

# A Recipe for Water Resiliency

## 10 INGREDIENTS FOR ENHANCED WATER CONSERVATION

- **Adopt a Water Use Bylaw** that incorporates all aspects of the recipe and requires that new development or re-development minimize water use to achieve water neutral growth.
- **Adopt or participate in a Water Bank** to allow developers to pay into a fund to offset their new water use elsewhere in the community.
- **Complete a Community Water Use Profile** to scientifically determine how water is being used throughout the community to determine the specific strategies to lower discretionary water use. Engage directly with the top 10% of residential and commercial water users and implement the Department of Environmental Protection's *Healthy Lawn, Happy Summer* program.
- **Conduct an advanced water audit** (known as M-36) and implement a rigorous leak detection and repair program.
- **Analyze local zoning and land use regulations** to identify opportunities to reduce water use and recharge our aquifers through green infrastructure and by making Low-Impact Development the norm.
- **Increase public education and awareness** on why and how to reduce water use.
- **Prohibit the installation of new underground irrigation systems** and offer an incentive program to decommission existing systems.
- **Establish a water conservation incentive program** to help pay for residential and commercial water audits, rebates for fixture upgrades, rain barrels, and other measures.
- **Implement a private well bylaw** so that all water withdrawals are subject to the same rules and everyone participates in saving water.
- **Monitor progress and adjust as needed** to ensure water use reduction goals are met until water use is on declining trajectory towards 40 gallons per person per day.

**Congratulations!** Implementing the recipe will save between 15-40% of your town's water use depending on your starting point. The North Shore Greenscapes Coalition stands ready to help implement the recipe free of charge.

Find more resources online at  
[pie-rivers.org](http://pie-rivers.org) | [greenscapes.org](http://greenscapes.org) | [ipswichriver.org](http://ipswichriver.org)

