

Hydrologic Conditions – November 2023

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of November 2023 and can be accessed at:

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

During November, monthly precipitation totals averaged 2.2 inches, and 1.2 inches below normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (4.3 inches) and smallest negative departure from normal quantities (-0.2 inches) were recorded in Lewis County. There were no positive departures from normal quantities in November. The lowest precipitation amount (1.2 inches) was recorded in Chemung County, and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-2.0 inches) was recorded in Cortland County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 23 recorded normal levels, none recorded wet levels, 7 recorded dry levels, and 2 recorded very dry levels during November. The National Weather Service flood stage was not exceeded at any of the index streamflow sites during November.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) reported that all drought regions in New York State were in normal status at the end of November.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during November were about 0.2 feet below long-term monthly average water levels (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 89.9 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 8.1 percent more than the normal storage capacity of about 81.8 percent (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/reservoir-levels.page>).

To address the discontinuation of the nationwide USGS Groundwater Watch application, the New York Water Science Center has developed a New York Groundwater Watch application that can be accessed at <https://rconnect.usgs.gov/content/99cc8726-7baa-45af-a5bd-bced25ff82db/>. Monthly groundwater data from November 2023 indicates that water level observations in western New York were mostly below normal while water level observations throughout the rest of the state (excluding Long Island) were mostly normal and above normal. Water level observations on Long Island were mostly normal and below normal but ranged from low (less than the 5th percentile) to high (greater than or equal to the 95th percentile). An effort to provide monthly groundwater conditions on the Hydrologic Conditions Mapper is still in progress.

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.

Alex Graziano, Hydrologist, New York Water Science Center

Phone: 518-527-5843

Email: agraziano@usgs.gov