



DROUGHT CONTINGENCY & WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

2024

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Updated by:



with the assistance of City of Vernon Water Department personnel.

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Vernon is the county seat of Wilbarger County, Texas. The residential population is 10,586. Currently, the City serves 4,068 metered retail connections.

The source of water for the City of Vernon is 100% groundwater from the Seymour Aquifer. The City operates 5 well fields (Winston, Odell, Schmoker, West Acres, and Orbison Park). The City primarily produces water from the Winston and Odell well fields for municipal uses. The Schmoker well field is used seasonally to supply some industrial uses. The Orbison Park field is used for emergencies only.

Single-family residential and industrial uses are the primary water use sectors for the City. In 2023, 43% of the City's metered retail water use was for single-family and multi-family residential use and 38% was for industrial use. The remaining 19% was commercial, and institutional uses. There are no agricultural uses of water produced by the City.

The City of Vernon also provides wholesale water to Northside WSC, Lockett Water System, Oklaunion WSC, Box Community Water System, and Hinds Wildcat Water System. Wholesale use represents less than 10% of water produced.



PLEASE DON'T WASTE WATER

Water waste is prohibited and enforceable at all times*

- Failing to repair a controllable leak, including a broken sprinkler head, a leaking valve, leaking or broken pipes, or a leaking faucet.
- Operating a permanently installed irrigation system with a broken head, a head that is out of adjustment, or a head that is misting due to high water pressure.
- Operating an automated in-ground irrigation system or hose-end sprinkler on any day of the week between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Irrigation or landscape watering during any form of precipitation.
- Allowing water to run off a property and form a stream of water in a street for a distance of fifty (50) feet or greater.
- Allowing water to pond in a street or parking lot to a depth of greater than one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of an inch.
- Operating (leaving unattended) a hand-held hose without a shut-off nozzle

* The above requirements are also applicable to those who are irrigating with private water wells.

Each instance of a violation is a separate offense and a Class C misdemeanor that may be punishable by fines.

DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

Drought Contingency Plan--A strategy or combination of strategies for temporary supply and demand management responses to temporary and potentially recurring water supply shortages and other water supply emergencies.

DECLARATION OF POLICY, PURPOSE, AND INTENT

In order to conserve the available water supply and protect the integrity of water supply facilities, with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection, and to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety and minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, the City of Vernon hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water by City Ordinance.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Drought Contingency Plan are considered to be non-essential or discretionary and continuation of such uses during times of water shortage or other emergency water supply conditions are deemed to constitute a waste of water which subjects the offender(s) to penalties as defined in the Enforcement of Drought Contingency Plan section of this Plan.

AUTHORIZATION

The City Manager or his/her designee is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The City Manager or his/her designee shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

APPLICATION

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by the City of Vernon. The terms “person” and “customer” as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation and subsequent revisions of this Plan is provided by the City of Vernon by means of:

- City Commission meetings
- Direct mailing and email
- Phone
- Personal correspondence

PUBLIC EDUCATION (DROUGHT)

The City of Vernon will periodically provide the public with information about this Drought Contingency Plan, including information and/or notification about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage. Water conservation tips and information will also be provided. This information will be provided by means of:

- Posting a Notice of Drought Conditions at the City Hall
- General circulation to newspapers
- Notifying local radio and television stations
- Handouts to customers, schools, civic groups, and clubs upon request
- The plan will be posted on the City’s website and Social Media

A copy of this Plan will be available at the City Hall during business hours. The Plan will also be available electronically.

WATERING SCHEDULE

THE CITY OF VERNON WATERING SCHEDULE				
ADDRESS ENDING IN:				
STAGE	COMPLIANCE	HOURS	ODD #	EVEN #
1	Voluntary	8PM-10AM	Mon/Wed/Fri	Tue/Thu/Sat
2	Voluntary	8PM-10AM	Mon/Wed	Tue/Thu
3	Mandatory	8PM-10AM	Mon/Wed	Tue/Thu
4	Mandatory	8PM-10AM	Monday	Thursday
5	Mandatory	NONE	No watering	No watering

DROUGHT TRIGGERS AND RESPONSES

The City Manager or his/her designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan, that is, when the specified triggers are reached. During times of high demand or distribution limitations, the City Manager or his/her designee may implement the appropriate Drought Response Stage. The City shall notify the public by the means of notification described in the Public Education section of this plan.

The City routinely measures the static level of the aquifer and the pumping levels of the water wells. Drought stage triggers are based upon the static level and average saturation of the aquifer and the resulting pumping capacity of the system. The normal static level for the aquifer is 42 feet. In October 2014, the aquifer reached 36.70 feet which is the lowest level recorded for the drought of record. The maximum pumping capacity for the system is 8.3 million gallons per day (MGD).

The City of Vernon's watering restrictions apply to all residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and wholesale accounts, including private water well users. All City of Vernon water users will be asked to save, or cut back, a corresponding percentage in each drought stage based upon the usage from their water bill for the same period of the last year of normal conditions. At no time will customers using less than 135 gallons per customer per day (GPCD) be subject to surcharges or penalties for water usage.

During times when this Drought Contingency Plan is in effect, water customers are requested to continue to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue water use for non-essential or discretionary purposes. It is a violation of this Plan for any person, firm, corporation, or entity to irrigate landscapes at prohibited times during drought conditions.

As appropriate, the City Manager or his/her designee shall notify of stages directly, or cause to be notified directly, the following individuals and entities:

- City Fire Chief
- City/County Emergency Management Coordinators
- Municipal Court Judge
- County Judge
- DPS, Division of Emergency Management
- TCEQ, Water Supply Division
- City Mayor and Commissioners

STAGE 1 – Mild Water Shortage Condition

Requirements for initiation: Customers shall be requested to voluntarily conserve water and adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses listed below when:

1. Static Level of the aquifer reaches 41.0 ft. or;
2. Low aquifer levels result in a 15% loss of maximum production capability or pumping capacity of 7.1 million gallons per day (MGD) for a 24-hour period.

Requirements for termination: Stage 1 of this Plan may be rescinded when the aquifer level increases back to normal capacity for a period of forty-five (45) days.

Target for water-use reduction: Achieve a 15% reduction in total water use as compared to three-year average usage prior to latest drought condition through increased public awareness.

Voluntary Water-Use Restrictions:

- A. Water customers are requested to comply with the City of Vernon's Stage 1 Watering Schedule. Customers with odd numbered addresses may only water Mon/Wed/Fri and customers with even numbered addresses may only water Tue/Thu/Sat. Landscape irrigation may only occur from 8:00PM to 10:00AM. No watering on Sunday;
- B. Water customers are requested to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue water use for non-essential purposes;
- C. The City of Vernon will curtail flushing of distribution lines except when necessary to protect the health and welfare of the public;
- D. The City of Vernon will limit watering of public areas to the hours between 7:00AM and 10:00AM;
- E. The City Manager, or his/her designee, will contact wholesale water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and will request that wholesale water customers initiate Stage 1 voluntary measures to reduce water use by 15%.

STAGE 2 – Moderate Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation: Customers shall be requested to voluntarily conserve water and adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses listed below when:

1. Static Level of the aquifer reaches 38.5 ft. or;
2. Low aquifer levels result in a 20% loss of maximum production capability or pumping capacity of 6.6 MGD for a 24-hour period.

Requirements for termination: Stage 2 of this Plan may be rescinded when the aquifer level increases back to Stage 1 or normal capacity for a period of forty-five (45) days.

Target for water-use reduction: Achieve a 20% reduction in total water use.

Voluntary Water-Use Restrictions:

- A. Water customers are requested to comply with the City of Vernon's Stage 2 Watering Schedule. Customers with odd numbered addresses may only water Mon/Wed and customers with even numbered addresses may only water Tue/Thu. Landscape irrigation may only occur from 8:00PM to 10:00AM;
- B. No landscape irrigation taps will be made;
- C. The City Manager, or his/her designee, will contact wholesale water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and will request that wholesale water customers initiate Stage 2 voluntary measures to reduce water use by 20%.

STAGE 3 – Severe Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation: Customers shall be required to adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses listed below when:

1. Static Level of the aquifer reaches 37.5 ft. or;
2. Low aquifer levels result in a 25% loss of normal production capability or pumping capacity of 6.2 MGD for a 24-hour period.

Requirements for termination: Stage 3 of this Plan may be rescinded when the aquifer level increases back to Stage 2, 1, or normal capacity for a period of forty-five (45) days.

Target for water-use reduction: Achieve a 25% reduction in total water use.

Mandatory Water-Use Restrictions:

- A. Water customers are required to comply with the City of Vernon’s Stage 3 Watering Schedule. Customers with odd numbered addresses may only water Mon/Wed and customers with even numbered addresses may only water Tue/Thu. Landscape irrigation may only occur from 8:00PM to 10:00AM;
- B. Washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes, or any other type of mobile equipment shall only occur on Tue/Thu/Sat from 8:00PM to 10:00AM;
 - a. Commercial car washes, detail shops, and car dealerships may request a variance;
 - b. Washing, when allowed, must be performed with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses;
 - c. This restriction does not apply to automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes, or any other type of mobile equipment such as garbage trucks, vehicles transporting food or perishables, or emergency vehicles when the washing is necessary on a more frequent basis in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public;
 - d. Charity car washes are prohibited;

- C. Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor/outdoor swimming, wading, or Jacuzzi type pool is prohibited except on designated watering days from 8:00PM to 10:00AM;
- D. The washing of dwelling, office buildings, and/or industrial equipment or machinery is prohibited;
- E. The use of water for any ornamental or aesthetic water fountain or water feature is prohibited;
- F. The use of water for washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, streets, tennis courts, patios, or other paved or impervious areas, except to alleviate immediate health or fire hazards, is prohibited. Fast food restaurants may spot wash these areas;
- G. No fire hydrant meters will be used unless specifically approved by the City Manager or his/her designee;
- H. The City Manager, or his/her designee, will contact wholesale water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and will require that wholesale water customers initiate Stage 3 mandatory measures to reduce water use by 25%;
- I. Persons using private water wells for irrigation must post a sign visible from the street stating “water well”;
- J. No person shall allow water from private wells or city sources to drain onto city streets or right-of-way in an amount causing damage to city property or in a manner that is perceived to be wasteful.

STAGE 4 – Critical Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation: Customers shall be required to adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses listed below when:

1. Static Level of the aquifer reaches 36.0 ft. or;
2. Low aquifer levels result in a 30% loss of normal production capability or pumping capacity of 5.8 MGD for a 24-hour period.

Requirements for termination: Stage 4 of this Plan may be rescinded when the aquifer level increases back to Stage 3, 2, 1, or normal capacity for a period of forty-five (45) days.

Target for water-use reduction: Achieve a 30% reduction in total water use.

Mandatory Water-Use Restrictions:

- A. All requirements of Stage 3 shall remain in effect during Stage 4 (where Stage 3 and Stage 4 requirements conflict, Stage 4 prevails);
- B. Water customers are required to comply with the City of Vernon's Stage 4 Watering Schedule. Customers with odd numbered addresses may only water Mondays and customers with even numbered addresses may only water Thursdays. Landscape irrigation is limited to watering can, bucket, or hose end sprayer with shut-off nozzle only and may only occur from 8:00PM and 10:00AM. Outdoor irrigation with hose-end sprinklers and automatic sprinkler systems is prohibited. Irrigation utilizing drip systems and soaker hoses may be used to water trees and shrubs during designated times only. Water lawns by sprinklers is prohibited;
- C. Knowingly permitting the loss of water or failure to fix a known plumbing fixture leak is prohibited;
- D. All water using industries will be asked to curtail water by 30%;
- E. The City Manager, or his/her designee, will contact wholesale water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and will require that wholesale water customers initiate Stage 4 mandatory measures to reduce water use by 30%;
- F. Customers not meeting a 30% reduction may be subject to surcharges of up to 3X normal rates for usage amounts that exceed the 30% reduction level.

STAGE 5 – Emergency Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation: Customers shall be required to adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses listed below when:

1. Static Level of the aquifer reaches 34.0 ft. or;
2. Low aquifer levels result in a 50% loss of normal production capability or pumping capacity of 4.2 MGD for a 24-hour period.

Requirements for termination: Stage 5 of this Plan may be rescinded when the aquifer level increases back to Stage 4, 3, 2, 1, or normal capacity for a period of forty-five (45) days.

Target for water-use reduction: Achieve a 50% reduction in total water use.

Mandatory Water-Use Restrictions:

- A. All requirements of Stage 3 and 4 shall remain in effect during Stage 5 (where Stage 3/4 and Stage 5 requirements conflict, Stage 5 prevails);
- B. Water customers are required to comply with the City of Vernon's Stage 5 Watering Schedule. All outdoor and non-essential water use is prohibited;
- C. The City Manager, or his/her designee, will contact wholesale water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and will require that wholesale water customers initiate Stage 5 mandatory measures to reduce water use by 50%;
- D. Customers not meeting a 50% reduction may be subject to surcharges of up to 3X normal rates for usage amounts that exceed the 50% reduction level;
- E. Additional emergency responses:
 - a. Emergency water shortage: In the event of an identified water shortage declaration, the City will distribute water to wholesale customers according to Texas Water Code, §11.039* and initiate water allocation to municipal water customers;
 - b. Supply source contamination: In the event of a contamination event, appropriate emergency procedures will be implemented, and appropriate emergency response officials will be notified immediately;

- c. In the event of a backflow incident, loss of pressure, or an Acute Maximum Contaminant Level coliform violation, a Boiled Water Notice will be implemented as prescribed in 30 TAC Chapter 290;
- d. System outage due to the failure or damage of major water system components: In the event of a catastrophic failure due to natural or man-made events, appropriate emergency procedures will be implemented and appropriate emergency response officials will be notified as appropriate;
- e. Alternative Sources: In the event of an emergency loss of water supply, the city will consider purchasing water by the truckload or in bottles for the health and public safety of the City's residents.

The City of Vernon will include a provision in every wholesale water contract entered into or renewed after adoption of the plan, including contract extensions, that in case of a shortage of water resulting from drought, the water to be distributed shall be divided in accordance with Texas Water Code, §11.039*.

*** Texas Water Code, Sec. 11.039. DISTRIBUTION OF WATER DURING SHORTAGE.**

(a) If a shortage of water in a water supply not covered by a water conservation plan prepared in compliance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality or Texas Water Development Board rules results from drought, accident, or other cause, the water to be distributed shall be divided among all customers pro rata, according to the amount each may be entitled to, so that preference is given to no one and everyone suffers alike.

(b) If a shortage of water in a water supply covered by a water conservation plan prepared in compliance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality or Texas Water Development Board rules results from drought, accident, or other cause, the person, association of persons, or corporation owning or controlling the water shall divide the water to be distributed among all customers pro rata, according to:

(1) The amount of water to which each customer may be entitled; or

(2) The amount of water to which each customer may be entitled, less the amount of water the customer would have saved if the customer had operated its water system in compliance with the water conservation plan.

(c) Nothing in Subsection (a) or (b) precludes the person, association of persons, or corporation owning or controlling the water from supplying water to a person who has a prior vested right to the water under the laws of this state.

VARIANCES

The City Manager or his/her designee may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, safety, sanitation, or fire protection for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

1. Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.
2. Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Ordinance shall file a petition for variance with the City of Vernon after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by City Manager and Public Works Director and shall include the following:

1. Name and address of the petitioner(s).
2. Purpose of water use.
3. Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
4. Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.
5. Description of the relief requested.
6. Period of time for which the variance is sought.
7. Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
8. Other pertinent information.

The City Manager shall, within five days, notify petitioner as to whether the request is approved or denied. Decisions of the City Manager may be appealed to the City Commission.

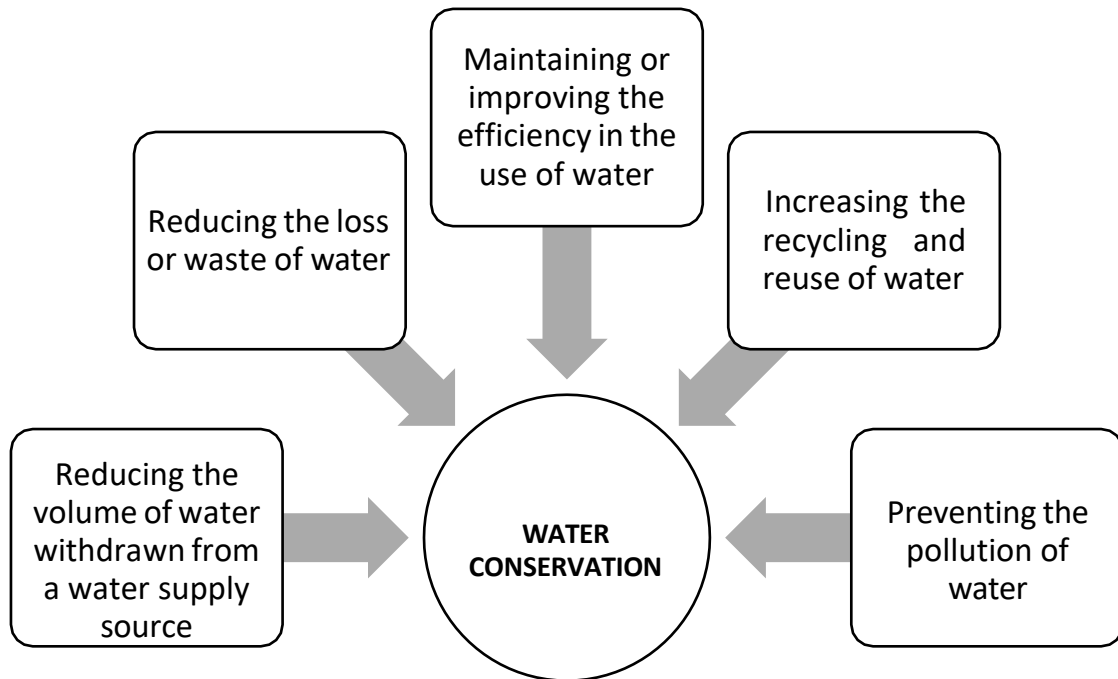
ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement

1. No person or entity shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from the City of Vernon for residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, agricultural, governmental, recreational, wholesale, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this Plan, or in an amount in excess of that permitted by the drought response stage in effect at the time pursuant to action taken by the City Manager or his/her designee, in accordance with provisions of this Plan;
2. A City of Vernon Water Department staff member designated by the City Manager or his/her designee, may issue a written Notice of Violation to a person or entity he/she reasonably believes to be in violation of this Plan. For subsequent violations following written notice:
 - a. The utility may issue a citation (Class C misdemeanor);
 - b. The utility may install a flow restricting device in the line to limit the amount of water which will pass through the meter in a 24-hour period. The utility may charge the customer for the actual cost of installing and removing the flow restricting device;
 - c. The utility may discontinue service at the meter for a period of seven (7) days, or until the end of the calendar month, whichever is LESS. The normal reconnect fee of the utility will apply for restoration of service;
3. Any water customer who violates this Plan is guilty of and may be charged with a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or as amended in ordinance. Each day that one or more of the provisions in this Plan is violated shall constitute a separate offense. If a person is convicted of three or more distinct violations of this Plan, the City Manager or his/her designee shall, upon due notice to the customer, be authorized to discontinue water service to the premises where such violations occur. Services discontinued under such circumstances shall be restored only upon payment of a re-

- connection charge and any other costs incurred by the City of Vernon in discontinuing service. In addition, suitable assurance must be documented with the City Manager or his/her designee that the same action shall not be repeated while the Plan is in effect. Compliance with this plan may also be sought through injunctive relief in the district court;
4. Any water customer of the City of Vernon, in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates shall be presumed to be the violator, and proof that the violation occurred on the person's property shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the person in apparent control of the property committed the violation, but any such person shall have the right to show that he/she did not commit the violation. Parents shall be presumed to be responsible for violations of their minor children and proof that a violation, committed by a child, occurred on property within the parents' control shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the parent committed the violation, but any such parent may be excused if he/she proves that he/she had previously directed the child not to use the water as it was used in violation of this Plan and that the parent could not have reasonably known of the violation.

WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

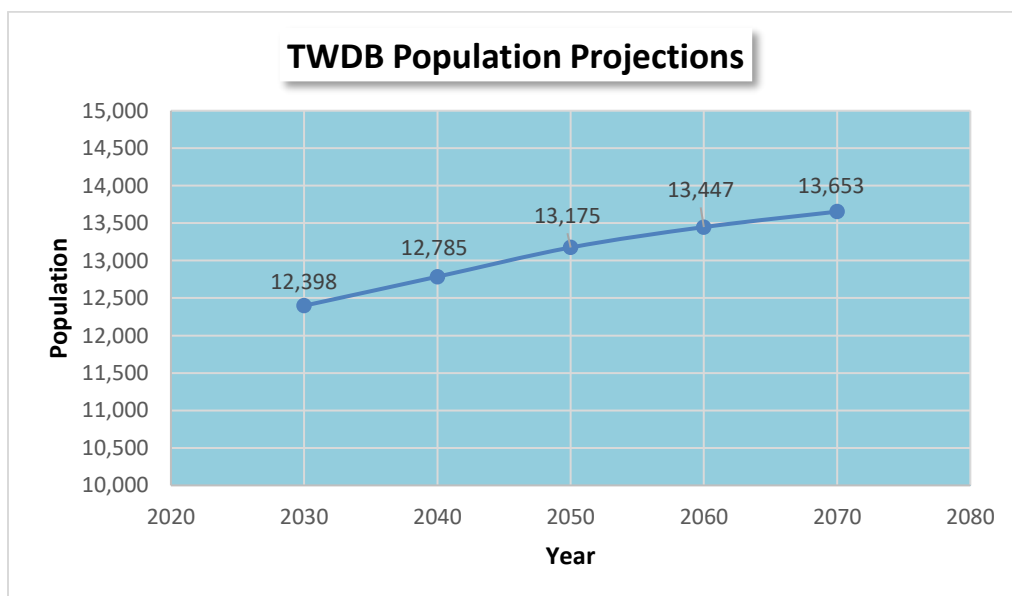
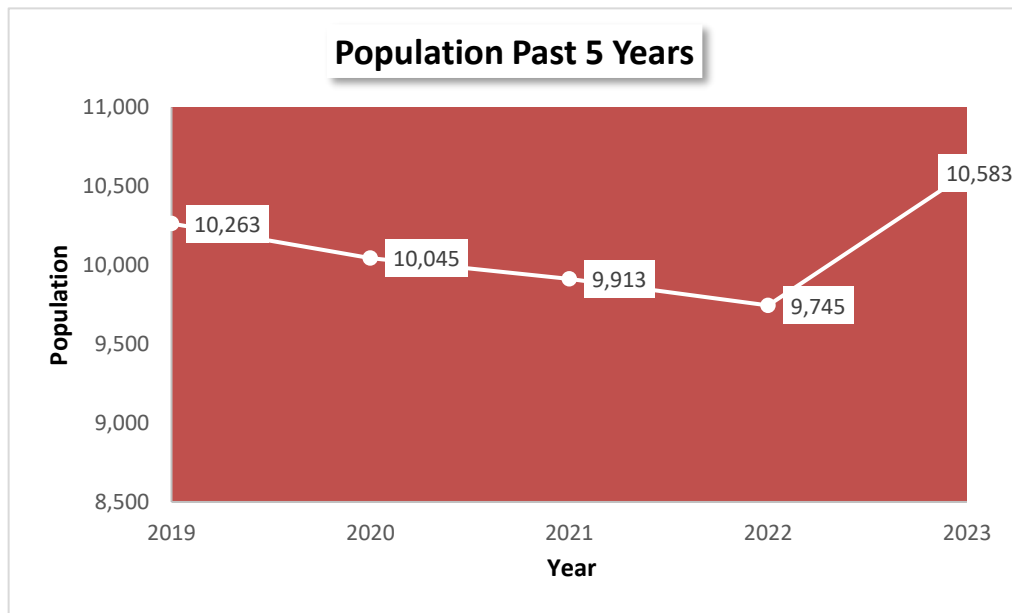


UTILITY PROFILE

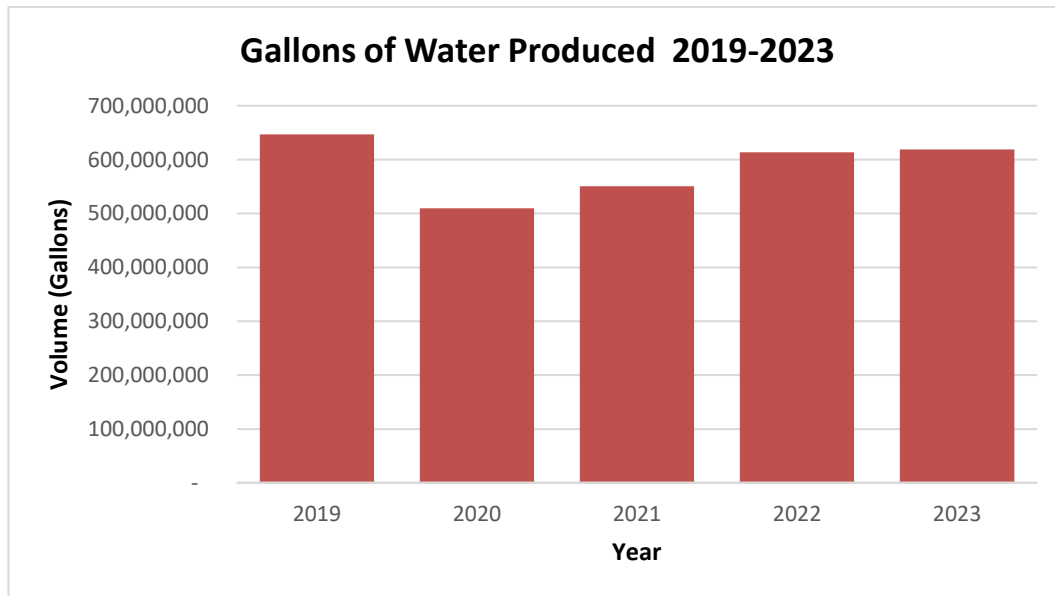
A completed TWDB Utility Profile can be found in Appendix C.

CCN#	10600
PWS#	2440001
WW ID#	WQ0010377001
RWPG	Region B Water Planning Group
COUNTY	Wilbarger
SERVICE AREA	8.1 Square Miles
WATER SOURCE	Seymour Aquifer
PRODUCTION CAPACITY	8.3 MGD
STORAGE CAPACITY	1 MG Elevated, 3MG Ground
WW CAPACITY	2 MGD

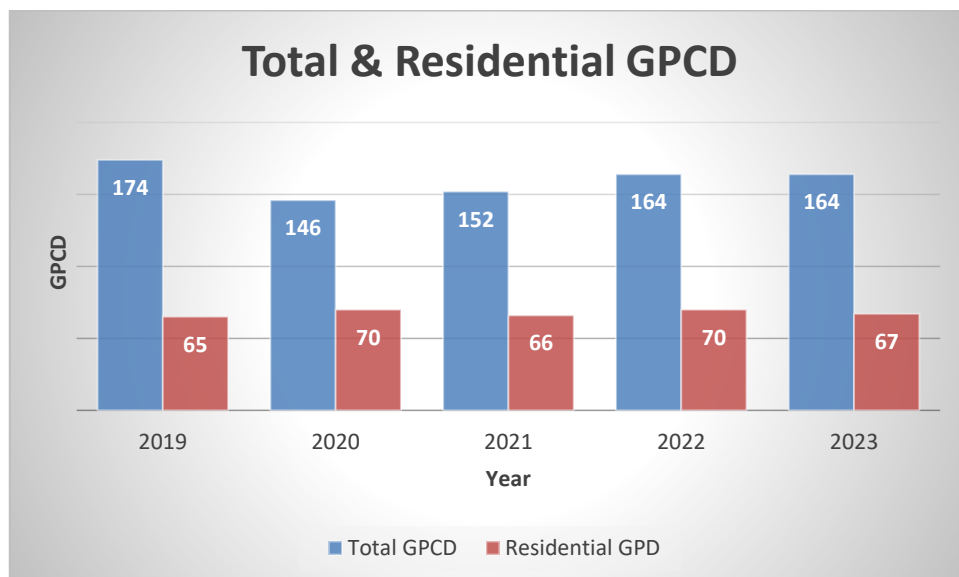
The population of a city is dependent upon many factors including economics and water availability. Despite a slight decline in population in recent years, the City expects to maintain a stable increase in population over a 50 year planning horizon. The city is currently pursuing the development of additional water supplies.



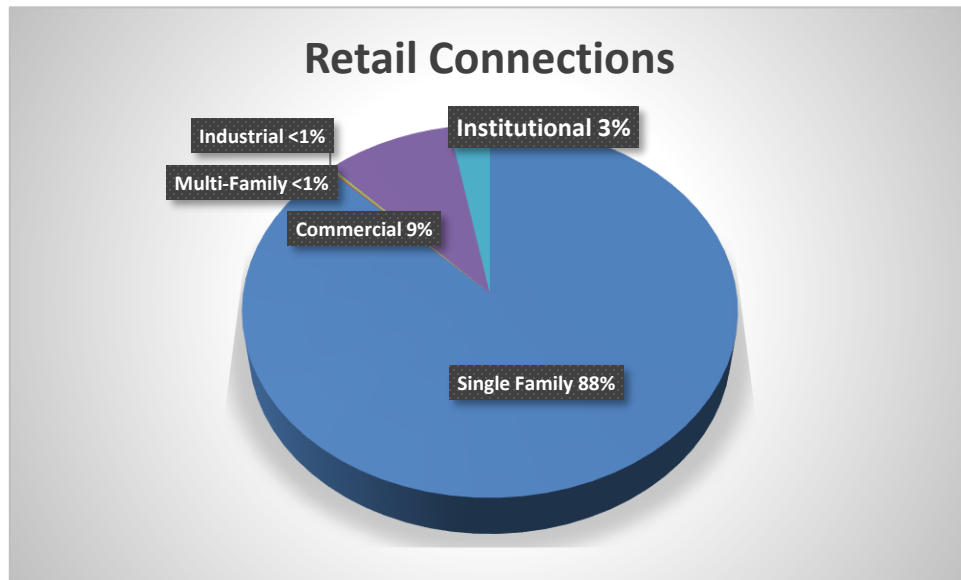
Over the previous 5 years, the City has averaged 588 million gallons of water produced annually from the Seymour Aquifer. Water sold to other retail providers (wholesale customers) represents less than 10% of the overall water produced. In 2023, the City produced 619 million gallons of water.



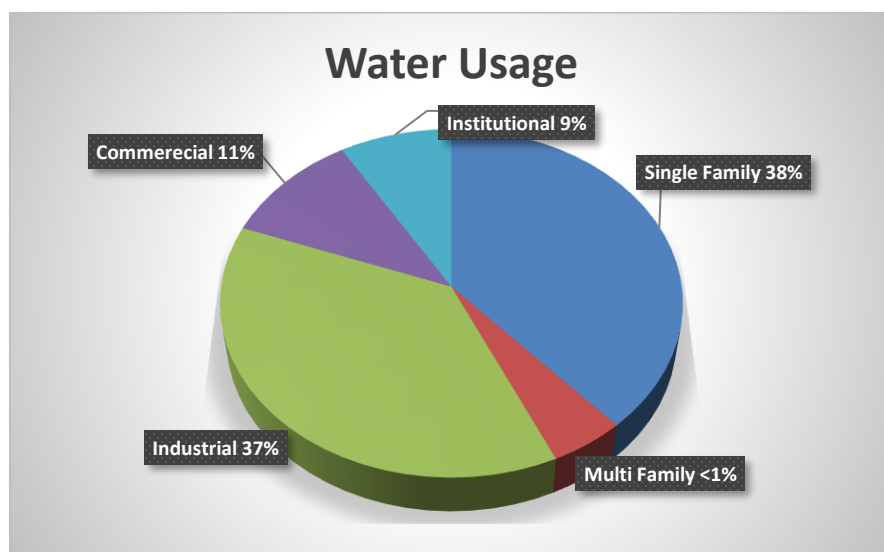
Per capita use is expressed in gallons per customer per day (GPCD). The total GPCD of Vernon, which includes industrial, commercial, and institutional uses, has fluctuated between 146 and 174 over the previous 5 years. The residential GPCD, which includes single-family and multi-family uses, has fluctuated between 65 and 70.



In 2023, the City had 4,068 retail connections. Single-Family (SF) Residential use represented 88% of the total connections. The remaining 12% of retail connections were Multi-Family (MF) Residential, Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional users.

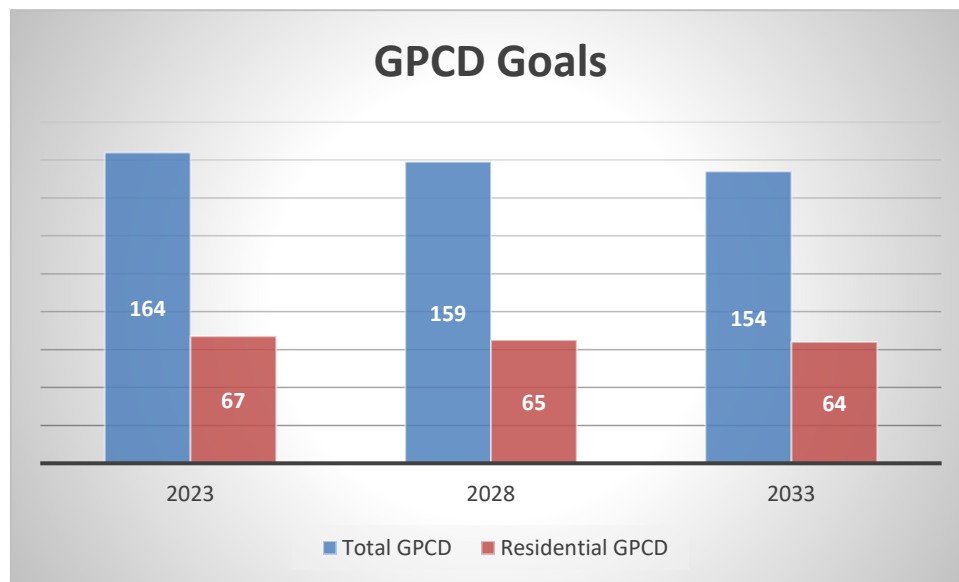


The total water usage for the City in 2023 was predominately for Single-Family Residential (38%) and Industrial (37%) uses. The remaining 25% was for Multi-Family Residential, Commercial, and Institutional uses.



WATER CONSERVATION GOALS

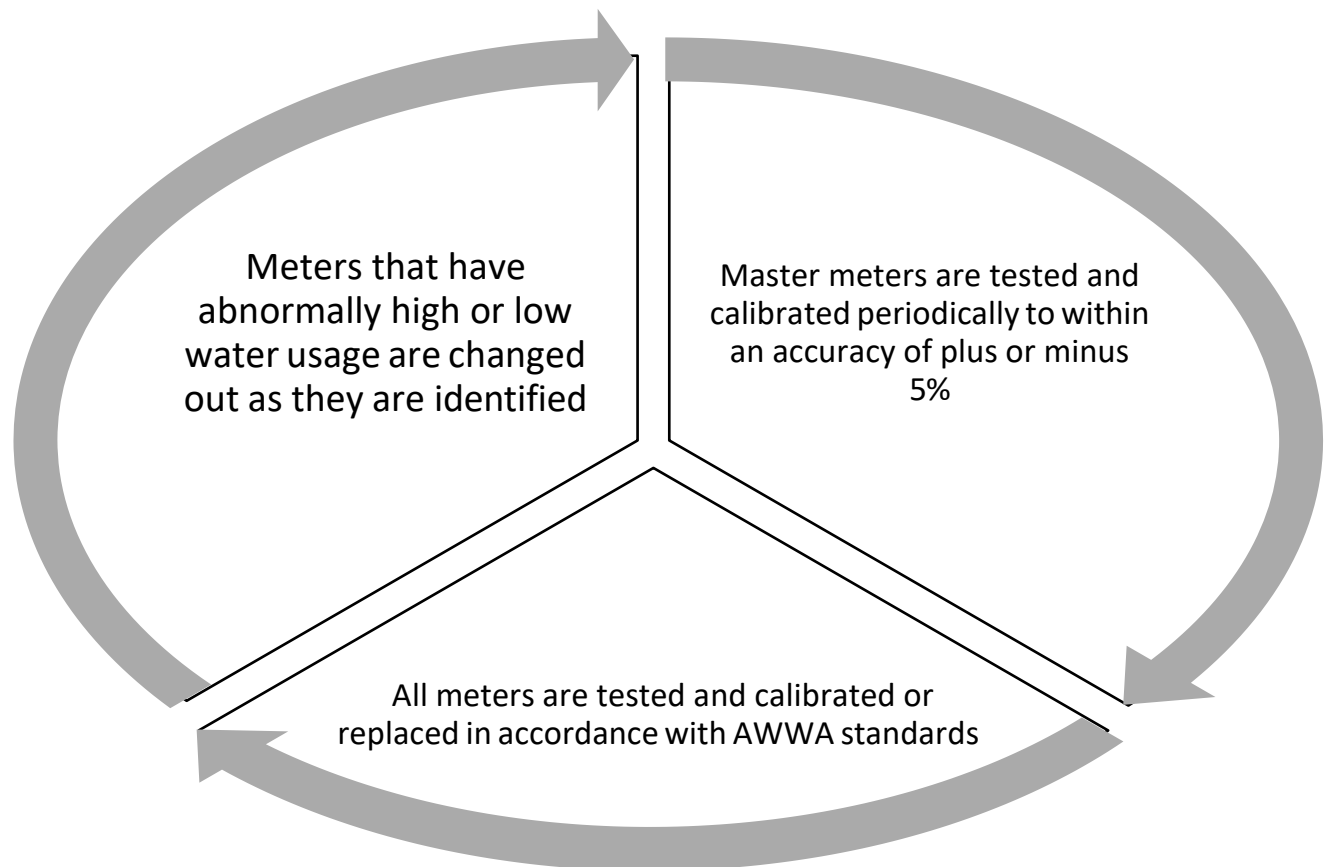
Water use can be influenced by a number of factors including annual variations in temperature and rainfall as well as water production limitations, high demand, and subsequent water-use restrictions. The goals for the City are based upon an average of the previous 5 years. Using the recommendation from the Water Conservation Task Force of Texas of a 0.5% reduction in GPCD per year, the Water Conservation Goals for the City of Vernon are as follows:



The City Manager will assess the progress in achieving the stated goals and assess the effectiveness of water conservation activities on an annual basis.

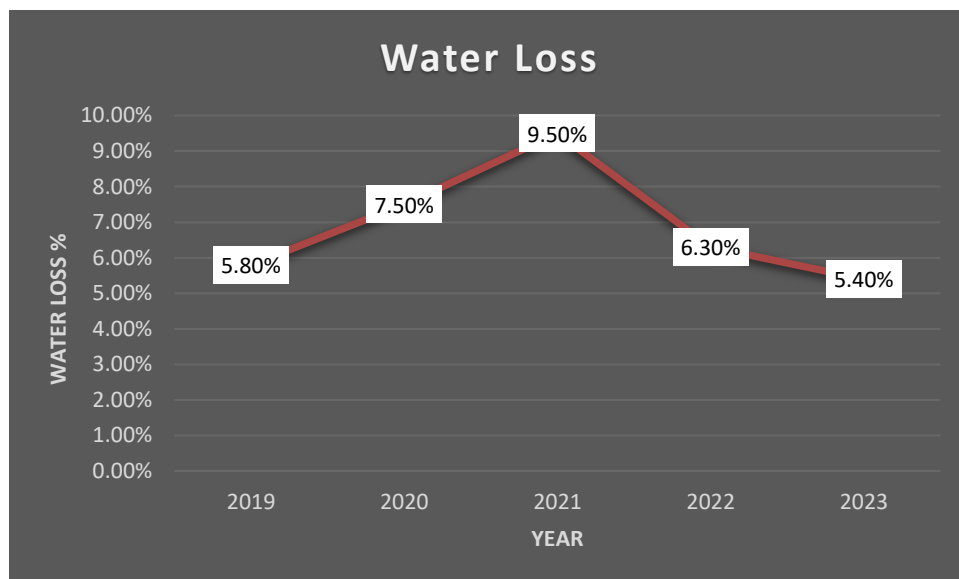
METERING DEVICES

The City of Vernon meters 100% of water use in residential, industrial, commercial, and institutional accounts. Meters are tested upon customer request. Per the City's meter testing, repair, and replacement program:



WATER LOSS

The City of Vernon maintains an ongoing program of leak detection and repair. In 2023, water loss for the City was calculated to be 5.39%. Much of the water loss in recent years can be attributed to leaks caused by ground shifting and structure fires, both associated with severe drought conditions. The long term goal is to maintain less than 5% water loss.



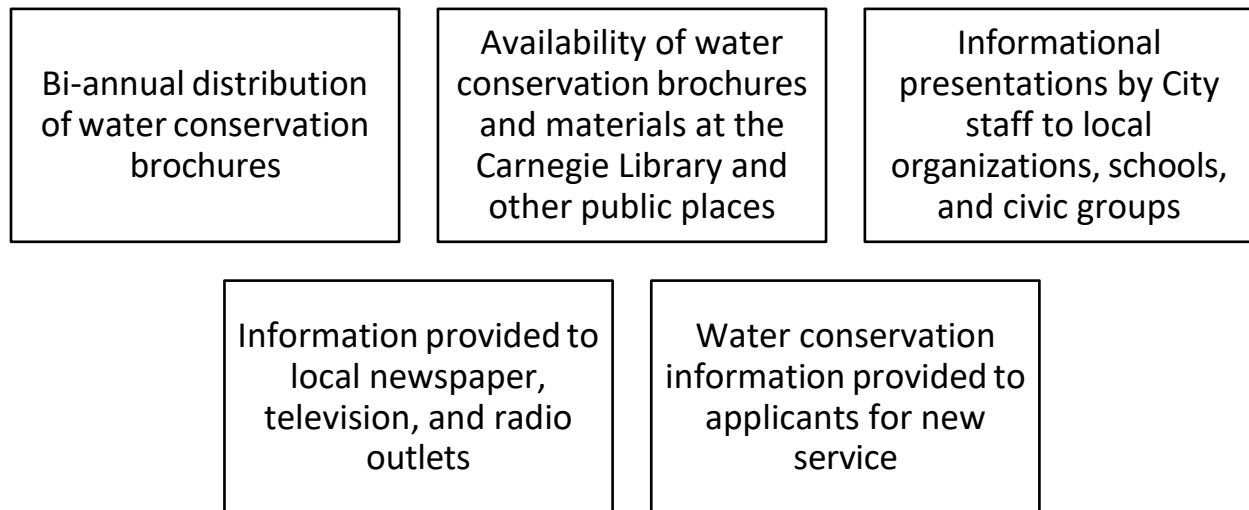
An annual internal water audit measures water loss by comparing sold vs. purchased water. Any abnormalities are investigated by the Utility Department staff using leak detection equipment. Water lines found to have leaks are replaced as quickly as practical. The City is required by TCEQ to use a CL-17 chlorine analyzer that uses 3,200 gallons/month and an ion-exchange nitrate removal system that uses between 28,000 and 56,000 gallons/day.

Elevated tanks are monitored by a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system that will alarm utility staff if water flow from the tanks indicate a possible water main break, a tank overflow, or any other abnormalities in the system. Visual inspections are performed routinely by meter readers and utility staff. Customers with abnormally high usage indicating excessive usage or a plumbing fixture leak are informed.

The City is well within the range of “acceptable” water loss which is generally less than 15% across the State of Texas. The City, however, will continue to maximize efforts to reduce water loss. The City continues to explore state-of-the-art techniques and practices that can help to identify water loss and achieve conservation.

PUBLIC EDUCATION (CONSERVATION)

The City of Vernon conducts a program of ongoing public education that includes:



The City will consider adopting Best Management Practices for Public Information and Education Programs during the next planning cycle.

WATER RATES

Within the city limits, the City of Vernon has a uniform water rate structure in place for all residential, commercial, and industrial users inside the city limits. This rate structure is cost based and does not encourage the excessive use of water.

Every user whose premise is served by a connection to the water system of the city, whereby the water is used by the user, shall pay based on the following rate schedules:

- 1) All residential and commercial class users located inside the corporate boundary limits, shall pay as follows:
 - A. First 1,000 gallons (minimum monthly bill): \$41.62.
 - B. All over 1,000 gallons, per 1,000 gallons: \$3.40
- 2) All industrial class users receiving treated water located inside the corporate boundary limits, shall pay as follows:
 - A. First 1,000 gallons (minimum monthly bill): \$41.62
 - B. All over 1,000 gallons, per 1,000 gallons: \$3.40
- 3) All industrial class users receiving raw water located inside the corporate boundary limits, shall pay as follows:
 - A. First 1,000 gallons (minimum monthly bill): \$41.62
 - B. All over 1,000 gallons, per 1,000 gallons: \$2.47
- 4) All classes of users receiving treated water, except contract customers as mentioned below in another subsection, located outside the corporate boundary limits, shall pay as follows:
 - A. First 2,000 gallons (minimum monthly bill): \$55.83
 - B. All over 2,000 gallons, but less than 20,000 gallons, per 1,000 gallons: \$4.18
 - C. All over 20,000 gallons, per 1,000 gallons: \$4.40
- 5) All classes of users receiving raw water, except contract customers as mentioned below in another subsection, located outside the corporate boundary limits, shall pay as follows:
 - A. First 2,000 gallons (minimum monthly bill): \$43.19
 - B. All over 2,000 gallons, but less than 20,000 gallons, per 1,000 gallons: \$3.18
 - C. All over 20,000 gallons, per 1,000 gallons: \$3.33
- 6) All contract users receiving treated water, located outside the corporate boundary limits, their rate is based on the water consumed that is below the listed "maximum monthly use" in this subsection, and shall pay \$4.09 per thousand (1,000) gallons. All water consumed in an amount above the "maximum monthly use" as set out below, shall be charged at a rate of \$6.14 per one thousand (1,000) gallons.

System	Maximum Monthly Use
Red River Authority-Lockett	4.5 MG
Red River Authority-Western Lane/Green Acres	0.95 MG
Red River Authority-Box	1.892 MG
Oklahoma Water Supply Corporation	1.944MG
Paradise Water Supply	0.105 MG
Harold Water Supply	1.500 MG
Northside/Hinds Community	4.5 MG






Systems not utilizing adequate storage tank and pumping systems, will be charged the higher rate of \$6.87 per 1,000 gallons “maximum monthly use” indicated in the above table.

- 7) All contract users receiving raw water, located outside the corporate boundary limits, their rate is based on the water consumed that is below the listed “maximum monthly use” and shall pay \$2.38 per one thousand (1,000) gallons. All water consumed in an amount above the “maximum monthly use”, as set out below [sic], shall be charged at a rate of \$3.75 per one thousand (1,000) gallons.

(1969 Code, sec. 26-124; Ordinance adopted 12/9/52, sec. 1; Ordinance 879 adopted 10/9/73; Ordinance 913 adopted 10/12/76; Ordinance 958 adopted 10/9/79; Ordinance 1029 adopted 9/29/83; Ordinance 1093 adopted 4/11/85; Ordinance 1103 adopted 9/23/85; Ordinance 1121 adopted 6/10/86; Ordinance 1122 adopted 6/10/86; Ordinance 1155 adopted 10/13/87; Ordinance 1215 adopted 9/26/91; Ordinance 1249 adopted 2/15/94; Ordinance 1263 adopted 11/9/94; Ordinance 1267 adopted 1/11/95; Ordinance 1275 adopted 9/20/95; Ordinance 1269 adopted 2/8/95; Ordinance 26-124, sec. 5, adopted 7/28/98; Ordinance 1356, sec. 3, adopted 9/26/00; Ordinance 1405, sec. 1, adopted 1/28/03; Ordinance 1449, sec. 2, adopted 9/27/05; Ordinance 1468, sec. 1, adopted 9/11/06; Ordinance 1491, sec. 1, adopted 12/18/07; Ordinance 1532, sec. 1, adopted 12/22/09; Ordinance 1568, sec. 1, adopted 9/27/11; Ordinance 1597, sec. 1, adopted 9/25/12; Ordinance 1606, sec. 1, adopted 3/26/13; Ordinance 1619, sec. 1, adopted 9/24/13; Ordinance 1634, sec. 1, adopted 4/22/14; Ordinance 1642, sec. 1, adopted 7/22/14; Ordinance 1660, sec. 3, adopted 4/28/15; Ordinance 1737 adopted 1/22/19)

PLUMBING FIXTURES

The State of Texas has recently adopted more stringent water saving performance measures for plumbing fixtures, found in the Health & Safety Code, Chapter 372. The following maximum flow standards are subsequently listed in the Texas Administrative Code Title 30 Chapter 290 Subchapter G:

				
Faucet 2.2 gpm	Shower head 2.5 gpm	Toilet 1.28 gpf	Urinal 0.5 gpf	Pre-rinse spray valve 1.6 gpm

Customers in existing buildings that do not have water saving plumbing fixtures are encouraged through educational materials to retrofit their old plumbing fixtures.

WATER CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING

The City has a program to provide mulch for residential landscapes. Additional mulch in tree and flower beds allow landscapes to more efficiently utilize landscape irrigation. Informational brochures about efficient landscape irrigation will be provided periodically.

DISCRETIONARY/NON-ESSENTIAL USES



Wash down of any sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, or other hard-surfaced areas



Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection



Use of water for irrigation or dust control



Residential use of water for washing vehicles



Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).



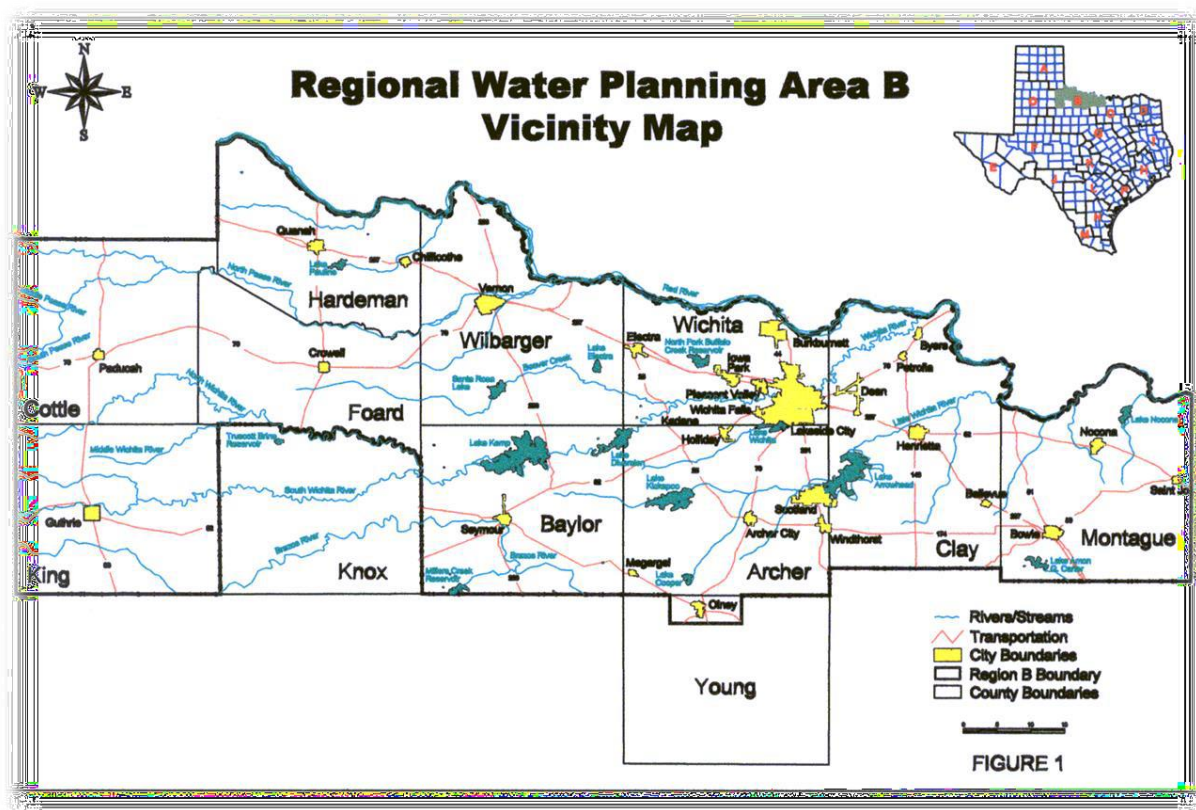
WHOLESALE CONTRACTS

The City of Vernon will include a requirement in every wholesale water supply contract entered into or renewed after official adoption of the plan and including any contract extension, that each successive wholesale customer develop and implement a water conservation plan or water conservation measures using the applicable elements in this chapter. If the customer intends to resell the water, the contract between the initial supplier and customer must provide that the contract for the resale of the water must have water conservation requirements so that each successive customer in the resale of the water will be required to implement water conservation measures in accordance with the provisions 30 TAC Chapter 288.

COORDINATION WITH REGION B

The service area of the City of Vernon is located within the Region B Water Planning Group and the City will provide a copy of this Plan to the Region B Planning Group at:

Red River Authority
3000 Hammond Road
Wichita Falls, TX 76310



ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 1817

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS UPDATING A WATER CONSERVATION & DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN; ESTABLISHING DATA, INFORMATION, AND POLICY FOR WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS; CRITERIA FOR THE INITIATION AND TERMINATION OF DROUGHT RESPONSE STAGES; ESTABLISHING RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN WATER USES; ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF THESE RESTRICTIONS; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR GRANTING VARIANCES; AND PROVIDING SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Vernon, Texas recognizes that the amount of water available to the City and its water utility customers is limited and subject to depletion during periods of extended drought;

WHEREAS, Section 13.146 of the Texas Water Code and applicable rules of the Texas Water Development Board require a retail public utility that provides potable water service to 3,300 or more connections to submit to the executive administrator of the board a water conservation plan based on specific targets and goals developed by the retail public utility and using appropriate best management practices as defined by Section 11.002, which defines "conservation" as those practices, techniques, and technologies that will reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water, or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a water supply is made available for future or alternative uses;

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that natural limitations due to drought conditions and other acts of God cannot guarantee an uninterrupted water supply for all purposes;

WHEREAS, Section 11.1272 of the Texas Water Code and applicable rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality require all public water supply systems in Texas to prepare a drought contingency plan; and

WHEREAS, as authorized under law, and in the best interest of the citizens of Vernon, Texas, the City Commission deems it expedient and necessary to establish certain rules and policies for the ongoing conservation of water and the orderly and efficient management of limited water supplies during drought and other water supply emergencies.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF VERNON, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. The City of Vernon, Texas Water Conservation & Drought Contingency Plans 2024 attached hereto and made part hereof for all purposes be, and the same is hereby, adopted as the official policy of the City of Vernon.

SECTION 2. That all ordinances that are in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance be, and the same are hereby, repealed and all other ordinances of the City not in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. Should any paragraph, sentence, subdivision, clause, phrase or section of this Ordinance be adjudged or held to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole or any part or provision thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid, illegal or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and the publication of the caption, as the law in such cases provides.

Passed and Approved by the City Commission on this 24th day of September, 2024.


Pam Gosline, Mayor

Attest:


Marsha Jo Stone, TRMC
City Secretary



APPENDIX A – REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Water Conservation Plan (TWDB/TCEQ)

For retail public water suppliers providing water service to 3,300 or more connections, a water conservation plan meeting the minimum requirements of Subchapter A of 30 TAC Ch. 288 and using appropriate best management practices must be developed, implemented, and submitted to the executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board not later than May 1, 2019, and every five years after that date to coincide with the regional water planning process.

Drought Contingency Plan (TCEQ)

Drought contingency plans for retail public water suppliers serving 3,300 or more connections, wholesale public water suppliers, and irrigation districts must be submitted no later than May 1, 2019, and every five years thereafter to coincide with the regional water planning group process. Any new or revised plans must be submitted to the TCEQ within 90 days of adoption by the governing body of the entity.

Annual Report (TWDB)

Entities with 3,300 connections or more and municipal, industrial/mining, and other non-agricultural water right holders of 1,000 acre-feet of water per year or more are required to submit an Annual Report to TWDB each year on May 1.

Water Use Survey (TWDB)

The water uses survey is a tool used to document yearly water usage by industrial (including mining, manufacturing, and steam electric) and municipal water users across the state. In addition, the Water Use Survey team evaluates the data to create yearly state-wide water use estimates. The Water Use Survey is due annually on March 1.

Water Loss Audit (TWDB)

Retail water suppliers with more than 3,300 connections are required to submit a Water Loss Audit to TWDB annually by May 1. Additionally, a retail public water utility required to file a water audit with the TWDB is required to notify each of the utility's customers of the water loss reported in the water audit.

More information can be found at: **TWDB.TEXAS.GOV** and **TCEQ.TEXAS.GOV**

APPENDIX B – WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Bathroom:

- Take a shower instead of filling the tub and taking a bath. Showers usually use less water than tub baths.
- Install a low-flow shower head which restricts the quantity of the flow.
- Take short showers and install a cutoff valve or turn the water off while soaping and back on again only to rinse off.
- Do not use hot water when cold will do, Water and energy can be saved by washing hands with soap and cold water; hot water should be only added when hands are especially dirty.
- Reduce the level of the water being used in a bathtub by one or two inches if a shower is not available.
- Turn water off when brushing teeth until it is time to rinse.
- Do not let the water run when washing hands. Instead, hands should be wet, and water should be turned off while soaping and scrubbing and turned on again to rinse.
- Shampoo hair in the shower. Shampooing in the shower takes only a little more than is used to shampoo hair during a bath and much less than shampooing and bathing separately.
- Hold hot water in the basin when shaving instead of letting the faucet continue to run.
- Test toilets for leaks. To test for leaks, a few drops of food coloring can be added to the water in the tank. The toilet should not be flushed. The customer can then watch to see if the coloring disappears in the bowl within a few minutes. If it does, the fixture needs adjustment or repair.
- Install faucet aerators to reduce water consumption.
- Never use the toilet to dispose of cleansing tissues, cigarette butts, or other trash. This can waste a great deal of water and also places an unnecessary load on the sewage treatment plant or septic tank.

- Install a new low-volume flush toilet that uses 1.28 gallons or less per flush when building a new home or remodeling a bathroom.

Kitchen:

- Using a pan of water (or place a stopper in the sink) for rinsing pots and pans and cooking implements when cooking rather than turning on the water faucet each time a rinse is needed.
- Never run the dishwasher without a full load. In addition to saving water, expensive detergent will last longer and a significant energy saving will appear on the utility bill.
- Use the sink disposal sparingly, and never use it for scraps.
- Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator, running water from the tap until it is cool is wasteful. Better still, save both water and energy by keeping cold water in a picnic jug on the kitchen counter to avoid opening the refrigerator door frequently.
- Use a small pan of cold water when cleaning vegetables rather than letting the faucet run.
- Use only a little water in the pot and put a lid on it for cooking most foods. Not only does this method save water, but food is more nutritious since vitamins and minerals are not poured down the drain with the extra cooking water.
- Use a pan of water for rinsing when washing dishes by hand rather than running the faucet.
- Always keep water conservation in mind, and think of other ways to save in the kitchen. Small kitchen savings, such as not making too much coffee or letting ice cubes melt in the sink can add up in a year's time.

Laundry:

- Wash only a full load when using an automatic washing machine (automatic washers require 32 to 59 gallons per load).

- Use the lowest water level setting on the washing machine for a light loads whenever possible.
- Use cold water as often as possible to save energy and to conserve the hot water for uses which cold water cannot serve. (This is also for clothing made of today's synthetic fabrics).

Appliances and plumbing:

- Check water requirements of various models and brands when considering purchasing any new appliance that uses water. Some use less water than others.
- Check all waterlines connections and faucets for leaks. If the cost of water is \$3.40 per 1000 gallons, one could pay a large bill for water that simply goes down the drain because of the leakage. A slow drip can waste as much 170 gallons of water each day, or 5000 gallons per month, and can add as much as \$17 per month to the water bill.
- Learn to replace faucet washers so that drips can be corrected promptly. It is easy to do, costs very little, and can represent a substantial savings in plumbing and water bills.
- Check for water leakage that the customer may be entirely unaware of, such as a leak between the water meters in the house. To check, turn off all indoor and outdoor faucets. If the water meter continues to run or turn, a leak probably exists and needs to be located.
- Insulate all hot water pipes to avoid the delays (and waste water experienced while waiting for the water to run hot).
- Be sure the hot water heater thermostat is not set too high. Extremely hot settings waste water and energy because the water often has to be cooled with cold water before it can be used.
- Use a moisture meter to determine when house plants need water. More plants die from over-watering than being on the dry side.

Outdoor Use:

- Water lawns early in the morning during the hotter summer months. Much of the water used on the lawn can simply evaporate between the sprinkler and the grass.
- Use a sprinkler that produces large drops of water, rather than a fine mist, to avoid evaporation.
- Turn soaker hoses so the holes are on the bottom to avoid evaporation.
- Water slowly for better absorption, and never water in high winds.
- Forget about watering the streets, sidewalks or driveways. They will never grow a thing.
- Condition the soil with compost before planting grass or flower beds so that water will soak in rather than run off.
- Fertilize lawns at least twice a year for root stimulation. Grass with a good root system makes better use of less water.
- Learn to know when grass needs watering. If it has turned dull grey-green or if footprints remain visible, it is time to water.
- Do not water frequently. Too much water can overload the soil so that air cannot get to the roots and can encourage plant diseases.
- Do not over-water. Soil can absorb only so much moisture and the rest simply runs off. A timer may help, and either a kitchen timer or an alarm clock will do. An inch of water applied once a week will keep most Texas grasses alive and healthy.
- Operate automatic sprinkler systems only when the demand on the City of Vernon water supply is lowest. Set the system to operate between four and six a.m.
- Do not scalp lawns when mowing during the hot weather. Taller grass holds moisture better. Rather, grass should be cut fairly often, so that only ½ to ¾ inches is trimmed off. A better looking lawn will result.

- Using a watering can or hand water with the hose in a small area of the lawn that need more frequent watering (those near walks or driveways or in especially hot, sunny spots).
- Learn what type of grass, shrubbery, plants do best in the area and in which parts of the lawn, and then plant accordingly. If one has a heavily shaded yard, no amount of water will make roses bloom. In especially dry sections of the state, attractive arrangements of plant that are adapted to arid or semi-arid climates should be chosen.
- Consider decorating areas of the lawn with rocks, gravel, wood chips, or other materials now available that require no water at all.
- Do not “sweep” walks and driveways with the hose. Use a broom or rake instead.
- Use a bucket of soapy water and use the hose only for rinsing when washing the car.
- Applying 1-inch of water per week is sufficient for maintaining turf grasses and plants.