Water Conservation:
A Way of Life
In the City of Hays, KS
Hays, KS
- County Seat of Ellis County
- Population ~20,500
- Fort Hays State University
- Hays Medical Center
- Average precipitation ~23”/year
Map: Kansas Geological Survey
Water Conservation has been a major priority in Hays for decades...

- Water restrictions
- Water rate structure that encourages conservation
- Waste of water is prohibited
- Plumbing and landscaping ordinances that promote conservation
- Incentives (i.e. rebates and showerhead/aerator program)
- Education and outreach
- The employment of a Water Conservation Specialist...
Water Usage in the City of Hays:

- The lowest in the State!
- Average 90 gallons/person/day
Water Restrictions

No outdoor water use permitted:

June 1\textsuperscript{st} to September 30\textsuperscript{th}
between noon and 7:00 PM*

*Subject to change (tighten) based on drought/well field status
Wasting Water is Prohibited

- First offense – warning
- 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 4\textsuperscript{th} violations – fines levied
- Enforced by the Hays PD
Use of Effluent Water
(for irrigation and City projects)

- Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course
- Bickle/Schmidt Sports Complex
- City Parks/Planters/Trees
Green Plumbing Code

• International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)
• Supplement to Universal Plumbing Code
  • Not replacement
• Examples of systems affected?
  • Irrigation (e.g. precipitation rate of sprinkler heads)
  • Hot Water Distribution
  • Fixtures (more efficient than EPA standard)

https://www.iapmo.org/green-plumbing-and-mechanical-code-supplement/
Landscape Irrigation Ordinance (#3882)

- Prior irrigation regulations: None
- Highlights—
  - Plan submittal/review required
  - Limits total irrigated area
  - Buffer zones
  - Xeriscaping required in commercial developments
    - Changes the way Hays looks as future properties are developed
Currently...
For residential properties of four units or fewer:

• Max area irrigated not to exceed 10,000 sq. ft.
  • Of that 10,000 sq. ft., no more than 5,000 sq. ft. may be comprised of turf.
  • Of that 5,000 sq. ft. no more than 2,000 sq. ft. may be comprised of cool season turf (unless the area is NOT permanently irrigated).
Currently...

For all other properties:

- Max area irrigated not to exceed 10,000 sq. ft.
  - Of that 10,000 sq. ft., no more than 5,000 sq. ft. may be comprised of turf.
  - Of that 5,000 sq. ft. no more than 30% of the property area (less impervious surface area) or 2,000 sq. ft. per zoning lot, whichever is less, may be comprised of cool season turf. A minimum of 30% of the landscaped area must be xeriscape.
To add to this...

• Irrigation systems shall be designed and operated to avoid watering impervious surfaces and streets and shall comply with all applicable codes.

• Overhead irrigation methods shall not be used within 5ft. of driveways, sidewalks or other hard surfaces.
Incentives
Faucet Aerators & Shower heads

City Hall distributes:
• Faucet aerators
  • Free!
• Shower heads (with exchange of old shower head)
  • Free or small fee depending on model chosen
Washing Machine Rebates

$100 rebate for washing machine with Integrated Water Factor (IWF) of 3.7 to 3.3

$250 rebate for washing machine with Integrated Water Factor (IWF) of 3.2 or lower
Toilet Rebates

• $50 rebate for 1.1 to 1.3 gpf model
• $100 rebate for 1.0 gpf model
• $150 rebate for 0.8 gpf model (essentially the cost of the toilet!)
Turf Conversion Rebate  
(aka: Cash for Grass)

$1.00/sq. ft. rebate* to replace irrigated cool-season turf (i.e. tall fescue or Kentucky bluegrass) with:

• Warm-season turf  
  • i.e. Buffalo or Bermudagrass
• Mulched planting beds
• Artificial turf

*Up to $3,000.00 max
Buffalograss Seed Rebate

$10.00/lb. seed rebate
• Geared towards new plantings
• Or lawns that don’t qualify for turf conversion
City Facility Retrofits

• “Practice what you preach...”
• Case Study: Hays Public Library
  • Fixtures replaced in 2015
  • 2010-2014 – 375,000 gallons consumed (avg.)
  • 2016 – 77,800 gallons consumed
  • 80% reduction in consumption
Notable Projects

Local hotel:
Changed out 98 toilets in Jan. 2018 to 1.28gpf models
2018 Avg. water use/month: 2,704 cu. ft.

Convenience store:
Changed out water cooled ice machine for air cooled model in August of 2018
Education & Outreach
Education and Outreach = Communication

- Brochures/Flyers
- Press briefings/News releases
- Letters to contractors
- Radio/T.V.
- Social media
- Informational booths at events
- School programs
- Water festivals
- Water poster contest

- Website
- Water Conservation Mascot
- Parade participation
- Local committee involvement
- Speaking engagements
- World Water Day Fun Fest
- Demonstration plots
- WaterSmart Landscape Awards
- Logo
WATER CONSERVATION

A Way of Life!

The City of Hays is the only municipality in Kansas with a population greater than 15,000 that is NOT located near a sustainable source of water. Current water supplies fluctuate based on precipitation received throughout the year. As a result, water conservation has become a "way of life" for citizens of Hays. From tiered water rates to water conservation ordinances, programs and incentives, the City of Hays has worked diligently to ensure that our most precious natural resource - WATER - is not taken for granted!

Follow us!

Contact Us

2021 Water Poster Contest
Preschool to Adult Divisions!

www.watersmarthays.com

Rebates & Programs
Toilets, clothes washers, turfgrass, showerheads, and aerators - learn more!

Our Conservation Efforts
Find out what the City has been doing to conserve water.

Ways to Save Water
Education and Outreach via Social Media

@WaterSmartHays
WaterSmart Landscape Awards

www.watersmarthays.com

Thankful for RAIN!!!

K-State WaterSmart Perennial Demonstration Garden

ONLY FLUSH THE 3 Ps: PEEL, POO, PAPER
Things that make the job easier:

• Partnerships and Community support!