

LEVEL 2 Low Water Condition Factsheet

Level 2 Low Water Condition Declared as of October 20, 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

The HCA watershed has been in a Level 1 Low Water Condition since July 28th, 2022. A Level 2 Low Water Condition has now 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 2 was declared as one-month and three-month precipitation totals were mostly below 60% of long-term averages, and 30-day average streamflows were mostly below 30% of the minimum average summer month flows.

Current Conditions

Three-month precipitation totals (July 1-September 30) indicated Level 1 or Level 2 Low Water Conditions. Also, one-month precipitation totals (September 1 to 30) indicated Level 2 Low Water Conditions.

In addition, 30-day average streamflows at the end of September indicated Level 3 Low Water Conditions at all three Spencer Creek stations, and Level 2 Low Water Conditions at the Ancaster Creek and Red Hill Creek stations.

Details of the Ontario Low Water Response Program are available at: 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 20 percent voluntary reduction in normal 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 to water around the yard
- Repair leaky faucets
- Reduce non-essential water use (car washing, lawn watering)

Municipal Users

- Maintain but minimize municipal supply groundwater withdrawals
- Actively encourage compliance with outdoor water use by-laws.
- Implement outdoor water use bans where municipal supply is groundwater based
- Reduce water withdrawals for park and public lands irrigation by selective watering, scheduling withdrawals, and use of storage.

Golf Course Users

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

Agricultural Users

- Eliminate non-essential water use
- Further reduce pumping rate, and make use of storage
- Irrigate dusk to dawn if possible
- Collectively co-ordinate surface water takings with other water takers

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

Aggregate Users

- Eliminate non-essential water use, including landscape watering and equipment washing
- Utilize dewatering effluent for storage, and make use of water storage on site
- Where practical, reduce below water table excavations of sand and gravel

Municipal, Golf Course, Agricultural and Aggregate Users should report actions taken to sector representative and Low Water Response Team



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