

Drought

There are many ways that a drought can be defined. A dictionary definition is simply an "absence of moisture" or "prolonged dry weather." Another common approach is to relate a drought to times when the demand for water exceeds the available supply of water. When there are widespread shortages, or projections of shortages, it becomes quite apparent that a drought is occurring. At other times, if most demands are being satisfied, it may be difficult to say we are in a drought. In Utah and other arid western states, a drought may affect farmers, cities, and other water users differently depending on the severity of the drought and the water supplies owned or available for their use.

Drought Management Goal

Drought management planning is critical for preparation in the eventuality of a water shortage so that customers in the city's service area will continue to be supplied with sufficient water to meet health and safety needs. Planning for drought complements the City's water conservation efforts to achieve overall efficient and prudent use of the City's water resources. Conservation management promotes long-term water use efficiency. Drought management provides guidance to achieve short-term water savings during water shortages.

Park City's goal for drought management is to monitor available information to determine the onset and severity of any water shortage, and to reduce water demand sufficiently to ensure that basic health and safety needs of customers are met during a shortage.

The goal will be accomplished through the following actions:

1. *Monitor circumstances that may result in water shortages to determine the onset and severity as early as possible.*
2. *Provide information to the public about water shortages and water conservation.*
3. *Reduce water demand by customers so water supplies will be able to meet demand for the duration of a shortage.*
4. *Maintain sufficient water supplies to meet basic health and safety needs of customers throughout the duration of a water shortage.*

For additional information contact the Park City Water Department.