RESILIENT CHICAGO
Climate Planning for the Future

Drought-Ready Communities

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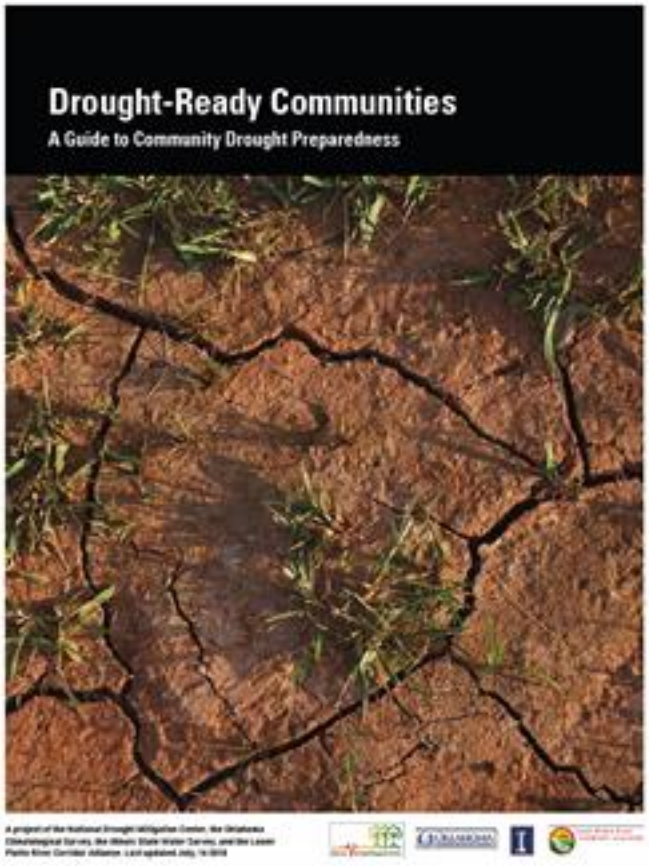
The Pilot project

- 2 years (June 2008-June 2010)
- Funded by NOAA's Climate Program Office, Sectoral Applications Research Program (SARP)



Research Team

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- Mike Spinar, Midwestern Regional Climate Center
- Mark Shafer, Oklahoma Climatological Survey
- Renee McPherson, Oklahoma Climatological Survey
- Heather Lazrus, University of Oklahoma

Goals

- **Develop a community-driven process for reducing vulnerability to drought**

- **Develop a "drought resources kit" of educational, public awareness, climatological, hydrological, planning and mitigation resources**

The pilot Communities

- Nebraska City, Nebraska, pop. ~ 7,000
  - Wells draw from Missouri River
- Decatur, Illinois, pop. ~ 82,500
  - Surface water
- Norman, Oklahoma ~ 100,000 +
  - Surface and ground water

Unique features

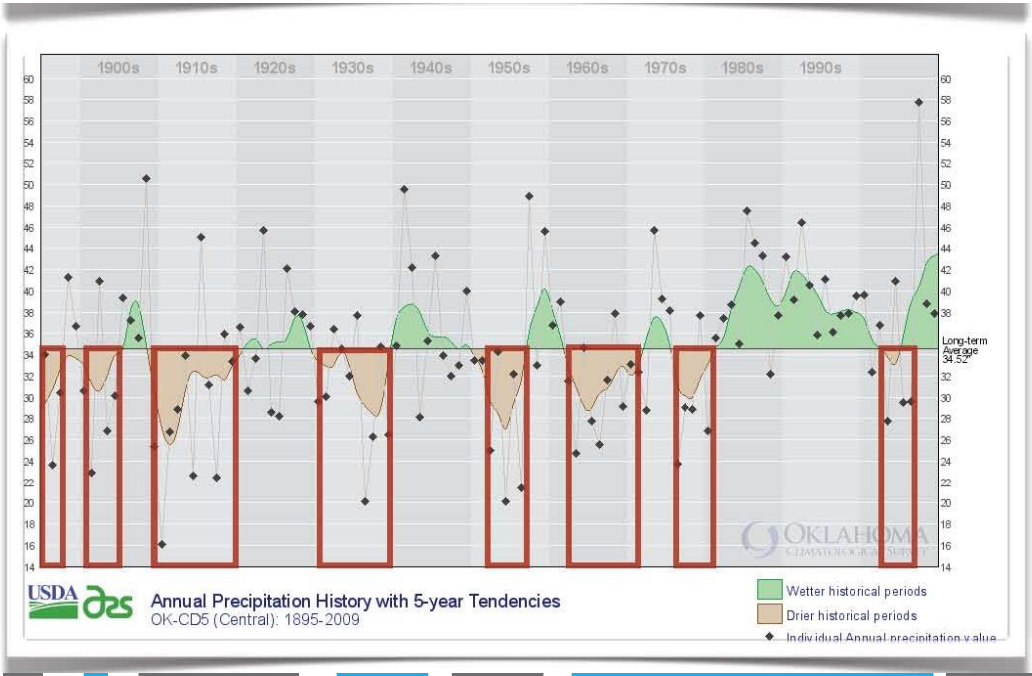
- Worksheets
  - Benefits of Drought Planning
  - Contact List
  - Perceptions of Drought
  - Available Water supplies
  - Top Water Users
  - Cost-Benefit Comparison
  - Linking Thresholds to Actions

Section 1: Getting Started

- Form a leadership team
- Identify stakeholders
- Start drought contact list
- Gather community drought perceptions

Section 2: Information gathering

- Identify water sources and uses
- Learn about past drought in community
- Gather data on water and climate



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Section 2: Information gathering

- Worksheet 4: Available Water Supplies
  - Source
  - Pumping rates
  - Cost
  - Last year, 5 years ago, 10 years ago
  - Minimum usable level
  - Does drought affect water quality?

Section 3: Establish monitoring

- A list of drought indicators the community should regularly monitor including:
  - One large-scale climate indicator and
  - One locally generated indicator directly relevant to your community's water supply
- A list of drought impact indicators and who will report them

Section 4: Public Awareness & education

- A strategy and schedule for a public awareness and education campaign (**long-term**)
- Any presentations, pamphlets, templates for press releases, or other materials you have developed to publicize drought and response actions in your community (**during drought**)

Section 5: Drought response planning

- Determine possible strategies to take before and in response to drought.
- Linking thresholds to actions (examples from Decatur case study)
  - Impact: available water for industry and community
  - Indicator(s): lake level

Summary

- Proof of concept
- Community-driven
- Drought planning toolkit
- Need to work out details on the actual certification of a Drought Ready Community

Guide: Drought Ready Communities

http://drought.unl.edu/plan/DRC.htm