

August 7, 2023

Dear Residents,

With more than 50 percent of Minnesota experiencing severe drought and some areas experiencing extreme drought, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has determined that the state is now in the drought warning phase. With this designation, the DNR and others are asking for additional steps such as restricting some water uses.

The [State Drought Plan](#) specifies actions that water suppliers must implement once the state is elevated to drought warning phase.

1. **Population over 1,000** - Public water suppliers implement appropriate water use restrictions contained in their Water Supply Plan.

2. **All Water Suppliers** - Public water suppliers will implement water use reduction actions with a goal of reducing water use to 50% above January levels.

**Effective Immediately:** The City of St. Francis will be implementing watering restrictions effective immediately, per the direction of the DNR.

If you live on the west side of the river and your address ends in an odd number, you will be able to irrigate on Mondays. If you live on the west side of the river and you have an address that ends in an even number, you will be able to irrigate on Tuesdays.

If you live on the east side of the river and your address ends in an odd number, you will be able to irrigate on Thursdays. If you live on the east side of the river and have an address that ends in an even number, you will be able to irrigate on Fridays.

No watering shall occur between the hours of 10:00am and 7:00 pm.

This is a reduction plan. A complete watering ban is not in effect at this time. We are asking all residents to adjust their irrigation times accordingly to help with this reduction plan. This plan also includes all irrigation wells within the city water and sewer service area. This new watering restriction will remain in place until further notice and is subject to change. Please continue to check our city website for further information and updates.

Most of you can see that this drought has affected water levels in lakes, rivers and streams not only out west but also here in Minnesota. In St. Francis, we pump water from Aquifers for drinking water and fire protection. Aquifers depend on rainfall to refill. Without rain, this prolonged drought will start to negatively affect water levels in our wells. It will not only influence the city wells, but all wells will start to be influenced by this drought phase.

Currently, we are roughly 300% above our January pumping levels. By implementing this water reduction plan, and with your help, our goal is to reduce the volume of water pumped to 50 % above January levels. Please refer to our city web site for updated information on this matter.

If you have any questions, please call Public Works at 763-233-5200.

Thank you for your cooperation!