

What is Enoch City doing to conserve water in Cedar Valley?



**ANSWERED BY:
ROB DOTSON**
City Manager, Enoch City



Iron County Water Stewards

Answering Community Questions

Get to Know Your H2O: Central Iron County Water Conservancy District appreciates questions submitted by community members about the Pine Valley Water Supply Project and local water needs. As part of its role as steward of water in Cedar Valley, the District is working with a group of experts, community members and elected officials to help prepare viable solutions for the future and to respond to community questions and concerns about emergent water issues.

This week's question from the community is answered by Rob Dotson, City Manager of Enoch City.

Question: What is Enoch City doing to conserve water in Cedar Valley?

Answer: Enoch City is working to conserve water in a variety of ways, including reducing public-space water use by adding smart controls, removing grass from unused areas, and testing new technologies that potentially reduce consumption.

A significant and noticeable effort this spring will be the removal of 13,000 square feet of grass from the city office property. The lawn will be replaced with desert-hardy plants and drip irrigation. At an average homeowner water usage of 30 gallons per square foot per year, the project has the potential to save 390,000 gallons of water (or 1.2 acre-feet) per year.

The city is currently examining the uses of all city properties to determine whether existing turf is useful or should be removed. Additional properties will be amended as we continually look for opportunities to conserve.

Systematically reducing turf and amending areas to beautiful xeriscaping is a current priority for Enoch City to mitigate the overuse of water. It is the right thing to do, whether we are in a drought or not.

The city is also contributing to water optimization research efforts by participating in a Responsive Drip Irrigation study at the Jones Memorial Park. The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District helped fund the project to test the most efficient methods for watering large public lawns. The results are still being evaluated, but Enoch City is working to provide beautiful, functional public spaces while conserving as much water as possible.

The city is also examining current rate structures and reviewing new possibilities that can promote conservation, while also paying for additional water sources and system upgrades. Tying water rates to water rights and conservation is complex, yet very fair.

All residents can also do their part to help save water. With our busy lives, we have technology to make our lives less "busy," so we set a timer and stop thinking about our lawn watering schedule. Being aware of water usage and maintaining intentional control of needed water use, specifically outside, can help control the overuse of water. It can be our civic duty to learn about proper water use and change our water use habits.

As stated previously, the average Iron County homeowner uses 30 gallons per square foot of lawn per year but should only be using on average 19 gallons per square foot each year. Multiple studies show that overuse of water can actually harm lawn and other plant health.

Good resources to help us educate ourselves are available. The USU Extension Service and Central Iron County Water Conservancy District offer free summer water checks, which can be scheduled at www.cicwcd.org. We can learn more about responsible water habits at the website <https://extension.usu.edu/cwel/>.

ENOCH CITY OFFICE BUILDING
LAWN REMOVAL PROJECT

1 SQUARE FOOT LAWN = AVERAGE HOMEOWNER USAGE OF 30 GALLONS PER YEAR

REMOVING 13,000 SQ. FT. LAWN = POTENTIAL *390,000 GALLONS PER YEAR SAVINGS

(*NOTE: DOESN'T ACCOUNT FOR WATER WISE PLANTS THAT WOULD REPLACE TURF)

CENTRAL IRON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
CICWCD.ORG

Several special interest groups have recently moved their focus to Cedar Valley water and have been spreading misinformation. The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District was created by a vote of Cedar Valley residents more than two decades ago. It has consistently been dedicated to developing and stabilizing the valley's water supply through conservation, recharge, reuse, and importing of water for the benefit of all current and future water users in the region. The District utilizes scientists, experts and professionals to understand the valley's underground aquifer and to determine responsible solutions for the community as it strives to meet local water challenges. For reliable information on the Pine Valley Water Supply Project specifically and the Cedar Valley's water situation in general, please visit <https://cicwcd.org/>. For more detailed information about the Pine Valley Water Supply Project and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, please visit <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/1503915/570>.

GET TO KNOW YOUR



CENTRAL IRON COUNTY
WATER CONSERVANCY
DISTRICT

March 30, 2022