



14/ WATER CONSERVATION AND LAND USE PLANNING

GUIDING PRINCIPLE/ Guiding Principle: Grow in a manner that ensures water supply exceeds demand and provides sufficient redundancy to respond to water supply risks.

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2040 METRICS:

1. CITYWIDE PER CAPITA WATER USE.

Salt Lake City provides water services not only to properties within the city boundaries, but to properties outside of the city as well. This creates a great responsibility to manage water resources responsibly for current and future generations.

The city is also expected to grow significantly between now through at least 2040. Planning our growth is necessary to ensure that the city can provide clean, safe drinking water for residents and visitors while also ensuring water is available for businesses.

To accomplish this, the city will continue efforts to reduce water demand and eliminate water waste, through changing development patterns, reducing overall water use, improving delivery systems, and appropriately pricing the cost of water based on the amount of water consumed.

The following policies and initiatives will help the city ensure future residents, visitors, and businesses have adequate water in the future.

POLICIES

1. Update water supply and demand plans every five years to maintain an understanding of the effect current development has on water demand and water infrastructure needs.
2. Update community plans and zoning regulations to reduce the amount of water demand and per capita water use for future development.
 - Develop consistent future land use regulations across all community and small area plans to better understand the impact future development has on water demand and supply.
 - Identify land uses with high water consumption and develop water saving strategies.
 - Support decreased lot size and configuration standards.
 - As supply availability reduces, consider additional programs, policies, and regulations that can reduce water use.
 - Review allowed land uses in the zoning code and consider prohibiting land uses that consume large amounts of water.
 - Consider incentives for new and existing developments to utilize low-water demand landscaping and fixtures.
 - When needed, require new development to contribute water to increase the supply of water.
3. Support zoning regulations that promote sustainable landscaping practices to reduce outdoor water use and stormwater runoff, including:
 - Water wise landscaping that limits the use of high-water consuming turf and prohibits turf on steeper slopes, in small, landscaped areas, and in park strips.
 - Prioritize the maintenance, water, and planting of trees.
 - Reduce the amount of water used to irrigate park strips within city rights of way through elimination of overwatering and water waste.
 - Promote the maintenance and update of irrigation systems to reduce water waste.
 - Establish regulations that reduce storm water runoff, including appropriate grading, landscaping, and limits on impervious surfaces.
4. Support actions that can reduce the city's use of water at city facilities and in city operations, and promote water returns to the Great Salt Lake including:
 - Reducing areas planted in high water using turfs that are non-functional activity areas.
 - Continue to invest in upgrades to the city's water infrastructure to reduce water loss from aging or leaking pipes, including irrigation systems at City facilities.
 - Continue investing in upgrades to the city's stormwater infrastructure, including rivers and streams, to support more water flowing to the Great Salt Lake.

CONSIDERATION OF WATER CONSUMPTION FOR EXISTING AND FUTURE POPULATION

Salt Lake City Public Utilities provides water service to areas outside the city that include other cities on the eastern side of the valley south of Salt Lake City. The water demand projections are based on the water service area population below.

In 2023 the service area used 154 gallons of water per capita per day. This amount takes the daily water use for all land uses (not just residential) and divides it by the service area population. The population projections for the service area are from the Water Master Plan.

Salt Lake City is expected to grow up to 272,468 people by 2050, with the water service area population growing to 447,804. The anticipated demand, with the regional goal reduction of 25%, will be 122,300-acre feet of water. This exceeds the anticipated supply.

The current Water Master Plan outlines three conservation scenarios to address the shortage.

- **Scenario 1** results in a slight surplus, but leaves the water supply very vulnerable to risk, such as prolonged drought or consecutive years of below normal moisture.
- **Scenario 2** has a surplus of about 16,000-acre feet of water. This is the recommended redundancy to mitigate risks to water supply.
- **Scenario 3** results in a surplus of 34,600-acre feet of water and results in total demand of 92,600 acre feet of water. This is less water demand than what was used in 2023.

Scenario 3 should be the goal of the city's conservation goals and is achievable by implementing the Water Master Plan and the Plan Salt Lake policies of this section.

ANNUAL WATER PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Year	25% Reduction in Per Capita Use in Acre Feet (current state goal)	Conservation Scenario 1 in Acre Feet	Conservation Scenario 2 in Acre Feet	Conservation Scenario 3 in Acre Feet	Service Area Population
2025	105,100	103,500	91,000	74,500	378,838
2030	111,300	109,600	96,600	79,300	401,049
2040	117,400	115,700	102,300	84,600	424,671
2050	122,300	120,500	106,700	88,600	447,804
2060	127,200	125,200	111,200	92,600	470,704

Source: Salt Lake City Water Master Plan

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