

**MILLCREEK, UTAH**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 26-02**

**AN ORDINANCE ADDING A WATER PRESERVATION ELEMENT TO THE  
GENERAL PLAN PURSUANT TO UTAH CODE ANN. § 10-20-401 AND § 10-20-404**

**WHEREAS**, the Millcreek Council (“Council”) met in regular session on January 12, 2026, to consider among other things, an ordinance adding a Water Preservation Element to the General Plan pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 10-20-401 and § 10-20-404; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council adopted the Millcreek Together General Plan in February 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Utah Code Ann. § 10-20-405 provides in part that the Council may make amendments to an adopted general plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Utah Code Ann. § 10-20-405 also provides that the Council may not make any amendment to its general plan unless the amendment was first submitted to the planning commission for its recommendation; and

**WHEREAS**, Utah Code Ann. § 10-20-405 also provides that the Council shall comply with the procedure specified in Utah Code Ann. § 10-20-204 in preparing and adopting an amendment to a general plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Utah Code Ann. § 10-20-405 provides planning commission shall provide notice as required by Subsection 10-20-204(1)(a) and hold a public hearing on the proposed general plan amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, Utah Code Ann. § 10-20-401 and § 10-20-404 require that municipalities include a water preservation element in a general plan that addresses the effect of land use on water demand and infrastructure, methods for reducing water consumption and demand for existing and future development, and outline opportunities for reducing water waste in municipal operations; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 3, 2025, the required notice was published; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 10, 2025, the proposed amendment was submitted to the planning commission for its recommendation; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 17, 2025, the planning commission held the required public hearing with respect to this general plan amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, at the December 17, 2025 planning commission meeting, the Millcreek Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed general plan amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Millcreek Code of Ordinances, provides among other things, that before finally adopting any such general plan amendment, the Council shall consider the application during a public meeting which has been properly noticed in compliance with the provisions of Title 52, Chapter 4, of the Open and Public Meetings Act; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 7, 2026, the Council caused the required notice to be given; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 12, 2026, the Council considered the general plan amendment during a public meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, Council finds that it is in the best interest of the residents of Millcreek to adopt a Water Preservation element to the General Plan pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 10-20-401 and § 10-20-404, and as recommended by the Planning Commission.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council that the addition of a Water Preservation element to the Millcreek General Plan is hereby amended pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 10-20-401 and § 10-20-404, as recommended by the Planning Commission, and as shown in Exhibit A to this ordinance.

This Ordinance, assigned Ordinance No. 26-02, shall take immediate effect as soon as it shall be published or posted as required by law and deposited and recorded in the office of the City's recorder.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

**MILLCREEK COUNCIL**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cheri Jackson, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elyse Sullivan, City Recorder

Roll Call Vote:		
Jackson	Yes	No
Catten	Yes	No
DeSirant	Yes	No
Handy	Yes	No
Uipi	Yes	No

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

I, the duly appointed recorder for Millcreek, hereby certify that:  
ORDINANCE 26-02: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A WATER PRESERVATION  
ELEMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN PURSUANT TO UTAH CODE ANN. § 10-20-401  
AND § 10-20-404 was adopted the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026 and that a copy of the foregoing  
Ordinance 26-02 was posted in accordance with Utah Code 10-3-711 this \_\_\_\_ day of January,  
2026.

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Elyse Sullivan, City Recorder

EXHIBIT "A"

## SUBCHAPTER 3.8: WATER USE & PRESERVATION ELEMENT

*Utah is home to the incredible Great Salt Lake as well as many freshwater lakes, rivers, and creeks, however, fast population growth and the arid Utah climate create a water scarcity issue that poses a serious threat to Utah's environment and economy. Preserving and protecting water helps ensure long-term sustainability, helps support local ecosystems, and secures reliable water for generations to come.*

### 3.8.1 THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER PRESERVATION IN MILLCREEK

In 2022, the Utah State Legislature adopted S.B. 110, which requires that all municipalities, including Millcreek, include a water preservation element in their general plan. This plan intends to formally integrate water use and preservation planning into Millcreek's long-term development and maintenance strategies. Millcreek and its residents have shown year after year they care about preserving water and treating it as a precious resource, and this plan aims to continue those efforts into the near future and beyond.

Required components of the plan include:

- Effect of permitted development on water demand and infrastructure
- Methods for reducing water demand and per capita consumption for future development
- Methods for reducing water demand and per capita consumption for existing development
- Opportunities to modify operations to eliminate or reduce conditions that waste water





### 3.8.2 TRENDS

#### Millcreek's Current Water Profile

*Where does Millcreek get its water?* Millcreek does not operate its own water system. Instead, multiple water providers and businesses work together to provide water to residents throughout the city. These water providers manage the infrastructure, deliver water, and charge residents. These providers have an essential role in setting long-term water conservation goals so that Millcreek will have reliable water for years to come. The water providers are shown in the map to the right and are listed below:

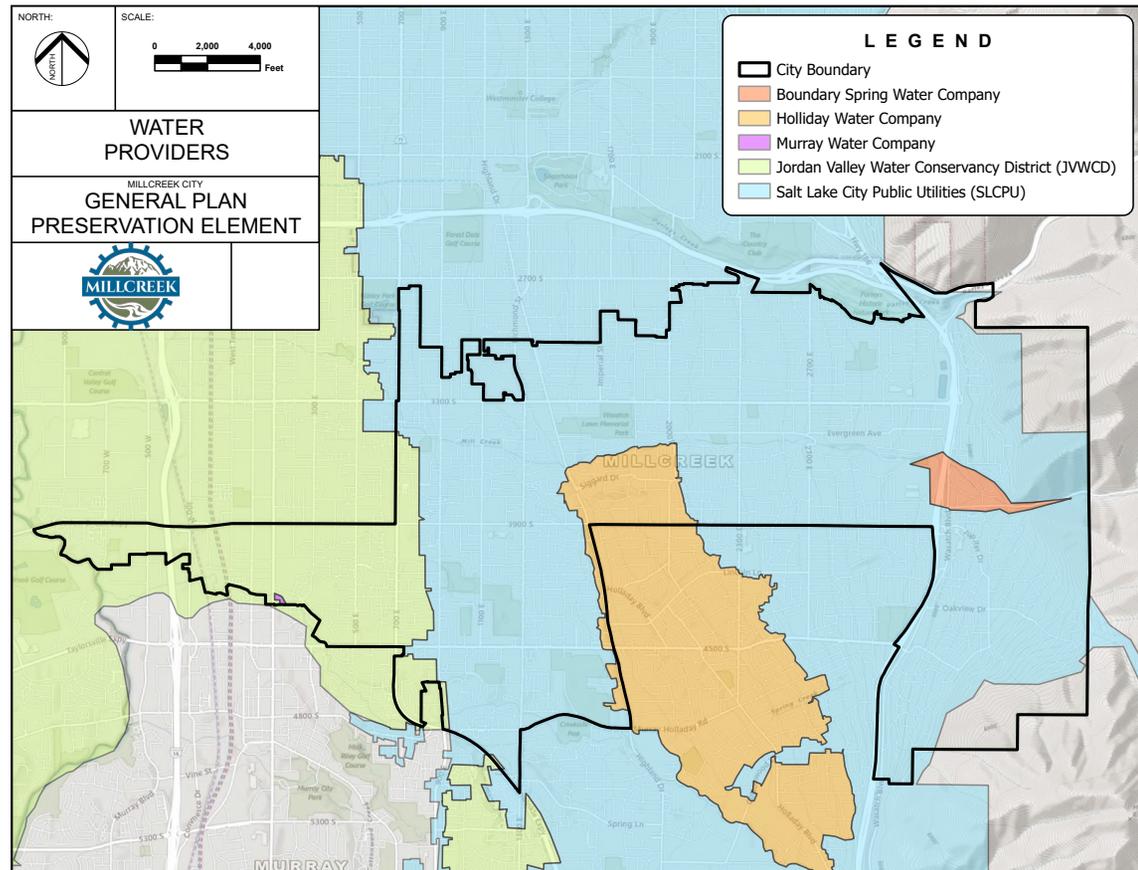
- **Salt Lake City Public Utilities (SLCDPU).** The largest portion of Millcreek residences and businesses receives their water from Salt Lake City Public Utilities. This water provider serves not only Millcreek but also serves Salt Lake City and other municipalities in the area. For more information on SLCDPU, see their conservation plan found on their website.
- **Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD).** The second largest portion of Millcreek residences and businesses receives their water from the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. This district serves both wholesale and retail water to a number of communities throughout the Salt Lake Valley. For more information on JVWCD, see their conservation plan found on their website.
- **Holliday Water Company.** A small, but not insignificant, portion of Millcreek is served by Holliday Water Company. This company

mainly serves Holladay City but serves some Millcreek residents as well. Holliday Water Company gets some of its water through SLCDPU, and some of its water from its own sources.

- **Boundary Spring Water Company.** As a small-scale water provider, Boundary Spring

Water Company serves about 150 homes in Millcreek.

- **Murray City Water.** Murray City primarily serves water to its own residents to the southwest of Millcreek. A handful of properties within Millcreek are also served by Murray City Water.



**How is water currently used in Millcreek?**

In 2024, the population in Millcreek was approximately 64,913. Within the SLCDPU service area, the residential population makes up over 75% of annual water use. Other areas in the city may see higher water use from industrial or commercial users, but overall, the majority of water use in Millcreek is from residential customers.

**How much water does Millcreek currently use?**

Residents in Millcreek use water at home, at work, and recreationally. Gallons per capita per day (GPCD) is the standard way to measure water use for an area based on population and is a common practice among water professionals. Current water demand trends from the SLCDPU conservation plan show that water sales in the Millcreek service area are approximately 208 GPCD. This means that in 2024, water sales within Millcreek were approximately 15,100 acre-feet.

Since water is supplied by multiple water service providers, data received about water usage within the Millcreek service area varied in accuracy and specificity. **Due to this, it is likely that the average consumption is lower than 208 GPCD.**

**Besides drinking it, how is water consumed?**

Water usage can be split into indoor and outdoor use. Indoor water consumption stays consistent throughout most of the year, while outdoor water usage increases dramatically in the summer months of May through September. Specific land uses such as residential, industrial, and commercial all have different consumption patterns when looking at indoor and outdoor usage.

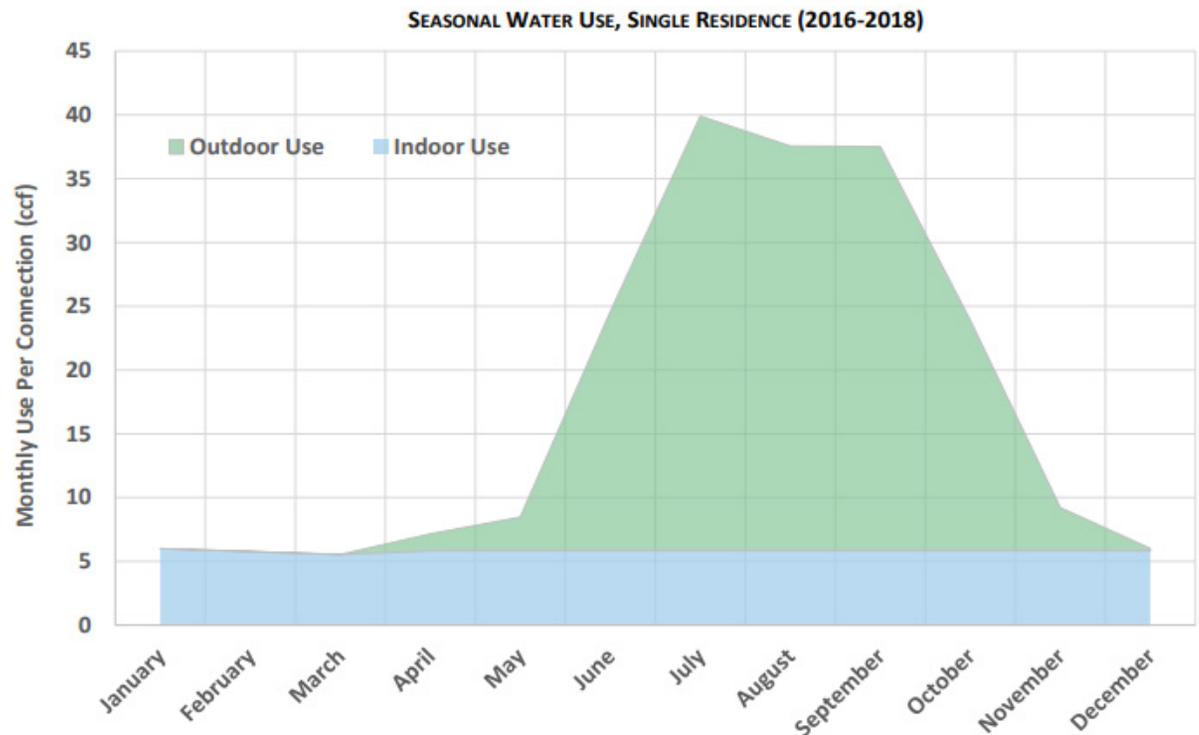
The figure below shows the use of water split between outdoor usage (green) and indoor usage (blue) for an average single family residence in the SLCDPU service area. This figure is taken from the 2020 Salt Lake City Water Conservation Plan.

Low density single household residences have the highest amount of outdoor water consumption of all land use types. The figure below shows the average household water usage for a single residence. This data is taken from the 2020 Salt Lake City Water Conservation Plan and gives a general idea of water consumption practices in

the SLCDPU service area.

Uses such as industrial and commercial frequently have higher indoor consumption and significantly lower outdoor consumption due to a frequent lack of significant outdoor landscaping associated with these uses.

Based on data provided by SLCDPU, water consumption within the Millcreek service area between 2020 and 2024 averaged around 78% residential use, 12% commercial use, and 10% industrial use.





*Where does Millcreek’s water come from?* As previously discussed, Millcreek relies on multiple water providers for its water. Our water comes from rivers, creeks, wells, and springs, all over the Salt Lake Valley. To find additional details on water sources and infrastructure that serve residents, the first step is to identify the correct water provider by looking at the “Water Providers” figure within this report or by visiting the State of Utah’s Department of Environmental Quality’s water system search website. After identifying the applicable water provider, the second step is to read the water provider’s “Water Conservation Plan” to get the desired details.

### Future Water Requirements in Millcreek

What does Millcreek’s future water use look like? Do we have enough water for our community?

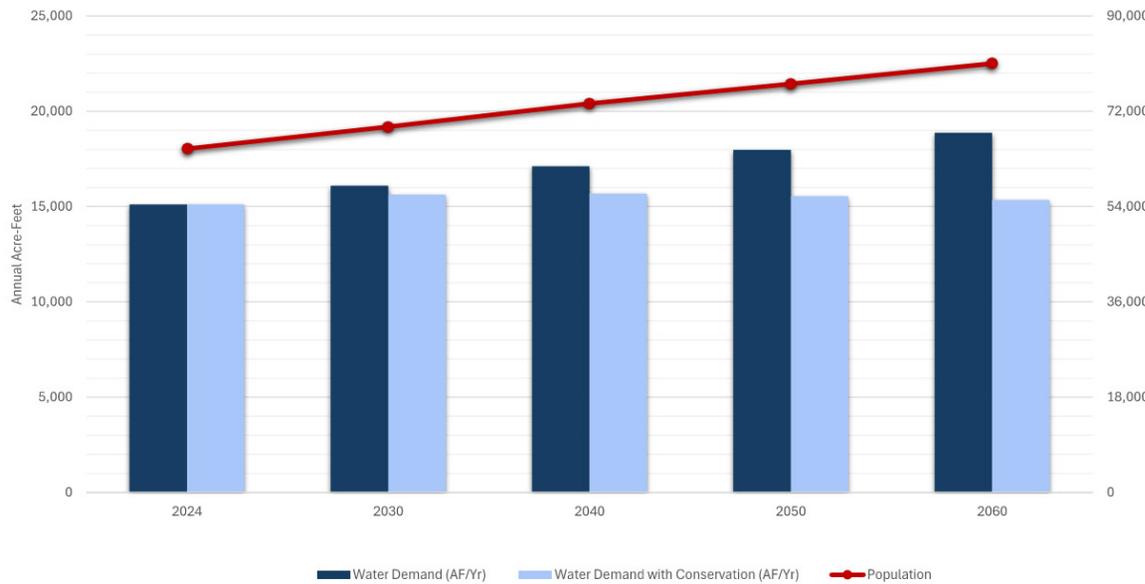
*What is Millcreek’s water demand without conservation?* The population of Millcreek is projected to increase relatively steadily, and will be about 77,200 people by 2050. Most of this growth is expected to occur through increasing residential density. Because Millcreek is essentially built out, our projected growth is significantly smaller than other communities in Utah. If water use patterns and per-capita water use remains the same as it is right now, the total annual water sales will increase to about 19,000 acre-feet by 2060.

*What is Millcreek’s projected water demand with conservation?* To meet the requirements of Millcreek’s water providers, conservation is required. To meet the goals within SLCDPU’s conservation plan, Millcreek needs to drop its usage by 2.9%, 8.4%, and 18.7% by 2030, 2040, and 2060 respectively. This equates to a reduction from 208 GPCD to 202 GPCD by 2030 and 169 GPCD by 2060 in order to meet the plan’s requirements for conservation. Based on these per-capita water use values, the total annual demand needs to be no more than 15,300 acre-feet by 2060. The figure to the left shows Millcreek’s projected population and water use.

*Do we have enough water for our future?* As discussed above, Millcreek does not manage its own water supply but rather supports its water suppliers in meeting their goals and requirements. Subsequently, it is not possible to define an exact supply for Millcreek as growth and conservation in other parts of the water suppliers’ service areas will affect overall water availability. To mitigate this uncertainty, Millcreek staff is in constant communication with the two major water suppliers – Salt Lake City Public Utilities and Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. **Both SLCDPU and JWCD have stated that, as long as Millcreek meets the water conservation goals set and discussed within this planning document, and future growth does not exceed the projections contained here, there will be reliable water for Millcreek into the future.**

The figure illustrates, that while the population steadily increases over time, Millcreek’s total annual water use is projected to increase by only 200 acre-feet between 2024 and 2060 as a

Millcreek Projected Population Growth & Water Demand



SOURCE: BOWEN COLLINS & ASSOCIATES

result of conservation efforts. In order to meet the requirements of the water providers and secure water for the future, these conservation efforts must be successful in reducing water demands. As detailed below, Millcreek has already been making progress.

### 3.8.3 VISION & PRINCIPLES

Since incorporation, Millcreek has worked with residents and new developments to design water efficient landscaping and watering standards. Because Millcreek is not a water provider, it can be difficult to manage water usage. However, through incentives and landscape reviews, existing homeowners and new developments have been much more focused on landscaping and water practices that reduce overall consumption of water.

#### How is Millcreek Managing Outdoor Water Usage?

Outdoor water consumption is one of the drivers of demand in Millcreek. Reducing outdoor water usage through better landscape standards, smarter infrastructure, and more rigorous efficiency standards is a key way to reduce Millcreek’s overall water consumption now and into the future.

#### Waterwise landscaping for current and new development

In 2023, Millcreek updated its landscaping standards to align with modern waterwise standards set out by the Central Utah Water

Conservancy District. These standards apply for new development and allow existing developments to be altered in ways that maximize water preservation.

Since adopting these standards, Millcreek has seen businesses and private residences remove high water landscaping and replace it with waterwise plantings that mimic the natural environment in terms of water use, plant selection, and biodiversity. Prior to the ordinance’s adoption, Millcreek’s landscape standards did not permit modern waterwise standards, so residents could not participate in rebate programs for replacing their water intensive landscaping.

The updated standards follow the best practices to reduce water usage and waste while allowing homeowners and businesses to still have landscaping that fits their needs. All new development must meet these standards and redevelopment over certain sizes must also comply with these standards.

#### Hydrozones

Millcreek’s landscape standards also include planting standards for plants with similar water needs. This section is broken up into different “hydrozones” based on the frequency of watering. The hydrozone standard ensures that low water plants are used correctly and grouped to prevent over or under watering of plants on a site. As the needed frequency of watering increases, there is a limit outlined that no more than 10 percent of plant material may fall into the highest water use hydrozone.

#### Water Efficiency

Millcreek’s landscaping code requires water efficient irrigation systems for new landscape projects. These standards outline how and when to use drip emitters versus overhead sprinklers and operational procedures for each. There are also standards for automatic controllers, valves, pressure regulation, and use on slopes above 30 percent. New watering systems must achieve a minimum efficiency of 75 percent for fixed spray systems and 70 percent distribution efficiency for rotor systems.

#### Turfgrass

Turfgrass that is allowed to be installed has been significantly reduced for new developments within the city. Commercial, manufacturing, institutional, and public properties are prohibited from installing turfgrass. Mixed use and mixed household developments are prohibited from installing turfgrass for ornamental or aesthetic uses, but are allowed to install turfgrass for recreation facilities and sports fields. Single and two household homes are currently permitted to install turfgrass so long as it meets the LocalScape design standards found in the landscape standards.

HYDROZONE	IRRIGATION FREQUENCY	NOTES
Zone 0	Little or no water needed	Plant material in Zone 0 and 1 with water use requirement, as noted in the Millcreek Plant Species List, shall be used at the interface between urban areas and natural (non-irrigated) open space
Zone 1	Plants require supplemental irrigation once per month	
Zone 2	Plants require supplemental irrigation twice per month	No more than ten percent (10%) of plant material may fall under zone 3 and/or 4 watering frequency
Zone 3	Plants require supplemental irrigation once per week	
Zone 4	Most intensive water-use zone, plants require supplemental irrigation twice per week	



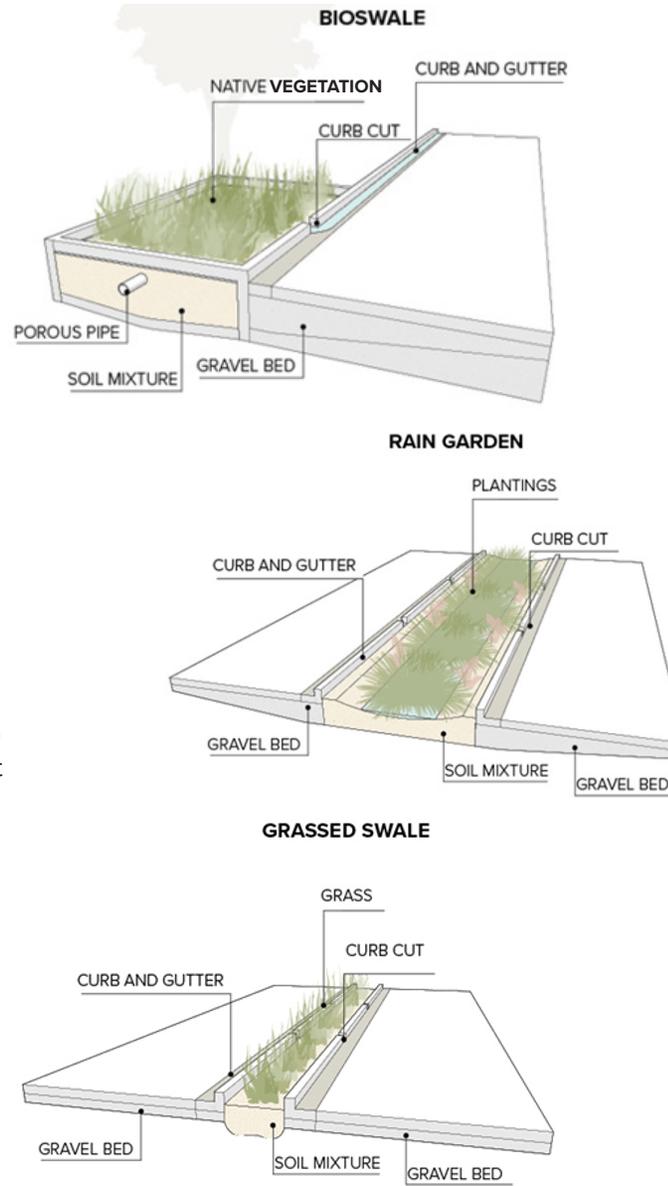
**Low Impact Development (LID):**

Low Impact Development is required for new developments in Millcreek, especially when bordering parking lots or areas with impervious surfaces. LID consists of incorporating rain gardens, swales, and bioswales to reduce water waste. These types of infrastructure allow for water to permeate the soil and return to the aquifer. Examples of these can be seen to the right.

**Bioswales.** Bioswales are vegetated swales planted with various plant species that can tolerate occasional water inundation and serve to transport, store, and allow water infiltration.

**Rain Gardens.** Rain gardens are small, shallow, depressions planted with a variety of native or ornamental plants that can treat small amounts of runoff to improve water quality.

**Grassed Swales.** Grassed swales are designed to convey water over the ground's surface to a point of disposal and serve to slow water flow, allowing some particulates to drop out before the water reaches the disposal point.



**How is Millcreek Currently Working to Preserve Water?**

Millcreek currently uses multiple strategies to ensure water is preserved for current and future generations. Landscaping standards, land use, and water savings programs are some of the ways Millcreek works to ensure water is used efficiently and that residents can use incentives to better preserve their own water.

**Land Use**

Land use is one of the biggest tools when it comes to preserving the future of water in Millcreek. According to the *Utah Growing Water Smart* guidebook, published by Western Resource Advocates, the density of development can play a large role in per capita water consumption. Higher density developments (3-8 units per acre) tend to use less water per capita due to less outdoor landscaping and less water leakage from water delivery systems.

There are two areas in Millcreek where a majority of new higher density development is slated, in the Millcreek City Center, and in the Meadowbrook area near 3900 S and Main Street.

The Millcreek City Center, located near the intersections of 1300 E and 3300 S, and Highland Drive and 3300 S, consists of a mix of higher density residential buildings, civic services, and commercial businesses. The Millcreek City Center Master Plan can be found on the Millcreek website.

The Meadowbrook area, which is located west of State Street, has seen significant new development in the last ten years. A majority of the new development has been high density residential. Newly adopted station area plans that cover this area call for increased density and new infrastructure to help spur more development in the area. The Meadowbrook area is described in more detail through out this document, specifically on page 52.

**Utah Water Savers**

Millcreek’s code allows for residents to participate in rebate programs laid out and operated by the Utah Water Savers program. Waterwise landscape standards and the inclusion of LocalScapes language in code allows for residents to alter their private property, residential or commercial, in line with the requirements outlined by the Utah Water Savers Program.

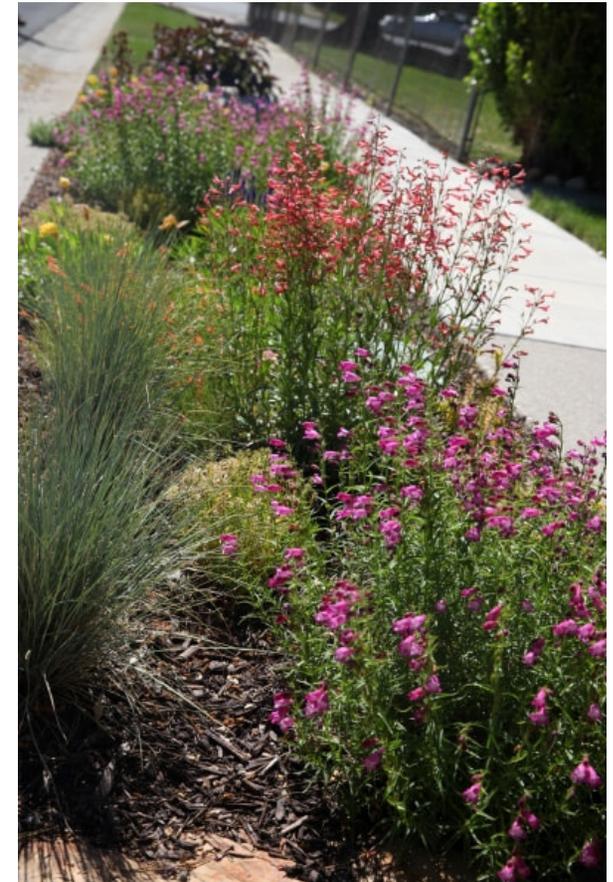
**Rain Barrel Sales**

Every year, Millcreek and surrounding communities have participated in Utah River Councils RainHarvest program that helps residents obtain rain barrels at reduced prices. Rain barrels are a great way for residents to practice water preservation on their own property without the need for costly property improvements. Rain harvesting was legalized in Utah in 2010 and residents are allowed to harvest 2,500 gallons of rain water per year. This program allows for residents to purchase rain barrels for \$85 instead of the market rate of \$155 per barrel.

**Current Landscaping & Water Use Ordinances**

Millcreek’s landscape standards were created with waterwise concepts included throughout. In 2023, Millcreek adopted new landscape standards in its zoning code that apply to new development and redevelopment within the city. This chapter of landscape standards was created with help from the Central Utah Water Conservancy District to ensure that the standards balance water savings and plant viability.

Rebates and programs that incentivize waterwise landscaping have helped residents and businesses switch to better landscapes that reduce outdoor water consumption. These rebates and programs help with costs associated with replacing landscaping and explain how and why these waterwise landscapes work. An example of a waterwise park strip can be seen to the right.



SOURCE: JORDAN VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**Newsletters & Outreach:**

For years, Millcreek has been diligent in getting the word out about water preservation to residents in the city. Through social media, e-newsletters, and print newsletters, Millcreek has been regularly informing property owner and residents on how to reduce their water consumption. Articles discuss the rain barrel program discussed above, waterwise tips and ideas, and classes about reducing water waste in the park strip.

**Why Harvest Rain With A Rain Barrel?**

Why should I use a rain barrel?  
Stormwater is water that does not infiltrate into the ground; it flows across the ground and impervious surfaces into streams, rivers, lakes, etc. Homeowners can implement Best Management Practices to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff.

Installing rain barrels under downspouts is a low cost BMP that can help reduce runoff. The amount of water purchased from the city is reduced.

**MILLCREEK**

**BE IN THE KNOW**

POLICIES | ORDINANCES | PROCEDURES

**Want to Make Your Lawn Water-Wise?**

How to apply for

**REBATES FOR HOMEOWNERS**  
Homeowners may be eligible for rebates of \$2 to \$3 per square foot of lawn. Simply call 313-333-3333 and a landscape plan will be provided.

**REBATES FOR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMERCIAL USERS**  
Homeowners Associations and Commercial users can receive a similar rebate through the Landscape Leadership Grant, which is a portion of the amount of water purchased from the city.

**Waterwise Tips**

**THIS WAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY DRY WINTER WITH THE AMOUNT OF WATER IN SNOW ACCUMULATION WELL BELOW AVERAGE. EXPERTS SAY THAT WE ARE IN THE THROES OF A HISTORIC DROUGHT. HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO:**

The Utah Division of Water Resources produces a weekly report of how often residents should water their lawns. You can follow this reliable Weekly Lawn Watering Guide designed exclusively for Salt Lake County to help you determine when and how much to water on the Division of Water Resources website at [conservewater.utah.gov/weekly-lawn-watering-guide/](http://conservewater.utah.gov/weekly-lawn-watering-guide/).

The normal rule of thumb is that one irrigation is equivalent to 20 minutes with pop-up spray heads and 40 minutes with impact rotor sprinklers. The state watering experts estimate that Utah could save more than 20 billion gallons of water in the summer if everyone cut back their water usage by 10% and watered according to the Weekly Lawn Watering Guide.

There are some easy ways to conserve. Tune up and adjust your sprinklers to be sure you are not watering the street, install a smart irrigation controller and bring out the hose to hand water dry spots.

Now that it's extra hot outside, we need be aware of the extreme need for water conservation. That's just the way it is living in the second driest state in the Union during a drought.

So please, do your part, Slow the Flow and be Waterwise!

**FOLLOW THE LAWN WATERING GUIDE FOR YOUR AREA**

**TREES WILL NEED EXTRA WATERING THIS YEAR TO SURVIVE**

**SPOT AND SLOW DRIP WATERING HELP CONSERVE SCARCE RESOURCES**

**WATERWISE PARK STRIP LANDSCAPING CLASS**

Looking to switch out the lawn in your park strip for something more water-efficient? Led by Central Utah Water Conservancy District, this class will give you the guidance you need to get started. Together, we will learn about the types of plants and maintenance techniques best suited to park strips, as well as the park strip conversion rebate incentive known as "Flip Your Strip." Become eligible for a greater rebate just by attending this class!

DATE: MARCH 8, 2022  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.  
HOSTED VIRTUALLY

Please register in advance at:  
[www.cottowoodheights.utah.gov/sustainability](http://www.cottowoodheights.utah.gov/sustainability)

**Water Provider Outreach**

Since Millcreek has multiple water providers, coordination and cooperation with them is key to ensuring long term water availability for residents. A large majority of the culinary water in Millcreek is provided by SLCDPU, and JWCD. As part of the creation of this plan, Millcreek staff met with officials representing both providers and discussed future projects, current system demands, and their respective conservation plans.

Millcreek also sent out questionnaires to all culinary and secondary water providers asking what challenges they each face and what Millcreek can do to help their respective conservation goals. In total, Millcreek sent out 11 questionnaires to the culinary water providers and canal companies that serve Millcreek. Of these questionnaires, Millcreek staff only received four back, two from canal companies and two from culinary providers.

The canal companies that responded cited aging infrastructure and new development as their largest concerns going forward. Many of these canal companies have older infrastructure that can leak and create issues getting water to share holders. Upgrading this infrastructure to maintain water deliveries to their existing water share holders was the main goal stated by the two companies that responded.

Holliday Water and JWCD responded to the questionnaire as well. In JWCD's response, they outlined their contingency plans, efficiency standards, and their overall confidence that they will be able to continue to serve a growing population in the valley so long as efficiency standards are upheld. Currently, they serve

780,000 residents with the ability to add an additional 420,000 by 2065. Staff also met JWCD officials at City Hall to discuss further preservation measures that JWCD are pursuing and how they interface with Millcreek policies and ordinances.

Holliday Water is a much smaller water provider that does not have the same capacity and distribution network of utility providers such as JWCD and SLCDPU. The area they serve is largely built out and new development that takes place will be more dense than most of the existing development in the area. The increase in density will strain their existing infrastructure as it has been laid out and built for low density land use.

SLCDPU did not respond with a filled out questionnaire, but rather met with staff to discuss their system, issues Millcreek faces, and other considerations to take into account when planning for better water preservation. Ongoing meetings between SLCDPU and Millcreek Planning & Public Works Departments occur monthly. These meetings allow SLCDPU and Millcreek to discuss changes to infrastructure, system upgrades, and preservation measures.

**Creating a Water Education Program**

There are many ways for existing and future water users in Millcreek to save water. The *Utah Regional Municipal and Industrial Water Conservation Goals Report* recommends a variety of water conservation practices that both residents and city governments can use. Millcreek also has a water conservation guide accessible to the public on the website that provides direction on good water use practices.

Millcreek educates its residents on many of these practices already, however, there is still room for growth. Millcreek plans to formalize its education program by incorporating the following measures into the City's schedule:

- **Highlight Water Providers in City Newsletters.** Millcreek sends a printed monthly newsletter and a weekly e-newsletter to residents and subscribers. Articles that highlight water providers will be featured twice per year.
- **Hold an Annual Waterwise Seminar.** Millcreek has had immense success with attendance at Millcreek Common and City Hall, in part due to its engaged and active population. Millcreek has created a goal to schedule an annual waterwise seminar at the City Hall with open admission to all residents. Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Conservation Garden would be an ideal fit to lead the seminar. This will allow residents to learn about the guiding principles discussed above and how they can implement waterwise practices within their communities and at their homes.
- **Have Continued Engagement at Community Events.** When practical, Millcreek staff will continue to set up educational booths at community events. Staff at the booths will be prepared with resources and information for residents that pass by. Staff can also use these booths to gather feedback from residents on how well water preservation is being handled at throughout the city.



### ***Participating in Regional Collaboration:***

Millcreek is already actively participating in regional collaboration with its water providers and canal companies. The landscape code is a major part of this collaboration. Millcreek intends to have its primary water providers, JWCD & SLCDPU, and the State's Division of Water Resources, review its code periodically and recommend changes as needed.

Another major part of regional collaboration is the endorsement of water rates. Water rates can play a key role in conservation. For example, a tiered water rate charges more per gallon of water the more water is used. This encourages lower water use per customer because the less water is used, the less expensive it is per gallon. Both of Millcreek's primary water providers, JWCD and SLCDPU, have recently implemented conservation minded rate structures. By endorsing these rates and educating its residents on the importance of conservation minded rates, Millcreek can help explain the need for increasing costs.

### ***Improving Government Facilities:***

As Millcreek grows, government facilities will need to be constructed, retrofitted, and upgraded to respond to the changing needs of residents and the changing environment. Government buildings and facilities need to be water efficient and employees need to understand the importance of water preservation now and into the future.

Currently, the parks in Millcreek are largely managed by Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation. This means that Millcreek does not always have the opportunity to make these changes, however, as new parks are created,

Millcreek can ensure they are built to waterwise standards. Although the County manages many of Millcreek's parks, water efficiency upgrades have already been done by the County on some parks within the county park system.

New city buildings will incorporate waterwise landscaping and use smart meters to help monitor water consumption. Having separate meters for indoor and outdoor consumption may help Millcreek track where and how water is being used for government facilities.

Best indoor water use practices should also be common place in government facilities. To achieve this, there will need to be regular training during city all staff meetings about water usage. The same all staff meetings can discuss waterwise practices for employees personal property as well.

## **How can Millcreek Residents Preserve Water?**

Water preservation takes many forms such as reducing overall water usage, changing habits, and planning smarter outdoor areas. While some actions will have more impact than others, all practices focused on water preservation help reduce demand on our water systems.

Reducing outdoor water consumption is the easiest way for Millcreek residents to reduce their water consumption footprint. Other strategies work as well, however, outdoor water consumption is by far the largest user of water that most residents can change.

## **Indoor & Outdoor Water Use Guidelines**

### ***Indoor water saving strategies:***

- Fix and stop leaks from pipes, sinks, and toilets.
- Only run full laundry loads.
- Only run the dishwasher when full.
- Reduce shower times.
- Turn off water connections when out of town and during winter.
- Do not let the water run when brushing teeth, cleaning dishes, or shaving.
- Install low water usage fixtures (toilets, sinks, appliances, etc.).

### ***Outdoor water saving strategies:***

- Remove high water consumption plants and plantings (grass, non-native species, etc.).
- Install drip emitters and low flow watering devices.
- Water outdoor plants at ideal times to reduce evaporation.
- Use mulch where possible to retain soil moisture.
- Install smart water meters.
- Install smart controllers for sprinklers.
- Cover pools and hot tubs to reduce evaporation.

### 3.8.4 GOALS & STRATEGIES

The Millcreek Together General Plan already outlines multiple goals that pertain to sustainability and preservation. These goals have helped shaped policy, code, and perspectives about water and land usage in Millcreek. Listed below are just a handful of the goals outlined in the existing plan that pertain to water usage and preservation:

- **SUSTAINABILITY. GOAL E-7:** Promote environmentally sustainable efforts and initiatives in the public and private sector.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY. GOAL HE-5:** Promote sustainable practices in the preservation, development, and maintenance of Millcreek’s natural and built environments.
- **AIR AND WATER. GOAL HE-6:** Implement standards, policies, and practices that encourage and support enhanced air and water quality.

These goals, along with others, have helped Millcreek make smart choices when it comes to water preservation before the state legislature required such measures. New goals are also needed to ensure Millcreek can meet its preservation goals outlined in this planning document.

**REFINE. GOAL W-1: *Continue to refine and enhance Millcreek’s vision for protecting water resources.***

- Strategy 1.1: Develop a portfolio of recommended waterwise standards for new and redevelopment based on State water use recommendations, Water Utility Conservation Plans, and City specific needs.
- Strategy 1.2: Establish a regular review of this plan to ensure Millcreek is meeting its goals and properly implementing the proposed measures. Update the plan in accordance with changes to water providers conservation plans and Millcreek’s population growth.
- Strategy 1.3: Improve water quality and reduce water contamination of storm water runoff. Work with the Public Works Department to ensure storm water runoff is free and clear of pollutant and detritus.

**COOPERATE. GOAL W-2: *Promote cooperative regional practices for water use and conservation.***

- Strategy 2.1: Endorse the concepts and ideas outlined in the water conservation plans of Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District and Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities by using the data and goals to create outreach and educational material.
- Strategy 2.2: Engage in regular collaboration with water utilities and Utah DWR to ensure Millcreek is up to date on any water

preservation measures or updates to laws and policies.

- Strategy 2.3: Work closer with SLCDPU to gain better representation and data from Millcreek’s largest water provider.

**UPDATE. GOAL W-3: *Update and implement water conservation measures that address local needs and minimize unnecessary consumption of water resources.***

- Strategy 3.1: Identify what waterwise policies are working well and identify areas that could be improved by collaborating with various institutions in Millcreek, including applicable water providers, Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation, School Districts, Churches, Canal and Irrigation Companies, etc. Upgrade existing outdoor public water infrastructure to reduce waste and over consumption.
- Strategy 3.2: Gather feedback from Millcreek residents on their perspectives on water use in Millcreek and make changes and improvements to water policies as needed.
- Strategy 3.3: Work to create a tree planting program to help with cooling, evapotranspiration, and heat islands around Millcreek. Educate residents on how to effectively water trees to bolster Millcreek’s tree canopy.



**EDUCATE. GOAL W-4: Educate residents and officials on ways to reduce water consumption and increase water preservation awareness.**

- Strategy 4.1: Establish recurring water education programs that are open to the public to inform residents and officials on best practices for waterwise landscaping and maintenance.
- Strategy 4.2: Formalize a water education program in partnership with water providers and the Utah DWR
- Strategy 4.3: Continue to use the Millcreek printed and e-newsletter to pass on information about waterwise programs, rebates, and water preservation.
- Strategy 4.4: Promote the use of the Report-A-Concern feature on Millcreek's website to alert Millcreek to broken water infrastructure, over watering, and water waste.



SOURCE: SEVEN CANYONS TRUST