

# Water conservation efforts help in drought

While drought conditions improved during a rainy month of May, Hilton Head experienced its driest April on record and was under “extreme drought” conditions most of the Winter and Spring.

When drought conditions hit the Lowcountry, the conversation around water shifts from routine to responsibility. According to PSD General Manager Pete Nardi, now is exactly the time for residents to take a closer look at how water is used at home — especially outdoors.

## A Living Example: The Demonstration Garden

In front of the PSD offices, a new demonstration garden is taking root — literally and figuratively. The garden showcases native, water-efficient, bird-friendly plants designed to thrive in the Lowcountry with minimal irrigation.

This project is a collaboration between the PSD, Hilton Head Audubon Society and the Lowcountry Master Gardeners. The Junior League of Hilton Head Island helped plant the garden on Earth Day.

A ribbon cutting was held May 30 in front of the PSD office on Oak Drive.

The goal of the Demonstration Garden is simple but powerful: To give residents a real-world example of what a beautiful, sustainable landscape can look like without heavy water use. Over time, this



The PSD’s Demonstration Garden at 21 Oak Park Drive was planted on Earth Day by the Hilton Head-Bluffton Junior Leadership Class.

space is meant to function as a practical guide — a living, growing reference point.

## Watering Wisely Starts at Home

Irrigation systems are often the quiet culprits of water waste. They run early, out of sight, and sometimes out of sync with what landscapes actually need.

On Hilton Head Island, a year-round ordinance limits irrigation to two days per week. It’s a simple rule with a meaningful impact, particularly during dry stretches.

Scan this QR code to find more ways you can help with water conservation.

But compliance alone isn’t the finish line. Efficiency is where real conservation happens.

A few tips for homeowners:

- Make sure your rain sensor is active and working so systems don’t run during or after rainfall
- Inspect sprinkler heads to confirm they’re watering landscaping — not sidewalks or asphalt
- Adjust zones seasonally so you’re not overwatering

## Hilton Head Town Ordinance

The irrigation ordinance on Hilton Head Island limits water use for irrigation to no more than twice per week, and requires irrigation systems to have a working rain gauge. Here are the details:

- Homes with even-numbered address: Exterior landscape irrigation on Tuesdays and Saturdays only
- Odd-numbered address: Irrigation on Wednesdays and Sundays only
- Commercial properties: Mondays and Thursdays only
- Common areas/no street address: Mondays and Thursdays only

# New drinking water well flowing

The PSD recently completed a “24-hour test” of our new drinking water well for the Reverse Osmosis Plant.

The water is looking great! The new well is flowing at 1,600 gallons per minute, or equivalent to about 2.3 million gallons per day.

This well is drilled approximately 600 feet deep into the brackish Middle Floridan Aquifer. It will allow the PSD to increase the treatment capacity in its Reverse Osmosis (RO) Drinking Water Treatment Facility on Jenkins Island.

The increased capacity will represent the average day’s demand for drinking water in the PSD service area. RO treatment is a leading method for producing high-quality drinking water. The PSD’s RO plant opened in 2009. The project is necessary to ensure the island’s long-term water supply in the face of ongoing saltwater intrusion into the shallower Upper Floridan Aquifer, which had been the island’s traditional source of drinking water. The PSD has lost 10 of its 14 wells into the Upper Floridan Aquifer to saltwater intrusion since 2000.



## It's Hurricane season. Are you prepared?

Make sure you have your hurricane plan in place. Your plan should include:

- Knowing your zone & evacuation route
- Preparing "go" bags and making sure important documents are in order/easy to grab
- Putting together a hurricane kit that includes emergency supplies, non-perishable food and water
- Making sure you know where your main water supply valve is and how to protect your home

**MORE INFO:** [hhpsd.com/hurricane-preparedness](https://hhpsd.com/hurricane-preparedness)

## It's official: Our water is clean & safe

Our 2025 Water Quality Report is ready — and once again, Hilton Head PSD meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. From source to tap, our team works year-round to ensure your water is not only safe, but sustainable.

To view the 2025 report, go to:

[hhpsd.com/water-quality-reports](https://hhpsd.com/water-quality-reports)

You can watch PSD General Manager Pete Nardi's recent appearance on WHHI-TV to catch up on PSD happenings.

Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera.




## PSD Award Roundup

The PSD has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This is the PSD's 16th consecutive year receiving the award. It is "the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management," according to the association. The award is for the PSD's 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which can be found on [hhpsd.com](https://hhpsd.com). PSD Finance Manager Amy Graybill is the primary author of the report.

- Congrats to PSD's Assistant Finance Manager, Angie Hughes, who has earned the Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) designation through the Government Finance Officers Association of South Carolina. "The PSD is committed to excellence in financial reporting and planning. The CGFO designation is earned through rigorous coursework and evaluation," said PSD General Manager Pete Nardi. "Angie's achievement of this professional certification enhances the utility's efforts in this area."

- The PSD has once again earned the S.C. Department of Environmental Services' Facility Excellence Award. The award recognizes the PSD's environmental protection efforts with its Recycled Water Plant on Oak Park Drive, and for its sanitary sewer collection system. "The PSD is committed to the protection of our public health and the island's delicate environment through our vital recycled water program," said Nardi. "This service represents our community's most effective and efficient way of ensuring a high quality of life now and for generations to come."

- The PSD Water Quality Laboratory has once again been recognized as a Laboratory of Excellence as part of its annual certification by the S.C. Department of Environmental Services. The independent agency that conducts the certification recognized the PSD lab "achieving 100% acceptable data" in a group of 866 participating labs, according to a statement from the independent agency. The PSD Water Quality Laboratory conducts thousands of tests annually on the quality of our tap water and treated recycled water. It is led by PSD Water Quality Supervisor Sarah Hickman.

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