FARMINGTON WATER USE AND PRESERVATION PLAN

AN ELEMENT OF THE FARMINGTON GENERAL PLAN

ADOPTED DECEMBER 2025

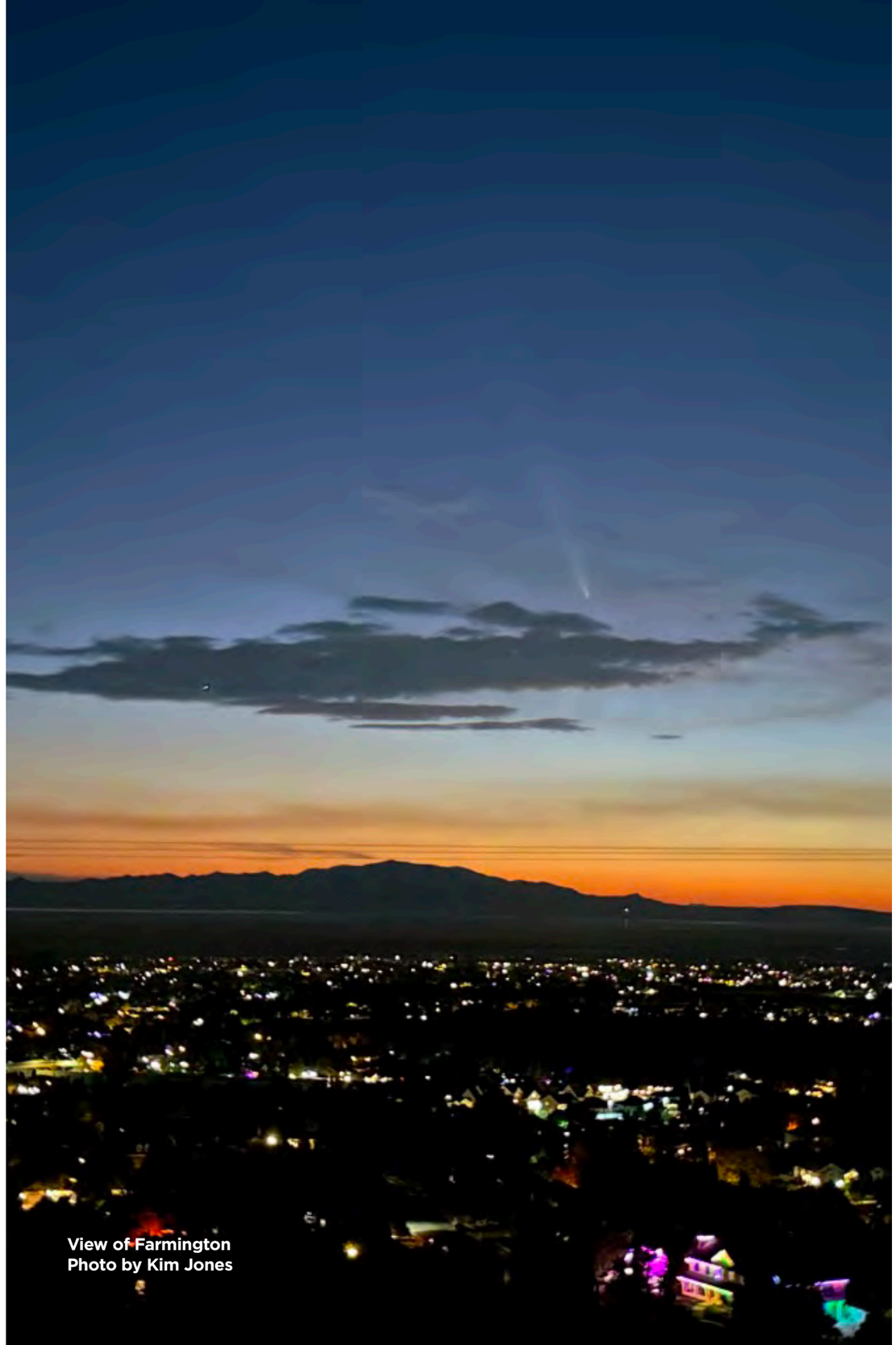
1

CHAPTER 01

INTRODUCTION

Contents

1



View of Farmington
Photo by Kim Jones

1.1 Welcome/Introduction

Welcome to Farmington's Water Use and Preservation Element, an important component of Farmington's framework for the future.

Farmington is expected to continue growing as development progresses in designated growth areas. Farmington is a water-wise city and is strategically planning for the community's future water needs alongside growth and change. Farmington City has actively implemented a water conservation framework for the community, resulting in reduced water use per capita over the past two decades.

This element of the General Plan helps bring the community's vision and strategies for water conservation, development patterns, and land use into focus.

1.2 About the Water Element

1.2.1 What is the Water Element?

The water use and preservation element is a key tool for integrating decisions related to land use, development patterns, community character, and water supply. A large factor in our water use is the high proportion of water used outdoors to irrigate landscaped yards for homes, businesses, schools, churches, and government buildings, as well as our parks, open spaces, and recreational fields. Our development patterns, including lot sizes, configuration of landscaped areas, and irrigation practices all play a role in how much water we use at different times of the year.

1.2.2 Why Does it Matter?

The integration of water and land use is an important part of planning for Farmington's future. This element helps guide decision-making for existing development and future growth, as well as capital improvements in Farmington, to ensure the City's supply of water can meet current and future demands while retaining community character and quality of life.

> "Our development patterns, including lot sizes, configuration of landscaped areas, and irrigation practices all play a role in how much water we use at different times of the year."

1.2.3 Do We Need a Water Element?

Yes! Recognizing the inherent connection between land use and water consumption and a critical need for action, Utah passed SB110 in 2022 and SB76 in 2023. By integrating water considerations into our land use planning, we have a significant opportunity to collectively reduce water use statewide.

1.2.4 Who Uses the Water Element?

The recommendations of the Water Use and Preservation Element provide a water-centric framework for Farmington City to consider in its land use and development policies and decisions. This element is relevant to all who live, work, shop, and play in Farmington. It is also a means to align the efforts of different City departments with each other and with regional and state partners.

- **City Staff and Officials** use this element of the General Plan to guide their decisions and to adopt or update policies and regulations related to water and land use. It can help prioritize budget-related decisions on capital improvements and guide the evaluation and review of development proposals.
- **Residents, Business Owners, Property Owners, and Developers** can use this element of the General Plan to understand the direction Farmington City is taking related to water and land use and how that relates to recent decisions and future implementation strategies. This helps provide an understanding of the impacts and opportunities they have regarding their property, business, or development. This element also provides insights into what is happening in Farmington regarding water use and land planning and how local actions support regional and statewide goals for water conservation.
- **Regional Partners and Agencies** can refer to this element of the General Plan to understand the goals and recommendation strategies Farmington City has adopted to support regional and statewide goals for water conservation.

Utah State Code Requirements

State Code now requires municipalities of the fourth class and larger and all counties to develop a water use and preservation element that is integrated with land use planning and development.

Farmington City, with an estimated population of just over 26,000 people, is a Fourth Class city.

Four key components guide the Water Use and Preservation Element:

1. Effect of permitted development on water demand and water infrastructure.
2. Methods for reducing water demand for existing development.
3. Methods for reducing water demand for future development.
4. Modifications to local government operations to support water-efficient practices.

Water-wise Landscaping in Farmington; Photo by David Livingston

1.3 Water Element Terminology

WATERSHED

A watershed is a geographic area of land from which water drains into a stream, river, lake, or wetland. Watersheds act like a funnel, channeling precipitation from the highest point in an area to the lowest point. Some of the water soaks into the soil as groundwater and some flows into smaller tributaries or creeks that join to form streams or rivers. These streams and rivers may then flow into larger areas to form lakes. The word "watershed" is sometimes used interchangeably with drainage basin or catchment. Farmington is part of the Weber River Basin, one of five main sub-basins that drain into the Great Salt Lake. Watersheds consist of surface water--lakes, streams, reservoirs, and wetlands--and all the underlying groundwater.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The complex network of human-made and natural systems that collect, treat, store, transport, and distribute water. The water infrastructure system also manages wastewater and stormwater for human use and environmental health.

MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL (M&I) WATER USE

M&I water use includes residential, commercial, institutional (for example, schools and parks) and industrial water use, but excludes agriculture, mining, and power generation as these are classified individually. Utah's Regional Water Conservation Goals are for M&I water use.

ACRE-FEET PER YEAR (AF/YEAR)

An acre-foot is the volume that would cover one acre of land to a depth of one foot. One acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons..

GALLONS PER CAPITA PER DAY (GPCD)

The amount of water used by one person in one day. This is a common metric for reporting and tracking water use and is usually calculated by taking the water used in a geographical area and dividing this amount by the population of that area.

POTABLE WATER

Also known as culinary water or drinking water. This water comes from surface and ground water sources and is treated to levels that meet state and federal standards for human consumption. Water that has not been treated may make you sick. Public water utilities remove harmful germs and chemicals to make tap water safe to drink. Potable (rhymes with quotable and notable) comes from the Latin word *potare*, which means to drink.

NON-POTABLE WATER

Non-potable water is taken from lakes, rivers, and ground water and has not been treated, and therefore is not safe to drink, shower, or bathe in. (see Secondary water)

SECONDARY WATER

Also known as irrigation water. This is untreated, unfiltered water typically used for irrigation of outdoor residential landscaping, gardening, or agricultural fields. It comes directly from surface waters and is stored in large, open-air reservoirs. This water is not suitable for consumption by humans or pets and should not be used for outdoor recreation (filling pools or playing in sprinklers). It contains pathogens that can make you very sick if consumed. (see Non-potable water)

GRAYWATER

Graywater is wastewater from bathtubs, sinks, showers, and clothes washing machines and can be used to save potable water. Graywater is not considered potable water, although it can replace potable water to irrigate plants, and fill toilets. Using graywater helps reduce the burden on wastewater treatment plants, by reusing water for different purposes, therefore saving potable consumption. Graywater systems in Utah are regulated by Utah code (R317-401), which provides jurisdiction to local health departments for administration.

BLACKWATER

What comes out of the toilet is considered black water and must be sent to a wastewater treatment plant.

FLIP YOUR STRIP

Flip Your Strip (FYS) is a rebate program administered by Weber Basin Water Conservancy District and is intended to remove turf from park strips and create attractive, low-water alternatives. Park strips can be one of the largest water wasting areas of a landscape because they are often narrow and can't be watered effectively when planted with turf. http://www.utahwatersavers.com/

LANDSCAPE LAWN EXCHANGE

Landscape Lawn Exchange (LLE) is an incentive program administered by Weber Basin Water Conservancy District and aimed at converting high water consuming turf with low-water landscape materials, including native plants. The program provides the incentive of a nominal amount per square foot for any area of a current yard that is covered in lawn and is replaced with a more water-efficient alternative. https://mywaterutah.org/

WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING

An approach to landscaping that requires limited or no irrigation, often used in arid regions. Also known as xeriscaping, it is an attractive, sustainable landscape approach that conserves water by using native plants and is based on sound horticultural practices. It is NOT no landscape, or a dry, barren zero-scape with no plants and only dirt and rocks. The term "xeriscape" was coined in the Denver area in 1981 as part of response to water shortages and is, in fact, a registered trademark of the Office of Water Conservation, Denver Water. The term was created by combining "landscape" and the Greek word "xeros," which means dry.

WATER AUDITS

Audits consist of checking the irrigation system and making suggestions on ways it could be more efficient. A simple field soil test will determine general soil type and texture, which impacts how much water to use and when. A catch-cup test will determine how quickly the sprinklers are applying water to the lawn and determine how uniform the water is being applied. Water audits are designed to help property owners be as efficient as possible with landscape irrigation.

1.4 Connections to City Policies

The recommendations of the Water Element are generally implemented through one (or a combination) of the following ways:

- Specific programs aimed at water conservation
- *Zoning Ordinance*
- *Subdivision Ordinance*
- Capital Improvements Plan

1.5 Collaboration and Funding

The Water Element provides a framework for coordination and collaboration with outside entities, including potential funding to implement the ideas and recommendations of the Plan and pursue opportunities such as:

- Innovative methods and techniques
- Demonstration projects
- Pilot projects

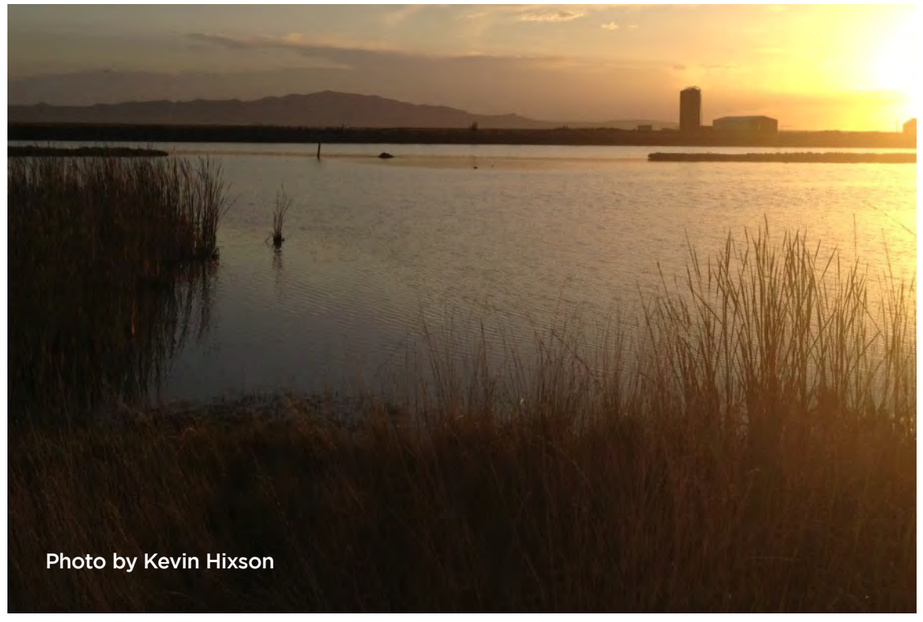


Photo by Kevin Hixson

2

CHAPTER 02

CONTEXT

Contents

Historic View of Farmington
Photo courtesy of Utah State History

2.1 Local Context

Farmington is positioned midway between the northern and southern boundaries of Davis County and bounded by natural features to the east (Wasatch Mountains) and the west (Great Salt Lake). Five canyons above Farmington have streams that flow through the City, eventually emptying into the Great Salt Lake.

The center of Farmington is situated at an elevation of **4,305 feet**. The city contains **10.04 square miles** within its current boundaries, of which a small portion, **0.09 square miles**, is water.

The estimated population of Farmington is just over 26,000 people and the community is projected to continue growing. (26,163, ACS; 5-year estimates 2020-2024). The **average household has 3.40 people**, and a total of 7,146 households call Farmington home.

2.2 Water Profile

2.2.1 Water Sources

Farmington's water sources include city-owned wells, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (WBWCD), and Benchland Water District.

Farmington City owns and operates the culinary (drinking) water system for the Farmington community. Farmington's culinary water is provided by the city's wells, which are operated year-round, and water from WBWCD. The City maintains a long-term contract with Weber Basin Water Conservancy District for an annual supply of water (WS004). Approximately 90% of Farmington's culinary water is sourced from the city's underground wells and the remaining 10% is from WBWCD.

Farmington City owns several wells and four are currently active water sources:

- Well #1, 500 N 100 W (WS002)
- C-5 (WS005)
- Woodland Park (WS007)
- Community Center (WS008)

In 2025, the City began drilling a new well to accommodate future demands for culinary water from planned growth.

Sources for secondary water in Farmington, provided by WBWCD and Benchland Water District, are described in section 2.2.4.

2.2.2 Per Capita Culinary Water Use

Water conservation efforts in Farmington have been very effective. Farmington City currently reflects a water-wise, efficient mindset with an average daily culinary water use between 58 to 60 gpcd, based on five-year rolling averages. (See Figure 2.1)

Over the past twenty-four years, Farmington's average culinary water use has ranged from a high of 121 gpcd in 2002 to a low of 54 gpcd in 2022. Farmington's goal is to maintain an average daily use of 75 gpcd or less for culinary water.

A small percentage (approximately 5%) of Farmington's connections use culinary water for outdoor use.

2.2.3 Culinary Water Connections

	2000	2024
Total Culinary Water Connections	3,503	6,355
Residential Connections	3,335	6,150
Commercial/Institutional/Other Connections	168	205
Culinary Water Provided Annually	1,338 acre-feet per year	1,777 acre-feet per year
Residential % of Culinary Water Provided	96%	77%
Average Daily Culinary Water Use (gpcd)	99.5	56.9

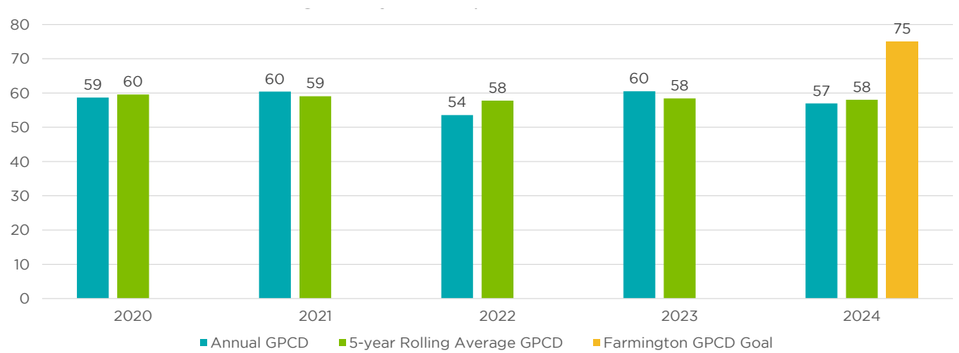


Figure 2.1: Average Daily Per Capita Culinary Water Use (2020 - 2024) & City Goal

2.2.4 Secondary Water

Approximately 95% of Farmington has access to secondary water for irrigation needs through pressurized systems. All new developments in Farmington are required to have a connection to a secondary water system for irrigation.

Secondary irrigation water for Farmington is provided by Benchland Water District and Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (WBWCD). Both Benchland Water District and WBWCD have conservation policies in place.

Farmington collaborates with the City's secondary water providers to support water conservation of irrigation water and reduce usage during the peak demand summer months. Additionally, both providers have initiated secondary water metering for connections within Farmington. Based on data for those connections that are metered, secondary water use is estimated to range from 154 to 222 gpcd based on rolling averages. As more connections become metered in Farmington a better understanding of secondary water use will emerge. Legislation passed in 2022 requires secondary water connections in Utah to have a meter by 2030.

Figure 2.2: Map of secondary water providers in the Farmington vicinity

(for reference only; courtesy of WBWCD)

BENCHLAND WATER DISTRICT

Benchland Water District has been providing pressurized secondary water service to Farmington since 1978. Benchland was organized in 1969 as the Farmington Area Pressurized Irrigation District (FAPID).

FAPID was a cooperative effort among several local irrigation companies to convert open ditch irrigation in Farmington to a pressurized underground system. In 2006, FAPID was renamed Benchland Water District. Benchland also provides secondary water service to some areas of Fruit Heights and Kaysville.

Water sources include:

- Davis Creek
- Farmington Creek
- Shepard Creek
- Steed Creek
- WBWCD purchases

WEBER BASIN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Weber Basin maintains the largest secondary irrigation system in the western United States, providing over 18,500 connections for residents. The District primarily wholesales secondary water to water providers, who in turn retail it to their customers.

The District retails secondary water directly to some residents in Davis and Weber County, including some areas of Farmington.

Water sources include:

- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Reservoir storage

Typical secondary water service turn on and shut off dates are April 15th and October 15th.

2.2.5 Total Water Use

Total water use in Farmington is the combination of culinary water use and secondary water use.

Secondary water use is estimated to range from a low of 95 gpcd (in 2022) to a high of 267 gpcd (in 2023) based on data for metered connections from Farmington's secondary water providers. Culinary water use ranges from 54 gpcd (in 2022) to 60 gpcd (in 2021 and 2023). Total water use is estimated to range from a low of 149 gpcd (in 2022) to a high of 327 gpcd (in 2023). (See Figure 2.3)

A better understanding of total water use will emerge as more secondary water connections become metered in Farmington.

2.2.6 Relevant / Related Planning Efforts

- Water Conservation Plan (2021 update)
- Culinary Water – Impact Fee Facilities Plan (2022)
- Storm Drain Master Plan (2022)
- Landscape Ordinance Update (2023 update; original waterwise updates in 2022)
- Tree Management Plan

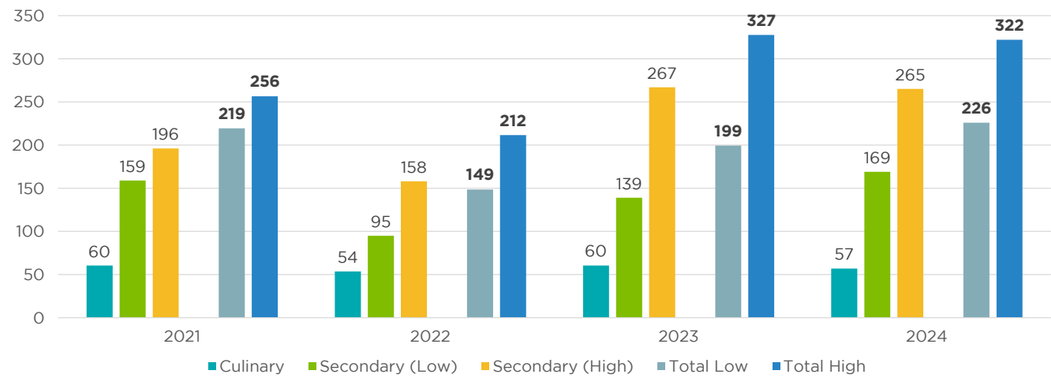


Figure 2.3: Daily Per Capita Water Use Estimates (2021 - 2024)

2

2.3 Regional Context

3RD

The Weber River Region is the third lowest for average water use of the nine regions in Utah.

250

250 gpcd (gallons per capita per day) is the baseline average water use for the Weber River Region, from the year 2015.

30%

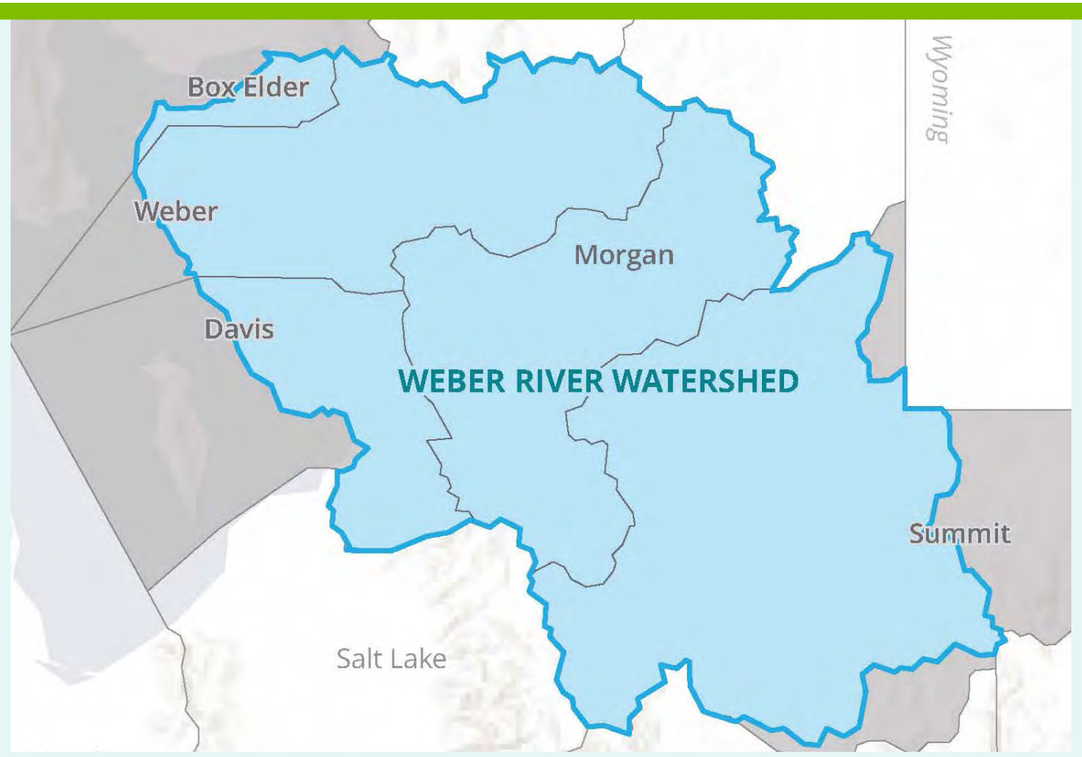
The regional goal for water use reduction from baseline by the year 2065 is 30%.

Farmington is part of the Weber River Basin, one of five main sub-basins that drain into the Great Salt Lake.

Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (WBWCD) is the regional supplier within the Ogden and Weber River drainages and provides culinary and secondary water to over 700,000 people in five counties (Box Elder, Davis, Morgan, Summit, and Weber). While Farmington City receives only some of its culinary and secondary water from WBWCD, it provides a regional context for water use and water conservation.

WBWCD operates seven large storage reservoirs, three hydro-power generation plants, twenty-one wells, four water treatment plants, and hundreds of miles of canals, tunnels, aqueducts, and pipelines. WBWCD delivers approximately 230,000 acre-feet of wholesale water each year. This translates to about 205 million gallons of water every day!

? Did you know? Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (WBWCD) delivers approximately 230,000 acre-feet of wholesale water each year. This translates to about 205 million gallons of water every day!



REGIONAL CONSERVATION GOALS

In 2019, Utah established Regional Water Conservation Goals for the state's nine municipal and industrial (M & I) areas. A regional approach allows the goals to be tailored to the differing contexts of each region, including climate, elevation, and regional characteristics. Farmington is part of the Weber River Region.

Average water use (culinary and secondary), in gallons per capita per day (gpcd), from the year 2015 serves as the baseline for the regional water conservation goals. In the Weber River Region this baseline is 250 gpcd. Compared to the other eight regions, Weber Basin is the third lowest for average water use, however it is higher than the statewide average of 240 gpcd. Other regions have a 2015 baseline ranging from 210 to 400 gpcd.

Regional goals for the Weber Basin Region call for a reduction from baseline water use, with a goal of 20% for 2030, 26% for 2040, and 30% for 2065. These goals are some of the most aggressive, and are higher than the statewide goals, which are targeting 16%, 22%, and 26% reductions, respectively.

The Weber River Region has the following water conservation goals/targets:

2030 - reduction to 200 gpcd, a 20% reduction from the 2015 Baseline of 250

2040 – reduction to 184 gpcd, a 26% reduction from the 2015 Baseline of 250

2065 – reduction to 175 gpcd, a 30% reduction from the 2015 Baseline of 250.

In 2024, WBWCD reported a per capita water use of 151 gpcd for Davis County, which includes treated water and secondary water, minus total return flows. This reflects progress toward the regional water conservation goals.

3

CHAPTER 03

WATER & GROWTH

Contents

Farmington Neighborhood and Foothills;
Photo by Carl Jensen

3.1 Vision Alignment

The Water Use and Preservation element aligns with the overall vision of Farmington's General Plan, captured in three focus initiatives. The initiatives provide a citizen-friendly guide to the General Plan and highlight the priorities and key topics the city will focus on when planning and making decisions about the community's future. Key aspects of each initiative related to the Water Use element are highlighted.

1

Initiative #1: Quality of Life & Community Wellbeing

Quality of Life and Community Wellbeing establishes a framework for promoting both individual and community wellbeing for all of Farmington.

- Create a healthy, attractive, and pleasant living environment for Farmington's residents.
- Foster cooperation and mutual understanding among citizens, business/commercial entities, institutions and the City.

2

Initiative #2: Community Heritage & Culture

Community Heritage & Culture establishes a framework for authentically celebrating and highlighting Farmington's rich history and beautiful setting.

- Facilitates the city's stewardship of the natural resources important to the community, including the Great Salt Lake and the Wasatch Mountains.

3

Initiative #3: Managed Growth Opportunities

Managed Growth Opportunities establishes a framework for maintaining Farmington as a cohesive community that honors its history while advocating for smart growth and modern innovations.

- Provide for harmonious, coordinated, and controlled development within the City to avoid undue impact on public facilities, public services, and the physical environment.

3.2 Water Conservation Goals & Future Development Patterns

Farmington's local water conservation goals are to maintain an average daily use of less than 75 gpcd for culinary water and to keep the peak daily consumption below 120 gpcd. On average over the past decade, the City has achieved these targets for peak daily consumption while consistently remaining below the target for average daily use (see Figure 3.1). Farmington City will continue to work closely with Benchland and WBWCD to conserve the use of secondary irrigation water. As more secondary connections become metered the City will be able to establish measurable goals for secondary water conservation. The City will strive to match the conservation targets of the Weber River Basin to reduce daily per capita use by 20 percent.

Farmington City will continue to grow, primarily through new development on undeveloped land or land previously used for agriculture. Future use designations reflect the potential for more than 5,000 dwelling units, as well as commercial, institutional, and light industrial uses within city boundaries. The majority of future growth will occur in Farmington's Transit-Oriented Neighborhoods on the west side of Interstate 15 and in the vicinity of Farmington Station. All new development in Farmington must follow the City's water efficient landscape standards.

While agricultural land remains in Farmington, preservation of large-scale productive agricultural use is not anticipated. However, some of these areas may develop under the City's conservation subdivision framework and retain small urban farming operations.

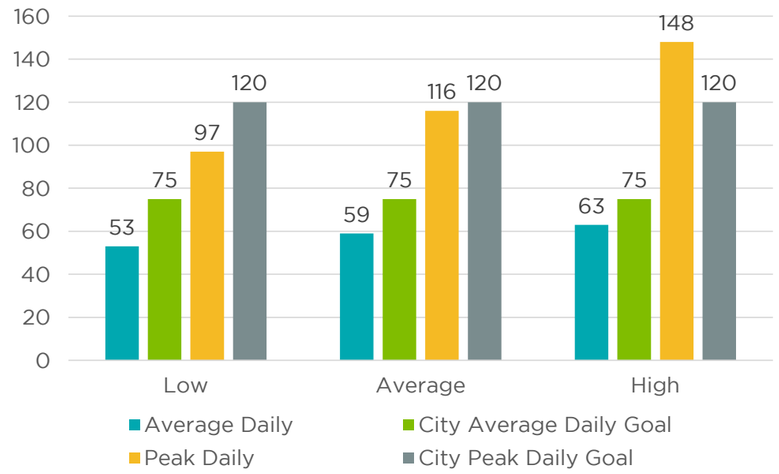


Figure 3.1: Average and Peak Daily Culinary Water Use & City Goals

3.3 Growth & Future Water Supply

3.3.1 Growth Projections

Farmington City works to maintain a realistic awareness of future growth to ensure its facilities, including water supply and water infrastructure, are adequate to support growth and new residents. As new land use and development patterns have emerged in the past ten to twenty years, Farmington collaborates with regional partners to calibrate and update future population projections. (see Figure 3.2)

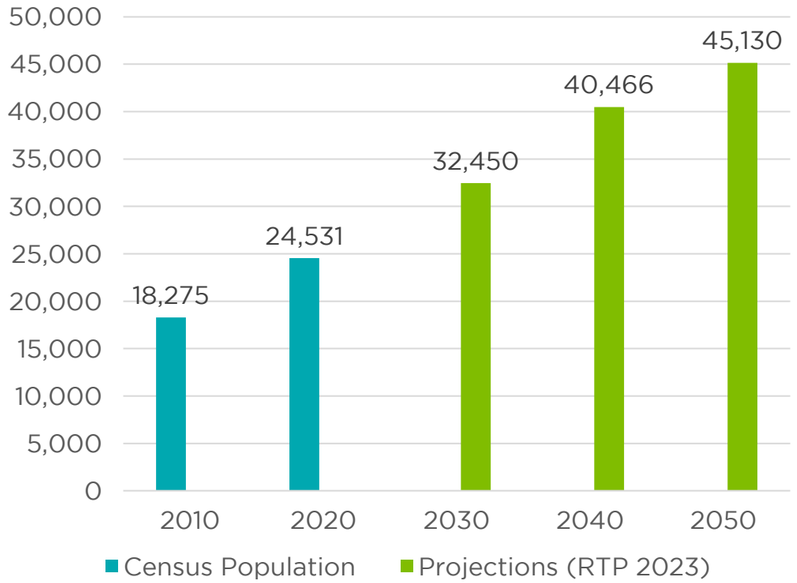


Figure 3.2: Population Projections

3.3.2 Future Water Supply

Farmington City will continue to provide most of the culinary water for the community. The city maintains water rights for surface water and underground wells and is currently constructing an additional well to support ongoing and anticipated future growth. These have been reliable sources of water for the City. Farmington is planning for the future with a diversity of water sources to accommodate future growth. With the maintenance of the current 501 AF/year contract with WBWCD, Farmington has 13,920 Acre-Feet (AF) of water rights available for meeting future estimated culinary water demands (0.45 AF/Year per ERC; See Figures 3.3 and 3.4)

Secondary water will continue to be supplied through outside entities. Farmington City collaborates with these providers to ensure an adequate supply of secondary water is available for the irrigation needs of current and future planned development. A diversity of sources is used to help provide a reliable supply of water for these systems. With ongoing conservation, and a shift in development patterns leading to reduced irrigated aceage, the estimated secondary demand per connection is projected to decrease. The future water demand projections/water budget are shown in Figure 3.5.

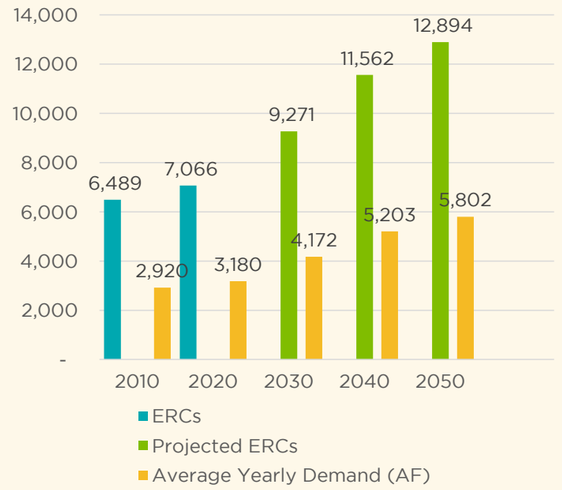


Figure 3.3: Projected Equivalent Residential Connections (ERCs) and Average Culinary Demand

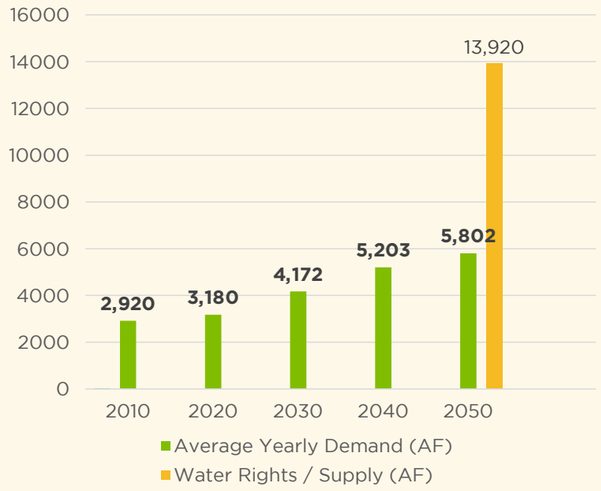


Figure 3.4: Culinary Demand Projections vs. Supply

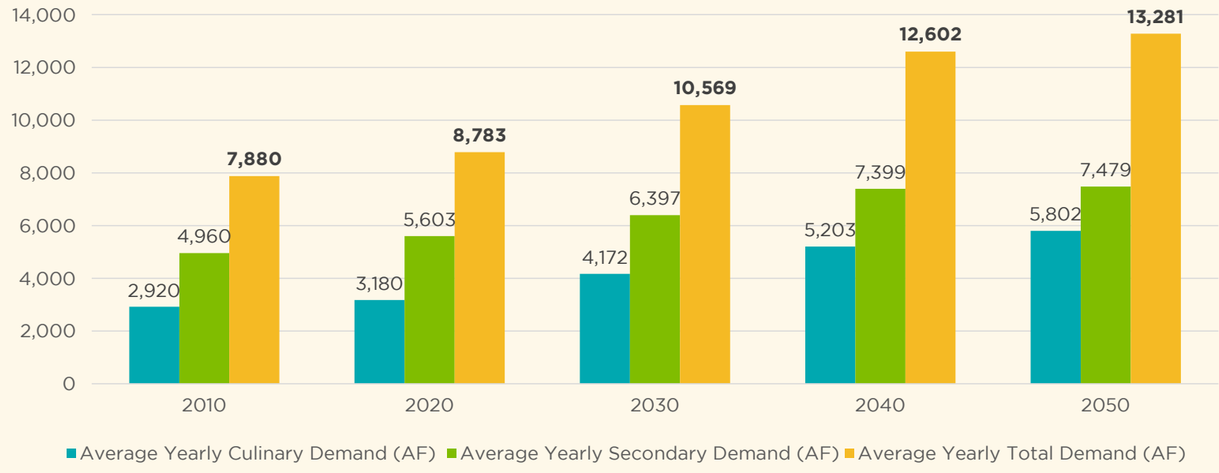


Figure 3.5: Future Water Demand Projections / Water Budget

Mixed use development and transit-oriented growth areas in west Farmington; Photo by CenterCal

3.4 Water Conservation Efforts

SUCCESS STORIES

In 2005, Farmington set a goal to maintain an average daily use near 100 gpcd for culinary water. Based on a combination of strategies and efforts, Farmington has consistently achieved this goal. A few of the conservation efforts supporting achievement of this goal are highlighted in these success stories.

1. Landscape Ordinance Updates
2. Water Rate Structure (Culinary)
3. Community Participation
4. Secondary Water Connection Requirements
5. Education Campaigns
6. Open Space Conservation
7. Conservation Subdivision Overlay Zone
8. Transit-Oriented and Mixed-Use Development Patterns

1 - LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE UPDATES

In June 2023, Farmington City passed a water-efficient landscape ordinance, which updated the City's landscaping requirements, to promote water conservation. The updates focus on new residential, commercial, and multi-family developments, as well as modifications to existing properties. A previous version of the ordinance, adopted in 2022, focused on requirements for commercial and multi-family development.

2 - WATER RATE STRUCTURE

Beginning in 2020, Farmington adopted and implemented a rate structure for its culinary water system. The base tier covers the connection and up to 5000 gallons per month. From there, three additional tiers reflect increasing costs per 1,000 gallons, based on consumption levels.

3 - COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

With an adopted waterwise ordinance in place, Farmington residents are eligible for several rebates and incentives that support water-wise practices. To date, residents have used rebates to install nearly 500 smart irrigation controllers and 56 low-flow toilets (2018 through August 2025). Additionally, residents have participated in landscape incentive programs, with 31 completed Landscape Lawn Exchange projects and 83 completed Flip Your Strip projects since 2022.

4 - SECONDARY WATER CONNECTION REQUIREMENTS

Farmington requires all new developments to connect to the secondary water system for irrigation use. This gives residents improved, reliable access to secondary water and decreases the demand on the city's culinary water supply.

5 - EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS

People learn and process information better in different ways: reading, hearing, watching, and seeing. Farmington has used a range of educational platforms and methods to provide water conservation tips and information about the resources and incentives available to the community. These methods include flyers in the monthly utility billing, articles in the City newsletter, and information on the website and social media.

6 - OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION

Through a range of methods, Farmington City has proactively worked to support the conservation of open space and natural resources. The wetlands of the Great Salt Lake and the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains are key targets, as well as riparian corridors on the five streams that flow through Farmington. These efforts support stormwater management, groundwater recharge, and reduce the acreage of land receiving supplementary irrigation.

7 - CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION OVERLAY ZONE

Enacted in 2014, Farmington City's Conservation Subdivision Overlay Zone provides design flexibility and incentives to develop neighborhoods in a way that protects sensitive lands, preserves and protects productive agricultural land, and supports open space conservation. This strategy leads to more water-efficient development patterns by clustering development and reducing individual lot sizes. The larger, shared open space areas typically have more water-efficient landscaping and native vegetation.

8 - TRANSIT-ORIENTED AND MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Farmington City has been planning and implementing more sustainable, water-efficient development patterns over the past 25 years. This includes transit-oriented development in the Farmington Station vicinity, as well as mixed residential developments and clustered housing neighborhoods throughout the city.

4

CHAPTER 04

POLICY GUIDE

Contents

4

Farmington creek in winter;
Photo by Lori F.

4.1 Introduction

The General Plan is centered on a policy approach to planning, which is reflected in the Community Goals, Policies, and Recommendations.

Community Goals reflect the priorities and aspirations for Farmington. Policies and Recommendations provide a framework for specific implementation actions to help achieve the Community Goals.

Policies and Recommendations will support one or more of the following:

Reducing water demand and per capita water use for existing development (EX)

Reducing water demand and per capita water use for future development (FD)

Water-wise practices by Farmington City (WWC)

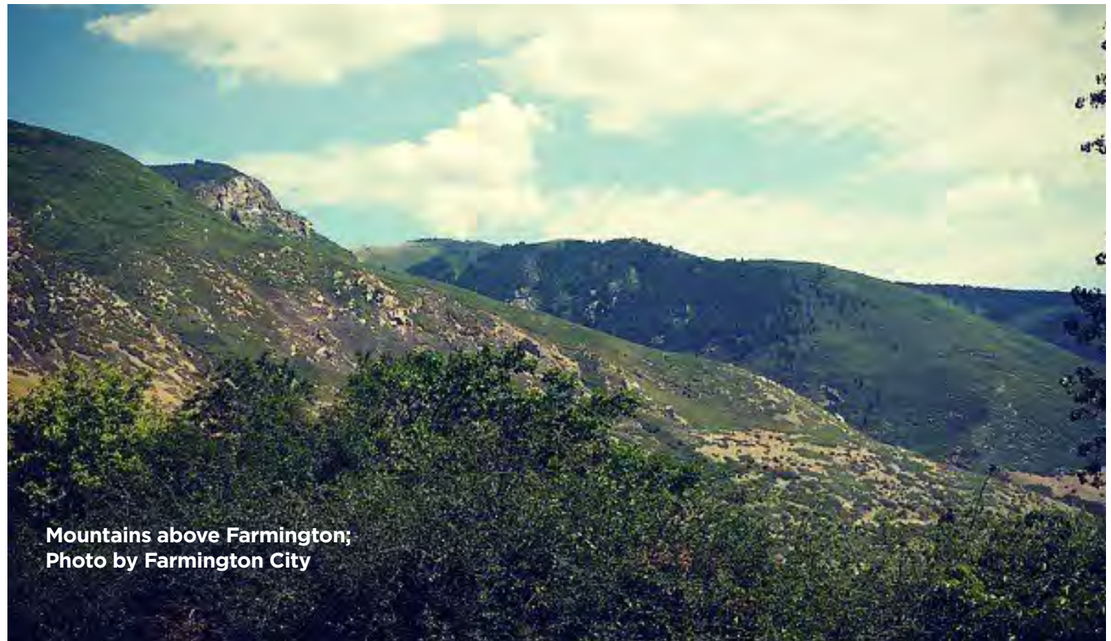
1

GOALS:
The Policy Guide begins with a set of overall Community Goals, reflecting the priorities and aspirations for Water Use and Preservation.

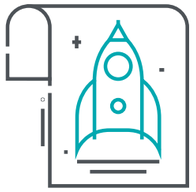
POLICIES & RECOMMENDATIONS:
Policies and Recommendations provide a framework for specific implementation actions to help achieve the Community Goals.

4.2 Community Goals

1. GOAL 1: Be a good steward of the City's culinary and secondary water resources.
2. GOAL 2: Help maintain regional watershed health and viability.
3. GOAL 3: Keep Farmington City a beautiful, well-maintained community while following water-wise practices.
4. GOAL 4: Aim to reduce peak water consumption levels.



Mountains above Farmington; Photo by Farmington City



4.3 Policies & Recommendations

4.3.1 ONGOING EFFORTS

1. Continue to use the City's various messaging and media platforms to communicate water usage trends, water conservation progress, and waterwise practices.
2. Continue to support a range of waterwise development patterns and land uses, focusing growth in identified mixed use centers and supporting conservation-based neighborhoods.
3. Continue to facilitate internal collaboration between the city's departments to ensure future land uses and population projections reflect the current General Plan and envisioned development patterns. Be consistent in education efforts, terminology, and communication.

4.3.2 SHORT TERM (1 TO 10 YEARS)

4. Ensure household size is evaluated and considered accurately in water use calculations and projections.
5. Ensure water is used efficiently at City facilities and parks.
6. Prioritize the maintenance, watering, and planting of trees to retain this key feature of Farmington's character.
7. Identify and confirm gaps in secondary water connections for existing development. Understand barriers to installing a connection and consider Incentivizing installation of a connection.
8. Review the city's allowed land uses and consider prohibiting, minimizing, or allowing only with conditions, uses that typically consume large amounts of water.
9. Coordinate to reduce storm water runoff and allow for recharging of groundwater, by ensuring appropriate grading, limiting impervious surfaces, and using landscaping/bioswales to capture stormwater.
10. Consider updating building standards to require low-flow fixtures and appliances in new construction and remodels.
11. Continue to collaborate with the City's secondary water providers on strategies and implementation measures to conserve irrigation water.
12. Evaluate the success of various community education programs and efforts to determine the most effective ways of communicating water conservation goals and strategies to the community.
13. Conduct system wide water audits to identify inconsistencies and potential inefficiencies in the City's water system.
14. Educate the community on the benefits of various development patterns and how they translate to water conservation.

4.3 Policies & Recommendations (continued)

4.3.3 LONG TERM (5 TO 15 YEARS)

1. Pursue grants and other funding to support and supplement incentive programs, innovative methods, and pilot/demonstration projects.
2. Research and consider pilot projects at city-owned facilities to demonstrate innovative, sustainable methods for water conservation, such as graywater recycling.
3. Consider supplementing existing rebate programs to further incentivize water conservation for existing neighborhoods. Establish campaigns to target Farmington's older homes and neighborhoods, which are more likely to have older, less-efficient fixtures and appliances. Have a friendly, incentive-based city-wide "contest" to encourage participation.
4. Consider conducting a pilot program of restricted lawn/landscape watering times to evaluate the impact on peak month usage patterns. Require as part of the City's extreme drought response strategy.
5. Consider special rate structures and metering during times of extreme drought.

Policies and Recommendations Framework Matrix	EX	FD	WWC
Communication and Education			
Continue to use the City's various messaging and media platforms to communicate water usage trends, water conservation progress, and waterwise practices.	■	■	■
Educate the community on the benefits of various development patterns and how they translate to water conservation.		■	
Evaluate the success of various community education programs and efforts to determine the most effective ways of communicating water conservation goals and strategies to the community.	■	■	
Monitoring and Measurement			
Conduct system wide water audits to identify inconsistencies and potential inefficiencies in the City's water system.	■	■	■
Identify and confirm gaps in secondary water connections for existing development. Understand barriers to installing a connection and consider Incentivizing installation of a connection.	■	■	
Consider special rate structures and metering during times of extreme drought.	■	■	■
Collaboration			
Continue to facilitate internal collaboration between the city's departments to ensure future land uses and population projections reflect the current General Plan and envisioned development patterns. Be consistent in education efforts, terminology, and communication.		■	■
Continue to collaborate with the City's secondary water providers on strategies and implementation measures to conserve irrigation water.	■	■	■
Water Use Practices			
Ensure water is used efficiently at City facilities and parks.			■
Prioritize the maintenance, watering, and planting of trees to retain this key feature of Farmington's character.	■	■	■
Consider conducting a pilot program of restricted lawn/landscape watering times to evaluate the impact on peak month usage patterns. Require as part of the City's extreme drought response strategy.	■	■	■
Update building standards to require low-flow fixtures and appliances in new construction and remodels.		■	■
Development Patterns and Land Uses			
Continue to support a range of waterwise development patterns and land uses, focusing growth in identified mixed use centers and supporting conservation-based neighborhoods.		■	
Ensure household size is evaluated and considered accurately in water use calculations and projections.		■	
Review the city's allowed land uses and consider prohibiting, minimizing, or allowing only with conditions, uses that typically consume large amounts of water.		■	
Coordinate to reduce storm water runoff and allow for recharging of groundwater, by ensuring appropriate grading, limiting impervious surfaces, and using landscaping/bioswales to capture stormwater.	■	■	■
Incentives and Innovation			
Consider supplementing existing rebate programs to further incentivize water conservation for existing neighborhoods. Establish campaigns to target Farmington's older homes and neighborhoods, which are more likely to have older, less-efficient fixtures and appliances. Have a friendly, incentive-based city-wide "contest" to encourage participation.	■	■	■
Pursue grants and other funding to support and supplement incentive programs, innovative methods, and pilot/demonstration projects.	■	■	■
Research and consider pilot projects at city-owned facilities to demonstrate innovative, sustainable methods for water conservation, such as graywater recycling.			■

Farmington Bay;
Photo by Kevin Hixson

Farmington Water Use and Preservation Plan Acknowledgments

MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL
Brett Anderson, Mayor
Roger Child
Scott Isaacson*
Melissa Layton
Alex Leeman*
Amy Shumway

PLANNING COMMISSION
Frank Adams, Chair*
Tyler Turner, Vice Chair
Scott Behunin
Joey Hansen
George “Tony” Kalakis
Spencer Klein
Kristen Sherlock
Brian Shepard, Alternate
Eve Smith, Alternate

CITY STAFF
Brigham Mellor, City Manager*
David Petersen (Former Community Development Director) *
Lyle Gibson, Community Development Director*
Shannon Hansell Griewe, City Planner/GIS Specialist*
Carly Rowe, Planning/Zoning Secretary
Chad Boshell, City Engineer*
Jody Peeters, Communications Specialist

CONSULTANT
FFKR - Planning & Landscape Studio

REGIONAL COLLABORATION
Weber Basin Water Conservancy District
State of Utah Division of Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources
State of Utah Division of Drinking Water, Department of Environmental Quality
State of Utah Department of Agriculture

Funding support for the Water Use and Preservation Plan provided through the Division of Water Resources.

*General Plan Steering Committee member

FARMINGTON WATER USE AND PRESERVATION PLAN

AN ELEMENT OF THE FARMINGTON GENERAL PLAN

ADOPTED DECEMBER 2025