

Hydrologic Conditions – November 2024

The Hydrologic Conditions Mapper for New York State has been updated for the month of November 2024 and can be accessed at:

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

During November, monthly precipitation totals averaged 3.1 inches, and 0.3 inches below normal quantities across the State. The highest precipitation amount (4.2 inches) was recorded in Chautauqua County, and the largest positive departure from normal quantities (0.7 inches) was recorded in Schenectady County. The lowest precipitation amount (1.9 inches) was recorded in Clinton County, and the largest negative departure from normal quantities (-1.4 inches) was recorded in Hamilton County.

Of the 32 index streamflow sites, 6 recorded normal levels, none recorded wet levels, 19 recorded dry levels, and 7 recorded very dry levels during November. The very dry levels were all recorded in the eastern side of the state.

On November 18, New York Governor Kathy Hochul issued a Drought Warning for two of the nine drought regions (Catskills and New York City) and a Drought Watch for the rest of the state. At the end of November, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) indicated that these drought designations remained in effect.

Average lake levels of Lake Ontario during November were about 0.4 feet below long-term monthly average water levels (<https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/>).

New York City reservoirs were collectively at about 59.9 percent of capacity at the end of the month; about 22.1 percent less than the normal storage capacity of about 82.0 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 2024 indicates that water levels were mostly below normal across New York State except for on Long Island where water levels were mostly normal. Many of the below normal water levels across the state were low (less than the 5th 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