

# Salt Lake County: Reducing our Water Footprint

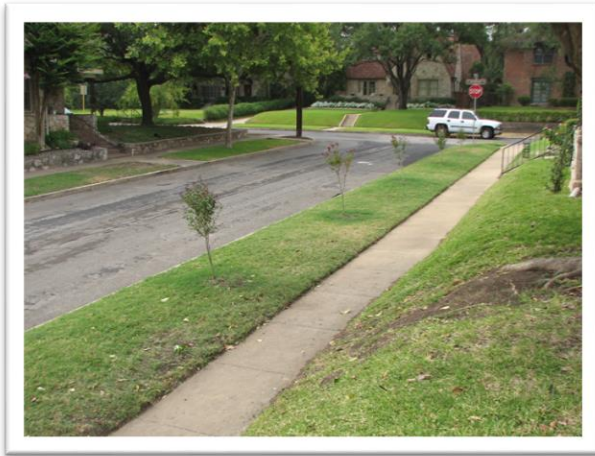
**Lisa Hartman** – Associate Deputy Mayor

**Michael Shea** – Sustainability Director

# 2022 Water Summit Recap

- Highlighted the serious nature of the drought for SLCo
- There is no “silver bullet” solution to address the drought
- It will take a collective effort of everyone – residents, businesses, governments, and others to engage in water conservation measures and strategies (both large and small)
- This presentation highlights one possible strategy for SLCo to pursue
- It is a collaboration between Facilities, Surveyor’s Office, Parks & Recreation, Libraries, Aging & Adult Services, and Office of Regional Development

# Background



## Parking strips

A parking or park strip is a narrow piece of land between the sidewalk and the street often used as a right of way for public utilities and traditionally planted with street trees and turf.



## Parking lot islands

Parking lot islands are narrow strips that are used to interrupt the pavement expanse. Primary uses: to improve the visual appearance, reduce the “heat island effect,” and shade parked cars and pedestrians.

# Problem

- **Turf parking strips and islands serve aesthetic & convenience use only**
- **On average they consume 5,000-8,000 gallons of water each year\***
- **Most parking strips and islands are never used by the public**



\* Source: Utah Water Savers

# Problem

- The Mayor's Office worked with the Surveyor's Office to create a database of the thousands of individual parking strips and islands at County facilities
- They range in size from just a couple dozen square feet to thousands

The screenshot displays the 'SLCO Park Strips' web application. The top header includes the title and 'with ArcGIS Web AppBuilder'. A search bar is present at the top left. The main area is an aerial map showing a facility with several buildings and parking areas. A popup window is open over one of the buildings, displaying the following information:

SelectedAreas_SLCO_2022: SALT LAKE COUNTY	
Name	Holladay Lions Rec Center
Address	1661 E MURRAY HOLLADAY RD
Type	RECREATION CENTER
Landscape	Grass
Owner	SALT LAKE COUNTY
Municipali	MILLCREEK
Acres	0.07
Square Feet	3,087.51
Cost	24,700.05
Gallons Saved	86,450.18

Below the map is a data table with the following columns: Name, Address, Type, Landscape, Municipality, Acres, Square Feet, Cost, and Gallons\_Sa. The table contains four rows of data:

Name	Address	Type	Landscape	Municipality	Acres	Square Feet	Cost	Gallons_Sa
Holladay Lions Rec Center	1661 E MURRAY HOLLADAY RD	RECREATION CENTER	Grass	MILLCREEK	0.07	3,087.51	24,700.05	86,450.18
Holladay Lions Rec Center	1661 E MURRAY HOLLADAY RD	RECREATION CENTER	Grass	MILLCREEK	0.02	941.64	7,533.11	26,365.89
Mount Olympus Senior Center	1635 E MURRAY HOLLADAY RD	SENIOR CENTER	Grass	MILLCREEK	0.01	472.80	3,782.39	13,238.37
Mount Olympus Senior Center	1635 E MURRAY HOLLADAY RD	SENIOR CENTER	Grass	MILLCREEK	0.01	317.57	2,540.56	8,891.95

Salt Lake County Park Strip Database

# Solution

- **Convert 132 strips at 39 different County facilities from turf to xeriscaping**
  - The selection of the strips was based on their large water footprint and geographic diversity of facilities across the County.\*
  - Xeriscape areas require little or no irrigation with minimal ongoing maintenance expense. The strips and islands still fulfill their purpose without consuming excessive amounts of water.
- **Install targeted sprinkler systems at the Government Center**



6 \*List subject to revision based on confirmation of parcel alignment with applicable municipal codes.

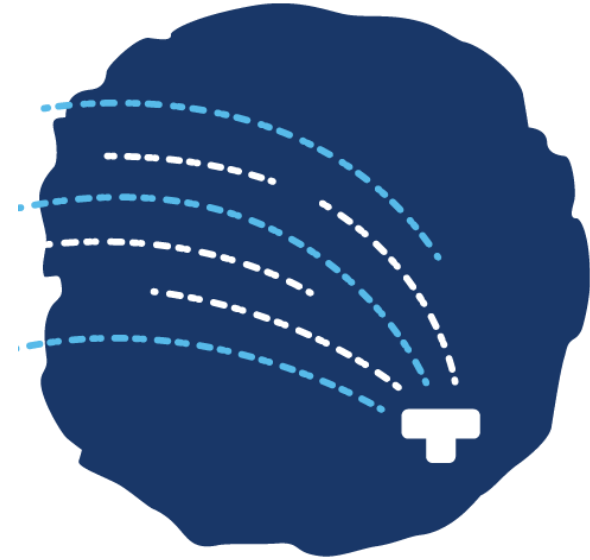
# Solution

- **Cost**
  - Preliminary projected cost: \$2,000,000
  - ARPA eligible funds
- **Collaborate on Implementation**
  - Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District and local municipalities
- **Today's Proposal**
  - Solely for preliminary consideration
  - No action requested today

# Outcome and Impact

## Project

- 132 strips total about 3 football fields in size!
- This will help grow the County's water saving goal beyond 5% a year
- Salt Lake County will serve as an example of "best practices" in water consumption
- Message to the public: "If we can do it, so can you!"



**Upon completion, the County will save approx. 5,295,000 gallons a year. That is the equivalent of roughly 8 Olympic-size swimming pools.**



# Questions?