

Hydrologic Conditions – November 2022

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of November 2022 and can be accessed at:

<http://ny.water.usgs.gov/projects/eom/>

During November, monthly precipitation totals averaged 4.1 inches, and 0.7 inches above normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (6.9 inches) and largest positive departure from normal quantities (3.0 inches) were recorded in Erie County. The lowest precipitation amount (2.4 inches) and largest negative departure from normal quantities (-1.3 inches) were recorded in Suffolk County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 29 recorded normal levels, 2 recorded wet levels, 1 recorded dry levels, and none recorded very dry levels during November. The National Weather Service (NWS) flood stage for Cattaraugus Creek at Gowanda, NY (04213500) was exceeded for about two hours around midnight between November 11 and 12. Peak stage during the flood was about 10.3 feet (0.3 feet higher than the NWS flood stage of 10 feet). During November, the NWS flood stage was not exceeded at any other index streamflow sites.

At the end of November, a Drought Watch designation, as issued by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), remained in effect for seven counties in two of the nine drought regions (Long Island and Catskills).

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during November were about 0.5 feet below long-term monthly average water levels (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 79.5 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 3.0 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 82.5 percent (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/reservoir-levels.page>).

The statistics that are used to evaluate end of month groundwater conditions were not readily available for November 2022 because the USGS Groundwater Watch application was discontinued in September 2022 (<https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/>). An effort to address the discontinuation of Groundwater Watch is in progress at the New York Water Science Center.

Exceedance percentages shown on the Hydrologic Conditions Mapper are calculated for individual USGS sites. This information, along with additional information from other Federal, State, and local agencies, assists the NYSDEC and the State Drought Management Task Force with evaluating regional conditions for determination of drought classifications.

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