



Phase II Storm Water Program

Summer 2025

Drought and its Consequences

What is a drought?

A drought is a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall that leads to a shortage of water, affecting the environment, agriculture, and communities. It can develop slowly and persist for months or even years, disrupting ecosystems, reducing crop yields, limiting water supply for drinking and sanitation, and increasing the risk of wildfires. Droughts can be caused by natural climate patterns like El Niño, but they may also be intensified by human activities such as deforestation and geoengineering. Their impacts vary depending on the region's preparedness, water management practices, and reliance on rainfall.

What are the effects of a drought?

Drought can turn your yard and city into a dry and barren landscape. When rain is scarce the soil in your garden hardens. This stresses the grass and plants present and causes them to wilt or die while trees, especially young ones, may struggle as their roots can't find moisture. You may even observe your lawn turning patchy or brown. In cities, drought strains water supplies which can lead to restrictions on lawn watering or car washing in order to conserve resources.

Parks and urban green spaces can feel the pinch too. A lack of water may stunt the growth of trees and cause a reduction in the shade and beauty that may otherwise have been provided. It may even cause trees to lose their leaves prematurely as a protective mechanism to conserve water. Low rivers and reservoirs limit water for drinking and firefighting, while dry vegetation raises wildfire risks near city edges.

How to get involved

You can help by using drought-tolerant plants, mulching to retain soil moisture, and reporting water leaks promptly. Join local efforts like tree-planting drives or workshops on sustainable landscaping to keep your neighborhood green. Simple steps like collecting rainwater or choosing native plants can ease the burden on city water systems and keep your yard thriving even in dry times.

Let's keep our yards and city resilient!

