CONCEPTS TO ENCOURAGE ADOPTION OF LANDSCAPE ORDINANCES

Utah Water Conservation Forum – May 16, 2019
## Estimated Cost to Achieve Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Regional Investment in M&amp;I Water Conservation by 2030</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bear River</td>
<td>$199,700,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green River</td>
<td>$37,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower Colorado North</td>
<td>$61,900,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower Colorado South</td>
<td>$358,300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provo River</td>
<td>$791,800,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salt Lake</td>
<td>$901,300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sevier River</td>
<td>$77,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Colorado</td>
<td>$46,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weber River</td>
<td>$786,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3.26 Billion</strong></td>
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Headwinds to Ordinance Adoption

Perception
Utah’s turf grass culture
Cost considerations
Lack of resources
Land use jurisdiction
Politics
Residential Landscapes

- Encourage the adoption of the Localscapes® design approach.
- Keep lawn to 35% of the total landscaped area.
- Keep lawn areas free of obstructions such as trees, sign posts, and boulders.
Residential Landscapes

- Design model homes with water-efficient landscaping or as a Localscape. Include informational brochures.
- Prohibit Homeowners Associations from enforcing any covenants that require lawn in areas less than 8 feet wide or in other areas that exceed 35% of the total landscaped area.
Residential Landscapes

- Prohibit lawn in park strips and other narrow areas that are less than 8 feet wide.
Parkstrip Examples
Commercial Landscapes

• Outside of active recreation areas, keep lawn to 20% of the total landscaped area.
• Prohibit lawn in park strips, parking lot islands, or other narrow areas that are less than eight feet wide.
• Keep lawn areas free of obstructions such as trees, sign posts, and boulders; and avoid use on steep slopes.
• Submit new landscape projects to the city to ensure they meet city water conservation requirements and guidelines.
This is not what we’re asking you to do
Park strips & planted landscape strips in parking increase beauty.

Left:
UTA Parking Lot,
South Jordan, Utah

Right:
Parkstrip,
Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District,
West Jordan, Utah
Planted frontages draw attention

Great Harvest
Taylorsville, Utah
Simple Plant Palate w/ Varied Texture
Mass Plantings

Large-Flowered Perennials

Ornamental Grass
Lush Waterwise Landscape

Dense plantings hide imperfect maintenance.

It’s the mix of open spaces and abundance that make the landscape interesting.
Encourage Gathering Spaces

Courtyards and other networked spaces foster community for employees and the public.
Irrigation Design

- Cover bare soil with at least 3 to 4 inches of mulch. Avoid weed fabric.
- Water plants with drip irrigation using separate irrigation zones from lawn.
- Group plants with similar watering needs together.
- Have only one sprinkler type per zone.
- Use of EPA WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers with the ability to automatically adjust watering frequency
  - For large landscapes with multiple sites, use central irrigation control systems.
  - For smaller landscapes, including residential, use Wi-Fi smart controllers.
Irrigation Design

Picture of Commercial business watering during a rainstorm— as posted to Twitter by consumers (included the business name).
Savage Services
Bingham Junction Development
Midvale, Utah
Future Considerations

- Be more persuasive

- Continue developing and offering incentive programs

- Legislature decides to mandate

- Develop new water purchase contracts for newly annexed lands
  - Include waterwise landscaping requirements
  - Structure rates to reflect increasing cost of water
Cash rebates for homeowners who replace toilets that were installed before 1994.

Cash rebates for homeowners who convert grass park strips to water-efficient designs.

Cash rebates for homeowners who purchase a smart controller for their irrigation system.

Free consultations for homeowners wanting to improve the water efficiency of their yard.

Cash rewards and landscape plan reviews for those who complete Localscapes projects.

Apply today for a FREE consultation or cash rebates!

(Programs available throughout most of JVWCD’s service area)

utahwatersavers.com
Cost Comparison Example

The study compared the costs of a traditional landscape and a Localscape for the same 0.22 acre property

Example assumptions:
• The landscape plans were designed to show what it would take to get from a traditional landscape to a Localscape. Many of the design aesthetics, materials, and plants are shared between both plans.
• It is from the perspective of a single homeowner for an entire yard.
• The homeowner has a fixed budget for landscaping costs.
• The homeowner received 3 contractor bids and determined the cost of a DIY project.
## Example Bid Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bidder</th>
<th>Traditional Landscape</th>
<th>Localscape</th>
<th>Cost Difference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contractor A</td>
<td>$16,300</td>
<td>$18,300</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractor B</td>
<td>$15,679</td>
<td>$17,577</td>
<td>$1,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractor C</td>
<td>$23,300</td>
<td>$25,840</td>
<td>$2,540</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIY</td>
<td>$6,052</td>
<td>$7,925</td>
<td>$1,873</td>
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## Reward for Localscape Plan

**Total reward to the homeowner:**

$2,030.77

**10% of reward to the designer:**

$203.08

*Estimated designer fees: $1,000 ~20% of total fees*

**90% of reward to the contractor:**

$1,827.69

*Estimated contractor fees: $18,000 ~10% of total fees*

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*Reward amounts vary depending on the size of the project and the estimated water savings*

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**Project size:** 6,990 ft² (0.22 acre lot)

**Lawn area:** 1,958 ft²

**Planting bed area:** 4,088 ft²

**Hardscape area:** 944 ft²