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August 2023

Message from Director Laura Briefer

Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities is excited to reinvigorate our monthly Pipeline newsletter. It is our objective to provide additional timely information to the public about our key priorities and work. In addition to this newsletter, we are active on social media platforms, and within the community attending neighborhood and community council meetings. We love to hear what is on the mind of the public we serve concerning water, wastewater, stormwater, and street lighting.

In August each year, we celebrate World Water Week. This year, Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities continues its focus on innovation in water stewardship and resilience. Not only do we have a long-standing duty and obligation to steward and protect our water resources, we also have a responsibility to promote resiliency in our water systems and the natural environment to continue to provide lifeline services, such as drinking water and wastewater.

In Salt Lake City, we are fortunate to have a diverse number of water sources we can rely upon for drinking water – from our local mountain streams, to water stored in Deer Creek Reservoir, to groundwater sources. However, our water resources are vulnerable to drought, climate change, and pollution. We are addressing all of these challenges in our ongoing programs and projects. Being a good steward and planning to be resilient in the face of water challenges are priorities for our team.

There are many actions that all of us can take to protect our water resources and improve our community resiliency. Because it is August and the middle of our outdoor irrigation season when overall water demand increases, water conservation is a focus of this month's newsletter. Water conservation actions are often easier and quicker for the average community to implement, rather than larger-scale infrastructure changes. And, the best part is that water conservation habits have a direct and significant impact on our ability to extend our water supply, improve our ability to adapt to



changing conditions, and protect the Great Salt Lake.

That's where innovation comes in. There is no one "right" way for Salt Lakers to realize their capacity to conserve; but conserve we must. One of Mayor Mendenhall's goals for our City is to "be more responsive to and resilient in the face of climate change and ongoing drought." Water conservation is clearly a significant part of increasing our resiliency. Different conservation methods work better than others, depending on a variety of factors. What works best for you might not work as well for your neighbor. That is why Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities is proud to offer a menu of conservation tools to help our community in their personal water conservation efforts.

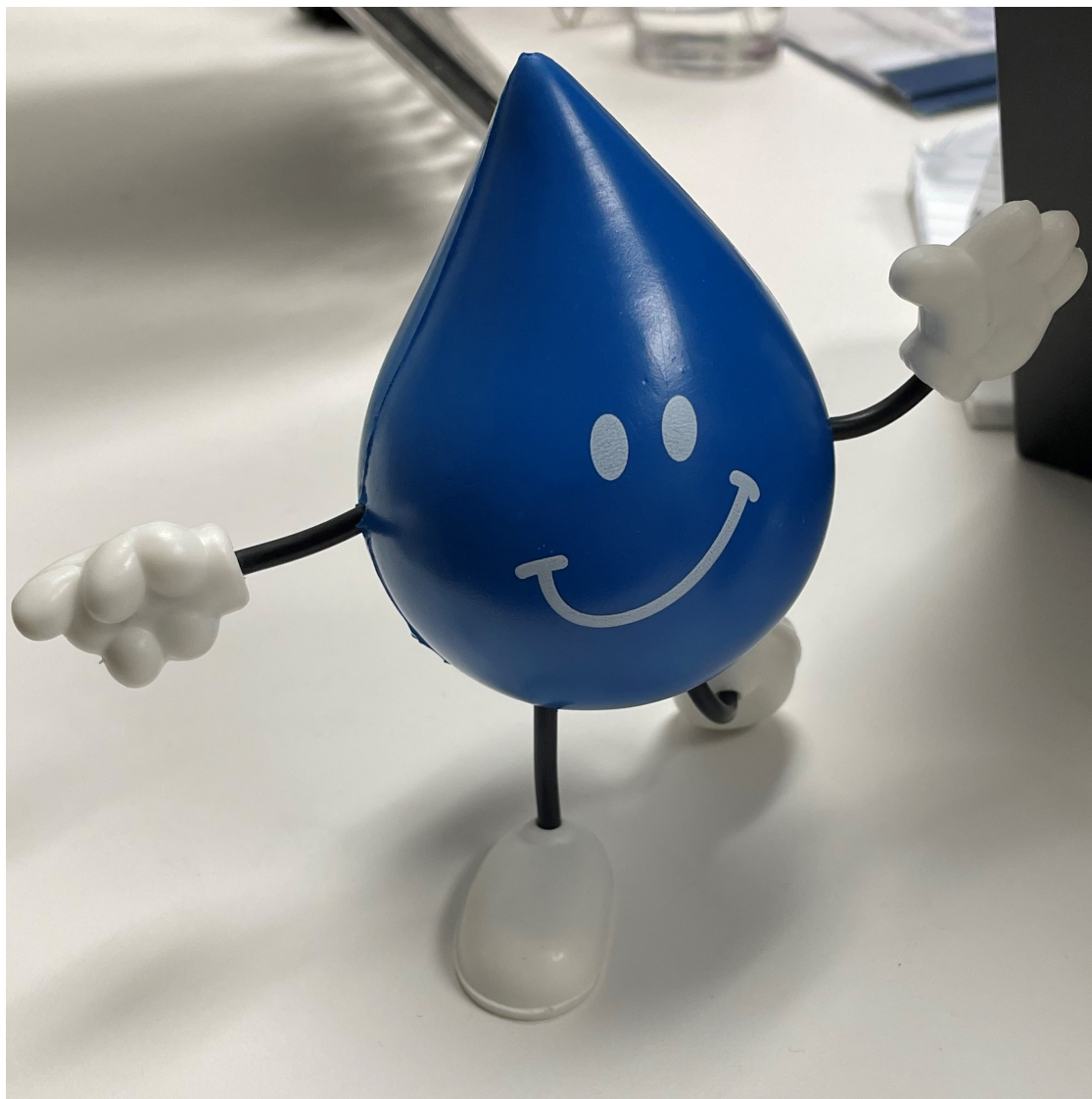
Earlier this year, Mayor Mendenhall and I partnered to announce the new WaterMAPS™ program, developed in partnership with [Utah State University's Center for Water Efficient Landscaping \(CWEL\)](#). WaterMAPS™ is the first of its kind and helps residents identify whether they are using the correct amount of water for their outdoor irrigation needs and if that water is being used efficiently. The personalized nature of this report helps our residents to tailor their conservation habits in the way that best fits their needs. Customers in a single-family residence within our service area can access their WaterMAPS™ report from their online bill pay account.

Using the knowledge gained from your own personal water use, you can make informed decisions about how to better realize your capacity to conserve. Whether you are interested in installing [low-water turf grass](#) in your yard, using a [smart irrigation controller](#), or updating your landscaping to include more plants from the [waterwise palette](#), there really are many ways in which you can use less water without negatively affecting your home's aesthetic.

World Water Week starts August 20. I hope you will join me in recognizing the critical nature of Salt Lake City's water supply and the imperative to steward and protect that resource. During irrigation season, we naturally focus on ways to improve our outdoor

water use. But increasing the efficiency of your indoor water use is equally important. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about water conservation tips and tricks.

Droplet's Phrase of the Month



Hey Droplet, can you tell us the meaning of the term "WaterMAPS™?"

Water Management Analysis and Planning Software (or WaterMAPS™ for short) was developed by Utah State University for Salt Lake City's water system. WaterMAPS™ integrates parcel data, land cover data (from aerial imagery), water meter data, and weather data to calculate what is called the Landscape Irrigation Ratio for a property.

The Landscape Irrigation Ratio compares how much water is used on a landscape, based on meter data, to how much water a landscape needs, based on vegetation needs and weather data.

WaterMAPS™ prepares an individual report for a property that: (1) estimates how much water the landscape needs; (2) calculates the landscape irrigation ratio for the property for the past five years; (3) quantifies the potential water conservation savings; and (4) provides information to help with any conservation strategies.

[Learn more about WaterMAPS](#)

Get Involved!

- **Join the team!** We're hiring. Explore career opportunities and submit your application on [Salt Lake City's Careers website](#).
- **#AdoptaStormDrain!** Storm drains get clogged with garbage, debris, and more; which can lead to localized flooding. Additionally, storm drains feed directly to our creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes so waste in the storm drains can potentially pollute our local waterways. Adopting a storm drain in your neighborhood helps to keep our waterways clean! [Learn more and apply to adopt your neighborhood storm drain on our website](#).

#AdoptaStormDrain



DID YOU KNOW...?

In 1847, City Creek was the first water source to be diverted for use after the pioneers settled in the area which would eventually be known as Salt Lake City. Later, City Creek was diverted to the municipally-owned, piped water distribution system to provide fire protection and culinary water supply to the City's residents.



Did you know that Salt Lake City was the first municipality in the State of Utah to divert and distribute water?

Project Updates

Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities manages a number of construction projects to maintain and improve our system. Many of these projects are smaller in scale, but we've highlighted a few of the larger projects here below. If you're interested in learning more about other SLCDPU projects, please [visit our website](#).

- **Water Reclamation Facility:** The City's new Water Reclamation Facility is literally growing every day. Our construction team has starting placing walls, which means the vertical profile of the project changes daily.
- **City Creek Water Treatment Plant:** Earlier in the year, our team started work to prepare for the new City Creek Water Treatment Plant. Official construction begins in January 2024. There are no construction-related closures scheduled before then, so we encourage our community members to enjoy the canyon.
- **1800 North Sewer Upsizing:** This fall, our team will begin work on replacing and improving the sewer lines which run along 1800 North. This project will improve our wastewater distribution network, which will benefit us today as well as future generations.



Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities | Salt Lake City

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