



Drought Management Plan Proposed Update

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Ordinance History

- Current Ordinance language became effective in 2006.
- In 2008, the Ordinance was updated to remove language that allowed for a prohibition on sprinkler irrigation, but still allowed “additional measures to protect the aquifer”.
- In 2014, the Ordinance was updated to disallow installation and filling of new pools during Stage III drought restrictions.

Drought History

NBU has been in Stage III drought restrictions four times since 2006:

- Friday, August 10, 2012 duration of 45 days
- Monday, July 29, 2013 duration of 179 days
- Thursday, April 3, 2014 duration of 330 days
- Tuesday, June 21, 2022 current duration of 269 days

Drought Stage III

- In July 2022, following declaration of Stage III restrictions, NBU and City staff held a public meeting with builders and pool installers to educate the groups on effects of Stage III restrictions.
- Following a great concern from pool installers, NBU and City staff worked on a concession that still met the intention of the ordinance. Permits could be issued for pools through the variance process as long as installers and owners didn't fill the pools. This was augmented by the agreement not to plaster the pools.

Variations (calculations assume comparable sq. ft.)

- In the nine months since Stage III restrictions were implemented, NBU has received 91 pool variations;
 - Average pool water to fill requirements ----- 18,000 gal
 - Total water requirement to fill all 91 ----- 1,638,000 gal
 - Estimated total water use over 9 months ----- 2,024,978 gal
- In the same period NBU has received 1059 yard variations
 - Average water requirement for first 21 days per lawn of similar size 8,938 gal
 - Total water requirement for all lawns first 21 days ----- 9,465,342 gal
 - Estimated total water usage over 9 months ----- 20,282,674 gal

Recommended Ordinance Change

- NBU is recommending a single change to the Drought Management Plan
 - Allow installations of pools during Stage III drought restrictions
 - Reserve ability to prohibit issuance of permit during periods of exceptional drought

New Pools, Filling New Pools, Hot Tubs etc.	I, II, <u>III</u>	Construction, installation, and filling of new pools will be allowed.
	III	Construction, installation, and filling of new pools will not be allowed. If a building permit has already been issued for pool construction, before the drought management stage was declared, construction, installation, and filling of new pools is allowed. Property owners, prior to construction, installation, or filling of pools should submit by mail, facsimile, or e-mail to the NBU Conservation Coordinator their name, address where the new pool is to be installed, the date of installation, and copy of the approved building permit in order to receive an approval letter from NBU.

Justification

- Prohibiting installation of pools is only a temporary water savings mechanism.
- Properly maintained pools use less water than turf of similar square foot area.
- Higher impact water savings is seen in reducing turf watering.
- Drought Management Plan was written prior to larger diversification of NBU water supplies.
- NBU lacks resources to address full-time management of this section.

High Impact Water Savings vs Pools

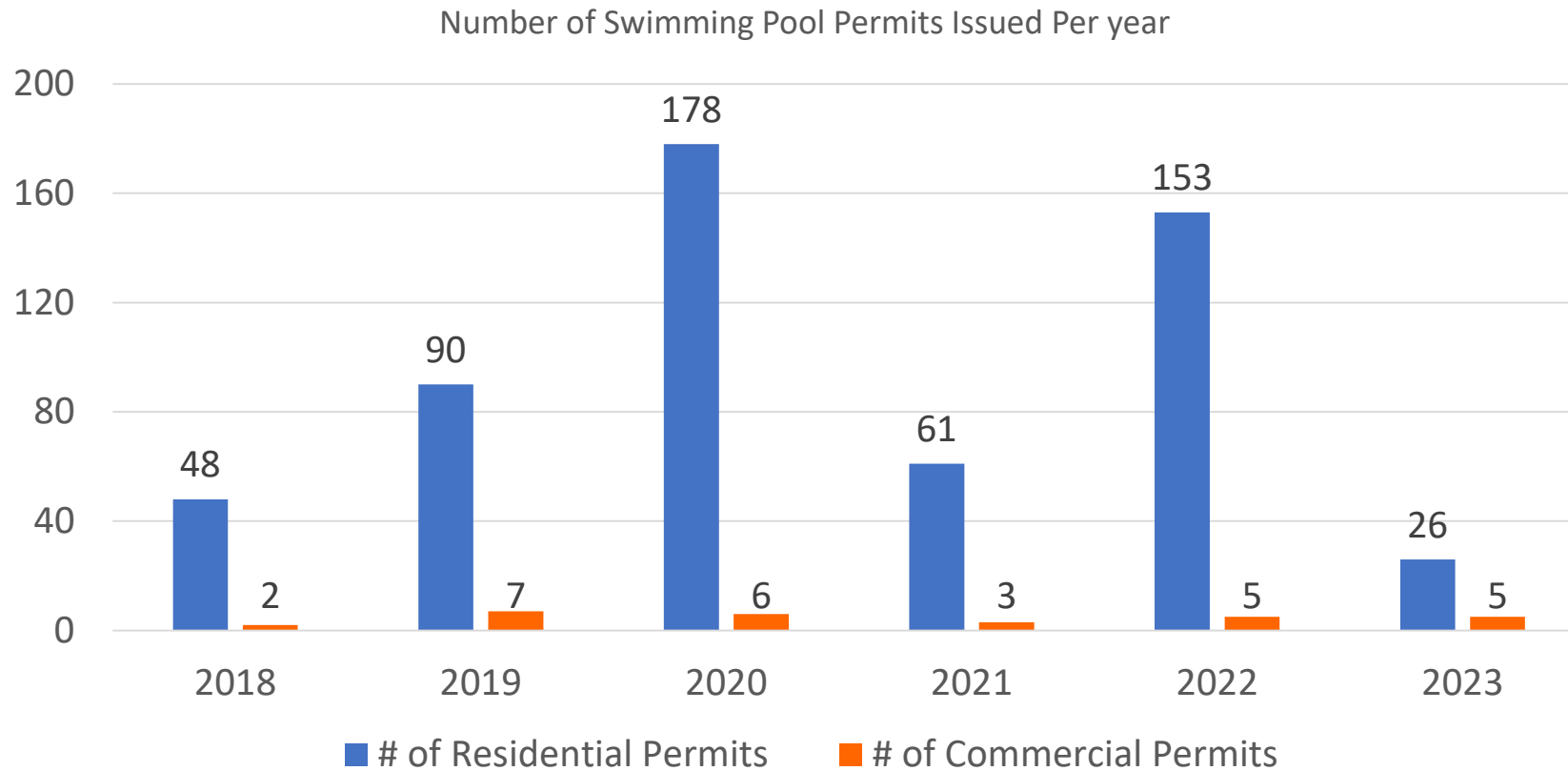
The average turf lawn in New Braunfels is 4,000 sq.ft.

- Estimated water use for average new lawn over last 9 months ----- 84,056 gal
- Estimated water use all 1059 lawns with variance over 9 months ----- 89,015,304 gal

Stage III

- Water saved, stage III 50% turf reduction, 2,000 sq.ft. per lawn ----- 42,028 gal
- Water saved by all 1059 lawns with variance ----- 44,507,652 gal
- Water saved by 91 pool variances ----- 2,024,895 gal

Pool Permit History



Next Steps

If resolution is approved:

- NBU staff will present proposed change to council on April 10th.
- If approved, second reading would be April 24th.

Questions?