

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 the



How do monsoon storms affect the drought?



Central Iron County Water Conservancy District.

Question: How do monsoon storms affect the drought?

Answer: Last year, the Cedar Valley area experienced extreme flooding and residents stepped up in extraordinary ways to help their neighbors. We are proud to be part of a community that cares for and works hard to help each other when difficult times arise.

Monsoon storms do help the drought in small ways. For example, summer storms help soil moisture in the area which allow winter snow to become more usable. However, monsoon storms are often isolated and deliver large quantities of water very quickly. The water is difficult to capture and put to use due to the high amount of sediments and debris it carries. Much of the water from these summer storms flows out of the cities to Quichapa and Rush Lakes and eventually evaporates in the silty lakes.

What can community members do to make these monsoon storms count? Well, the easiest way is to turn off your sprinkler systems for a few days after it rains. Take advantage of mother nature's free sprinkler system. Doing this will reduce our need to pump water from the aquifer. Residents can also use the Utah Division of Water Resources' Weekly Lawn Watering guide to see how much water their lawn needs each week.

There are some other ways you can help capture and use that water that may also help minimize flooding. One of those is to install rain barrels at



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your home. We don't get to use them often here in the desert, but when the rains come, rain barrels can help us make use of that water. And, contrary to popular belief, it is not illegal to capture rainwater. Just make sure to fill out a free registration with the Utah Division of Water Rights if you plan to collect more than 100 gallons.

Residents can also install beautiful dry riverbed or rain garden features in their landscaping that capture runoff from roofs and sidewalks. This helps to recharge groundwater and to capture water before it overwhelms local storm drain systems. Learn more about rain gardens on the USU Extension's website.

Unfortunately, rain does not mean the drought is over; however, we can all do our part to make every drop count and optimize the water we do receive. Take advantage of the rain by turning off your sprinkler systems or make landscaping changes that can help capture rain for your use.



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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>.

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