



OWASA's lake levels as a percentage of capacity since June, 2007.

## OUR WATER SUPPLIES ARE DWINDLING.

Dear OWASA Customer:

We strongly urge you to conserve water due to the continuing severe drought conditions. Please be aware of the following:

- For the first time since the record-setting drought of 2001-02, our reservoirs have fallen below 40% full.
- The National Weather Service has forecast below normal rainfall through April.

- Water flow in the creeks and streams that normally feed our reservoirs continues to be below normal.
- Our reservoirs now have about 1.4 billion gallons of water, which is about 5 to 6 months of supply with no further rainfall.
- Because running out of water is not an option for our community, water conservation is essential. OWASA is prepared to take action if necessary to avert a water supply emergency, but the actions needed in a worst case scenario would likely mean substantial increases in the cost of water service.
- If the drought continues, Stage Three water use restrictions may become necessary in the near future. The current Stage Two restrictions are listed on our website, [www.owasa.org](http://www.owasa.org).

While thousands of OWASA customers have significantly reduced their water use in recent months, more conservation is needed to help ensure that our water supplies do not fall to critical levels.

We recommend that customers give highest priority to the following conservation actions:

Flush toilets only when absolutely necessary.

Regularly check for leaks and fix them (or report them to the appropriate building management staff). Be especially sure to check toilets, one of the most common places for leaks.

Take short showers, and prefer showers over baths, which use more water. Turn off the shower while you lather and scrub.

Get a free low-flow showerhead (only 1.5 gallons of water flow per minute) from OWASA at our office at 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro (near Barnes Street).

If you have toilets installed before 1994, consider replacing them with high efficiency or ultra low flush toilets, which use 50% to 70% less water and may pay for themselves in a few years by reducing your water and sewer bills. Or, put a container of water in the toilet tank or install a water-saving flapper available free from OWASA.

Wash dishes and clothes only when you have a full load.

Turn off water when not in use to brush teeth, etc,

Eliminate all non-essential outdoor use of drinking water.

Check your OWASA bill and water meter to monitor your water use.

*For more information or to report water waste:*

Please feel free to call us at 968-4421; send e-mail to [webmaster@owasa.org](mailto:webmaster@owasa.org); visit our website, [www.owasa.org](http://www.owasa.org); send a fax to 968-4464 or visit or write to us at 400 Jones Ferry Road, PO Box 366, Carrboro, NC 27510.

**We're in an exceptional drought.  
We need to save water.**

**Orange Water and Sewer Authority**

