

The background of the top section is a wide-angle photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, there is a large area of green and brown seaweed or kelp growing in shallow water. The water extends to the horizon under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible. The overall scene is bright and scenic.

French Creek Newsletter

SUMMER 2026

Water Restriction Updates

Summer is here, bringing warm and dry weather. This is a time of year when our region typically sees less rainfall and higher water use, especially for outdoor activities like lawn watering and gardening.

Dry conditions over the past few years mean it's still important for all of us to use water thoughtfully, especially during the summer months.

In the French Creek system, water use increases by 300% during summer, largely due to outdoor watering. Small changes — like watering less often or choosing drought-tolerant landscaping — can help manage demand and support a reliable water supply for everyone.

This spring has been drier than usual, and there was less snow in the mountains than in past years. This means we need to protect our drinking water sources and nearby fish habitats. Simple steps to reduce non-essential water use can make a real difference.

Our region is currently at Drought Level 4, which is the second-highest level in British Columbia. Because of this, summer water restrictions are starting earlier than usual. The City of Parksville began Stage 3 watering restrictions on June 1. The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) begins Stage 3 on June 12. EPCOR will move to Stage 3 restrictions on July 1. These restrictions are in place to manage high summer demand and protect local water supplies.

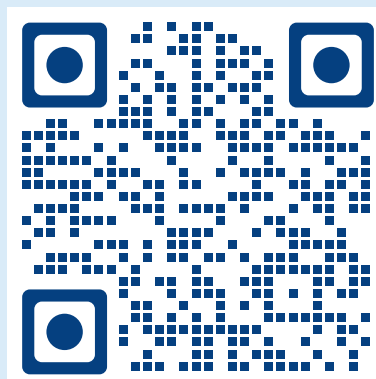
System upgrades in your community

We've completed upgrades to the French Creek water system, including a booster pump and two new pressure control stations.

These upgrades help keep water pressure steady across the system. This means more reliable service for your home and better support for fire protection.

Current Water Restrictions

For great tips on landscaping and irrigation, or to look for current restrictions, please visit: epcor.com/water-restrictions



Lawn care tips

You can keep your lawn healthy while using less water:

- **Add seed instead of more water:**
If your lawn needs help, try overseeding. Fall is best, but spring also works. Add seed before rain and use a light layer of compost or manure to help it grow.
- **Leave grass clippings on your lawn:**
This helps return nutrients to the soil. Keep grass shorter than 7.5 cm so clippings break down quickly. This can reduce the need for fertilizer.
- **Let your lawn rest during hot weather:**
Grass can go dormant during heat and drought. It will recover when it rains again. Avoid watering during heat waves.

Watch for water leaks

Fixing leaks saves water and money. Look for:

- Water pooling on your property
- Dripping taps
- Running toilets
- Water running when nothing is in use

If you notice any of these, fixing them quickly can help lower your bill.

Contact Us

Office Hours

Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Closed from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily

The office will be closed for the following holidays:
August 3, and September 7 and 30, 2026.

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