

Salt Lake County: Reducing our Water Footprint

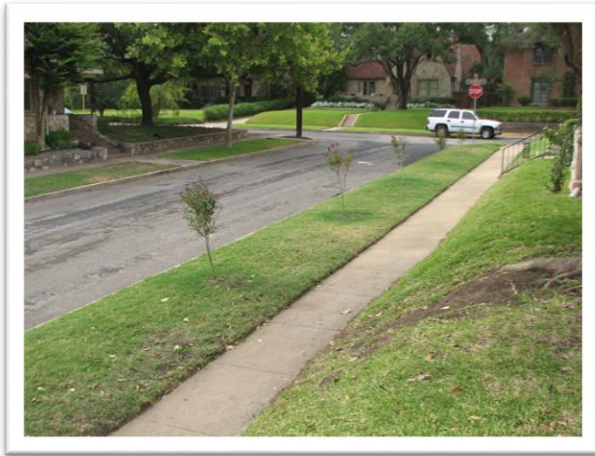
Lisa Hartman – Associate Deputy Mayor

Michael Shea – Sustainability Director

2022 Water Summit Recap

- Highlighted the serious nature of the drought for SLCo
- There is no “silver bullet” solution to address the drought
- It will take a collective effort of everyone – residents, businesses, governments, and others to engage in water conservation measures and strategies (both large and small)
- This presentation highlights one possible strategy for SLCo to pursue
- It is a collaboration between Facilities, Surveyor’s Office, Parks & Recreation, Libraries, Aging & Adult Services, and Office of Regional Development

Background



Parking strips

A parking or park strip is a narrow piece of land between the sidewalk and the street often used as a right of way for public utilities and traditionally planted with street trees and turf.



Parking lot islands

Parking lot islands are narrow strips that are used to interrupt the pavement expanse. Primary uses: to improve the visual appearance, reduce the “heat island effect,” and shade parked cars and pedestrians.

Problem

- **Turf parking strips and islands serve aesthetic & convenience use only**
- **On average they consume 5,000-8,000 gallons of water each year***
- **Most parking strips and islands are never used by the public**



* Source: Utah Water Savers

Problem

- The Mayor's Office worked with the Surveyor's Office to create a database of the thousands of individual parking strips and islands at County facilities
- They range in size from just a couple dozen square feet to thousands

The screenshot displays the 'SLCO Park Strips' web application. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Find address or place'. The main area is an aerial map showing a facility with several buildings and parking areas. A blue line highlights a specific parking strip. A popup window titled 'SelectedAreas_SLCO_2022: SALT LAKE COUNTY' is open over the highlighted area, displaying the following information:

Name	Holladay Lions Rec Center
Address	1661 E MURRAY HOLLADAY RD
Type	RECREATION CENTER
Landscape	Grass
Owner	SALT LAKE COUNTY
Municipali	MILLCREEK
Acres	0.07
Square Feet	3,087.51
Cost	24,700.05
Gallons Saved	86,450.18

Below the map is a table with the following columns: Name, Address, Type, Landscape, Municipality, Acres, Square Feet, Cost, and Gallons_Sa. The table contains four rows of data:

Name	Address	Type	Landscape	Municipality	Acres	Square Feet	Cost	Gallons_Sa
Holladay Lions Rec Center	1661 E MURRAY HOLLADAY RD	RECREATION CENTER	Grass	MILLCREEK	0.07	3,087.51	24,700.05	86,450.18
Holladay Lions Rec Center	1661 E MURRAY HOLLADAY RD	RECREATION CENTER	Grass	MILLCREEK	0.02	941.64	7,533.11	26,365.89
Mount Olympus Senior Center	1635 E MURRAY HOLLADAY RD	SENIOR CENTER	Grass	MILLCREEK	0.01	472.80	3,782.39	13,238.37
Mount Olympus Senior Center	1635 E MURRAY HOLLADAY RD	SENIOR CENTER	Grass	MILLCREEK	0.01	317.57	2,540.56	8,891.95

Salt Lake County Park Strip Database

Solution

- **Convert 132 strips at 39 different County facilities from turf to xeriscaping**
 - The selection of the strips was based on their large water footprint and geographic diversity of facilities across the County.*
 - Xeriscape areas require little or no irrigation with minimal ongoing maintenance expense. The strips and islands still fulfill their purpose without consuming excessive amounts of water.
- **Install targeted sprinkler systems at the Government Center**



6 *List subject to revision based on confirmation of parcel alignment with applicable municipal codes.

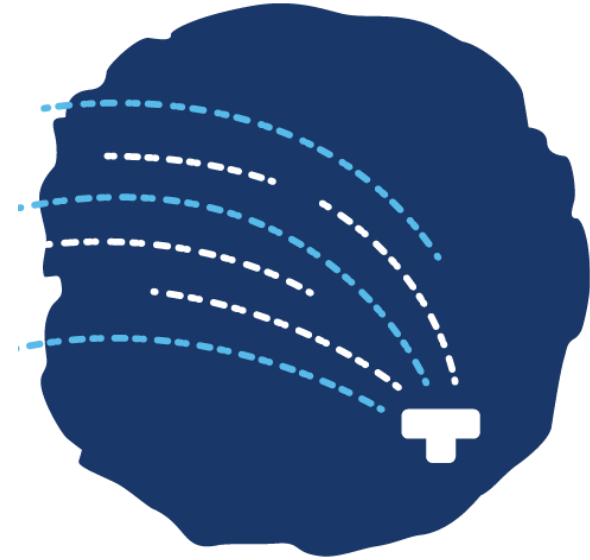
Solution

- **Cost**
 - Preliminary projected cost: \$2,000,000
 - ARPA eligible funds
- **Collaborate on Implementation**
 - Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District and local municipalities
- **Today's Proposal**
 - Solely for preliminary consideration
 - No action requested today

Outcome and Impact

Project

- 132 strips total about 3 football fields in size!
- This will help grow the County's water saving goal beyond 5% a year
- Salt Lake County will serve as an example of "best practices" in water consumption
- Message to the public: "If we can do it, so can you!"



Upon completion, the County will save approx. 5,295,000 gallons a year. That is the equivalent of roughly 8 Olympic-size swimming pools.

Questions?