

# 2021 WATER CONSERVATION FOR THE CITY OF CORTEZ

In 2004, the City passed Ordinance No. 1013, which permanently banned irrigation watering between the hours of 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM and is enforced from May 15<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup> every year. **In addition to the existing water restrictions, the Cortez City Council endorsed voluntary water restrictions at their regular meeting on May 27, 2021. These voluntary restrictions are shown below.**

## **NEW VOLUNTARY WATER RESTRICTIONS**

- 1. Watering restrictions will be enforced between April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> every year.**
- 2. Watering of yards and gardens will not be allowed between the hours of 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM.**
- 3. Watering days are designated by address: properties having an even street address may water on even calendar days and properties having an odd street address may water on odd calendar days. On the 31<sup>st</sup> day of months that have 31 days, no watering will be allowed.**

## **WATER-WASTING ACTIVITIES**

- Allowing water to escape from any premises onto public property, such as alleys or streets, or upon any other person's property.
- Washing vehicles, structures, driveways, sidewalks, parking areas, or other impervious surface areas with an open hose.
- Operating a permanently installed irrigation system with a broken head or emitter, or with a head that is spraying more than ten percent (10%) of the spray onto the street, parking lot, or sidewalk.
- Failing to repair a controllable leak, including a broken sprinkler head, a leaking valve, a leaking spigot, or a leaking supply line or pipe.

## **THE FOLLOWING CONSERVATION INFORMATION EXPLAINS THE BASICS OF HOW TO USE WATER WISELY**

The phrase **"Use Water Wisely"** is the focal point of water conservation and the City of Cortez continues to promote water conservation as an important part of daily water usage. Water conservation is important because fresh clean water is a limited resource.

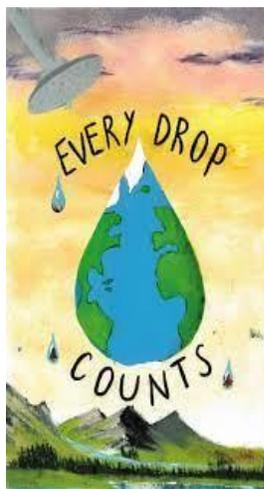
**Water Conservation Plan** - The City adopted a revised **Water Conservation Plan** in 2018 as a guide in the continuing effort to use water resources in the most efficient means possible. The 2018 Water Conservation Plan can be accessed on the City's website at: <http://www.cityofcortez.com/236/Water-Conservation>. The Plan contains information on the current level of water use in the City, with comparisons of historical usage, and the proposed programs the City provides in an effort to lower the per capita (per person) usage. In 2018, the average use per person was about 200 gallons per day. In 2019 we reached our goal of per capita usage of 180 gallons per day. However, in 2020, the average use per person was 185 gallons per day; this additional usage is probably attributed to the lack of monsoons and drought conditions last summer.

**In-Home Water Conservation** – There are many water conservation practices you can perform in the home that will save water which, in turn, saves you money. Some of these include: take quicker showers; don't let the water run while shaving or brushing your teeth; only run full loads of clothes or dishes; fix plumbing leaks immediately; and use a broom (not a hose) to clean driveways and sidewalks.

**No Wasted Water** – Do not allow hoses to run unattended; fix plumbing leaks immediately; fix leaking toilets; and report water main leaks in the street to the Public Works Department by calling 970.565.7320.

**LAWN WATERING CONSERVATION – BASIC LAWN WATERING CONSERVATION RULES:**

Lawns should be watered in the early morning between 3:00 AM and 7:00 AM or late evening between 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM. Since most water evaporates during the heat of the day, this helps to conserve our water supply. Wetting the soil 4 to 6 inches deep with several days between watering develops deep, solid roots. Residents should implement a *twice-a-week watering schedule* since lawns with deep root growth are more resistant to drought. Automatic lawn sprinklers can be programmed to meet these recommendations.



- Water lawns and landscaping only - not streets, sidewalks, or driveways.
- Avoid watering during windy weather - this wastes water due to increased evaporation and actually blows the water away from the area intended to be watered.
- Keep your grass height at 2½ to 3 inches - taller grass holds water better. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to form a temporary layer of mulch to conserve moisture.
- Mow often enough to cut only 25% of the length; this prevents excessive shock that causes grass to turn yellow.
- Monitor your lawn to water only when needed - typically when grass blades begin to look dull and bluish-gray.

**Xeriscaping** – When planning new areas for landscaping, consider flowers and plants that require less amounts of water to survive. In addition, residents can look into less water-intensive grass types such as fescues, blue gramma, wheat grass, and buffalo grass, which all use less water than bluegrass. The landscaping at the City Service Center in the Industrial Park is an example of Xeriscaping with a fescue grass plot, gravel beddings, and low-water usage plants.



**New Lawn Permit Available** – Anyone who plans to start a new lawn this year and wants to water between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. must get a “**New Lawn/Exemption from Watering Restrictions Permit**” from the Public Works Department in the City Service Center. The permit will allow daily watering between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for up to 21 days to start the grass growing.

There is a **\$25 charge** for this permit and it should be displayed prominently in the front yard. **If you do not need to water during the restricted watering period, a New Lawn Permit is not necessary.** There are many grass variety alternatives available that use less water, with each variety having different characteristics to consider. Check out the books and information on Xeriscaping at the Cortez Public Library for more information on which variety would be the best choice for your lawn.

**Contact the Public Works Department in the City Service Center  
110 West Progress Circle, Cortez, CO 81321,  
or call 970.565.7320 for more information.**

**Report water leaks in the street to the Public Works Department.**