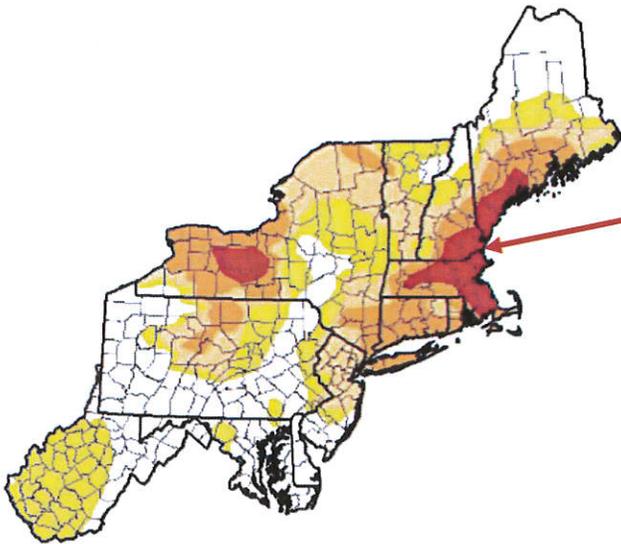


October 20, 2016

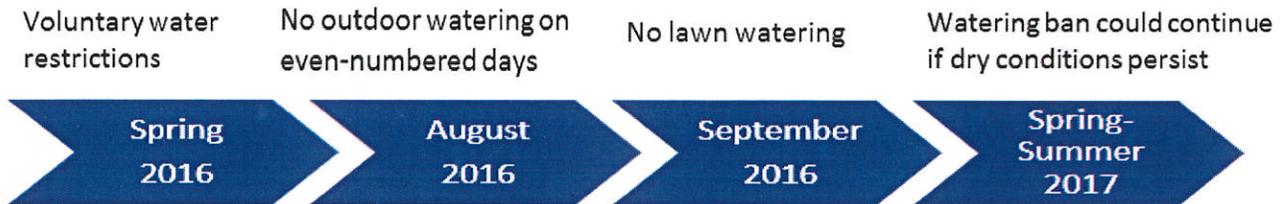


Portsmouth Water Supply Update



As you may be aware, the extreme drought conditions throughout 2016 have affected the Portsmouth Water System. This graphic shows how dry the sea-coast area has been, according to the October 4, 2016 New England Drought Monitor. **The area in red shows Portsmouth in Extreme Drought.** The drought has caused stream levels to be at all-time low flows, depleting our reservoir's capacity and has also lowered groundwater availability to our wells.

The timeline below details the measures we have had customers take in order to reduce water demand to preserve our water supply.



These actions are not only in response to a dry summer, but the less than normal precipitation experienced in our area for over the past year. Fortunately, most of our water customers have complied with these restrictions, reducing water demands by 20-25 percent within a couple weeks of implementation.

While this is encouraging news, these measures may likely remain throughout the winter and into next summer unless we receive significant precipitation. The long-range forecast does not project any significant change in our current weather pattern, but that is not certain. However, as demonstrated in these initial water demand reductions, it is very important that the community complies with restrictions to help maintain ample water supply in our system. The back side of this flyer includes further information about improving water efficiency.

In order to continue to better inform our customers of water supply conditions the City of Portsmouth's water operations staff have developed a monthly "Water Supply Update" that includes a summary of our supply and demand conditions. This information is posted on the City's website at the link below.

For further information please visit the Department of Public Works' water page at:
www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks [water]