COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS

ORDINANCE NO. 456

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY'S GENERAL PLAN TO INCLUDE A WATER USE AND PRESERVATION ELEMENT

WHEREAS, the "Municipal Land Use, Development, and Management Act," UTAH CODE ANN. §10-9a-101 *et seq.*, as amended (the "*Act*"), provides that each municipality shall prepare and adopt a comprehensive, long-range general plan; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires the municipality's planning commission to prepare the general plan and submit it to the municipality's legislative body; and

WHEREAS, the Act also provides certain procedures for the municipality's legislative body to adopt and amend the general plan; and

WHEREAS, on 26 July 2005, following full compliance with the procedures for formulation, public hearing and recommendation specified in UTAH CODE ANN. §§10-9a-401 through -404, the city council (the "*Council*") of the city of Cottonwood Heights (the "*City*") enacted its Ordinance No. 24 adopting a general plan (with all previous amendments, the "*General Plan*") for the City; and

WHEREAS, as authorized by statute, the General Plan includes various topical "elements" or divisions, including a transportation element and an urban trails element which address, among other things, transportation choices and alternate modes of travel; and

WHEREAS, UTAH CODE ANN. 10-20-401(4) enacted by the Utah Legislature in its 2025 general session requires each Utah municipality by 31 December 2025 to include in its general plan a water use and preservation element that complies with UTAH CODE ANN. 10-20-404 and any other applicable requirements; and

WHEREAS, consequently the City's planning staff and its planning commission (the "*Planning Commission*") formulated a water use and preservation element (the "*Water Element*") intended to comply with all applicable statutory requirements to incorporate into the City's General Plan; and

WHEREAS, following all required notices, a public hearing was held before the Planning Commission concerning the proposed Water Element, where citizens were given the opportunity to provide written or oral comment concerning the proposed Water Element addition to the General Plan; and

WHEREAS, following the public hearing on 15 December 2025 the Planning Commission voted to recommend that the Council approve amending the General Plan to include the Water Element; and

WHEREAS, on 16 December 2025, the Council met in regular meeting to consider, among other things, amending the General Plan to include the Water Element in the form that is attached as an exhibit to this ordinance (this "*Ordinance*"); and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration of the recommendations of the Planning Commission, the comments at the public hearing and public meetings, and other pertinent information, and otherwise being fully advised, the Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the City's residents to so amend the City's General Plan to include the Water Element as proposed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the city council of the city of Cottonwood Heights as follows:

Section 1. ***Amendment of General Plan***. The Council hereby approves and adopts the Water Element and amends the General Plan to include the Water Element. From and after the effective date of this Ordinance, the General Plan shall be deemed to incorporate and include the Water Element.

Section 2. ***Future Amendment of General Plan***. Pursuant to the authority granted in the Act, the Council shall have, and hereby expressly reserves, the right to hereafter further amend the General Plan at any time or from time-to-time hereafter for any purpose upon recommendation by the Planning Commission following all appropriate public notices and hearings required by the Act.

Section 3. ***Action of Officers***. All actions of the officers, agents and employees of the City that are in conformity with the purpose and intent of this Ordinance, whether taken before or after adoption hereof, are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

Section 4. ***Severability***. All parts of this Ordinance are severable, and if any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of any such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect the remaining sections, paragraphs, clauses or provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 5. ***Repealer***. All ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

Section 6. ***Effective Date***. This Ordinance, assigned no. 456, shall take immediate effect as soon as it shall be published or posted as required by law and deposited and recorded in the office of the City's Recorder, or such later date as may be required by Utah statute.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 16th day of December 2025.

ATTEST: **COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL**

By: _____ By: _____

Tiffany Jansen, Recorder **Michael T. Weichers**, Mayor

VOTING:

Michael T. Weichers	Yea X	Nay ___
Matt Holton	Yea X	Nay ___
Suzanne Hyland	Yea X	Nay ___
Shawn E. Newell	Yea X	Nay ___
Ellen Birrell	Yea X	Nay ___

DEPOSITED in the Recorder's office this 16th day of December 2025.

POSTED this 16TH day of December 2025.

EXHIBIT TO ORDINANCE 456

(*Attach copy of Water Element*)

COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS

TOMORROW

WATER USE & PRESERVATION ELEMENT – 2025

Cottonwood Heights
City between the canyons

WATER USE & PRESERVATION

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to safeguard Cottonwood Heights' interests in a secure and resilient water future by responsibly exercising the City's authority over land use and development policy. We are committed to protecting our vital water resources and empowering our residents and businesses to make informed, water-wise choices that reduce overall demand. Through sound planning and strong partnerships, we aim to ensure that community development remains manageable and is supported by available resources, promoting a culture of voluntary conservation and stewardship.

Utah is one of the driest states in the nation. This reality, coupled with years of severe drought and historic rapid population growth, has made the preservation of water resources a high priority for Utah's local governments, state leaders, water providers, and the public. Recognizing planning's critical role in water management, the state adopted *S.B. 110: Water as Part of the General Plan* in 2022. This new mandate requires Cottonwood Heights to address the impacts of land use planning on water use, aiming towards a future in which growth and development is supported by an adequate water supply.

It is important to note that **Cottonwood Heights does not currently provide culinary or secondary water services to residents and does not control water supply or distribution planning**. Instead, the City exercises its authority over water use primarily through land use decisions. Using tools such as the General Plan, zoning regulations, landscape standards, and the development review process, Cottonwood Heights can influence how water is used across the community to ensure growth is manageable and supported by available resources.

Existing Conditions

REGIONAL WATERSHEDS

The Jordan River Basin (***Map 6.1***), encompassing most of Salt Lake County, is Utah's most populous basin. The use of the basin's water resources has been fundamental to the region's development, providing its residents with diverse employment and recreational opportunities, and enabling a high quality of life.

The watersheds that feed the Jordan River are critically important as a drinking water source for the County. These drainage basins, all located within Salt Lake County, contribute surface waters that either flow directly into the Great Salt Lake or recharge the basin's groundwater. As one of the many communities relying on these resources, Cottonwood Heights recognizes the importance of protecting the watershed to help maintain reliable, clean water for current and future residents.

Map 6.1 – Regional Watersheds

A NOTE ON WATERSHED HEALTH

A healthy watershed is essential to quality of life, public health, water quality, and long-term economic stability. Thoughtful watershed planning helps manage the effects of development through practical measures such as identifying sensitive areas, controlling stormwater runoff, setting stream buffer standards, and encouraging cooperation among neighboring communities.

Big and Little Cottonwood Creeks, which run through the City, are important parts of the Jordan River Basin. Protecting these waterways and their surrounding landscapes is critical to preserving the health of the region—including the Great Salt Lake. These efforts also contribute to better air quality, outdoor recreation opportunities, and the overall integrity of both natural areas and developed neighborhoods.

REGIONAL WATER CONSERVATION GOALS

Utah's Regional Municipal & Industrial Water Conservation Goals Report (2019) establishes recommended regional water reduction targets for the entire state. The primary goal for the Salt Lake Region, which encompasses Cottonwood Heights, is an 11% reduction in overall per capita water use (gpcd) by 2030.

The Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU), the primary water provider for Cottonwood Heights, has established conservation targets that exceed the state's goal and are tailored to the local service area and regional supply reliability.

For these reasons, it is recommended that Cottonwood Heights align municipal water use reduction goals with those established by the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU). At the time of this plan, *SLCDPU's 2025 Water Conservation Plan* was in the final stages of adoption and included the goal to reduce current per capita water use from approximately 179 gpcd (***Figure 6.1***) to 174 gpcd by 2030, with further reductions to 164 gpcd by 2040 and 146 gpcd in the long term. According to SLCDPU's planning efforts, these targets help maintain reliable water supplies and support responsible water management to meet future needs amid evolving challenges such as growth pressure and drought.

The City's water conservation efforts will directly support both the regional goals established by the state and the more specific targets set forth by SLCDPU. The water use reduction goals shown in ***Figure 6.2*** reflect those established by SLCDPU in its draft 2025 Water Conservation Plan.[1] Cottonwood Height's contribution to a secure water future will be explored further in the chapter.

1 Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities. (2025). Draft 2025 Water Conservation Plan. Salt Lake City, UT. Retrieved from https://www.slcdocs.com/utilities/PDF%20Files/Conservation/Draft%202025%20SLC%20Water%20Conservation%20Plan.pdf

Figure 6.1 – Estimated Current Per Capita Use

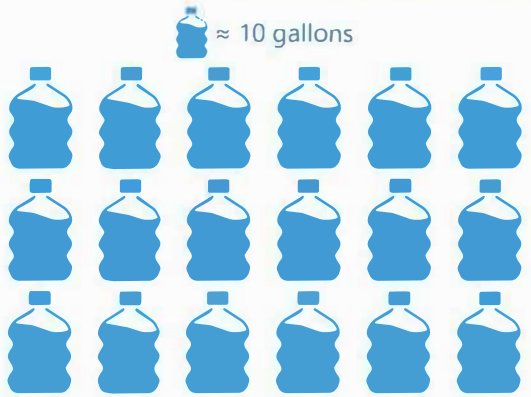
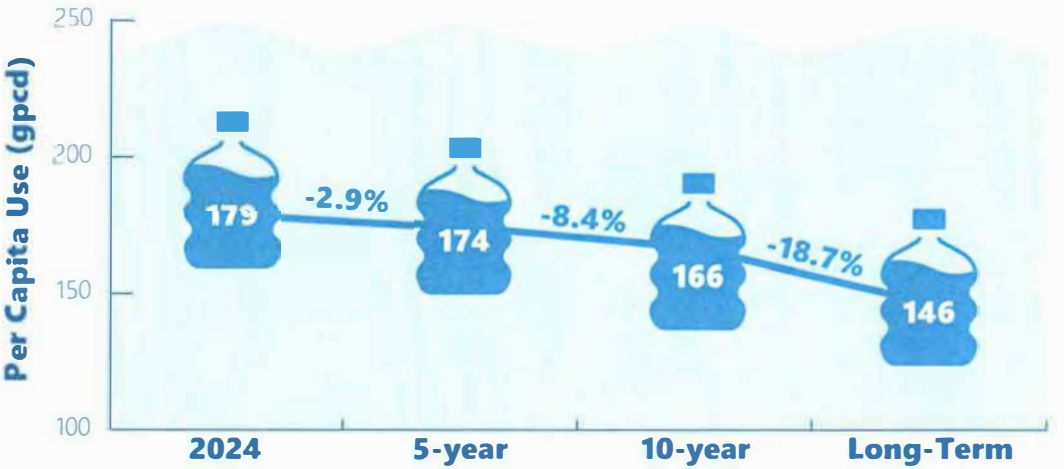


Figure 6.2 – SLCDPU Recommended Interim Conservation Goals

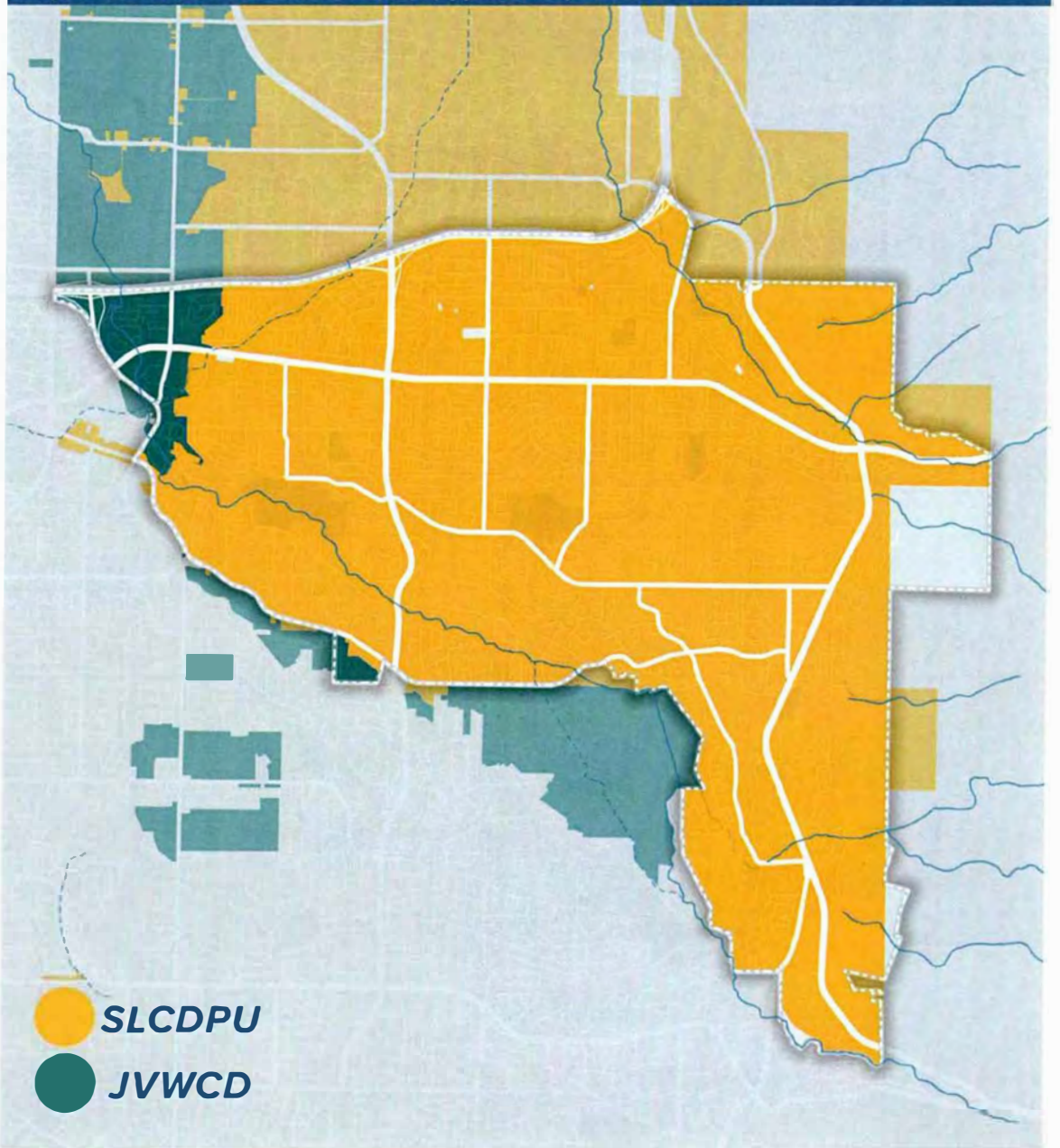


LOCAL WATER SYSTEMS

As stated, **Cottonwood Heights does not currently provide culinary or secondary water services to residents** and instead relies on the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU) for its drinking water supply, with a smaller portion of the City served by the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD). Because secondary water is not currently available, culinary water is used for outdoor irrigation, including lawns and other landscaping. In compliance with *S.B. 110*, the City met with both water utilities to discuss long-term water supply and distribution planning.

Conversations with the water providers focused on key aspects of their conservation plans relevant to Cottonwood Heights. Topics included available data on current water use and future demand, initiatives to support the Great Salt Lake, and recommended goals, policies, or programs the City might adopt to strengthen water conservation. A summary of the main takeaways from these discussions follows.

Map 6.2 – Water Provider Service Areas (approximate)



SALT LAKE CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES (SLCDPU)

Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU) is the retail water provider for all of Salt Lake City and portions of Millcreek, Cottonwood Heights, Holladay, Murray, Midvale, and South Salt Lake. Within Cottonwood Heights, SLCDPU supplies water to approximately 90% of address points. Based on address types, the majority of water use is residential (about 89%), followed by commercial use at roughly 6%.

TAKEAWAYS FROM SLCDPU

- **Shared Conservation Leadership:** SLCDPU's Water Conservation Manager also serves, by extension, as Cottonwood Heights' Water Conservation Manager. This presents a strong opportunity for partnership, particularly around program promotion and public outreach. The current manager brings valuable marketing and communication strategies to the table.
- **Desire for Formalized Communication:** The Water Conservation Manager expressed a desire to formalize communication between SLCDPU and Cottonwood Heights to strengthen collaboration. They emphasized the importance of direct engagement and mutual support between cities and SLCDPU, noting that layers of hierarchy can sometimes make coordination more difficult.
- **Upcoming Conservation Plan Update:** SLCDPU is in the process of updating its *Water Conservation Plan (2020)*. Once adopted, the updated plan—anticipated in December 2025—will serve as a valuable resource for Cottonwood Heights and the other municipalities served by SLCDPU.

JORDAN VALLEY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT (JVWCD)

Based on the number of Cottonwood Heights address points within its service area, JVWCD provides drinking water to approximately 10% of the City. Of those addresses, 47% are residential and 44% are commercial. The Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD) serves a large portion of Union Park Regional Center and a smaller area south of Creek Road near Oakdale Elementary. Given that the service area includes the Regional Center, the high proportion of commercial addresses is expected.

TAKEAWAYS FROM JVWCD

- **Potential Service Transfer:** The area currently served by JVWCD may be transferred to Salt Lake City Public Utilities in the future. This would standardize water provision across the City but could result in higher water rates due to SLCDPU's pricing structure.
- **Updated Water Efficiency Standards:** JVWCD emphasized the importance of strong water efficiency standards for conservation. They plan to update their recommended standards, including revised turf limits for commercial properties, and encourage cities to adopt them when available.
- **Enforceable Requirements:** Although the area served by JVWCD appears to be largely built-out, the District is able to enforce water efficiency standards by requiring landscaping to meet specific criteria before approving any new water connections.[1]

1 Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. Rules and Regulations for Retail Water Service. Revised effective June 7, 2023. Retrieved from https://jvwcd.gov/file/7812e3bb-8083-491f-a4b7-cacae6e94d35/00---Rules-and-Regulations-for-Retail-Water-Service-Revised-6-7-23.pdf

TAKEAWAYS FROM JVWCD (CONTINUED)

- **JVWCD as a Resource:** While JVWCD supplies water to only a small portion of Cottonwood Heights, it remains a valuable resource and partner in promoting water efficiency through its standards, conservation programs, and public education initiatives. Some of the key programs and services JVWCD offers to support water conservation efforts include:
  - Utah Water Savers Incentive Program: Offers rebates for turf removal, water-efficient landscaping, and high-efficiency toilet replacements for residents and businesses.
  - Conservation Garden Park: A demonstration garden providing free classes and resources on drought-tolerant landscaping and water-wise irrigation.
  - Slow the Flow Campaign: An ongoing public outreach effort to educate the community on practical water-saving actions.
  - Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) Training: Certification programs for landscapers to promote sustainable water management practices.
  - Member Agency Assistance Program: Grants and technical support for local agencies to implement water conservation projects and education initiatives.
- **Focus on Existing Development:** Given the City's mostly built-out status, JVWCD recommended focusing on water conservation efforts for existing properties. Suggestions include:
  - Making it easier for residents to replace turf with water-wise landscaping.
  - Providing additional local funding for landscape conversion incentives (e.g., a match that increases rebate amounts per square foot).
  - Promoting landscape education, including contractor certifications, Localscapes classes, and resources like Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) Training. The City's advocacy efforts can support this outreach.

CONCLUSION

Even though Cottonwood Heights does not operate its own water utility, the City plays a powerful role in shaping local water use through the tools it does control—particularly in land use planning and policy. The City's General Plan, zoning code, and development standards establish the physical layout of the community and directly influence how much water is needed now and in the future.

Land Use & Water

SHAPING WATER USE & DEMAND

Water demand is intrinsically linked to land use. Cottonwood Heights consists mainly of residential neighborhoods, with commercial development concentrated along major corridors. Areas with larger lots and lawns tend to use more water than areas with smaller lots and limited irrigation. While commercial areas generally consume less water per acre than residential neighborhoods, water-intensive uses like restaurants, car washes, and properties with water-intensive landscaping can drive up demand. With little undeveloped land remaining, Cottonwood Heights is transitioning to infill and redevelopment—a shift that can promote more efficient water use when guided by smart growth and water-conscious planning, as discussed on subsequent pages.

Water-conscious land use inspirational imagery.

A SECURE WATER FUTURE

Through proactive planning, Cottonwood Heights aims for a future characterized by vibrant Activity Centers, along with thoughtful infill and redevelopment, ensuring the preservation of its natural beauty and the quality of its neighborhoods. As the City is now built out, future development will focus on establishing vibrant, mixed-use Activity Centers such as the Town Center and Gravel Pit area, which offer diverse commercial, retail, and cultural services. This strategic vision will strengthen the local economy while ensuring that land use patterns continue to support a secure water future.

FUTURE FORECAST

As described, the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU) in its *2025 Draft Water Conservation Plan*, reports a current system-wide average water use of approximately 179 gpcd (***Figure 6.1***). As a contract water customer without a secondary irrigation system, Cottonwood Heights relies solely on culinary water for outdoor irrigation, likely placing its per capita use at or above this average.

Cottonwood Heights' population is projected to grow from 33,594 residents in 2024 to 41,878 by 2050, an increase of 8,284 residents. If per capita use remains at the current level of 179 gpcd, total annual demand would rise from approximately 6,736 acre-feet (acft) in 2024 to about 8,397 acft by 2050—an increase of roughly 1,661 acft. However, if the City supports SLCDPU's long-term goal of reducing per capita use to 146 gpcd by 2050, total demand could be limited to approximately 6,849 acft, nearly maintaining current consumption despite growth (***Figure 6.3***). Although Cottonwood Heights does not directly manage water services or supply planning, its authority over land use decisions and public education plays a crucial role in shaping community water use. The two demand trajectories clearly illustrate how local policies and education efforts that enhance water use efficiency can significantly moderate future demand.

Ongoing coordination between Cottonwood Heights and SLCDPU will be critical to achieving regional water reliability. As SLCDPU finalizes its updated conservation plan, the City should rely on SLCDPU for refined demand projections, updated per capita use data, and guidance on system-wide conservation targets. By integrating this information into local policies, especially those related to land use, landscaping standards, water-efficient development, and outreach and education, Cottonwood Heights can align with SLCDPU's goals and contribute meaningfully to regional water conservation efforts.

Figure 6.3 – Cottonwood Heights Water Use Trajectory

Note: *An acre-foot is enough water to cover an acre of land in one foot of water (approximately 325,851 gallons).*

Reducing Water Waste

To support projected growth and manage water demand, Cottonwood Heights can encourage water-saving practices through its planning, zoning, and regulatory tools—always respecting private property rights. Given that about 70% of municipal water is used residentially, and nearly 60% of that goes to outdoor irrigation, even small improvements in water efficiency can have a big impact.[1] By setting clear, reasonable water efficiency standards, promoting smart growth, and empowering residents with education and resources, the City can help reduce water use across all land uses. The following section outlines current and recommended conservation policies and practices for Cottonwood Heights.

CONSERVATION POLICIES & PRACTICES

OUTDOOR & INDOOR STANDARDS

Water-efficient landscaping standards play a key role in conserving water, enhancing neighborhood character, and supporting long-term sustainability. Cottonwood Heights encourages water-efficient landscaping citywide through ordinances that emphasize drought-tolerant plants, smart irrigation practices, and Localscapes design principles. Lawn is prohibited in park strips and discouraged on steep slopes and in narrow spaces, while inefficient practices like overspray and runoff are strongly discouraged. These standards apply primarily to new development but are also encouraged during major remodels or changes of use. Importantly, these standards are designed to remove barriers for residents who wish to implement more water-efficient landscapes, including xeriscaping and other drought-tolerant practices that are sometimes prohibited by code elsewhere. Maintaining clear requirements and providing guidance for retrofitting existing landscapes will help the City manage growth responsibly while reducing long-term water demand.

Complementing outdoor efforts, modern appliances and plumbing fixtures are significantly more efficient than older models, making upgrades to high-efficiency toilets, faucets, and showerheads among the most cost-effective water conservation strategies. In addition to reducing water use per fixture, newer technologies also help minimize leaks. Local landscaping and building codes can support conservation by requiring efficient fixtures, water reuse systems, smart meters, submetering, rain sensors, automatic shutoffs, programmable irrigation, drip systems, water harvesting, and limits on outdoor plumbing connections. When combined with restrictions on irrigated landscaping and requirements for efficient irrigation systems, these measures can lead to substantial reductions in water use.

1 Cottam, M., Becker, K., Stemmler, K., Poudyal, S., Crump, W., Kogan, L., & Hotaling, S. (2025, August 25). Reducing residential landscape water use in Utah: Technologies and strategies. Utah State University Extension. Retrieved from https://extension.usu.edu/climate/research/reducing-residential-landscape-water-use-in-utah-technologies-and-strategies

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The support and participation of community members and local organizations is essential to any successful water conservation strategy. As a city that values private property rights and individual decision-making, Cottonwood Heights places its greatest emphasis on education, outreach, and voluntary participation—giving residents the tools and information they need to make their own water-wise choices. Current efforts and future opportunities include:

- Utah Water Savers incentives and rebate programs for residents (***Figure 6.4***).
- Distribution of subsidized rain barrels for residents in association with Utah Rivers Council. SLCDPU offers a similar program to customers.
- Annual water-wise landscaping workshops in partnership with the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU) and Jordan Valley Water Conservation District (JVWCD).
- Support for resident tree planting efforts to provide shade, reduce ambient heat and prevent water loss.
- Completion of the Mountview Park Pollinator Garden, which demonstrates water-wise landscape and irrigation design ideas and integrates these practices into City projects.
- Inclusion of the "Water Tip of the Month" in the City newsletter.
- Annual reports highlighting community participation in water conservation programs.

Through these initiatives, Cottonwood Heights can empower residents and businesses with practical information, examples, and incentives—allowing voluntary, informed choices to drive long-term water stewardship.

PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMS

In 2019, the cities of Cottonwood Heights, Holladay, and Millcreek signed an interlocal agreement to collaborate on sustainability initiatives. This partnership led to the adoption of the Interlocal Sustainability Action Plan (ISAP) in 2021, which now serves as Cottonwood Heights' sustainability master plan. Water use is addressed throughout the ISAP, particularly within the Development, Landscaping, and Waste Management sections.

In addition to regional collaboration, Cottonwood Heights supports water conservation through participation in state-led programs. Thanks to Cottonwood Heights' water-efficient landscaping ordinance, residents are eligible to participate in Utah Water Savers programs. Participation data for these programs is provided in ***Figure 6.4***.

Figure 6.4 – Utah Water Savers Program Participation

Cottonwood Heights program participation figures, based on the most recent data available from Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. Participation numbers may vary due to differences in program reporting cycles.

WATER-SMART GROWTH

While efficient fixtures and water-wise landscaping are essential for conservation, land development patterns also have a significant impact on overall water use. Because these patterns are difficult to change once established, it is important that Cottonwood Heights apply smart-growth principles especially to new commercial, industrial, institutional, and multifamily development, where the greatest opportunities for long-term efficiency exist.

Smart growth principles, including compact development, infill, and infrastructure efficiency, directly support water conservation. More compact developments require shorter transmission systems, which are less prone to leaks and more efficient to operate. Smaller lots reduce the amount of irrigated landscaping, helping to lower outdoor water demand.

Implementing smart growth requires comprehensive zoning, municipal code, and land development standards. These tools enable the City to establish water-wise expectations at the time of construction, such as water-wise landscaping and efficient irrigation practices. Beyond initial construction, ongoing conservation goals can be reinforced by landscape maintenance guidelines, retrofit incentive programs, and education and outreach.

GROWING WATER-SMART: 3 BEST PRACTICES

1. SUPPORT WATER CONSERVATION THROUGH MORE EFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

- Where appropriate, encourage **compact, infill, smaller lots, and mixed-use development** to reduce water demand and increase infrastructure efficiency.
- **Consider refining local policies or development standards** to better support—and when necessary, require—these more water-efficient patterns.

2. INTEGRATE WATER-WISE PRACTICES INTO PLANNING TOOLS

- Use **zoning, municipal code, and land development standards** to embed water conservation principles into the built environment.
- Educate residents and developers about the **benefits of efficient indoor fixtures, smart irrigation systems, and practical lawn areas** to encourage their adoption during site planning and construction.

3. REINFORCE CONSERVATION POST-OCCUPANCY

- Share **landscape maintenance guidelines or educational resources** to ensure long-term water efficiency.
- Promote third party **retrofit incentive programs** to encourage upgrades in existing developments.

Water Use & Preservation Goals

GOAL 1: EMPOWER THE COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION

SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES (1-2 YEARS)

- Promote existing rebate and incentive programs, such as Utah Water Savers and subsidized rain barrel distributions, through City communication channels.
- Feature regular "Water Tip of the Month" content in City newsletters, social media, and public signage to provide practical, actionable conservation advice.
- Use City newsletters, workshops, and outreach programs to share ongoing water conservation efforts and encourage voluntary actions among residents.
- Support and promote resident-led initiatives like tree planting and pollinator gardens that exemplify water-wise landscaping principles.
- Develop and publish annual reports highlighting community participation in water conservation programs to raise awareness and celebrate successes.
- Expand outreach by collaborating with a broader range of local organizations to reach diverse and under-served community members.

MID-TERM STRATEGIES (3–5 YEARS):

- Continue and expand partnership-based water-wise landscaping workshops in collaboration with SLCDPU and JVWCD.
- Explore opportunities to partner with SLCDPU and JVWCD to provide water-wise education and training for City staff and Public Works personnel, including contractor certifications, Localscapes classes, and resources like QWEL.net.

LONG-TERM STRATEGIES (5+ YEARS):

- Develop a suite of user-friendly digital platforms and interactive tools that empower residents to make informed water-wise decisions, such as a monthly water use and preservation newsletter, printable guides and checklists, social media campaigns, virtual workshops, water-use calculators, etc.
- Foster a culture of water stewardship through community recognition programs, awards, or friendly competitions that celebrate and incentivize efficient water use.

Water Use & Preservation Goals

GOAL 2: LEAD BY EXAMPLE IN WATER EFFICIENCY AND COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES (1–2 YEARS):

- Review progress and measurable outcomes from the *Interlocal Sustainability Action Plan* to guide City water stewardship initiatives.
- Integrate educational signage in public spaces such as parks, trailheads, and City Hall to promote awareness of water-saving practices.

MID-TERM STRATEGIES (3–5 YEARS):

- Encourage the adoption of water-efficient design standards for new or renovated City-led development projects wherever feasible.

LONG-TERM STRATEGIES (5+ YEARS):

- Retrofit City facilities and parks with smart irrigation systems, low-flow fixtures, and drought-tolerant landscaping as budgets and staff capacity allow.
- Use the Town Center and Activity Centers as visible, inspirational examples of water-wise design and green infrastructure.
- Work with SLCDPU and JVWCD to provide regular, transparent updates on water conservation progress to maintain community engagement and trust.

GOAL 3: STRENGTHEN COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS AND PROMOTE FAIR WATER MANAGEMENT

SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES (2-5 YEARS)

- Establish structured communication processes with SLCDPU, such as regular coordination meetings or a liaison role, to enhance shared planning and responsiveness.
- Explore opportunities to have a city representative on the Public Utilities Advisory Committee of SLCDPU to elevate Cottonwood Heights' voice in the decisionmaking of the department.
- Partner with SLCDPU to co-host water conservation workshops, community events, and outreach campaigns leveraging utility expertise and resources.
- Engage in open and transparent dialogue with SLCDPU about water pricing, affordability, and infrastructure monitoring to better understand and address resident concerns, recognizing that pricing authority lies with the utility.

LONG-TERM STRATEGIES (5+ YEARS)

- Collaborate with SLCDPU to identify shared water conservation goals grounded in the updated *Water Conservation Plan (2025)*, ensuring alignment of City initiatives with utility-led efforts.
- Coordinate with Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities to obtain water usage data specific to Cottonwood Heights.

Water Use & Preservation Goals

GOAL 4: INTEGRATE WATER CONSERVATION INTO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES (2-5 YEARS)

- Review and update land development standards as needed to permit water-efficient practices and policies.
- Review and remove barriers to water conservation (such as unnecessary or conflicting regulations, complex procedures, and overlapping or ineffective incentives) to ensure clear, consistent standards that encourage effective water-saving practices.

LONG-TERM STRATEGIES (5+ YEARS)

- Actively promote and incentivize infill development to optimize existing infrastructure.
- Plan for and incorporate green infrastructure solutions (e.g., permeable surfaces, rain gardens, bioswales) within development projects to manage stormwater, recharge groundwater, improve water quality by filtering runoff, and reduce reliance on potable water for irrigation.