

# Water festival makes a splash in Cedar City

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By Haven Scott St. George Daily Spectrum

The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District held its first Water Festival at the Main Street Park on Saturday, soaking everyone looking for a way to beat the heat and learn about conservation.

The event had several booths from vendors displaying information for more efficient sprinkler systems, free food for the community, a fire engine hosing down children squealing in delight, numerous water balloon fights, to displays set up to educate children and their parents — everything water related.

Paul Monroe, general manager of CICWCD, said it might sound odd that a company dedicated to conservancy is out hosing down children, but the water used for the event is really not that much.

“We went back and crunched the numbers and it takes approximately 36,264 gallons of water to water Main Street Park and give it a half inch of water, which is standard for this time of year,” he said. “Our estimates of the water that will be used for today’s event will be about 6,000 gallons, roughly a sixth of what we would use in one day. It is sunny so some of that will evaporate but the rest is going straight into the lawn so we don’t consider it wasting the water.”

There has been drought in recent years and the CICWCD has installed new smart controllers in Hillcrest, Ridge and Three Peaks Elementary parks, saving 1.2 million gallons of water in just three months, Monroe said.

“Water is life; we are trying to promote conservation,” he said. “The event is an effort to get people to come and look at the resources that are available to them. There is a lot of new technology out there and we needed to have an event to showcase that for homeowners and businesses. We do a similar event for fourth graders in the area – we thought this would be a good event to educate the public as well. We are trying to show what these smart controllers can save. The amount of water we are using today is very minimal to what we have saved already.”

Candace Schaible, landscape educator for CICWCD, said residents with sprinklers can contact the district for a free evaluation of their systems to see if they are wasting water.

“We turn your system on and spread out cups to measure how much your system is putting out,” she said. “Then we will detail you a plan on how much you need to water, when and for how long. It just makes life easier on the homeowner. We get a lot of great feedback from those who have had the evaluation because a lot of people are not educated on when and how to water their lawns, or how much a lawn needs to survive without wasting water.”

Susan Leslie with sustainable operations in the Dixie National Forest Service told children about the dangers of polluting natural water resources.

“We are showing the children about water sheds and how to protect them,” she said. “We use a model showing how when it rains and snows it goes up on the mountain first, then comes back down into the streams, lakes and aquifers. And we teach them that is where we get our drinking water, so to pollute those with pesticides or waste is dangerous for us.”