

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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UNDERSTANDING IRRIGATION WATER USE IN ST. GEORGE

St. George- A majority of the City parks and all of the City golf courses are watered with irrigation quality water. Dixie State College campus, with the exception of Hansen Stadium, and several of the Washington County School District facilities use irrigation quality water also.

A primary source of irrigation water is the Virgin River. There are also few wells that provide irrigation quality water. The water is collected and stored in several ponds then distributed to the various users.

One question often asked is why isn't this water treated and added to the culinary system. The irrigation quality water is high in total dissolved solids (TDS). Treatment to bring the water up to culinary grade would require a desalinization process, which is not economically feasible.

Another question asked regarding irrigation water is with respect to the City facilities being water during the day. The Parks Division is responsible for irrigating most of the City facilities.

The Parks Division uses the principles and practices for water efficient landscapes. In particular, the Parks Division runs its sprinkler systems during the evening and night hours to reduce evaporation loss. However, some parks must continue to water into the early morning hours. This is due to the size of the park, low water pressure, and other factors, which slow the watering process. Watering in these situations is normally completed by 9:30 a.m.

Another water efficient practice is to constantly monitor and check the irrigation system. Unfortunately, the best time to do this is during daylight hours when the operator has good visibility. If sprinklers are seen operating during the day, the Parks Division is not watering, but actually checking the system. During this process the operator turns on a section of the system to check for misalignments and other operational problems that waste water.