

# LEVEL 1 Low Water Condition Factsheet

## Level 1 Low Water Condition Declared as of June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### What are Low Water Condition Declarations

A Low Water condition is declared when precipitation amounts and/or streamflow rates fall below pre-determined thresholds.

These thresholds are set by the provincial government in its Low Water Response Program. Low Water condition levels range from Level I to Level III, representing progressively more severe water supply shortages and restrictions on water use.

HCA and the Hamilton Low Water Response Team are responsible for evaluating watershed conditions and declaring Low Water conditions for the HCA watershed.

### Current Declaration

A Level 1 Low Water Condition has been declared for the entire HCA watershed. This includes Spencer Creek, Chedoke Creek, Redhill Creek, Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek, Stoney Creek Numbered Watercourses, as well as all of their tributaries and other minor watercourses.

Level 1 was declared as three-month precipitation totals were mostly below 80% of long-term averages, and 30-day average streamflows were mostly below the minimum average summer month flow.

### Current Conditions

The three-month precipitation totals (April 1-June 30) indicated Level 1 Low Water Conditions. The three-month precipitation totals were 48-85% of long-term averages, with 6 of 8 stations receiving less than 80% (the threshold for Level 1).

In addition, 30-day average streamflows at the end of June indicated Level 1 or Level 2 Low Water Conditions at three of the five available stations (Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road, Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5, and Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street).

Details of the Ontario Low Water Response Program are available at: [www.ontario.ca/page/low-water-response-program](http://www.ontario.ca/page/low-water-response-program)

## What can you do to help?

At this time, the Hamilton Low Water Response Team is encouraging a 10 percent reduction in water use. This applies to all users of water supplied from watercourses, waterbodies and groundwater sources within the HCA watershed.

Reducing the use of these water sources at this critical time will avoid more serious shortages in the watershed, and lessen the impact of reduced water availability on our environment.

Water users reliant on the municipal water system are asked to follow any active municipal water use bylaws.

**It's important we all do our part to reduce water use in our watershed.**

### At Home

- Follow local lawn watering restrictions in your area
- Water your gardens in the morning or evening rather than the heat of the day (where permitted)
- Use a broom to clean paved surfaces instead of water
- Install toilet dams
- Use rain barrels water you need around the yard
- Repair leaky faucets
- Reduce non-essential water use (car washing, lawn watering)

### Municipal Users

- Actively encourage compliance with outdoor water use by-laws.
- Reduce water withdrawals for park and public lands irrigation by scheduling withdrawals, use of storage.

### Golf Course Users

- Make use of water storage on the course
- Withdraw water more slowly over a longer period of time (i.e. reduce pumping rate)
- Schedule surface water withdrawals with neighbouring golf courses.

### Agricultural Users

- Mobilize a local agricultural water users group
- Withdraw water more slowly over a longer period of time (i.e. reduce pumping rate)
- Schedule surface water withdrawals with neighbouring water takers

### Aggregate Users

- Reduce non-essential water use (e.g. landscape watering) and use efficient equipment for washing and dust suppression
- Aggregate operations with washing plants increase surveillance of wash operations to identify and correct any water losses (e.g. leaky pipes)
- Recycle washing water and augment from dewatering effluent
- Closely monitor operating levels and permit conditions (e.g. pond levels) where applicable
- Withdraw surface water slowly over a longer period of time (i.e. reduce pumping rate)

Want more information on Low Water Conditions?  
Call 905-525-2181, ext. 138



A Healthy Watershed for Everyone