

# Ridgewood Water Weekly

Week of April 7, 2025

## Latest Quarterly PFAS Public Notice

All Ridgewood Water customers will receive our 2025 First Quarter PFAS Public Notice this week.

Ridgewood Water is one of the estimated 6,600 public drinking water systems in the United States impacted by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). We are also proud to be a leader in the treatment of PFAS.

**By the end of 2026, all regulated PFAS compounds will be nondetectable in our treated water, exceeding the EPA standard of 4 parts per trillion. In addition, our system-wide project will be completed three years ahead of the EPA's 2029 deadline.**

You may be asking:

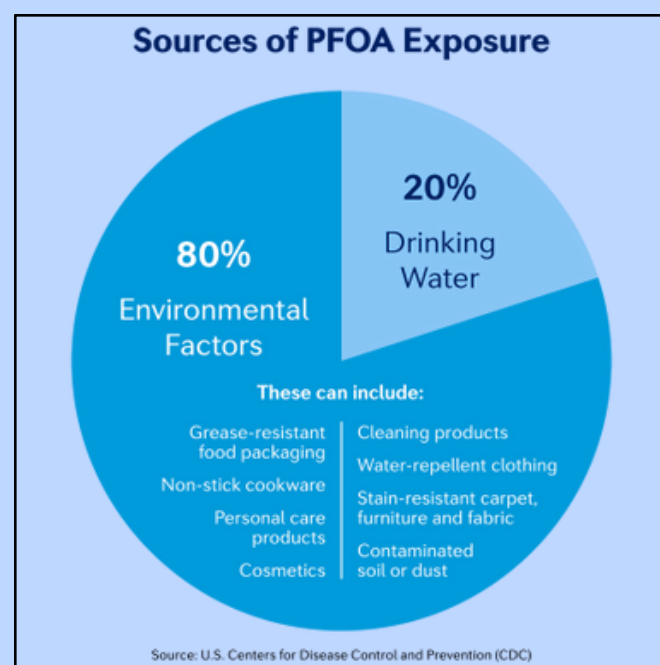
**Why is it taking so long?** The short answer is that it takes time to consolidate 31 treatment facilities spread across four towns into 12 PFAS Treatment Facilities. Our entire system needed to be redesigned to effectively address PFAS.

**What exactly is being done?** Ridgewood Water proactively commissioned a PFAS Treatment Master Plan study in January 2019.

- In September 2019, our first PFAS Treatment Facility was up and running.
- The second facility went online in August 2022.
- An additional six are under construction, four of which are on target to come online in 2025.
- The remaining four are on schedule to be completed by the end of 2026.

**What are you doing in the meantime?** We are working to deliver water with the lowest levels of PFAS and are purchasing additional supply from Veolia Water, Hawthorne Water and the Passaic Valley Water Commission, all of which are compliant with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection PFAS regulations.

If you have any questions about our water system, please don't hesitate to reach out at 201-670-5520 or [cswater@ridgewoodnj.net](mailto:cswater@ridgewoodnj.net).




April 14, 2025

# Two-Day Watering Schedule in Effect

Just a reminder that Ridgewood Water's two-day lawn watering schedule is in effect in all four towns we serve - Glen Rock, Midland Park, Ridgewood and Wyckoff. **Odd addresses: Tuesday and Saturday. Even addresses: Wednesday and Sunday.** There's no lawn watering on Thursday, and Monday and Friday are reserved for municipal properties. Please have a conversation with your irrigation company to ensure that your sprinklers are set up to follow this schedule. We also recommend learning how to operate the system yourself since your irrigation company may not always be available.

# Ridgewood Water's Water Conservation Program Is In Effect!



Follow the two-day lawn watering schedule.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Th	Fri	Sat
Wednesday & Sunday Even Addresses	Monday & Friday Municipal Properties	Tuesday & Saturday Odd Addresses		Thursday No Lawn Watering		

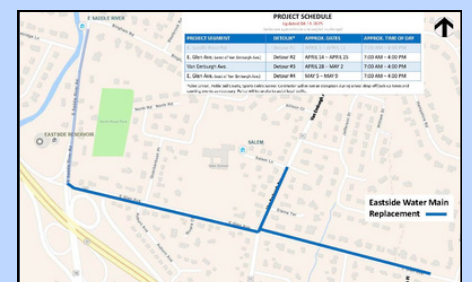
# It's Peak Wildfire Season



This past fall/winter season was the second driest on record - dating back to 1896! Despite a nearly normal February in terms of rainfall, below-average precipitation remains the dominant weather pattern throughout the state. As a result, **New Jersey remains under drought warning during peak wildfire season.** At this time of year, trees and underbrush are still leafing out, relative humidity is generally low, and windy days are common. The combination of these factors means forested lands dry out quickly. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection urges residents to “do our part to prevent wildfires and reduce water use, especially when gardening, landscaping and caring for our lawns.” **Conserve water today to prevent a drought emergency AND firefighting emergency tomorrow.**

# Ongoing Road Work

Ridgewood Water's project to install new water mains in the area of the Eastside Reservoir and future site of the Eastside PFAS Treatment Facility in Ridgewood is one week ahead of schedule. Work on East Glen Avenue began on Monday, and the crew is trying their best to get past the Glen School during spring break. Road work is taking place from **7:00 am to 4:00 pm on weekdays**, and is expected to be completed by mid-May. Please allow extra time when traveling in the area.





# Ridgewood Water Weekly

April 21, 2025

## Report Hydrant ‘Robbery’

Spring construction and road work projects are in full swing! When driving around town, keep in mind that Ridgewood Water and local fire departments are the only entities allowed to operate hydrants, unless a permit has been issued by Ridgewood Water. Unauthorized use of a hydrant (by a contractor or utility, for example) may result in discolored water or even cross-contaminate our distribution system. So if you see a hydrant “robbery” taking place, please report it immediately to our customer service department at 201-670-5520 or [cswater@ridgewoodnj.net](mailto:cswater@ridgewoodnj.net). Thank you!



## The Two-Day Watering Schedule is Permanent

Address Type	Day of the Week	Irrigation Type	Time of Day
Odd Number	Tuesday and Saturday	Manual Irrigation	Before 10 am or after 6 pm
Even Number	Wednesday and Sunday	Automatic Irrigation	Between 3 am and 7 am
Municipal Property	Monday and Friday	Smart Controller Permit	Between 3 am and 7 am

*Irrigation is allowed any day within time restrictions noted above if using a hand-held hose or drip irrigation. Smart Controller Permits can be obtained from Ridgewood Water.*

## Road Work Ahead of Schedule

Ridgewood Water’s project to install new water mains in the area of the Eastside Reservoir and future site of the Eastside PFAS Treatment Facility in Ridgewood is ahead of schedule. Crews began working on East Glen Avenue, east of Van Emburgh Avenue, on Tuesday, April 22. Road work is taking place from **7:00 am to 4:00 pm on weekdays**, and is expected to be completed in early May. Detours will be in place (see map).





# Ridgewood Water Weekly

April 28, 2025



## Earth Day Celebration

Representatives from Ridgewood Water were excited to participate in Ridgewood's annual Earth Day Fair this past Sunday. We talked with passersby about water conservation, "smart" controllers for sprinkler systems, the state drought warning, leak detection, water meters and more. We also gave away old-school shower timers. **Want to see if you can take a shower in five minutes or less?** Stop by Ridgewood Water (111 North Maple Avenue) and pick up a timer the next time you're in the neighborhood.

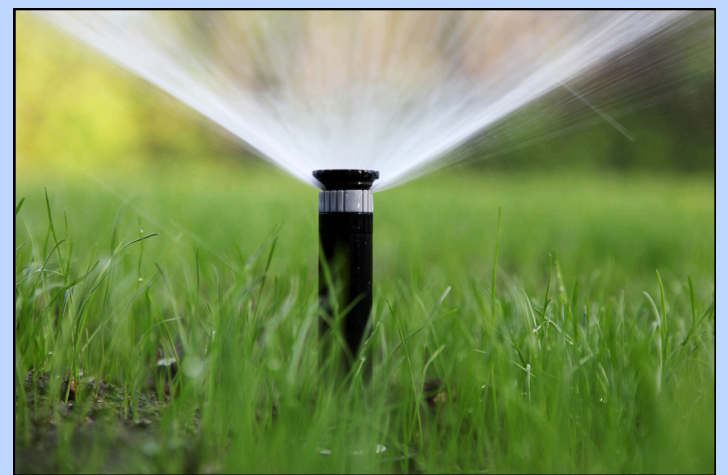
## Drought Tip: Wait to Water!

New Jersey is still in a drought warning, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection strongly encourages residents to **"let your lawn sleep"** and postpone grass seeding until the drought warning lifts. Planting too soon can waste both water and seeds.

## What Is a Smart Irrigation Controller?

A smart irrigation controller automatically manages when and how much your sprinkler system waters your lawn or garden. It uses weather data, soil type, property slope and other factors to tailor irrigation to actual conditions, instead of preset schedules. By watering only when necessary and in the right amounts, **smart controllers can significantly reduce water waste AND your water bill.**

Ridgewood Water customers who use a smart controller **must apply for an exemption** from our two-day lawn watering schedule and re-certify the exemption every year. For details, please reach out to Customer Service at [cswater@ridgewoodnj.net](mailto:cswater@ridgewoodnj.net) or 201-670-5520.



## Sign Up for WaterSmart

It's FREE, and gives you access to **detailed information about your water usage**, including where and when you are using the most water. (Many people are surprised the first time they see their water use in gallons per day!) The program also allows you to create a plan to use 20 percent less water, receive notifications about possible leaks, pay your bill safely and securely, and more. **Sign up at [ridgewoodnj.watersmart.com](http://ridgewoodnj.watersmart.com).**



# Ridgewood Water Weekly

May 5, 2025

## What a Difference 8 Months Makes!



This past week, Ridgewood Water hosted members of a local environmental group on a tour of the Prospect PFAS Treatment Facility in Glen Rock, which is now fully enclosed (right) and a few months away from being operational. Back in August of 2024, eight vessels, each with a capacity to hold 20,000 pounds of granular activated carbon, were installed at the site (left). What a difference eight months makes! Rich Calbi, director of Ridgewood Water, explained to participants that each of the vessels is like a water filter pitcher “on steroids.” **Together, all eight vessels will treat 2.9 million gallons of water a day for PFAS.** “We had so many questions and terrific informative answers,” said one member of the group. “Ridgewood Water is in great hands!” The Prospect PFAS Treatment Facility - one of the largest of the 12 facilities - is on schedule to be up and running in August.

## You CAN Water Your Lawn, But You Shouldn't



Here's why:

1. New Jersey is still under drought warning.
2. It's going to rain every day this week! Sprinklers should NOT be turned on when it's raining. In fact, **automatic lawn sprinkler systems MUST have an operational automatic rain sensor or smart sprinkler**, according to legislation passed in New Jersey on January 16, 2024. Not sure if your sprinkler system has one? Check with your irrigation company - and learn how to operate the system yourself since they may not always be available.



# Ridgewood Water Weekly

May 12, 2025

## The Many Benefits of Native Plants

Plants that are native to New Jersey are well-adapted to our climate and soil, making them easier to grow and maintain than non-native species. **Established native plants require little, if any, watering beyond normal rainfall.** And they generally grow well without fertilizers or pesticides. Native plants also provide essential food and shelter for birds, bees, butterflies and other pollinators. There are many online resources to help you find native plants that will thrive in your landscape's growing conditions, including Jersey-Friendly Yards and the Native Plant Society of New Jersey.



## Why Mulching Matters

- Mulch slows down water evaporation from the soil, helping retain moisture for longer periods.
- Organic mulches break down over time, improving the soil's structure and water-holding capacity.
- It insulates the soil, keeping it cooler in hot weather and warmer in cold weather.
- Mulch inhibits weed growth, which means less competition for water.
- It helps to slow water movement across the soil surface, allowing more water to soak in rather than run off.

## 6 Reasons to Sign Up for WaterSmart

1. View detailed information about your water usage, including where and when you are using the most water. (Many people are surprised the first time they see their water use in gallons per day!)
2. Receive personalized recommendations for using water more efficiently.
3. Create a plan to use 20% less water.
4. Receive notifications about possible leaks.
5. View and pay your bill - safely and securely - through an easy-to-use online portal or mobile app.
6. WaterSmart is free!

**Sign up for WaterSmart at [ridgewoodnj.watersmart.com](http://ridgewoodnj.watersmart.com).**

# Ridgewood Water Weekly

May 19, 2025

## Rain Barrels: Small Investment, Big Impact

Rain barrels are an effective and eco-friendly way to conserve water by capturing and storing rainwater that would otherwise run off your roof and be lost to storm drains. By using this collected water to irrigate your gardens and landscape plantings, you can save money on your water bill, help ensure an adequate water supply for fighting fires, and reduce stormwater runoff and soil erosion. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that a rain barrel can save most homeowners about **1,300 gallons of water** during the peak summer months.



## Drought Watch vs. Drought Warning

A drought watch is the first phase of drought response, focusing on public awareness and encouraging voluntary water conservation. A drought warning, which New Jersey has been under since November 2024, is the next stage. During this stage, residents are strongly urged to **use water sparingly to avoid a drought emergency**. Please remember, when it's rainy and cool, there's no need to turn on your sprinklers!

## Lead Service Line Replacement Update

For the roughly 1,700 "customer side" lead service lines in our four-town service area, 471 residents have signed up to have their lead service line replaced by Ridgewood Water, 184 have opted to handle the replacement themselves, and 208 lines (and counting) have already been replaced since 2024. Public water systems in New Jersey, including Ridgewood Water, are required to replace all lead and galvanized service lines in the communities they serve by 2031. So we are well on our way to meeting that deadline! If you have questions about your lead service line "status," **please reach out to Customer Service** at 201-670-5520 or [cswater@ridgewoodnj.net](mailto:cswater@ridgewoodnj.net).

## Closed on Memorial Day

Ridgewood Water will be **closed on Monday, May 26** in observance of Memorial Day. If you have a water emergency, please call 201-670-5520 and select "emergency" to reach the operator on duty. For all other inquiries, please leave a message or send an email to [cswater@ridgewoodnj.net](mailto:cswater@ridgewoodnj.net).



# Ridgewood Water Weekly

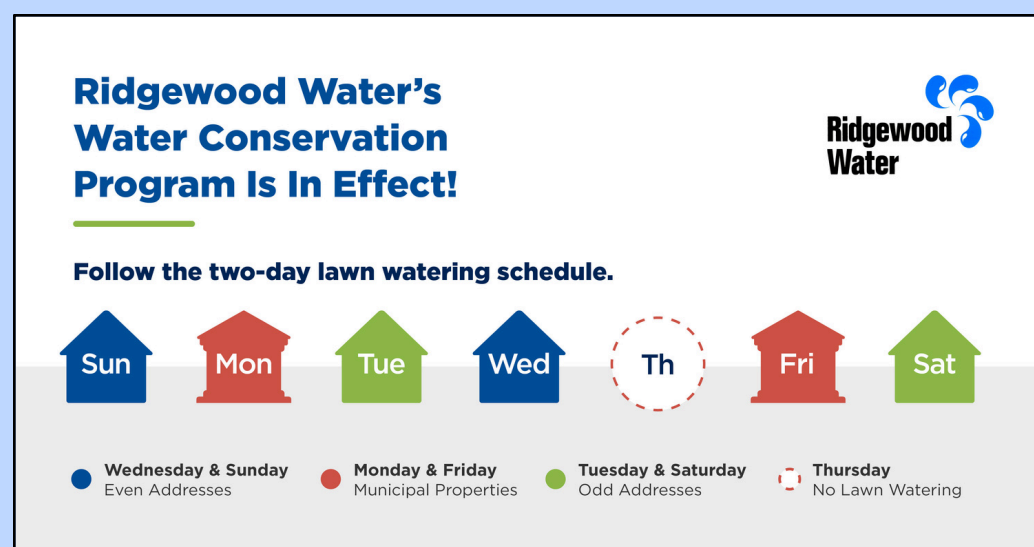
May 27, 2025

## Water Main Replacements Wrapping Up

Ridgewood Water's project to install new water distribution mains in the area of the Eastside Reservoir and future site of the Eastside PFAS Treatment Facility in Ridgewood is winding down. **Approximately 6,000 linear feet of mains are being replaced.** Here's what the eight-inch iron pipes look like! Later this year, construction is expected to begin on the Eastside PFAS Treatment Facility, which will include installing raw water mains connecting the East Saddle River Well and Salem Well with the new facility.



## Mandatory Two-Day Watering Schedule



Our two-day lawn watering schedule has been in effect in all four towns that we serve since 2017. The schedule was created because water usage during the summer is greater than our supply system can sustain, resulting in a reduction of the amount of water in reserve for firefighting and other emergencies. Just because you *can* water your lawn, however, doesn't mean that you should. **If it's been chilly and rainy, your sprinklers should *not* be running.**

## What Is Xeriscaping?

Outdoor water use accounts for about 30 percent of total household water use, and up to 50 percent of that water is wasted due to inefficient irrigation methods or evaporation, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. **By using water-efficient landscaping techniques, such as xeriscaping, you can reduce your overall usage and save money on your bill.** Xeriscaping involves the use of native plants (which are naturally drought resistant), grouping plants with similar watering needs together, using efficient irrigation methods (such as drip irrigation and soaker hoses), and incorporating hardscaping features such as rocks and mulch. It also creates unique curb appeal!