

WATERnews

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Regional District of Nanaimo is addressing drinking water quality concerns associated with ground water wells located in the Red Gap area.

Discolouration due to elevated iron and manganese levels in the water causes aesthetic concerns for residents, primarily those living in a number of Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service area neighbourhoods.

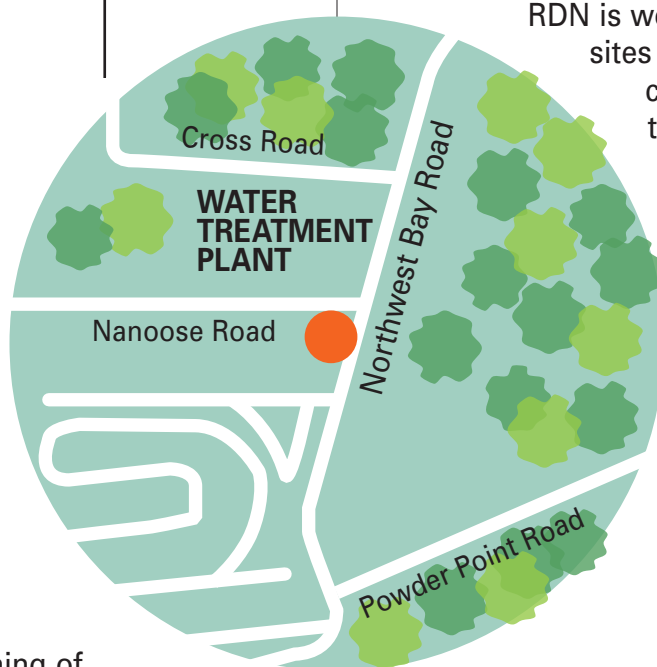
While there is no health risk associated with these elevated levels of iron and manganese, residents are concerned about issues such as coloured water, staining of appliances and staining of laundry.

The RDN Board has approved the construction of a \$2 million water treatment plant to be located at the corner of Northwest Bay Road and Nanoose Road.

The facility, to be built by C&M Construction, will treat the four RDN wells located in the Red Gap area. The four wells to be treated have the highest impact on water quality in the system, and the RDN anticipates that treatment will result in a significant reduction in iron and manganese concentrations.

Construction of the water treatment plant was originally planned to be nearing completion in 2011 however, significant delays have been encountered in securing permanent access to three of the four community wells slated for treatment. The RDN is working towards securing these sites permanently and anticipates a conclusion to that process prior to the commissioning of the water treatment plant.

It is anticipated that the water treatment plant will be completed by late summer of 2012.



For more information please visit www.nanoosewater.ca



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WATER USE REGULATIONS

The RDN Board recently approved changes to the sprinkling regulations for all RDN Water Service Areas. The RDN reviewed these regulations in partnership with the City of Parksville in order to have consistent regulations that meet the operational and water conservation needs of both organizations given the interconnected nature of the Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area and City of Parksville systems.

The proposed regulations allow for essentially the same amount of outdoor sprinkling but provide customers with greater flexibility as to when they water their gardens and lawns.

Old Regulations



Under the old regulations, during the hot summer months, residents were restricted to watering within a two-hour period in the morning (8-10am) and a two-hour period in the evening (8-10pm).

Updated Regulations



In the updated regulation the amount of time a person can water their lawns and gardens remains at two hours, but the periods in which they can water for the two hours would be expanded to 6-10 am and 6-10 pm.

This approach provides increased flexibility for water service area customers while still encouraging water conservation efforts. While this change may increase the incidence of water use in excess of the allotted time periods, past experience has demonstrated that the majority of residents abide by the outdoor sprinkling regulations. This increased flexibility is only possible if residents continue to sprinkle for the allowable time. Staff will continue to monitor outside water use with periodic vehicle patrols.



Other changes to the Water Use Regulation Bylaw include;

- Moving the month of May from Water Conservation Level 1 to Water Conservation Level 2;
- Allowing every other day watering with one hour in the morning period and one hour in the evening period for Level 3 (Currently once per week with four hours in the morning and four hours in the evening. Level 3 is rarely in effect – only during drought conditions);
- Allowing commercial exemptions with written permission (with annual renewals); and
- Allowing exemptions for public services and utilities.

For more information
please visit www.rdn.bc.ca

