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Water chief: Conservation still needed

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Greenville Water System's General Manager Lynn Stovall wants his customers to take shorter showers.

Although the lakes have come back up some and the drought is less severe, there's no reason to waste water. And with wallets and personal budgets tightening, conservation should be a no-brainer, he said.

"You save water," he said, "and your water and sewer bill will be much lower."

As a reminder, Stovall's team has sent out postcards asking, "Are You an Aquaholic?"

A what?

"Aquaholics are addicted to wasting water," the postcard says. "They take 20-minute showers, soak their lawns at all hours of the day and brush their teeth with the water running."

Here's the water system's voluntary request: "Reduce your water usage to 65 gallons a day ... per person."

Daily use is constant, but the water system is designed so it can expand as the community does, Stovall said.

John Tomko, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said the area is just emerging from a three-year drought. Stovall is asking Upstate residents to use less water at a time when many begin increasing consumption by watering grass, trees, flower beds and gardens.

The best time to water your lawn is between 4 a.m. to 6 a.m., Stovall said. For those without automatic sprinklers, try watering before work. Watering a lawn in the middle of the day is wasteful, he said.