

Tom Dale
Mayor



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News Release

Nampa Irrigation Season End Date

(August 26, 2013) - With some major effort and creativity, the City of Nampa will keep irrigation service to many of its customers through September 25th, despite losing canal water from two irrigation companies by September 5th.

The irrigation canals are the City's main sources for irrigation water. In an effort to stretch the irrigation season, we will use irrigation wells to keep the water flowing through September 25th, when the third irrigation company stops its canal service.

There are some customers in some areas of town we will not be able to serve during that time because the irrigation wells do not have enough water or water pressure to reach them.

All other customers will experience a significant decrease in irrigation water pressure, some areas of town more than others. (Please see the attached map)

Because of low pressure after September 5th most customers may need to operate sprinklers on manual mode, some may have to use a hose to water lawns.

To make our limited water stretch we ask customers to significantly cut back on watering. Experts with the University of Idaho Ag Extension Office tell us that the vast majority of lawns in this area are Kentucky bluegrass. Once you stop watering, Kentucky bluegrass goes into a dormant state. Although the grass will look brown it is not dead, next spring it will be green again. The Ag Extension Office has offered some helpful advice with an attached information sheet. The U of I Ag Extension Office invites people to call if they have additional questions.

Please Do Not use house water to irrigate your lawns. The City of Nampa does not have enough back up domestic water to fulfill all the irrigation needs. Using house water to irrigate also increases both the water and sewer bill. There will be no reductions in bills if house water is used.

There will be no refunds on the irrigation assessments paid by customers. There is never a guarantee on the length of an irrigation season as the City receives the majority of its irrigation water from canals and ditches supplied by mountain reservoirs like Arrow Rock, Lucky Peak and Anderson Ranch. The length of the season depends on water in the canals.

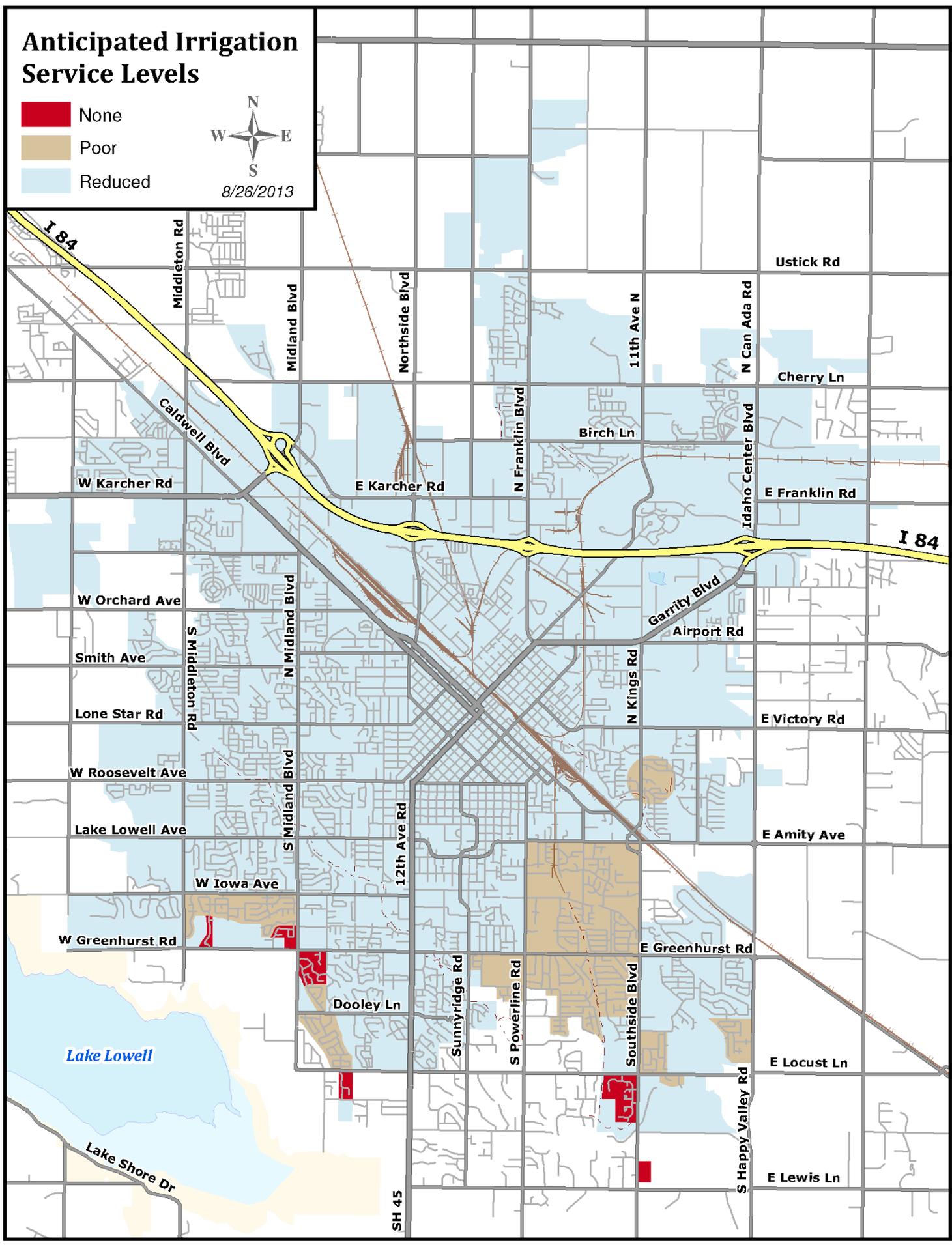
Nampa residents are known for pulling together when times get tough and we thank you in advance for your cooperation and your spirit of working together as a community. Together we can make our irrigation water stretch as a little longer.

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Anticipated Irrigation Service Levels

- None
- Poor
- Reduced



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www.uidaho.edu/extension/canyon/growingincanyoncounty
www.facebook.com/UIExtGrowVandals

Top 10 Tips for maintaining lawns in dry times:

1. Reduce turf area if possible. We all need a little green grass in our lives, but often have areas in the landscape that could be replaced with drought tolerant plants or a low maintenance rock garden.
2. Water deeply and infrequently to develop a strong, resilient, and deep root system. Instead of relying on a sprinkler timer and watering in frequent, shallow applications, let the turf tell you when it needs a drink. Turf will look more blue-gray than normal, footprints won't bounce back, and a screwdriver or other tool won't penetrate the soil. A good long soak (30-45 minutes to an hour, depending on the type of system) will keep the turf hydrated for several days or even a week. It's never too late to start watering more efficiently.
3. Water between midnight and 6 am if possible. Don't water during periods of high wind.
4. Check your sprinkler system now for any breaks, leaks, or areas of poor coverage.
5. Mow high and often: longer grass blades (2½ to 3 inches) have longer roots, which can tolerate drought much more effectively. Taller grass also shades the soil, reducing evaporation and shading out weed seeds. Don't remove more than 1/3 of the length at one mowing.
6. Leave the clippings on the lawn. They break down quickly, and return valuable nutrients to the soil. They *do not* cause thatch. Thatch is encouraged by overwatering and over fertilization.
7. Hold the fertilizer! Do most of your lawn fertilization in the fall, when natural precipitation is more likely to be available, and the grass will have the chance to grow a strong root system throughout the winter. Fertilizing in summer pushes the grass to grow even if there isn't sufficient water to support growth. That stresses turf!
8. Be watchful of weeds: drought stressed turf can be overtaken by vigorous weeds. But be careful when using most lawn herbicides around trees growing in the lawn.
9. Core aeration of lawns is recommended in fall to break up our heavy soils and allow for better air, water and fertilizer movement to the root system.
10. The above steps will help any lawn prepare for a dry spell. As a last resort, let the lawn hibernate. It won't necessarily be pretty, but healthy Kentucky Bluegrass can be allowed to go "warm season dormant" without completely dying if water is eventually restored by fall and winter rains.