ORDINANCE NO. 2025-29

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE HEBER CITY WATER USE & PRESERVATION ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 110 requires all Municipalities of a certain class to adopt a Water Use and Preservation Element into their General Plan.

WHEREAS, Heber City is required by Utah State Code, Per SB 110, to adopt said plan by December 31, 2025.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Heber City, Utah, that the Heber City Water Use & Preservation Element is hereby Adopted and the General Plan is Amended to include the plan, as described in Exhibit A.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED, APPROVED and ORDERED TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE HEBER CITY COUNCIL this 18th day of November 2025.

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Yvonne Barney	___	X	___	___
Aaron Cheatwood	X	___	___	___
Michael Johnston	X	___	___	___
Sid Ostergaard	X	___	___	___
D. Scott Phillips	X	___	___	___

APPROVED:

Heidi Franco
Mayor Heidi Franco

HEBER CITY CORPORATE Seal WASATCH COUNTY UTAH

ATTEST:

Tina M Cooke Date: 11/18/25
RECORDER

Exhibit A

HEART OF THE WASATCH BACK

HEBER CITY

EST 1889

Heber City

Water Use & Preservation Element

Adopted November 18, 2025

Build a Remarkable Community.

HEART OF THE WASATCH BACK

HEBER CITY

EST 1889

75 North Main Street
Heber City, Utah 84032
Phone: 435.654.0757
heberut.gov

Acknowledgments

HEBER CITY COUNCIL

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Aaron Cheatwood
Sid Ostergaard
Mike Johnston
Scott Phillips
Yvonne Barney

PLANNING COMMISSION

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Tori Broughton – Vice Chair
Dennis Gunn
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Robert McKinley (Alternate)

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Corinne Tobler – Project Planner

Introduction

Integrating Water & Land Use Planning

> When the well is dry, we know the worth of water." — Benjamin Franklin

Water is a renewable, yet finite natural resource. This reality, coupled with years of severe drought, has made the preservation of water resources a priority for Utah's local governments, state leaders, water providers, and the public. Recognizing plannings critical role in water management, the state adopted *S.B. 110: Water as Part of the General Plan* in 2022. This new mandate requires most municipalities and all counties to amend their general plans to address how land use planning impacts water use.

The *Heber City Water Use and Preservation Element (2025)* directly addresses this requirement by outlining strategies to ensure responsible water stewardship in conjunction with land use planning. By exploring the alignment of land use decisions with water resource realities, this element seeks to build a resilient and sustainable water future for Heber City.

Heber's Water Planning Challenges

Heber City faces a unique set of water conservation challenges driven by rapid growth, annexation, and evolving development patterns. As the city expands into previously undeveloped areas and adapts to increased residential demand, its water systems are under growing pressure. At the same time, a patchwork of service providers, aging policies, and water-intensive landscaping practices complicate conservation efforts. The following summarizes key issues shaping Heber's approach to water use and preservation and outlines opportunities to improve coordination, promote sustainable practices, and update infrastructure to better manage future demand.

Growing Pains:

Rapid growth has increased pressure on Heber's water system, requiring year-round use of well sources to meet demand. Housing is the fastest-growing sector, driven by redevelopment, multi-family projects, and large-scale subdivisions. Previously non-irrigated agricultural and mountain land areas are quickly transitioning to urban uses, bringing new demand for water.

Annexation Complexity:

Heber's rapid population growth is largely driven by recent annexations. Many newly incorporated areas rely on Special Service Districts (SSDs) for drinking and irrigation water, each with its own water dedication policies and landscaping standards. This creates the need for coordination among multiple water providers and complicates efforts to generate accurate data and establish consistent water policies. For example, Heber does not currently serve the Red Ledges Subdivision or the North Village area with culinary water, requiring population adjustments for accurate system planning.

Water-Intensive Landscaping:

Turf-heavy landscaping remains common and contributes to higher summer water demand, especially in central Heber. While many residents prefer traditional landscaping, the City is beginning to promote water-wise practices and share usage data through metering. These efforts create opportunities to expand education and incentive programs that support more efficient outdoor water use.

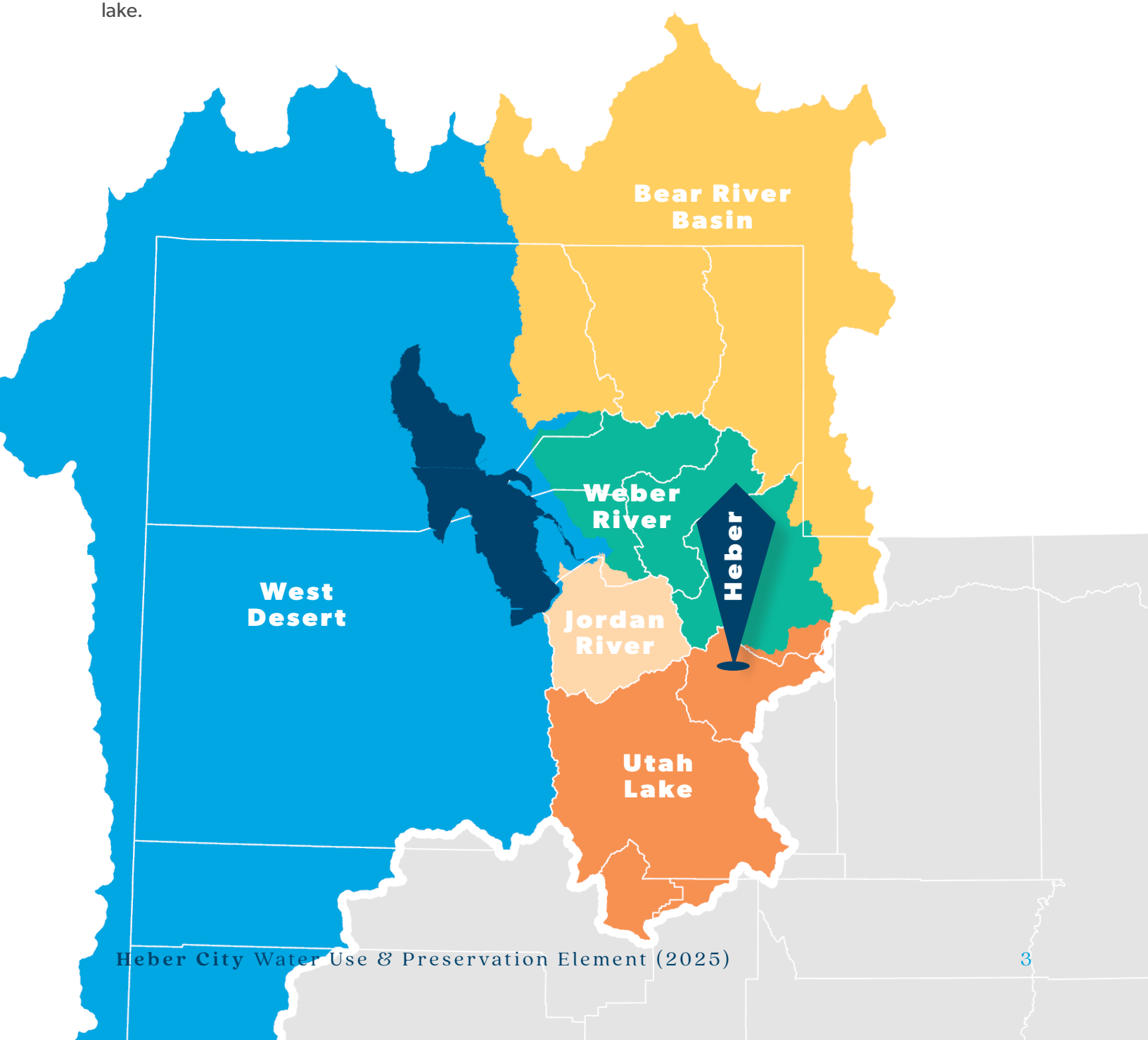
Evolving Rates:

Heber City's secondary water rate structure currently requires City Council action for adjustments and will benefit from upcoming updates supported by new metering data. The City is making strong progress on a system-wide initiative to install secondary water meters, which will provide valuable information to help fine-tune water rates, reduce waste, identify leaks, and support residents in making informed water use decisions.

Heber's Water Context

Regional Watersheds

The Great Salt Lake (GSL) watershed is a 36,199-square-mile closed basin spanning parts of Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, and Nevada. Home to 2.8 million people across 141 municipalities, it supports over 1.4 million acres of irrigated farmland and relies on water from five major river basins—the Bear, Weber, Jordan, Utah Lake, and West Desert. The GSL's water levels have been in long-term decline, hitting a historic low in 2022, raising concerns for wildlife, public health, industry, and agriculture.[2] Located within the Utah Lake Basin, Heber City is part of the larger, regional network of water users that influence how much water returns to the lake.

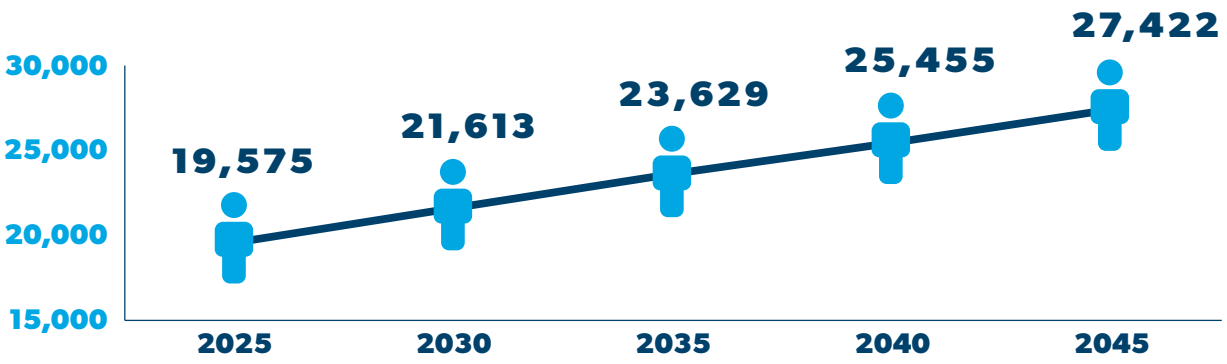


A Growing Population

The Utah Lake Basin benefits from relatively high precipitation rates and ample water storage capacity, which have supported significant population growth throughout the region. Reflecting these circumstances, Heber's footprint grew approximately 2.5 times between 1963 and 2015, transitioning from a tidy grid of residential streets surrounding Main Street, to strip commercial and more dispersed residential growth. Today, much of Heber's growth is occurring in annexed areas served by Special Service Districts, each with its own water system separate from Heber City's.

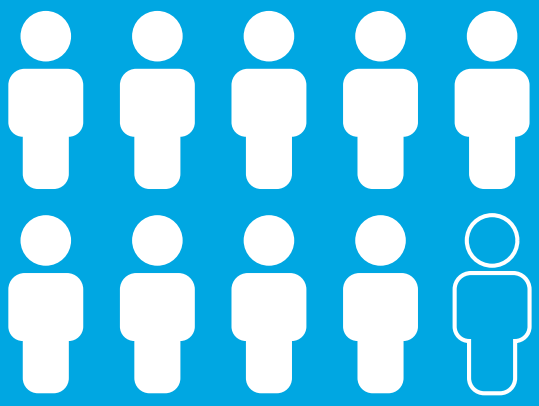
The significant growth pressure faced by Heber City has a direct impact on the amount of water needed to sustain its population, both increasing demand and raising concerns about future costs and availability. Recognizing these challenges, leaders have taken steps to secure a reliable supply for the community's long-term needs coupled with strategies to increase the efficient use of existing supplies. These strategies, including additional recommendations, will be described in the following sections. **Unless otherwise specified, the data and recommendations presented will focus on Heber City's water system, which is directly managed and controlled by the City.**

FIGURE 1 – POPULATION PROJECTIONS (EXCLUDES NV, JR, RL)



How do Heber resident's feel about water?

A 2024 survey conducted by Utah State University under the Utah Wellbeing Project showed that nearly 9 out of 10 residents share moderate to major concern for the future of the city's water supply.[1]



Heber Water System Snapshot

Community Water Systems

A community water delivery system typically comprises one or more water sources, storage facilities, and a distribution system within a service area. To operate efficiently and effectively, each system component must be planned and designed to operate under the wide range of demands placed on the system by users. Water source capacity determines the system's ability to meet peak demand on the busiest days while also sustaining a consistent supply throughout the year. Typically, one water system delivers drinking water, while another system delivers irrigation (secondary) water. Water system connections are the points where a water supply line connects to a building or home.

Water Rights & Shares

A water right is permission from the state to divert and beneficially use a specified quantity of water from a water source such as a well, reservoir, or river. For example, an irrigation or canal company may acquire water rights from the Utah Division of Water Rights and distribute shares, which are fractions of a water right, among its stockholders. Heber City holds numerous water rights and shares in several irrigation companies (see *Water Conservation Plan* pg. 3 for a full list).

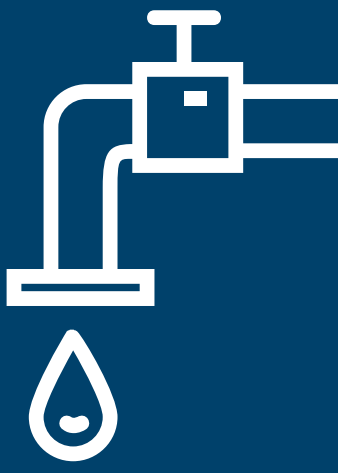
To ensure adequate water supply for the City's culinary and secondary irrigation systems, all new developments are required to provide water rights, in amounts as determined by the City Engineer. These water rights must be conveyed to the City (or the relevant Special Service District) before a subdivision plat can be recorded or a non-residential or multi-family residential building permit can be approved.

Additional Context: SSDs

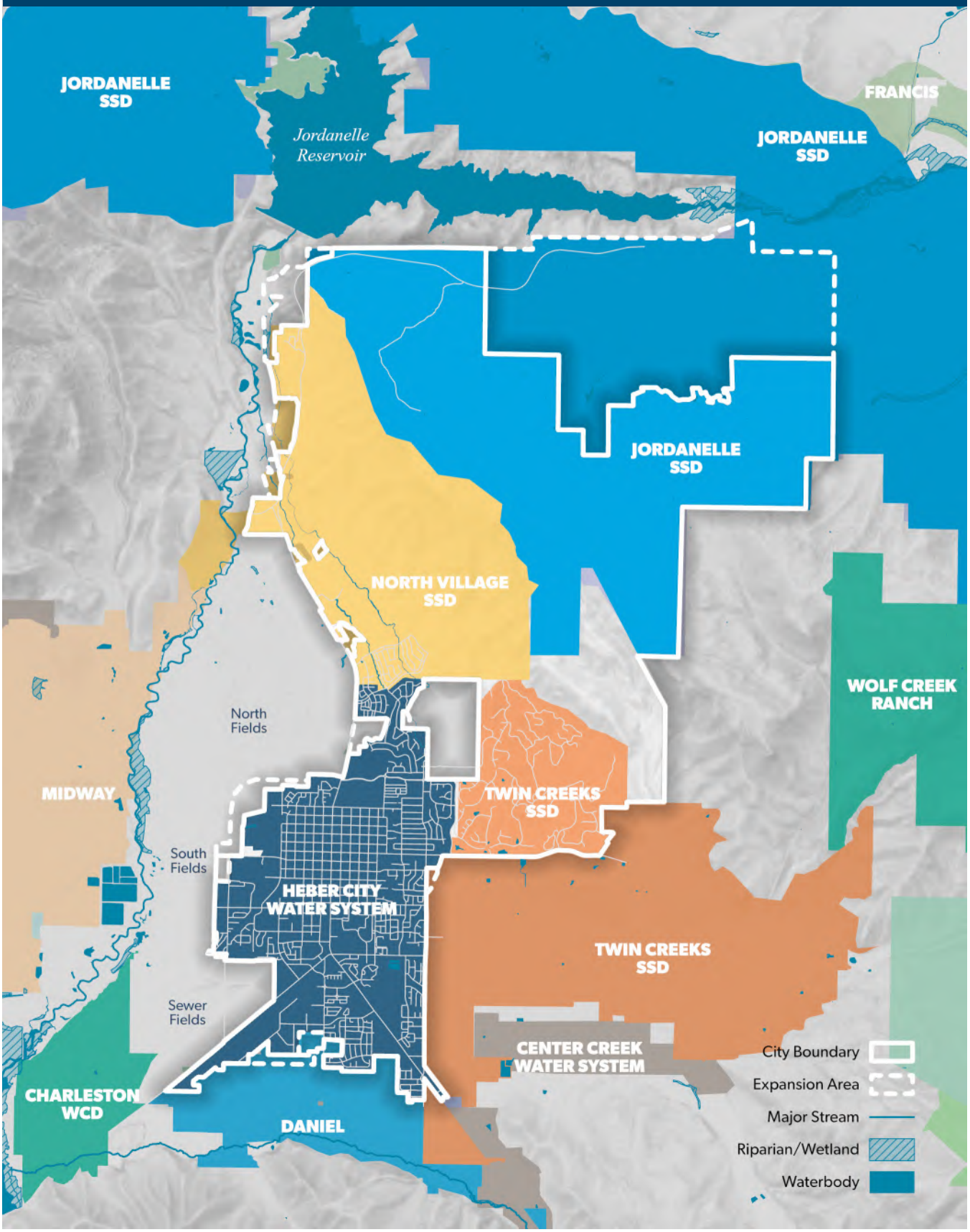
Special Service Districts (SSDs) are independent legal entities managed by a municipality or county, often established to provide water service within a specific area. Three SSDs supply drinking water to most of Heber's newly annexed areas, with the Jordanelle Special Service District serving as the umbrella agency overseeing the other two (see *Map 1*).

Special Service Districts:

- **Jordanelle Special Service District (JSSD)**
- **North Village Special Service District (NVSSD)**
- **The Twin Creeks Special Service District (TCSSD)**



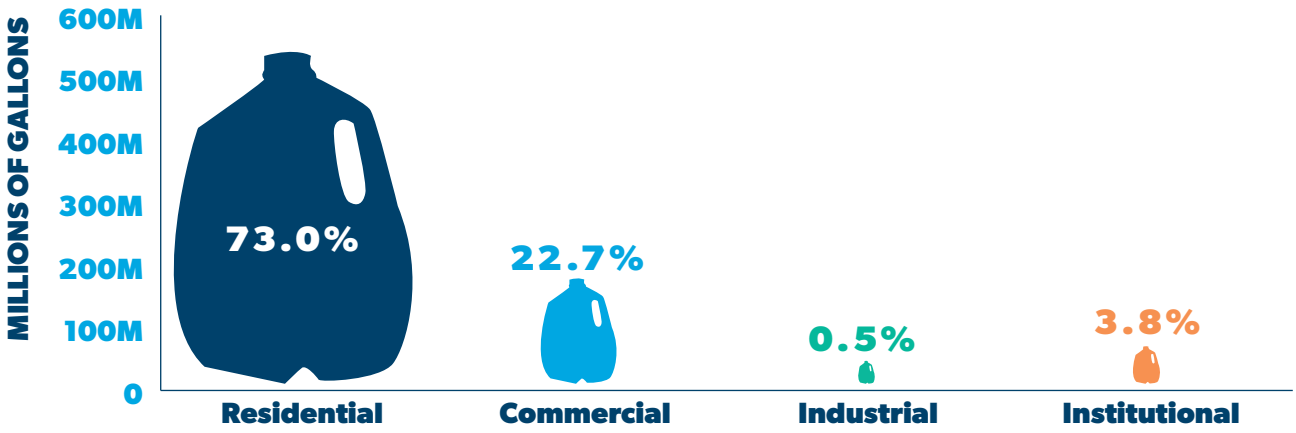
MAP 1 – SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (SSD) & NEIGHBORING CULINARY SERVICE AREAS



Culinary (Drinking) Water

Heber City's drinking water supply comes **exclusively from groundwater sources** (three wells and one spring) in the northeastern quadrant: Broadhead Spring & Well, Hospital Well, and Valley Hills Well Pump Facilities. Culinary water from these sources is distributed to residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional users, with 73% of the annual water use going to residential connections, 22.7% to commercial, 0.5% to industrial, and 3.8% to institutional.

FIGURE 2 – ANNUAL CULINARY WATER USE BY CATEGORY



Secondary (Irrigation) Water

Unlike the City's culinary water, all secondary water comes from **surface sources** and is delivered to users through pressurized irrigation lines and open ditches. Today, all new developments are required to connect to the pressurized irrigation system and are prohibited from using culinary water for outdoor irrigation. In compliance with state requirements, Heber has started a city-wide initiative to install new secondary water service boxes and meters at all properties connected to its pressurized system (see *page 14* for details about Heber's secondary metering project).

Where does Heber's water come from?

Irrigation Water

Surface Water
(pressurized lines & open ditches)

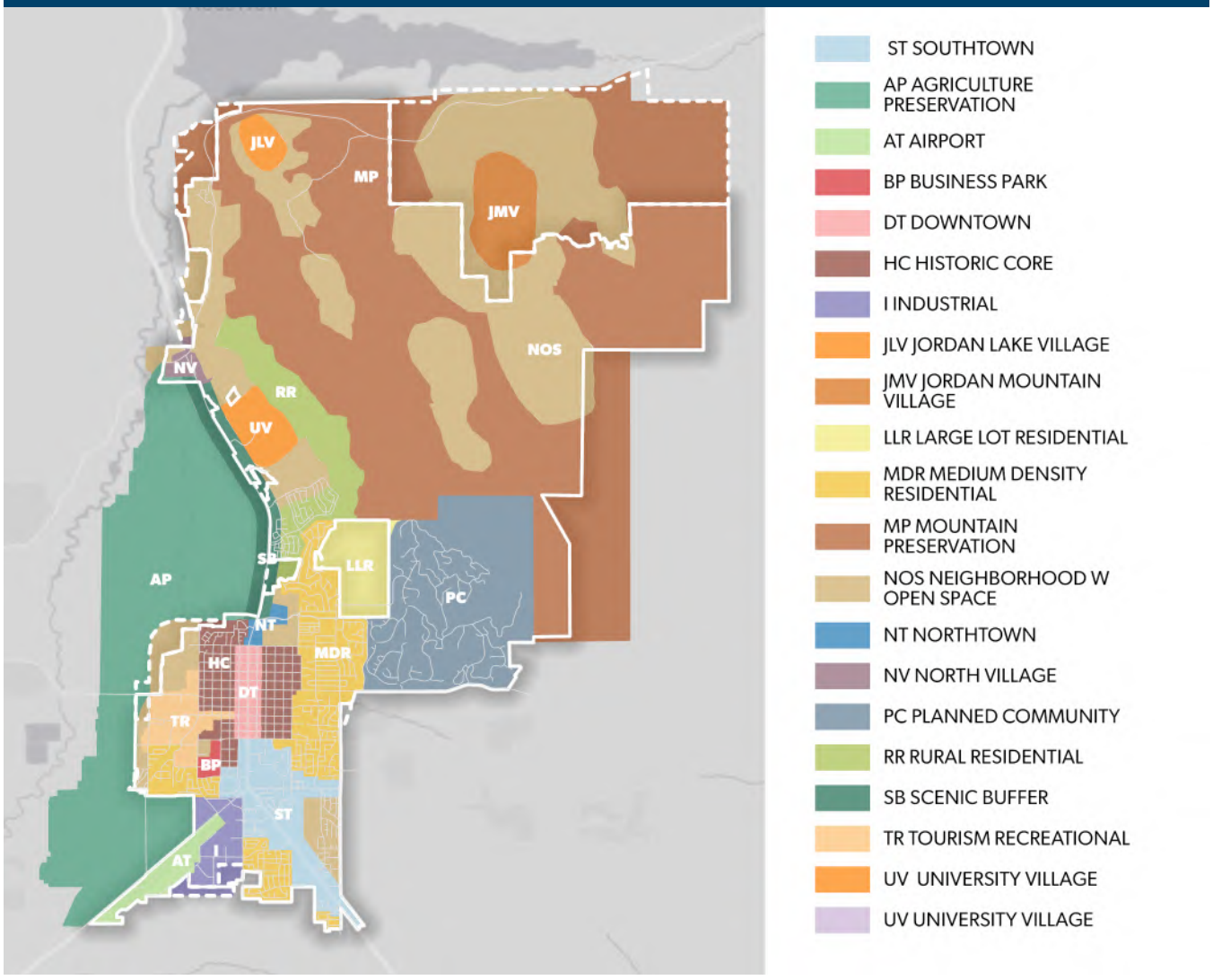
Drinking Water

Ground Water
(3 wells & 1 spring)

Water and Land Use

As Heber and the surrounding region continue to urbanize, it is critical to recognize that changes in land use also trigger changes in water use. Urban development, especially on previously non-irrigated lands, can have lasting impacts on water demand, watershed health, and long-term community resilience. Understanding how these land use decisions intersect with water supply, demand, and conservation is essential to ensuring a secure water future for everyone. The following section highlights key land and water use considerations for Heber City, integrating both current and recommended conservation policies and practices to support sustainable development.

MAP 2 – FUTURE LAND USE



Water Conserving Development Patterns

Heber City's rapid growth has brought a surge in multi-family housing, redevelopment, and large-scale subdivision applications. Recognizing variables such as lot size, development density, landscape composition, and irrigation efficiency all play a role in water-consumption rates, the City has adopted a variety of water-conserving development patterns and practices. Water conserving development patterns help to save water while also supporting the efficient use of existing infrastructure, protecting natural resources, promoting walkability, controlling flooding, and enhancing neighborhood vibrancy.

Cluster Development

Cluster development involves grouping structures on the most suitable portions of a site, allowing the remaining land to be dedicated to open space or to manage drainage, stormwater, and soil erosion. By utilizing tools like density bonuses, cities can encourage cluster development, creating attractive incentives for land and water-conserving patterns.

In Heber City, cluster development has been essential to its growth strategy. This approach promotes compact, rural, and mountain residential clusters, concentrating housing in smaller areas while preserving large swaths of land for open space. This strategy not only minimizes the need for extensive irrigation and infrastructure, but also safeguards land for agriculture, equestrian activities, and passive recreation. Allowing for a variety of densities reduces lawn sizes and water demands, further promoting water efficiency and lower indoor and outdoor water usage.

Infill Development

Infill development, especially where infrastructure already exists, plays a similar role to cluster development in preserving green spaces, reducing water demand, and improving water quality. Heber is actively promoting strategic infill to facilitate sustainable growth and enhance existing neighborhoods while maximizing land use efficiency. By advocating for redevelopment in downtown and central areas, the city is working to create mixed-use spaces that respect and maintain the historic character of these regions. Recent zoning updates and ordinance revisions aim to facilitate reinvestment and infill development, boosting housing options and supporting local businesses.

Density & Water Demand: a Heber City Analysis

The relationship between population density and water demand is complex, requiring a nuanced and balanced approach to land use planning. While small adjustments to development patterns can significantly impact water consumption, simply increasing density doesn't automatically equate to lower water use. Often the best approach is to make water-efficient development the most attractive and straightforward option for developers and property owners.

To better understand how different development patterns affect water use, five different area were sampled: a townhome development, an apartment complex, a mixed use development, and two different single family homes. This analysis, which considered both indoor and outdoor water needs, revealed important trade-offs. Water demand was estimated based on an assumed indoor use of 0.43 acre-feet per unit and outdoor irrigation needs of 3 acre-feet per landscaped acre.

Findings:

- **The Critical Role of Outdoor Water Use:** Outdoor irrigation is the single largest and most discretionary component of residential water use, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions like Utah, where it often accounts for 50-70% of total use in single-family homes. The reduction of outdoor irrigated areas is consistently identified as one of the most effective, cost-efficient strategies for reducing municipal water demand.
- **Higher Density, Lower Overall Water Demand per Unit:** Higher-density housing—like townhomes, apartments, or small-lot homes—typically uses less water per unit than large-lot single-family homes. This is mainly due to smaller or shared yards, which reduce outdoor irrigation. Since outdoor use can make up 40–70% of total residential water use, less yard space means lower overall water demand per unit.
- **Increased Total Water Demand Per Acre with Higher Density:** While individual units may be more efficient, a greater number of units in a higher-density development can lead to an increase in total water demand per acre.
- **Moderate Densities: Design Choices Dictate Outcomes:** For developments with moderate densities, design choices are paramount. Features such as lot size, landscape design, and irrigation systems can significantly impact overall water efficiency. This underscores why many water-smart planning frameworks emphasize not just density but also detailed site-level landscape design and efficient irrigation choices.
- **Developing Non-irrigated Land:** It is crucial to recognize that urban development, regardless of its density, introduces year-round water use (especially indoor) that did not exist previously. Studies demonstrate that converting natural, undeveloped, or non-irrigated lands into residential or commercial uses increases total water consumption, even when water-efficient fixtures or landscaping are implemented. This emphasizes the importance of infill development and redeveloping existing urban areas to minimize new water demands.

Indoor & Outdoor Conservation Practices

Appliance Upgrades & Leak Repairs

Newer appliances and plumbing fixtures are more efficient than older ones. Upgrading toilets, faucets, and shower heads to high-efficiency options has proven to be among the most cost-effective conservation measures. Apart from decreasing water usage per use, modern fixtures also minimize leaks. Heber City follows statewide plumbing standards, which require new plumbing installations to meet or exceed water-efficiency regulations.

Water-Efficient Landscaping Standards

As development and redevelopment shape the built environment, landscaping standards play a critical role in promoting water conservation, enhancing aesthetics, and ensuring compatibility with the community's character. Landscaping ordinances that set clear expectations for water-efficient design in new developments—and promote it in existing ones—is helping the City manage growth responsibly while reducing long-term water demand.

Heber City's water-efficient landscaping standards emphasize drought-tolerant plants, efficient irrigation, and strategic design elements that reduce the need for supplemental irrigation and limit the amount of lawn or turf. The currently adopted standards enable residents to access landscape rebate programs through the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) including turf replacement and drip irrigation conversion programs (see page 15).

Secondary Metering

Unmetered secondary irrigation connections have been shown to use about 50% more water than metered connections. In accordance with Utah Code 73-10-34, Heber City has launched a city-wide initiative to install new secondary water service boxes and meters at all properties connected to the pressurized secondary water system. These meters will provide essential data to enhance the efficient management and distribution of water resources, minimizing waste and ensuring a reliable water supply for the community. Accurate measurement of water usage will help identify water leaks and allow residents to make informed decisions about their own water use.

Residents will be able to access and monitor their water data through the EyeOnWater web portal or app. This service is designed to help Heber residents:

- **Detect potential leaks:** Receive alerts for unusual water usage.
- **Understand usage patterns:** Track water consumption to better manage usage.
- **Make informed decisions:** Use detailed data to control and potentially reduce water costs.

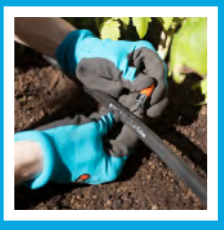
Heber's Water-Efficient Landscaping Standards

Turf ≠ Park Strips

Park strips and landscaped areas less than 8 feet wide must use drip or point-source irrigation with 100% xeric designs.

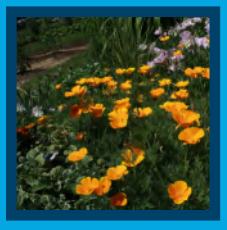
Practical Turf Areas

Turf and lawn areas are subject to limitations for all uses.



Drip Irrigation

Drip or point-source irrigation should be used whenever possible in all non-turf areas.



Plant Selection

The use of local, drought-resistant native plants is encouraged along with the preservation of healthy, drought-tolerant trees.

Living Plant Cover

All landscaped areas must meet living plant cover requirements appropriate for the site.

Water-Wise Design

Water-wise designs are required with xeriscaping permitted in all zones.

Water Feature Limitations

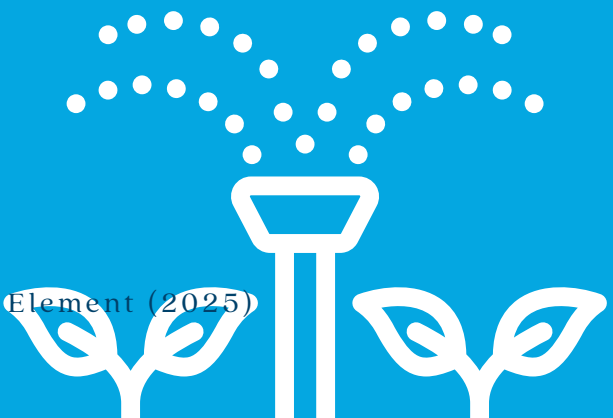
Decorative pools, ponds, and streams are discouraged and may not exceed 5% of the total lot area for any use.

Smart Controls

All irrigation systems must be automated and equipped with a WaterSense-labeled smart controller that adjusts watering based on weather conditions, including automatic rain delay or shut-off features.

Stormwater Management

Landscapes should be designed to retain rainwater runoff from roofs, driveways, and parking lots on-site whenever feasible.



Financial & Educational Initiatives

Conservation Pricing

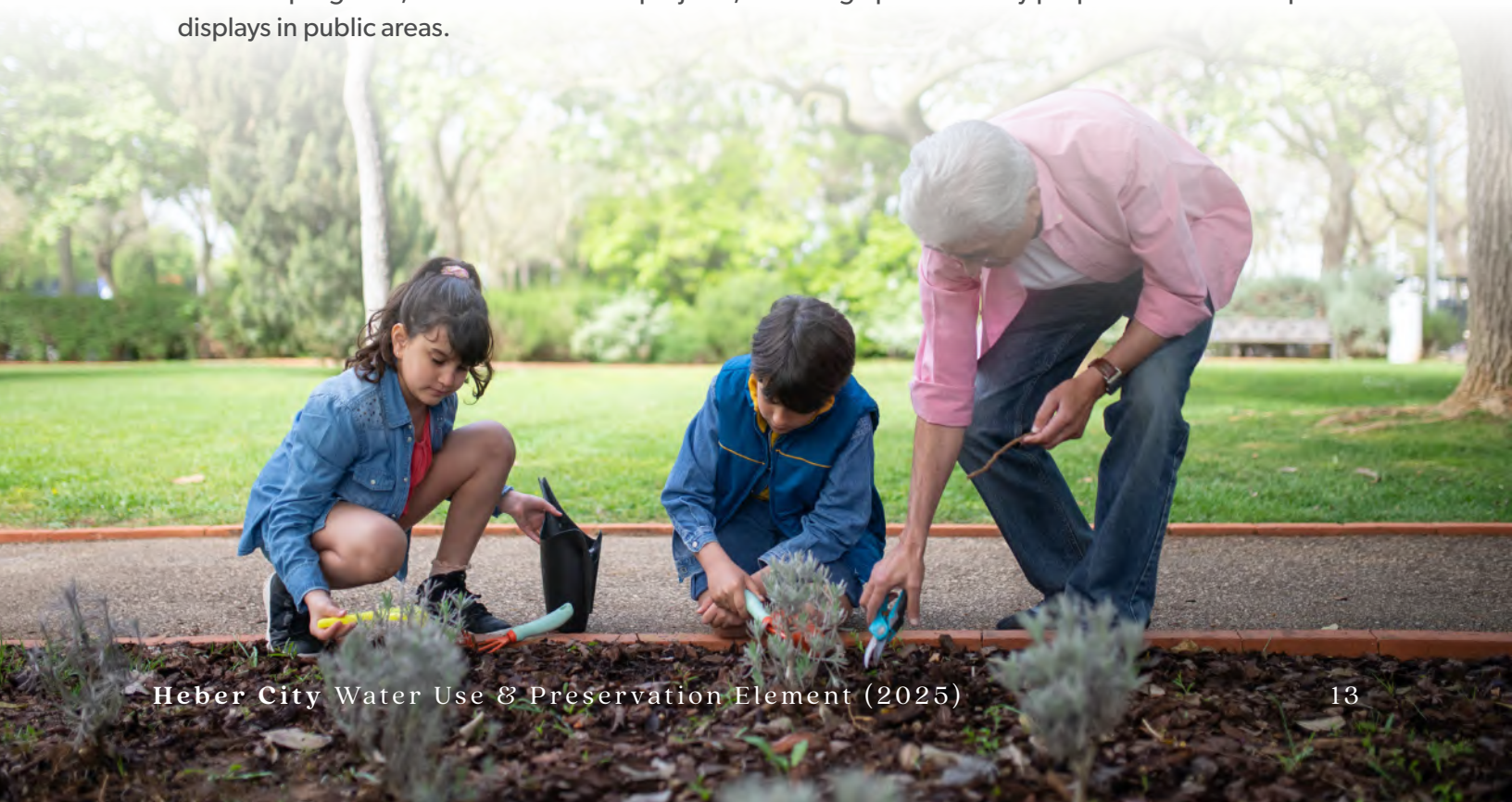
Water conservation pricing is a strategy that uses financial incentives to encourage reduced water use. Since people are more likely to conserve when costs reflect consumption, water suppliers are encouraged to adjust rate structures to promote efficiency. This approach helps ensure sustainable water use, especially when significant investments are needed for conservation efforts.

Heber City has been addressing conservation pricing by commissioning studies to evaluate the cost of providing water service and adjusting rates accordingly. These studies revealed that previous rates were not covering necessary operating and maintenance costs. In response, the Heber City Council has been updating the billing schedule to ensure financial sustainability while considering the needs of low and fixed income residents.

Water Conservation Education & Outreach

Heber recognizes that the support of community members and organizations is a critical component of any water conservation strategy. The following summarizes efforts and strategies that inform and empower residents:

- **Data Access:** Residents can access their personal water use data through the "Eye On Water" portal, helping them understand and better manage their consumption (see also pg. 14).
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** The City works to boost awareness about water conservation and encourage voluntary conservation through outreach to schools, informational flyers, bill inserts, and presentations.
- **Landscaping Promotion:** Water-efficient landscaping is promoted through public education, incentive programs, and demonstration projects, including updates to city properties and native plant displays in public areas.



Other Considerations

Agriculture

Agriculture remains a key part of Heber City's identity despite the ongoing economic shift towards tourism, real estate, and construction. In response to shrinking agricultural lands, Heber has designated future Agricultural Preservation (AP) areas, emphasizing large, 20-acre lots with limited residential development.

THE NORTH FIELDS

The North Fields, home to generational farms and ranches, embody the historic essence of the Heber Valley. Designated as Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance, these lands play a crucial role in maintaining water flow and quality, preventing ecological decline. Their network of streams sustains the Provo River, which ultimately feeds the Great Salt Lake, making their preservation vital to the region's water resources, ecosystem, and long-term sustainability. As indicated in *Heber City Envision 2050*, residents have identified these fields as the top priority for open space preservation as they are the most prominent agricultural open space in the valley.

IRRIGATION DITCHES: BALANCING TRADITION WITH EFFICIENCY

To support the growing number of pioneer settlers, canals and ditches were constructed throughout the Wasatch Region, making agriculture possible despite the dry climate. These open ditches became iconic features of Heber City, valued for their history and rural charm. However, while iconic, these open irrigation ditches and flood irrigation can lead to significant water loss through infiltration and evaporation. As Heber transitions to a pressurized irrigation system and replaces these ditches, it creates an opportunity to be more water-wise while strategically preserving the City's rural character.

Institutional Spaces

Heber's institutional spaces, including water used by schools, parks, and government buildings, account for 3.8% of annual water use. While relatively minimal, institutional water uses still play a critical role in City water conservation efforts. Much institutional water use occurs outdoors in areas like parks, school ball fields, and government properties—areas which can serve as inspiring examples for the wider community.

CITY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Heber City is committed to promoting water conservation and similar sustainable practices to ensure the long-term resilience of its parks and recreation system. This commitment extends to the implementation of water-wise and native demonstration plantings at parks and other City-owned properties. The City's open space implementation plan emphasizes utilizing industry best practices to select regionally appropriate, water-wise, and low-maintenance plants where suitable, aiming to significantly reduce both maintenance and water demands across its managed lands. Heber has implemented a sophisticated irrigation control system that allows flexibility for conserving water at City parks using technology including pressure regulators, check valves, smart controllers, and master valves that automatically shut the system down if a leak is detected.

Special Service Districts

As previously discussed, Heber's recent annexations coupled with rapid growth have introduced water planning and management complexities with newly incorporated areas dependent on Special Service Districts (SSDs) for drinking and irrigation water. To better understand how the implementation of the Water Use and Preservation Element may impact SSD water supply and distribution planning, input was gathered from Jordanelle Special Service District (JSSD). The following key insights were provided.

JSSD aligns with Heber's policy of limiting individual lots to 1,000 square feet of irrigated landscaping, while accommodating some flexibility for actual water needs. The SSD's water dedication policy has also been adjusted to allow appropriate reductions to the standard outdoor water dedication requirements, varying required water rights by development type. JSSD has taken steps to strengthen water system resilience by maintaining backup supplies and constructing infrastructure in accordance with actual use. The SSD utilizes a tiered water rate system to encourage conservation, while water shortage management plans—already in place for Twin Creeks and in development for other areas—support long-term sustainability amid the region's continued growth.

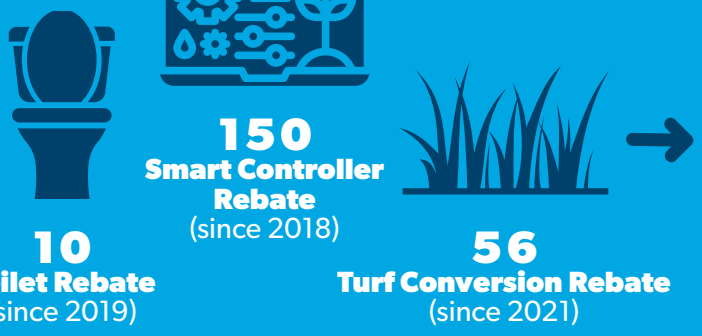
SUMMARY OF JSSD WATER-CONSERVING POLICIES & PRACTICES:

- Jordanelle Special Service District (JSSD) has adopted a water-wise policy which is made available to customers.
- In terms of water "preservation", JSSD maintains a system redundancy with different supplies that overlap in the way they build their infrastructure.
- JSSD has adopted universal, progressive tiered water rights to recover the cost of service, with a side effect of curbing water use.
- JSSD has a water shortage management plan for the Twin Creeks and is working on plans for the other areas.
- JSSD constructs infrastructure in accordance with actual use.

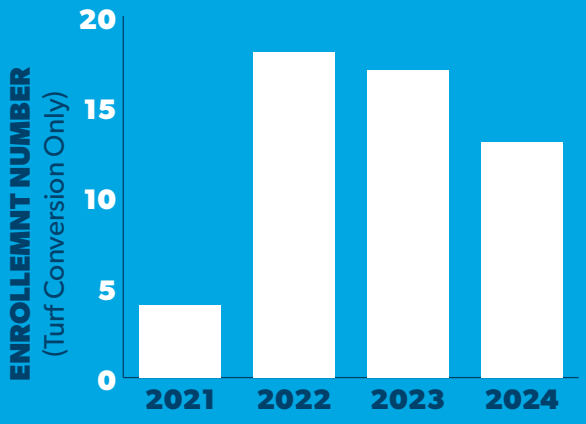
Moving the Needle Further:
Ideas to Explore

- **Minimize Barriers:** Ensure water-efficient landscaping standards do not become a barrier to residents who want to update their existing landscape.
- **Expand Data Access:** Continue expanding access to water usage data for residents through programs like EyeOnWater, including targeted outreach via tools like Yoppify.
- **Enhance: Program Participation*:** Further promote participation in rebate and education programs such as Localscapes and Utah Water Savers.
- **Water Conservation Pricing:** Adjust water rates to strengthen conservation incentives while considering affordability for low-income residents.
- **Incentivize Water-Wise Development:** Explore policies similar to Twin Creeks' approach, allowing reduced water dedication for multi-family and common areas with water-wise landscaping.
- **Engage Ag:** Encourage active participation of agricultural water users in local watershed councils.
- **Lead by Example:** Convert underused landscape areas in City parks and facilities to water-wise plantings, and continue showcasing native and low-water-use landscapes as community models
- **SSD Coordination:** Maintain regular coordination between Heber City and Special Service Districts to ensure aligned policies and shared data.
- **Post-Occupancy Outreach:** Consider expanding post-occupancy outreach to support residents in long-term conservation after landscape installation.

*Which Utah Water Savers programs are residents most interested In?



Program participation numbers based on available data.



This graph shows enrollment in the **Turf Conversion Program** by year.

Forecasting the Future

Tracking water use is essential for planning. Water professionals typically use gallons per capita per day (gpcd), calculated by dividing total annual water use by the population, to represent water use for an area. It should be noted that while gpcd is a common metric, it can be calculated in different ways, making meaningful comparisons between cities difficult. Water demand can also be projected in terms of Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs). An ERU* represents the demand that a typical single family residential unit places on the water system. Water supply and use numbers can be reported in Acre Feet Per Year (ACFT), enough water to cover an acre of land in one-foot of water, or in gallons per day (GPD).

*Note that the Special Service Districts have varying definitions of Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs) for sewer and water, with differing water right requirements between districts and potential discrepancies between district and City water right and ERU definitions.

Water Budget

A water budget compares the water a community will need in the future with the amount it can reliably provide, helping ensure sufficient supply as the City grows (*Table 1*). Based on projected increases in residential units and non-residential connections by 2045, Heber City is expected to have enough drinking water to meet average demand (excluding areas served by secondary water districts, SSDs). Currently, there isn't enough data to determine a reliable supply for secondary water use. The water budget may be updated to include outdoor demand as usage data becomes available through the secondary metering project.

USEFUL TERMS

- **ERUs:** Equivalent Residential Units represent water demand that a typical single family residential unit places on the water system.
- **ACFT:** The amount of water sufficient to cover one acre with one foot of water (equals approximately 326,000 gallons).
- **MGD:** Million gallons per day
- **GPCD:** Gallons per capita per day

TABLE 1 – ESTIMATED WATER DEMAND COMPARED TO SOURCE CAPACITY (CULINARY)

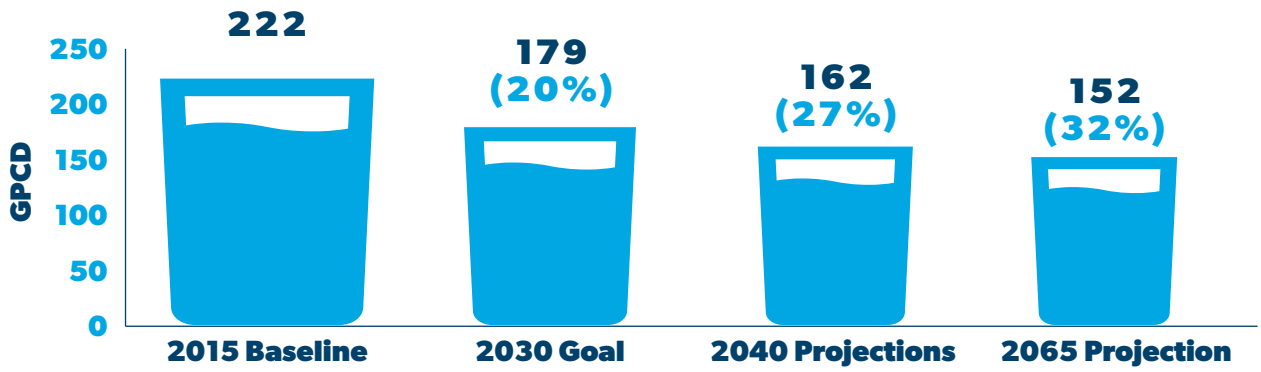
Category	Average Day Demand (MGD)	Peak Day Demand (MGD)	Notes
Source Capacity	8.14	N/A	Source capacity of wells and spring
Current Demand (2025)	2.95	5.9	Current culinary water usage for Heber City
Projected Demand (2045)	**4.13**	**8.26**	**Future culinary water usage based on projected growth in ERUs.**

Note: R309-550 also requires additional source capacity for outdoor watering, which may not be fully accounted for in the numbers above. Fully accounting for outdoor water use could result in existing sources reaching capacity sooner than projected. As Heber City collects more outdoor water usage data through new meters, these numbers can be refined in future updates.

Back to the Region

In 2019, the Utah Division of Water Resources released the Utah Regional Municipal and Industrial (M&I) Water Conservation Goals Report, outlining regional targets and best practices for residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial water use. While not a detailed conservation plan for every region, the report serves as a framework for future infrastructure, policies, and programs that align with Utah's semiarid climate and growing water demands. Previous sections describe recommended strategies from the report. Utah is divided into nine water conservation regions, with the Provo River Region—including Heber—targeting a 20% reduction in outdoor water use by 2030.

FIGURE 3 – PROVO RIVER REGION WATER CONSERVATION GOALS



Regional Resilience = Watershed Health

A healthy watershed is vital to quality of life, public health, water quality, and economic sustainability. Resilient watershed planning minimizes development impacts through strategies like mapping sensitive areas, managing stormwater, setting stream buffer standards, and collaborating regionally. These efforts protect natural and built environments and enhance outdoor recreation. As one of five watersheds draining into the Great Salt Lake, the Utah Lake Watershed plays a key role in sustaining the lake's ecosystem, air quality, and economy, now at risk due to falling water levels. The following are two small ways that Heber contributes to a healthy watershed:

1. Water Shortage Plan: *The Heber Water Shortage Plan (2023)* outlines water use priorities for demand reduction during water shortages, offering a clear hierarchy even outside of drought conditions.

2. Sensitive Lands Ordinance: Heber's sensitive lands ordinance identifies and manages environmentally sensitive areas to reduce impacts and protect natural systems.

Regional Collaboration

The network of flowing water, both above and below the earth's surface, extends beyond geographic and political lines. As a result, management and use of water supplies requires coordination between local, state, and federal entities. By working together, these collective efforts can identify shared interests, expand resources, and contribute to the overall success of the region in preserving water. Building and maintaining lasting relationships with the following entities is recommended:

- Department of Agriculture and Food
- Utah Division of Water Resources
- Utah Lake Basin Watershed Council (Josh Zimmerman)
- The Great Salt Lake Watershed Council will be comprised of the five watersheds that drain into Great Salt Lake.
- Local Irrigation Companies
- Neighboring Communities
- Utah County
- Central Utah Water Conservancy District: The Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) plays a large role in helping to coordinate and manage a large percentage of the irrigation companies within the Heber Valley. As such, Heber City staff work closely with CUWCD staff to monitor water conditions each year (WCP).

In Conclusion

The *Heber City Water Use and Preservation Element (2025)* lays a foundation for a sustainable water future. By integrating land use planning with responsible water stewardship, Heber City is actively addressing the challenges of rapid growth and climate change. Through strategies such as water-conserving development patterns, enhanced irrigation efficiency, and financial and educational initiatives, combined with collaborative efforts with Special Service Districts, Heber is poised to build a resilient water system. This comprehensive approach, supported by ongoing data analysis and regional conservation goals, will help ensure that Heber City's vital water resources are protected for generations to come.

> The success of any water conservation program in achieving long term water conservation goals, as may be required under a water shortage, is dependent on the ability to convey to the community the water supply situation, the expected response actions, and clear and measurable goals.
>
> — Heber Water shortage Plan

Goals & Strategies

Goal 1: Regularly review and evaluate current water use and preservation strategies to meet Heber's long-term needs and goals (*Table 2*).

- **Implementation 1.1:** Establish a process to regularly review and update current strategies to ensure they remain relevant, effective, and aligned with Heber's vision.
- **Implementation 1.2:** Consider establishing a Water Conservation Committee to oversee and coordinate water use and preservation strategies, provide technical guidance, and support regular review and updates.

Goal 2: Explore opportunities to promote water conservation and efficiency through City programs, policies, and coordinated planning that aligns water supply, demand, and reuse priorities.

- **Implementation 2.1:** Consider establishing a technical assistance program that helps residents and property owners detect leaks, conduct water audits, or identify practical ways to use water more efficiently, including understanding their meter data and using City resources such as the EyeOnWater app. Expand outreach through tools like Yoppify and include post-occupancy support to help residents maintain conservation practices over the long term.
- **Implementation 2.2:** Consider adopting a more stringent water rate structure, as needed and in conjunction with meter installation, to encourage residents and businesses to use water more efficiently and reduce unnecessary waste, while considering affordability for low-income households.
- **Implementation 2.3:** Coordinate water conservation, recharge, and reuse priorities across all related City plans, such as the General Plan, Water Conservation Plan, infrastructure, parks, and open space plans, to ensure a consistent and integrated approach to managing shared water resources. Include regular coordination with Special Service Districts to align policies and share data.
- **Implementation 2.4:** In future updates, connect water supply and demand analyses to projected land use patterns and consider updating zoning or land use policies to encourage development types that use less water, including incentives for multi-family and common areas with water-wise landscaping.
- **Implementation 2.5:** Consider updating existing design guidelines to align with the City's landscaping ordinance, ensuring consistency between requirements (e.g., planter strip treatments, turf limitations, irrigation methods) and avoiding conflicts in language and standards. Ensure that landscaping standards do not become a barrier that prevents residents from updating their landscapes.

Goal 3: Support long-term water sustainability by exploring opportunities for water reuse and encouraging voluntary or incentivized retrofits of existing structures to reduce overall water use.

- **Implementation 3.1:** Explore opportunities to implement water reuse for secondary irrigation in future developments, such as treated graywater for landscaping in parks, schools, or residential areas.
- **Implementation 3.2:** Consider incentivizing water-efficient retrofits in existing buildings, such as low-flow fixtures and appliances.

TABLE 2 – INVENTORY OF CURRENT WATER USE & PRESERVATION STRATEGIES		
Strategy Category		**Description**
Incentives & Programs	A.	Continue to participate in and promote the State's "Slow the Flow" and other water-wise programs.
Ordinances, Standards, & Policies	B.	Continue to work with the County and surrounding communities to create permanent farm and mountain land protection through such mechanisms as conservation easements and partnerships.
	C.	Continue to require all new development to connect to the pressurized secondary irrigation system and prohibit the use of culinary water for outdoor irrigation.
	D.	Continue requiring that City development located within a Special Service District comply with established County Water Board processes.
	E.	Continue to require all new development to provide individual meters for secondary water.
	F.	Continue to follow the guidelines and enforcement strategies established in the *Heber Water Shortage Plan (2023)*
	G.	Continue requiring all new development to convey water rights, of the type and quantity determined by the City Engineer, that can be used for the City's culinary water supply and secondary irrigation system. Water rights must be transferred to the City or applicable Special Service District prior to subdivision plat recordation or approval of non-residential and multi-family residential building permits.
	H.	Continue to minimize negative impacts as new development occurs through Heber's sensitive lands ordinance.
	I.	Continue promoting water conservation and similar practices to help ensure the Heber City Parks and Recreation System is sustainable and resilient, building on existing standards and incorporating future updates.
	J.	Continue protecting and preserving the North Fields through land use policies and conservation tools that maintain open space and support water resources, ecosystem health, and long-term sustainability in line with community priorities, and continue requiring developers to pay a conservation fee for the North Fields
Outreach & Education	K.	Continue to notify and educate the public about the *Heber Water Shortage Plan (2023)* and water shortage phases through periodic updates in City newsletters or other publications.
	L.	Continue to enhance public awareness and understanding of water-related issues to encourage voluntary conservation through outreach to schools, fliers, bill stuffers, and presentations.
	M.	Continue to promote water-efficient landscaping through public education, incentives, and demonstration projects, including the conversion of City-owned properties and the use of native plant displays at City facilities and parks.
Physical System	N.	Continue the citywide initiative of installing new secondary water service boxes and meters at all properties connected to the pressurized system, and continue to develop a policy and plan to expand the secondary irrigation system and eliminate ditch/flood irrigation.
	O.	Continue to replace and repair leaking water lines, out-dated meters, and update SCADA equipment and programming.
Water Conservation Pricing	P.	Continue to evaluate and adjust water rates to align with ongoing O&M costs.