

Village of Middlefield, Ohio

Middlefield Means Business

September 18, 2024

Subject: Mandatory Water Conservation Measures and Penalties for Non-Compliance

Dear Middlefield Village Water Customer,

Due to ongoing drought conditions and a critical need to preserve our water resources, the Village of Middlefield Council is implementing **mandatory water conservation measures (moratorium on non-essential use of water)** for all customers, effective September 19, 2024. These restrictions are necessary to ensure a reliable water supply for the community per Ordinance 24-153.

Water Conservation Rules prohibit the following actions:

- (a) Watering lawns, flowers, trees, shrubs, or gardens;
- (b) Washing parking lots, driveways, sidewalks or residential siding;
- (c) Cleaning of motor vehicles, except in a high-pressure commercial car wash facility;
- (d) Filling swimming pools or fountains, or for other recreational purposes;
- (e) Any other non-essential use.

We ask all customers to strictly follow these guidelines to help reduce water consumption during this challenging time.

Other ways you can help conserve water during this time are:

1. **Fix leaks** – Even small leaks in faucets, pipes, and toilets can lead to significant water waste. Please check and repair any leaks promptly.
2. **Shorten showers** – Reducing your shower time by just a few minutes can save gallons of water each day.
3. **Turn off the tap** – Turn off the water while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing dishes.
4. **Use water-efficient appliances** – If possible, use high-efficiency washing machines and/or run machines with full loads, dishwashers, and low-flow showerheads to minimize water usage.

Penalties for Non-Compliance:

To ensure compliance, we will be monitoring water usage. Any person who violates the moratorium on non-essential use of water is guilty of a minor misdemeanor under Village ordinance, and may be subject to prosecution.



14860 North State Avenue

Middlefield, OH 44062-1019

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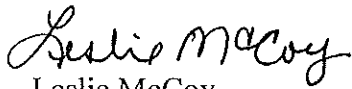
P: 855.209.8469 • F: 440.632.0591

www.middlefieldmeansbusiness.com

We understand that these restrictions may be inconvenient, but they are essential to preserving our water supply for essential uses. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this period.

If you have any questions or need assistance in reducing water usage, please contact us at 440.632.5248 or visit middlefieldohio.com for water-saving tips and resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie McCoy".

Leslie McCoy
Village Administrator

Enclosure Ordinance 24-153

Cc: File

ORDINANCE 24-153

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A MORATORIUM ON NON-ESSENTIAL USE OF WATER, ENACTING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 911.24 ENTITLED “AUTHORITY TO DECLARE MORATORIUM,” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Village of Middlefield operates a municipal water system and utility serving all homes and businesses located in the Village;

WHEREAS, the Village’s supply of water is limited, and the Village is nearing the planned capacity of its water supply and utility. Without further measures to conserve and increase the current municipal water system capacity, peak water demand in the Village will soon exceed the Village’s water supply and system capacity during the times of year when the supply is most limited;

WHEREAS, the Village has undertaken several measures and projects to increase water supply capacity, including the ongoing construction of infrastructure to bring Well No. 3 online, and is planning others projects, to accommodate current needs and additional connections;

WHEREAS, until the Village’s measures for increasing water system capacity are implemented and generate additional water system capacity, the Village desires to preserve the system capacity that remains in the water system;

WHEREAS, the Village wishes to extend the life of its current supply of water by enacting a moratorium on any non-essential use of water, including the use of water for watering lawns and plants, washing of cars (except for businesses engaged in the business of washing cars; and

WHEREAS, the moratorium is sufficiently limited to ensure that adequate supply of needed water for housing types and commercial and industrial facilities within the Village is not unreasonably restricted by the adoption of the moratorium;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Middlefield, County of Geauga, and State of Ohio that:

SECTION 1. A moratorium on the non-essential use of water is hereby declared in the Village of Middlefield, Ohio, for a period of six (6) months. During the moratorium, it shall be unlawful to use water from the Village water system for the purpose of:

- (a) Watering lawns, flowers, trees, shrubs, or gardens;
- (b) Washing parking lots, driveways, sidewalks or residential siding;

- (c) Cleaning of motor vehicles, except in a high-pressure commercial car wash facility;
- (d) Filling swimming pools or fountains, or for other recreational purposes;
- (e) Any other non-essential use.

SECTION 2. Council hereby enacts Codified Ordinance Section 911.24 entitled “Authority to Declare Moratorium,” which shall read in its entirety as follows.

911.24 AUTHORITY TO DECLARE MORATORIUM

(a) The Mayor or Mayor’s designee shall have the authority to declare a moratorium on the non-essential use of water from the Village’s water system, and to declare or specify prohibitions on the use of water during said moratorium, as deemed necessary by the Mayor.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary set forth in Codified Ordinance Section 911.99 hereof, whoever violates any prohibition on the use of water established by any moratorium, irrespective of whether said moratorium is declared by the Mayor under this section or enacted by ordinance of Council, shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance is hereby determined to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, to immediately implement measures to conserve the Village’s water supply. Therefore, provided it receives the necessary votes, this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage; otherwise to be in full force and effect from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

MAYOR

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

ATTEST:

FISCAL OFFICER