

Drought Management Plan

Prepared for:

Borough of Brooklawn
Camden County, New Jersey

Prepared for:

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The Borough of Brooklawn, Camden County, New Jersey, manages drought conditions and water shortages through a combination of local municipal ordinances and alignment with state-level directives from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Camden County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Borough of Brooklawn's actionable drought response is codified directly into Chapter 145 (Water) of the Borough Code. This framework grants local authorities the power to declare emergencies, mandate conservation stages, and penalize non-compliance.

This codified plan is as follows:

1. Declaration of a Water Emergency (§ 145-9)

When environmental drought conditions, regional water supply depletion, or infrastructure strains threaten the public health and safety of Brooklawn, the Borough Council has the authority to pass a formal resolution declaring a water emergency. This resolution explicitly defines whether the conservation mandates apply to a specific localized section of the borough or the entire municipality.

2. Enforceable Water Use Restrictions (§ 145-10)

Once a water emergency is declared, the Borough implements specific conservation measures depending on the severity of the shortage. The local ordinance outlines three primary restriction levels:

Restriction Level	Mandated Rules & Prohibited Actions
Complete Ban (Option A)	A total prohibition of all non-essential outdoor water usage. This includes an absolute ban on watering lawns or plants, filling swimming pools, and washing vehicles.
Alternate-Day Schedule (Option B)	Outdoor water usage is restricted by street address: • Even house/box numbers: Allowed to use water outdoors only on even-numbered calendar days. • Odd house/box numbers: Allowed to use water outdoors only on odd-numbered calendar days. • 31st of the Month: Outdoor water

	usage is completely banned for all residents on the 31st day of any month during the emergency.
Customized Mandates (Option C)	Any alternative or targeted restrictions specified by the Borough Council that are deemed reasonable and necessary given the specific infrastructure or capacity crisis.

3. Duration, Enforcement, and Penalties (§ 145-11 to § 145-13)

- Duration: Local restrictions remain strictly in effect until the Borough Council reviews water table levels or infrastructure capacity and officially passes a resolution rescinding the emergency declaration.
- Enforcement: Local law enforcement and designated municipal utility officials are authorized to inspect properties and issue citations for non-compliance.
- Penalties: Under the broader municipal water code, the Borough reserves the right to discontinue service or issue fines to any property causing a "willful waste of water" due to improper usage or failing to repair known leaks.

State and County Alignment

Because Brooklawn operates its own localized municipal public water system (utilizing public wells equipped with granular activated carbon filtration systems), it must balance local action with larger state frameworks:

- NJDEP Drought Status: Brooklawn is part of New Jersey's Southwest Drought Region. If the Governor or the NJDEP issues a statewide Drought Warning or Drought Emergency, state mandates automatically override local rules, and broader restrictions on non-essential outdoor use take effect.
- Agricultural Exemptions: Per state-wide guidelines, if there are commercial agricultural operations or livestock needs within the region, they are typically granted hardship exemptions from standard outdoor watering bans, provided they use verified best management practices.