

YORK WATER DISTRICT CONSERVATION CORNER

WINTER 2025-2026



The Town of York is a pristine coastal Maine town with beautiful sandy beaches, the historic Nubble Lighthouse, Mount Agamenticus Conservation Region, and numerous local businesses. All of these make us a destination point for tens of thousands of people in the summer months. With an annual local population of about 14,000, the summer months see the town balloon to an estimated 40,000. As fall arrives, so does school, cooler temperatures, and a change in people's itineraries. While the number of beachgoers may slow, fall tourism takes over. The beautiful fall colors combined with the scenic oceanscape makes the area a beacon for spectators and photographers alike. As such, many businesses and homeowners are extending the use of their irrigation systems to maintain those vibrant greenscapes as long as possible before the cold weather sets in. Unfortunately, this lengthens the higher water demand season and shortens the pond recharge window.

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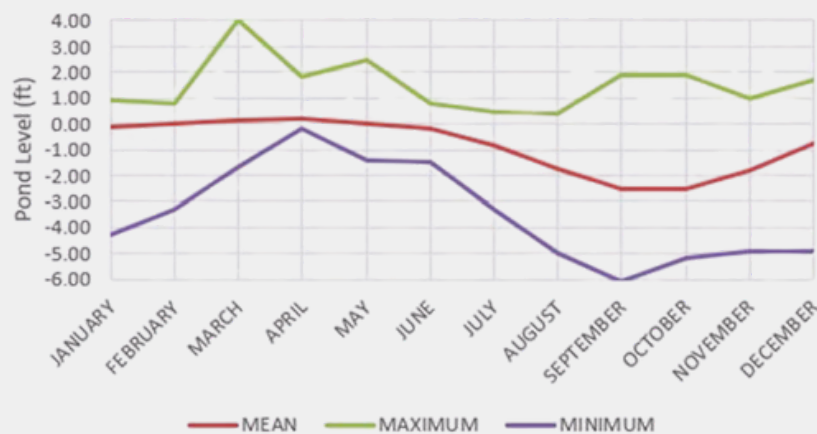
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FALL 2025 SUMMARY:

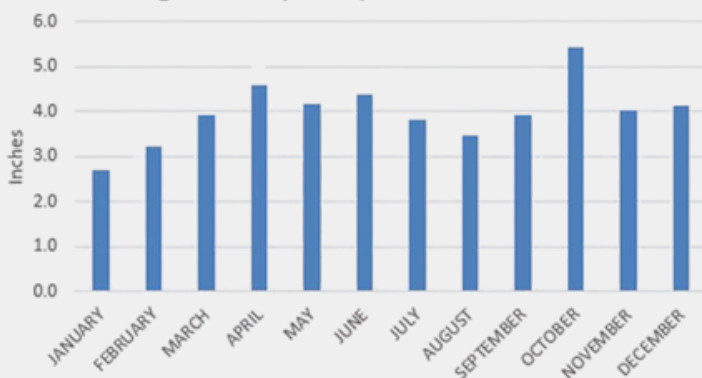
As of the start of December we have continued to see less than average precipitation levels. Additionally, the treatment plant pumped over 5 MG more this fall than the historical average, although this has become the new normal since Covid. These two factors combined have translated to starting the winter with one of the lowest Chases Pond levels in over 30 years.



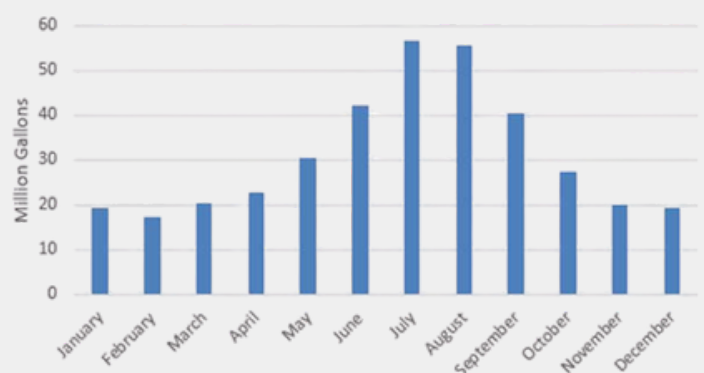
Average Monthly Pond Level



Average Monthly Precipitation at Chases Pond



Average Monthly Water Pumped Since 2004



Conservation Corner

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CONSERVATION TIPS

Water conservation is a practical and responsible practice year-round. However, if the need arises, the District may request voluntary or even mandatory water conservation. The following tips can be used to promote good water conservation habits!

- Have a water bottle in the refrigerator so the faucet isn't running waiting for cold water.
- Make sure the faucets and hose bibs are shut off tightly after each use.
- When brushing teeth, make sure the water is off once the toothbrush is dampened.
- If you don't finish a glass of water, use it to water the household plants.
- If ice cubes are dropped on the floor, they can also be placed in a household plant.
- Fish tank water is nutrient rich and can be used to water non-edible plants when cleaning the tank.
- Look for a toilet leak by placing a dye tablet or a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank to see if it comes through to the toilet bowl after about twenty minutes.
- Before freezing temperatures start, protect your pipes by following these recommendations:
 - If you are leaving for an extended period during cold temperatures, winterize your pipes; even if you are leaving for a short get away, have someone check your home on a regular basis.
 - Properly insulating water lines is a great way to minimize the risk of freezing vs. other mechanical methods, such as heat tape, that often don't get plugged in, may not be installed correctly, and are subject to failures (especially during power outage situations).
 - Take the time to seal up any potential areas of cold air intrusion in the basement/garage (or wherever water lines may be located).
 - Open cabinet doors in the kitchen and bathroom to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Make sure to remove any harmful chemicals and cleaners.
 - Relocate any exposed pipes.
 - If you have a garage with water supply lines, make sure to keep the garage doors closed.

These steps can help minimize the risk of water lines freezing and help save on energy/repair costs.

