets and faucets;
- Reducing shower length to under 5 minutes;
- Turning off water while brushing your teeth; and
- Washing full loads of dishes and clothes.

Visit [fairfaxwater.org/conservation](https://fairfaxwater.org/conservation) for more water conservation tips.

While the region is currently at a low to moderate risk for wildfires, due to the dry conditions, Herndon residents and businesses are encouraged to use extra caution with activities that involve flammable materials like smoking outside or outdoor grills.

More: [Current drought conditions in the region and other resources](#)

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