

Water Conservation at The Conservatory

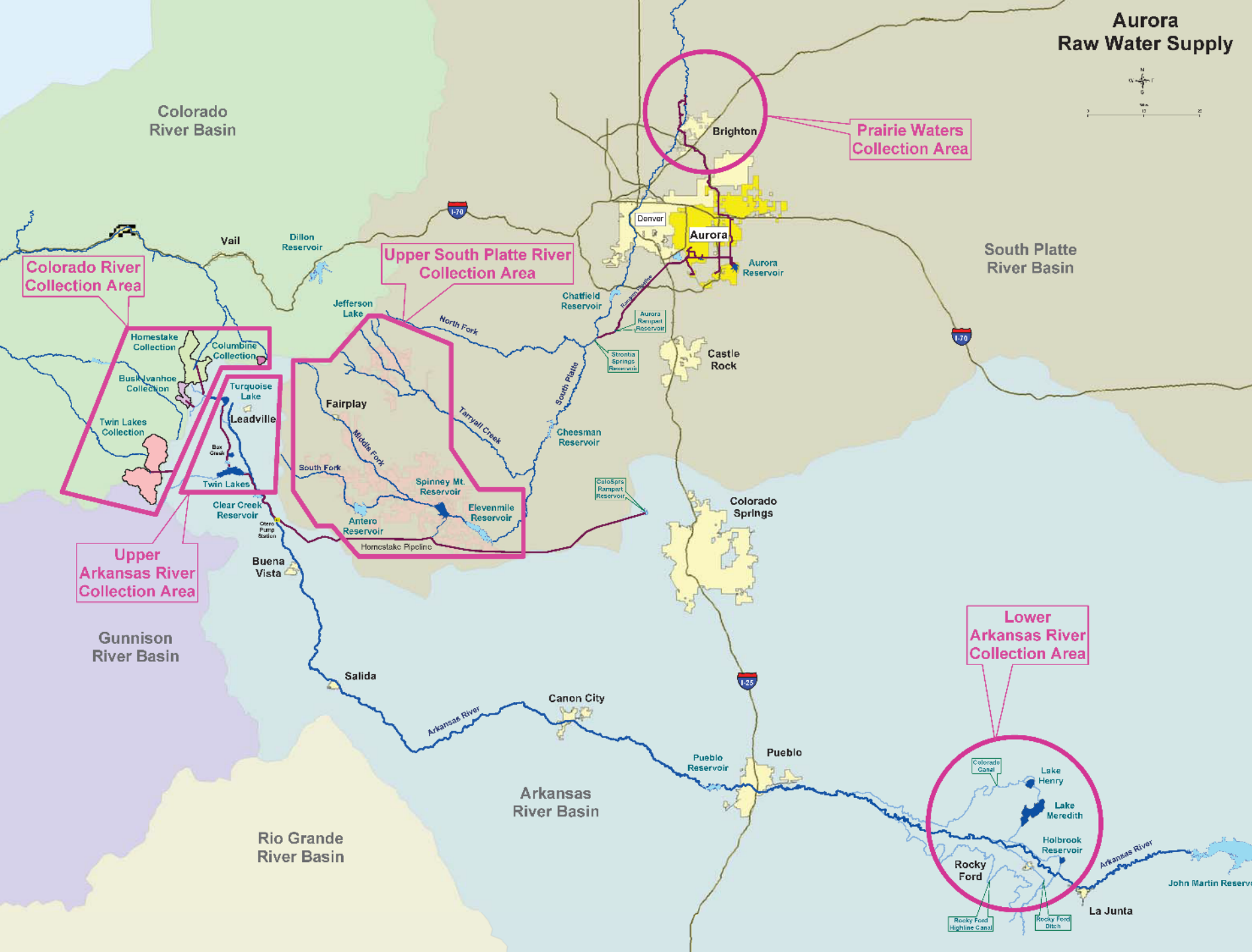
Diana Denwood
Water Conservation Supervisor, Aurora Water



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Where does Aurora's water come from?



- 25% Colorado River Basin
- 25% Arkansas River Basin
- 50% S. Platte River Basin
- 12 reservoirs across the state
- Water can travel up to 180 miles

Why Conserve?

Your bottom line

- Lower your bills (water is typically one of the highest bills paid by an HOA, maintenance costs are also reduced)

Aurora's bottom line

- Sustain our water resources as population increases
- Reduce impacts from drought
- Delay increases in water rates

Colorado's bottom line

- Sustain our water resources and industries



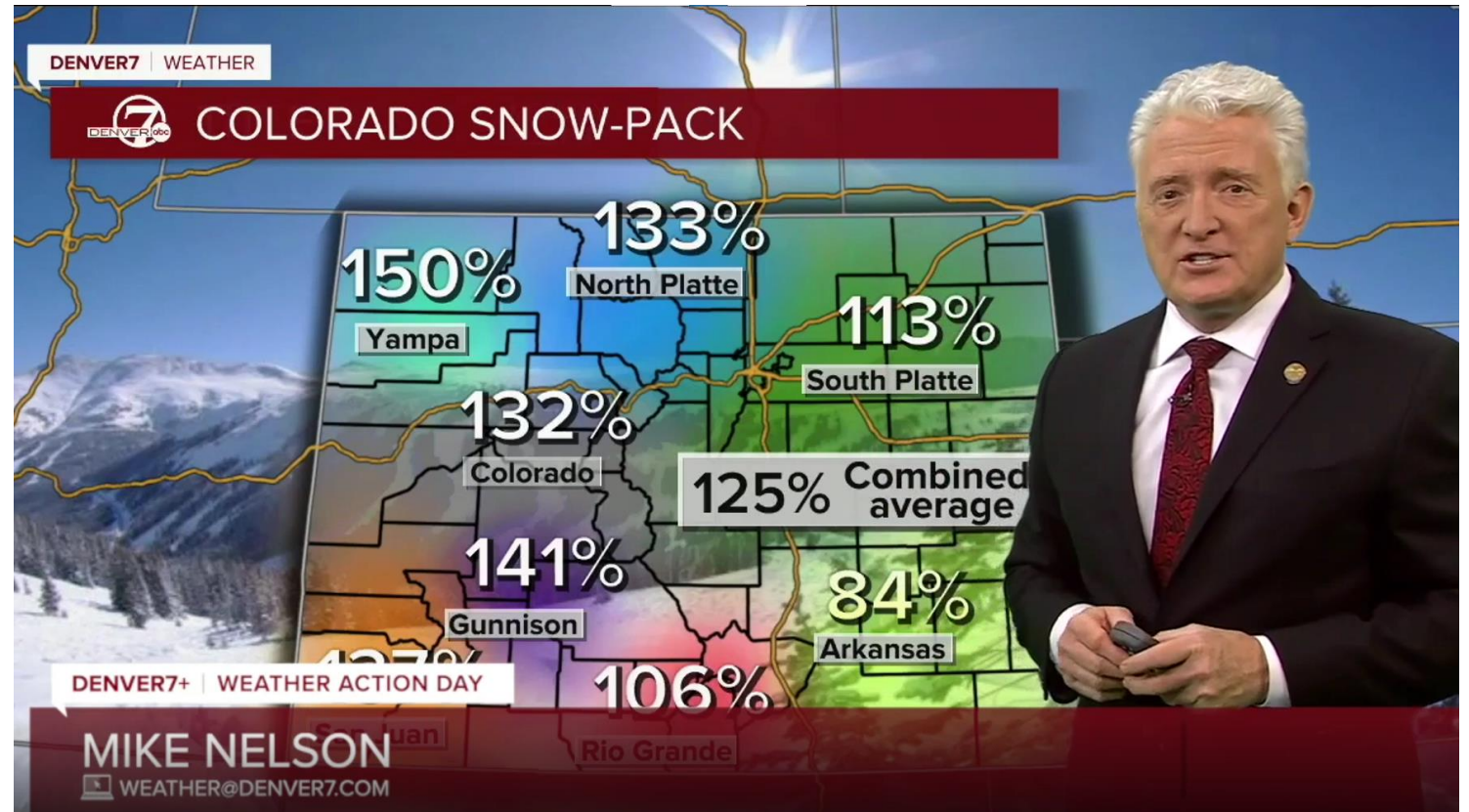
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Aurora Declares Drought starting May 1

How can we be in drought?

- Media reports on a statewide/basin wide averages
 - 114 snow measurement stations across Colorado
 - Aurora relies on is only 16 of the SNOTEL sites

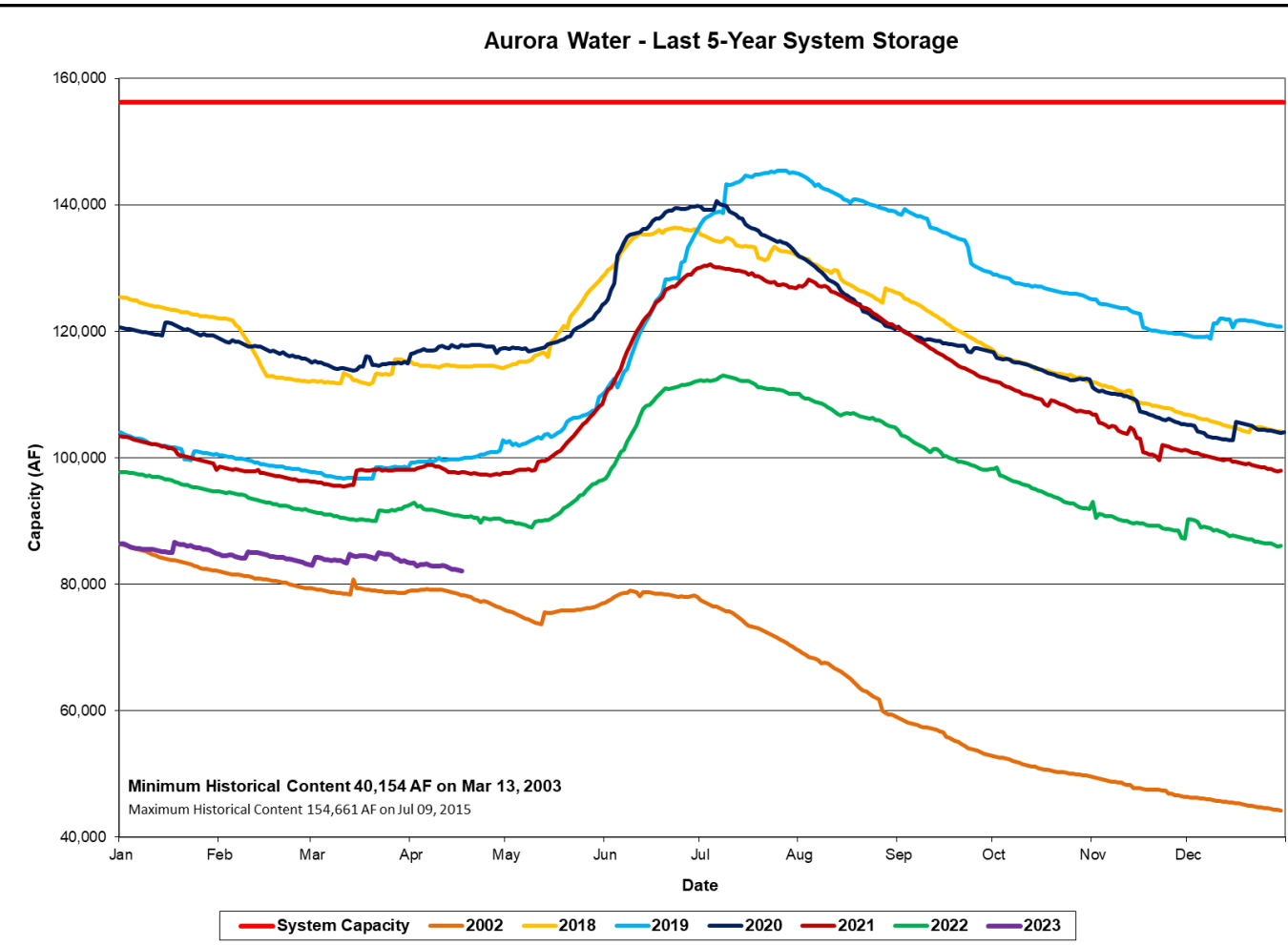


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WATER

Stage I Drought



- Watering maximum 2 days/week
- Variance program properties have a 20% use reduction goal
- Turf grass may go dormant (not dead)
- Aurora Code enforcement will not fine for dormancy
- HOA's cannot fine for dormancy per code

Learn more at AuroraGov.org/Drought

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Grass Dormancy

- Dormancy is hibernation, not death
- Temporary: no more than **4 weeks**
- Reduces water consumption by approximately 85% while dormant
- No foot traffic, mowing or fertilizing during dormancy
- Follow industry best practices for reviving turf after dormancy
- Visit our grass dormancy page



AuroraGov.org/Dormancy



Preparing Grass for Less Water

1. Don't overwater
2. Set mowers to highest setting
3. Mow less frequently
4. Avoid aeration and fertilization



Image source: Gilbethwild.com



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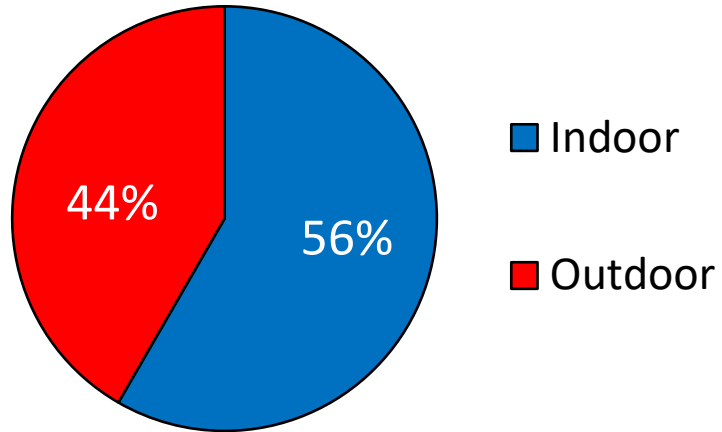
Indoor Water Use & Best Practices



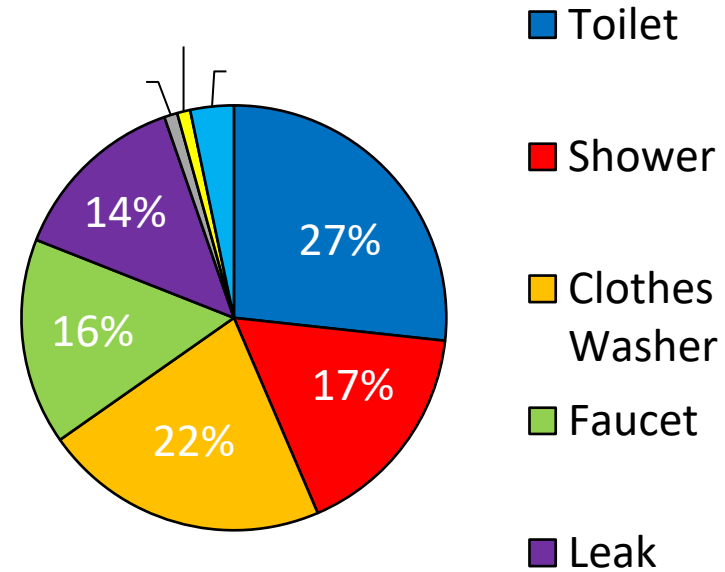
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Indoor vs Outdoor Use



Indoor Use Only



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1,250 gallons per person per month is considered efficient indoor use in Aurora.

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Indoor Conservation Standards



What is “efficient”?

- Showerheads 2.0 GPM or less
- Bathroom aerators at 1.0 GPM or less
- Kitchen/utility aerators at 2.0 GPM or less
- Toilets 1.28 GPF or less



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Indoor Conservation Best Practice: Check for Leaks



Toilet tank parts ~ 5 year life

Pressure assist tanks ~ 10 year life

Leaks are often silent, check your
toilets at least once a year



**Leaks never get better, they only get
worse!**

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Efficiency Best Practice: Upgrade Toilets

1.28 GPF is the
Colorado standard



0.8 is the Aurora
rebate standard



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Get the Word Out

- Newsletter
- Postcards
- Flyers on doors



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Outdoor Water Use



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Irrigation Efficiency Best Practices:

The best irrigation systems have all of these elements:

1. Understand the property
2. Proper scheduling
3. Efficient parts
4. Communication



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Irrigation Efficiency Best Practices: Understand the Property

1. Irrigation assessment
2. Sprinkler schedule
3. Mapping

Shut-off valves
Backflows
Meters
Controllers
Rain sensors

Zone map
Looped system?
Maintenance
boundaries



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Irrigation Efficiency Best Practices: Proper Scheduling

WATERING MONTHS Para obtener instrucciones en español, visite AuroraWater.org	POP-UPS	ROTOR HEADS	ROTARY
	MINUTES PER ZONE / 3 TIMES PER DAY		
MAY 2 days per week	4	8	12
JUNE 2 days per week	7	13	21
JULY 3 days per week	5	10	15
AUGUST 3 days per week	5	9	14
SEPTEMBER 2 days per week	6	11	17

Cycle and Soak

- 60 minutes in between cycles

Permanent restrictions

- Off between 10 and 6
- Max 3 days/week



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Irrigation Efficiency Best Practices: Efficient Parts

Efficient parts:

- pressure regulation
- “smart” systems
- rotary nozzles

Rebates available

- Smart controllers
- Nozzles
- Bodies
- Rain sensors



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Irrigation Efficiency Best Practice: Communication

Appoint board member to do primary communications

Break Action Plan:

- Who do you call first?
- Immediately access the backflow prevention device to shut it off
- Make repair
- Test the system



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Large Property Variance Program

- Allows HOA to water 7 days per week (**each zone max. 3 days**)
- Usage is monitored, usage emails are sent monthly to contact

Requirements:

- Multifamily, HOA or Commercial
- Min. 20,000 sq ft

Your HOA
is participating in the
**LARGE PROPERTY WATER
VARIANCE PROGRAM**



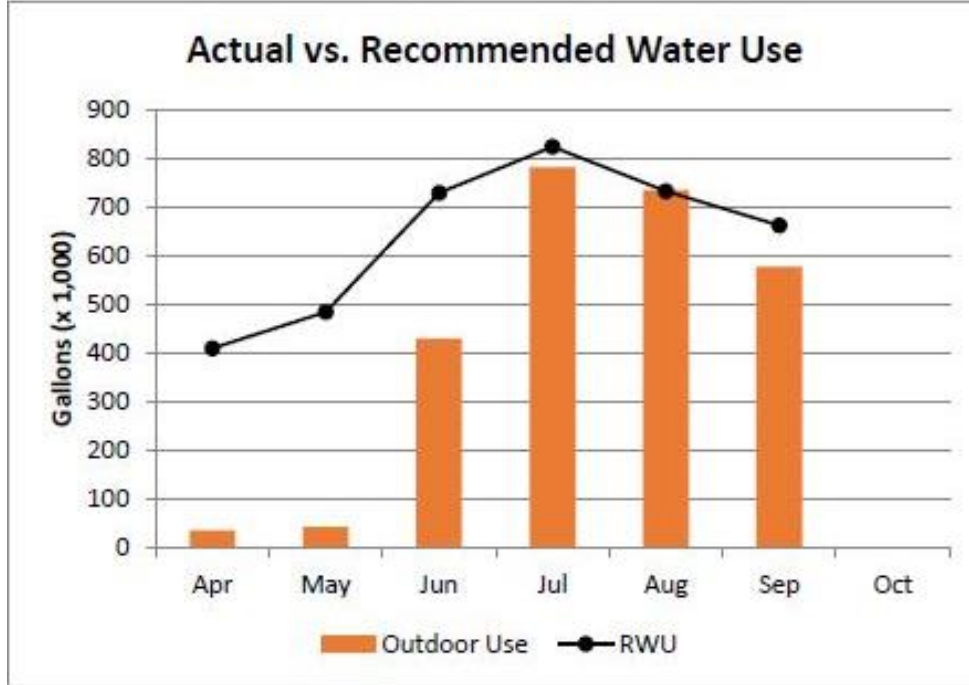
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2023

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Variance Program Communications



Month	Actual Use (gal x 1,000)	RWU (gal x 1,000)	% of RWU
Apr	35	409.5	9%
May	43	483.7	9%
Jun	430	728.4	59%
Jul	781	823.3	95%
Aug	734	732.0	100%
Sep	577	662.0	87%
Oct			
Total	2600	3838.8	68%



Square feet of turf grass: 149,459

Square feet of water-wise landscape: 53,930

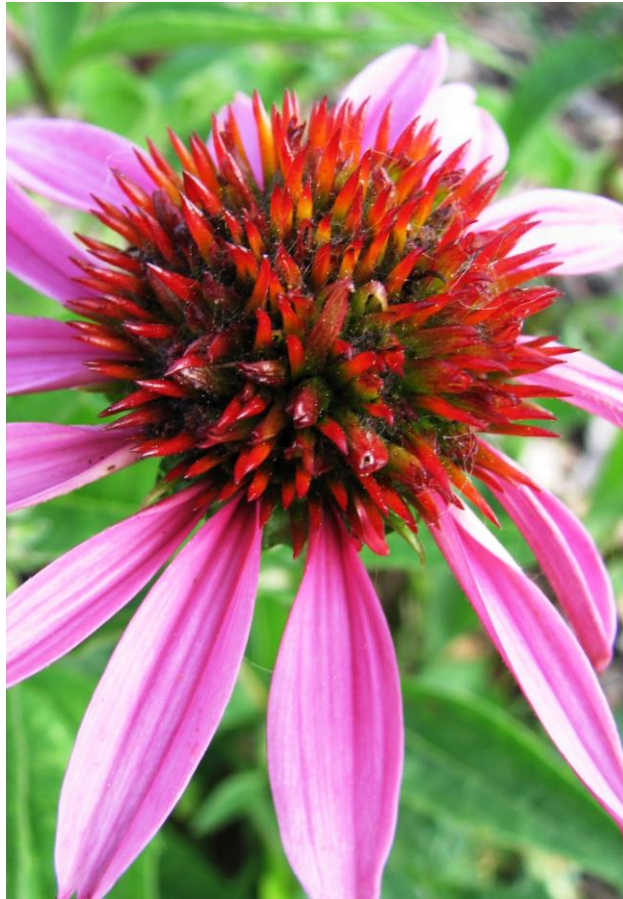
Billing Period: 8/6/2018 to 9/5/2018

of Days: 30

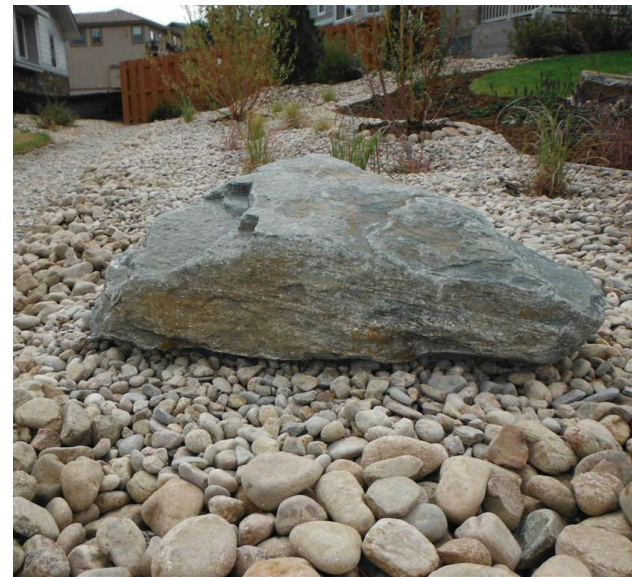
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Water-wise Landscapes



What is Water-wise? Not this.



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This is Water-wise!



Water-wise Landscapes

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Grass Replacement Incentive Program

- Remove healthy grass and install a water-wise landscape
 - HOA's: Max. \$50,000
 - Residents: Max. \$4,000 (\$1,000 of which can be used for labor or tool rental)
Front yards only
- Two-year payment schedules



GRIP Rebate General Process

1. Start application (online)
2. Submit a design and itemized project estimate
3. Obtain approval and pre-approved rebate amount
4. Begin work
5. Schedule and pass inspections
6. Complete work
7. Submit receipts

Pay close attention to application and installation deadlines.



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Free Classes



Topics:

- Water-wise gardening
 - Sprinklers and drip
 - Composting
 - Discover water-wise plants tour
 - Pollinators and bee condos
- ...and more

Sign up at auroragov.org/waterclasses

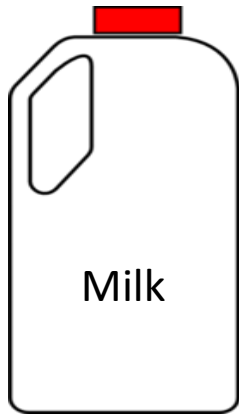
Thank you!



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Water cost comparisons



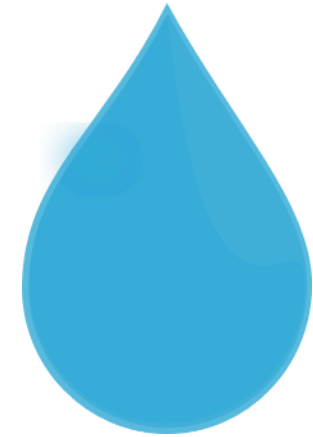
\$3.49/gallon



\$3.16/gallon



\$1.00/gallon



\$0.006/gallon
(delivered)

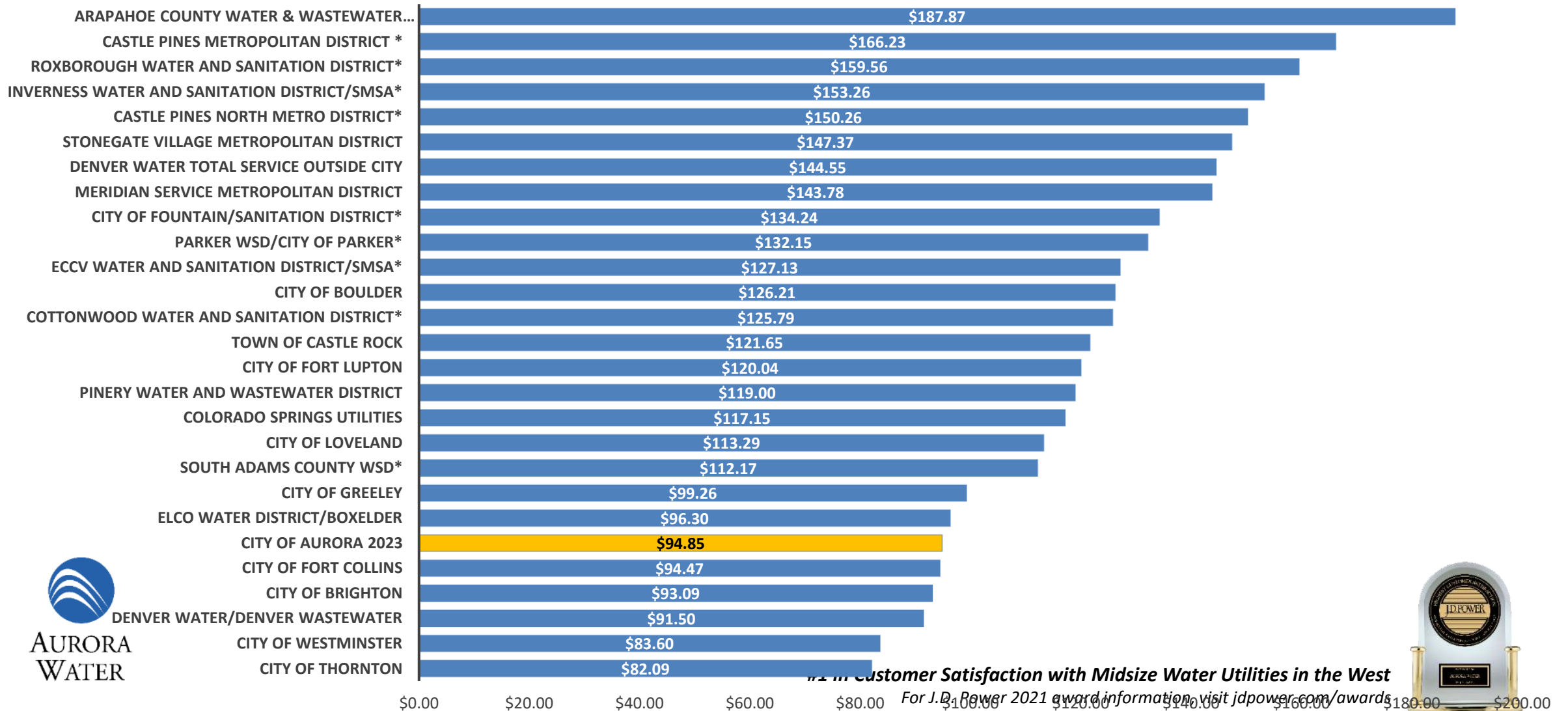


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Monthly Average Water, Sewer & Storm Bill Comparison 2023

88,000 gallons a year, 4 people house , 7,700 sq. ft. lot size, 4,230 Irrigable Area



Aurora Sports Park



Before



After



After

Parks, Recreation and Open Space