



WATER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Port Washington Water District

Water Conservation & Sustainability

PORT WASHINGTON RESIDENTS: YOUR HELP AND COOPERATION ARE NEEDED

MANDATORY 2020 CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

Water shortages during times of peak demand are a real concern for the Port Washington Water District (PWWD) this summer. In order to meet the water needs of our community during the hotter months while simultaneously taking wells offline and constructing the treatment systems

necessary to address emerging contaminants, the Port Washington community MUST conserve water. With irrigation systems drawing the greatest demand for water, we are relying on residents to take specific actions to save water when irrigating this summer.

Guidelines for Automatic Irrigation

When you or your irrigation contractor turn on your automatic sprinkler system, it is mandatory that you adhere to the following:

- Turn back watering times for each zone by four minutes as it will help save up to 20 percent on overall usage.
- Each home is required to follow the time schedule for automatic irrigation system watering established within its specific zone (Page 3).
- Check for leaks or broken sprinkler heads that waste water.
- Ensure that irrigation clocks are adhering to Nassau County's Odd/Even Lawn Watering Ordinance.
- Ensure that automatic rain and soil moisture sensors are working properly.
- If you use a contractor to start up your irrigation system, obtain written certification that the rain and/or soil sensors are working properly.
- Consider installing a smart irrigation controller. The District has \$150 rebates available to residents who make the switch (Page 3).
- Make good landscaping choices, such as integration of native/drought resistant plants and xeriscaping as this will lead to lower water usage (Page 4).

Guidelines for Manual Irrigation

Residents who manually water their lawns and gardens must adhere to the following:

- Follow Nassau County's Ordinance:
 - Odd-numbered homes to water only on odd-numbered days
 - Even and non-numbered homes to water only on even-numbered days
- Restrict irrigation to 15 minutes per area with a maximum watering of two hours per day
- Watering is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Your role is vital in helping PWWD achieve our water reduction goal for our community and region. We appreciate your assistance and if you have questions, please contact us by email: info@pwwd.org, or call the main office: (516) 767-0171.

\$18 Million Grant Will Fund Installation of New Treatment Facilities

PROACTIVE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE FOR 1,4-DIOXANE TREATMENT



Hewlett Well 4

As many residents know, the Port Washington Water District (PWWD) has always taken a proactive approach to testing and reporting on potential emerging contaminants, specifically with 1,4-dioxane. The District is proud to announce it will be awarded approximately \$18 million in grant funding from New York State.

“The Port Washington Water District would like to thank Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature for generously allocating this grant funding,” said PWWD District Board of Commissioners Chairman David Brackett. “This grant will help fund a portion of the infrastructure needed to treat for emerging contaminants in our water supply, further solidifying our treatment capabilities for decades to come.”



David R. Brackett,
Chairman of the Board



Mindy Germain,
Water Commissioner

This project involves a new treatment technology called Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP), the only approved method to remove 1,4-dioxane and any potential treatment byproducts from drinking water. Additionally, the new facilities will include a Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system, an industrial-sized carbon filter that is used in tandem with AOP treatment.

The PWWD, along with several other Long Island water providers, has filed litigation against manufacturers of these emerging contaminants as an additional means of recouping the high cost of removing them. “These contaminants are expensive to remove, and those costs should not be borne by our rate payers, rather the industrial chemical manufacturers who are responsible for their presence in our water supply,” said PWWD Commissioner Mindy Germain.

Commissioner News



Italo J. Vacchio,
Superintendent

Message From the Superintendent

As always, the Port Washington Water District is fully committed to protecting our water supply, and there are two important messages I'd like to share with our customers:

Your Water Is Safe To Drink

The spread of the novel coronavirus represents an unprecedented situation. PWWD is adhering to the recommendations of the CDC and the state of emergency for the public well-being. The virus is not waterborne and your water supply is safe to use in all ways. While our office is closed to the public, operations continue as normal. For more information, visit pwwd.org and click on “News.”

Backflow Testing

NYS Department of Health has not modified the requirement for annual back flow testing of residential and commercial sprinkler systems. Given the current situation with coronavirus, should a resident request additional time to have this test performed, the District will allow it. Residents can contact the District at (516) 767-0171.

District News

New Rates Adopted After Extensive Study

Treating emerging contaminants is costly, and PWWD has taken serious measures to keep customer rates down. This includes receiving an \$18 million NYS grant while also filing a lawsuit to hold the responsible parties of our contaminants accountable. Still, to properly treat our water, additional revenues are necessary. After an extensive rate study by a renowned consultant, a public meeting and mailing notices, an approved rate increase took effect on May 1st.



Peter Meyer,
Water Commissioner

“PWWD continues to provide high quality water that meets and exceeds all federal, state and local regulations,” stated Commissioner Peter Meyer. “As we expand treatment facilities, we’ve implemented a fair and sensible rate program, instituting a sliding scale based on water usage to reward those who conserve.” Average residential customers (using 19,000 gallons/quarter) can expect a modest increase of \$0.08 per day. For details on rate structure, visit pwwd.org.

“Every Drop Counts” Beautifies Bay Walk Park

Exhibit bolsters awareness to preserve and protect the peninsula’s water source



As the warmer weather arrives, take a scenic walk along Manhasset Bay and Bay Walk Park to enjoy the view. The Port Washington Water District worked with Residents Forward and The Village of Port Washington North to launch “Every Drop Counts,” an educational campaign and art exhibit designed to conserve water and promote sustainability.

The project was funded by the Jaggar Foundation, and the art was created by local artists Michelle Shain and Diane Luger. The exhibits help consumers learn about their water source and how to make it more sustainable. A designated area along the walk educates park-goers about Long Island’s aquifer, while tops of picnic tables provide information on what to plant, lawn care tips, water conservation techniques and much more.



“The Port Washington Water District is a longtime partner of the community and was proud to play a role in developing this project,” said PWWD Superintendent Italo Vacchio. “It all starts with education, and we will continue to launch local initiatives centered around getting the community to work together to help protect our drinking water.”



Bay Walk Park, Port Washington

Photo and Art Credit: Michelle Shain and Diane Luger

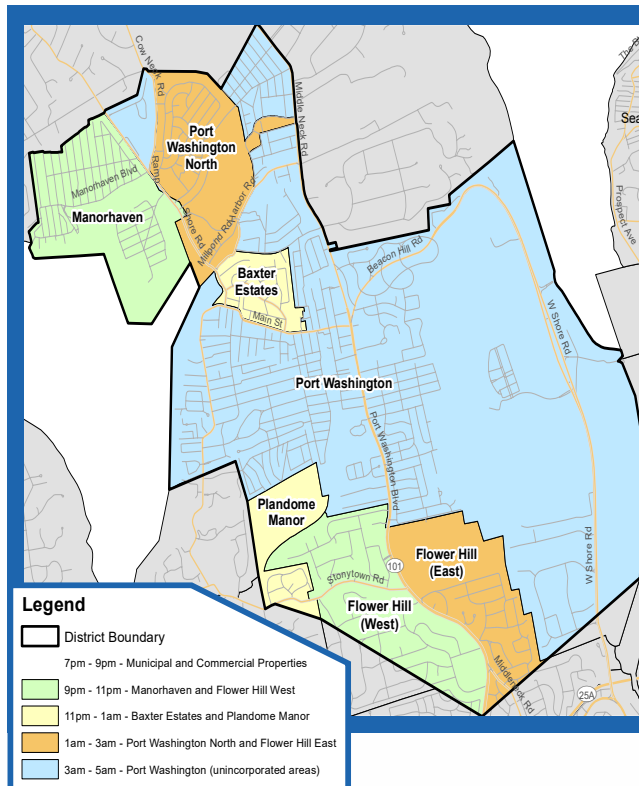
Smart Controller Rebate Program Renewed

Apply Today!

Residents are encouraged to participate in this program to reduce water waste. The program provides a \$150 rebate to replace old analog controllers with new EPA Watersense labeled smart irrigation controllers. To apply, go to pwwd.org and search under ‘Conservation.’



Automatic Irrigation Zones and Timing Map



To help alleviate the sharp increase in water demand in the early morning to satisfy the needs of irrigation systems, the District has worked with the local municipal jurisdictions to break the local peninsula into various irrigation zones. This coordination will prevent the District’s infrastructure from becoming overwhelmed during peak times.



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Commissioners:
David R. Brackett, Chairman
Peter Meyer, Secretary
Mindy Germain, Treasurer

Superintendent:
Italo J. Vacchio

Board Meetings:
Every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. All meetings are held at the District Office unless otherwise announced.

Business Hours:
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., weekdays

24-Hour Emergency Number:
(516) 767-0171

Member:
American Water Works Association
Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners' Association
Long Island Water Conference

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Water Conservation & Landscapes

Green Horizons

Consider xeriscaping for a more sustainable greenspace

How do you conserve water and maintain a beautiful landscape? Whether you have a residential or commercial green space, xeriscaping is a systematic method of promoting water conservation in landscaped areas. It includes replacing grassy lawns with soil, rocks, mulch and drought-tolerant native plant species. As you plan spring and summer planting, consider the benefits of rewilding and letting nature take its course.

HERE ARE FIVE BASIC NATURAL LANDSCAPE TIPS TO CONSIDER:

- 1. Planning and Design**
Add native plants and trees to your yard that are drought-resistant and don't require much water.
- 2. Zoning Plants Appropriately**
Base your plant selections and locations on those that will flourish in our climate. Always group plants with similar water needs together.
- 3. Limiting Turf Areas**
Reduce the use of bluegrass turf which usually requires a lot of supplemental watering.
- 4. Use Mulch**
Mulch keeps plant roots cool, minimizes evaporation, prevents soil from crusting and reduces weed growth.
- 5. Maintaining Your Landscape**
Keep plants healthy through weeding and pruning. Use organic fertilizer and lawn care products.