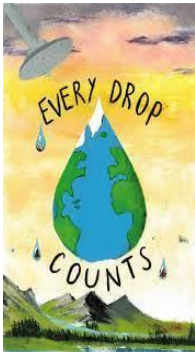


2021 WATER CONSERVATION FOR THE CITY OF CORTEZ

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. 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 15th through September 15th every year.** 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.

Violations – Cortez City Code Section 27-19: “**Wasting Water Prohibited**” concerns unattended hoses / watering systems, or excessive waste due to poor watering practices. This portion of the Code is strictly enforced. On the first violation, the water user will receive a warning. On the second violation, the user’s water will be turned off and requires a **\$50.00 turn-on fee** to have water turned back on. Should the City declare a water conservation emergency, restrictions will be specifically stated and notices delivered to residents as to the extent of necessary water conservation.



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/sidewalks.

Best Lawn Watering Practices – 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. Lawns with deep root growth are more resistant to drought. It is recommended that residents implement *twice-a-week watering schedule*. Automatic lawn sprinklers can be programmed to meet these recommendations. Do not allow hoses to run unattended.

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**” (**\$25 fee**) from the Public Works Department in the City Service Center.

**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.**