



OUR EARTH

Our Town, Our Future

July 2007
Issue No. 4

Be Water-Wise This Summer!

Low Water in the High Desert

Hailey's water supply comes from an aquifer fed spring and is then distributed by the city waterworks. The water from your tap meets the many federal and state required tests of purity so that every person in Hailey can drink safe, good-tasting water.

The surprise in all of this is that 80% or more of this remarkably pure drinking water ends up in our garden hoses and irrigation systems. Without practicing water wise usage, 50% of this water will be wasted in evaporation into the air or on surfaces that we did not intend to water. With the increased demand on our city's water systems due to increasing population and the effects of our long-standing drought, our rain and snowfall are increasingly unable to maintain our aquifer at historic levels. These facts of life in a beautiful, high desert ecosystem make it mandatory that everyone rethinks the way they use water both inside and outside of the house and workplace.

Check Off for a Water Wise Yard

WATER ON THE LAWN, LESS IN THE AIR

- Water **only after 5 p.m. and before 10 a.m.** Evaporation from spraying water is greater as the temperature and the sun rise. (Ord. 13.08.010)
- Water in several short sessions rather than one long one in order for the lawn to better absorb moisture. For example, water in ten-minute sessions spaced 30 minutes apart, rather than one straight 30-minute session.

MAXIMIZE YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM

- Position sprinklers so water lands on the lawn and shrubs and not on paved areas.
- Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist; most of the mist evaporates before it reaches the lawn.

- Check sprinkler systems and timing devices regularly to be sure they operate properly. Replace clogged drip emitters and repair leaks.

WATER-WISE GARDENING

- Mulching improves soil, reduces moisture loss and keeps roots cool during the hottest days.
- Plant native and low-water plants together and water them only as much as needed.

MORE GREEN - LESS WATER

- Raise your lawn mower blade to its highest level. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system, and holds in soil moisture.
- Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. Fertilizer increases the need for water due to the demands of fast growing grasses as well as the need to flush out the salts in all fertilizers.

What's Up With Water in Hailey?

1. What were the total gallons of water used in June by the entire city of Hailey?
a. 56,529,000 b. 101,874,000 c. 124,354,000
2. How many more gallons of water did the average household use in June than in March?
a. +48,589 b. +55,611 c. +63,178
3. Since November 2006, how much water has been saved due to fixing leaks detected by metering?
a. 500,000
b. 1,250,000
c. 2,000,000



Answers: 1. b, 2. a, 3. c