

## **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

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### **Water Use In North Georgia Plummets As Citizens Step Up To Conserve**

North Georgians are following the state's outdoor water use rules and conserving a significant amount of water according to an analysis of June 2008 water use data by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

"Responsible conservation choices and outdoor watering rules continue to be effective," said EPD Director Carol A. Couch. "Once again, Georgians are to be applauded for their cooperation and willingness to conserve during this drought."

According to data collected by EPD in the 55 north Georgia counties where a level four drought response remains in effect, water use in June 2008 decreased by 20 percent when compared to water use in June 2007. That's a savings of nearly 180 million gallons of water per day.

To date, 53 water utilities and local governments have been granted more flexible outdoor water use schedules after proving they have sufficient water supply and are actively conserving water. Utilities and governments dependent on Lake Lanier or on releases into the Chattahoochee River directly from Buford Dam are not eligible to petition for relaxed water restrictions, because the lake remains in bad shape. This includes most of metropolitan Atlanta.

"Limited relief from the outdoor watering restrictions has been granted with the understanding that should conditions worsen, tougher schedules will take effect immediately," said Director Couch. "This drought is persistent and will likely continue into the fall."

EPD, along with state climatologist Dr. David Stooksbury, will continue to monitor drought conditions and the status of water supplies around the state. The monthly water use data can be viewed at [www.georgiaepd.com](http://www.georgiaepd.com). Water conservation information and outdoor water use tips are available at [www.conservewatergeorgia.net](http://www.conservewatergeorgia.net). Drought information can be found at [www.georgiadrought.org](http://www.georgiadrought.org).

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