

SAVING WATER IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

With on-going droughts in the Western states, water needs to be utilized wisely and efficiently. Pundits predict snowpack in the Rockies will need five solid years of heavy snowfall to replenish our reservoirs and bring Lake Mead back to previous levels to ease the shortages of available water to farmers and the general population. Crops and plants will not survive in the West without supplemental water from irrigation systems. There are theories that state the Hopi Indian tribe abandoned the Phoenix Valley many years ago due to lack of water during a previous drought that caused higher salinity levels and crops to fail. Arizona could potentially be faced with a similar fate if not careful.

SDL is committed to saving as much water as possible in the landscape and still provide an esthetically pleasing look for the residents. Water usage from your irrigation system is a balancing act dependent on rainfall, heat, sunlight and windy conditions that Mother Nature provides daily. Winter months provide an opportunity to reduce frequencies and run times to save water for the summer months just around the corner when turf, plants and trees will need additional water to flourish.

During the past year at Westbrook Village, SDL has saved 8,370,897 gallons from the previous year in 2020, which equates to a dollar savings of \$15,313 year over year. This was achieved by smarter programming of the controllers and anticipating weather patterns to reduce run times for the community. If rain is in the forecast, SDL will shut down the irrigation system for a period depending on amounts of rainfall received. Daily monitoring of the weather and adjusting the programming of the irrigation controllers is key to saving water. Through the month of February, here are the statistics for Westbrook Village over the past four years and note rainfall has been reduced each year.

	Rainfall	Gallons Used	Dollars Spent
2019	3.57"	6,276,028	\$ 19,316
2020	1.81"	4,193,000	\$ 13,767
2021	1.32"	7,087,000	\$ 35,840
2022	.41"	5,049,977	\$ 19,555

Even though there has been .91" less rainfall in 2022 than in 2021 through February, SDL has saved 2,037,023 gallons of water in that period and saved \$ 16,285.

Every resident of Westbrook Village can do the same at their home by monitoring the irrigation system and shutting it off during periods of colder weather or rainfall events. For every .25" of rain, you can comfortably shut down the system for a minimum of three days without detriment to plant, tree or turf health. Keep an eye on the weather forecast and proactively manage your irrigation system to help reduce the amount water going through your meter daily. Every drop of water saved is vital to Arizona and our beautiful communities.