

**Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance for
Residential Dwellings Number**

Ordinance Number <City to insert here>

Section 1. Preamble

- A. Whereas, water is an increasingly scarce resource;
- B. Whereas, approximately one half of the City’s water is used for watering landscapes;
- C. Whereas, [the City] desires to promote residential landscapes that are both attractive and water efficient;
- D. Whereas, [the City] can accomplish these goals by adopting this ordinance; and,
- E. Whereas, [the City] has the authority to adopt this ordinance pursuant to Utah Code Annotated (Rep. Vol. 1999) § 10-3-702, and hereby exercises its legislative powers in doing so.

Section 2. Ordaining Clause

Be it ordained by the [the City], that the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance for Residential Dwellings, Number _____.

Section 3. Title, Water Efficient Landscape Requirements

An ordinance amending the Zoning Code of the City of ___ so as to add a Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance for Residential Dwellings of minimum landscape requirements. This ordinance will be referred to as “___ City Water Efficient Residential Landscape Ordinance.”

Section 4. Purpose

The City Council has found that it is in the public interest conserve the public’s water resources and to promote water efficient landscaping. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect and enhance the community’s environmental, and aesthetic resources by promoting efficient use of water in the community’s residential landscapes, reduce water waste and establish a structure for the designing, installing and maintaining of water efficient landscapes for houses throughout the City.

Section 5. Definitions

The following definitions shall apply to this ordinance:

Irrigation Contractor: A person who has been certified by the Irrigation Association (IA) to install irrigation systems.

Irrigation Designer: A person who has been certified by the Irrigation Association to prepare irrigation system designs.

Landscape Designer: A person who has been certified by the Utah Nursery and Landscape Association (UNLA) to prepare Landscape Plans.

Landscape Education Package: A package of documents which is intended to inform and educate new homeowners in the City about water efficient landscapes. The package includes the principles of water efficient landscape design, information about the Water Check program, a listing of Water-Conserving Plants, a listing of certified Landscape Designers, certified Irrigation Designers and certified Irrigation Contractors, an information packet about Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's Demonstration Garden and classes, and an information packet about the City's water rates, billing format for water use, and the economics of installing and maintaining a water efficient landscape.

Landscaping: Any combination of living plants, such as trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, flowers, or grass; natural features such as rock, stone, or bark chips; and structural features, including but not limited to, fountains, reflecting pools, outdoor art work, screen walls, fences or benches.

Water-Conserving Plant: A plant that can generally survive with available rainfall once established although supplemental irrigation may be needed or desirable during spring and summer months.

Water Check: An on-site survey and measurement of irrigation equipment and management efficiency, and the generation of recommendations to improve efficiency.

Section 6. Applicability of Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to all new and rehabilitated landscaping for single-family residential dwellings.

This section does not apply to:

Residential developments with developer installed landscapes; or
Registered historical sites;

Section 7. Provisions for New or Rehabilitated Landscapes

Landscape Education Package. A copy of a Landscape Education Package shall be given to all new single-family homeowners by the City at the time of the issuance of the Occupancy Permit. Where

the Occupancy Permit is issued to a developer or builder instead of the homeowner, the developer or builder shall be required to transmit the Landscape Education Package to the homeowner. The Landscape Education Package shall consist of the following items:

- A. Principles of water efficient landscape design.
- B. Listing of Water-Conserving Plants.
- C. Information about the Water Check program
- D. Listing of certified Landscape Designers, certified Irrigation System Designers and certified Landscape Irrigation Contractor.
- E. Information Packet about Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's Demonstration Garden and water wise landscape classes offered.
- F. Listing of indoor and outdoor water conservation tips
- G. Information Packet about the City's water rate schedule, billing format for water use, and the economics of installing and maintaining a water efficient landscape.

Section 8. Post Installation

After the landscaping has been installed, the homeowner is encouraged to notify the City [or water district] of its completion and request a Water Check. At the homeowners request, City [or water district] personnel will conduct a Water Check at no cost to the homeowner. The Water Check will determine the irrigation system efficiency, make recommendations for improvements, and provide the homeowner with an irrigation schedule.

Section 9. Penalty [If applicable, a statement may be created to describe the penalty for violation of this ordinance.]

Section 10. Effective Date

This ordinance shall be effective as of _____.

Dated: _____ [the City] _____

By _____

Its _____

Mayor

[Municipal Recorder Attestation and Seal]