

July 11th, 2019

COUNCIL UPDATE

UPDATED CITY REGULATIONS WILDFIRE INTERFACE ZONE

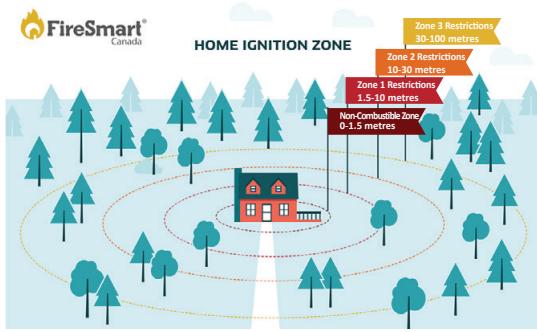
Council has recently updated the City's land use regulations to make our community more resilient in the event of a wildfire.

The new regulations include changes to building materials for new construction in DP Area #3 (See map on website) and landscaping requirements throughout the City. Please visit nelson.ca/wildfire for a list of these requirements. For example, coniferous trees and plantings cannot be planted within 1.5 metres of a new structure.

Although not required for existing vegetation, under our FireSmart program, we encourage residents to remove these types of vegetation that are within 1.5 metres of their homes.

If you have questions about these new regulations, please call Development Services at (250) 352-8260 or visit nelson.ca/wildfire.

Book your FireSmart assessment today! Call (250) 352-3103.



OPERATIONS

ROADS, SIDEWALKS AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

- The 2019 roads capital paving program is significantly expanded compared to past years, and represents Council's dedication to making our transportation network safe and reliable. Approximately \$1.4 Million is dedicated to repaving 30 of the highest priority sections of our road network. Some of the notable sections include the 500-1000 Blocks of Stanley Street, the 300-700 Blocks of West Richards Street, and large sections of View, Sixth and High Streets. Expect to see contractors out this summer completing this work. City crews will remain focused on repairing smaller sections of the road network, including failing sections of pavement surrounding manholes, catchbasins and valves.
- The 2019 sidewalk program is focused on reducing hazards on the active transportation route and downtown, and enhancing mobility with new sidewalk letdowns. Expect to see City crews and contractors grinding, patching and replacing sidewalks as part of this program.



Outdoor bike repair station with pump.



Line painting to take place in July 2019.

STATUTORY HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

Offices are closed on Monday, August 5, 2019 for BC Day.

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY SERVICE

For Operations emergency service, please call 250-352-3103. To report a power outage, electrical hazard, damage to Nelson Hydro equipment or for outage updates, call 1-877-32HYDRO (1-877-324-9376).

NELSON TRANSIT SERVICE

Transit service is not available on Monday, August 5, 2019 for BC Day. For transit information visit www.bctransit.com or call 1-855-993-3100.

NELSON'S WATER STORY

Water Conservation and Infrastructure Improvements Go Hand in Hand



Our water system relies primarily on snowmelt for drinking water which means that 2019 is proving to be a challenging year as we have a significantly lower than average snowpack, and an accelerated melt. The recent rainfall has been great for greening lawns and gardens and reducing our wildfire risk, but, unfortunately the amount of rainfall we have received is significantly below average for the season, and is not enough to provide the sustained watershed recharge needed for our water supply. For these reasons, the City remains at Level 2 Water Restrictions. This drought, coupled with the recent spikes in outdoor water use, shows there is still room for improvement with respect to our day-to-day water consumption.

What is the City doing to manage our water consumption?

Over the past 20 years, guided by Council direction and the Water Master Plan, the City of Nelson has made great progress in improving our water infrastructure and reducing our water usage. The City continues an ambitious water program to replace aging pipes, manage pressure to reduce leakage, working to secure an emergency water source, increasing capacity of the system for fighting fires, and putting infrastructure in place to accommodate future growth that is resilient to the impacts of climate change. The City is also collaborating with our largest water users to ensure things like leakage from private side infrastructure is addressed, and that private side irrigation systems are operating effectively. Unfortunately, infrastructure upgrades alone are not enough to meet our water consumption goals.

The City's long term planning relies on the community using water wisely and reducing both indoor and outdoor water use, and sustaining this behaviour over the long term. Water conservation remains a key component of our strategy to ensure that our water system is sustainable, now and for generations to come. Nelson's citizens have stepped-up and markedly reduced their water usage over the last 20 years in response to outreach and education related to water conservation. We would like to keep this momentum going.

The City is leading the way and has invested in irrigation upgrades and modified operations to reduce potable (drinking) water use. The water that the City uses to irrigate parks, including Lakeside Park, the sports fields and the cemetery is now primarily non-potable.

What can you do to reduce water consumption?

First and foremost, residents and businesses should adhere to the water restrictions in place. We can also change behaviour around how we landscape by planting vegetation that requires less water and simply water our lawns less or not at all. Summer outdoor water use for watering lawns and gardens puts the largest demand on our water system.

Indoor water use reductions can be attributed to residents installing more water efficient fixtures, including toilet tank bags and low flow shower heads. While long term trends in outdoor use show a general reduction of 30% over time, the most recent data still indicates large spikes in usage on the hottest days-approaching record levels. The City has a limited supply of Toilet Tank Bags and Shower Timers available. You can request either of these at green@nelson.ca.

Learn more about water conservation tips and current water restrictions at nelson.ca/water.

Questions? Please call (250) 352-8240 to speak to our Green Ambassador, Kyra Burkart.



Mountain Station Reservoir holds approximately 22 million litres. Peak summer demand can be around 9 million litres a day. Insert photo: Low water levels at Five Mile Creek intake during July 2016.

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