

Conservation Corner –

Tips for Spring Gardening

Continued on Inside



1 Make sure your irrigation system is working properly. Check it for leaks. Replace broken or missing emitters. Remember that watering time remains the same year-round, but the frequency increases during the hotter months.

2 Consider planting drought-tolerant flowers, shrubs, and trees. Native plants can give you brilliant color during the summer and require much less water than many non-native species. For colorful blooms in June, July, or August, try desert wildflowers like Fire wheel, Desert Senna, summer poppy, and Mexican Hat.



The Arizona Department of Water Resources has a low water use plant list on-line at www.water.az.gov/adwr and the Tucson Botanical Gardens offers classes and has information available at

www.tucsonbotanical.org. Tucson Water also offers desert plant information. Call 791-4331.

3 Spread mulch in flowerbeds. It will help retain moisture for several days after watering even on the hottest days.

If you would like a free Water\$mart water audit of your home water use, both inside and outside, call Tucson Water's Zanjeros at 791-3242. Please be advised, the Zanjeros' schedules fill quickly during the summer, so make your reservations early.



Your Water Connection

News & Tips for Tucson Water Customers

Water 101

Will We Have Enough Water for the Future? *Here's One Way We're Finding Answers*

Water 101 is looking at the tools and methods that Tucson Water is using to complete its Long Range Water Resource Plan. This plan looks ahead 50 years to what Tucson will be like, how much water we'll need, where that water will come from, and what the quality of that water will be.

"I'm as interested as any one of our customers in whether there will be enough good quality water for my family and future generations to be able to live in Tucson in the years ahead," says Tucson Water Chief Hydrologist, Ralph Marra. Ralph and a number of other scientists and planners at the utility are working on the plan that will answer his question.

Planning the water supply for the Tucson of 2050 is a complicated and highly technical project. It requires specialized computer programs and financial studies to produce a plan that is both flexible and comprehensive. We're not just looking at the water

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March 2004

<http://www.cityoftucson.org/water/>

Water 101 Will We Have Enough Water for the Future?

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resources we'll need. Tucson Water is also determining the capital improvements that might be required to treat and deliver that water and at the best ways to pay for these improvements.

The fact is that no one can know for certain what

the future holds. So how does Tucson Water address those unknown factors that are part of any plan that looks to the future?

One way is by using what is called "Scenario Planning".

In traditional planning, a number of alternatives are identified, the goal you want to reach in the future is selected, and work proceeds to reach it.

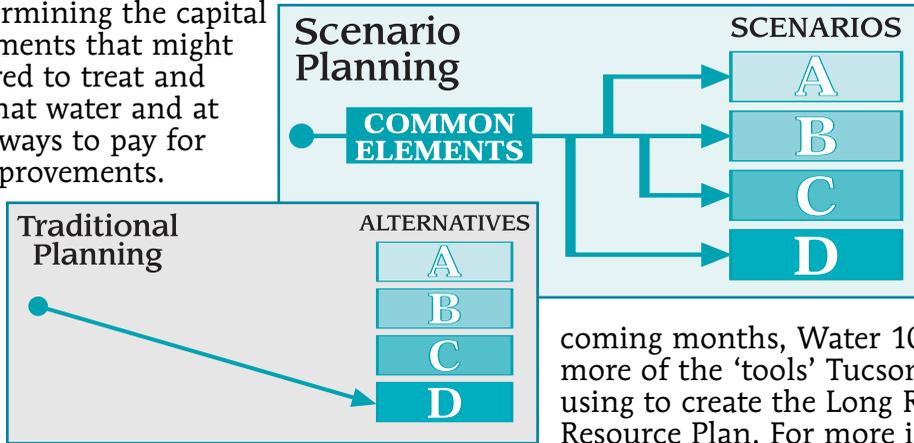
In scenario planning, a pathway to each of the alternatives is developed and the common elements associated with all the pathways are identified. Taking this approach gives us the flexibility to work toward a number of possible goals, making decisions about which way to go when more information is available. Another advantage is that elements common to all alternatives can be completed without the risk of wasting time, effort, and money.

"The Scenario approach is a sensible, cost effective way to go about planning

Tucson's water future," says Ralph. "Any good plan needs to be adaptable to changing conditions, and, thanks to the scenario planning approach, this one will be very flexible."

Over the coming months, Water 101 will look at more of the 'tools' Tucson Water is using to create the Long Range Water Resource Plan. For more information,

call Tucson Water at 791-4331 or visit our web site at www.cityoftucson.org/water.



Conservation Corner –
Save Water/\$ave Dollars

Summer's Just Around the Corner – Tips for Spring Gardening

Summer comes early in Tucson and hangs around for a while. During those months, more than half of all the water we use as a community is used outside to irrigate plants, grass and trees. When you're doing your spring gardening – trimming back from the freezes we had this winter or planting new or replacement vegetation, take some extra time to make your yard **Water\$mart**. Here are some tips from Tucson Water:



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On the Water Front

Protecting the health and safety of our customers is our first concern at Tucson Water. If we ever have a water quality problem in our water system, you can count on our professionals to move fast, keep you up to date on what's happening, and quickly solve the problem.

That's exactly what happened in February when our regular water quality testing discovered a type of fecal Coliform bacteria called E. Coli in an isolated water system we operate. (Tucson Water is responsible for 9 small water systems in the region that operate separately from our main, metropolitan water system.)

Finding E. Coli bacteria in our water is very rare. In fact, we've never before had a confirmed positive sample in our water system. The bacteria can cause nausea, diarrhea and other symptoms and may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems. Finding this bacterium in this isolated drinking water system sent our water quality team into action immediately.

Within a short time, Tucson Water crews were increasing the level of chlorine in the area's drinking water system. (Chlorine is used by Tucson Water, and most water providers around the world to keep water free of bacteria.) The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, which regulates water quality in our state, was also notified immediately.

Tucson Water communications staff went door-to-door in the neighborhood providing written information and letting customers know that free bottled water was available for drinking and cooking until the issue was resolved.

Crews flushed water mains and our water quality lab retested the system several times until no sign of the bacteria remained. During that time, Tucson Water stayed in touch with the customers, continued to supply bottled water and to answer all their questions, and informed them immediately when they could return to normal use of their tap water. We're looking closely at

the system to determine how to make sure this will not happen again. We continue to sample the water frequently and maintain an appropriate chlorine residual in the system.

I want to thank our customers in this small area for their cooperation and patience and congratulate the Tucson Water team who moved so quickly and professionally to resolve this issue. You can be sure that we are always working to make sure the water we deliver to you is safe and of the highest quality.



David V. Modeer,
Director, Tucson Water

Clearwater Quality Report - February 2004

51	Sodium (ppm)
320.3	Mineral Content (ppm)
110	Hardness (ppm)
8.1	pH (units)
Neg*	Coliform Bacteria
0.76	Chlorine level average (ppm)
81.2	Temp (deg F)

* Values for January 2004

Visit the Tucson Water Web Site at
<http://www.cityoftucson.org/water>

Your Water Connection is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Tucson Water, Customer Information, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210.

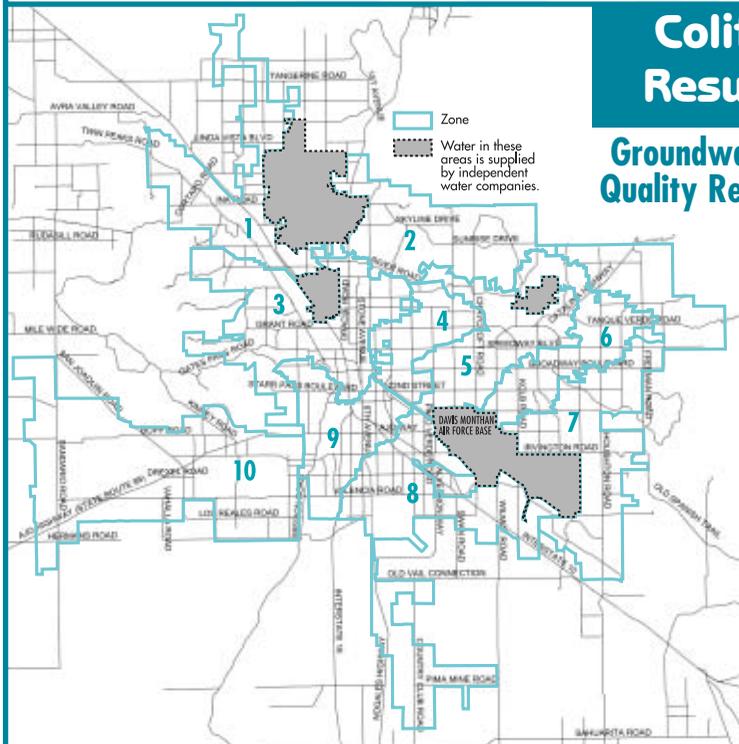
City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.



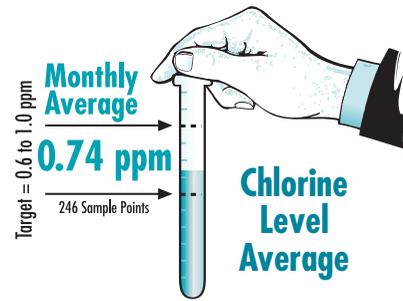
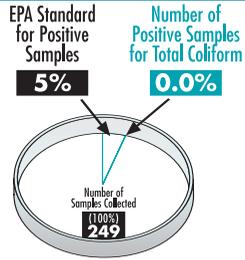
Groundwater Quality Report - November 2003

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (ppm)	Average	61	48	49	46	45	44	35	44	49	41	45
	Range	43-99	47-50	36-55	38-50	31-50	31-50	26-50	38-54	40-61	41-41	26-99
Mineral Content (ppm)	Average	405	310	324	259	269	261	228	352	330	214	290
	Range	236-579	280-343	165-413	184-296	178-307	205-291	175-290	276-442	210-438	205-218	165-579
Hardness (ppm)	Average	161	132	142	107	106	107	106	181	184	79	130
	Range	87-251	106-165	101-191	81-127	72-114	82-119	86-114	102-274	80-252	77-81	72-274
pH (units)	Average	7.6	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.7
	Range	7.2-8.2	7.5-8.0	7.1-8.2	7.4-8.1	7.5-8.1	7.2-8.2	7.3-8.1	7.2-8.1	7.2-7.9	7.4-7.9	7.1-8.2
Temperature (deg F)	Average	71	74	73	75	73	73	71	72	74	74	73
	Range	65-75	63-80	65-88	65-83	61-81	60-82	64-78	64-78	65-83	70-83	60-88



Coliform Bacteria Testing Results - November 2003

Groundwater Quality Report



**“PPM” means one part per million;
1 ppm = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons**

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

With the exception of chlorine and coliform bacteria, none of the water quality parameters reported here have U.S. Environmental Protection Agency primary standards set for them. For more information about primary and secondary water quality standards, visit Tucson Water’s web site at www.cityoftucson.org/water.