



## THE IMPACT OF CONSERVATION IN ARIZONA



For more than 40 years, Arizona has mandated conservation for municipal water providers. Since the 1980s, the AMWUA cities responded with proactive conservation programs that have exceeded State requirements and steadily built a strong conservation culture for their communities. Due to this, Arizona water providers have been able to rely on voluntary conservation actions rather than imposing mandatory watering restrictions.

- The ten AMWUA cities are committed to wise water management and efficient water use. This is evident by the fact that they collectively provide water to 3.7 million residents, more than half of the state's population, but only use 11% of Arizona's water.
- Collectively, the AMWUA cities use roughly the same amount of drinking water today as they did in 2000, despite adding one million residents.
- Since 1987, the population within Arizona's urbanized areas has grown by 212% while its gallons per capita per day (GPCD) decreased by 21%.
- Communities in the densely populated areas of Arizona have adapted their water portfolios to best serve their customers while being responsible water stewards, resulting in collectively decreasing their groundwater withdrawals by 26% from 2000 to 2019.
- The Phoenix area has seen a cultural shift in landscape preferences over time. In the 1970s, approximately 80% of single-family properties had majority grass landscapes; today, in the City of Phoenix, that number is less than 9%.
- Since the early 1980s, only low-water-use plants and no grass have been permitted in public medians and rights-of-ways.
- Parks, schools, golf courses, and other large turf facilities within Arizona's most populous areas must adhere to water allotment regulations and annual reporting requirements.
- For 35 years, Arizona has prohibited drinking water from being used to create or maintain manmade lakes in residential subdivisions.
- Large water providers in Arizona must meet conservation regulations, including metering all connections, which is not required or done in other states. The ten AMWUA cities collectively have over 1,065,000 metered connections.
- In addition to meeting the state-mandated conservation requirements, AMWUA cities collectively implement 106 common-sense ordinances such as plumbing efficiency requirements, water waste prohibitions, and limitations on grass.
- In 2020, the AMWUA cities collectively had an average system water loss of only 5.49%, well below the 10% Arizona requirement and the national average of 16%.
- In 2022, Arizona committed \$1.4 billion for long-term water augmentation, reuse, and conservation projects for Arizona communities.

The AMWUA cities remain committed to continually building upon past and current conservation efforts, which are vital to maximizing the use of their water supplies, especially as we face a future with less Colorado River water.