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Murray City Water Update

Water. You don't realize how important it is until you don't have it. We hope to never face situations where the water is contaminated or there simply isn't enough water.

Murray Public Works is taking steps to make sure clean water keeps flowing to your faucets, showers and toilets. It's increasingly a challenge as the drought continues to wreak havoc on our reservoirs, lakes and other water storage places.

We applaud efforts, by you, to cut back on the amount of water you use on your landscapes and in your homes. Keep up the good work!

The following is a report on some of the most recent Public Works water activities:

Murray City Water Department has been in existence for many years, back in 1903 the McGhie Springs property was acquired and has been one of the most important water sources since. Over time there have been many changes and upgrades to the water system. Murray has 194 miles of water pipe with 10,192 service connections. There are 19 wells and 8 springs and more than 1,400 city owned fire hydrants that are exercised yearly.

Murray Water has five water reservoirs with a total storage capacity of 12 million gallons. The city averages around 40 mainline water breaks a year and our on-call personnel respond within 30 minutes to any report of leaking water and determine whether it requires immediate attention. After hours calls are dispatched through Murray Power Dispatch after hours number (801)-264-9669. Customer calls can be made during these hours at (801)270-2440. Murray does not allow a resident to access the meter box where a shut off valve is located; if you need your water turned off, please call, and the service will be provided free of charge at any time.

Murray City Water Upcoming Projects

Projects scheduled for 2022-2023 are upgrades to failing water pipe in the Walden Meadow and Hollow Springs area. There are more than 4,200 feet of new water pipes scheduled to be installed beginning sometime in April with a project length of three months. Murray City Water crews will also begin to replace water pipe on Commerce Drive from 4600 South to 4800 South in mid-March. This summer, our crews will also be installing new water mains on 6240 South near 300 East, 370 East and Winchester Street and 4th and 5th Ave near the new City Hall location. These projects will be around 5,000 feet of pipe which is funded by water sales. All residents or business within these project locations will be notified prior to starting.

Murray City Water Conservation Efforts

Murray City Water has been making efforts for water conservation by creating incentives and a rebate program that helps Murray Water users replace old and inefficient toilets and shower heads. Any Murray resident who is on the Murray Water system can qualify for up to three rebates for installing new water efficient toilets and shower heads.



Another rebate program that Murray City Water offers is “Flip your Strip”. This allows a Murray resident on Murray Water to get up to \$350 to convert your current grass park strip to a more water wise design; certain criteria must be met to qualify. More information on both these programs can be found on the Murray City website under Water Department and Water Conservation. Another option for a sprinkler controller rebate is to go to the Utah Water Savers website. There are some requirements to qualify but they offer \$75 to qualifying properties.

Since 2015 Murray has partnered with the Utah Rivers Council and offered a limited number of rain barrels to Murray residents at a discounted price. This program will begin again this year on approximately March 22nd and distribution on May 7th at Millcreek City Hall. Residents are allowed two barrels on their property and can collect up to 2,500 gallons of water a year.

Murray City Water partners with the National Energy Foundation (NEF). Their staff goes to Murray elementary schools and teach 4th grade children the importance of water conservation. They teach about shorter showers, when to water lawns using shorter cycles, and other water conservation tools. The kids are asked to come up with ways to conserve water and then create a drawing. The drawings are entered into a contest. The winners get prizes and get their drawing published in the annual Murray City CCR report every July.

In 2018, the Murray City Council adopted a resolution and put in effect a city ordinance to restrict times that a resident waters their lawn. The ordinance restricts lawn watering from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. The purpose of this was to help with the efficiency of lawn watering; watering within these hours is when the greatest waste of water occurs due to evaporation. This ordinance is in line with most other cities or other water agencies within the state of Utah. Murray has also been involved in “Fix a Leak Week”. In the past, Murray has had a booth set up for a week at Lowes in Murray during the month of March.

With the continued drought and growth, it is more important than ever for everyone to find ways that they can contribute to reducing their water use. Murray City Water asks that all residents be conscious of their water use and habits and ask themselves “Is there more I can do to conserve water?” More information and ideas on Water Conservation can be found on the Jordan Valley Water website under Conservation Programs. With the conservation efforts that Murray residents have been doing, we have noticed our water pumped totals have reduced to comparative years. We estimate that Murray residents contributed to saving roughly 286,000,000 million gallons of water in 2021.

Murray City Water Quality

Some very important efforts are being made with regard to our water quality. Murray Water works to assure the best water practices and policies are followed to provide the best possible quality of water for residents. Some of our processes include monthly water sampling at 40 locations within our water system. Any positive test results for bacteria are reported immediately to the Division of Drinking Water. Murray has been fortunate and rarely has any positive bacteria samples. E Coli has never been detected in our water.

Some upcoming things getting attention related to Water Quality is the new Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) that was finalized by the EPA in December 2021. It requires all water companies to inventory all water service line materials within their water system and then submit a report to the EPA by October 16, 2024.



Starting spring of 2022, we will be checking meter locations in our service area to determine the service line materials. About 7,000 of our 10,000 service connections currently in our system will be checked. This project will mostly likely take about a year and a half to complete.

The Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule or (UCMR5) is an EPA rule that revises a list of contaminants set by the EPA in water systems serving more than 10,000 people. With the UCMR 5, all Murray sources of water will be tested for 30 different contaminants between 2023 to 2025, using only approved sample methods set forth by the EPA, as well as using an approved testing lab. Murray Water has 19 wells which will be tested with an estimated cost of around \$25,000 dollars.

Every year, water companies are required to send out a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to all users with their water system. We mail this to all Murray Water users in the month of June.

Murray City Water appreciates the confidence that is placed in its staff to protect this valuable resource.