

Conservation Corner

Xeriscape Contest Will Honor the Best in Low-Water-Use Landscaping



Landscaping with native and low-water-use plants gives us desert dwellers the opportunity to have a lush looking yard without using a lot of water to keep it that way.

Each year, private homeowners and landscape professionals who are the very best at water efficient landscaping (called xeriscaping) are honored by the Arizona Department of Water Resources and Tohono Chul Park in the annual Xeriscape Contest. There are a number of categories ranging from residential

single family homes to commercial/industrial landscapes or neighborhood or community landscape projects.

Elements of water efficient xeriscape design include the use of low-water-use plants, grouping plants by water needs, incorporating water harvesting and/or gray water systems, and efficient irrigation systems. Landscapes must be at least 2 years old to enter. Deadline to enter is by 5 p.m. on April 9, 2007.

Applications are available on-line at www.azwater.gov/TAMA or www.tohonochulpark.org or by calling 520-742-6455 ext. 222.

Judging will be conducted through site visits in April. The awards ceremony is scheduled for May 24th at Tohono Chul Park. If you have questions, contact Christina Bickelmann, Water Conservation Specialist for the Arizona Department of Water Resources at 520-770-3816.



Your Water Connection

NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS

Water 101

Major Decisions, Projects Will Highlight Progress in 2007

This year will be an important one for Tucson Water and for our customers. We have a great many projects and programs that are beginning or will be completed during the next twelve months. They are all part of our continued commitment to a sustainable water supply for our region.

Decision H₂O

Over the past few months, more than 10,000 of you have visited our kiosks in the shopping malls and at other locations throughout the area. You've tasted the 450 and 650 blends, reviewed the additional information and told us your preference. This input will be an important factor in determining what type of water we deliver in the future.

Water 101 continued inside

Have a question for Water 101 or a suggestion for a topic? Call us at 791-4331 or e-mail to

TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us

Water 101

Major Decisions, Projects Will Highlight Progress in 2007

Water 101 continued from front

Creating Clearwater Phase II

This year Tucson Water will begin construction of a new water recharge facility in Avra Valley. An additional 45,000 acre feet of Colorado River water will be recharged here, meaning that nearly all of our allotment of this precious renewable resource will then be in use. Construction of the recharge basins and several different pipelines will begin in the second half of 2007.

Expanding Clearwater Phase I

At the original Clearwater Renewable Resource Facility, we'll be drilling new water recovery wells, expanding the water booster system and adding new collector lines. All this new equipment will make it possible for us to increase the amount of blended water we deliver to you from this facility.

New Reclaimed Water Irrigation Customers

Expansion of the Reclaimed Water system to 49ers Country Club golf course included the added value to being able to switch several schools in the area to reclaimed water for turf irrigation. Both Henry Elementary and Sahuaro High School will make the change this year, with Magee Middle School and Wrightstown Elementary due to make the switch from potable water as well.

New Water Mains

To continue to improve water reliability for customers, we'll replace a number of older water



mains throughout the metropolitan area. Mains will be replaced at Taylor Lane on the west side, Silver Shadows in the northeast, and in the Samos neighborhood in the central city.

East Side Maintenance

Construction of a new satellite maintenance facility at Golf Links Road and Houghton Road will begin next summer. The facility will be a considerable benefit for customers on the east side of the valley. It will increase efficiency by reducing travel time, increase effectiveness and customer service by reducing response times, and decrease costs by reducing fuel for cross-town travel.

New Water Meters

In 2006, Tucson Water replaced 11,000 old water meters with new ones. This program will continue through 2007 with an anticipated 12,000 meter replacements. Each new meter installed improves the reliability of our water system.

If you have a question or comment about Water 101 or would like to suggest a topic for the column, e-mail Tucson Water at TW_Web1@tucsonaz.gov or call us at 791-4331.



On the Water Front

As we talk about what's in our plans for 2007, it's an appropriate time to remind our customers that they can always count on Tucson Water to work with them to make the appropriate investments to ensure water reliability and water quality. The major projects we're focused on in this coming year will help provide a reliable water supply, excellent customer service, and safe, high quality water.

Making our community drought-resistant is part of our commitment to reliability. Our work this year on our water recharge facilities in Avra Valley is a big step toward the goal of using more of our important renewable Colorado River water supply and ensuring that we have enough water under any circumstances.

Good long-term planning is also something you will always see from Tucson Water. Most of the work we will be doing this year is related to our comprehensive Water Plan 2000-2050 that we

completed several years ago. Your input on Decision H2O, which came from that long-range plan, will also be a factor in determining the characteristics of our future water supply and demonstrates our commitment to involving you, our customers, in major decisions like this one.

The bottom line is that, as a Tucson Water customer, you can count on us to make your water needs our priority. On behalf of all 564 Tucson Water employees I would like to wish you a Happy New Year and remind you that we will be working throughout 2007 to ensure that you always have enough quality water for today and in the future.

Dave Modeer
Director, Tucson Water



Clearwater Quality Report- November 2006

56	Sodium (mg/L)
372	Mineral Content (mg/L)
162	Hardness (mg/L)
7.96	pH (S.U.)
Neg*	Coliform Bacteria
0.84	Chlorine level average (mg/L)
85	Temp (deg F)

Visit the Tucson Water Web site at www.tucsonaz.gov/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.

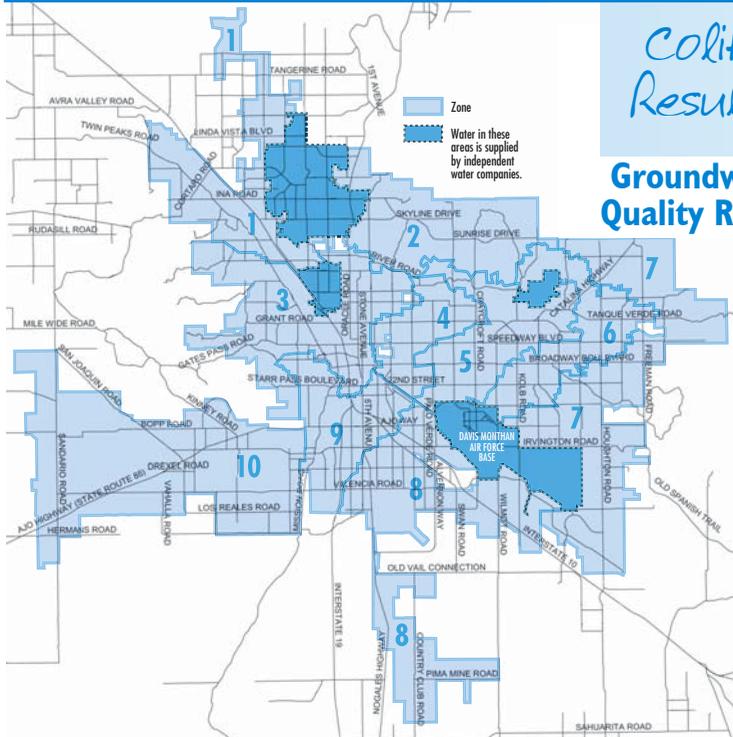
City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

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



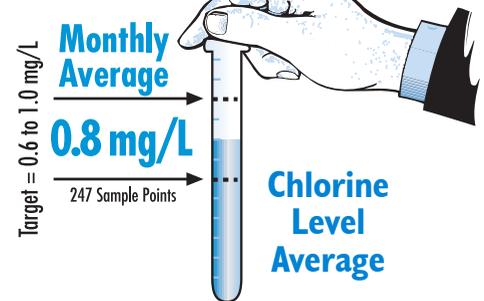
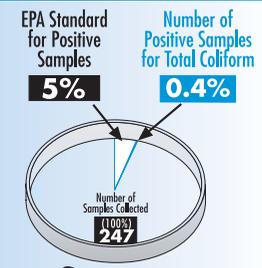
Groundwater Quality Report - November 2006

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L)* 84 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	48	46	52	36	36	43	36	42	44	46	43
	Range	40-52	40-56	23-68	29-57	24-54	33-55	23-54	39-45	31-56	41-52	23-68
Mineral Content (mg/l)* 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	374	349	349	229	265	300	267	378	337	267	307
	Range	191-561	312-379	188-486	184-416	166-403	220-389	179-367	279-445	209-540	206-386	166-561
Hardness (mg/L)** 84 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	195	147	156	110	108	138	123	194	120	99	135
	Range	137-242	132-180	83-244	85-182	65-187	103-173	82-167	158-254	73-267	72-136	65-267
pH (S.U.) 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	7.6	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.7	7.9	7.7
	Range	7.3-8.0	7.7-8.1	7.5-8.1	7.5-8.0	7.2-8.0	7.0-8.1	7.0-8.0	7.1-7.8	7.3-7.9	7.7-8.0	7.0-8.1
Temperature (deg F) 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	75	77	77	76	75	77	77	76	76	76	76
	Range	72-78	69-83	69-82	70-82	68-81	70-81	72-81	72-80	72-82	71-79	68-83



Coliform Bacteria Testing Results - November 2006

Groundwater Quality Report



* mg/L means milligrams per liter; 1 mg/L = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons

** 17.1 milligrams per liter (mg/L) = 1 grain per gallon; Therefore, the system-wide hardness average as reported for November 2006: 135 mg/L divided by 17.1 = 7.9 grains per gallon.

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.tucsonaz.gov/water.