

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2020

Portsmouth Water Division Implements Voluntary Water Restrictions

PORTSMOUTH, NH – The August 18, 2020 Drought Monitor elevated New Hampshire’s drought conditions in the seacoast area to Severe Drought (D2). This level was changed from the previous condition of Moderate Drought set on June 23, 2020. The New Hampshire Seacoast has received only 8 inches of precipitation since the beginning of May. In a normal year we would expect to receive about 14 inches of precipitation. The state has convened their Drought Management Task Force and has advised public water systems to implement outdoor water use restrictions where needed. Based upon these conditions and the state’s recommendation, the City of Portsmouth is encouraging **Voluntary Water Use Restrictions**. Portsmouth water customers are requested to voluntarily restrict their use of water for outdoor irrigation, be as efficient as possible and refrain from outdoor watering between the hours of 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.

“Although our groundwater levels remain fairly good, according to data tracked by the City’s water operations staff, river levels are very low for this time of year and the reservoir is also lower than normal,” states Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Public Works. “Other water systems on the Seacoast are experiencing similar conditions. While we’ve had recent rain events, they have not been much in volume and it will take additional rainfall to recover from drought conditions. Therefore, for the long-term sustainability of our water resources it is very important that our customers take this seriously and cooperate in being efficient with their water use. If we can get good compliance with voluntary measures, coupled with some precipitation, then we may not need to increase the restrictions.”

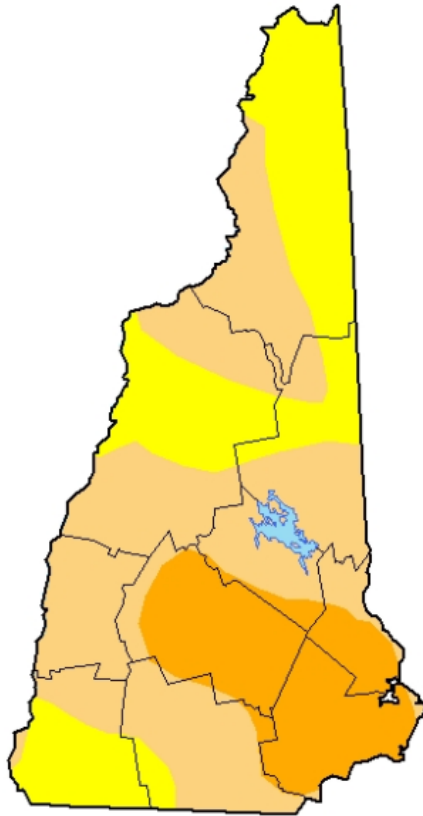
Customers can access full Water Supply Status Reports and Water Efficiency Tips at:

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks/water>







For additional information, please contact Al Pratt, Water Resources Manager at 520-0622 or Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Public Works at 766-1420.

U.S. Drought Monitor New Hampshire

August 18, 2020
(Released Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

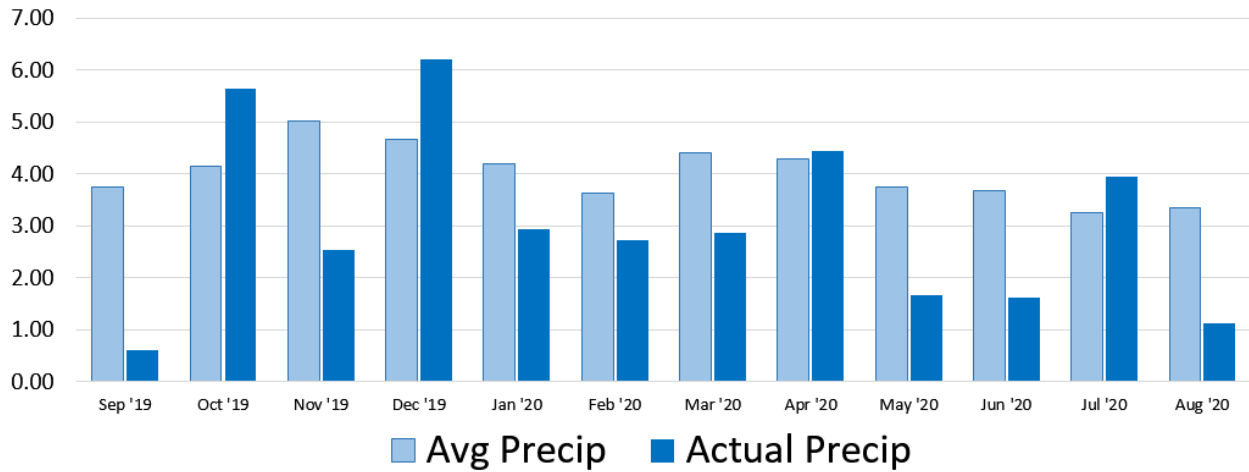
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

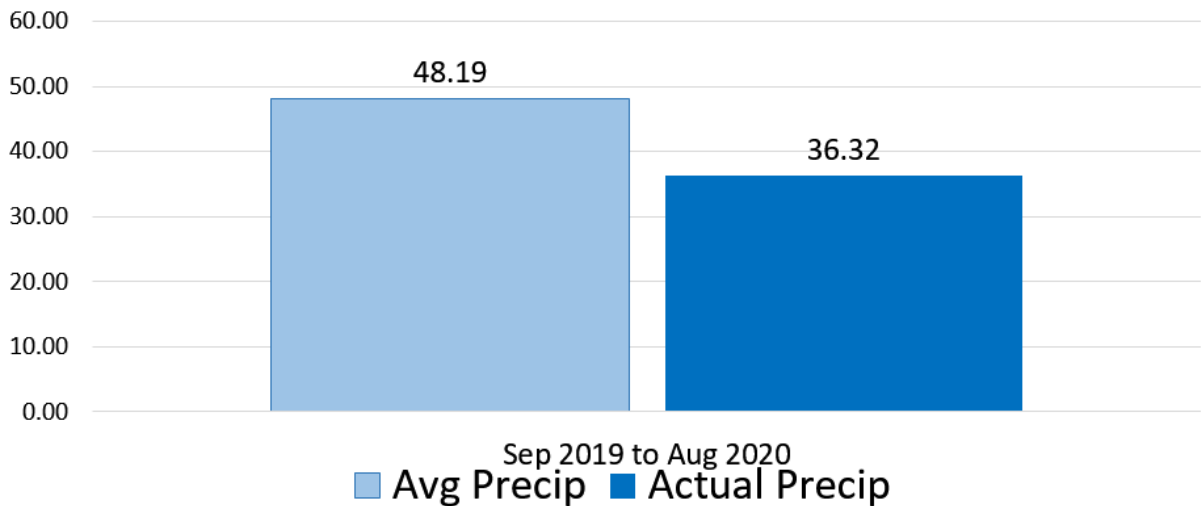
Monthly Precipitation

Precipitation – Inches Per Month



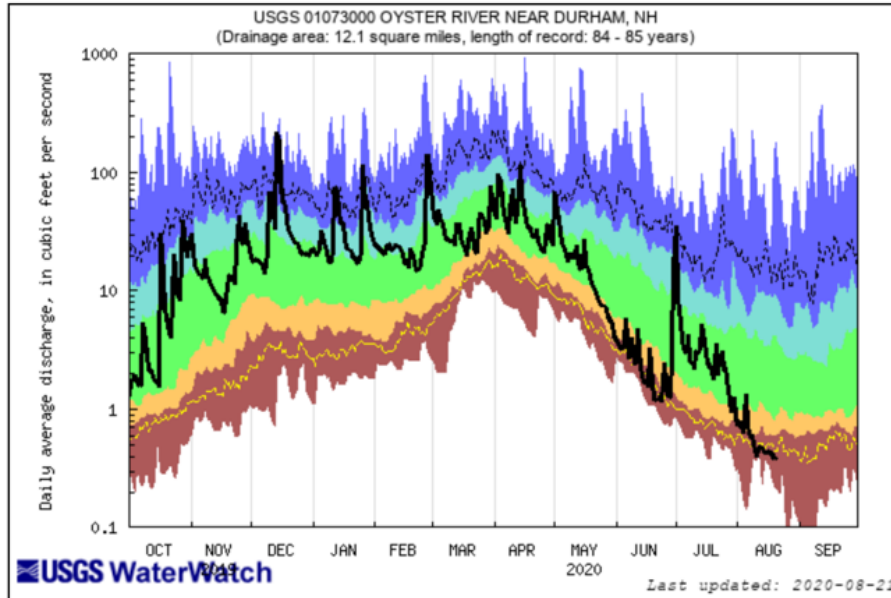
Rolling 12-Month Total Precipitation

Precipitation – Inches Per Year



- **Data through August 23, 2020**

August 20, 2020 River Flow Conditions



Explanation - Percentile classes							
lowest-10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile-highest	Flow
Much below Normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal			