

Proposed changes to the Water Conservation Ordinance

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Water Conservation Ordinance History

- Originally passed in 1988, provided options for lowering water use during times of water scarcity
- After drought in 2002/2003, every other day watering based on address became baseline practice
- Water conservation staff enforce the ordinance including ensuring water is not wasted



Reclaimed Water Efficiency

- Request for increased reclaimed efficiency emerged from 2024 rate study process
- Reclaimed water is currently exempt from the water conservation ordinance
- Stakeholder group with participants from NAU, Aspen Valley Golf Course, COF Parks and Recreation, AZ Snowbowl, FUSD, Continental Country Club, Pine Canyon, Flagstaff Golf Course Maintenance Company



Reclaimed Efficiency Meetings and Discussions

- April 17, 2025 – Water Commission
- May 15, 2025 – Water Commission
- August 21, 2025 – Water Commission (ADWR & Turf efficiency)
- October 6, 2025 – Stakeholder meeting & Pine Canyon Tour
- March 19, 2026 – Water Commission



Reclaimed Water Workgroup October 6, 2026



Code changes for reclaimed irrigation

- Change to prohibit irrigating with reclaimed water between the hours of 9am to 5pm during the warmest months (May – September)
 - Recreational / golf turf may need occasional watering in the winter if conditions are very dry, must occur mid-day
- Reclaimed water uses cannot waste water
 - Definition: use or expend water thoughtlessly or carelessly, ex: allowing water to run into the street/gutter, allowing water to pool, irrigating during precipitation events, and failing to repair water leaks



Other restrictions

- HOAs cannot require residents to grow lawn – 36 months to comply
 - Staff research on CC&Rs
- Nonfunctional turf cannot be irrigated – 36 months to comply
 - Definition: turf located between a sidewalk and a street outside of a residential neighborhood, street-adjacent turf located in business frontage areas, turf between a parking lot and a roadway, turf in roadway medians, and turf in roundabouts.





Other restrictions

- Potable and reclaimed water cannot be used to fill artificial lakes larger than 1,000 square feet – existing maintained bodies of water grandfathered in
 - Functional bodies of water such as irrigation storage, wildlife tanks, pools / spas exempt
- Potable or reclaimed water cannot be sprayed into the air for decorative purposes – splash pads exempt





Administrative changes

- Community Development renamed to Planning & Development Services
- Exemption process for active / programmed athletic field turf
- 18 months violation free for resetting fines / surcharges

Thank you!

- Your feedback is welcome

