Planning and Development Services
860 Levoy Drive, Suite 300 • Taylorsville, UT 84123
Phone: (385) 910-5600

Mountainous Planning District Planning Commission

Public Meeting Agenda

Thursday, December 18, 2025, 3:00 P.M.

Virtual Option: WebEx

Meeting number (access code): 2557 809 0522
https://greatersaltlakemunicipalservicesdistrict-926.my.webex.com/meet/wgurr
Join by phone
+1-650-479-3208 United States Toll
Access code: 2557 809 0522

Anchor Location: 2001 South State Street
North Building, Room N1-110

UPON REQUEST, WITH 5 WORKING DAYS NOTICE, REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS MAY BE PROVIDED. PLEASE CONTACT WENDY GURR AT 385-391-8268. TTY USERS SHOULD CALL 711.

The Planning Commission Public Meeting is a public forum where, depending on the agenda item, the Planning Commission may receive comment and recommendations from applicants, the public, applicable agencies and MSD staff regarding land use applications and other items on the Commission's agenda. In addition, it is where the Planning Commission takes action on these items, which may include: approval, approval with conditions, denial, continuance or recommendation to other bodies as applicable.

BUSINESS MEETING

1) Approval of May 15, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes. (Motion/Voting)
2) 2026 Planning Commission Schedule. (Discussion)
3) Other Business Items. (As Needed)

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

Consideration of Proposed Amendment to Salt Lake County's Wasatch Canyons General Plan to add a Water Use and Preservation Element. **Presenter:** Garrett Stone with GSBS Consulting (Motion/Voting)

ADJOURN

Rules of Conduct for the Planning Commission Meeting

1. Applications will be introduced by a Staff Member.

2. The applicant will be allowed up to 15 minutes to make their presentation.

3. The Community Council representative can present their comments.

4. Persons in favor of, or not opposed to, the application will be invited to speak.

    a. Speakers will be called to the podium by the Chairman.
    b. Because the meeting minutes are recorded it is important for each speaker to state their name and address prior to making any comments.
    c. All comments should be directed to the Planning Commissioners, not to the Staff or to members of the audience.
    d. For items where there are several people wishing to speak, the Chairman may impose a time limit, usually 3 minutes per person, or 5 minutes for a group spokesperson.

5. Persons opposed to the application will be invited to speak.

6. The applicant will be allowed 5 minutes to provide concluding statements.

    a. After the hearing is closed, the discussion will be limited to the Planning Commission and the Staff.

Planning and Development Services
2001 S. State Street N3-600 • Salt Lake City, UT 84190-4050
Phone: (385) 468-6700 • Fax: (385) 468-6674

MEETING MINUTE SUMMARY

MOUNTAINOUS PLANNING DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

Approximate meeting length: 21 minutes
Number of public in attendance: 0
Summary Prepared by: Wendy Gurr
Meeting Conducted by: Commissioner Staker

*NOTE: **Staff Reports** referenced in this document can be found on the State and County websites, or from Salt Lake County Planning & Development Services.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners	Public Mtg	Business Mtg	Absent
Nicole Omer			x
Don Despain	x	x	
Burke Staker (Chair)	x	x	
Sarah Reale	x	x	
Daniel Schoenfeld	x	x	
Mackenzie Sorenson	x	x	
John Knoblock (Vice Chair)	x	x	
Dallas Bullock			x
Bonnie McAllister			x
Elizabeth Davis	x	x	
Ulrich Brunhart	x	x	

Planning Staff / DA	Public Mtg	Business Mtg
Wendy Gurr	x	x
Chad Anderson	x	x
Brian Hartsell	x	x
Ryan Anderson	x	x
Shane Ellis	x	x
Jason Rose (DA)	x	x
Zach Shaw (DA)	x	x

BUSINESS MEETING

Meeting began at – 3:01 p.m.

1) Approval of March 20, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes. (Motion/Voting)
Motion: To approve March 20, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes as presented.
Motion by*:* Commissioner Davis
2nd by: Commissioner Brunhart
Vote*:* Commissioners voted unanimously in favor (of commissioners present)

Approval of April 17, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes. (Motion/Voting)
Motion: To approve April 17, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting Minutes as presented.
Motion by*:* Commissioner Davis
2nd by: Commissioner Brunhart
Vote*:* Commissioners voted unanimously in favor (of commissioners present)

2) Other Business Items (as needed)
Ms. Gurr advised of the annual planning commissioner training May 28th at 6pm.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

Hearing began at – 3:05 p.m.

OAM2025-001372 – Consideration of an ordinance adopting Salt Lake County Engineering Standard Drawings and Specifications. The proposed ordinance includes the adoption by reference of the latest revision of AASHTO "A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets" (Green Book), the Utah Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and APWA Manual of Standard Plans and Manual of Standard Specifications, with some exceptions noted in the document. **Presenter:** MSD Engineering (Discussion/Recommendation)

Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District Engineering Manager Chad Anderson provided an analysis of the Engineering Standard Drawings and Specifications amendment and proposed changes.

Commissioners and staff had a brief discussion regarding T-patch exception,

Commissioner Davis motioned to open the public hearing, Commissioner Knoblock seconded that motion.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

No one from the public was present to speak.

Commissioner Knoblock motioned to close the public hearing, Commissioner Brunhart seconded that motion.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Motion: To recommend approval to the County Council of file #OAM2025-001372 Consideration of an ordinance adopting Salt Lake County Engineering Standard Drawings and Specifications. The proposed ordinance includes the adoption by reference of the latest revision of AASHTO "A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets" (Green Book), the Utah Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and APWA Manual of Standard Plans and Manual of Standard Specifications, with the modified recommendations as explained in the presentation by staff.

Motion by*:* Commissioner Davis
2nd by: Commissioner Despain
Vote*:* Commissioners voted unanimously in favor (of commissioners present)

OAM2025-001375 – Consideration of a resolution amending Salt Lake County's land use fee schedule. **Presenter:** Brian Hartsell (Discussion/Recommendation)

Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District Associate General Manager Brian Hartsell provided an analysis of the Land Use Fee Schedule proposed changes.

Commissioners and staff had a brief discussion regarding the changes

Commissioner Knoblock motioned to open the public hearing, Commissioner Davis seconded that motion.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

No one from the public was present to speak.

Commissioner Knoblock motioned to close the public hearing, Commissioner Schoenfeld seconded that motion.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Motion: To recommend approval to the County Council of file #OAM2025-001375 Consideration of a resolution amending Salt Lake County's land use fee schedule.

Motion by*:* Commissioner Davis
2nd by: Commissioner Knoblock
Vote*:* Commissioners voted unanimously in favor (of commissioners present)

Commissioner Burke adjourned

MEETING ADJOURNED

Time Adjourned – 3:22 p.m.

Mountainous Planning District Planning Commission

2026 Regular Meeting Schedule

Meeting Place: Salt Lake County Council Chambers – 2001 South State Street, N1-110
Time: 3:00PM *Unless otherwise posted*

The Public is Welcome to Attend

Thursday January 15, 2026

Thursday February 19, 2026

Thursday March 19, 2026

Thursday April 16, 2026

Thursday May 21, 2026

Thursday June 18, 2026

Thursday July 16, 2026

Thursday August 20, 2026

Thursday September 17, 2026

Thursday October 21, 2026

Thursday November 19, 2026

Thursday December 17, 2026

UPON REQUEST, WITH 5 WORKING DAYS NOTICE, REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS MAY BE PROVIDED. PLEASE CONTACT WENDY GURR AT 385-391-8268. TTY USERS SHOULD CALL 711.

The Public May Attend. Meetings May Be Closed For Reasons Allowed By Statute.

Planning Commission Staff Report

Meeting Body: Salt Lake County Planning Commission and Mountainous Planning District Planning Commission

Meeting Date: December 18th, 2025

File Number & Project Type: OAM2025-001554 - Salt Lake County's Water Element General Plans Update

Applicability: West General Plan, Sandy Hills General Plan

Presenter: Garrett Stone, GSBS Consulting

Applicant: Salt Lake County Staff

Key Findings:

- Adoption of the Water Use & Preservation Element is required under Utah Code §17-79-403
- The Water Element will enable Salt Lake County to integrate land and water plans in a way that supports general plan goals

Staff Recommendation: The MSD Planning Staff recommend that the Mountainous Planning District Planning Commission recommend that the Council adopt the Water Use and Preservation Element.

Exhibits:

A. Draft Water Element of General Plans

BACKGROUND

Senate Bills 110 (2022) and 76 (2023) mandate counties to develop a Water Use and Preservation Element (Water Element) to integrate water planning considerations into general plans.

The document that is being presented for adoption was developed by GSBS Consulting and Bowen Collins and has been thoroughly reviewed by Salt Lake County staff and experts, community partners, and other stakeholders.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

The proposed ordinance will formally adopt the "Salt Lake County Water Use and Preservation Element" as an amendment to the County's general plans: West General Plan and Sandy Hills General Plan. The document will also include the date of adoption.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

1. State law compliance

Utah Code §17-79-403 requires that Counties adopt a Water Use & Preservation Element in their General plans. State code requires that the Water Element consider the relationship between development and water demand, strategies for reducing water demand, and changes to County operations to improve water efficiency. Staff find that the attached Water Element meets these requirements.

2. Relationship Between Development and Water Demand

Unincorporated Salt Lake County is a collection of different areas with very different geographies, land uses, and water conditions. The Water Element considers the relationship between future land use, development, and water demand and availability for 11 sub-areas in Unincorporated Salt Lake County.

3. Strategies for Reducing Water Demand

The Water Element provides six recommendations for reducing water demand. These recommendations cover reducing water demand and improving efficiency in existing development, new development, and County operations.

GENERAL PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed amendment adopts the Water Use & Preservation Element as a new component of the West General Plan and the Sandy Hills General Plan. While not previously included, this Element is required under Utah Code §17-79-403 and will serve as an addition to the adopted General Plans.

The Water Element considers the County's previously adopted General Plan Future Land Use Maps, Resource Management Plan, Integrated Watershed Plan, and Parks & Recreation Master Plan in its analyses and recommendations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff find that:

1. The attached draft Water Element complies with state requirements to integrate land use and water planning into a general plan amendment.
2. State law requires that such an amendment must be adopted by the County's legislative body.

Given the above findings, staff recommend the following action:

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission forward a recommendation of approval of the Water Use & Preservation Element as an amendment to the West General Plan and the Sandy Hills General Plan to the Salt Lake County Council.

PLANNING COMMISION OPTIONS

As a recommending body to the County Council, the Planning Commission has the following options:

1. Approval: The Planning Commission recommends approval of application OAM2025-001554 to adopt the Water Use and Preservation Element as an additional chapter to the West General Plan and Sandy Hills General Plan.
2. Approval with changes: The Planning Commission recommends approval of application OAM2025-001554 to adopt the Water Use and Preservation Element as an additional chapter to the West General Plan and Sandy Hills General Plan with changes.
3. Denial: Having considered the Water Use and Preservation Element, the Planning Commission recommends denial of application OAM2025-001554.

SALT LAKE COUNTY

Water Conservation Element Amendment

TO SALT LAKE COUNTY'S WASATCH CANYONS, SANDY HILLS AND WEST GENERAL PLANS

DRAFT DATED DECEMBER 03, 2025

REVIEW DRAFT
20251203

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MAYOR

Jenny Wilson

COUNTY COUNCIL

Laurie Stringham, Suzanne Harrison, Natalie Pickney, Jiro Johnson, Carlos A. Moreno, Aimee Winder Newton, Ross Romero, Sheldon Stewart, Dea Theodore (Chair)

COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Neil Cohen, Michael Cole, Chris Collard, Sarah Hiatt, Jenny Knudsen, Andres Paredes, Ron Vance, Jeff Watkins

MOUNTAINOUS PLANNING DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION

Ulrich Brunhart, Dallas Bullock, Elizabeth Davis, Don Despain, John Knoblock, Bonnie McCallister, Nicole Omer, James Palmer, J. Daniel Schoenfeld, Burke Staker

COUNTY PERSONNEL

Lisa Hartman, Lauren Littlefield, Ryan Anderson, Emily Paskett, Robert Thompson, Chris Firmage, Helen Peters, Zachary Shaw, Brock Damjanovich, Ron Lund, Patrick Leary

CONSULTANTS

GSBS Consulting

Christine Richman, AICP
Garrett Stone, AICP

Bowen Collins and Associates

Keith Larson, PE
Rochelle Plaizier, EIT

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose and Scope

The Salt Lake County Water Element Water General Plan Update outlines and highlights the need for a unified framework to coordinate land use, infrastructure, and water management in accordance with Utah Code §17-27a-403 and Senate Bills 110 (2022) and 76 (2023). It positions the County to integrate conservation principles into local decision-making, strengthen coordination with state agencies and water providers, and align growth with long-term water availability.

This plan applies to all unincorporated areas and recognizes the County's multiple roles, such as a land use authority, facility owner, and regional collaborator, helping ensure consistency while supporting state and regional conservation targets.

Goals

The overarching goal is to ensure that water stewardship continues to be an integral part of how the County grows, invests, and sustains its natural systems for future generations.

This water element amendment to the General Plan can guide the County to continue improving the processes and systems that build a future where land and water decisions are made together, not in isolation. It promotes a balanced approach that supports growth while managing water as a finite shared resource. It foregrounds strong connections between planning, design, and operations so each new project and policy advances long-term water efficiency and resilience.

By more deeply coordinating with providers, state agencies, and communities, Salt Lake County can continue to align its actions with regional conservation goals, reduce demand through smarter design, and lead by example in how public facilities and landscapes use water.

Findings

A Strong Foundation for Coordination

Salt Lake County benefits from a well-developed network of public water providers and agencies already advancing conservation goals. Continued collaboration through shared planning, data, and review processes will enhance efficiency and help align growth with water capacity.

Integrating Land and Water Decisions

Water districts plan on 50-year horizons, using long-term supply modeling to define system capacity. County land use and infrastructure decisions occur on shorter cycles, creating a gap between long-range water assumptions and near-term development review. While water supply verification is currently done through agency review during the land use application process, deeply integrating provider supply modeling into land use criteria, growth mapping, and infrastructure sequencing can align these processes and establish a coordinated decision framework which relies on common understanding.

Opportunities for Outdoor Efficiency

Outdoor irrigation remains a significant portion of total water use for Salt Lake County residences, presenting the greatest opportunity for additional savings and use reductions. Strengthening landscape standards, retrofits, and incentive alignment across the County and in its operations can yield lasting reductions in demand while maintaining quality urban and recreational environments.

Improving Data Sharing and Reporting Consistency

Local and regional providers collect valuable information on water use and conservation outcomes. Establishing a common language that is regularly shared would make progress more visible and improve long-term planning and investment decisions through shared data and knowledge.

County Leadership by Example

County facilities, parks, and operations provide a platform for visible conservation leadership. Ongoing efficiency measures, such as optimized irrigation schedules and landscape conversion, demonstrate practical approaches that can be replicated throughout the region.

High-Level Implementation Framework

Policy Alignment

Continue to incorporate water-efficient design and supply verification into planning and zoning processes. Regularly review, audit, and update both ordinances and internal practices to reflect emerging conservation standards and technologies.

Operational Efficiency

Lead by example through a comprehensive look at how the County uses outdoor water at its own facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department has an established record of successfully implementing water-efficient strategies that can springboard to other departments and facilities. Incorporating the Flip the Strip Guidebook and Flipped Equipped standards, including drought-resistant plant and tree lists, turf-removal practices, and landscape strip design guidance, into future County projects strengthens this approach.

By auditing and phasing out non-functional grass at government buildings, recreation centers, and libraries, demand can be cut, maintenance costs reduced, and supply freed for other uses. At the same time, designing future County projects with water-wise landscaping keeps facilities attractive and resilient in dry years. Together, these actions demonstrate the County's values and show how practical, efficient water management can work in real projects.

Utilize Existing Land Preservation Tools and Resources

Continue protecting critical landscapes by using the Open Space Fund to secure and preserve high-value natural areas. This includes places like the Jordan River Parkway, Great Salt Lake shoreline, foothills, and riparian corridors. Targeting acquisitions in these zones helps maintain habitat, protect water quality, and safeguard the ecological systems that support resilience and community well-being.

Public Outreach

Promote state and regional conservation programs such as Utah Water Savers and Flip Your Strip through County communication channels to increase participation in turf replacement and water-wise landscaping incentives. This includes using existing platforms like Water Wednesdays, which highlight Salt Lake County conservation efforts and share water-wise tips through social media, alongside broader distribution through newsletters and public events.

Outcome

This element outlines a practical, collaborative approach to managing water as a shared regional resource. By aligning policy, operations, and partnerships, Salt Lake County can strengthen resilience, sustain economic growth, and demonstrate how thoughtful land and water integration supports both community and environmental priorities.

VISION, VALUES, & GOALS

The vision, values, and goals for this element are intended to be clear, forward-looking, and grounded in County policy and community priorities. The language reflects resident concerns and legislative requirements while emphasizing resilience, accountability, and shared responsibility. Ultimately, the framework presents a future-oriented vision that balances growth, water stewardship, and collaboration across sectors.

Grounded in existing plans and conditions, the following vision, values, and goals emerged from a review and analysis of multiple plans and policy documents. Key themes highlighting common water-wise commitments and objectives were identified and integrated into a cohesive approach.

VISION

Salt Lake County envisions a future where water sustains thriving communities, healthy ecosystems, and resilient economies and is managed as a shared resource through integrated partnerships, planning, innovation, and stewardship to ensure abundance for future generations.

VALUES

1. Water is a vital and shared inheritance essential to community health, ecological balance, and long-term prosperity.
2. Water as more than a utility: it is foundational to community, environmental, and economic quality.
3. Conservation is not a temporary measure but a guiding ethic, shaping how communities grow and how landscapes are sustained.
4. Watersheds and natural systems are respected as living infrastructure, with protection and resilience central to their care.
5. Collaboration among residents, farmers, water providers, and public agencies is embraced as the only path to enduring solutions.
6. Communities share the responsibility for reliable, safe, and affordable water.
7. Innovation and adaptability are pursued as core practices, recognizing that climate change and growth require new ways of thinking and acting.
8. Water unites the region's identity, sustains its people, and secures its future.

GOALS

Align Growth with Sustainable Water Futures

Guide land use, housing, and infrastructure decisions so that future development patterns reflect available supplies, conserve water at the parcel and system level, and protect long-term resilience.

Safeguard Source Waters and Natural Systems

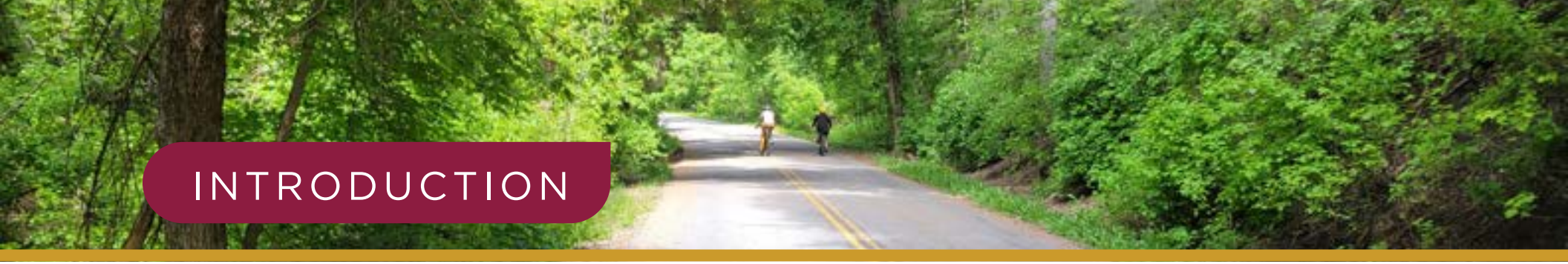
Treat the Wasatch Canyons, the Great Salt Lake, and local aquifers as living infrastructure that are protected and valued for water supply, ecological health, and climate resilience.

Build a Culture of Water Stewardship

Advance water conservation as a community ethic through education, land use controls, and partnerships that normalize efficiency and water-wise landscapes in homes, businesses, agriculture, and public spaces.

Lead by Example in County Operations

Demonstrate innovation and accountability by promoting conservation in County facilities, properties, and infrastructure; reduce operational demand and model best practices to prove what's possible.



INTRODUCTION

Planning in Context

A resilient water system is key to Utah's future. This is especially evident in unincorporated Salt Lake County, where land use decisions directly influence large-scale water supply, demand, and quality. While cities and utilities manage most of the area's water infrastructure, the County's unincorporated areas include key lands that influence regional water health. The Wasatch Canyons, in the east, supply the region's drinking water, supporting streams and reservoirs that serve hundreds of thousands of residents. To the west, rapidly developing agricultural lands, open rangelands, and industrial zones play a critical role in recharging aquifers, supporting irrigation, and maintaining flows to the Great Salt Lake. However, these areas face increasing pressure from growth, making them vulnerable to loss.

Local land use decisions, such as zoning approvals and infrastructure placement, shape water use more than most residents realize. For example, maintaining large lawns, locating new industries, or expanding developments in canyons can have long-term regional effects. Practices like water-efficient landscaping and supportive ordinances can only go so far to reduce demand, and thoughtful land use planning can enhance these efforts by protecting resources and watershed health. Ultimately, decisions made at the parcel level add up to regional outcomes, making land use and water management intrinsically linked and it necessary to plan for growth in a manner which accounts for future water demand.

This is why Salt Lake County's unincorporated areas matter. Although they house a smaller portion of the population, they include water source areas and future development zones that will influence supply-demand balance. Recognizing this connection is vital to the County's role in safeguarding water resources. This understanding forms the foundation of the Water Element and underscores its importance for every resident of the Wasatch Front.

About this Plan

This Water Element is not a technical forecast or capacity model; rather, it is a planning tool that links land use decisions with water conservation and management strategies. Its purpose is to provide the County, developers, utilities, and residents with a shared framework: future growth should reflect the limitations of projected water supply and support the long-term conservation of this finite resource. Achieving this requires thoughtful policies and ongoing coordination with relevant stakeholders across Salt Lake County.

Since Salt Lake County does not operate water treatment plants, pipelines, or reservoirs, its primary authority lies in land use regulation for unincorporated Salt Lake County: deciding where growth occurs and under what conditions. Throughout the development of this plan, Salt Lake County has coordinated with water providers, irrigation companies, and other stakeholders to consider how land use affects irrigation, agriculture, and regional water conservation efforts.

Further, this element amendment to the General Plan considers and clarifies the County's evolving role in conserving water, supporting collaboration, and enhancing efficiency. It demonstrates how zoning codes, subdivision approvals, and County operations can conserve water, support utility operations, and provide predictability for residents and developers. It highlights local ordinances that advance water-efficient landscaping, align with water provider operations, and prevent waste.

It recognizes water as a regional issue, with decisions on benches and in valleys alike affecting the Great Salt Lake, municipal water supplies, and watershed health. By adopting this water element amendment, the County builds upon recent planning efforts emphasize resilience, conservation, and the relationship between growth and natural systems. This document extends that philosophy, providing a framework that formally integrates water into County planning.

The Planning Area

Unincorporated Salt Lake County includes nearly a quarter-million acres, characterized by diverse landscapes with distinct water needs, pressures, and policy challenges. Understanding these differences is essential to developing land use strategies that protect and conserve water.

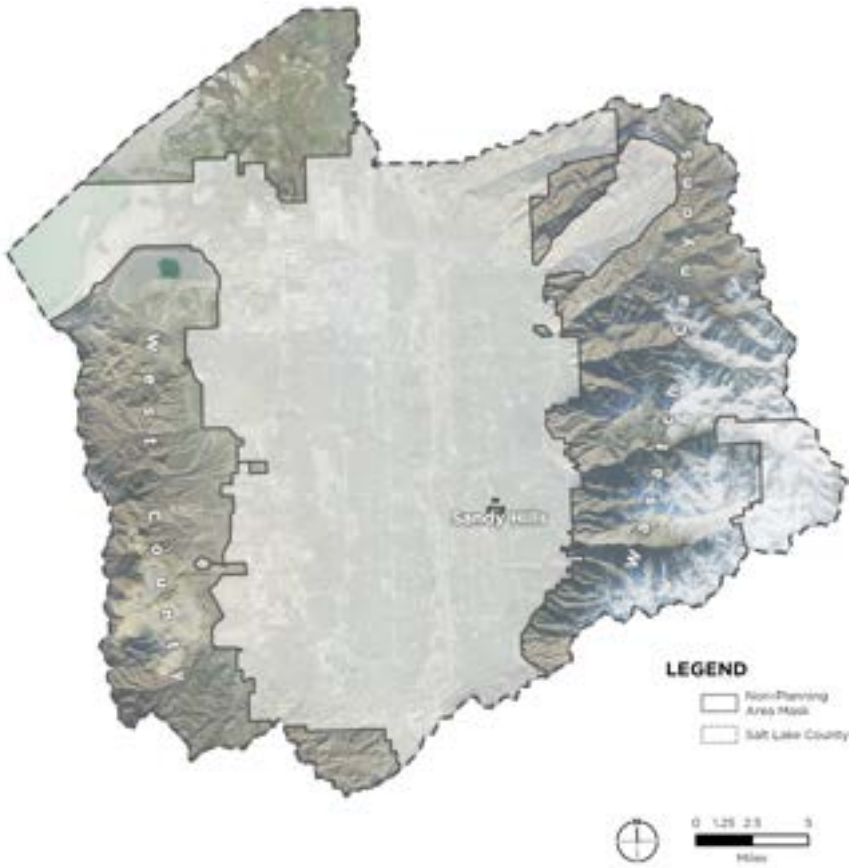
In the east, the **Wasatch Canyons**—Big and Little Cottonwood, Mill Creek, and Parleys—serve as the region's headwaters. These areas supply clean water to thousands of households and critical regional water bodies, including the Great Salt Lake. They also host ski resorts, national forest land, trails, and recreation areas. Development here faces strict watershed protections; however, tourism, outdoor recreation, and infrastructure projects can still put pressure on small-scale water systems. Maintaining water quality requires careful collaboration between the Salt Lake County Department of Health, local municipalities, and Salt Lake City Public Utilities, which holds watershed jurisdiction, as well as adherence to zoning standards like the Foothill and Canyon Overlay Zone (FCOZ).

In the **West County** area, large tracts serve industrial and extractive uses. Small-scale agricultural lands persist in pockets. Growth pressures are driven by new subdivisions and logistics facilities on the eastern fringe of unincorporated land. How the County manages zoning, conservation easements, and infrastructure placement influences flows to the Great Salt Lake and the sustainability of surrounding open and agriculture lands.

The **Sandy Hills** area, situated in central Salt Lake Valley, is a collection of three unincorporated islands surrounded by Sandy. As a mostly built-out community with developed infrastructure and established neighborhoods, water use here is tied to municipal systems, with maintaining infrastructure and improving the efficiency of existing development providing the primary opportunities to reduce water demand and leakage. Policies here can support conservation through landscaping standards and coordination with water providers.

These three subareas illustrate why a uniform analysis and standard does not work across the county. Each area uses and impacts water differently, yet all are interconnected within the regional water system. This plan provides a flexible framework for recognizing those differences to ensure land use choices align with long-term water sustainability.

Water Element Planning Areas



The Planning Process

The development of this element relied on a collaborative process modeled on the West General Plan (2022), Sandy Hills General Plan (2023), and Wasatch Canyons General Plan (2020). The process combined research, public engagement, and inter-agency coordination to produce a balanced and compliant plan.

Research and Technical Review. The planning team reviewed existing County and regional documents, including the Resource Management Plan, Integrated Watershed Plan, and relevant conservation policies. State legislative requirements, Senate Bills (SB) 110 and 76, were incorporated into the framework. Best practices from peer communities and documents such as *Integrating Water Efficiency into Land Use Planning in the Interior West* informed the recommendations.

Community Engagement. Building on lessons from recent General Plan processes, engagement included online surveys, community council presentations and discussions, tabling at community events, and engaging one-on-one with adjacent municipalities and other stakeholders. Residents and stakeholder groups provided input on priorities, challenges, and opportunities. Engagement confirmed a general interest in protecting water sources, consistent stewardship practices, and the fair implementation of recommendations.

Agency Coordination. Consistent with state law, the consultant team engaged with public water providers, irrigation companies, and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. Local water utilities shared maps, data, and insights on infrastructure, as well as system limitations and planning considerations. The work of regional partners, such as Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), was also considered to ensure consistency with regional planning and transportation goals.

Review and Adoption. Drafts were reviewed by the County's project management team, technical advisors, and the Salt Lake County and Mountainous Planning District Planning Commissions prior to County Council presentations. Like other County plans, this Element is advisory, not regulatory, and provides policy recommendations that may shape ordinances, processes, and operations. The process and plan emphasizes the County's role as a land use authority in unincorporated county, while establishing a framework that can evolve with demographic, environmental, and development conditions.

Planning Horizon and Updates

The planning horizon for this element extends 20 years and should be reviewed once every 5 years.

A five-year review could include:

- Updating current land use maps and development patterns.
- Incorporating new population and growth projections.
- Reviewing the status of water supply sources, storage, and delivery infrastructure.
- Documenting water reduction practices for Salt Lake County facilities and amenities.
- Assessing ordinance changes related to water-efficient landscaping, irrigation practices, or development standards.
- Highlighting public outreach and education program outcomes.
- Coordinating with irrigation companies, water providers, and relevant state agencies for updated water supply data and policies.

SaveOurSaltLake Community Event

Data Sources

This element draws on a range of data to evaluate the relationship between land use and water. Data was extracted from publicly available databases or received from state, county, or water provider data managers between June and August 2025. No data was independently sourced or created by the consultant team. Key sources include:

Land Use and Growth Data

- Current zoning and land use designations from the Salt Lake County Zoning Ordinance and General Plans (Wasatch Canyons, West, Sandy Hills).
- Future land use projections from the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) and County planning documents.
- Parcel-level data from the Salt Lake County Assessor and Recorder.

Water Supply and Demand Data

- Water Conservation Plans from local providers
- Utah Division of Water Resources data on historic and projected demand.

Water Use Factors

- Gallons per capita per day (GPCD) benchmarks from Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy, and the Utah Division of Water Resources.
- Outdoor irrigation factors from the State's Regional Conservation Goals.
- Per-acre water use rates by land use type (residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural) from provider studies.

Environmental and Watershed Data

- Integrated Watershed Plan (2015).
- State Drinking Water Source Protection Zone maps.
- State and County GIS layers for hydrology, streams, wetlands, and slopes.

Geographic Information System Integration

All datasets were standardized and compiled in a geographic information system (GIS). This allowed spatial analysis of land use patterns, zoning overlays, and watershed conditions, and supported scenario modeling of future development and water demand.

Collaboration and Consultation

Development of this water element amendment relied on coordination with state agencies, local water providers, irrigation companies, and community stakeholders. Consultation ensured compliance with statutory requirements and helped confirm realities and ground recommendations. Input from these partners provided technical data, operational insights, and policy perspectives that shaped analysis and recommendations.

Outreach and Engagement Efforts

TYPE	ENTITY	PRIMARY ACTIONS
State Agency	Utah Division of Water Resources (DWR) Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF)	• Meetings to Review Regional Conservation Goals • Consultation with UDAF Staff on Agricultural Protection Areas and Irrigation Mapping
Water Providers	Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy Salt Lake City Public Utilities Individual Retail Providers	• Data-Sharing Meetings • Identifying and Understanding Water System Capacity
Irrigation and Canals	Utah Division of Water Resources (DWR)	• Review of Canal Alignments and Confirmation of Locations
Regional Partnerships	Wasatch Front Regional Council Great Salt Lake and West Traverse Sentinel Landscapes Programs	• Coordination on Future Land Use Data and Growth Projections • Coordination with military installations
Community Stakeholders	Community Councils, Recreation Groups, Property Owners, and Municipalities Residents (county-wide)	• Small-Group Discussions with Property Owners • Public Surveys and tabling events • Presentations to adjacent municipalities

BACKGROUND & FRAMEWORK

A System Under Pressure: Why This Requirement Emerged

Water challenges in Salt Lake County stem from overlapping pressures. Drought, fluctuating snowpack, and warmer temperatures reduce supply reliability, while high outdoor water use and fragmented governance increase demand and complicate management. Infrastructure also strains under growth that may outpace water availability and provider modeling. As a baseline, the typical Salt Lake County household uses roughly 81,500 gallons of water per year. Consistent with Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District and Utah State University research, about two-thirds of that volume—approximately 54,000 gallons—is associated with outdoor landscaping, making yard irrigation the primary driver of household water demand.

Recent state laws, including Senate Bills 110 (2022) and 76 (2023), mandate counties integrate water planning considerations into general plans. The following sections outline the drivers behind this element and why coordinated land use and water planning is now a legal and practical necessity.

Drought, Climate Volatility, and Decreasing Supply Reliability

Utah has experienced drought for two decades, with 2021 being one of the driest years on record. That year prompted changes in state water policy, with Governor Cox taking action to promote conservation and drought resilience. Salt Lake County Mayor Wilson lead on water conservation by directing County facilities and operations to take action and reduce water use. Additionally, the Salt Lake County West General Plan notes that droughts are common in Utah and that warming temperatures are expected to reduce water availability.

Salt Lake City's Water Conservation Plan (2020) predicts less water availability due to declining snow pack and longer dry seasons. These conditions show the vulnerability of systems designed for past conditions and support the requirements that communities address how to plan for water.

High Per Capita Use, Particularly Outdoor Demand

Utah's water use is among the highest in the nation, primarily from outdoor irrigation. Salt Lake County jurisdictions, including Sandy Hills and unincorporated areas, report water use of up to 241 gallons per capita per day (GCPD), well above the national average of 87 gallons. The Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District aims to reduce use to 187 GPCD by 2030, a 6% reduction from 2018.

Outdoor use, especially watering lawns, drives seasonal peak demand (April through October). As the state faces pressure to return water to the Great Salt Lake and manage shrinking reservoirs, efficiency must be addressed and land use controls encouraged, not just through voluntary actions or utility pricing.

Complex Governance Structures and Collaboration Requirements

In the case of Salt Lake County, land development approvals (counties and cities) are largely distinct from water delivery (utilities, districts, and canal companies). Previously, general plans were adopted without consultation with water providers and other relevant stakeholders, and zoning changes didn't have to consider system capacity, infrastructure, and service reliability. State and regional planners have flagged this concern, leading to these new requirements.

Infrastructure Risk and System Stress from Uncoordinated Growth

Water infrastructure is planned and financed based on continual forecasting with a 50-year land use and water planning horizon. When municipalities approve development without considering these models, providers face risks like flow shortfalls or costly upgrades. This can lead to mismatches between supply availability and permitted intensity. Efforts emphasized throughout this process recognize the need for land use coordination to protect water systems and avoid growth in areas with limited capacity.

Policy Shift Toward Proactive, Integrated Planning

Utah has shifted toward proactive water planning as population growth amplifies challenges. Governor Cox's 2021 drought response set the stage for a statewide focus on conservation, leading to the December 2021 State Water Plan and regional conservation goals, which aim to move communities from being reactive to being proactive when planning for water.

Statutory Changes

The following statutory changes, Senate Bills 110 (2022) and 76 (2023), and updates to Utah Code §17-27a-403, establish the foundation for this Water Element and clarify the County's legal responsibilities.

The laws do not dictate growth patterns or set conservation targets. Instead, they make communities responsible for ensuring land use decisions account for water as a limited resource. This element is the tool for meeting those requirements

SB 110: Planning for Land and Water Together

SB 110, passed in 2022, amended Utah's planning law by requiring counties and cities to analyze how land use affects water demand and infrastructure. It requires inclusion of a Water Use and Preservation Element in general plans and outlines four topics:

- How development affects water demand and infrastructure,
- strategies for reducing water demand in existing development,
- strategies for reducing demand in future development, and
- changes to local government operations to reduce wasteful water practices.

These requirements apply to all counties and cities; the goal of SB 110 is to connect land use decisions with water supply realities.

SB 76: Agricultural Water and Coordination with State Agencies

SB 76, adopted in 2023, expands the coordination required of counties. It emphasizes agricultural water, irrigation systems, and cooperation across agencies. Specifically, SB 76 requires counties to:

- Identify agricultural protection areas and avoid incompatible land uses,
- consult with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) on conservation easements and agricultural water optimization, and

Utah Localscapes

- notify irrigation and canal companies of land use changes that could pact their infrastructure

These rules protect agricultural water infrastructure from development impacts and ensure that state-supported conservation tools are applied in local planning.

Utah Code §17-27a-403: General Plan Requirements

Before SB 110 and SB 76 were adopted, Utah's county-level general plans did not have to include water as a required planning element. Water issues were typically handled in separate utility or conservation plans, often disconnected from land use policy.

By amending Utah Code §17-27a-403, to require an integrated Water Use and Preservation Element in every county and municipal general plan, that framework changed. This statute formally links land use and water planning by requiring local governments to analyze how development patterns affect water systems, identify policies to reduce demand, and incorporate conservation principles into growth management.

Previous Plans and Reference Documents

Salt Lake County has a long history of planning for land, water, and resource stewardship. Several general plans, watershed studies, and zoning tools already guide conservation and growth in unincorporated areas. Together, these documents form the foundation for this water element amendment. While each addresses water differently and at varying levels of detail, language embedded in the plans highlight how water providers and other key entities were involved in planning process and influenced outcomes.

Wasatch Canyons General Plan (2021)

Plan Summary. The Wasatch Canyons General Plan manages growth, conservation, and recreation in the Wasatch Canyons. It emphasizes preserving drinking water quality, scenic values, and habitats while allowing responsible access and development. Community values include resource protection, recreation, and property rights. The plan integrates earlier protections such as the 1999 Watershed Master Plan and the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ).

Water Resource Management Considerations. Water protection is central. The plan relies on the 1999 Watershed Master Plan and FCOZ to restrict high-impact development, limit impervious surfaces, and manage runoff. It calls for development review, education, and watershed monitoring. While it indirectly supports conservation, it does not explicitly address water demand management through land use.

Salt Lake County West General Plan (2022)

Plan Summary. The West General Plan guides growth, infrastructure, and conservation across the west bench. It states: "All water has innate value and is a shared natural resource." The plan prioritizes watershed protection, conservation, and integration of water into land use decisions. It emphasizes drought resilience, efficiency in indoor and outdoor uses, and the need for resilient water systems alongside open space preservation and coordinated infrastructure.

Water Resource Management Considerations. Chapter 6 establishes conservation as a policy priority, citing drought, climate change, and population growth. Strategies include conserving existing sources, improving efficiency, and planning at site and watershed scales. The plan promotes collaboration with state agencies, water districts, and stakeholders on education, incentives, and regulation.

Sandy Hills General Plan (2023)

Plan Summary. Covering three unincorporated residential areas, the Sandy Hills General Plan seeks to preserve neighborhood character and quality of life. It identifies six priorities: infrastructure, collaboration, responsive codes, engagement, gathering spaces, and fiscal responsibility. The plan balances character preservation with infrastructure, safety, and connectivity improvements.

Water Resource Management Considerations. The plan links land use to water quality and efficiency. It notes that large, irrigated yards raise demand and impervious surfaces increase runoff. It encourages landscaping that reduces runoff and promotes infiltration. Protecting open space and green infrastructure supports water quality. While regional issues are acknowledged, the focus remains on storm water and watershed health.

Salt Lake County Resource Management Plan (2017)

This plan inventories natural resources, including water, rangeland, wetlands, and agricultural land, and provides management recommendations. It includes water quality, groundwater, in-stream flows, and conservation priorities. It also addresses coordination with state/federal agencies.

Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan (2015)

This plan updated Salt Lake County's 2009 Water Quality Stewardship Plan. It evaluated progress, incorporated new data, and set goals and strategies for long-term watershed management. Key goals include storm water control, supply coordination, pollution reduction, habitat restoration, climate adaptation, energy–water efficiency, and inter-jurisdictional collaboration. The plan provides measurable objectives and strategies that integrate water quality with land use and growth management. This plan is currently being updated and is expected to be adopted in December 2025.

Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2015)

This plan sets the vision for County parks, recreation facilities, and trails, focusing on new investments, upkeep, and equitable access. It highlights the role of parks in supporting community health and quality of life. While primarily about recreation, the plan also notes resource stewardship, including efficient irrigation, turf management, and riparian corridor protection. This plan is currently being updated.

Other Overlays and Special Areas

Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ). Established in 1997, FCOZ applies to unincorporated areas of the Wasatch Canyons. It adds development standards to base zoning districts, limiting slopes, setting stream setbacks, regulating design, and requiring erosion control. Its purpose is to protect scenic character, habitats, and watershed quality.

Agricultural Protection Areas (APAs). APAs safeguard farmland under Utah Code Title 17, Chapter 41. They prevent local rules that unreasonably limit farming, require consent for zoning changes, and protect normal activities from nuisance claims. State and local projects must minimize impacts. APAs are reviewed every 20 years and no APAs currently exist in Salt Lake County. If an APA is established in the future, the County must ensure that all land use decisions, amendments, and projects within its boundaries do not disrupt the continued viability of agricultural operations. In October 2025, Salt Lake County appointed 5 members to serve on its APA Advisory Board; they will review future APA applications and provide guidance on potential APA designations.

ENGAGEMENT

The public engagement process lasted four months and combined education, perception-gathering, and stakeholder consultation. The goal was to clarify new legislative requirements, understand community opinion on personal and regional water practices, and incorporate the views of key organizations and landholders into policy development. Key goals include:

- Inform residents about SB 110, SB 76, and Utah Code 10-27a-403,
- reach diverse demographic groups, including underserved communities,
- collect input to prioritize conservation strategies,
- maintain transparent, two-way communication, updating the community on how their feedback was used, and
- gauge public sentiment of policy options, such as landscaping requirements or incentive programs, to reduce water demand.

Engagement Approach

Multiple tools and events targeted different stakeholder and community groups, including:

- **Custom Website.** Hosted surveys, FAQs, maps, and infographics
- **Stakeholder Meetings.** Engaged HOAs, landowners, government entities, and institutions
- **Local Government Meetings.** Meetings with adjacent jurisdictions to highlight common alignment and provide opportunities for comment
- **Public Events.** Tabling events and Community Council presentations
- **Online Outreach.** Social media, newsletters, and QR-code feedback boards in public buildings.

Key Engagement Events

- **July:** *Website Launch* - Project website went live with background information, a survey, infographics highlighting key points from the County's General Plan, and FAQs.
- **August:** *Initial Stakeholder Outreach* - Four early engagement meetings established a foundational understanding of regional priorities, operational constraints, and community expectations across distinct user groups. Further, some guiding themes emerged: collaboration between land use and water managers early in the planning process, differentiated strategies for constrained or single-source systems, and the County's leadership role.
- **August 23:** *People's Great Salt Lake Summit Tabling Event* - About 30 conversations took place. Patrons had primarily positive feedback and showed interest in the project.
- **September:** *Internal Stakeholder Engagement* - County departments reviewed the draft plan, providing detailed, operations-focused input to ensure alignment with existing programs, service capacities, and interdepartmental responsibilities.
- **October:** *Municipal Stakeholder Engagement* - Outreach extended to surrounding municipalities, emphasizing coordination in areas with overlapping jurisdictions, shared infrastructure, and regional water resource connections to strengthen consistency and collaboration across boundaries.
- **Ongoing:** *Widespread digital and in-person outreach* - Interactive engagement boards and informational flyers were placed at the County Government Center, while targeted social media campaigns reached residents across unincorporated areas and adjacent communities. Geo-targeted posts and boosted content amplified visibility, driving awareness, participation, and direct feedback from those most affected by upcoming planning efforts. GSBS also hosted tabling at two local markets, giving residents a direct opportunity to learn about the plan and share feedback face-to-face.

Community Perspectives

Several themes emerged from surveys, meetings, and events:

- **Support for legislative consistency**. Residents and stakeholders generally agreed that linking land use and water supply is necessary and expressed confidence in the County's compliance with state law.
- **Personal importance of conservation.** More than four in five survey respondents said water conservation mattered to them, both personally and for the community.
- **Landscaping practices as the focus.** Water-efficient landscaping in new development, xeriscaping, and limiting non-active lawns were seen as the most effective strategies.
- **Need for education and transparency.** Ongoing workshops, resources on subsidies, and visible County action on its own properties were highly desired.
- **Equity considerations.** Respondents highlighted the need for incentives to reach renters, HOA-governed properties, and low-income households.

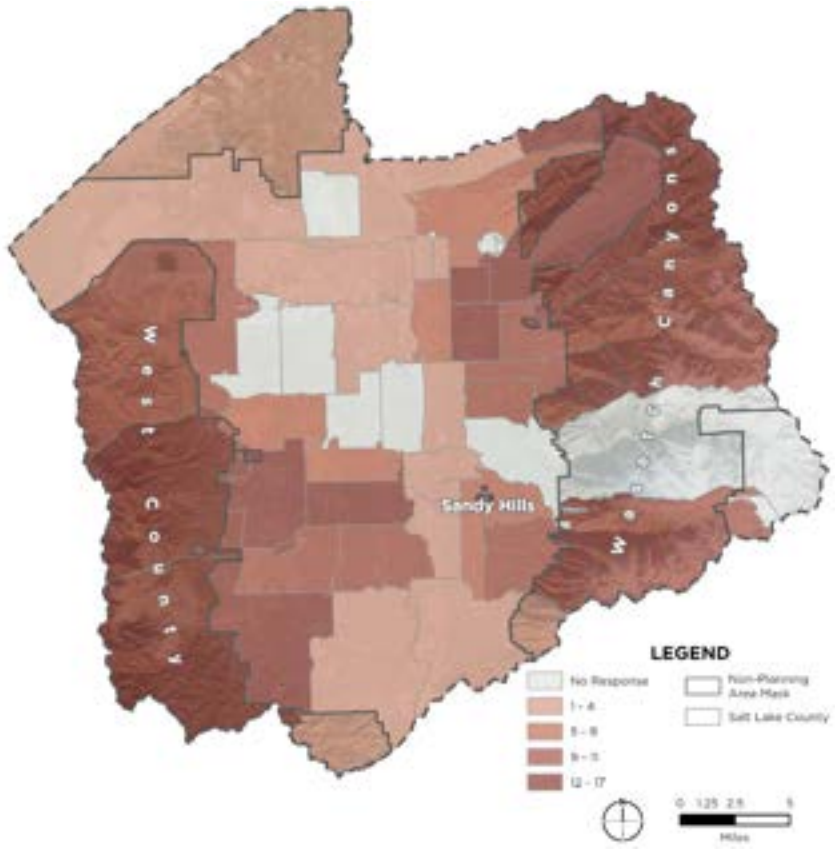
Survey Insights

Over a 12 week period, 263 distinct individuals responded to the online survey. Key takeaways from the survey include:

- Respondents were evenly distributed across adult age groups, with a similar number of respondents in the 30-69 age brackets.
- While there was support for stricter landscaping regulations, there was concern over applying rules to different housing types and program accessibility for renters, HOAs, and elder and low-income populations.
- Most respondents said they have not participated in a water conservation rebate or audit program. Of these, 47% were aware of County-sponsored programs and 34% were not.
- Responses highlighted concerns in the large disparities of water use. Many called out data centers and farms for consuming far more than others in the same land use category.
- Open-ended responses often connected the County's water conservation efforts to the health of regional ecosystems, particularly the Great Salt Lake, emphasizing its decline as a shared regional responsibility for long-term water security.

Importantly, nearly 70% of survey respondents live in unincorporated Salt Lake County, while others indicated they work, recreate, or visit the project area. Full survey responses and analysis is available in Appendix A.

Survey Response Heat Map, by Zip Code



Stakeholder Outreach

The project team engaged with myriad organizations, from state-level government departments to homeowner associations, in order to communicate the intent of this plan, discuss common practices, and receive input. This table lists groups, departments, and organizations outside of Salt Lake County government who were part of this plan, and their broad affiliation.

ENTITY	TYPE
Camp Williams	Federal Government
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food	State Government
Utah Department of Water Resources	State Government
Bluffdale	Municipality
Draper	Municipality
Herriman	Municipality
Holladay	Municipality
Sandy	Municipality
South Jordan	Municipality
West Jordan	Municipality
West Valley City	Municipality
Sandy Hills Community Council	Community Group
Hi-Country Estates HOA 1 Community Council	Community Group
Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District	Water Provider
Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy	Water Provider
Salt Lake City Public Utilities	Water Provider
Mount Aire	Water Provider
Forest Home Company	Water Provider
Salt Lake County Service Area No. 3 (Snowbird)	Water Provider
Wasatch Resort	Water Provider
Magna Water District	Water Provider
Granger-Hunter Improvement District	Water Provider
Kearns Improvement District	Water Provider
Rio Tinto Kennecott	Land Owner

Key Takeaways from Engagement

The engagement process showed broad alignment between community sentiment, stakeholder perspectives, and state law. Conservation is widely supported as both a personal and a regional responsibility. The strongest consensus emerged around landscaping practices and education, paired with access to incentives or support programs to help all residents make water-wise choices. Concerns centered on equitable access to those incentives, ensuring that benefits extend beyond homeowners. Stakeholders largely confirmed these views while adding emphasis around their own operational priorities and regional-scale water management.

Support for Linking Land Use to Water Resources

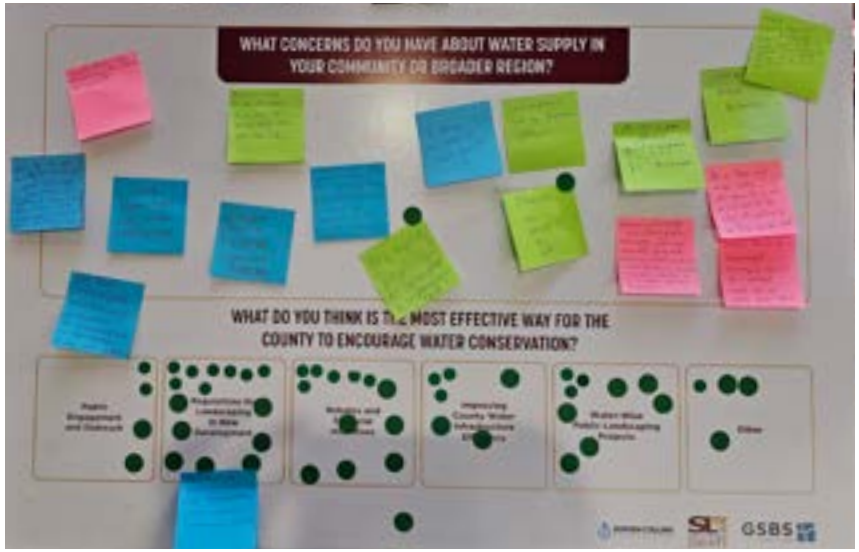
There is general support for linking land use decisions with water supply and positive views of the legislation that legally require it. Across all engagement strategies, participants emphasized that water conservation is extremely important. Many connected local conservation efforts to regional impacts, noting concerns about downstream effects on the Great Salt Lake and the ecosystem services it provides. There was agreement that Salt Lake County should lead by example by using water-wise landscaping on its own properties.

"I worry about the Great Salt Lake drying up and along with it our quality of life."

Positive Response to Recommended Conservation Strategies and Actions

Broad support exists for mitigation strategies. Regulations for water-efficient landscaping in new developments and water-wise public landscaping projects are viewed as the most effective ways to reduce water use. There is strong support for native landscaping and limiting non-active turf, such as ornamental grass strips, medians, facility edges, and underutilized open space. Participants expressed enthusiasm for continued public education on water conservation and a few noted that higher rates could encourage conservation.

"The amount of water wasted on grass is alarming. We live in a high plateau desert. Why do we even have lawns?"



Equity and Access Concerns

Participants raised concerns about ensuring renters, elderly residents, and low-income families can access education programs and are not disproportionately impacted by onerous ordinances. The cost of installing water-wise landscaping was frequently mentioned as a barrier. Further, when asked what would help them take action, many respondents cited significant cost for xeriscaping. While a small number of respondents reported participating in a rebate program, about half were aware such programs existed, but had not participated. Most respondents indicated that they felt only somewhat informed about how to reduce water use at home with assistance.

"I need help with taking out my grass. I no longer have the physical strength or money to do it myself."

Interest in High-Volume Users

Survey responses and conversations highlighted frustration that water conservation efforts are disproportionately focused on individual households. Participants emphasized the need for stronger accountability and policies targeting industrial and agricultural sectors, including large-scale farming operations and commercial properties. Many respondents felt that individual efforts are a small drop in the bucket compared to these larger users, with alfalfa farms and data centers frequently cited. There was strong support for prioritizing conservation policies and restrictions on these sectors before expanding residential regulations.

"Why is it always placed [on] individuals?! There should be a much larger conversation about things like data centers, agriculture, etc."

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

UNINCORPORATED SALT LAKE COUNTY CONDITIONS

Current Water Preservation Strategies

Salt Lake County operates within a layered system where local conservation efforts intersect with regional conservancy districts and state initiatives. The County directly manages water use in its own facilities.

Wholesale providers, such as the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy and the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District oversee conservation programs, manage bill-payer rates, and track regional per-capita use.

The State of Utah supports these efforts through incentives, rebates, and education campaigns. Outcomes are measured at multiple scales, some in gallons saved, others in per-capita reductions, resulting in a patchwork of programs with varied, but noticeable, impacts.

County-Level Goal, Operations, and Ordinances

Goals

Salt Lake County is working to:

- reduce operational water use in County facilities and landscapes,[3]
- transition County property turf to water-wise landscaping in areas not used for playing fields and similar needs, [3]
- protect watershed function and water quality through long-term watershed planning and Salt Lake County Health Department's Watershed Regulation,[2] and
- integrate water efficiency into land use decision-making and zoning updates.[1]

Operations and Programming

Executive Action on County Water Use. In 2021, Mayor Jenny Wilson set a county operations standard to reduce overall facility water use by at least 5%, focusing pilot retrofits at five of its highest-use sites to cut landscape irrigation demand and demonstrate best practices in operational water efficiency.

Flip the Strip Pilot (County Facilities). In 2024, 161,000 square feet of park strips at County buildings were converted to drought-tolerant landscaping, funded by $2 million in federal relief dollars. This pilot project is expected to save nearly four million gallons of water per year.[3] This localscaping project is in addition to previously local- or xeriscaped properties across the county.

Operational Water Reduction Measures. County departments have audited irrigation systems, delayed the start of watering until mid-May, reduced watering days, and monitored sprinklers to prevent overspray. These actions cut water use by 13% during peak irrigation in 2021, surpassing the 5% reduction target.[3]

Watershed Planning and Restoration Program. Salt Lake County maintains area-wide water quality authority under the federal Clean Water Act. The program monitors streams, undertakes restoration projects, and coordinates public education to improve watershed health.[2]

Funding Commitments. To advance water-wise practices beyond County facilities, Salt Lake County invested $1.3 million in municipal grants through the Water Conservation and Land Use Program to support cities in converting turf to water-wise landscaping at municipally owned facilities. As a result, Bluffdale, Cottonwood Heights, Herriman, Millcreek, Murray, Riverton, Sandy, South Jordan, Taylorsville, West Jordan, and West Valley implemented water-wise landscape conversions that will collectively save 12 million gallons of water annually in Salt

Lake County. These improvements reduce operating costs for cities, streamline maintenance, and strengthen long-term water efficiency at municipal owned properties. In addition, the shift away from high-water turf supports sustained flows to the Great Salt Lake.

Water Conservation Committee. This County-internal staff and administrator working group meets regularly to discuss current water status, opportunities for collaboration, and increasing conservation efforts throughout the County operations.

County Ordinance Review

In accordance with Utah Code §17-27a-403(2)(g)(viii), Salt Lake County's zoning and landscape design rules were reviewed to understand how they address water efficiency in development. Chapter 19.77, ***Water Efficient Landscape Design and Development Standards***, is the main section of County code that supports this requirement. The chapter's purpose is "to promote more efficient use of water resources for landscape irrigation purposes." No sections were found that directly allow or require wasteful water use. However, several parts of the code could be improved to better match state guidance and strengthen overall conservation outcomes.

Residential Exemption. §19.77.020(B) (Scope and Applicability) exempts "landscape improvements provided by individual homeowners within the front, side, and rear yards of single- and two-family dwellings." The phrase "provided by individual homeowners" is not defined. In practice, it likely means landscaping installed or maintained by the homeowner rather than through a permitted subdivision or site plan. This exemption may leave most single-family yards outside of the County's water-efficiency standards, allowing high-water-use lawns and irrigation systems to be installed without review. Clarifying this language could close a significant gap.

Limited Retrofit Coverage. §19.77.020(A) applies to "new developments" and to projects where the "gross floor area is changed, modified, or expanded by more than twenty percent." There are no clear rules for when existing properties must update older irrigation systems or landscapes. As a result, many established areas with inefficient watering systems remain unregulated. Extending the rules to major landscape renovations or new irrigation permits would help reduce outdoor water use in older developments.

Design Standards and Post-Installation Audit. §19.77.030(A) requires irrigation systems to be designed by a qualified professional, and §19.77.170 requires a Post-Installation Landscape Performance Audit to confirm that systems are installed and working as designed. This is an important quality-control step, but Chapter 19.77 does not include a process for fixing problems found during the audit or penalties for non-compliance. Without a clear follow-up requirement, the audit checks design accuracy but may not ensure long-term efficiency.

Water Allowance Efficiency Factor. §19.77.030(C) adopts an Evapotranspiration Adjustment Factor (ETAF) of 0.62 to determine the amount of irrigation water allowed for new landscapes. The Utah Division of Water Resources' Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) recommends an ETAF of 0.50 for most landscapes and about 0.30–0.35 for special areas such as parks or sports fields. Salt Lake County's higher ETAF is less stringent than the state model and means that new developments may use roughly one-quarter more irrigation water. While this difference is within the County's discretionary authority, lowering the ETAF to align with the state model would make the County's standards consistent with current best practices and reduce overall demand.

Water-Supply Verification. Neither the zoning nor subdivision chapters (§18.04, §19) require formal confirmation from a water provider that adequate supply and pressure are available before approving a development. While Utah law (§17-27a-603(1)(b)) allows counties to include this step, Salt Lake County has not added it to its review process. While this requirement is inherent in development review and part of the development process, requiring proof of adequate supply early in the entitlement process could better connect land-use and water-planning decisions.

Overall, these provisions do not promote inefficient water use directly but limit the County's ability to prevent it. The current framework meets the statutory intent of encouraging water-efficient design, and Chapter 19.77 demonstrates commitment to that end. Additional refinements could help achieve efficiency in design as well as in the long-term operation and performance of water systems.

Conservancy District and State Programming

Goals

The Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy set a goal to reduce per-capita water use from 210 gallons per day in 2015 to 187 gallons per day by 2030. By 2022, use had already declined to 166 gallons per day, exceeding the 2030 target.[3]

The Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District has committed to reduce usage to 187 gallons per capita per day (GPCD) by 2030. It also promotes water-wise landscape standards through education, to support Utah's statewide goal to reduce municipal and industrial use 16 percent by 2030.[3]

The State of Utah promotes water efficiency statewide through education programs such as "Slow the Flow" and associated rebate programs.[3]

Operations and Programming

Utah Water Savers Rebates. A statewide program offering financial incentives for lawn conversion, smart irrigation controllers, efficient appliances, and tree planting. In 2024, more than three million square feet of turf were replaced, saving over 100 million gallons of water per year across Utah.[3]

Conservation Garden Park (JVWCD). A regional demonstration site offering classes, landscape design resources, and professional certification for water-efficient landscaping.[3]

Water Efficiency Standards (JVWCD). Development meeting Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District landscape standards receives a more generous water allocation, 1.65 acre-feet per acre versus 1.35 acre-feet per acre, encouraging water-wise landscaping for long-term reductions in outdoor water demand.[4]

Regional Landscape Conversion Programs. Incentive programs, such as "Flip your Strip" are administered by some water districts and cities to support residents who seek to replace turf in their yard or along streets with water-wise landscaping.[3]

Water Conservation Committee. This County-internal staff and administrator working group meets regularly to discuss current water status, opportunities for collaboration, and increasing conservation efforts throughout the County operations.

Current Condition Maps

The following ten maps illustrate some of the key forces shaping land use and water across unincorporated Salt Lake County. Together, they reveal how zoning, planned growth, and resource protection areas intersect with the County's critical water infrastructure, parks, and watershed overlays, to link land decisions directly to long-term water supply and conservation.

They also capture the County's complex physical setting, from the steep, forested slopes of the Wasatch Range to the dry alluvial fans of the Oquirrhs and the urbanizing valley in between, where management and oversight must balance competing demands across dramatically different environments. The maps draw on Salt Lake County GIS data, WFRC growth projections, and state resource inventories to ensure consistency across the region.

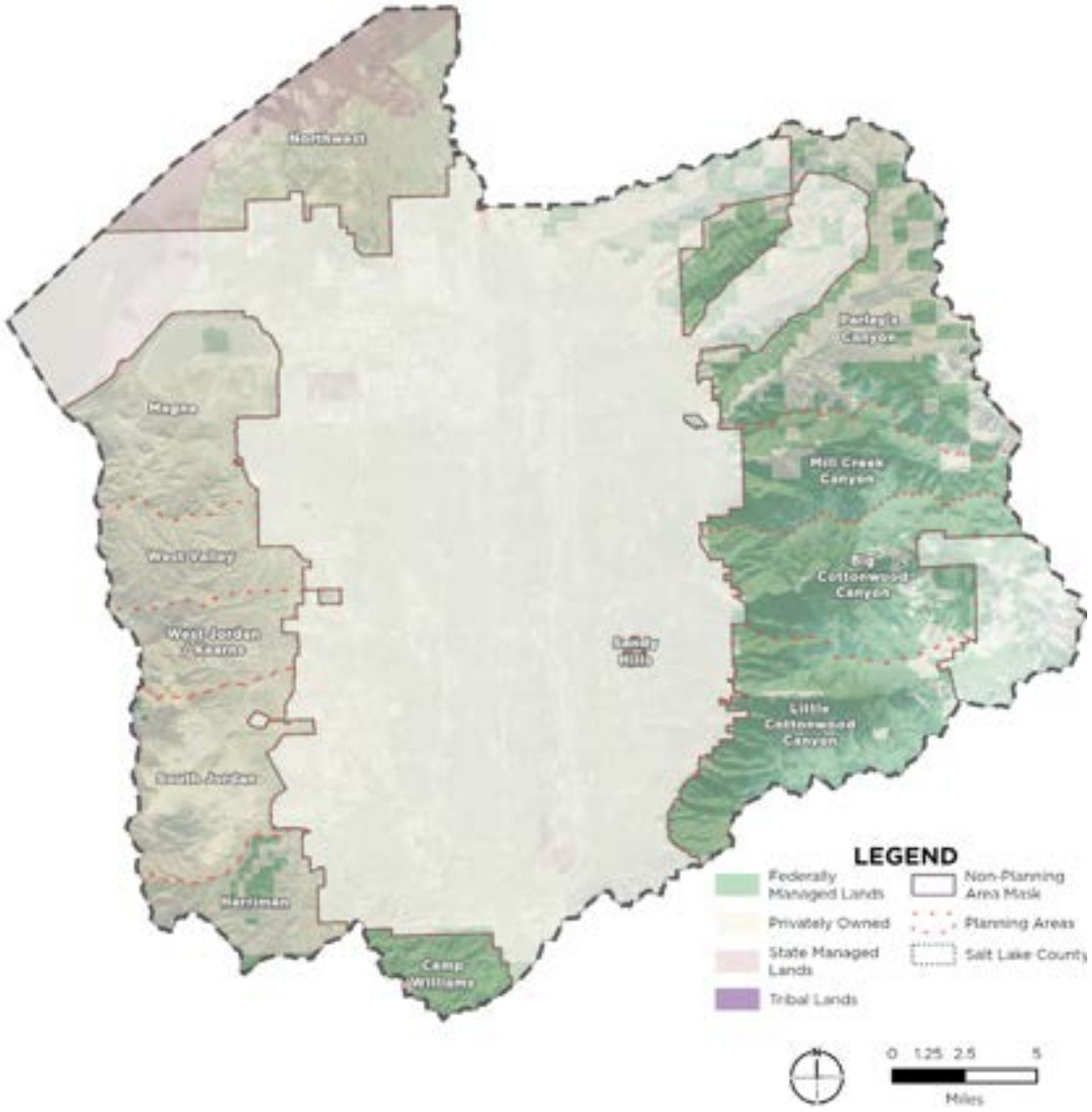
These maps and their accompanying analyses helped inform the plan's recommendations and spatially pinpointed where growth pressures, infrastructure constraints, and resource risks are most likely to converge, clarifying where targeted policy and investment can most effectively sustain water availability and ecosystem resilience over time. They also reveal how water risk, access, and service capacity may vary across the county, insight critical to equitable resource management. These spatial relationships can serve as a baseline for coordinating future land use and management, conservation priorities, and improvement planning.

Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District

Land Ownership

The land ownership map distinguishes between private, state, and federal lands within the planning area. It highlights the large share of federally managed land in the Wasatch Canyons, state holdings in select open space and institutional areas, and the extensive private ownership that shapes development in both the Oquirrh and Wasatch Mountains and across the valley floor.

Data source: Salt Lake County Assessor and Recorder



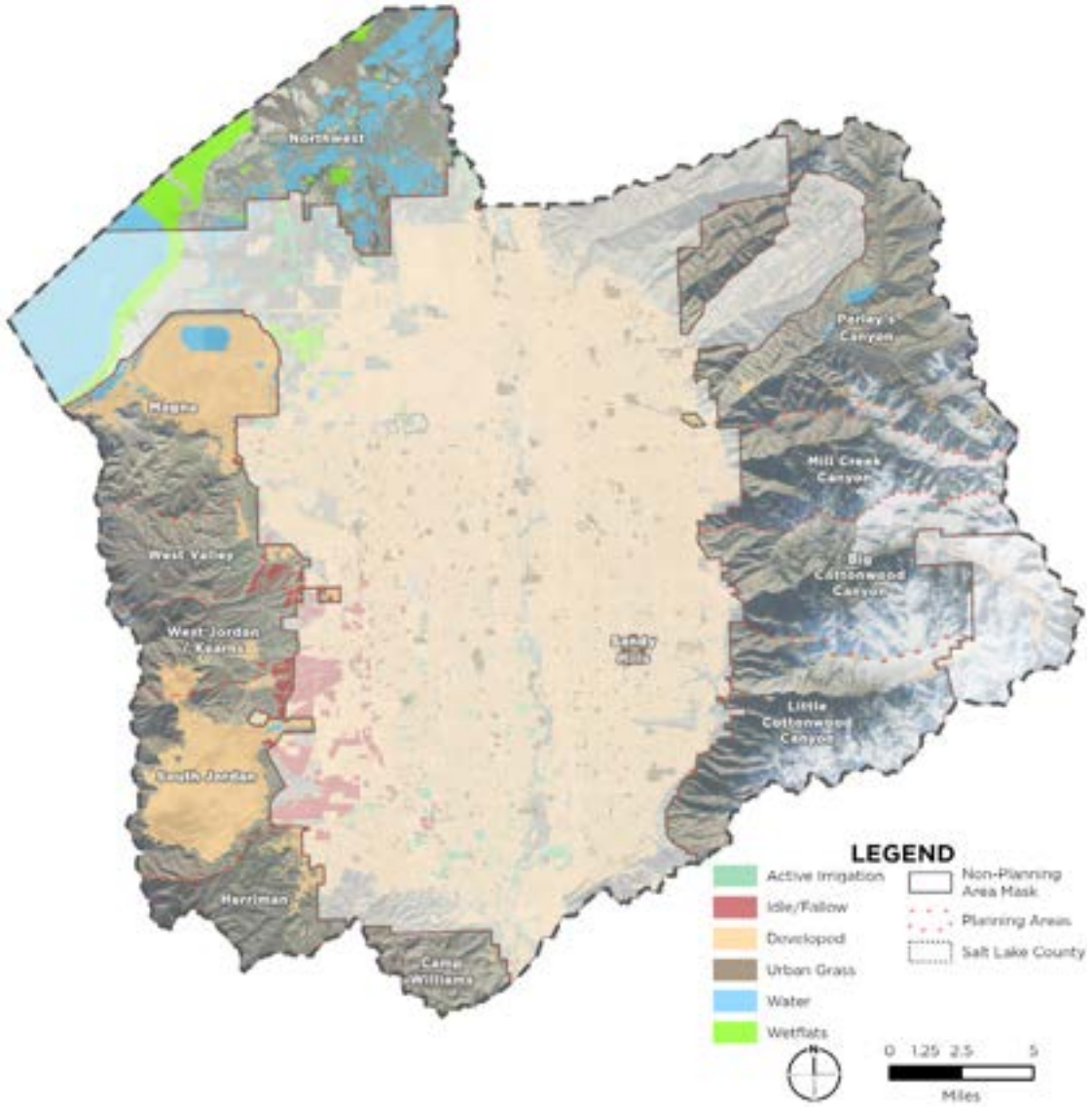
Water Related Land Uses

Utah Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Water-Related Land Use (WRLU) dataset classifies how land interacts with water. Active irrigation areas are fields currently watered for crops, while idle or fallow lands are agricultural parcels without irrigation that year. Developed areas include urban and industrial land, and urban grass covers irrigated turf such as lawns, parks, and golf courses. Water includes open water bodies and streams, while wet flats represent shallow, seasonally flooded areas like lake margins.

These classifications help planners and utilities measure how land use changes affect water demand and supply. WRLU data track shifts from agriculture to urban uses, support water budgeting, and guide conservation and recharge planning. Standardized mapping allows regional comparison and helps identify opportunities for efficiency and protection of sensitive zones.

Growth across these classes directly influences long-term water sustainability. Converting irrigated farmland to urban turf reduces return flows while increasing summer demand. Urbanizing idle lands locks in permanent new use, and development near water or wet flats increases risks to water quality, flooding, and habitat. Monitoring these changes supports land use policies that balance growth with sustainable resource management.

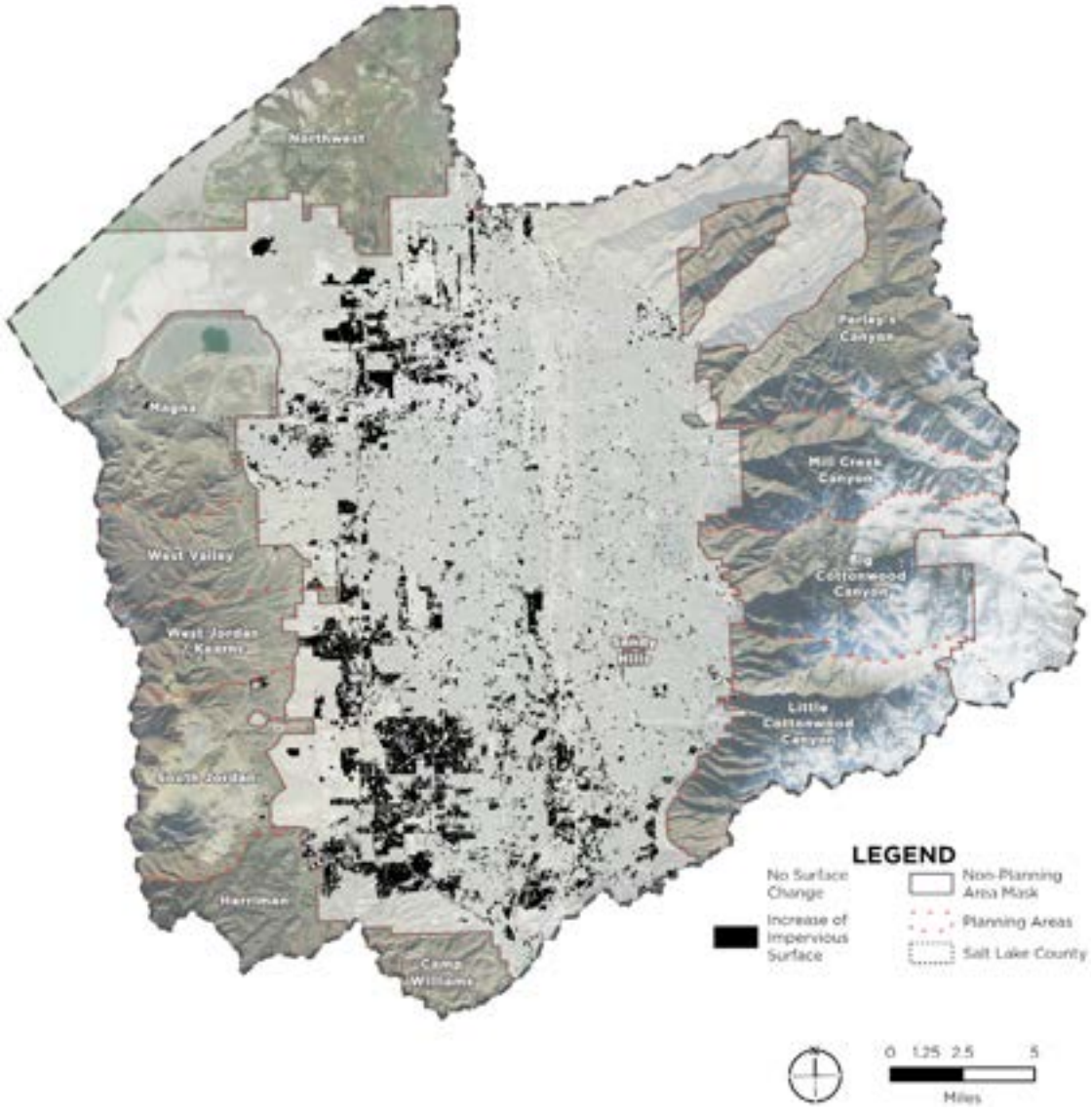
Data source: Utah Department of Natural Resources Water Related Land Use Report, 2024



Land Cover Change, 2004-2024

This map uses National Land Cover Database annual land cover change (2004–2024) to show shifts from undeveloped classes to developed land cover across Salt Lake County. Increases in developed classes are concentrated on the west side of the valley, which can include new subdivisions, industrial sites, and transportation corridors. The east side shows comparatively little change, consistent with protected Wasatch Canyon areas and built-out neighborhoods. The pattern identifies the west side as the primary driver for future water-demand growth and storm water management load.

Data source: United States Geologic Survey, National Land Cover Database, 2004 and 2024



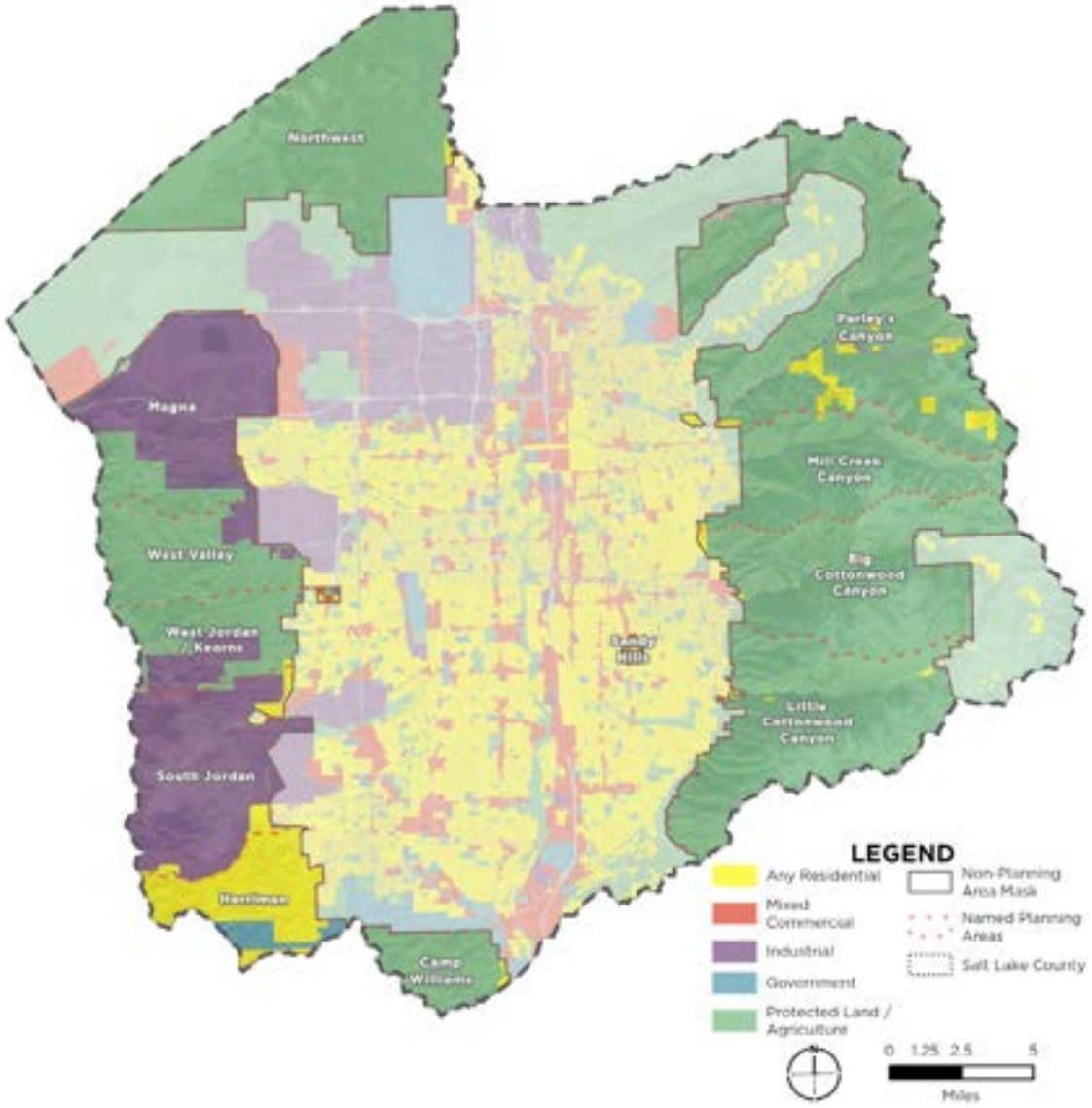
WFRC 2050 Identified Future Land Use and Residential Growth Areas

This map highlights growth areas identified by the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) in its 2050 regional forecasts. WFRC generates these projections through a combination of demographic modeling, transportation demand forecasting, and review of locally adopted general plans. Cities and counties supply their planned land uses, zoning assumptions, and development expectations, and WFRC integrates that information into a unified regional model. The result is referential data that illustrates where growth is likely to concentrate, not a directive that replaces local land use authority.

WFRC forecasts are used here because the Wasatch Canyons General Plan does not include future land use mapping. The regional projections provide a useful frame for understanding anticipated growth patterns in the broader metropolitan area and for identifying where development pressures may emerge relative to transportation networks, utilities, and watershed resources.

For the western county area, these WFRC forecasts were not used in the technical analysis. The future land uses adopted in the West General Plan remain the baseline for that area, and the County continues to rely on its own land use plan—not WFRC modeling—for regulatory review and development decisions.

Data source: Wasatch Front Regional Council Generalized Future Land Use, 2020



Agricultural Use Parcels

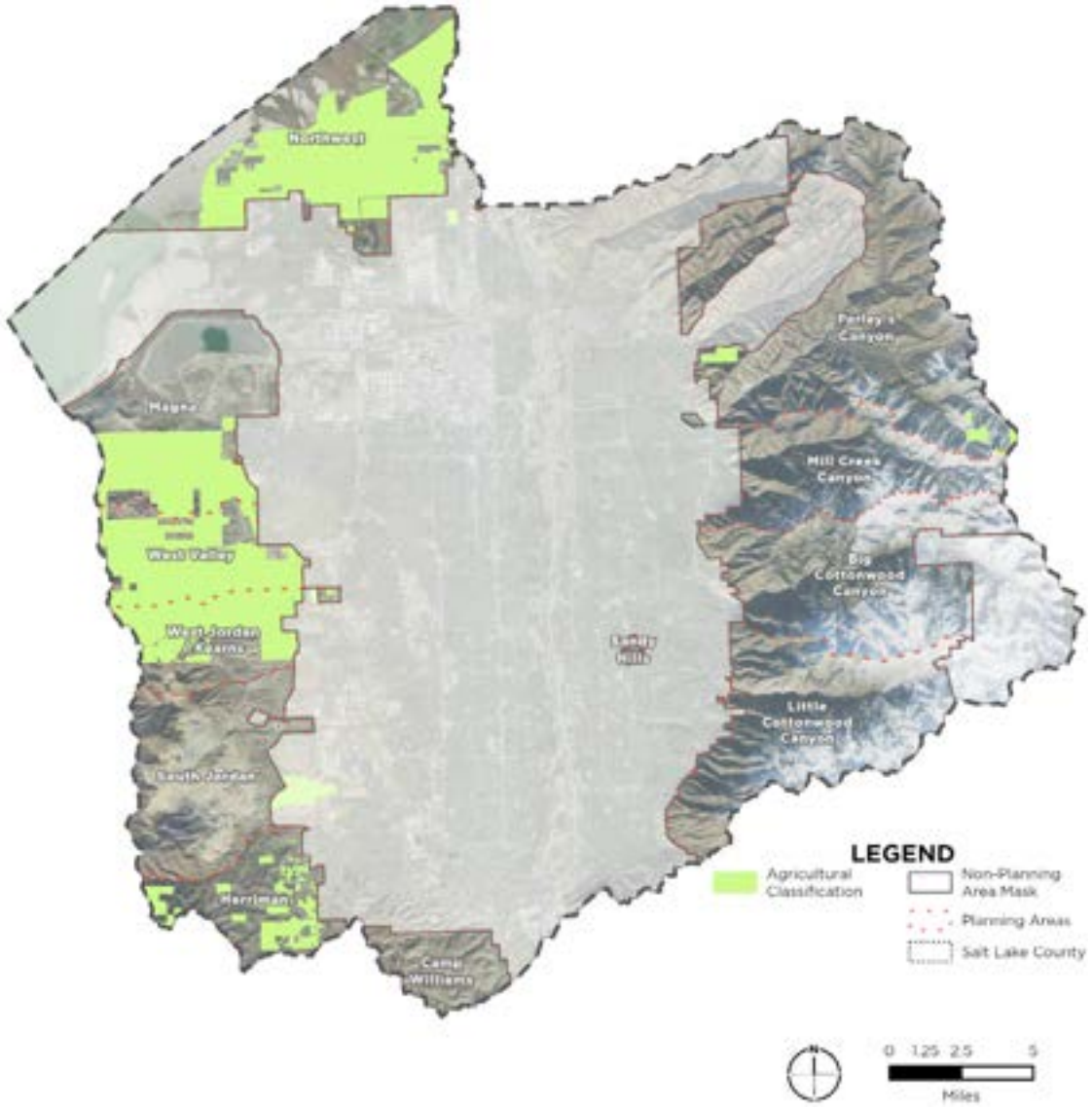
This map shows agricultural classified land in the planning area, as identified by the Salt Lake County Assessor. Using current year property type classifications, 504 parcels spanning over 47,000 acres are identified as areas to raise livestock or grow crops; approximately 29,000 acres are owned by Rio Tinto Kennecott or a subsidiary in the Granger-Hunter and West Jordan areas.

While there is some active cultivation spread across the county, these agriculture-coded parcels are likely primarily held for transition; these may be ideal opportunity sites for conservation easements.

For example, a large portion of the Northwest section is identified and assessed as agriculture under a greenbelt designation and may be used intermittently for grazing or rangeland. Given proximity to the Great Salt Lake, a lack of irrigation infrastructure, publicly available Utah Department of Water Resources data from 2023, and an analysis of high-resolution photography, there are few indications of widespread agricultural use.

In the Herriman subarea along Rose Creek, the Hi-Country Communities are low-density, large-lot residential subdivisions planned for equestrian use, where many residents keep horses, with corrals, barns, and pasture integrated into the lots.

Data source: Salt Lake County Assessor and Recorder



Salt Lake County Recreation Areas and Facilities

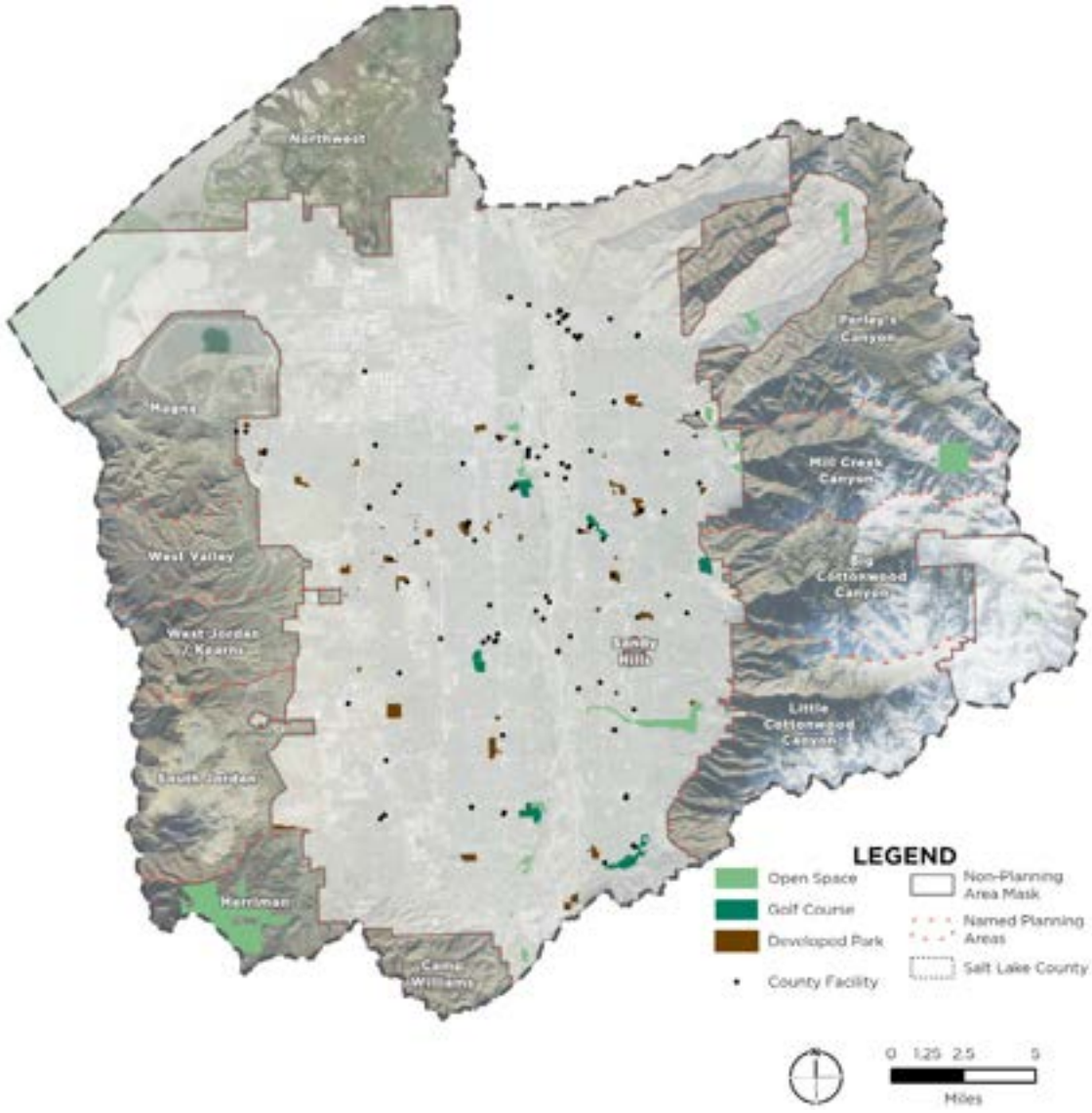
This map identifies County-managed recreation areas and facilities. Together they represent a significant share of the County's managed land and water use footprint.

The 106 facilities, shown as points, include libraries, recreation centers, senior service centers, public safety buildings, administrative offices, and performance and expo centers.

The parks and recreation data highlights County-managed lands, distinguishing between natural parks that protect open space and habitat, and developed parks with recreation fields and amenities. The county manages 141 park spaces and facilities across in both incorporated and unincorporated areas; this accounts for about 8100 acres, of which there are approximately 650 acres of turf.

Because the County manages these assets directly, it can implement consistent, system-wide water-wise practices, such as smart metering or irrigation schedules or turf-to-native conversions. Further, these sites can also serve as public demonstrations of water efficiency, helping to normalize and accelerate adoption of new practices on private properties Concentrating pilots and performance tracking to County parks can streamline funding and programming, and can enable verified water savings reporting.

Data source: Salt Lake County Assessor and Recorder, Salt Lake County Facilities Management



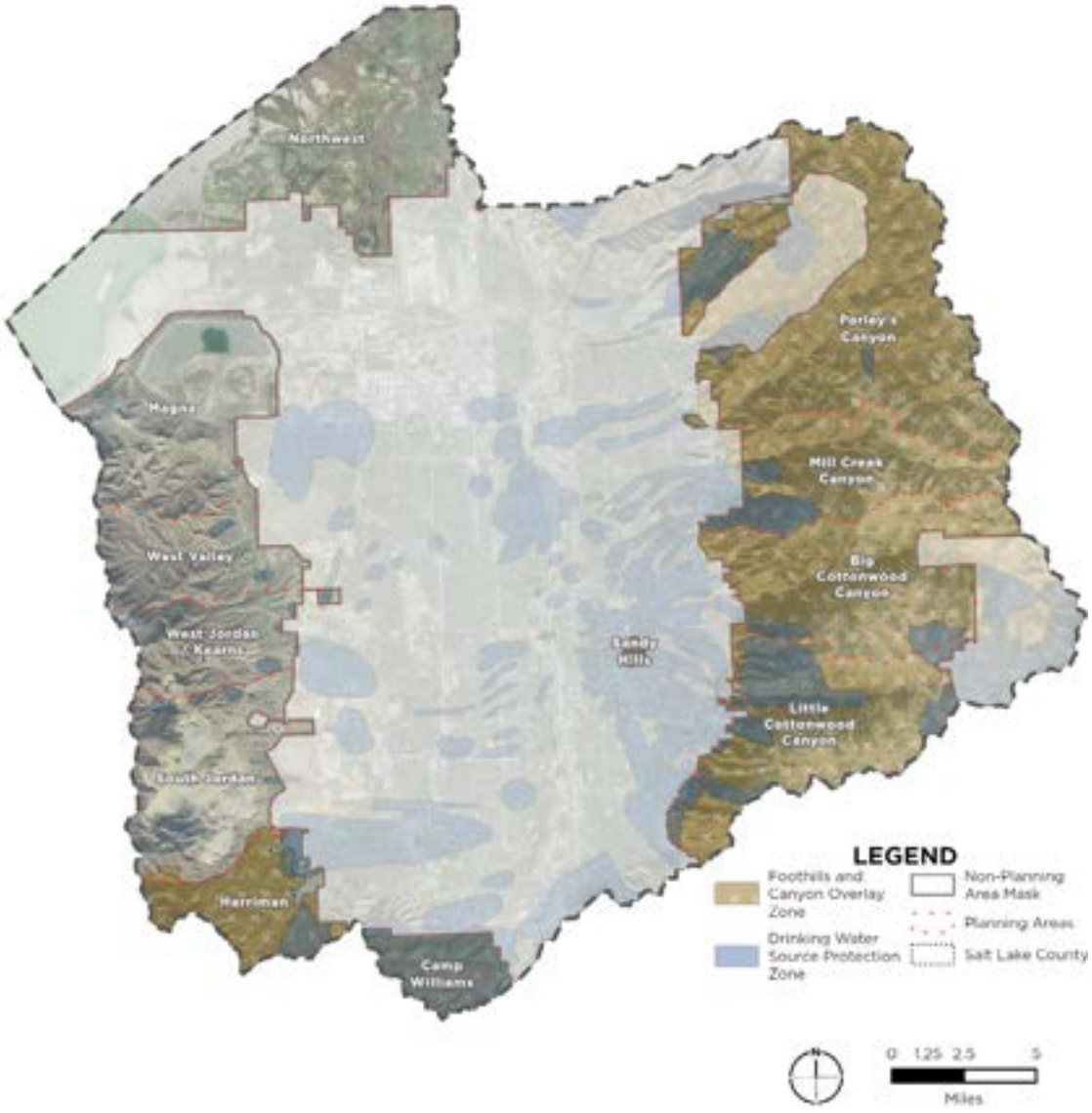
Drinking Water Protection and Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zones

This water protection areas map identifies drinking water source protection zones and watershed overlays that restrict incompatible land uses to safeguard supply and quality.

The Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ) outlines regulated areas in the Wasatch canyons, adjacent foothills, and Oquirrh Canyons in the southwest areas, showing where additional development standards apply to protect water quality and sensitive lands. The overlay regulates development on steep slopes, ridge lines, stream corridors, and other vulnerable areas to minimize erosion, runoff, and ignition risk in the wildland–urban interface (WUI). These wildfire protection measures help reduce post-fire erosion and debris flows that can contaminate water supplies.

Water source protection zones are designated areas surrounding wells, springs, or surface water intakes that supply public drinking water. To maintain safe, reliable supply quality, these zones establish distance-based boundaries to control or prohibit land uses and activities that could contaminate groundwater or surface water sources.

Data source: Salt Lake County Watershed Planning and Restoration, Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District, Utah Department of Environmental Quality



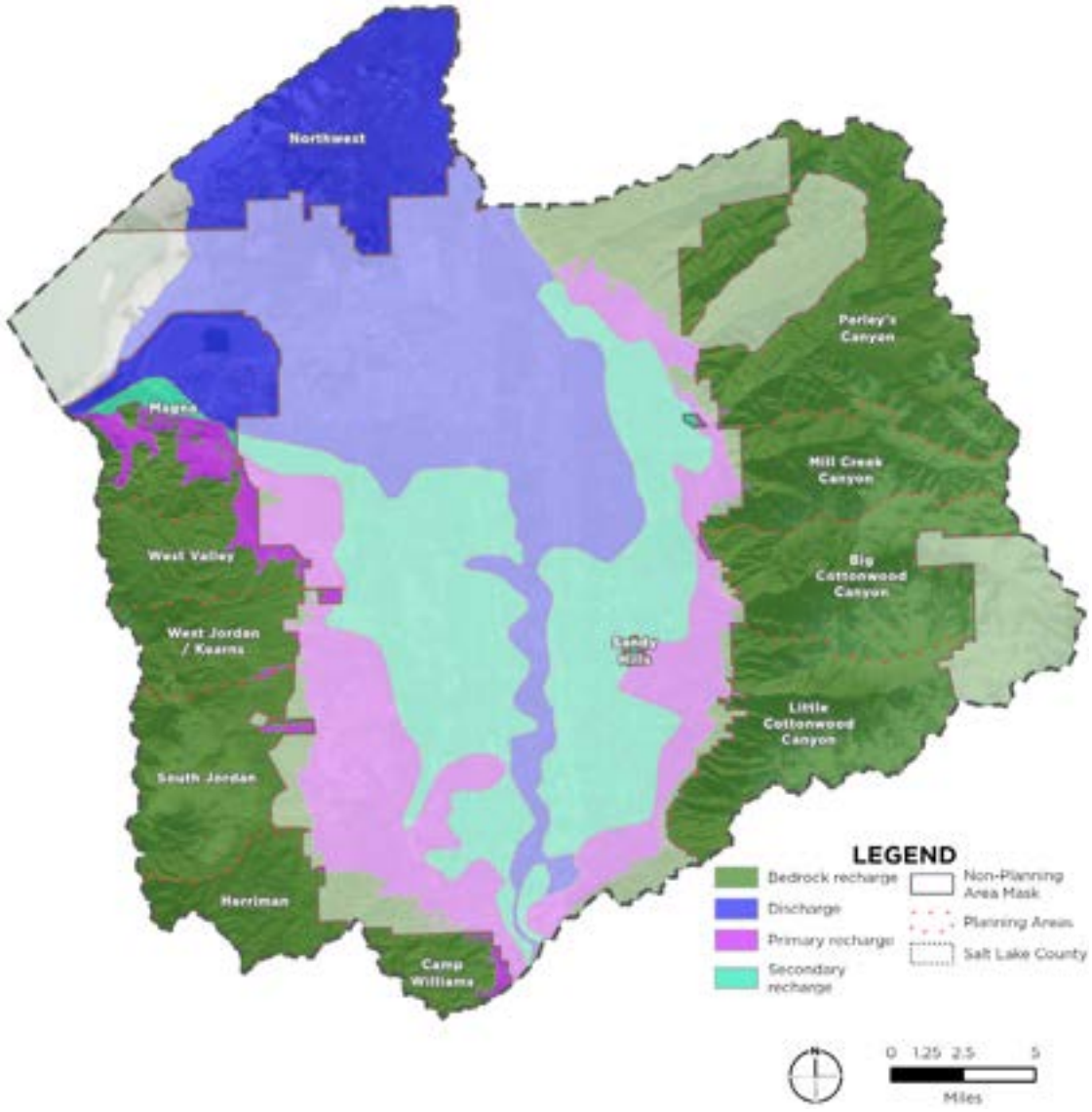
Aquifer and Recharge Zones

Aquifer zones in Salt Lake County perform distinct roles in groundwater movement and storage; they are a function of both geology and topography. **Bedrock recharge** areas in the Wasatch and Oquirrh Mountains allow precipitation to infiltrate fractured rock and replenish deep aquifers. **Primary recharge** areas in the foothills and alluvial fans have permeable soils that feed the main valley aquifer. **Secondary recharge** areas contribute more slowly due to finer soils or urban surfaces that limit infiltration. **Discharge areas** lie at lower elevations along the Jordan River and Great Salt Lake where groundwater emerges as springs, wetlands, or waterways.

Understanding these zones is essential for protecting long-term water supply and quality. Mapping recharge and discharge areas identifies where infiltration should be preserved and where disruption and pollutants could threaten groundwater. It also informs storm water planning, water banking, and aquifer storage programs by showing where recharge efforts are most effective.

Impervious surfaces in recharge areas reduce infiltration, increase runoff, and introduce pollutants that can reach groundwater. In discharge areas, construction or groundwater withdrawal can disrupt flow paths and raise flood or subsidence risks. Coordinated land use management that limits widespread impervious surfaces in recharge zones and maintains open foothill and riparian areas helps sustain the county's groundwater system and the health of the Jordan River and Great Salt Lake.

Data source: Utah Geospatial Resource Center

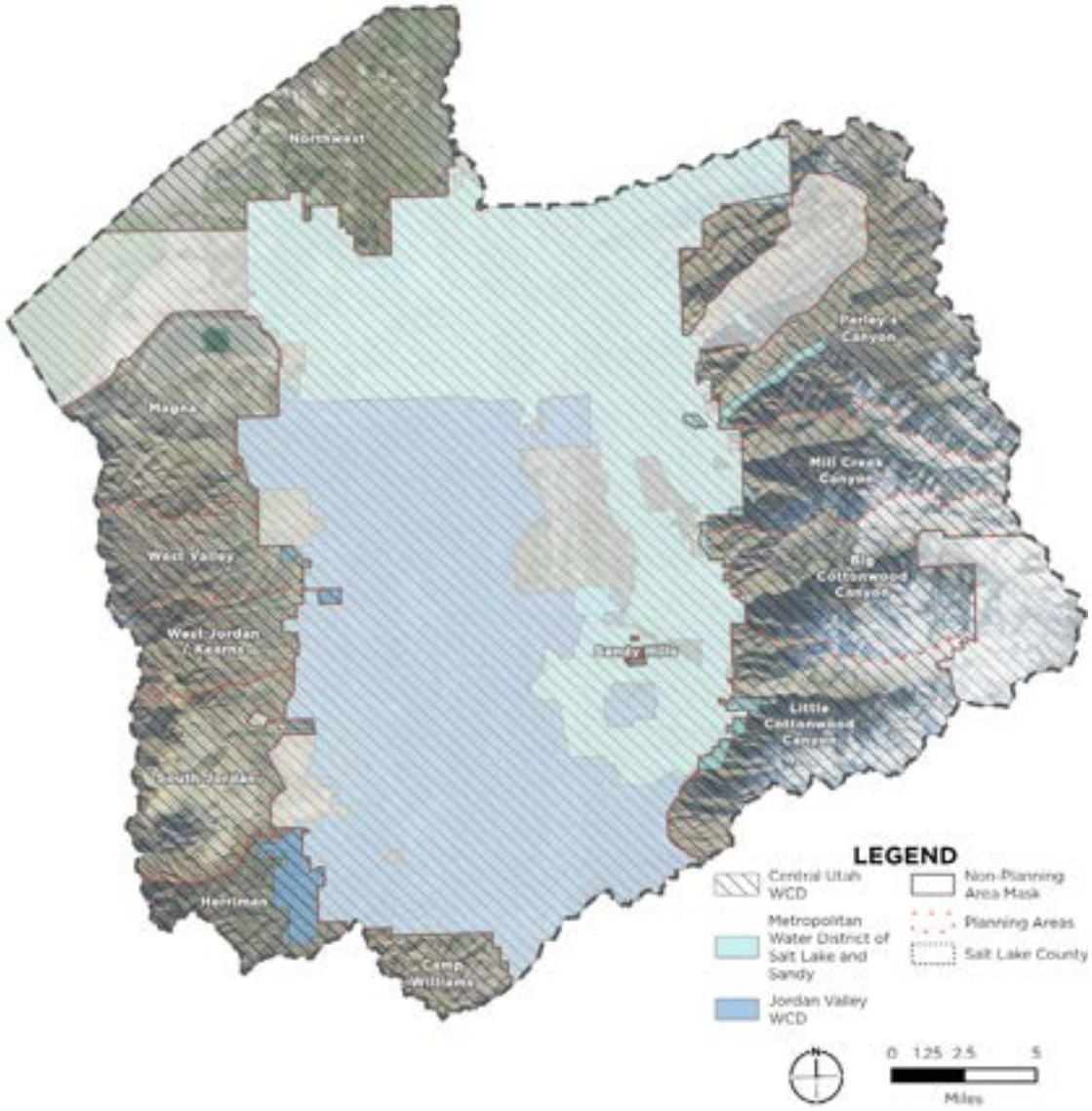


Water Wholesaler Boundaries

This map shows the service areas of Salt Lake County wholesale suppliers such as the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD) and the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy (MWDSLS). These entities secure and deliver bulk water from regional sources and sell it to cities, districts, and other retail providers. Their boundaries often span multiple jurisdictions and are critical for long-term supply planning.

The regional source for Salt Lake County is the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD). This basin-wide provider develops and wholesales Central Utah Project water supplies across seven counties across central Utah; JVWCD and MWDSLS are nested within this regional framework, purchasing CUWCD-supplied water and using shared infrastructure assets.

Data source: Utah Division of Water Resources



Water Retailer Boundaries

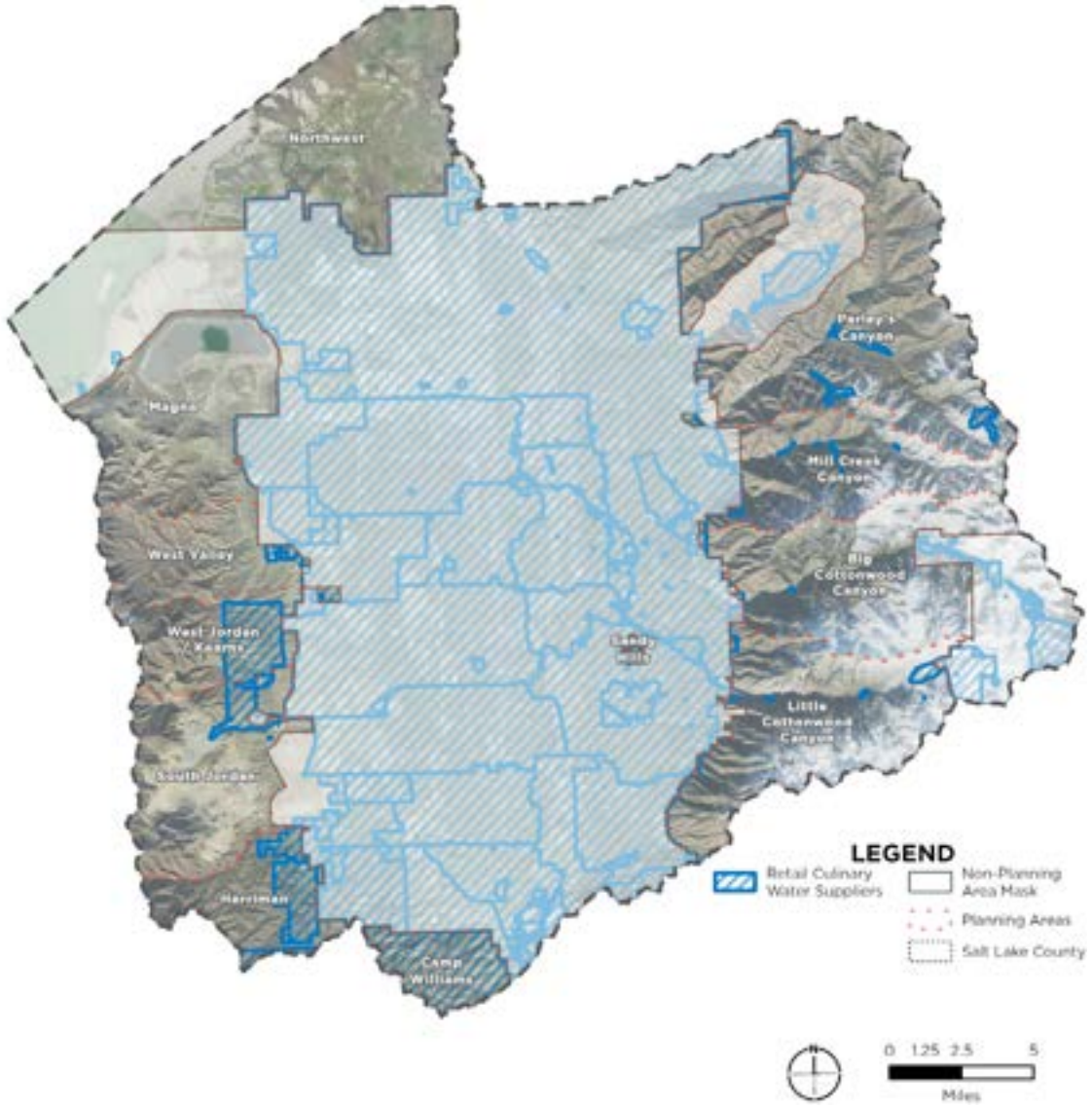
This map of retail water provider boundaries mark where local utilities and districts deliver water directly to homes, businesses, and institutions. These boundaries follow city limits, special service districts, or improvement districts, and determine where conservation programs, rates, and service policies apply. Overlapping wholesaler and retail boundaries require coordination to align supply, pricing, and demand management. There are 23 retailers that are completely within this project's planning area and another 12 that cross between incorporated and unincorporated Salt Lake County.

Those in the Wasatch Canyons are stand-alone, small scale, and primarily support individual developments, business, homes, or activities. This has implications on their ability to support additional growth.

Coordination among wholesalers, retailers, and local governments is essential to ensure that conservation goals, supply management, and land use planning are aligned. Wholesalers manage large-scale supply, storage, and treatment systems that serve multiple retail providers. Retailers distribute that treated water to end users, set rates, and can administer conservation programs. Municipalities influence demand through zoning, landscaping standards, and development approvals.

When these entities coordinate on conservation targets, infrastructure planning, and drought response, it creates a unified framework that links local growth management with regional water sustainability.

Data source: Utah Division of Water Resources



Canal, Ditch, and Natural Waterways Distribution Networks and Irrigation Service Areas

This map shows the network of irrigation infrastructure that channels water across the valley, reflecting its continuing role in agricultural irrigation, and previous land use patterns. In unincorporated Salt Lake County, fewer than ten canals remain in operation, most serving and managed by Rio Tinto Kennecott. A lone surplus canal in the Northwest conveys storm and drain flows from Salt Lake City toward the Great Salt Lake.

Many canals are a part of the County's storm water system. Through agreements, Salt Lake County Flood Control uses portions of the network to move municipal storm water and manage flood risk. These canals act as drainage corridors, channeling runoff toward creeks or directly to the Great Salt Lake; coordination is required to maintain capacity and protect water quality.

These canals illustrate a long-standing system that diverts water from streams. While vital to the region's economy, such diversions also reduce flows into Great Salt Lake. Maintaining lake levels requires water to remain in natural channels, yet canal systems are a key part of the valley's infrastructure, supporting both storm water management and irrigation. Recognizing their dual role, both as a contributor to reduced lake inflows and as essential infrastructure, frames the balance between preserving established infrastructure and managing basin health.

Data source: Salt Lake County Watershed Planning and Restoration

Sources

1. Salt Lake County Regional Development, Environmental Sustainability – Water Conservation Programs. Salt Lake County Website.
2. Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan (2015).
3. Salt Lake County Council Budget Actions and Program Descriptions; Salt Lake County Water Sustainability Programs. Salt Lake County Website.
4. Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, Water Efficiency Standards Water-Efficiency-Standards-Revised-as-of-June-10-2020.pdf

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

SUBAREA DASHBOARDS

Unincorporated Salt Lake County is a collection of different areas with very different geographies, land uses, and water conditions. The canyons on the eastern edge of the county are primarily protected watersheds and recreation corridors, small neighborhoods such as Sandy Hills in the center of the valley and Hi-Country Estates in the southwestern corner function as residential islands, and west-bench communities are adjacent to Rio Tinto Kennecott's mining operations. The far northwest includes marshlands and Great Salt Lake shoreline, while the south contains the Camp Williams buffer. Each area presents unique opportunities and constraints, and each must align land use and infrastructure with the water supplies available to it.

Each subarea within unincorporated Salt Lake County functions as a distinct land use and water planning unit; a surplus of water in one location does not translate to surplus in another, because each area depends on different water providers, supply sources, and infrastructure. For this reason, this plan addresses each subarea independently, given its development opportunities and constraints.

How to Read These Dashboards

The following pages highlight the unique conditions of each subarea and call out water-use considerations most relevant for land use decisions. These include simplified water budgets and example development scenarios, land ownership

patterns, wholesale and retail water providers, and linkages to applicable policies. Not every dashboard has the same elements, but all are focused on the same core elements: water availability, land use, and planning implications.

The purpose of these analyses is to provide a practical tool for decision makers. They consolidate baseline information into a format that can guide planning and zoning choices and create templates the County can readily update as conditions change or as new data emerges.

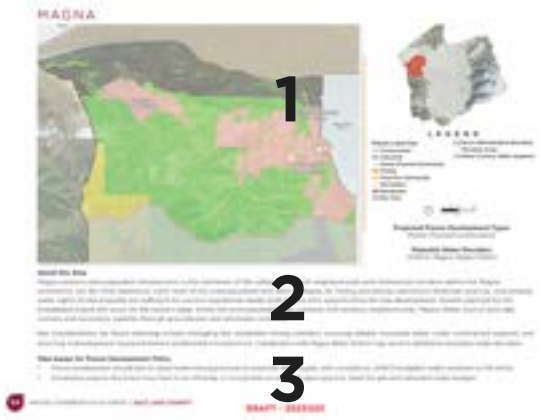
1. **Area Map.** This highlights future land uses from either the area's General Plan or from WFRC's projections and details developable land.
2. **Site Description and Land Planning Considerations.** An area description is part of each dashboard. These outline key characteristics and provide an overview of growth opportunities and key land planning aspects
3. **Water Considerations.** Important water supply-based take-aways to help policymakers achieve land use goals
4. **Water Providers or Budget Model.** For well-developed areas, or those with an established water supply system, an example water budget is provided. These charts and tables offer different land use models to demonstrate the positive development impacts of adopting a model water-efficient landscape ordinance, such as Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's, or how development can be constrained due to limited water resources.

For subareas with small scale systems, those in the Wasatch Canyons, there is not enough data available to develop such a model. Instead, the retail water providers for each area are identified and system growth opportunities are assessed.

The water budget models - bar graphs and tables - offer two primary scenarios: resource availability with and without JVWCD-adopted conservation measures. This is because if communities elect to adopt JVWCD landscape conservation practices, wholesale water supplies may be increased up to 1.65 AF/ac. Without such measures in place, water is limited to 1.35 AF/ac. For perspective, that accounts for a difference of about 100k gallons of water per acre per year; the typical Salt Lake County-based household uses about 81.5k gallons of water per year.

Further, they compare the water usage of three different development scenarios, low and medium density residential only and then a **targeted use**, against projected supply from JVWCD. The targeted use offers three modeled development scenarios and highlight the differences between different land use typologies. This modeling can be a helpful tool when considering different opportunities and to understand water-based constraints.

5. **Potential Demand Drivers and Limitations.** This section provides a discussion of the tables and important considerations for land and water planning.



Acronyms and Definitions

- **Cfs**: cubic feet per second
- **AF**: Acre-foot, the volume of water that would cover one acre of surface area with one foot of water. Approximately 325,851 gallons
- **AF/ac:** acre-feet per acre, the amount of water allocated for each developed acre
- **LDR**: Low Density Residential, 3 units per gross acre
- **MDR**: Medium Density Residential, 9.4 units per gross acre
- **Non-Irrigated Open Space**: No development, zero indoor or outdoor demand

Limited Development and Data Areas

Given the conditions in the Northwest and Camp Williams subareas, specifically the absence of detailed information on potable water supply and the severely limited potential for new development, this document does not include a full in-depth analysis for these areas. Instead, below is a synopsis of future planning considerations to guide decision makers and establish a baseline for future updates.

Northwest (Great Salt Lake Interface)

The far northwest corner of the County includes shoreline, marshlands, and transitional lands at the Great Salt Lake. Agricultural zoning applies, but soil conditions, salinity, and lake fluctuations limit active farming. Open space, wetlands, and habitat dominate current use, providing ecological and hydrological benefits. Distance from municipal systems, flood risk, and unstable soils restrict development. Future urban growth potential remains extremely limited, but the area presents an opportunity to secure conservation easements.

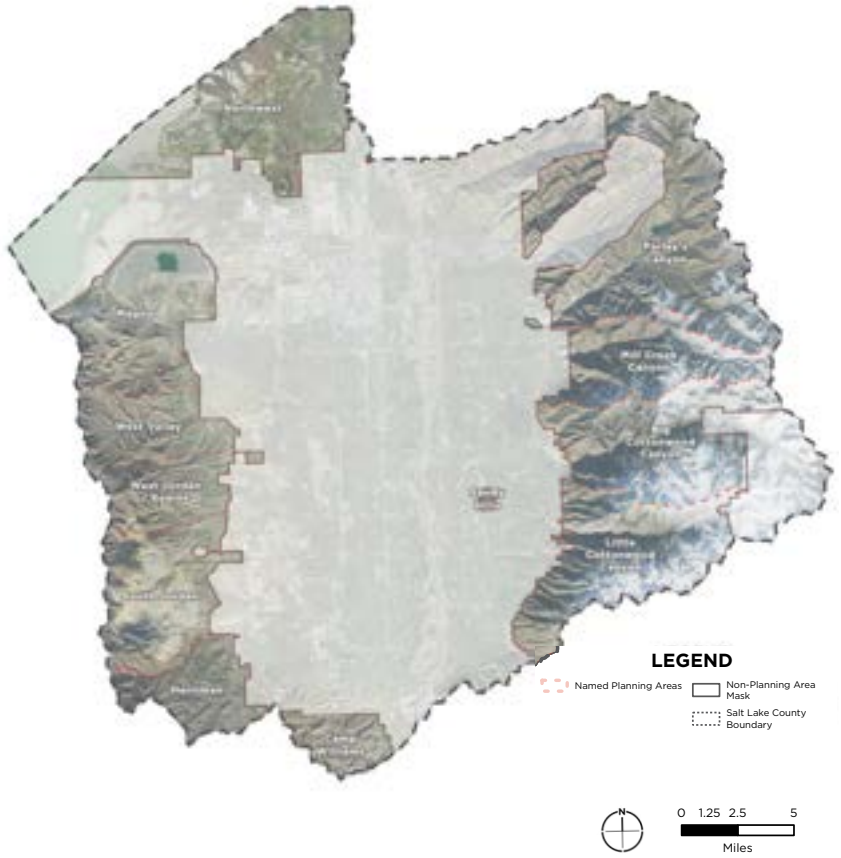
Key considerations for future planning include prioritizing land protection, coordinating with state and federal managers, and treating the shoreline as a water resource protection area rather than a growth node.

Camp Williams

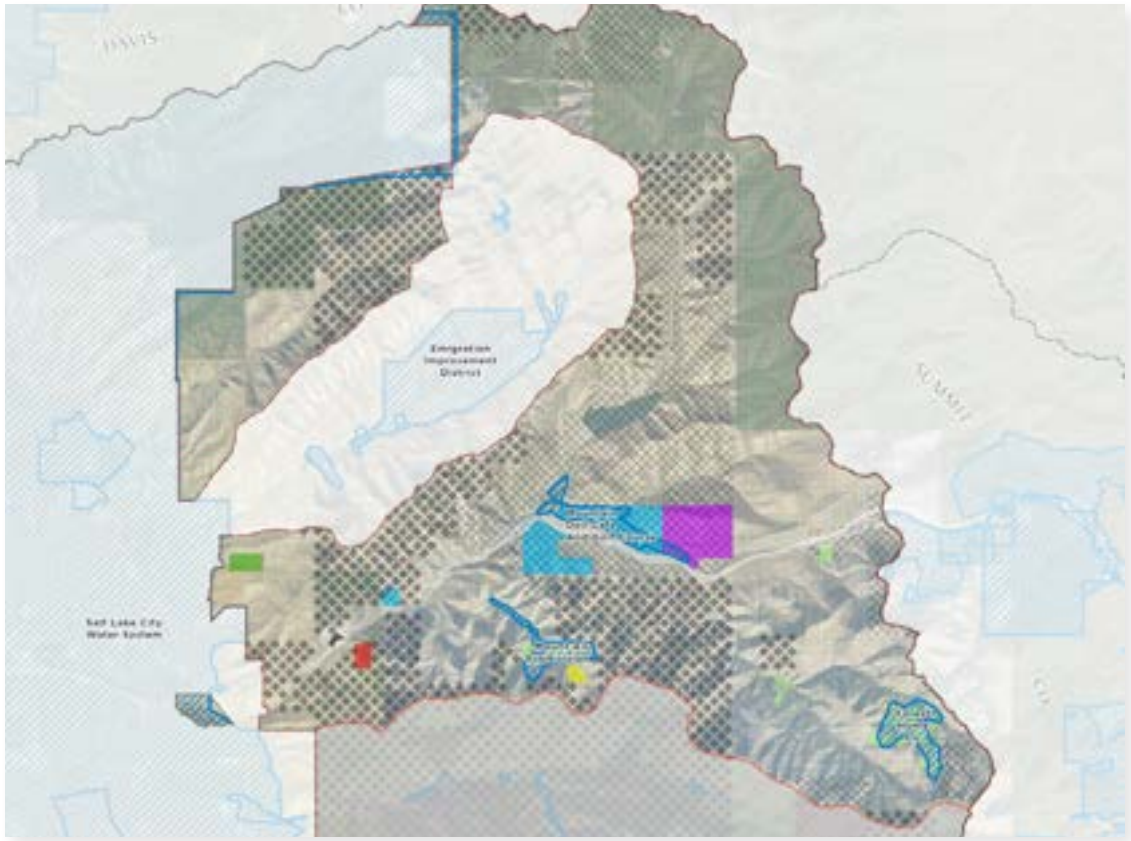
South of Herriman and west of Bluffdale, the Camp Williams area includes rugged terrain under the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program. Military training and conservation define land use, and steep slopes and geology prevent urban development. The Utah National Guard relies on this buffer to maintain training capacity and protect sensitive landscapes. Municipal water does not extend into this area; similar to Rio Tinto Kennecott-owned land, they have their own water sources to support current operations. Planners should treat this area as preserved open space.

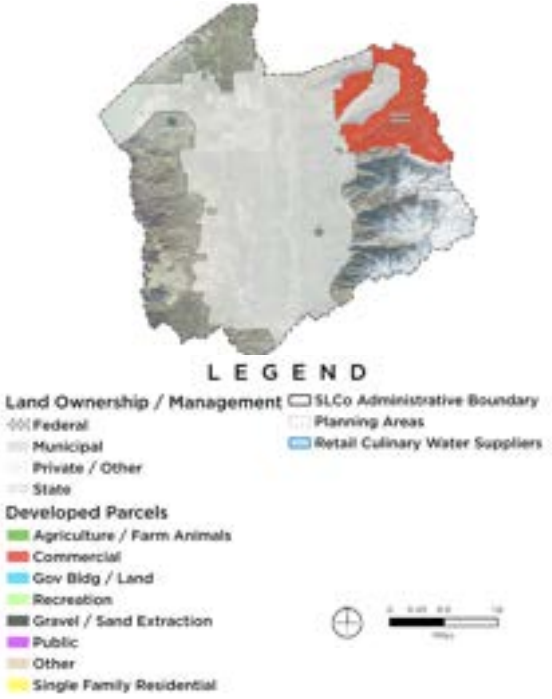
Key considerations for future planning include coordinating with the Utah National Guard, maintaining the area's role as a buffer, and protecting it as a long-term open space resource.

Dashboard Areas



PARLEY'S CANYON





Projected Future Development Types
Privately Owned Land

Potential Water Providers
No New Provider or Expansion Anticipated

About this Area

Parleys Canyon functions as a transportation and utility corridor, with Interstate 80, pipelines, and power lines connecting the Salt Lake Valley and the Wasatch Back. Federal agencies manage most of the land, while private parcels cluster near the canyon mouth. Transportation infrastructure and recreation dominate current land use, and Little Dell and Mountain Dell reservoirs store and supply water for municipal systems. Steep terrain, watershed protections, and limited private ownership restrict new development. This canyon supplies a critical share of municipal water.

Key considerations for future planning include maintaining reliable water storage, addressing transportation and utility impacts, and managing recreation access within a protected watershed.

Take-Aways for Future Development Policy

- Existing water service providers do not have the capacity to expand service for new development.
- All future development will need to be approved on a case-by-case basis after completing a detailed analysis of water availability.

WATER SERVICE PROVIDER	SEASONAL or YEAR-ROUND USE	NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS	SOURCE	AVERAGE HISTORIC PRODUCTION (AF)	SERVICE EXPANSION FEASIBLE?
Forest Home Company	Seasonal	58	Effie L Wright Spring & Lower Spring	5.46	No
Mount Aire	Seasonal	100	Mount Aire Well	16.25	No
Mountain Dell Cafe and Golf Course	Seasonal	1 User	Mountain Dell (SLCDPU)	Unknown	No

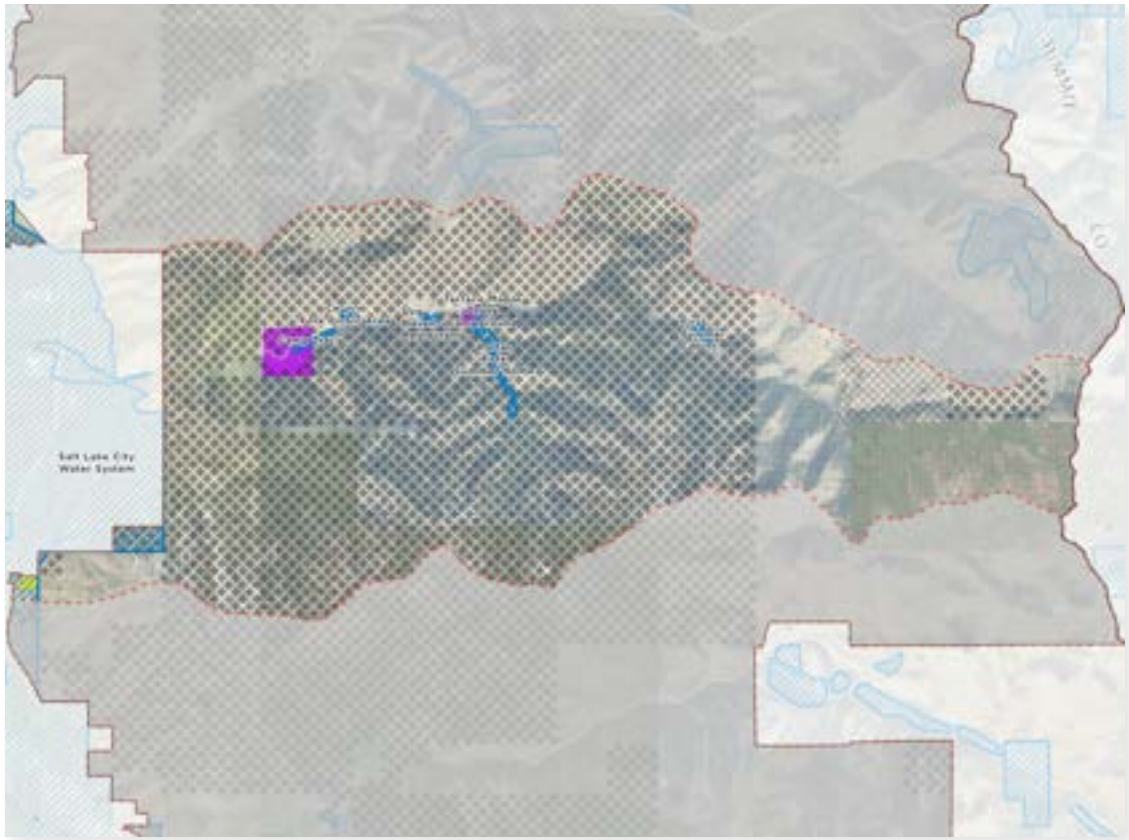
Area with Additional Demand Potential

- Of the 19,347 acres of undeveloped privately owned land, approximately 4,110 acres (21.3%) are potentially developable in the future. Reasons that development would not be feasible include:
    - Extreme slopes (greater than 30%) and
    - Distance from an existing water system (+2 miles away)
- Of the 4,110 acres of developable land, approximately 70% is owned by Salt Lake City. Land use for this property is not expected to change within the planning window. This leaves about 1,200 acres of potentially developable property.
- Existing water service providers do not have the capacity to expand water service to new growth.

Discussion and Conclusions

- Existing water service provider systems are localized, often seasonal, and likely do not have the capacity to expand water service to future development.
- Future development will be limited by topography and access to water systems. Development of new groundwater sources will be required for any growth outside of the established water systems.
- Given the site specific restrictions of any development proposed relative to water availability, all future development will need to be approved on a case-by-case basis by Salt Lake County, the land use authority, after completing a detailed analysis of water availability.

MILL CREEK CANYON



Projected Future Development Types
Privately Owned Land

Potential Water Providers
No New Provider or Expansion Anticipated

About this Area

Mill Creek Canyon offers some of the most accessible recreation in the Wasatch, with heavy year-round use of trails, picnic sites, and winter recreation areas. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) manages most of the land, with Salt Lake County maintaining the road through an easement with USFS and a few scattered facilities. Recreation dominates current use, and the canyon lacks capacity for new residential or commercial development. While the canyon contributes to regional hydrology, it plays a secondary role in drinking water supply compared to other canyons. Visitor growth, rather than development, creates the primary pressure on this area.

Key considerations for future planning include land use coordination with the USFS, investing in recreation infrastructure, protecting limited water flows, and ensuring that land use decisions within the purview of Salt Lake County's land use authority are matched to the canyon's capacity.

Take-Aways for Future Development Policy

- Potential for development in Mill Creek Canyon is minimal (<150 acres) and existing water service providers do not have capacity to expand service.
- Any future development will need to be approved on a case-by-case basis after completing a detailed analysis of water availability.

WATER SERVICE PROVIDER	SEASONAL or YEAR-ROUND USE	NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS	SOURCE	AVERAGE HISTORIC PRODUCTION (AF)	SERVICE EXPANSION FEASIBLE?
Camp Tracy	Seasonal	1 User	Boy Scout Springs	5.65	No
Church Fork Picnic Area	Seasonal	1 User	Well or Spring	Unknown	No
Firs Summer Cabins	Seasonal	Unknown	Well or Spring	Unknown	No
Log Haven Restaurant	Year-Round	1 User	Well or Spring	Unknown	No
Millcreek Inn	Year-Round	1 User	Church Fork Spring	0.79	No
Terrace-Maple Grove Campground	Seasonal	1 User	Well or Spring	Unknown	No

Area with Additional Demand Potential

- Of the 1,566 acres of undeveloped privately owned land, approximately 149 acres (9.5%) are developable in the future. Reasons that development would not be feasible include:
    - Extreme slopes (greater than 30%) and
    - Distance from an existing water system (+2 miles away)
- Except for Firs Summer Cabins, all existing water service providers are designed for a single user (campground, restaurant, etc.) and have no interest in or capacity for expanding to other users. Firs Summer Cabins is located on forest service property where no further development is anticipated.

Discussion and Conclusions

- Existing water service provider systems are small, localized, and do not have the capacity to expand water service to future development.
- Future development will be limited by topography and access to water systems. Development of new groundwater sources will be required for any growth outside of the established water systems.
- Given the site specific restrictions of any development proposed relative to water availability, all future development will need to be approved on a case-by-case basis after completing a detailed analysis of water availability.

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

Projected Future Development Types
Privately Owned Land

Potential Water Providers
No New Provider or Expansion Anticipated

About this Area

Big Cottonwood Canyon includes the ski resorts of Brighton and Solitude, the incorporated Town of Brighton, and small clusters of cabins and subdivisions in the lower canyon. Salt Lake County's land use authority applies only to the unincorporated areas; the Town of Brighton administers its own land use and governance. Most of the canyon is national forest, with recreation, residential enclaves, and resort operations defining current land use. Big Cottonwood Creek provides a major share of Salt Lake City's municipal water supply. Steep topography, avalanche hazards, and watershed protections constrain development in the unincorporated canyon; future investment will most likely occur within incorporated resort areas. Water reliability depends on snowpack and long-term climate conditions.

Key considerations include protecting water quality, coordinating with the Town of Brighton on shared jurisdiction areas, and addressing transportation and infrastructure needs without adding pressure to the watershed.

Take-Aways for Future Development Policy

- Existing water service providers do not have the capacity to expand service for new development.
- Any future development will need to be approved on a case-by-case basis after completing a detailed analysis of water availability.

WATER SERVICE PROVIDER	SEASONAL or YEAR-ROUND USE	NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS	SOURCE	AVERAGE HISTORIC PRODUCTION (AF)	SERVICE EXPANSION FEASIBLE?
Storm Mountain Campground	Seasonal	1 User	Well or Spring	Unknown	No

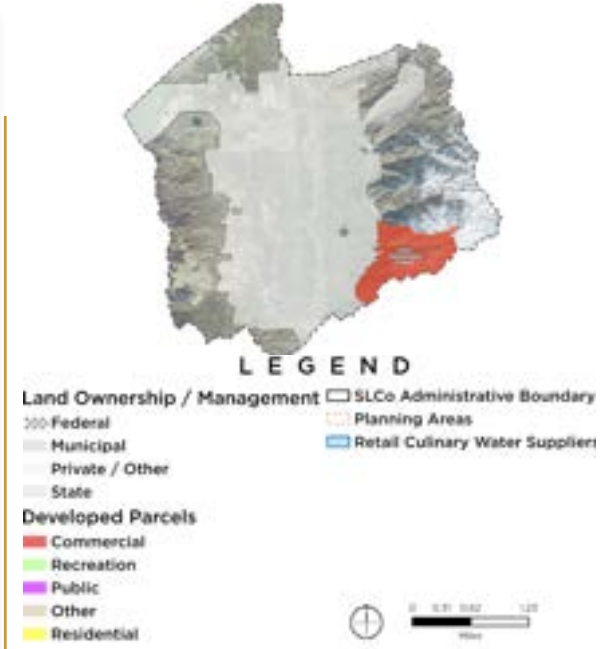
Area with Additional Demand Potential

- Of the 2,330 acres of undeveloped privately owned land, approximately 154 acres (6.6%) are developable in the future. Reasons that development would not be feasible include:
    - Extreme slopes (greater than 30%) and
    - Distance from an existing water system (+2 miles away).
- The one existing water service provider in the area is designed for a single user, Storm Mountain Campground, and has limited interest in or capacity for expanding to other users.

Discussion and Conclusions

- The only existing water service provider is small and does not have the capacity to expand water service to future development.
- Future development will be limited by topography and access to water systems. Development of new groundwater sources will be required for any growth outside of the established water systems.
- Given the site specific restrictions of any development proposed relative to water availability, all future development will need to be approved on a case-by-case basis after completing a detailed analysis of water availability.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON



Projected Future Development Types
Privately Owned Land

Potential Water Providers
No New Provider or Expansion Anticipated

About this Area

Little Cottonwood Canyon contains major ski resorts and year-round recreation areas. Land ownership includes private holdings, municipal property, and U.S. Forest Service lands, with most development concentrated at resort bases near the upper canyon. The canyon provides a significant portion of Salt Lake City's drinking water, which makes source protection a central planning issue. Current land use centers on resort operations and recreation, with little additional development potential beyond resort expansion or redevelopment of existing nodes. Snow pack variability and climate change directly affect water availability.

Key considerations for future planning include protecting municipal water supply, preparing for climate-driven changes in runoff, and managing transportation and visitation pressures in a constrained alpine setting.

Take-Aways for Future Development Policy

- Existing water service providers do not have the capacity to expand service for new development.
- Any future development will need to be approved on a case-by-case basis after completing a detailed analysis of water availability.

WATER SERVICE PROVIDER	SEASONAL or YEAR-ROUND USE?	NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS	SOURCE	AVERAGE HISTORIC PRODUCTION (AF)	SERVICE EXPANSION FEASIBLE?
Salt Lake County Service Area No. 3 – Snowbird	Year-Round	105	Peruvian Tunnel & Spring Wasatch Drain Tunnel	428.03	Water supply may support additional units; Growth limited by topography
Tanners Flat Campground	Seasonal	1 User	Tanners Spring	1.03	No
Wasatch Resort	Year-Round	29	East Spring & West Spring	24.45	No

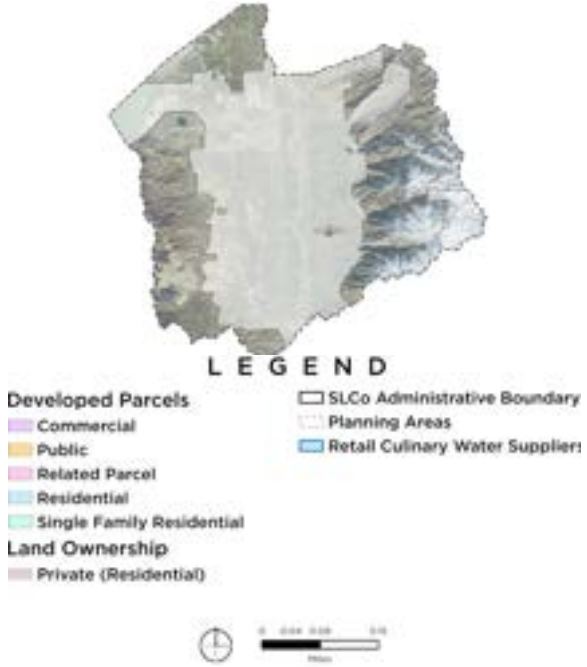
Area with Additional Demand Potential

- Of the 2,013 acres of undeveloped privately owned land, approximately 105 acres (5.2%) have development potential. Reasons that development would not be feasible include:
  - Extreme slopes (greater than 30%) and
  - Distance from an existing water system (+2 miles away).

Discussion and Conclusions

- Existing water service provider systems are small, localized, and do not have the capacity for a large-scale expansion of water service to future development. Salt Lake County West Service Area No. 3 does have some capacity for minor growth, however.
- Future development will be limited by topography and access to water systems. Development of new groundwater sources will be required for any growth outside of the established water systems.
- Given the site specific restrictions of any development proposed relative to water availability, all future development will need to be approved on a case-by-case basis after completing a detailed analysis of water availability.

SANDY HILLS



Projected Future Development Types
Residential

Potential Water Providers
JVWCD (Retail)

About this Area

Sandy Hills forms an unincorporated island surrounded by the City of Sandy. Residential neighborhoods dominate land use, with limited commercial or civic sites. County planning and services guide development because the area lies outside city boundaries. Nearly all parcels are developed, so change will occur through redevelopment rather than expansion. Retailer / wholesaler provider conservation standards influence overall water availability.

Key considerations for future planning include coordinating with Sandy City on service delivery, guiding redevelopment toward water-efficient design, and ensuring that unincorporated status does not create service or conservation gaps.

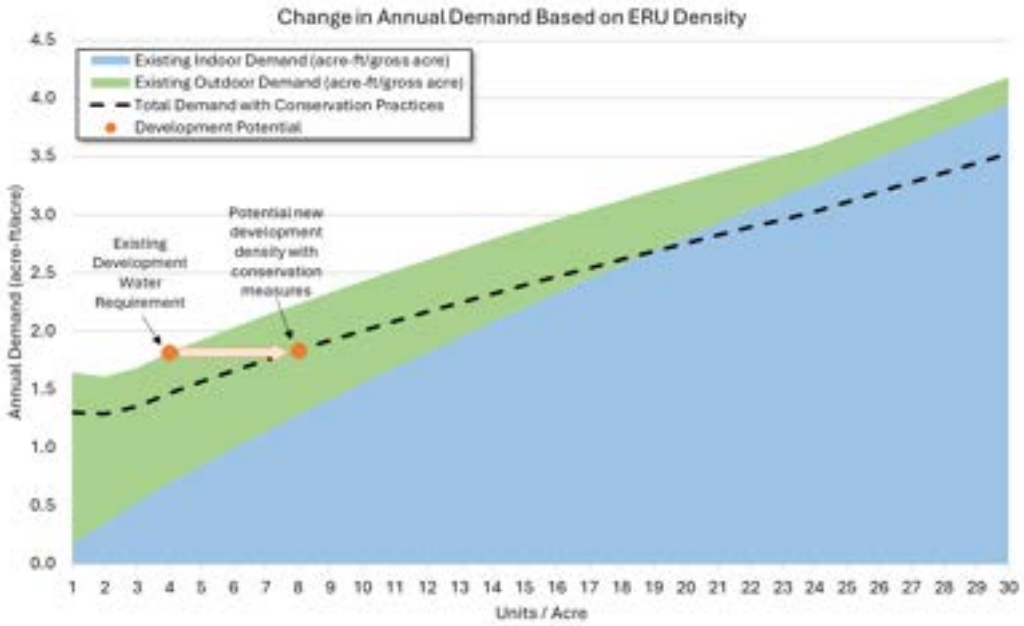
Take-Aways for Future Development Policy

- Sandy Hills is primarily single-family residential and is fully developed. No growth outside of redevelopment is expected in the Sandy Hills area.
- As JVWCD retail customers, Sandy Hills residents are encouraged to implement water conservation practices outlined in the JVWCD Water Conservation Plan.
- If properties are redeveloped, planners may consider implementing conservation measures and increasing housing density up to 8 units per net acre (6 units per gross acre), consistent with the maximum residential densities allowed in the A-1, R-1-6, and RM zoning districts, without increasing the total water budget.

WATER SERVICE PROVIDER	SEASONAL or YEAR-ROUND USE?	NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS	SOURCE	AVERAGE HISTORIC PRODUCTION (AF)	SERVICE EXPANSION FEASIBLE?
Sandy Hills Development	Year-Round	Appx 700	Multiple JVWCD Sources	569	Area is fully built out, expansion not practical

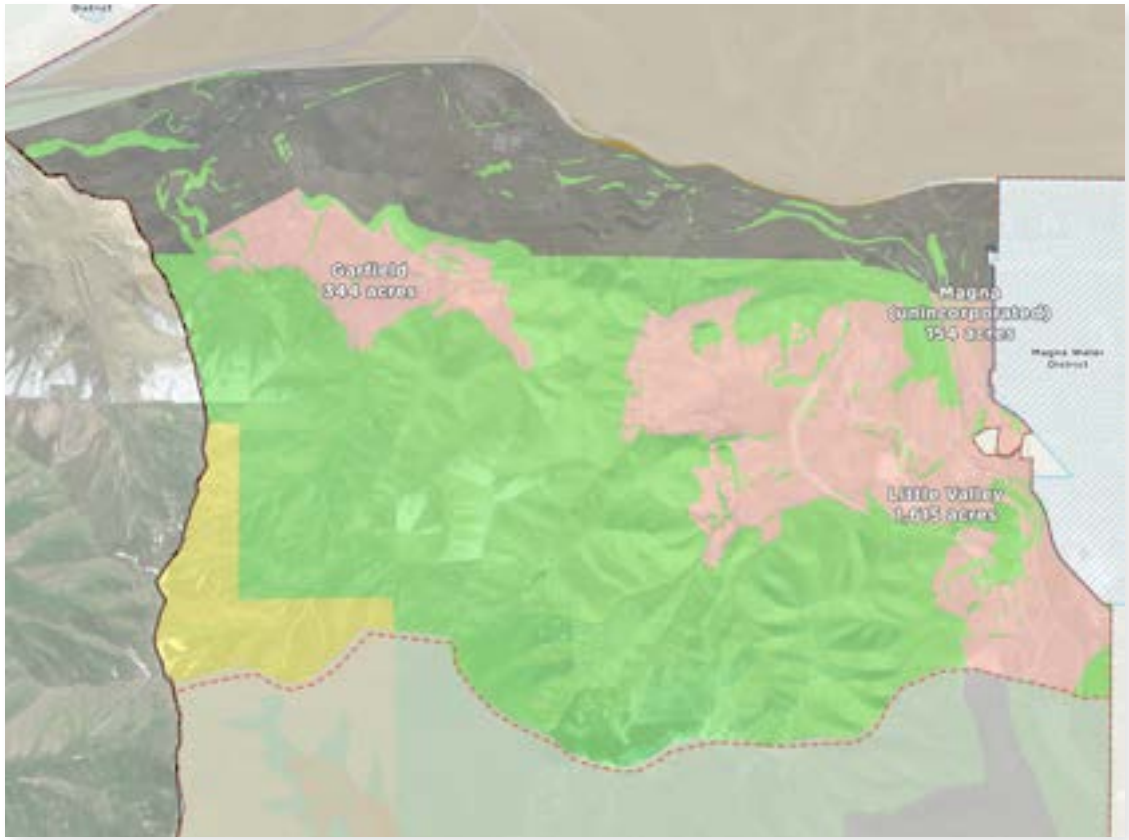
Water Savings Potential with Redevelopment

This chart models annual indoor and outdoor water demand, in AF/ac, based upon Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs). What it shows is that an increase in housing density increases indoor demand, while outdoor demand tapers down. Further, it highlights the steep drop in total demand (dashed line) when conservation practices are adopted and enforced.



- Sandy Hills consists of approximately 700 single family residential homes and few multifamily residences, with no vacant lots.
- As JVWCD retail customers, existing Sandy Hills residents are encouraged to implement water conservation goals and practices outlined in the JVWCD water conservation plan. These practices include:
    - Conservation education classes and tours,
    - Rebate and incentive programs, and
    - Participation in member entity grant programs.
- If redevelopment and rezoning occurs in the future, adopting conservation practices may allow residential densities to increase from their current density of approximately 4 units/net acre to 8 units/net acre (6 units/gross acre) without increasing the water used in this area.

MAGNA



Projected Future Development Types
Master Planned Communities

Potential Water Providers
JVWCD, Magna Water District

About this Area

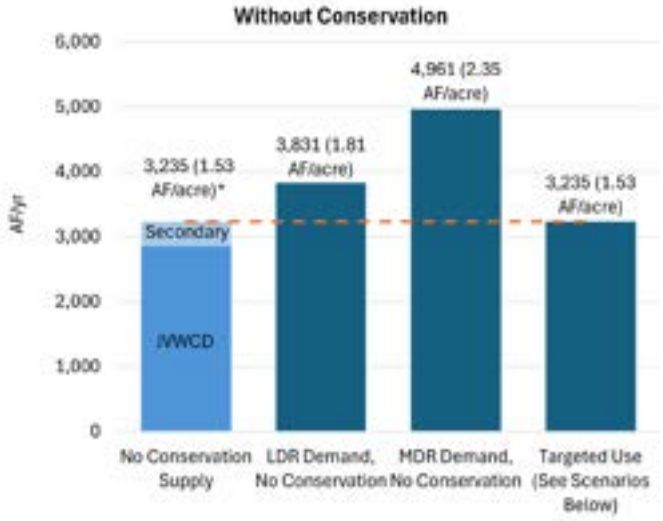
Magna anchors unincorporated development in the northwest of the valley. Residential neighborhoods and commercial corridors define the Magna community, but Rio Tinto Kennecott owns most of the unincorporated land west of Magna. Its mining and tailings operations dominate land use, and existing water rights on the property are sufficient for current operational needs; both factors limit opportunities for new development. Growth planned for the foreseeable future will occur on the eastern edge, where the unincorporated area connects with existing neighborhoods. Magna Water District provides culinary and secondary supplies through groundwater and wholesale contracts.

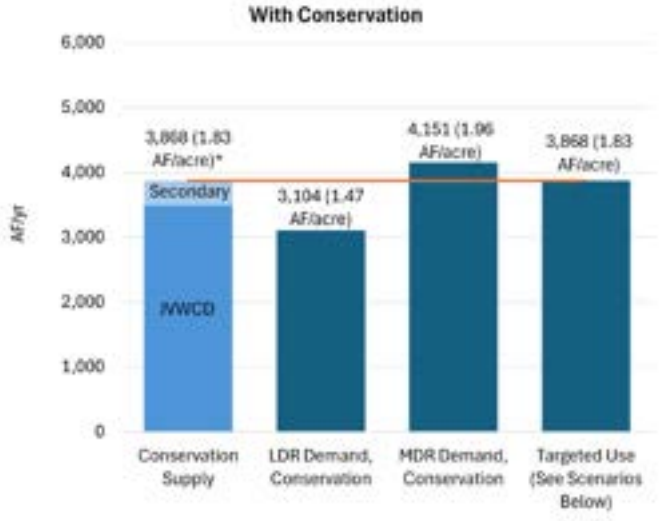
Key considerations for future planning include managing the residential–mining interface, securing reliable municipal water under constrained supplies, and directing redevelopment eastward toward established infrastructure. Coordination with Magna Water District may result in additional secondary water allocation.

Take-Aways for Future Development Policy

- Future development should plan to adopt water-saving practices to maximize water supply; with compliance, JVWCD-budgeted water increases to 1.65 AF/ac.
- Developed areas in the future may have to be offset by or incorporate un-irrigated open space to meet the per-acre allocated water budget.

ESTIMATED SUPPLY VS. DEMAND



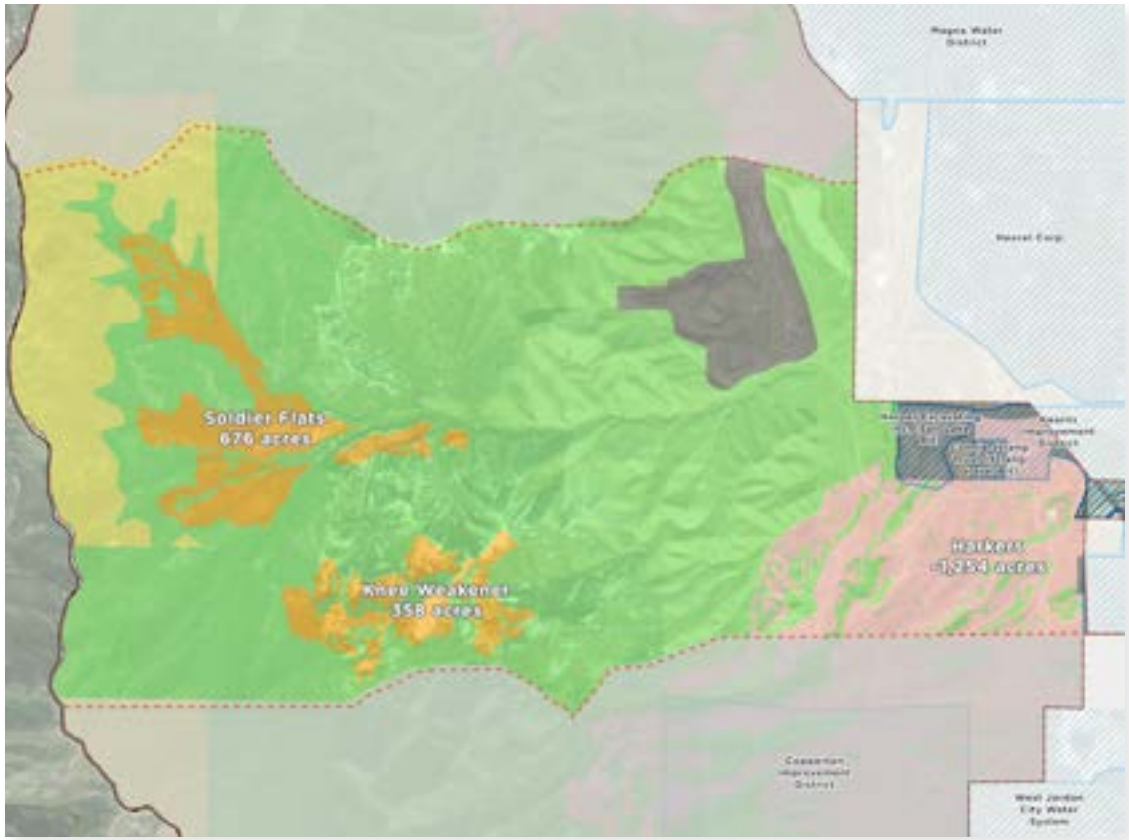


TARGETED USE DEVELOPMENT MODELS

	WITHOUT CONSERVATION			WITH CONSERVATION		
	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	78%	0%	34%	31%	0%	50%
MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	0%	60%	34%	64%	85%	50%
NON-IRRIGATED OPEN SPACE	17%	35%	27%	0%	10%	-5%
IRRIGATED OPEN SPACE/PARKS	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
TOTAL WATER REQUIREMENT (AF/ACRE)	1.53	1.53	1.53	1.83	1.80	1.83
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS	4,937	11,911	8,873	14,622	16,932	13,037

- Without conservation, potential development will be significantly restricted. If JVWCD conservation practices are adopted by future development, water supplies from JVWCD may be increased up to 1.65 AF/ac, otherwise JVWCD supplies will be limited to 1.35 AF/ac.
- Magna Water has planned to provide up to 382 AF of additional secondary water for future, unincorporated growth. This will be in addition to the supply potential from JVWCD.
- If residential areas develop consistent with the West General Plan's future land use map, through Master Planned Communities or Planned Unit Developments, lot sizes could be reduced to roughly ¼-acre while remaining within projected water budgets, assuming conservation measures are in place. In areas planned for more intensive MDR patterns, water supply may place practical limits on total build out.
- Housing densities greater than ¼-acre lots are modeled to result in water demand higher than supply. However, the County may consider clustering mid- to high-density residential housing and utilizing non-irrigated open space to maximize housing potential with available water supplies.
- Future development types will likely be mixed. The table and figures show possible development scenarios for development with and without adopted conservation policies.

WEST VALLEY



Projected Future Development Types
Master Planned and Mountain Communities

Potential Water Providers
JVWCD, Granger-Hunter or Kerns Improvement Districts

About this Area

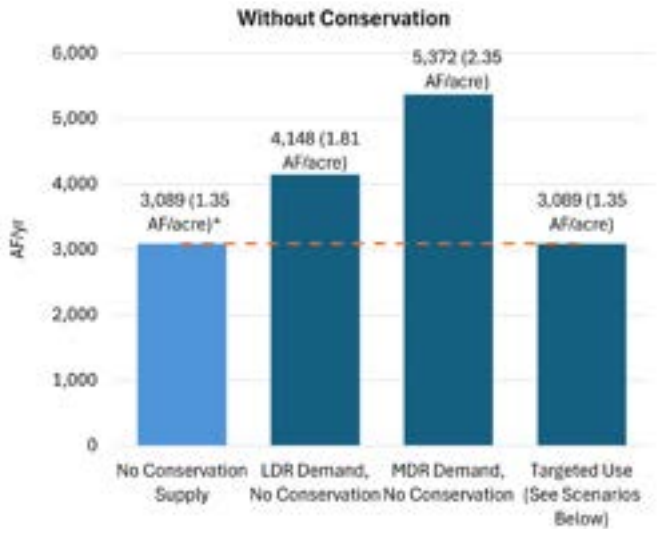
Unincorporated portions of Salt Lake County sit west of West Valley City. Rio Tinto Kennecott (RTK) controls large tracts west of this land, where mining and tailings dominate land use. Steep slopes and mining activity prevent significant growth outside of two areas. The Harkers area could support expansion of growth from the residential and commercial areas from the east, while Soldier Flats and Knee Weakener represent higher valleys that could be considered for mountain type communities. No entity currently supplies water to these properties, but Granger-Hunter (GHID) and Kearns Improvement Districts (KID), retail providers supported by JVWCD, are directly to the east and could potentially extend service into this area.

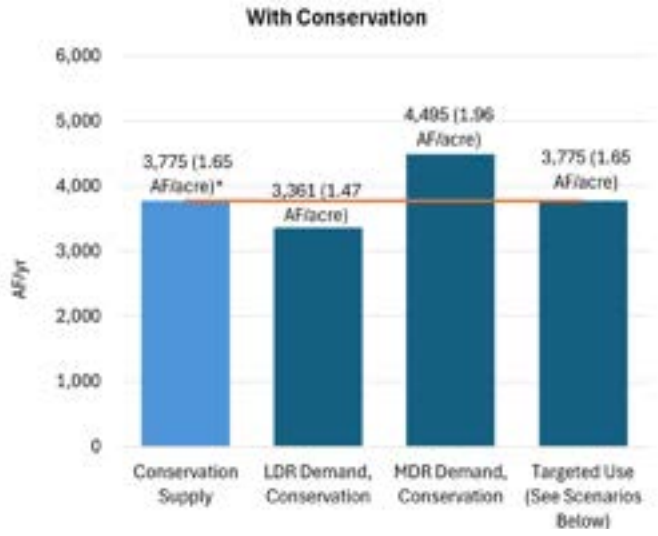
Key considerations for future planning include coordinating with GHID or KID to modernize infrastructure, maintaining consistent service delivery, and recognizing that new development will occur primarily along the eastern boundary in the short-term.

Take-Aways for Future Development Policy

- Future development should plan to adopt water-saving practices to maximize water supply; with compliance, JVWCD-budgeted water increases to 1.65 AF/ac
- Developed areas in the future may have to be offset by or incorporate un-irrigated open space to meet the per-acre allocated water budget.

ESTIMATED SUPPLY VS. DEMAND



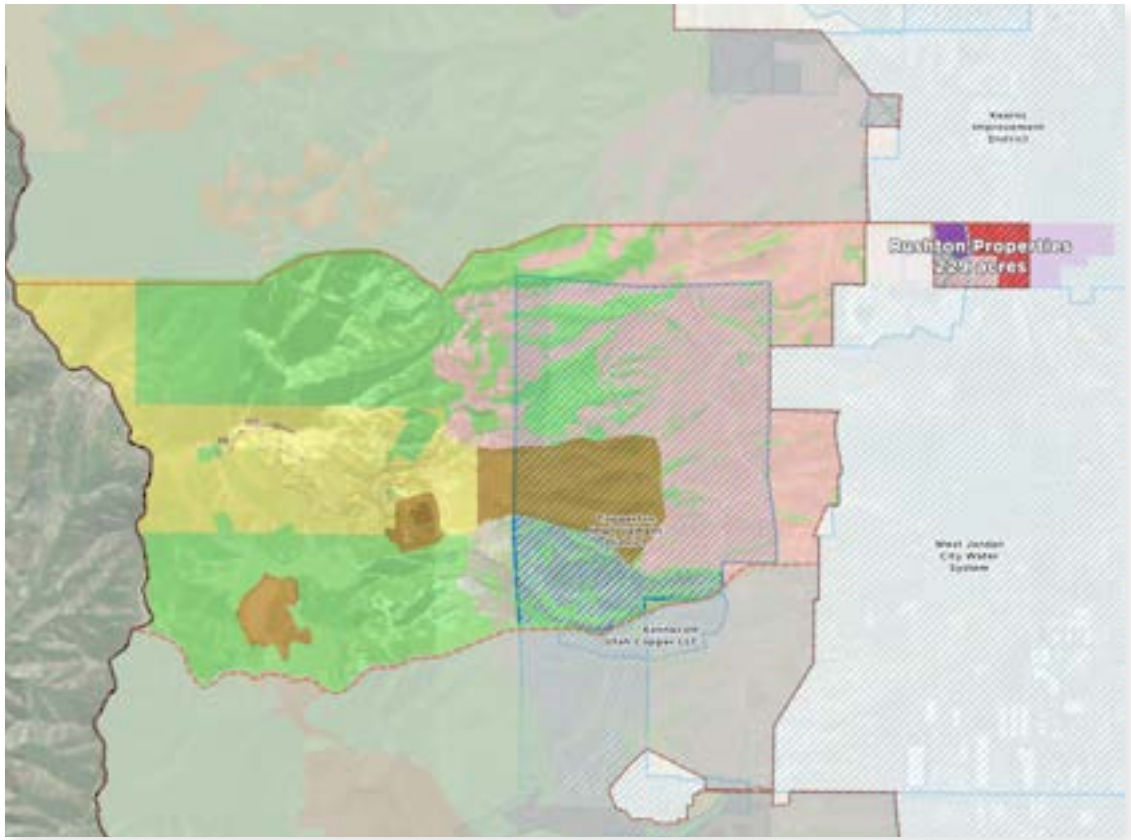


TARGETED USE DEVELOPMENT MODELS

	WITHOUT CONSERVATION			WITH CONSERVATION		
	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	68%	0%	39%	68%	0%	44%
MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	0%	52%	22%	27%	78%	45%
NON-IRRIGATED OPEN SPACE	27%	43%	0%	0%	17%	6%
IRRIGATED OPEN SPACE/PARKS	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
TOTAL WATER REQUIREMENT (AF/ACRE)	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.65	1.65	1.65
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS	4,661	11,248	7,483	10,514	16,718	12,676

- Without conservation, potential development will be significantly restricted. If JVWCD conservation practices are adopted by future development, water supplies from JVWCD may be increased up to 1.65 AF/ac, otherwise JVWCD supplies will be limited to 1.35 AF/ac.
- If future development complies with JVWCD's landscape practices and achieves water conservation levels targeted by the County, it would be possible to develop residential lots no smaller than ¼ acre across all Master Planned Community and Mountain Community identified areas (approximately 3 lots / gross acre). Each development application and scenario in this area will vary; this figure is derived from the water-budget scenario, not adopted land use policy.
- Housing densities greater than 3 lots / gross acre are expected to result in water demand higher than supply. However, the County may consider clustering mid- to high-density residential housing and utilizing non-irrigated open space to maximize housing potential with available water supplies.
- Future development types will likely be mixed. The table and figures show possible development scenarios for development with and without adopted conservation policies.

WEST JORDAN / KEARNS



Projected Future Development Types
Master Planned Communities

Potential Water Providers
JVWCD, West Jordan, Kearns Improvement District

About this Area

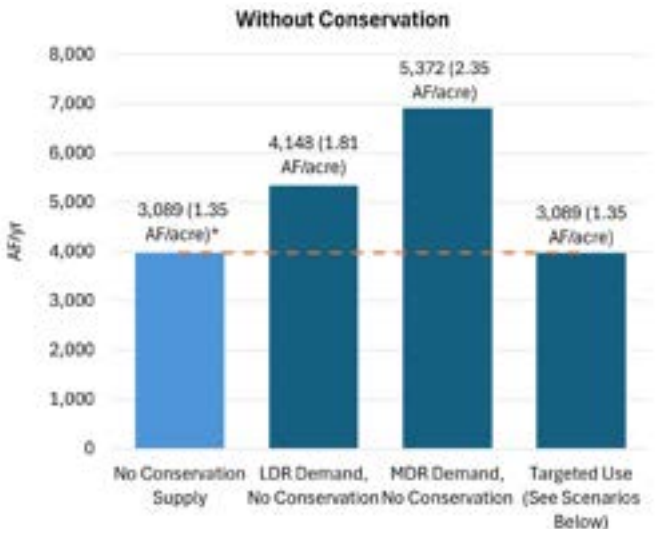
Unincorporated enclaves west of West Jordan and around Kearns, labeled “Rushton Properties” on the map, are surrounded by built-out neighborhoods and may soon be annexed. Rio Tinto Kennecott’s mining operations to the west block expansion, leaving redevelopment along eastern edges as the only growth option. Current land use is almost entirely residential, with scattered commercial sites. The Kearns Improvement District and West Jordan City are potential water providers. Neither entity has additional water to serve this area but could secure wholesale water through JVWCD.

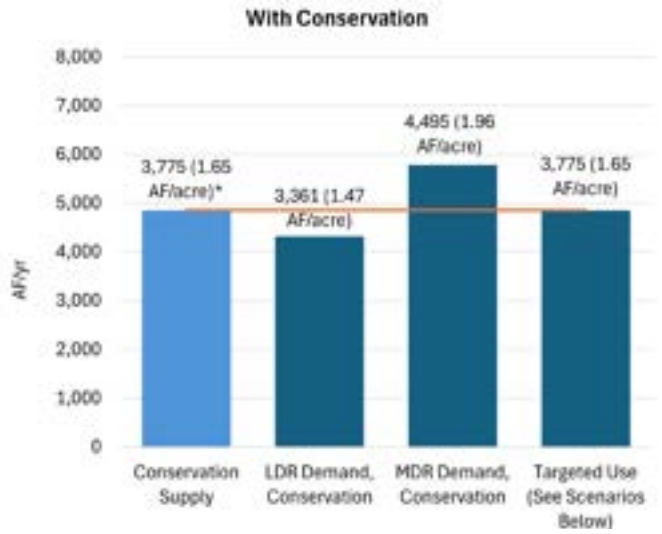
Key considerations for future planning include coordinating development with available water supply, supporting infrastructure upgrades, and maintaining buffers between residential areas and mining lands.

Take-Aways for Future Development Policy

- Future development should plan to adopt water-saving practices to maximize water supply; with compliance, JVWCD-budgeted water increases to 1.65 AF/ac
- Developed areas in the future may have to be offset by or incorporate un-irrigated open space to meet the per-acre allocated water budget.

ESTIMATED SUPPLY VS. DEMAND



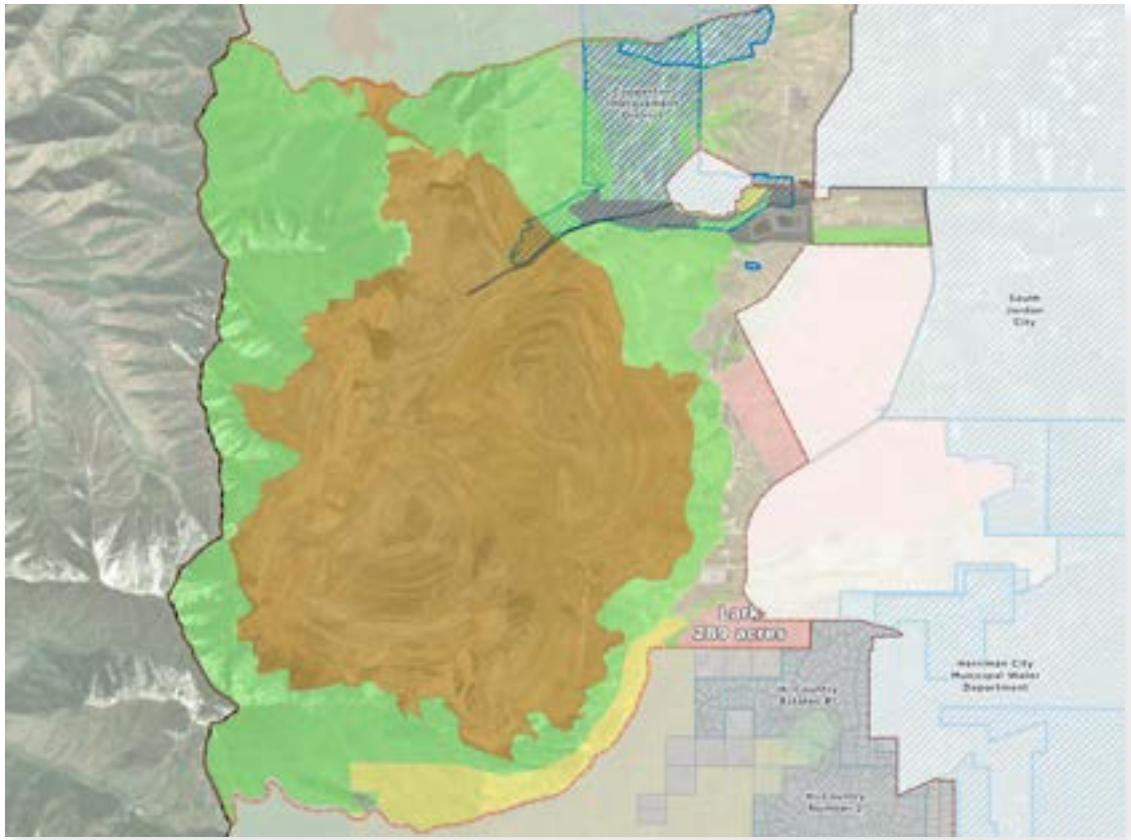


TARGETED USE DEVELOPMENT MODELS

	WITHOUT CONSERVATION			WITH CONSERVATION		
	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	68%	0%	33%	68%	0%	50%
MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	0%	52%	27%	27%	78%	40%
NON-IRRIGATED OPEN SPACE	27%	43%	35%	0%	17%	4%
IRRIGATED OPEN SPACE/PARKS	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
TOTAL WATER REQUIREMENT (AF/ACRE)	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.65	1.65	1.65
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS	5,998	14,473	10,310	13,528	21,511	15,566

- Without conservation, potential development will be significantly restricted. If JVWCD conservation practices are adopted by future development, water supplies from JVWCD may be increased up to 1.65 AF/ac, otherwise JVWCD supplies will be limited to 1.35 AF/ac.
- If future development complies with JVWCD's landscape practices and achieves water conservation levels targeted by the County, it would be possible to develop residential lots no smaller than ¼ acre across all Master Planned Community and Mountain Community identified areas (approximately 3 lots / gross acre). Each development application and scenario in this area will vary; this figure is derived from the water-budget scenario, not adopted land use policy.
- Housing densities greater than 3 lots / gross acre are expected to result in water demand higher than supply. However, the County may consider clustering mid- to high-density residential housing and utilizing non-irrigated open space to maximize housing potential with available water supplies.
- Future development types will likely be mixed. The table and figures show possible development scenarios for development with and without adopted conservation policies.

SOUTH JORDAN



Projected Future Development Types
Master Planned Communities (non-annexed Lark)

Potential Water Providers
JVWCD, South Jordan City, Herriman City

About this Area

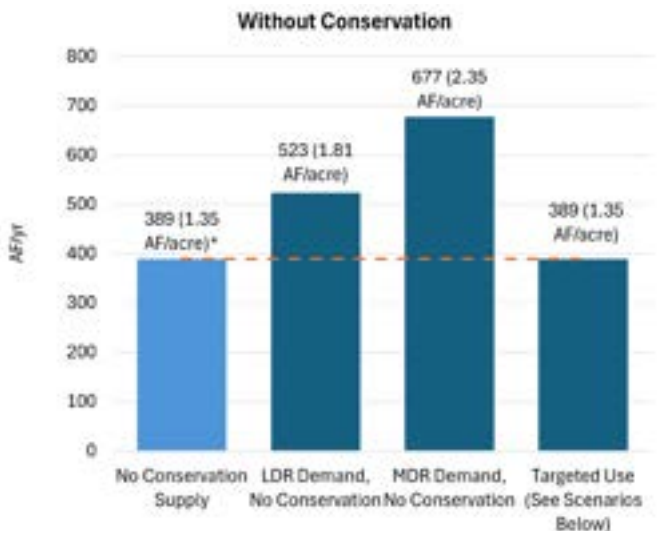
Small unincorporated parcels near South Jordan include residential enclaves and remnants of agriculture. Rio Tinto Kennecott's mining operations define the western edge, leaving only the eastern margins for potential redevelopment. Local retailers connected to Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District deliver water.

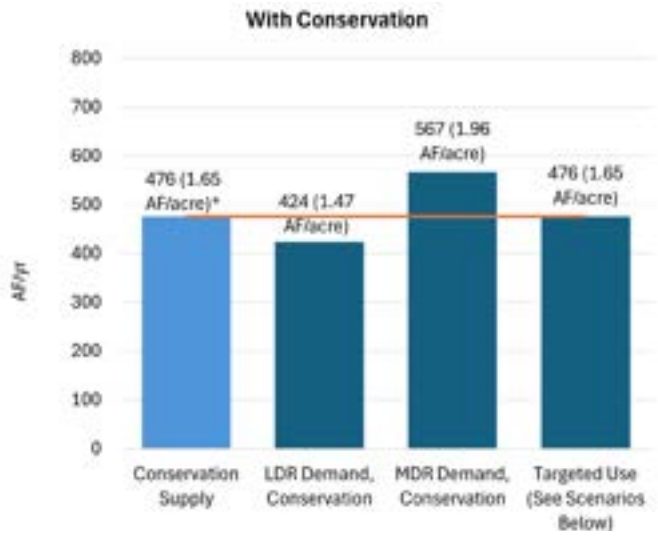
Key considerations for future planning include managing transitions between residential uses and mining lands, protecting the Jordan River corridor, and ensuring water-efficient redevelopment.

Take-Aways for Future Development Policy

- The 289-acre Lark Master Planned Community may be annexed by a municipality in the future. If annexed, the water budget may be determined by the annexing body's water system. If the community remains unincorporated, water budget will likely by dictated by JVWCD and may be up to 1.65 AF/ac
- Developed areas in the future may have to be offset by or incorporate un-irrigated open space to meet the per-acre allocated water budget.

ESTIMATED SUPPLY VS. DEMAND



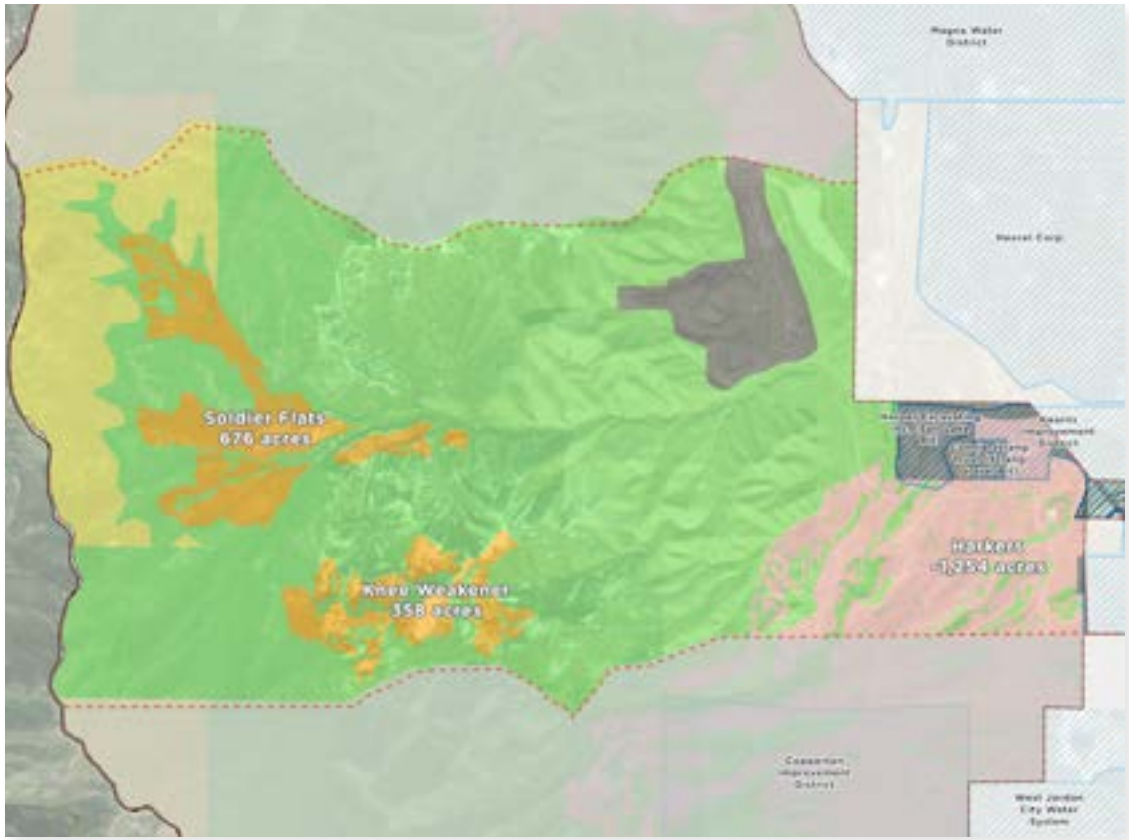


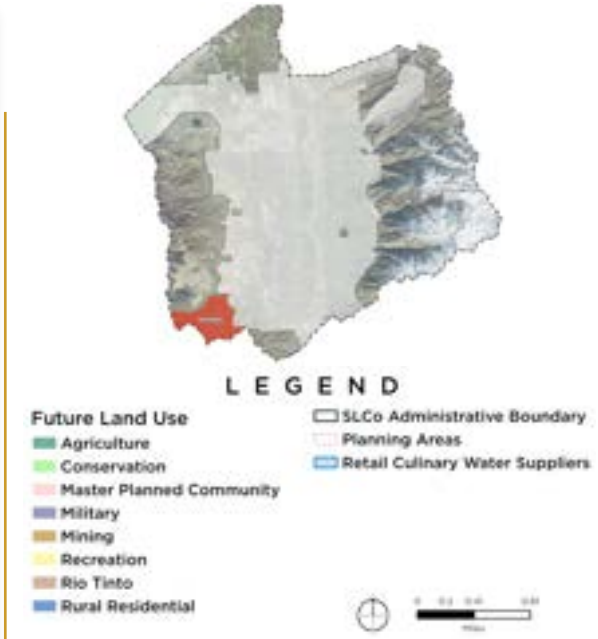
TARGETED USE DEVELOPMENT MODELS

	WITHOUT CONSERVATION			WITH CONSERVATION		
	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	68%	0%	33%	68%	0%	50%
MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	0%	52%	27%	27%	78%	40%
NON-IRRIGATED OPEN SPACE	27%	43%	35%	0%	17%	4%
IRRIGATED OPEN SPACE/PARKS	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
TOTAL WATER REQUIREMENT (AF/ACRE)	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.65	1.65	1.65
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS	588	1,418	1,010	1,320	2,108	1,525

- Without conservation, potential development will be significantly restricted. If JVWCD conservation practices are adopted by future development, water supplies from JVWCD may be increased up to 1.65 AF/ac, otherwise JVWCD supplies will be limited to 1.35 AF/ac.
- There is potential for new development water supplies to be dedicated by a nearby water system if the Lark development is annexed.
- If future development complies with JVWCD landscape policies and achieves water conservation levels targeted by the County, it would be possible to develop ¼-acre residential lots across all residential development areas (approximately 3 lots / gross acre).
- Housing densities greater than ¼-acre lots are expected to result in water demand higher than supply. However, the County may consider clustering mid- to high-density residential housing and utilizing non-irrigated open space to maximize housing potential with available water supplies.
- Future development types will likely be mixed. The table and figures show possible development scenarios for development with and without adopted conservation policies.

HERRIMAN





Projected Future Development Types
Rural Residential

Potential Water Providers
JVWCD, Herriman City

About this Area

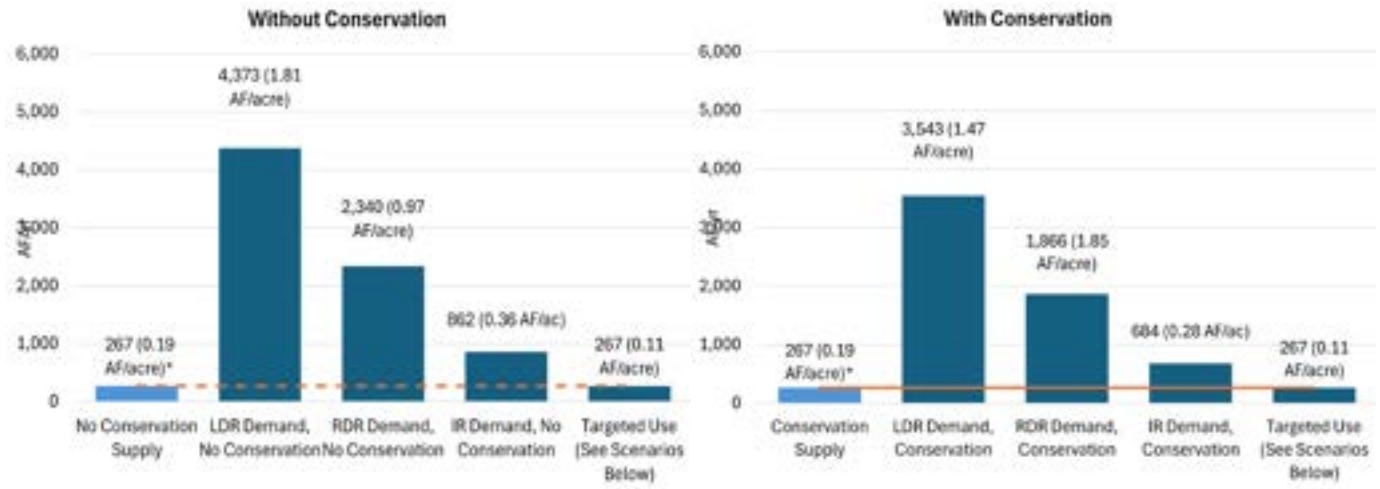
The southwest unincorporated area includes the Hi-Country Estates I and II planned communities, which anchors residential development here. Herriman City, contracting with Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, delivers water to residents. Rio Tinto Kennecott owns most surrounding lands, which remain in mining use. This restricts new development, leaving eastern-edge parcels as the primary growth path.

Key considerations for future planning include protecting reliable service for Hi-Country residents, coordinating conservation with regional providers, and guiding land transitions at the edge of mining operations in ways that protect neighborhood character and water supply.

Take-Aways for Future Development Policy

- Supply in this area is limited by Herriman City's distribution system. Future development will need to utilize large, un-irrigated open spaces to meet water budget.
- Conservation may allow for more units to be planned in these areas, but topography and desire for open space and large lots area may drive development along with available water supply.

ESTIMATED SUPPLY VS. DEMAND



TARGETED USE DEVELOPMENT MODELS

	WITHOUT CONSERVATION			WITH CONSERVATION		
	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	6%	0%	0%	8%	0%	0%
RURAL DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	0%	11%	0%	0%	11%	0%
ISOLATED RESIDENTIAL	0%	0%	31%	0%	0%	39%
NON-IRRIGATED OPEN SPACE	94%	89%	69%	92%	89%	61%
IRRIGATED OPEN SPACE/PARKS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL WATER REQUIREMENT (AF/ACRE)	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS	442	206	140	545	206	176

- Water delivery to Hi-Country Estates developments will be limited by water supply and conveyance capacity as available in the Herriman water system. The Herriman Master Plan anticipates providing up to 453 AF/year (0.11 AF/ac), total, for these nearly 4,200 acres at full build out. Existing development in this area already uses approximately 186 AF/year; future development should clearly address water use mitigation strategies.
- As can be seen between the scenarios shown in the table, the number of units that can be developed relies heavily upon irrigated area associated with each unit. Development potential can be maximized by limiting irrigation through policy or zoning decisions.
- Implementing conservation practices in these areas will not increase water supply volumes but will decrease water demand and therefore expand potential development opportunities.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

RECOMMENDATIONS

The table of recommendations below presents a suite of approaches Salt Lake County can implement to manage water demand, protect supply, and align growth with available resources. It reflects the County's multiple roles as a land use authority, program manager, facility operator, property owner, and regional leader.

Further, they emphasize the County's regulatory and coordinating role in land use decisions while providing a framework that can evolve with demographic, environmental, and land development conditions. The table is intended to serve as a guide for water conservation in unincorporated Salt Lake County and at County-owned facilities throughout the valley. This plan acts as a foundational document and will inform the development of future policies and ordinances for consideration by policymakers as appropriate.

These recommended strategies draw on proven approaches from peer Mountain West regions—including the Wasatch Front, Denver, Albuquerque, Boise, and Phoenix—where clear landscape standards, tiered residential incentives, large-landscape performance rules, leak management, and transparent reporting have produced measurable reductions in outdoor use and system losses. The intent is to adapt applicable elements from those models to Salt Lake County's conditions and current partnerships.

Collectively, these strategies strengthen Salt Lake County's commitment to conserving water through regional collaboration, efficient operations, and updated land use standards. They respond to the recently adopted statutory requirements while enabling County officials, property owners, residents, and businesses flexibility in their application. They are organized by the four County goals and reflect the shared vision that water is managed as a common resource through integrated partnerships, planning, innovation, and stewardship to sustain future generations.

Reading these Charts - Column Definitions

- **Recommendation.** Recommendations are classified as opportunities, programs, policy, or actions that directly respond to the legal requirements for this element as outlined in Utah Code §17-27a-403.
- **Goal Alignment.** Given the vision and goals developed as part of this process, this column highlights which most closely align
- **Area of Impact.** This column highlights what will be impacted by this recommendation. *County Operations* refer, generally, to internal programs and efforts that may be administered or managed by County departments. *Land Management* speaks to county oversight and stewardship of unincorporated

lands, whereas *Land Development* addresses new development opportunities.

- **Water Management Strategy.** Water management is both demand and supply driven, with both users and suppliers having an impact on overall use and availability. Other strategies highlighted here include natural environment and source area protections, knowledge sharing, and supply resilience
- **Action Types.** Identifies the mechanism to be used to implement recommendations
    - *Ordinance.* Binding law adopted by Council
    - *Policy.* Executive or Council direction for internal ops or priorities
    - *SOP.* Manager-level procedures, programs, and playbooks
    - *Permitting.* Submittal requirements and approval criteria used by planners/engineers
    - *CIP.* Funded projects and retrofits to assets
    - *Interlocal Collaboration.* Formal coordination per statute or agreement
    - *Data.* Inventories, dashboards, and public reports that drive decisions and accountability
- **Implementation Goals.** Outlines a brief, outcome-oriented framework that translates each recommendation into guidance that the County can use to drive programming and policy.

RECOMMENDATION 1: REDUCE WATER DEMAND IN NEW AND EXISTING DEVELOPMENTS

GOAL ALIGNMENT	IMPACT AREA	WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	ACTION TYPE							IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
			ORDINANCE	POLICY	SOP	PERMITTING	CIP	INTERLOCAL COLLABORATION	DATA	
Align Growth with Sustainable Water Future	Land Development	Demand Reduction	X		X	X				**Develop a land use ordinance for unincorporated Salt Lake County.** For new single-family or multifamily home and commercial development, incorporate sustainable landscaping standards that consider principles such as: Reduction or limitation of traditional lawn or turf; Promotion of site-specific landscape design that reduces storm water runoff and irrigation-related discharge; Integration of storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) consistent with Salt Lake County's storm water permit; Preservation and use of healthy, climate-appropriate trees and vegetation with low to moderate water demands; Reduction of yard waste through efficient planting and maintenance practices; and Use of efficient irrigation systems—such as drip irrigation—optimized to deliver appropriate water to plant types, with emphasis on drought-resistant trees and plantings, and irrigation designs that separate tree and turf zones while limiting turf to active use areas. **Consider potential updates to Salt Lake County's Corridor Preservation Fund**. Prioritize project rankings that utilize water-wise landscaping plants and design guidelines, and that reduce turf in low-traffic or low-use areas.
Align Growth with Sustainable Water Future	Land Development	Demand Reduction	X		X	X				**Expand 1155 Tax Increment Policy.** Include screening criteria that recognize and prioritize projects demonstrating efficient water use and reuse practices. These criteria would provide information for policy makers as they consider proposals that incorporate verified water conservation measures or technologies. This ensures public investments support growth that aligns with long-term supply capacity and strengthens the County's overall resource management framework.

RECOMMENDATION 2: MODIFY LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS TO IMPROVE CONSERVATION AND IMPLEMENT EFFICIENT PRACTICES

GOAL ALIGNMENT	IMPACT AREA	WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	ACTION TYPE							IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
			ORDINANCE	POLICY	SOP	PERMITTING	CIP	INTERLOCAL COLLABORATION	DATA	
Lead by Example in County Operations	County Operations	Demand Reduction		X	X				X	**County-Wide / Department-Level Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Audit of Water-Inefficient Practices.** Conduct County-wide and department-level audits of existing irrigation infrastructure to identify: Aging or inefficient sprinkler systems; Areas lacking drip irrigation for trees and landscaped zones; Turf and grass areas without water-efficient delivery systems; Irrigation systems that are not equipped with smart technology to track weather conditions or automatically shut off during rain events; Opportunities to upgrade to modern, water-smart controllers and systems that support drought resilience and reduced runoff.
Lead by Example in County Operations	County Operations	Demand Reduction					X		X	**County Turf Audit & Conversion Program.** Conduct a comprehensive turf audit and consider a phased conversion program to replace non-functional grass with low-water landscapes and efficient irrigation systems. This reduces long-term maintenance and water demand, freeing supply for growth while maintaining quality recreational spaces and demonstrating fiscal and environmental leadership.
Lead by Example in County Operations	County Operations	Demand Reduction		X	X		X		X	**Water-Wise and Drought Resistant Landscaping.** Incorporate water-wise and drought-resistant landscaping principles into the design and renovation of County facilities to reduce long-term maintenance and irrigation needs. This approach supports responsible resource management, enhances landscape resilience, and demonstrates visible County leadership in sustainable design without constraining project flexibility.

GOAL ALIGNMENT	IMPACT AREA	WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	ACTION TYPE							IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
			ORDINANCE	POLICY	SOP	PERMITTING	CIP	INTERLOCAL COLLABORATION	DATA	
RECOMMENDATION 3: SUPPORT COORDINATION FOR REGIONAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS										
Build a Culture of Water Stewardship	Intergovernment Coordination	Knowledge Sharing		X	X			X	X	**Support and promote DWR programs.** Share information around programs such as Utah Water Savers and Flip Your Strip for residents in Salt Lake County through County social media channels, newsletters, and other communication platforms to increase participation in turf replacement and water-wise landscaping efforts. **Highlight and share Salt Lake County's own successes.** Demonstrate leadership by example and encourage residents to adopt similar water-efficient landscaping practices by foregrounding Flip Your Strip successes at County facilities. **Continue and expand the use of "Water Wednesdays."** Use County social media platforms to highlight water conservation tips, programs, and success stories, increasing public awareness and engagement on sustainable use.
RECOMMENDATION 4: DEVELOP NEW AND UTILIZE EXISTING LAND PRESERVATION TOOLS AND RESOURCES										
Safeguard Source Waters and Natural Systems	Land Development	Demand Reduction	X		X		X	X	X	**Continue to utilize Salt Lake County's Open Space Fund (Salt Lake County Code, Chapter 2.93).** Continue to utilize Salt Lake County's Open Space Fund (Salt Lake County Code, Chapter 2.93). Acquire and permanently protect land such as the Jordan River Parkway corridor, the Great Salt Lake shoreline, foothill and Bonneville Shoreline areas, and other critical riparian or habitat zones, in alignment with the fund's stated purpose of preserving natural open space and ecological resources.

RECOMMENDATION 5: PROTECT WATER RESOURCES AND GREAT SALT LAKE QUALITY

GOAL ALIGNMENT	IMPACT AREA	WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	ACTION TYPE							IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS
			ORDINANCE	POLICY	SOP	PERMITTING	CIP	INTERLOCAL COLLABORATION	DATA	
Build a Culture of Water Stewardship	Environmental Stewardship	Environmental Integrity		X		X	X	X		**Enhance Water Quality and Habitat.** Develop vegetated riparian buffers along perennial and ephemeral streams within areas county-wide covered by the County's Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) permit. These corridors should be designed to reduce erosion, filter pollutants, and improve ecological conditions in natural waterways. **Support Compliance with Water Quality Standards.** Implement riparian corridors along waterways that support Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet updated UPDES permit requirements and support long-term restoration objectives outlined by the Jordan River E. Coli TMDL study and the Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan.

RECOMMENDATION 6: COORDINATE TO MAINTAIN SYSTEM INTEGRITY AND PROTECTION

Lead by Example in County Operations	Land Development	Supply Resilience	X		X		X	X	X	**Support and promote a consistent coordination framework with irrigation and canal companies.** Encourage shared mapping, notification, and consultation procedures to integrate irrigation and storm water systems within areas that are part of the County's Flood Control system, including unincorporated areas and municipalities that contract with the County, into County planning and permitting processes. This improves current practice by creating clear communication channels to mitigate service disruption and ensure early coordination in the event of zoning or land use changes.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

APPENDIX A - PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS

Engage GSBS

Form Results Summary

Jul 30, 2025 - Oct 21, 2025

Project: Salt Lake County Water Conservation Element

Form: Public Survey 1

Tool Type: Form

Activity ID: 62

Exported: Oct 24, 2025, 06:18 AM

Exported By: GStone

Filter By: No filters applied.

Open

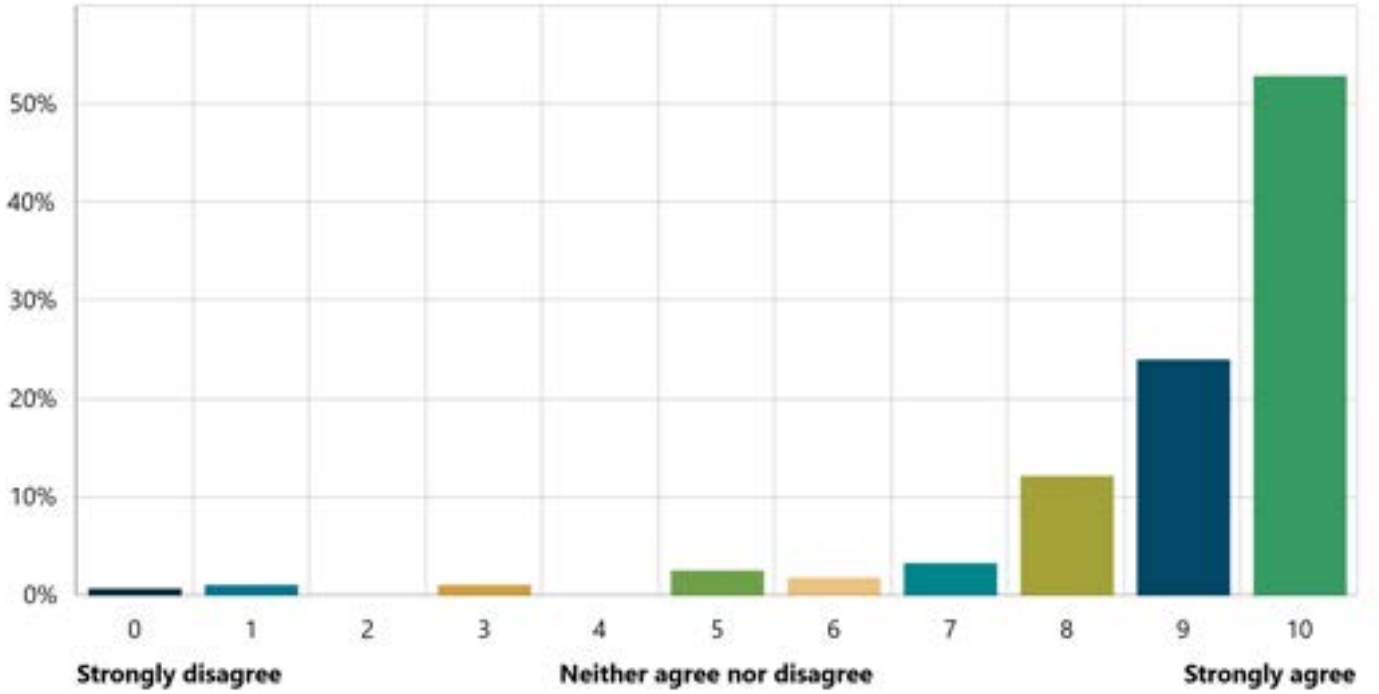
Public Survey 1
Salt Lake County Water Conservation Element

263	270
Contributors	Contributions

Contribution Summary

1. Water conservation is important to me personally Required

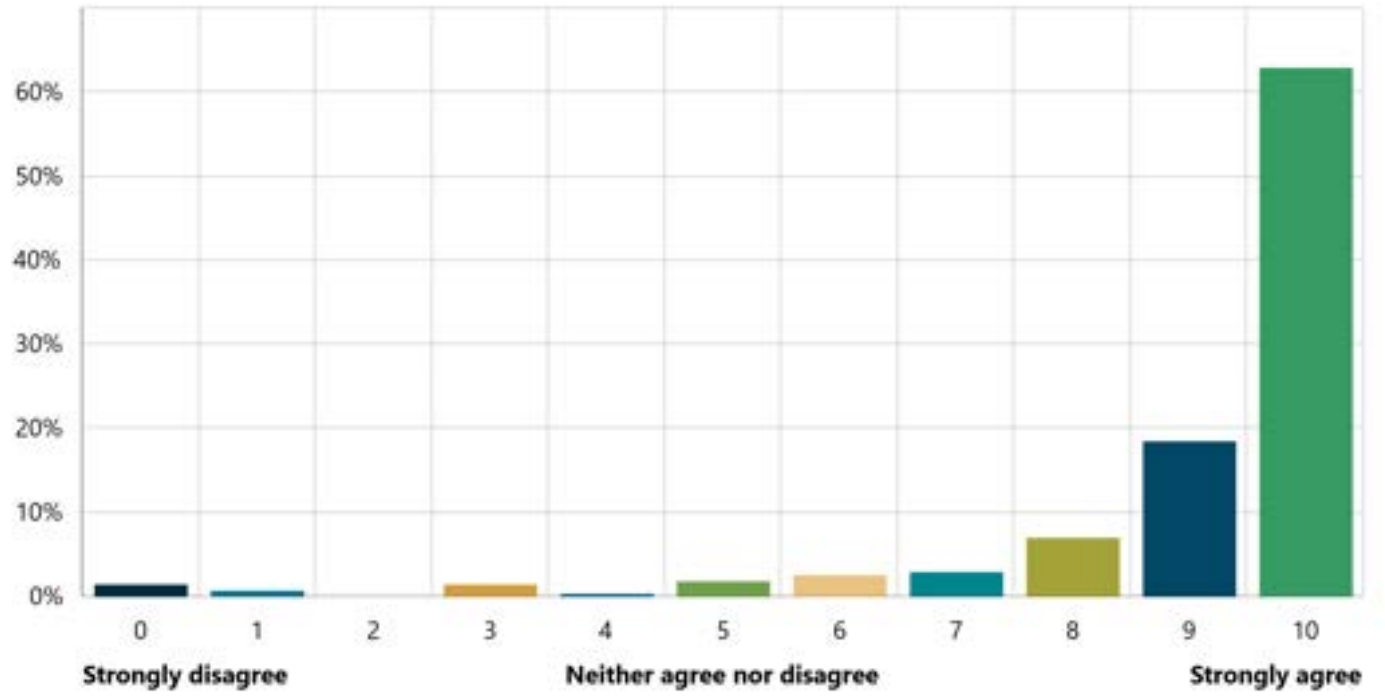
Slider | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
270	8.96	10.00	0	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0.74% 2	1.11% 3	0% 0	1.11% 3	0% 0	2.59% 7	1.85% 5	3.33% 9	12.22% 33	24.07% 65	52.96% 143

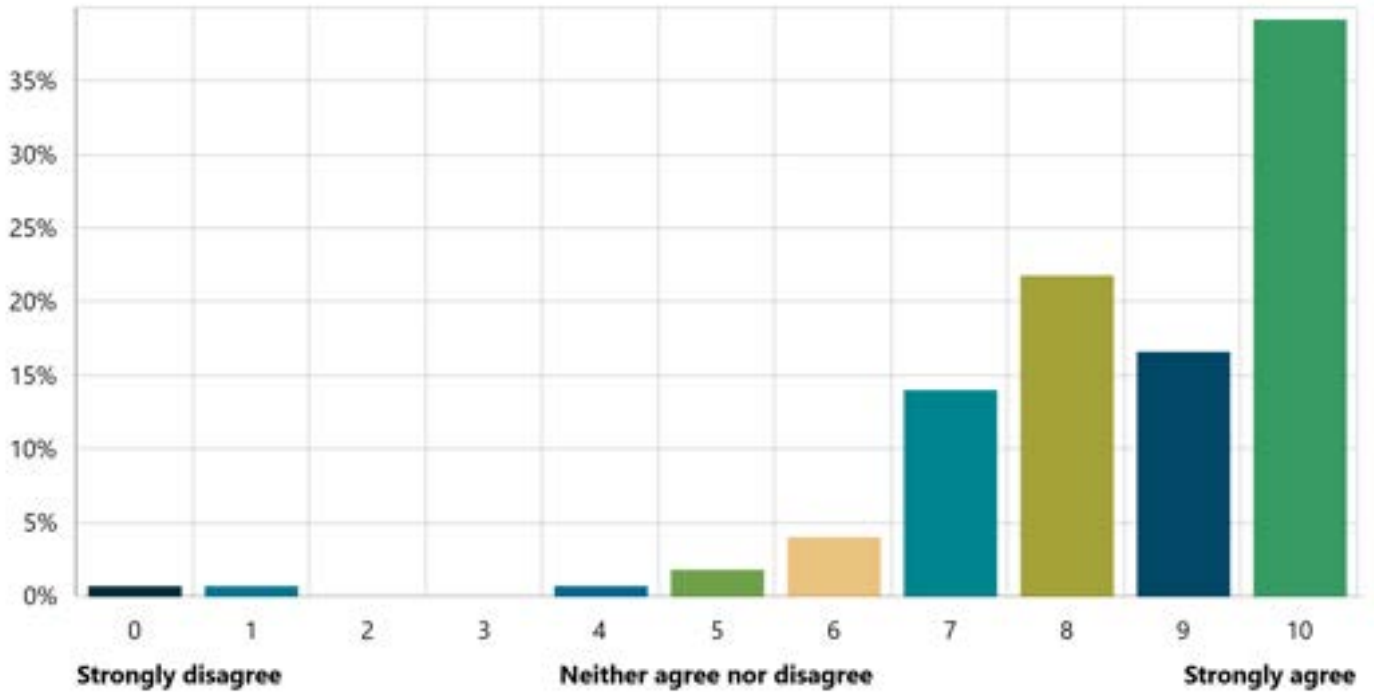
2. Water conservation is important for my community and the region Required
Slider | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
270	9.05	10.00	0	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.48% 4	0.74% 2	0% 0	1.48% 4	0.37% 1	1.85% 5	2.59% 7	2.96% 8	7.04% 19	18.52% 50	62.96% 170

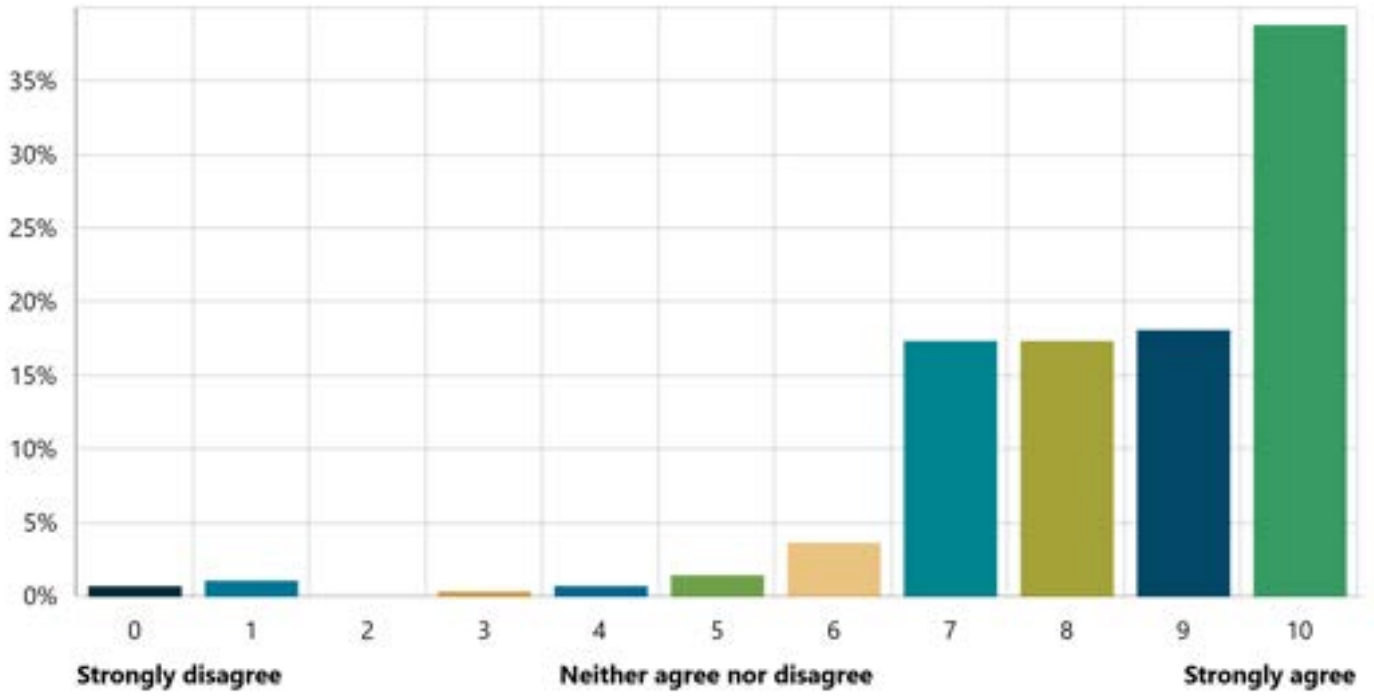
3. I am mindful of how much water I use and look for ways to reduce waste Required
Slider | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
270	8.53	9.00	0	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0.74% 2	0.74% 2	0% 0	0% 0	0.74% 2	1.85% 5	4.07% 11	14.07% 38	21.85% 59	16.67% 45	39.26% 106

4. I make an effort to conserve water at home, both indoors and outdoors Required
Slider | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
270	8.48	9.00	0	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0.74% 2	1.11% 3	0% 0	0.37% 1	0.74% 2	1.48% 4	3.70% 10	17.41% 47	17.41% 47	18.15% 49	38.89% 105

5. What concerns, if any, do you have about water supply in your community?

Short Text | Skipped: 79 | Answered: 191 (70.7%)

Sentiment

Positive	Mixed	Negative	Neutral	Unclassified
10% (20)	2% (3)	61% (116)	27% (52)	0% (0)

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

wori worry that the great salt lake will dry up enough that the valley will become unlivable or unpleasant very soon
Contribution 60 of 60 | September 21, 2025

Corporations and organizations use water frivolously
Contribution 59 of 60 | September 21, 2025

If personal or community reductions in consumptive use results in any measurable increase in flow to the great salt lake.
Contribution 58 of 60 | September 21, 2025

Too much emphasis on pristine, green grass, no matter the weather. Seemingly endless waste, from broken sprinklers running unattended for days to people watering during the (rare) rainstorm.
Contribution 57 of 60 | September 21, 2025

How much water is used for public places.. like parks, public buildings, and lawns that no one needs to be on like at the library
Contribution 56 of 60 | September 21, 2025

The price for water going up. Having clean drinking water. Having enough water for everyone in the future.
Contribution 55 of 60 | September 21, 2025

I'm mostly worried about what happens to the air we breathe when the Great Salt Lake dries up more than it has.
Contribution 54 of 60 | September 21, 2025

We are overusing water on non essential aspects of life. Such as pools, lawns, etc.
Contribution 53 of 60 | September 21, 2025

Industrial use of water
Contribution 52 of 60 | September 21, 2025

The water being used more widely by agriculture is wasteful and immoral.
Contribution 51 of 60 | September 21, 2025

The fact that South Jordan can't use groundwater because of contamination from the copper mine and there has been no accountability to Kennecott for this.
Contribution 50 of 60 | September 21, 2025

Golf courses using potable water
Contribution 49 of 60 | September 21, 2025

Not enough education around water waste
Contribution 48 of 60 | September 21, 2025

The government including both the mayor and governor seem to be doing everything to continue encouraging growth and incentivizing development, and it feels like a math problem. We needed to be restricting water use 4 decades ago
Contribution 47 of 60 | September 21, 2025

I worry about the health of the Great Salt Lake and that, long term, Salt Lake County may face water shortages
Contribution 46 of 60 | September 21, 2025

I am concerned about the way water is used and for our Great Salt Lake
Contribution 45 of 60 | September 21, 2025

I would like more education on purpose system, the process and methods used, residual and capacity. I would make a household system that allows me to utilize rain and gray water sources to reduce community source burdens in the peak usage months.
Contribution 44 of 60 | September 21, 2025

Green lawns concern me. My neighbors don't seem to understand how their choices waste water. GSL drying up is why I'm leaving SLC. Data centers use water and we shouldn't have them here. Do machines get human necessities over humans?
Contribution 43 of 60 | September 21, 2025

Sprinklers!!! Too many people don't run their sprinklers efficiently.
Contribution 42 of 60 | September 20, 2025

The focus is placed too much on individual water use but businesses and commercial property are often the worst offenders. It's especially irksome to see lush green lawns at LDS church buildings. Place more pressure on businesses and the public will follo
Contribution 41 of 60 | September 20, 2025

The loss of the great salt lake.
Contribution 40 of 60 | September 20, 2025

Too many people do not believe that Utah has limited water resources and thus frivolously use too much water.
Contribution 39 of 60 | September 20, 2025

Alfalfa farming uses the majority of the water, and passing responsibility on conservation to home owners will do absolutely nothing in the long run compared to growing one of the water hungriest plans in The Great Basin.
Contribution 38 of 60 | September 20, 2025

Should not increase residential costs. Should increase agriculture restrictions more, and charge more.
Contribution 37 of 60 | September 19, 2025

Gross overuse and lack of understanding about water quality - we need to conserve AND preserve the quality of what we have.
Contribution 36 of 60 | September 19, 2025

New large businesses are being paid to come here and we don’t even have enough water for it existing population... unfettered growth
Contribution 35 of 60 | September 19, 2025

That people are taking the water crisis seriously. We’re at a point where we need drastic action, even if it comes with growing pains.
Contribution 34 of 60 | September 19, 2025

My concern is that we are over building on our area surpassing the carrying capability of our region. We don’t want to make the same mistakes that California has made
Contribution 33 of 60 | September 19, 2025

Water quality and availability to sustain our environment and quality of life.
Contribution 32 of 60 | September 19, 2025

I worry about the great salt lake drying up and along with it our quality of life.
Contribution 31 of 60 | September 19, 2025

Trees growing in park strips that need far more water than they get and are unhealthy as a result. They get hit by cars and another just gets planted in its place.
Contribution 30 of 60 | September 19, 2025

Yes - why is the onus always on individuals?! There should be a much larger conversation about things like data centers, agriculture, etc.
Contribution 29 of 60 | September 18, 2025

Not enough for the growth.
Contribution 28 of 60 | September 18, 2025

Concerned that the salt lake valley will experience dust issues from the great salt lake drying up. And eventually water shortages throughout the valley.
Contribution 27 of 60 | September 18, 2025

How many people can Utah's water support
Contribution 26 of 60 | September 18, 2025

Actual protection of drinking water supplies in our local watersheds.
Contribution 25 of 60 | September 17, 2025

Mostly about water getting to the Great Salt Lake. That affects all of our communities!
Contribution 24 of 60 | September 17, 2025

All. The. Grass. And not just residential but also businesses just overwatering their Kentucky blue grass like it’s no big deal.
Contribution 23 of 60 | September 17, 2025

We live in a desert going through a drought. We have to conserve water
Contribution 22 of 60 | September 17, 2025

Amount of water wasted on grass. We live in a high plateau desert. Why do we even have lawns??!!! Absolutely no progressive policies toward water conservation. The cost is too low and should not be subsidized.
Contribution 21 of 60 | September 17, 2025

The great salt lake drying up!
Contribution 20 of 60 | September 17, 2025

I want to do more like install Tahoma 31 but landscaping is expensive.
Contribution 19 of 60 | September 17, 2025

I an disturbed about the amount of businesses and homes that are regularly watering grass.
Contribution 18 of 60 | September 17, 2025

limited resource
Contribution 17 of 60 | September 17, 2025

We are using too much for churches and green spaces to be green. Brian us ok
Contribution 16 of 60 | September 17, 2025

I worry about the lack of water-efficient and localscaped yards that are in my community.

Contribution 15 of 60 | September 17, 2025

Neighbors watering grass almost daily without regard for conservation
Contribution 14 of 60 | September 17, 2025

So much waste in people, not realizing that rocks makes things hotter, and there are plants that need little to no irrigation that aren't cactus
Contribution 13 of 60 | September 16, 2025

Over development. Alfalfa growing and data centers using millions of gallons
Contribution 12 of 60 | September 16, 2025

Too many homes being built and too much waste on lawns.
Contribution 11 of 60 | September 16, 2025

My primary concern is that you're focusing on reducing the water usage of individual citizens and households when the overwhelming majority of wasted & inefficient water usage is from agriculture and industry. You are focused is on the wrong thing
Contribution 10 of 60 | September 16, 2025

Concerned about low Great Salt Lake water levels. Concerned about how much water is used improperly when watering lawns
Contribution 9 of 60 | September 16, 2025

If we do not use it for irrigation and we do not use it for consumption bathing, etc. it will evaporate either from the great Salt Lake or the Utah Lake Reservoir or reservoir at higher elevation. Keep as much water in the upper elevation reservoirs as po
Contribution 8 of 60 | September 16, 2025

Too many people use too much water when every living thing requires it to survive.
Contribution 7 of 60 | September 16, 2025

Fluctuating supply from springs and unsustainable building/use
Contribution 6 of 60 | September 16, 2025

Too much water used for green lawns
Contribution 5 of 60 | September 16, 2025

water rates in HCII (Herriman) overly penalize heavy users
Contribution 4 of 60 | September 16, 2025

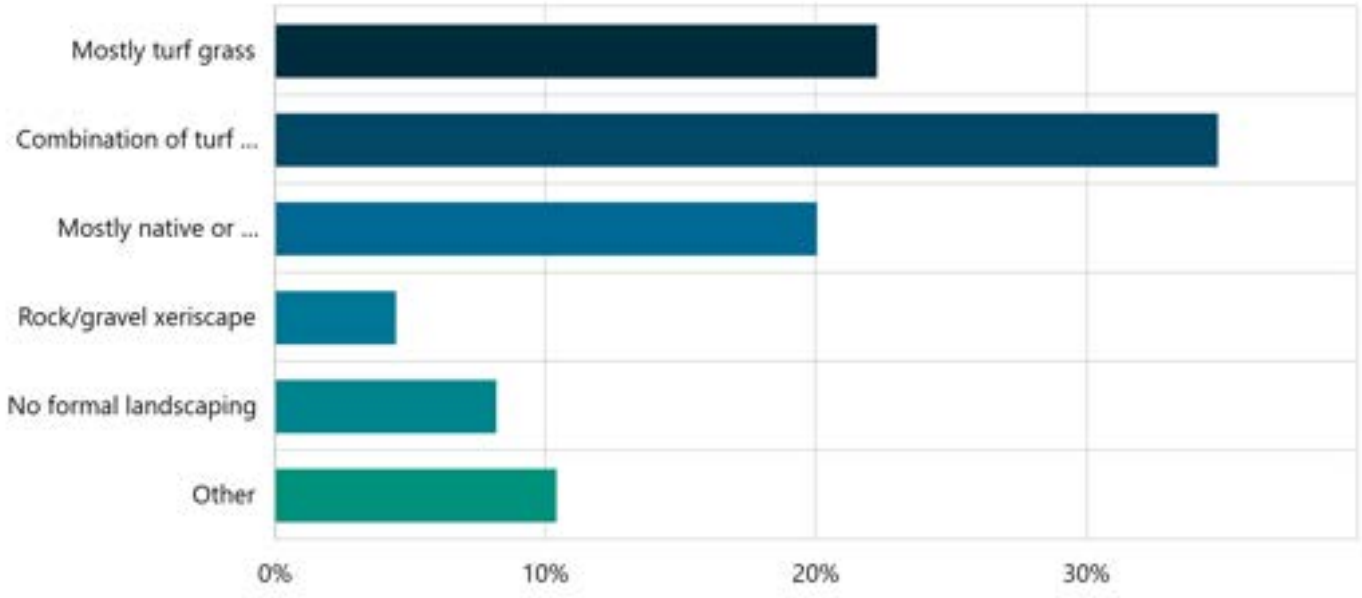
Lack of incentive for people to save water, especially outdoors
Contribution 3 of 60 | September 16, 2025

The biggest concern I have is the community being told to conserve water yet the great salt lake continues to lower. If conservation is truly so important than why aren't we seeing greater changes to the GSL. It seems more of an excuse to raise water rate
Contribution 2 of 60 | September 16, 2025

Overuse by tech industry and government.
Contribution 1 of 60 | September 16, 2025

6. Which of the following best describe your yard's landscaping?

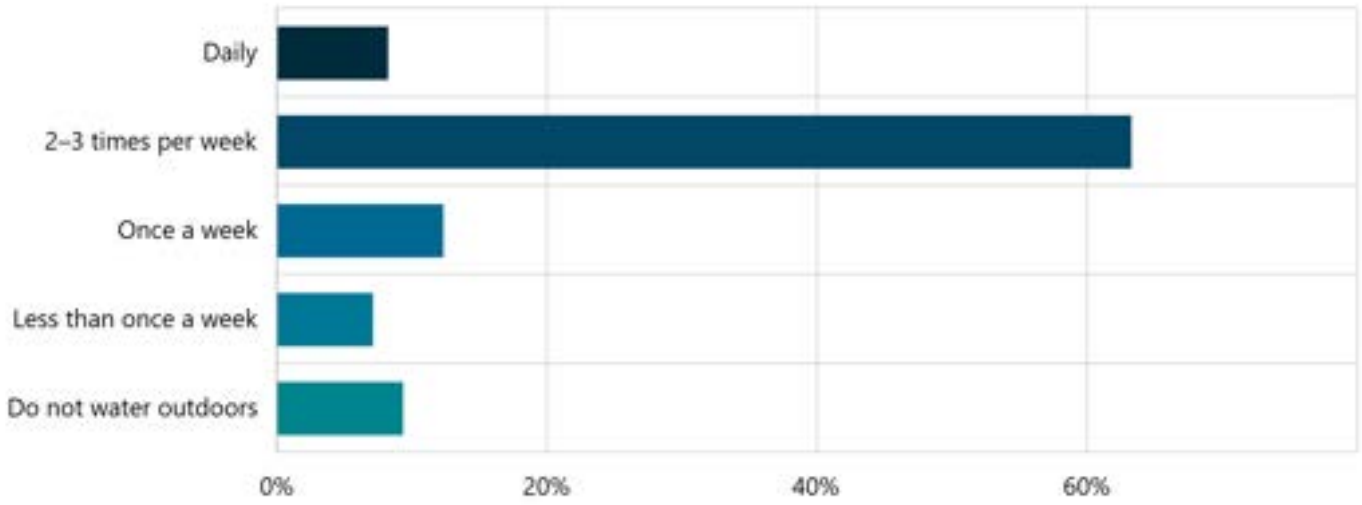
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Mostly turf grass	22.22%	60
Combination of turf and low-water-use plants	34.81%	94
Mostly native or drought-tolerant landscaping	20.00%	54
Rock/gravel xeriscape	4.44%	12
No formal landscaping	8.15%	22
Other	10.37%	28
Total	**100.00%**	**270**

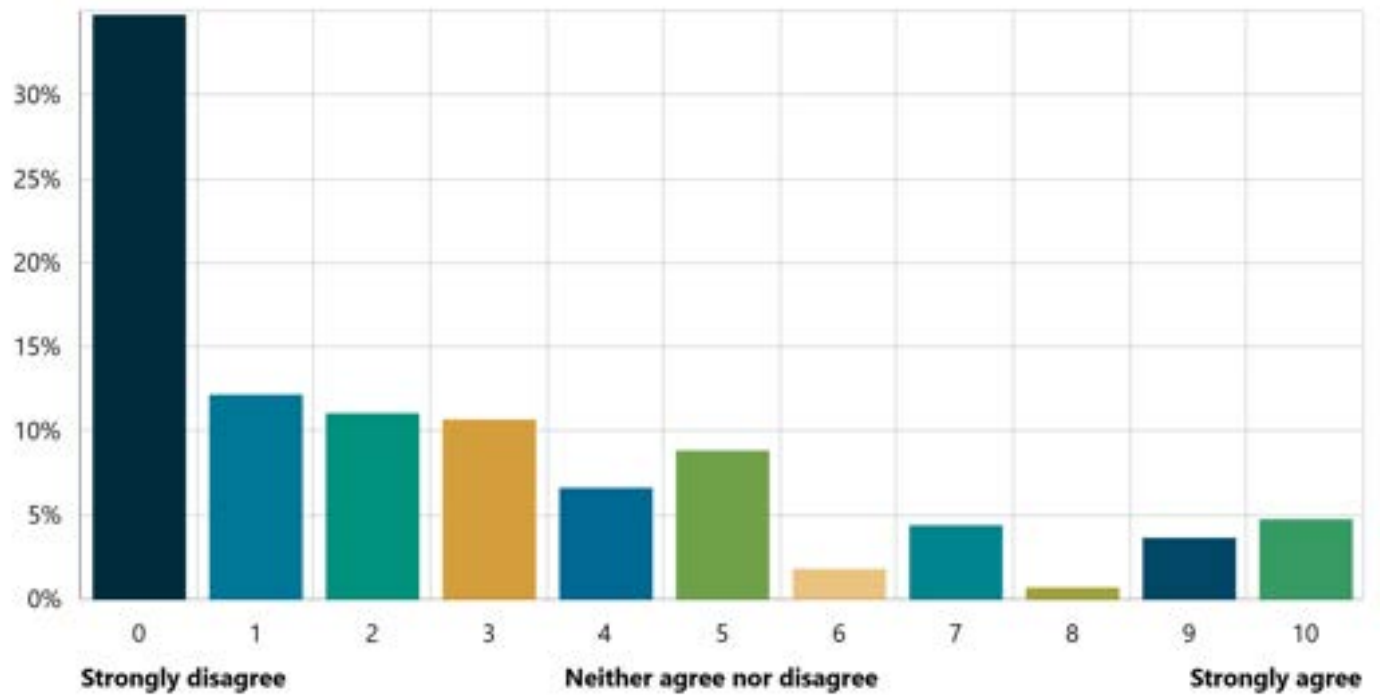
7. How often do you water your landscaping (grass and or gardens) during summer months?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 269 (99.6%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Daily	8.18%	22
2–3 times per week	63.20%	170
Once a week	12.27%	33
Less than once a week	7.06%	19
Do not water outdoors	9.29%	25
Total	**100.00%**	**269**

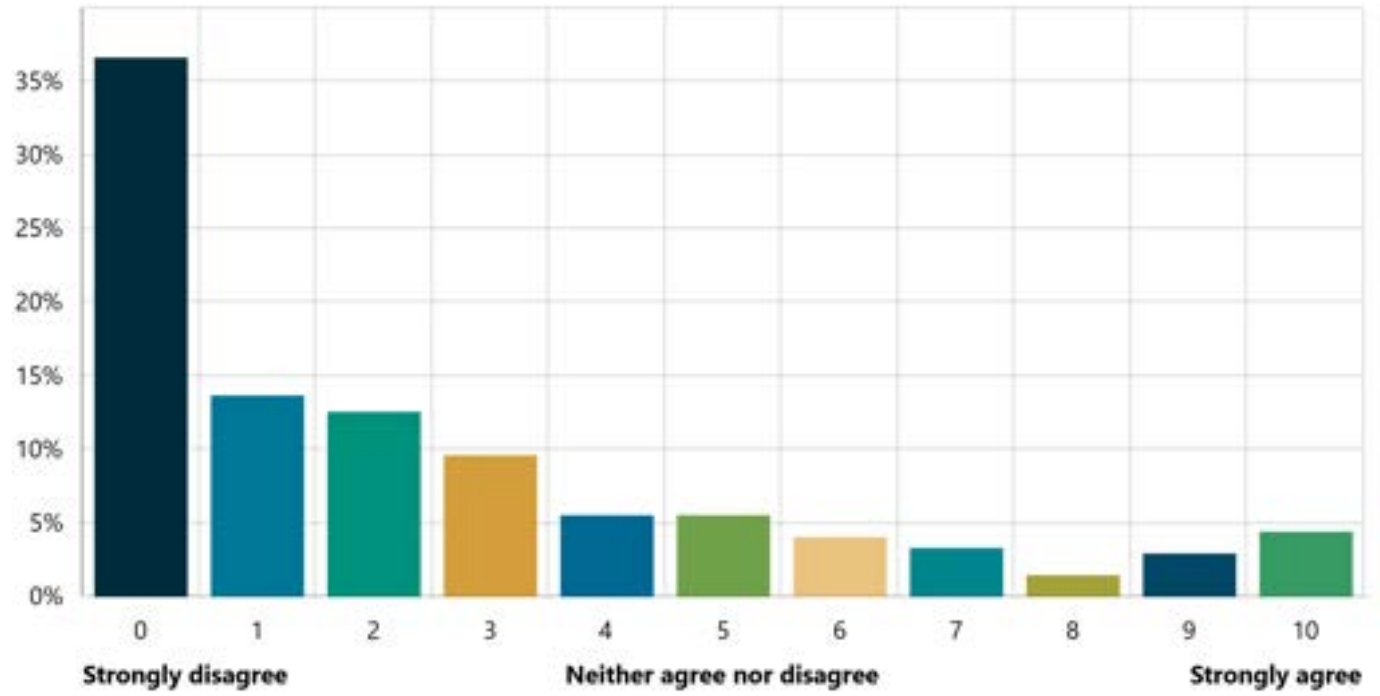
8. I do not support and restrictions on water usage Required
Slider | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
270	2.67	2.00	0	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
34.81% 94	12.22% 33	11.11% 30	10.74% 29	6.67% 18	8.89% 24	1.85% 5	4.44% 12	0.74% 2	3.70% 10	4.81% 13

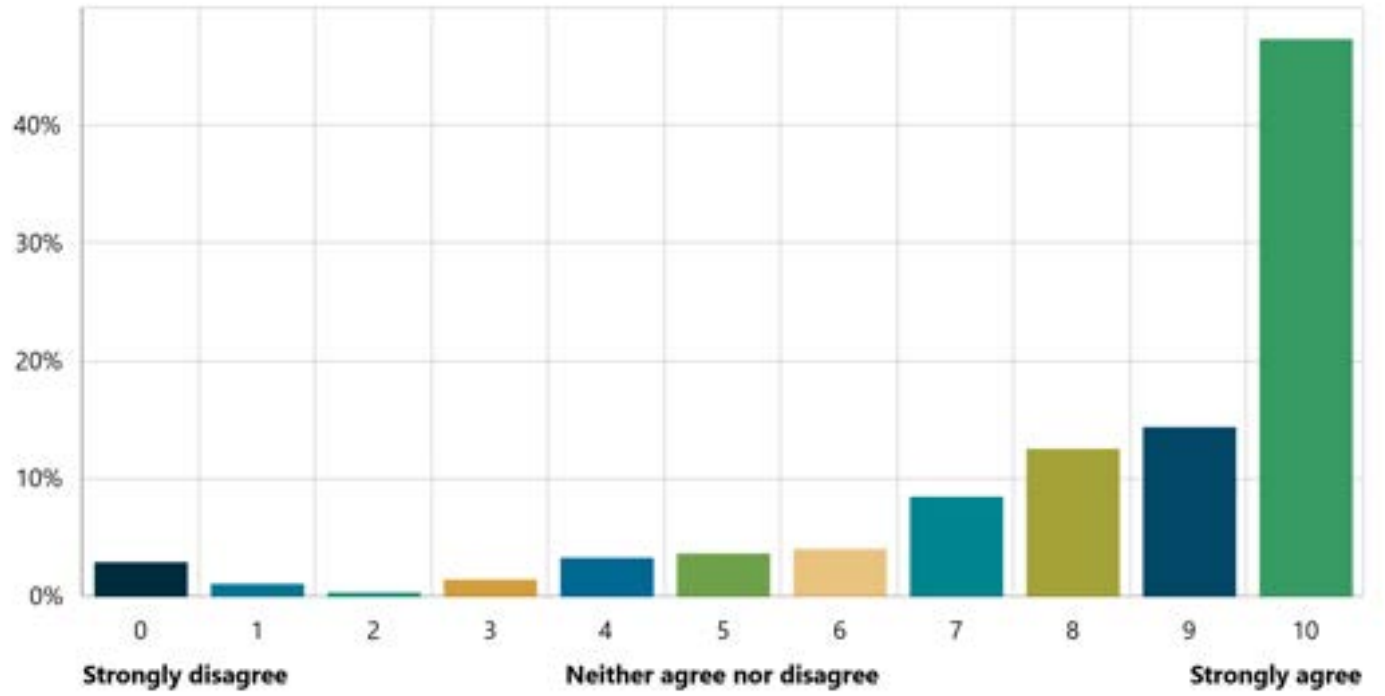
9. I do not support any restrictions on water usage Required
Slider | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
270	2.49	1.00	0	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
36.67% 99	13.70% 37	12.59% 34	9.63% 26	5.56% 15	5.56% 15	4.07% 11	3.33% 9	1.48% 4	2.96% 8	4.44% 12

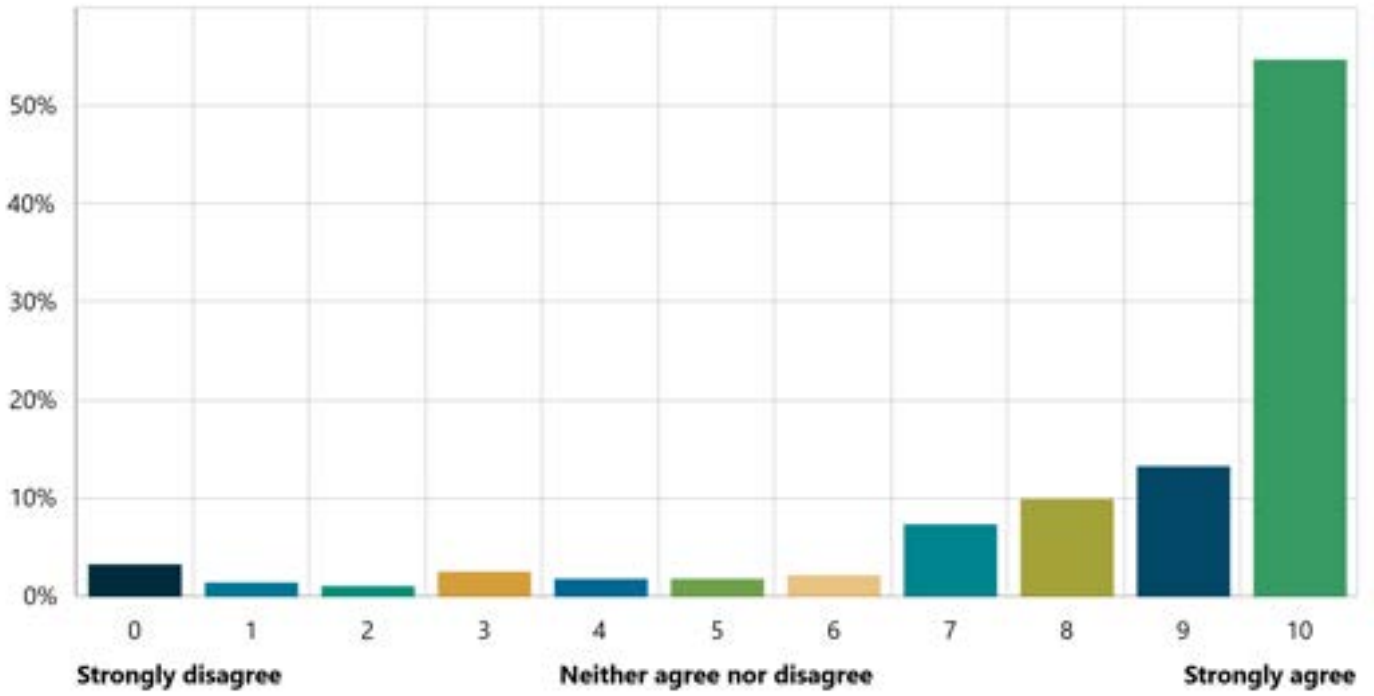
10. I support restrictions on lawn watering during drought conditions Required
Slider | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
270	8.27	9.00	0	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.96% 8	1.11% 3	0.37% 1	1.48% 4	3.33% 9	3.70% 10	4.07% 11	8.52% 23	12.59% 34	14.44% 39	47.41% 128

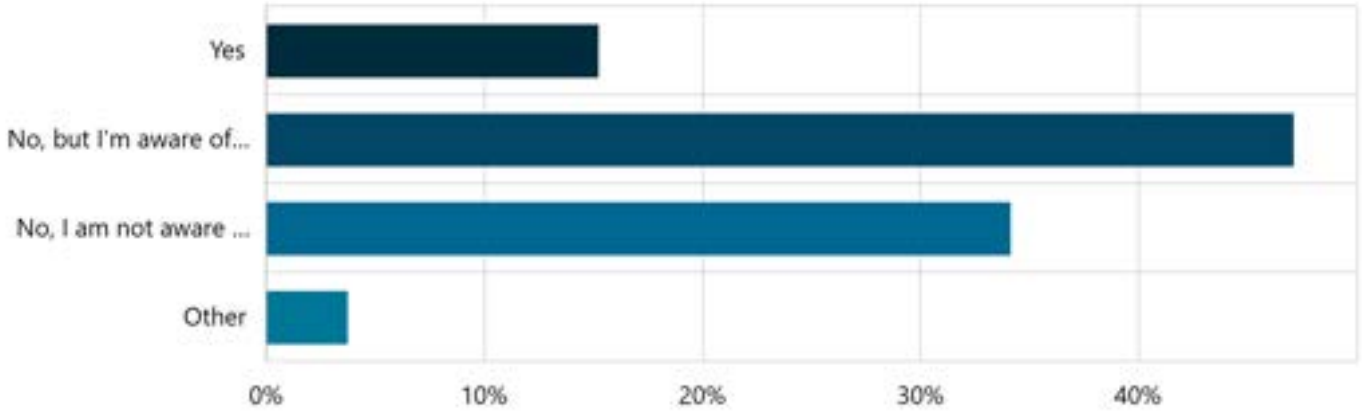
11. I support limiting turf grass in new residential and commercial developments Required
Slider | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
270	8.41	10.00	0	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.33% 9	1.48% 4	1.11% 3	2.59% 7	1.85% 5	1.85% 5	2.22% 6	7.41% 20	10.00% 27	13.33% 36	54.81% 148

12. Have you ever participated in a water conservation rebate or audit program?
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	15.19%	41
No, but I’m aware of them	47.04%	127
No, I am not aware of them	34.07%	92
Other	3.70%	10
Total	**100.00%**	**270**

13. What would help you take action to reduce water use at your home or property?

Short Text | Skipped: 57 | Answered: 213 (78.9%)

Sentiment

Positive	Mixed	Negative	Neutral	Unclassified
28% (60)	2% (4)	17% (36)	53% (113)	0% (0)

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

Laws that FIRST limit water usage at golf courses and LDS church owned lawns
Contribution 63 of 63 | September 22, 2025

Trying to replace small grass area with low water clover mux
Contribution 62 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Free turf exchange for drought tolerant turf
Contribution 61 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Compensation and planning assistance in switching to a low water yard.
Contribution 60 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Money. To have my parking strip filled with rock, to buy native plants, to upgrade my home's water system.
Contribution 59 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Planted drought tolerant or native plants
Contribution 58 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Having native and drought tolerant landscsping
Contribution 57 of 63 | September 21, 2025

I already do not use any outdoor water.
Contribution 56 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Public disclosures of municipal and industrial water use by user
Contribution 55 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Get help with an on-site irrigation technology overhaul
Contribution 54 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Seeing reductions in sectors where it matters more, such as agriculture.
Contribution 53 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Community role model
Contribution 52 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Take out more turf!
Contribution 51 of 63 | September 21, 2025

If I were an owners I would do it for sure
Contribution 50 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Paying for water usage; grant to help collect rain water
Contribution 49 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Available resources. Why is no one advocating for low flow appliances?
Contribution 48 of 63 | September 21, 2025

Money. Convincing my landlord. Free plants. Free assistance.
Contribution 47 of 63 | September 21, 2025

My partner who owns the home is resistant
Contribution 46 of 63 | September 21, 2025

I live in a rental so I do not have a say in the landscaping or sprinklers where I live. This is the case with a lot of people, so I think education and incentives should target landlords more.
Contribution 45 of 63 | September 20, 2025

Shade tree rebates. My husband hates a yellow lawn and will water more often than needed. I want more shade trees to keep it cooler so it doesn't turn yellow and he'll water less. Honestly- what is up with men's preoccupation with a green lawn?
Contribution 44 of 63 | September 20, 2025

Price of water consumption.
Contribution 43 of 63 | September 20, 2025

Aggressive action against farmers using all the water, knowing that Utahns are in this together and homeowners are not sacrificing

water to save a meager percentage
Contribution 42 of 63 | September 20, 2025

Subsidize drought friendly plants
Contribution 41 of 63 | September 19, 2025

Landscapes that have been established for 40 years are very costly to convert. We needed the flip program that also had to wait for our kids to be old enough to help.
Contribution 40 of 63 | September 19, 2025

Further landscaping... saving up to keep chipping away at it
Contribution 39 of 63 | September 19, 2025

Availability and affordability of drought tolerant plants
Contribution 38 of 63 | September 19, 2025

We need more information on water friendly trees and plants
Contribution 37 of 63 | September 19, 2025

Assistance with cost
Contribution 36 of 63 | September 19, 2025

Financial incentives and help with planning
Contribution 35 of 63 | September 19, 2025

Money to adjust current landscaping
Contribution 34 of 63 | September 19, 2025

Money/time
Contribution 33 of 63 | September 19, 2025

Incentive programs
Contribution 32 of 63 | September 18, 2025

I only water my trees. The water waste/crisis is happening above the individual/family level.
Contribution 31 of 63 | September 18, 2025

Already have
Contribution 30 of 63 | September 18, 2025

We have done every program to reduce water and take additional steps in our home and yard
Contribution 29 of 63 | September 18, 2025

Businesses and government to reduce also
Contribution 28 of 63 | September 18, 2025

Best effort to protect our watershed, creating pollinator spaces, reasonable ways to improve efficiency and reduce waste.
Contribution 27 of 63 | September 17, 2025

Seeing large scale action and accountability for data driven water use for agriculture (particularly to grow products that are being shipped out of the country), industry (like data centers), and commercial properties lead the way.
Contribution 26 of 63 | September 17, 2025

Providing watering schedules, low water usage grass recommendations for neighbors, education for others.
Contribution 25 of 63 | September 17, 2025

A cost effective way to remove grass and plant native
Contribution 24 of 63 | September 17, 2025

Already take great effort
Contribution 23 of 63 | September 17, 2025

Incentives to Landscape
Contribution 22 of 63 | September 17, 2025

Money
Contribution 21 of 63 | September 17, 2025

It's just expensive to completely re-do existing landscape. I want to add a deck and better grass but every quote is like $40k
Contribution 20 of 63 | September 17, 2025

Financial help reducing lawn in back yards
Contribution 19 of 63 | September 17, 2025

knowledge on native landscaping
Contribution 18 of 63 | September 17, 2025

Currently (at least that I am aware of) there are no incentives for STARTING your yard water smart and local scaped... only replacing. We

live in a new build and would love those incentives.
Contribution 17 of 63 | September 17, 2025

Higher water prices
Contribution 16 of 63 | September 17, 2025

Rebates
Contribution 15 of 63 | September 17, 2025

Help with taking out more grass. I no longer have the physical strength or money to do it myself.
Contribution 14 of 63 | September 16, 2025

Reducing our grass and replacing our water softener
Contribution 13 of 63 | September 16, 2025

Seeing alfalfa farmers and data centers reducing usage. Residential usage restrictions will only result in conservation districts selling more water
Contribution 12 of 63 | September 16, 2025

I removed my front and side lawn and installed drip in low water plants I will remove more lawn in back yard
Contribution 11 of 63 | September 16, 2025

Information about incentive programs
Contribution 10 of 63 | September 16, 2025

I already put forth an effort to reduce water use
Contribution 9 of 63 | September 16, 2025

If the county changed the building code to allow the diversion of grey water for landscape irrigation. Diverter valves work can even have a switch in the bathroom to toggle.
Contribution 8 of 63 | September 16, 2025

I've already done all I can.
Contribution 7 of 63 | September 16, 2025

More drastically tiered cost structure
Contribution 6 of 63 | September 16, 2025

This is less about my watering since I have limited as it is in my area but changing the stigma around the need for ornamental lawns.
Contribution 5 of 63 | September 16, 2025

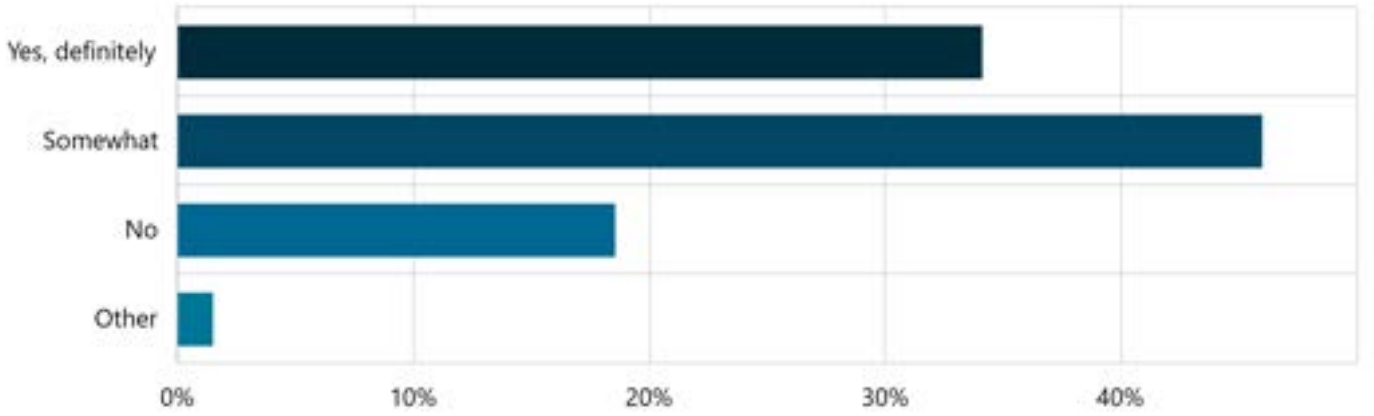
Water costs by strictly as usage fees, not taxes
Contribution 4 of 63 | September 16, 2025

Fewer restrictions on qualifying for rebate
Contribution 3 of 63 | September 16, 2025

More money for the rebate programs to do localscaping.
Contribution 2 of 63 | September 16, 2025

Why should I when you'll just give it to data centers and billionaires?
Contribution 1 of 63 | September 16, 2025

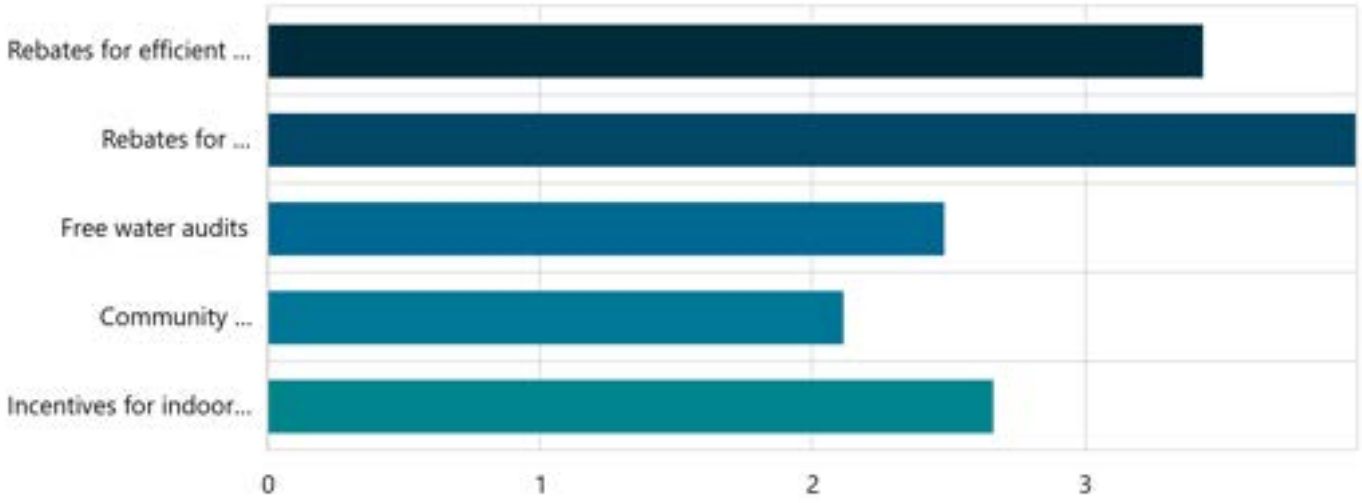
14. If you want to reduce your at home water use, do you feel you have enough information to get assistance?
Required
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes, definitely	34.07%	92
Somewhat	45.93%	124
No	18.52%	50
Other	1.48%	4
Total	**100.00%**	**270**

15. Please rank these programs in order of interest

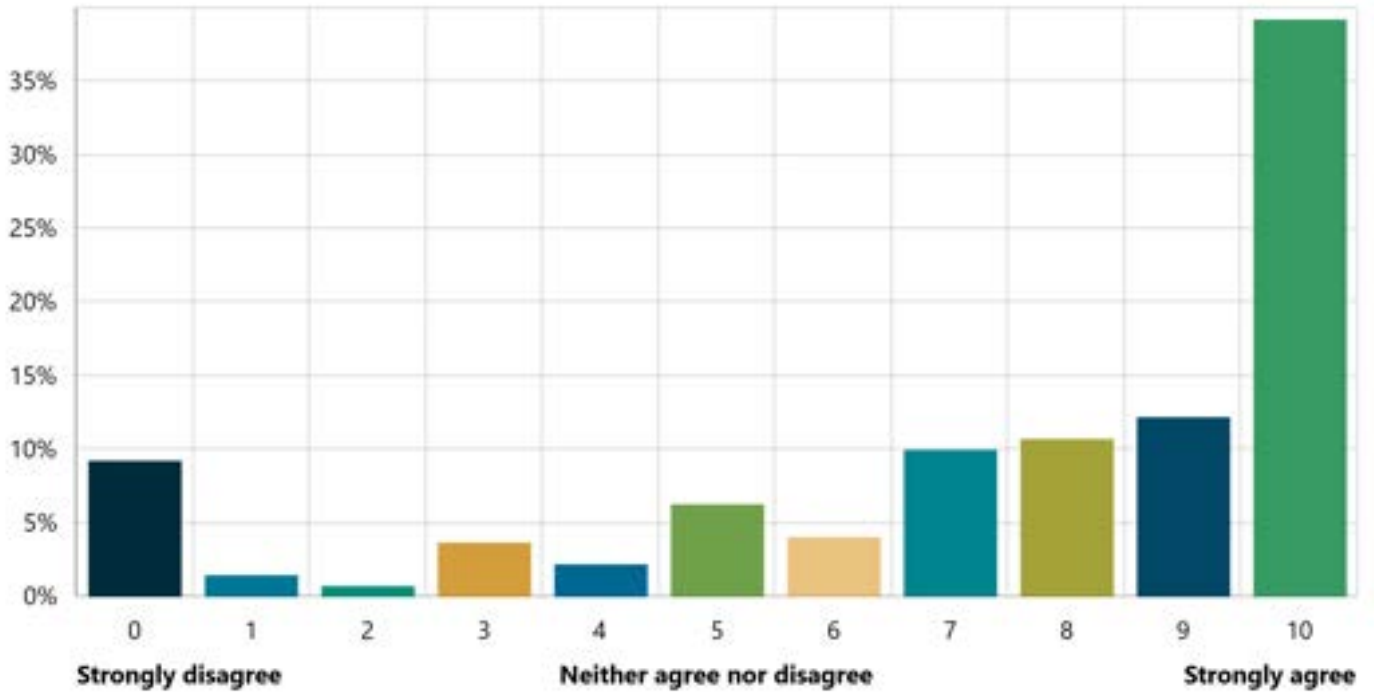
Ranking | Skipped: 32 | Answered: 238 (88.1%)



	1	2	3	4	5	Count	Score	Avg Rank
Rebates for efficient irrigation systems	21.12% 49	39.66% 92	18.97% 44	10.34% 24	9.91% 23	232	3.43	2.48
Rebates for water-wise landscaping	48.31% 114	22.88% 54	16.53% 39	7.63% 18	4.66% 11	236	3.99	1.97
Free water audits	12.11% 27	17.04% 38	18.39% 41	28.70% 64	23.77% 53	223	2.48	3.35
Community education workshops	8.52% 19	8.07% 18	19.28% 43	28.25% 63	35.87% 80	223	2.11	3.75
Incentives for indoor water-saving appliances	12.50% 29	14.66% 34	27.59% 64	23.28% 54	21.98% 51	232	2.66	3.28

Score - Sum of the weight of each ranked position, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total contributions. Weights are inverse to ranked positions.
Avg Rank - Sum of the ranked position of the choice, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total 'Count' of the choice.

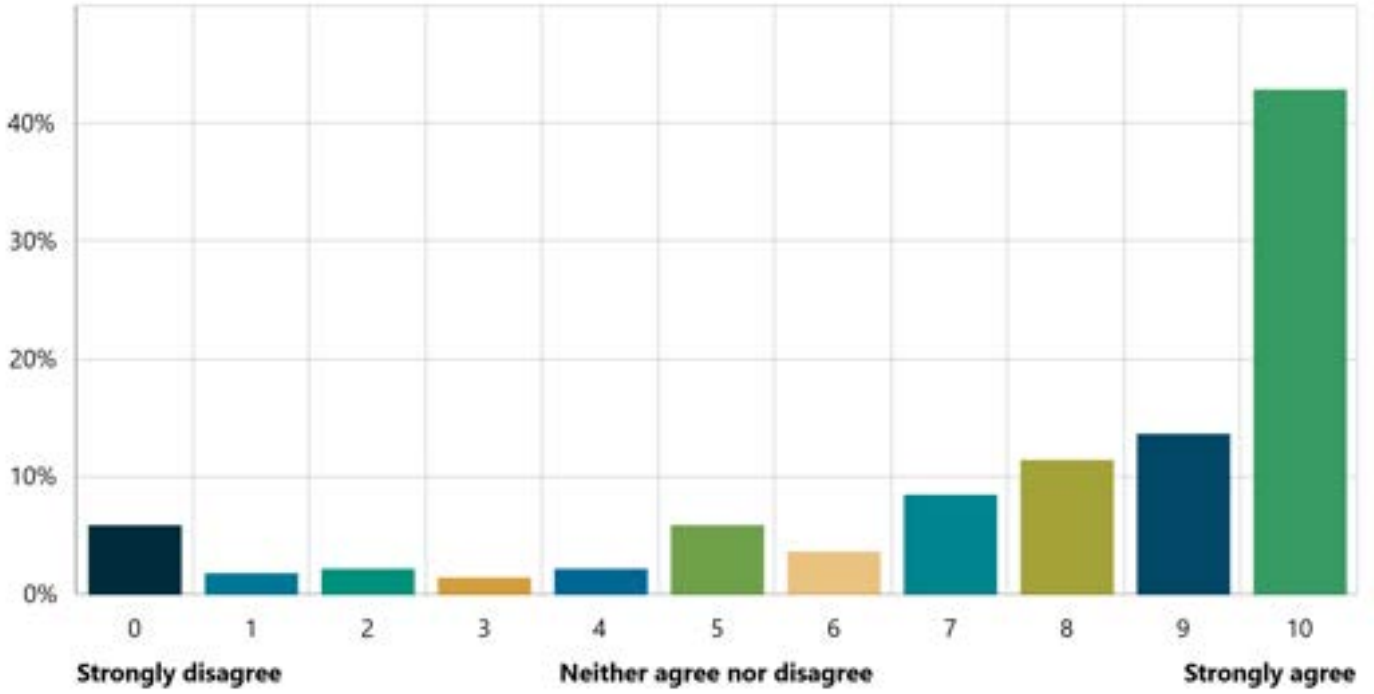
16. I support tiered water rates that charge higher rates for higher water use Required
Slider | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
270	7.37	9.00	0	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.26% 25	1.48% 4	0.74% 2	3.70% 10	2.22% 6	6.30% 17	4.07% 11	10.00% 27	10.74% 29	12.22% 33	39.26% 106

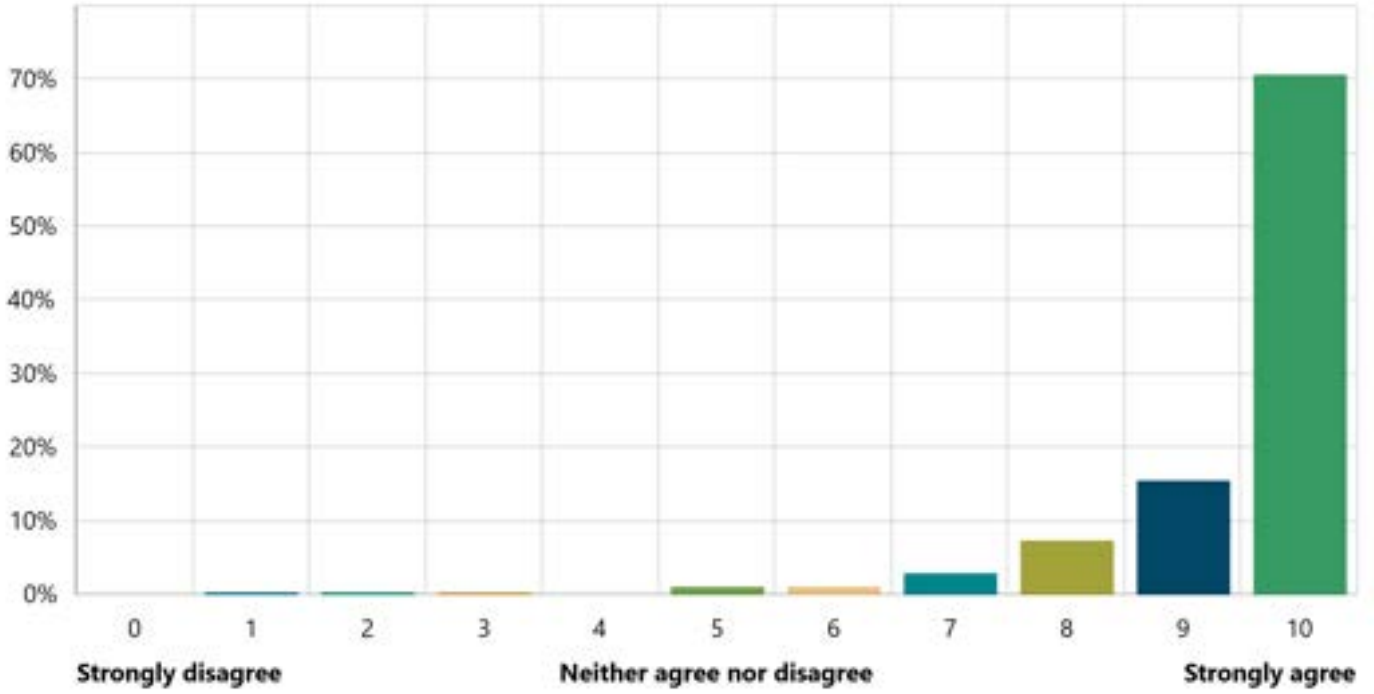
17. I support enforcement of watering restrictions (e.g., fines for watering during restricted hours) Required
Slider | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
270	7.76	9.00	0	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.93% 16	1.85% 5	2.22% 6	1.48% 4	2.22% 6	5.93% 16	3.70% 10	8.52% 23	11.48% 31	13.70% 37	42.96% 116

18. It is important that Salt Lake County use water-wise landscaping on its own properties Required
Slider | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
270	9.42	10.00	1	10

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0% 0	0.37% 1	0.37% 1	0.37% 1	0% 0	1.11% 3	1.11% 3	2.96% 8	7.41% 20	15.56% 42	70.74% 191

19. Do you see any barriers that prevent people in your community from being able to participate in water conservation programs?

Short Text | Skipped: 61 | Answered: 209 (77.4%)

Sentiment

Positive	Mixed	Negative	Neutral	Unclassified
8% (17)	3% (7)	49% (102)	40% (83)	0% (0)

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

Not enough money/resources to change to water wise gardens.
Contribution 59 of 59 | September 22, 2025

Elderly people and low income person's probably cannot participate without a lot of assistance
Contribution 58 of 59 | September 21, 2025

Water restrictions should first focus on businesses, only ~55% of water use is by ind. I do not support fines or increased fees for using water because if the penalty is a fine the wealthy are not impacted or motivated to curb their use only the poor are.
Contribution 57 of 59 | September 21, 2025

They don’t understand consumptive vs non-consumptive water use.
Contribution 56 of 59 | September 21, 2025

Cost to install improved water systems (like old plumbing or low water pressure), efficient appliances, and xeriscaping.
Contribution 55 of 59 | September 21, 2025

Missing intelligence and lacking common sense. Businesses, government and the LDS church need to set good examples
Contribution 54 of 59 | September 21, 2025

No
Contribution 53 of 59 | September 21, 2025

I do not. As long as it does not become a tax loop hole for the upper class. I am more in favor of water use restrictions and fines.
Contribution 52 of 59 | September 21, 2025

The economy has restricted what people can spend as individuals. The most good can be done by focusing on municipal and business's uses.

Contribution 51 of 59 | September 21, 2025

S hooks and churches watering until the ground is swampy without regard to conservation.
Contribution 50 of 59 | September 21, 2025

Nope
Contribution 49 of 59 | September 21, 2025

HOAs thinking native plants are unsightly
Contribution 48 of 59 | September 21, 2025

Not enough info about rebates or people engaging it.
Contribution 47 of 59 | September 21, 2025

Renters are at the mercy of landlords in most cases. You need to address this both in your survey and policies
Contribution 46 of 59 | September 21, 2025

Little control due to HOA
Contribution 45 of 59 | September 21, 2025

Education. If fines are given, or restrictions enforced, make sure everyone knows how to use alternative options.
Contribution 44 of 59 | September 21, 2025

Marginalized communities require different outreach. There could be a language, geographic, or tech barrier to overcome.
Contribution 43 of 59 | September 21, 2025

People don’t feel the urgency, sense of entitlement
Contribution 42 of 59 | September 21, 2025

A lot of people don’t own their homes, so they don’t get to choose their landscaping. Also money, it would be expensive to replace landscaping or get new appliances. Also, if there are fines or higher water rates, I’m stuck paying them for my landlord.
Contribution 41 of 59 | September 20, 2025

Time and mindset. Too focused on wanting a green lawn and do t want judgement from others.
Contribution 40 of 59 | September 20, 2025

Attitudes and historical beliefs that abundant water is available from the mountain streams.
Contribution 39 of 59 | September 20, 2025

Lack of Knowledge of turf alternatives
Contribution 38 of 59 | September 19, 2025

Technological/physical capability - even with rebates, many folks can’t hire help.
Contribution 37 of 59 | September 19, 2025

Lack of time, information, and funds
Contribution 36 of 59 | September 19, 2025

Culture. People are far too sold on turf and don’t know how to design or believe water wise landscape can be beautiful.
Contribution 35 of 59 | September 19, 2025

Growing gardens and fruit trees water and feeding livestock
Contribution 34 of 59 | September 19, 2025

The cost of replacing systems and landscaping.
Contribution 33 of 59 | September 19, 2025

Time to do the work
Contribution 32 of 59 | September 19, 2025

Socioeconomic
Contribution 31 of 59 | September 19, 2025

I feel like you’re required to add more water wise plants than you need making it look like a overgrown landscape versus a nice clean and sharp looking landscape.
Contribution 30 of 59 | September 19, 2025

It costs $$$ to xeriscape & pay for drip systems, etc. In drought, watering is a fire-preventative! Some people are only home at certain times to water, etc. We need conservation programs that are inclusive/equitable
Contribution 29 of 59 | September 18, 2025

Landscapers who don't care
Contribution 28 of 59 | September 18, 2025

Money, energy to do themselves, knowledge (and ignorance).
Contribution 27 of 59 | September 18, 2025

Cost
Contribution 26 of 59 | September 18, 2025

Knowledge and cost, cost, cost.
Contribution 25 of 59 | September 17, 2025

Knowledge of those programs, willingness to do the work to change their landscape from KBGrass to waterwise plants,
Contribution 24 of 59 | September 17, 2025

There isn't much info out there. I work in conservation and I haven't heard of many programs. The average person probably has not heard of any.
Contribution 23 of 59 | September 17, 2025

Education. Time, money and means to convert existing landscape.
Contribution 22 of 59 | September 17, 2025

Mindset
Contribution 21 of 59 | September 17, 2025

Cost of replacing turf
Contribution 20 of 59 | September 17, 2025

No
Contribution 19 of 59 | September 17, 2025

Lack of resources to have help changing landscaping. There is a large elderly population. Also, expectations that when companies flip properties that water was landscaping should be required.
Contribution 18 of 59 | September 17, 2025

no information, politics.
Contribution 17 of 59 | September 17, 2025

Education and cost
Contribution 16 of 59 | September 17, 2025

Attitude
Contribution 15 of 59 | September 16, 2025

The conversion is cost prohibitive
Contribution 14 of 59 | September 16, 2025

Upfront costs and watching farmers and data centers waste water
Contribution 13 of 59 | September 16, 2025

Money and labor.
Contribution 12 of 59 | September 16, 2025

Money, information
Contribution 11 of 59 | September 16, 2025

Yes, general unawareness of the issue at hand
Contribution 10 of 59 | September 16, 2025

City County and HOA requirements for landscaping and beautification are the largest contributors to wasteful watering. It doesn't help when code enforcement issues, letters, and threats to people who have water wise landscaping because it doesn't fit
Contribution 9 of 59 | September 16, 2025

I'm sure cost is a barrier for many.
Contribution 8 of 59 | September 16, 2025

Lack of regulations—for example, why don't we require all new construction to have water-wise sprinkling? (Sprinklers that sense when it's been raining, for example.)
Contribution 7 of 59 | September 16, 2025

Again stigma around what a home's landscaping should be. Home values being indirectly tied to presence of green lawns.
Contribution 6 of 59 | September 16, 2025

Community aesthetic that green lawns are good
Contribution 5 of 59 | September 16, 2025

Cost of xeriscape is very high
Contribution 4 of 59 | September 16, 2025

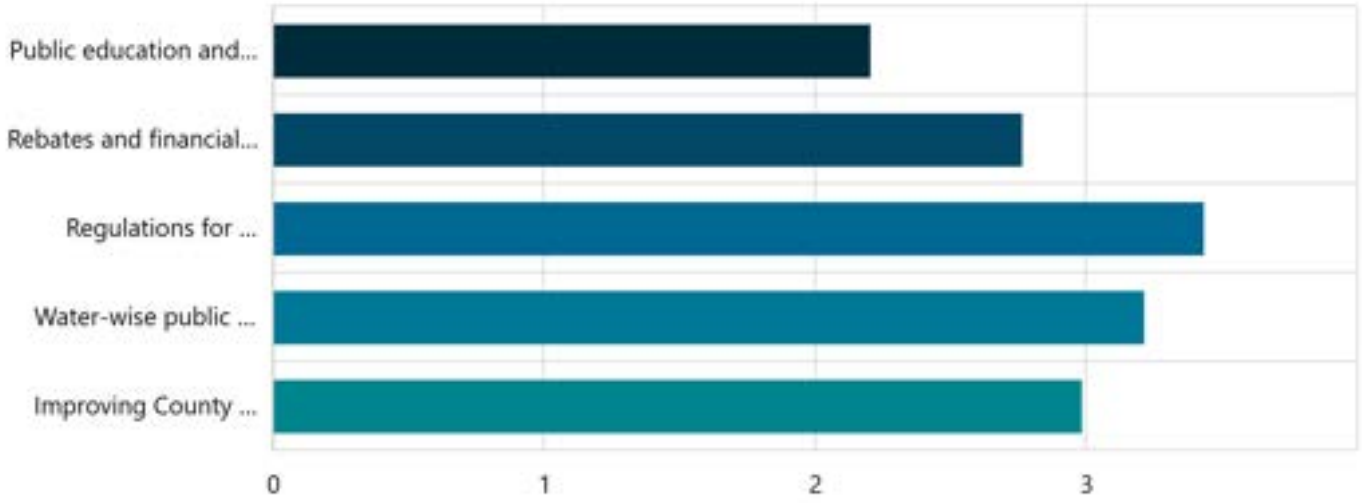
People don't know or understand how important it is
Contribution 3 of 59 | September 16, 2025

Renters don't have control over outdoor water usage.
Contribution 2 of 59 | September 16, 2025

The biggest one I see is money. It’s expensive to basically redo your yard to convert it to being more water wise.
Contribution 1 of 59 | September 16, 2025

20. What should be Salt Lake County's top priorities for water conservation?

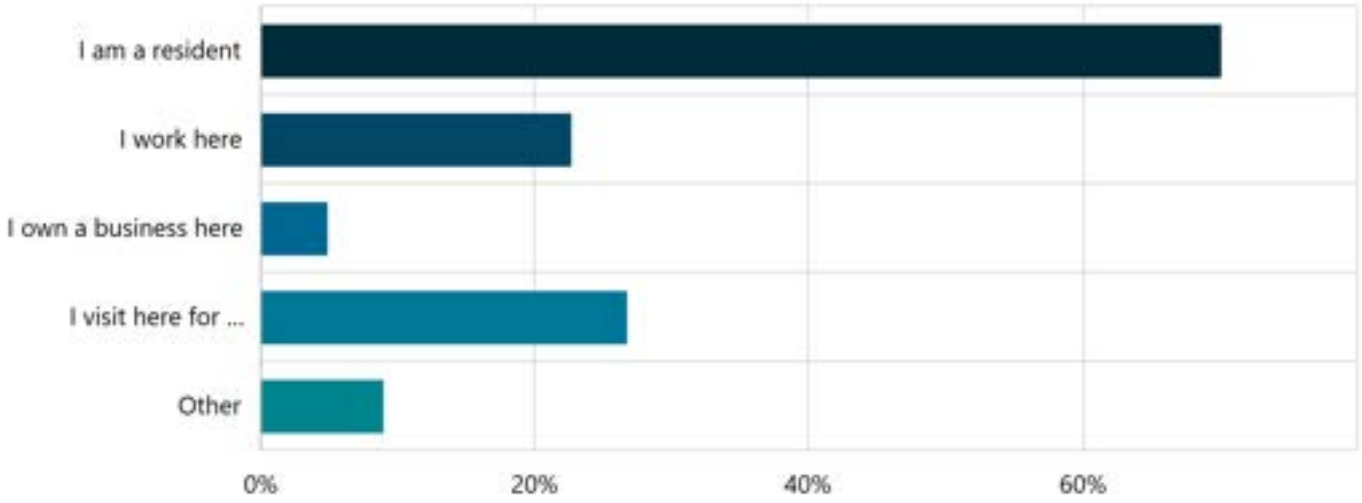
Ranking | Skipped: 25 | Answered: 245 (90.7%)



	1	2	3	4	5	Count	Score	Avg Rank
Public education and outreach	12.02% 28	9.44% 22	14.59% 34	25.75% 60	38.20% 89	233	2.20	3.69
Rebates and financial incentives	19.33% 46	13.87% 33	18.07% 43	28.99% 69	19.75% 47	238	2.76	3.16
Regulations for landscaping in new development	35.90% 84	25.21% 59	14.96% 35	9.83% 23	14.10% 33	234	3.43	2.41
Water-wise public landscaping projects	13.56% 32	36.86% 87	26.69% 63	14.83% 35	8.05% 19	236	3.21	2.67
Improving County water infrastructure efficiency	23.40% 55	15.74% 37	25.53% 60	19.15% 45	16.17% 38	235	2.98	2.89

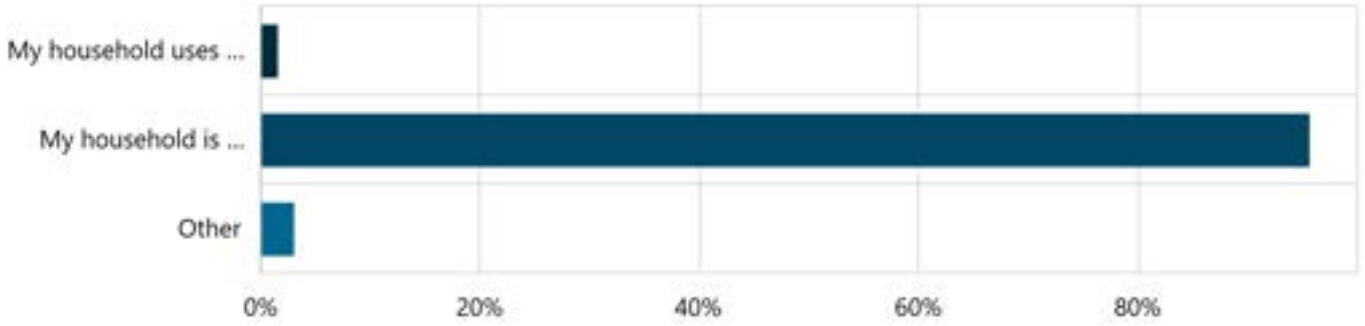
Score - Sum of the weight of each ranked position, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total contributions. Weights are inverse to ranked positions.
Avg Rank - Sum of the ranked position of the choice, multiplied by the response count for the position choice, divided by the total 'Count' of the choice.

21. What is your connection to Unincorporated Salt Lake County? (select all that apply) Required
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
I am a resident	70.00%	189
I work here	22.59%	61
I own a business here	4.81%	13
I visit here for recreation	26.67%	72
Other	8.89%	24

22. Where does your drinking water come from? Required
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
My household uses well water	1.48%	4
My household is connected to a public utility	95.56%	258
Other	2.96%	8
Total	**100.00%**	**270**

23. Who is your water provider? Required

Short Text | Skipped: 12 | Answered: 258 (95.6%)

Sentiment

Positive	Mixed	Negative	Neutral	Unclassified
1% (3)	0% (1)	2% (4)	97% (250)	0% (0)

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

Taylorsville bennion improvement district
Contribution 73 of 73 | September 22, 2025

South valley?
Contribution 72 of 73 | September 21, 2025

Salt Lake city
Contribution 71 of 73 | September 21, 2025

Salt Lake County public utilities
Contribution 70 of 73 | September 21, 2025

White city water
Contribution 69 of 73 | September 21, 2025

Jordan Conversacy District
Contribution 68 of 73 | September 21, 2025

SLC Public utilities
Contribution 67 of 73 | September 21, 2025

Salt Lake City Public Utilities
Contribution 66 of 73 | September 21, 2025

Slc
Contribution 65 of 73 | September 21, 2025

West Valley City
Contribution 64 of 73 | September 21, 2025

Salt lake water
Contribution 63 of 73 | September 21, 2025

Jordan Valley Conservancy District
Contribution 62 of 73 | September 21, 2025

Sclpu
Contribution 61 of 73 | September 21, 2025

Jordan valley conversation district
Contribution 60 of 73 | September 21, 2025

? The county I assume
Contribution 59 of 73 | September 21, 2025

South Valley Water Conservation District
Contribution 58 of 73 | September 21, 2025

South Valley Water Conservation District
Contribution 57 of 73 | September 21, 2025

I'm not sure
Contribution 56 of 73 | September 21, 2025

West Jordan Water
Contribution 55 of 73 | September 21, 2025

Holladay Water
Contribution 54 of 73 | September 21, 2025

Murray
Contribution 53 of 73 | September 21, 2025

Salt Lake City corp
Contribution 52 of 73 | September 20, 2025

SLC utilities, I’m not sure honestly
Contribution 51 of 73 | September 20, 2025

West Jordan City?
Contribution 50 of 73 | September 20, 2025

Granger Hunter
Contribution 49 of 73 | September 20, 2025

South jordan
Contribution 48 of 73 | September 20, 2025

Wasatch utility
Contribution 47 of 73 | September 19, 2025

Sandy City
Contribution 46 of 73 | September 19, 2025

Murray
Contribution 45 of 73 | September 19, 2025

West Jordan Water district probably?
Contribution 44 of 73 | September 19, 2025

Sandy coty
Contribution 43 of 73 | September 19, 2025

SLC
Contribution 42 of 73 | September 19, 2025

Jordan valley water conservancy district
Contribution 41 of 73 | September 19, 2025

I don’t know the name. We live in West Jordan
Contribution 40 of 73 | September 19, 2025

Granger Hunter
Contribution 39 of 73 | September 19, 2025

South salt lake
Contribution 38 of 73 | September 18, 2025

Salt Lake County
Contribution 37 of 73 | September 18, 2025

South Jordan
Contribution 36 of 73 | September 18, 2025

White City
Contribution 35 of 73 | September 18, 2025

Magna
Contribution 34 of 73 | September 18, 2025

SLCDPU
Contribution 33 of 73 | September 17, 2025

Salt Lake Public Utilities
Contribution 32 of 73 | September 17, 2025

Slc
Contribution 31 of 73 | September 17, 2025

Sandy City
Contribution 30 of 73 | September 17, 2025

West Jordan City
Contribution 29 of 73 | September 17, 2025

Salt lake county
Contribution 28 of 73 | September 17, 2025

Holliday water
Contribution 27 of 73 | September 17, 2025

White City Water
Contribution 26 of 73 | September 17, 2025

SLC Municipal
Contribution 25 of 73 | September 17, 2025

White city water
Contribution 24 of 73 | September 17, 2025

sl city corp
Contribution 23 of 73 | September 17, 2025

Salt lake county
Contribution 22 of 73 | September 17, 2025

Kearns Improvement District
Contribution 21 of 73 | September 17, 2025

Salt lake City
Contribution 20 of 73 | September 17, 2025

GHID
Contribution 19 of 73 | September 17, 2025

South Salt Lake
Contribution 18 of 73 | September 16, 2025

South jordan
Contribution 17 of 73 | September 16, 2025

Herriman city
Contribution 16 of 73 | September 16, 2025

Salt lake city
Contribution 15 of 73 | September 16, 2025

Magna water
Contribution 14 of 73 | September 16, 2025

Salt Lake Public Water
Contribution 13 of 73 | September 16, 2025

City of Holladay/Unsure
Contribution 12 of 73 | September 16, 2025

Jordan valley water conservancy district
Contribution 11 of 73 | September 16, 2025

Granger-Hunter Improvement
Contribution 10 of 73 | September 16, 2025

SLC Public Utilities
Contribution 9 of 73 | September 16, 2025

Salt Lake City
Contribution 8 of 73 | September 16, 2025

Stansbury water
Contribution 7 of 73 | September 16, 2025

Sandy
Contribution 6 of 73 | September 16, 2025

Herriman City contract to HCII
Contribution 5 of 73 | September 16, 2025

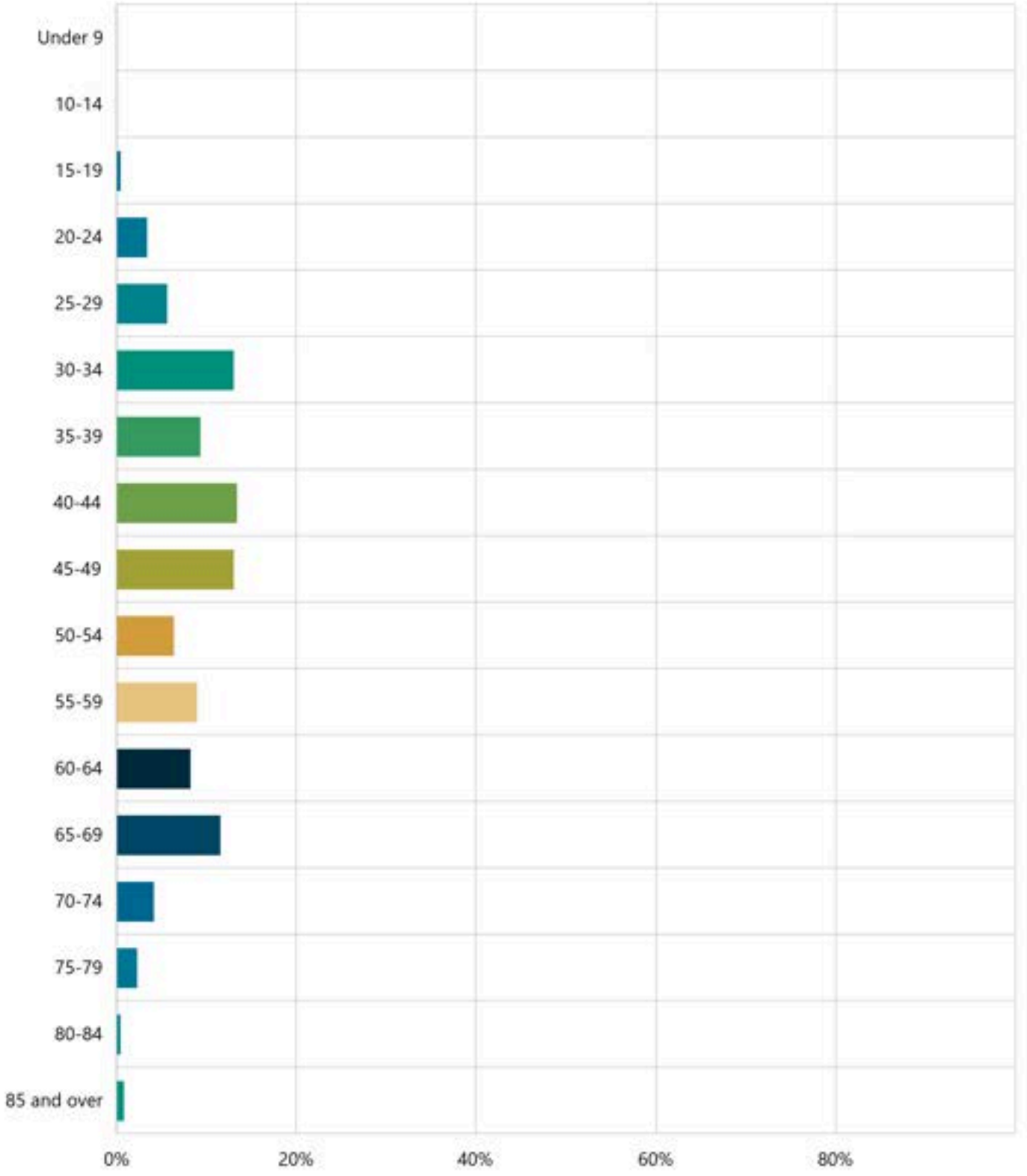
Jordan valley water
Contribution 4 of 73 | September 16, 2025

salt lake city water system
Contribution 3 of 73 | September 16, 2025

Kearns improvement district
Contribution 2 of 73 | September 16, 2025

Salt Lake County
Contribution 1 of 73 | September 16, 2025

24. Age Group Required
Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 270 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Under 9	0%	0

10-14	0%	0
15-19	0.37%	1
20-24	3.33%	9
25-29	5.56%	15
30-34	12.96%	35
35-39	9.26%	25
40-44	13.33%	36
45-49	12.96%	35
50-54	6.30%	17
55-59	8.89%	24
60-64	8.15%	22
65-69	11.48%	31
70-74	4.07%	11
75-79	2.22%	6
80-84	0.37%	1
85 and over	0.74%	2
Total	**100.00%**	**270**

25. ZIP Code
Short Text | Skipped: 10 | Answered: 260 (96.3%)

84044
Contribution 260 of 260 | October 21, 2025

84095
Contribution 259 of 260 | October 9, 2025

84095
Contribution 258 of 260 | October 9, 2025

84044
Contribution 257 of 260 | October 8, 2025

84088
Contribution 256 of 260 | October 8, 2025

84094
Contribution 255 of 260 | October 8, 2025

84084
Contribution 254 of 260 | October 8, 2025

84044
Contribution 253 of 260 | October 8, 2025

84095
Contribution 252 of 260 | October 8, 2025

84105
Contribution 251 of 260 | October 7, 2025

84093
Contribution 250 of 260 | October 7, 2025

84093
Contribution 249 of 260 | October 7, 2025

84088
Contribution 248 of 260 | October 7, 2025

84105
Contribution 247 of 260 | October 7, 2025

84105
Contribution 246 of 260 | October 7, 2025

84124
Contribution 245 of 260 | October 7, 2025

84109
Contribution 244 of 260 | October 7, 2025

84124
Contribution 243 of 260 | October 6, 2025

84121
Contribution 242 of 260 | October 6, 2025

84081
Contribution 241 of 260 | October 6, 2025

Showing 20 latest contributions only. Please see the data results for all contributions to this question.