

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

CITY OF AUBURN, NE
ELECTRIC, WATER & WASTEWATER SERVICES

BOARD MEMBERS

Charles Knipe
Richard L. Wilson
Dr. Michael Zaruba
David Grant
Phil Shaw



GENERAL MANAGER

Ray Luhring

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DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN UPDATE July 21, 2025

Well levels are steadily rising but are not yet high enough to move out of Stage 3 Drought Contingency Protocol. Normal well levels are 15-20 feet above the screens. We have at least two that have not rebounded to Stage 2 status. The rain has been helpful to keep lawns green and gardens healthy but has not saturated deep enough to recharge the wells. Drought protocol is in place to ensure that if federal assistance is needed, the Board of Public Works has followed the standards of compliance and will be eligible for funding. The Board has been researching short- and long-term options for water supply. There is a Board meeting on the third Wednesday of each month where there is an update along with the status of where we are in the process. In addition, the Board is also available for questions at any time.

Maintenance was performed on the wells due to high levels of iron and manganese. Pumps were not pulling water efficiently and the lines were nearly at 50% capacity. Cleaning the equipment allows us to pull more water, but there still isn't enough water in some of the wells to increase pumping, which has been slowed down to help with recharge.

The Board has also been working on a project to draw water from Longs Creek north of Auburn. This project has been a challenge at every step, but we are confident that all the agencies that are involved agree that it will move forward. A temporary water plant will be built to treat water that will be put into our system. As part of the process, UV treatment will be required. This will place an added level of protection to ensure the water is free from bacteria. Due to the equipment and material lead times required for this system, we will not be able to bring this online until spring of 2026. While this seems like a long time, the reality is that with all the state requirements, the project is being escalated and moving along quicker than expected. This system will be available while a long-term solution is developed.

There is no one that wants to move out of Stage 3 more than the Board of Public Works. While we understand that the inconvenience is difficult, it is the Board's job to ensure that the infrastructure is stable, and the water remains safe for all customers. Non-essential water usage is still prohibited at this time. The Board of Public Works has maintained a full reservoir of 22' despite the challenges presented.

We will continue to provide data with daily readings on the number of gallons pumped, pumping times, and reservoir levels. This will keep the public informed of current conditions. See the City of Auburn website at <https://auburn.ne.gov> for updates. The reservoir holds 1.5 million gallons of water and has not dropped below the normal levels and is currently stable. This is due to the implementation of the plan and the collaboration of the members of the Auburn and Peru communities' reduction in use. We appreciate all efforts for conserving usage until levels return to normal.

Alan Slater
Water/Wastewater Manager

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Auburn Board of Public Works - Updated Daily readings.

Date	Total # of Gallons pumped	Auburn plant GPM pumped	Total # of hours pumped	# of Gallons pumped Auburn	# of Gallons pumped Peru	GPM Pumped Peru	# of hours pumped Peru
10/17/2024	624,558	600	17.34	498,695	125,863	90	23.30
10/18/2024	424,698	600	11.79	354,226	70,472	90	13.05
06/17/2025	432,040	600	12.00	385,770	46,270	90	8.56
06/18/2025	424,026	600	11.47	385,034	38,992	90	7.22
06/19/2025	349,669	600	9.71	303,602	46,067	90	8.53
06/20/2025	510,497	600	14.18	442,317	68,180	90	12.62
06/23/2025	440,283	600	12.23	385,347	54,936	90	10.71
06/24/2025	397,265	600	11.03	328,582	68,683	90	12.71
06/25/2025	370,621	600	13.30	316,678	53,943	90	9.99
06/26/2025	289,835	600	8.30	244,510	45,325	90	8.39
06/27/2025	335,785	600	9.33	286,133	48,625	90	9.19
06/30/2025	342,835	600	9.52	267,119	75,716	90	14.02
07/01/2025	285,095	600	7.92	224,315	60,780	90	11.26
07/02/2025	367,511	600	10.21	302,339	65,172	90	12.07
07/03/2025	418,662	600	11.63	331,985	86,677	90	16.05
07/04/2025	502,405	600	13.96	423,841	78,564	90	14.55
07/05/2025	269,849	600	7.5	201,824	68,025	90	12.6
07/06/2025	305,319	600	8.48	261,929	43,390	90	8.04
07/07/2025	359,543	600	9.99	310,116	49,427	90	9.15
07/08/2025	385,118	600	10.7	301,319	83,203	90	15.41
07/09/2025	289,171	600	8.03	225,847	68,324	90	11.73
07/10/2025	390,567	600	10.85	341,979	48,588	90	9
07/11/2025	259,454	600	7.21	215,135	44,319	90	8.21
07/12/2025	481,276	600	13.37	405,515	75,761	90	14.03
07/13/2025	432,136	600	12.00	352,585	79,551	90	14.73
07/14/2025	235,734	600	6.55	193,303	42,431	90	7.86
07/15/2025	393,910	600	10.94	340,254	53,656	90	9.9
07/16/2025	347,287	600	9.65	283,348	63,939	90	11.84
07/17/2025	411,874	600	12.76	335,671	76,176	90	11.86
07/18/2025	459,447	600	12.76	395,381	64,066	90	11.86
07/19/2025	242,998	600	6.75	189,252	53,746	90	9.95
07/20/2025	329,647	600	9.16	276,486	53,161	90	9.84
07/21/2025	358,492	600	9.96	303,011	55,481	90	10.27

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Reservoir levels							
07/08/2025	22'	Full		07/15/2025	22'	Full	
07/09/2025	22'	Full		07/16/2025	22'	Full	
07/10/2025	22'	Full		07/21/2025	22'	Full	
07/11/2025	22'	Full					

Pumping well levels are monitored by measuring water levels above the top of screens in the well when the well is running. Normal water levels run 15-20 feet above the screens. The following data shows the amount of water measured above the screens.

	Well 1	Well 2	Well 3	Well 4	Well 5	Well 6	Well 11	Well 13	Well 19	Well 20
10/22/2024	9'	9'	2'	1'	6.5'	5'	5'	16'	2'	1'
02/28/2025	14'	11'	10'	8'	7'	8'	9'	11'	4'	4.5'
06/18/2025	15'8"	12'8"	5'	5'8"	4'9"	7'0"	8'1"	10'1"	4'0"	4'0"
06/19/2025	15'8"	12'8"	5'	5'6"	4'9"	7'0"	8'1"	10'0"	4'0"	4'0"
06/20/2025	15'8"	12'8"	5'	5'6"	4'9"	7'0"	8'1"	10'0"	4'0"	4'0"
06/23/2025	15'8"	12'6"	5'	5'5"	4'9"	7'0"	8'1"	9'9"	4'0"	4'0"
06/24/2025	16'0"	12'8"	5'2"	5'6"	5'	7'0"	8'1"	10'0"	4'0"	4'3"
06/25/2025	17'0"	14'	10'	8'8"	8'8.5"	9'	10'3"	12'2"	5'5"	5'9"
06/26/2025	17'0"	14'	10'	8'9"	8'9"	9'	10'2"	12'2"	5'5"	5'9"
06/27/2025	17'0"	15'	11'5"	9'7"	9'1"	9'	9'5"	14'	6'0"	5'9"
06/30/2025	17'0"	14'8"	11'2"	8'4"	9'05"	9'	9'4"	14'	7'1"	5'4"
07/01/2025	16'8"	14'6"	11'0"	8'2"	9'0"	8'5"	9'1"	13'8"	6'9"	4'5"
07/02/2025	16'8"	14'6"	6'3"	9'1"	8'7"	9'8"	8'	16'6"	6'6"	4'6"
07/03/2025	16'5"	14'4'	6'3"	8'8"	8'4"	9'1"	7'6"	16'0"	6'1"	4'4"
07/09/2025	16'5"	14'4"	6'3"	10'0"	8'4"	11'3"	7'6"	12'1"	6'11"	4'4"
07/10/2025	16'5"	14'4"	5'8"	8'6"	8'4"	16'6"	7'6"	9'9"	6'11"	4'5"
07/11/2025	16'5"	14'4"	5'8"	8'	8'4"	8'4"	7'6"	8'2"	6'11"	4'5"
07/14/2025	16'2"	14'0"	5'4"	8'1"	8'1"	9'1"	7'4"	8'4"	4'5"	4'0"
07/15/2025	16'2"	14'0"	5'4"	8'1"	8'1"	9'1"	7'4"	8'4"	4'5"	4'0"
07/16/2025	16'4"	14'2"	5'6"	8'2"	8'2"	9'2"	7'4"	8'8"	4.6"	4'2"
07/18/2025	16'8"	14'6"	8'7"	9'3"	8'7"	9'8"	8'8"	9'2"	5'5"	5'2"
07/21/2025	16'8"	14'6"	8'7"	9'3"	8'7"	9'8"	8'8"	9'2"	5'5"	5'3"