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Water Conservation: The Time is Now

If someone asked you the question, “What’s the one thing you can’t live without?”, what’s the first thing that comes to your mind? Maybe something like chocolate, the internet, my pets, or toilet paper? The fact is the one thing that literally none of us can live without is water! Without water, life cannot exist.

One of the core functions of government is to provide clean water to our residents and in Murray we are doing an outstanding job of that. City residents and businesses receive water from one of three sources: Murray City Water, Jordan Valley Water, and a smaller number of customers from Salt Lake City Water. Keeping clean water flowing to each address in the city is a high priority.

Unfortunately, as we wind down the “dog days of summer” I can’t help but reflect on how extreme this summer has been. Temperatures have been at record-setting highs in June and July and coupled with the lack of precipitation over the past year, the situation is serious. At the time of this writing, we have had no measurable precipitation for several weeks and none in the forecast. According to the Utah Department of Natural Resources, 100% of Utah is in drought with 90% categorized as extreme drought, and Utah’s water year precipitation levels are 38% below average.

There’s simply no ignoring the fact that we need to reduce our consumption of water, not only to get through this period of drought, but in the future as well. Using only the amount of water that we really need should be a way of life moving forward.

During this bleak period of drought, I strongly urge all residents and businesses of Murray City to be wise in water consumption. Murray relies on wells and springs for much of our water, and currently the water outlook is stable. However, if the drought continues and consumption doesn’t decrease, we could find ourselves in a shortage situation.

I recently was visiting with a resident who is interested in converting her park strip and part of her front lawn to “water-wise” plants. She expressed some frustration that she couldn’t find any landscapers who would come out and do a small job like hers. I encourage anyone who knows of a reputable resource to do this kind of work to share the contact information on social media and in your neighborhoods.



Although an estimated 75% of water consumption in the summer is used for outdoor irrigation, smart use of water isn't just about lawn watering. There are things we can all do to reduce water use indoors as well, such as installing low-flow toilets and shower heads and not letting the water run needlessly while cooking, cleaning, or toothbrushing. None of these are new messages, but it's a good reminder in times of water shortage. Remember, saving water saves money as well!

Some good resources for water saving information are Water Wise Utah (waterwiseutah.org) and Slow the Flow (slowtheflow.org). These sites contain helpful up-to-date information and tips to help us all conserve water both indoors and outdoors.

If you are interested in converting your park strip to water-wise plants, check out the Murray City "Flip Your Strip" rebate program on our city website under Departments -> Water -> Flip-Your-Strip Information. You may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$350.

Benjamin Franklin is quoted as having said, "When the well is dry, we learn the worth of water." Let's all do our part before the well is dry!