

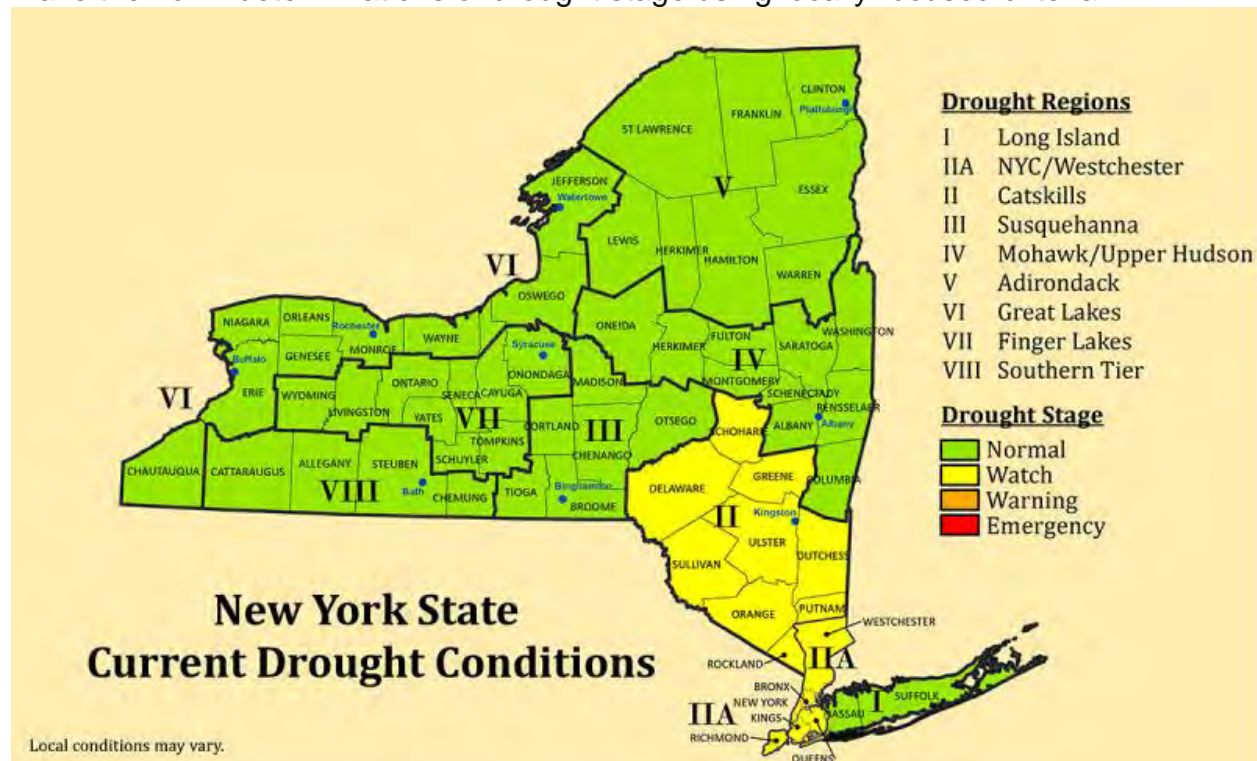
# NORTHERN WESTCHESTER JOINT WATER WORKS VOLUNTARY WATER RESTRICTION NOTICE

**EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 13, 2024**

The Northern Westchester Joint Water Works (NWJWW) provides drinking water to the Town of Cortlandt, Town of Yorktown, Town of Somers, Montrose Improvement District, and Buchanan through the operation of 2 surface water treatment plants. Water is purchased from New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), treated at the Catskill and/or Amawalk Treatment Facilities, and sold to the member towns.

During periods of a drought, a major leak, a system failure, or excessive consumption beyond the capacity of the system, etc., the NWJWW has the authority to conserve and restrict water use based upon our needs to ensure adequate supply for domestic and firefighting needs. During times of drought or other problems that limit the availability of water, public notice of water use restrictions will be issued by NWJWW and enforced by distribution system superintendents through local law enforcement agencies.

**New York State has declared the Drought Regions II and IIA are now at a Drought Watch.** Drought status determinations are based on a State Drought Index that uses New York State specific attributes, so it may differ somewhat from national drought assessments. In addition, local conditions may vary, so some areas of the state may make their own determinations of drought stage using locally-focused criteria.



A "watch" is the first of four levels of state drought advisories ("watch," "warning," "emergency" and "disaster"). There are no statewide mandatory water use restrictions in place under a drought watch, but residents are strongly encouraged to voluntarily conserve water. Local public water suppliers may require conservation measures, depending upon local needs and conditions.

**The New York City Water Supply System, which supplies the NWJWW with raw water, has declared a drought watch.** The historically low rainfall received in the region over the past 2 months, above average temperatures and the Delaware Aqueduct Repair project were all contributing factors to the decision.

Under a drought watch NYCDEP and other NYC agencies will be reviewing and updating water conservation and demand management plans. As a wholesale water customer from the NYC Water Supply System, NYCDEP is requesting the NWJWW & member municipalities to take these steps:

1. Review water system usage and identify potential water efficiencies
2. Review and update your systems water conservation plan
3. Encourage customers to practice voluntary water conservation measures

A drought watch is the first of three levels of water conservation declarations by the city. As conditions continue to evolve, the city may declare a drought warning or, subsequently, a drought emergency, which involve escalating requirements to reduce water usage at agencies and on New Yorkers. Should the city declare a drought emergency, water conservation measures will be mandated by the residents receiving water from the NWJWW.

**New York City's Water Supply System**  
November 12, 2024

Total Storage		Average Precipitation		
	(% of Capacity)		Actual	Historical
Current:	62.4	September:	1.36	4.72
Normal:	79.2	October:	0.87	4.12
<b>Consumption</b>	(billion gallons)	November:	0.21	1.08
11/11/24	1.01			

Real time reservoir levels can be found following the following link: by

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/reservoir-levels.page>

Additionally on November 12, 2024

New York State declared a State wide burn ban in wake of the current wildfires in the Hudson Valley, limited precipitation, and low reservoir levels.

This burn ban prohibits the starting of outdoor fires statewide for purposes of brush and debris disposal, as well as uncontained campfires, and open fires used for cooking. Backyard fire pits and contained campfires less than three feet in height and four feet in length, width, or diameter are allowed, as are small, contained cooking fires.

Steps you can take to conserve water are:

## **BATHROOM**

Household leaks are most commonly found in the bathroom and especially in toilets.

- Take shorter showers and save 5 to 7 gallons a minute
- When taking a bath, fill the tub only halfway and save 10 to 15 gallons
- Install water-saving toilets, showerheads and faucet aerators. Place a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank if you cannot switch to a low-flow toilet.
- Turn off the faucet while shaving, washing your hands or brushing your teeth. Faucets use 2 to 3 gallons a minute.
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket, and don't flush it unnecessarily.

## **KITCHEN**

- Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when full. Save even more by using the short cycle.
- Install faucet aerators.
- Turn off the water while washing dishes. Kitchen faucets use 2 to 3 gallons a minute. Filling a basin only takes 10 gallons to wash and rinse.

## **OUTSIDE**

- Use a self-closing nozzle on your hose.
- Sweep your sidewalk or driveway instead of using water.

These small steps will ensure we continue to have adequate supply. Public inquiry can be directed to Matthew Geho-NWJWW Operations Director-914-737-3558 ext # 111 or [matthewgeho@nwjww.com](mailto:matthewgeho@nwjww.com).