#### May 15th Lunch and Learn - Water

Speakers:

- Nathan Brooks (Director of Environmental Health Summit County)
- Shital Poudyal (Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist Utah State University)
- Susan Cordone (Conservation Coordinator Water Department Park City Municipal Corporation)

For general questions contact Evan Hodson | evan.hodson@parkcity.org

#### Nate Brooks (Director of Environmental Health - Summit County)

**Environmental Health** focuses on monitoring and mitigating environmental factors that impact public health now and in the future. Key areas include:

- Air Quality
- Drinking Water
- Wastewater Management

Summit County is a leader in wastewater innovation in Utah, employing many experimental systems:

- 1. **Conventional Septic Systems**: These include septic tanks and drain fields.
- Alternative Septic Systems: These use a septic tank combined with a recirculating hanging fabric filter.
- 3. **Graywater Systems**: These systems reuse water from sinks, showers, and washing machines, which contains detergent and soap by-products. Summit County permits graywater systems that operate about six inches below the surface.
- 4. **Hybrid Alternative Systems**: These combine blackwater (from toilets) and graywater for subsurface irrigation.

#### Shital Poudyal (Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist - Utah State University)

USU is researching the effects of graywater on plants and soil, finding no negative impact on plant growth.

**QWEL Certification** (Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper) is an EPA WaterSense-labeled professional certification for irrigation installation and audits, available for both residential and commercial applications. Training is organized by USU Extension, Water District, and UNLA, typically 3-4 times a year.

- Cost: \$100
- Duration: 20 hours (2 days of training, 1 day of examination)
- Annual Renewal: Free

#### Benefits:

- Inclusion in the EPA and QWEL directory
- Use of the QWEL logo
- Networking opportunities
- Access to free resources from CWEL (Center for Water Efficient Landscaping), including webinars and other educational materials.

#### Susan Cordone (Conservation Coordinator – Water Department - Park City Municipal

#### **Corporation**)

Local initiatives to promote water efficiency:

- Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers: Available with rebates to help manage water
   usage efficiently.
- WaterSmart Program: Assists in identifying leaks and other water usage anomalies.
- **Turf Removal Rebate**: Through an interlocal agreement with Weber Basin, residents can get \$3.00 per square foot of live turf removed to encourage water-saving landscaping.

In Park City, water usage is evenly split between commercial (26%) and residential (26%) sectors, highlighting the importance for us all to step into our role as water managers.

# Onsite Wastewater and Gray Water in Summit County

Nathan Brooks- Summit County Health Department

### Summit County Environmental Health

Environmental Health: The branch of public health provides monitoring and mitigation for environmental factors that currently affect and may affect future generations.

What services do we provide the public:

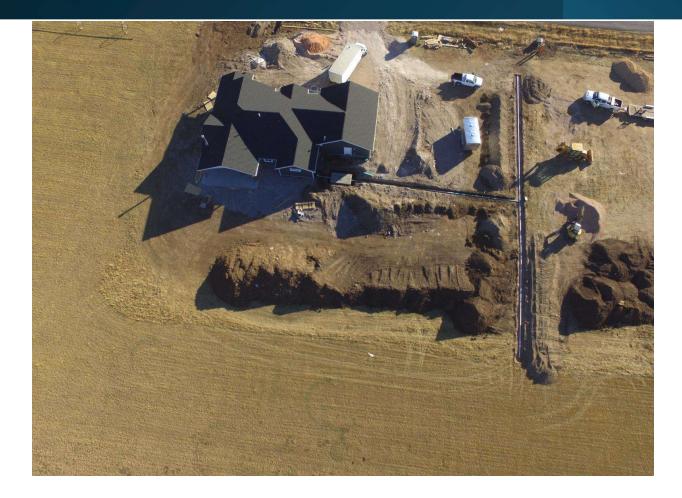
- Permit, Inspect, test, educate, and work with the public in the program below:
  - Air quality
  - Onsite wastewater
  - Public swimming pools
  - Drinking water
  - Restaurants/food trucks/special events
  - Recreation water quality
  - Hazmat response



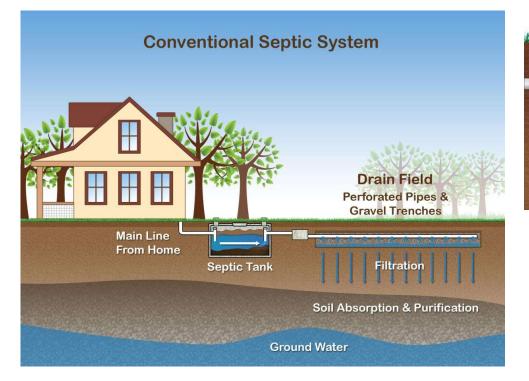
### Summit County Onsite Wastewater

- The first septic systems were permitted in the early 1970's (the Health District at the time was covering Morgan, Wasatch, and Summit Counties)
- Summit County leads the way in innovations within the State of Utah for new technology and wastewater treatment
  - Currently have 4 experimental systems in use, more than the entire State of Utah
- A "crappy" problem occurring is that more growth in our mountain valleys = more wastewater production
- Roughly permit 120 new septic systems per year- perc test, plan review, permit, and final inspection
- Summit County is the headwaters for the Weber and Provo Rivers- Many cabins along these river corridors.
- SCHD currently manages State DWQ Large Underground Waste Disposal Systems 5000 gallons per day of wastewater.

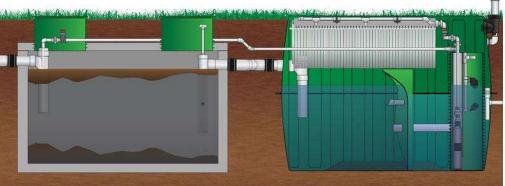
### Summit County Onsite Wastewater



### What is a septic system?



#### Alternative Septic System





### Why use a septic system?



Nearly 8000 septic systems within Summit County



Many areas do not have public sewer



Effective method to treat and discharge wastewater



Septic system discharge water back into the ground, not into a stream so the water stays within the County



R317-4 Utah Onsite Wastewater code was first composed in the mid-1970s. Many code revisions and standards are much higher now.

### Gray and Black Water

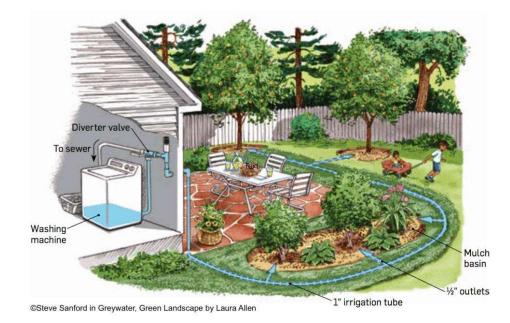


### Graywater

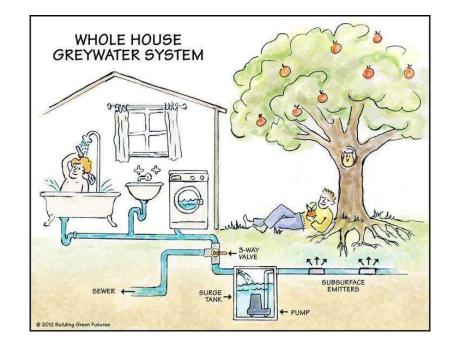
- R317-401- Utah Graywater System Code
- Code was just revised on May 1, 2024
- Only allows for subsurface application
- Graywater contains more detergent and soap by-product levels than standard black water.
- Can be installed in conjunction with a septic system or public sewer
- Summit County does permit graywater systems- No systems have been permitted to date
- Tiered Graywater systems:
  - Tier 1- Gravity-fed graywater system that does not include a surge tank, pre-treatment or pressured components. Simple to operate and can easily be disconnected if needed.
  - Tier 2- Graywater system that employs a surge tank, pretreatment, drip line irrigation system, or pressurized components.

### Graywater

#### Tier 1



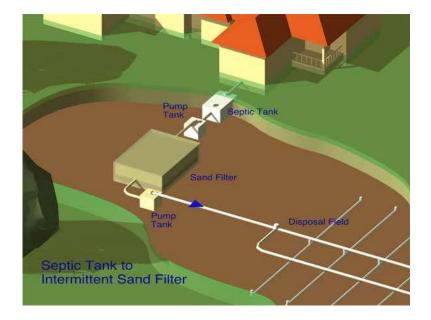




### Hybrid Alternative Black and Graywater System

Utilizes both black and gray water in the same system to provide subsurface irrigation





## Hybrid System

Utilizes both black and gray water in the same system to provide subsurface irrigation

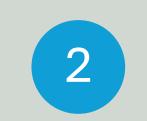




### Conclusion



Summit County encourages water reuse and restrictions



We understand the challenges currently and, in the future



Codes can be restrictive, but it does not mean that we are limited in our progressive outlook for the future



Through education and citizen's awareness, we can develop a more robust water conservancy partnership in Summit County





## QWEL Certification: What, how and why

**Shital Poudyal, Ph.D** Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist

# What is QWEL

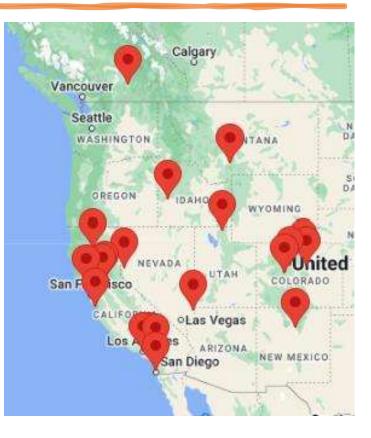
- Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) program is an EPA WaterSense labeled professional certification in irrigation system audits.
- Both Residential, Commercial
- Started by Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership (Partnership) that now represents 13 water utilities in Sonoma and Marin counties, CA that have joined together to provide regional solutions for water use efficiency.



• Now adopted in 7 states and Canada

# What is QWEL

- For three consecutive years (2014-16) the Partnership was the recipient of the Professional Certifying Partner of the Year award for its work in educating landscape professionals through its WaterSense labeled QWEL professional certification program.
- For six consecutive years (2017-2022) the Partnership has been the recipient of the Sustained Excellence Award.



## How do you become QWEL Certified

- USU Extension, Water District and UNLA jointly organize training and education session
- Low cost 20-hour training and certification on irrigation and water management
- Need to register at <u>https://www.qwel.net/calendar</u>
- Create an account.
- Attend 2 days of training schedule and pass exam
- Complete requirements for FREE annual renewal

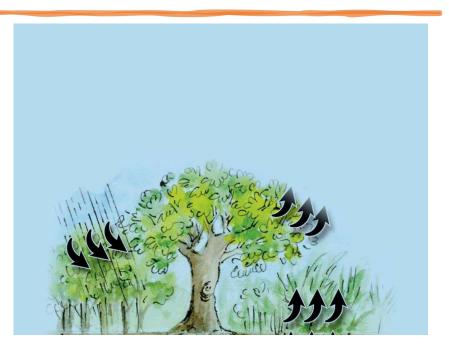
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FOR LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS
BECOME A QWEL PRO
TRAINING CALENDAR
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are required
CONTINUING EDUCATION
ALL QWEL PROS LIST
EMAIL NEWS

# Why QWEL

#### • Gain understanding of relevant topics

- Where Our Water Comes From
- Sustainable Landscaping
- Soils
- Landscape Water
- Irrigation Systems
- Irrigation Maintenance & Trouble Shooting
- Irrigation System Auditing
- Irrigation Scheduling
- Irrigation Controllers



# Why QWEL

- Listing your name/business name on EPA Watersense and QWEL website as Certified Professional
- Free use of QWEL Logo
- Networking
- Great food

### Find a Pro



WaterSense and its professional certifying organization partners jointly maintain the Directory of Certified Professionals. Updates to the directory are made quarterly and reflect the best information available at the time. Individuals listed in the directory have successfully completed all the requirements of at least one WaterSense labeled professional certification program.

Irrigation with a Pro Page
WaterSense Outdoors
Download Full List of

**Related Links** 

Professionals
 WaterSense Home

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2 Records Found for Certified Professionals		
Showing Records 1 through 2	Sort By -	
Andrew Beutler		
Company Name Applewood Tree And Landscape	Available For Hire: Yes	
Email: applewood23@gmail.com	Distance (Miles): N/A	
Phone: (435) 760-0286	City: Logan	
ustomer Types: Residential, Commercial		
Certifications: Irrigation System Audit	Website: N/A	
Professional Certifying Organization: Utah State University Cooperative	e Extension, a QWEL Adopting Organization	

## CWEL - USU



### **Center for Water Efficient Landscaping**

Providing research-based outreach programs to help improve the efficient use of water for landscape irrigation.



#### Utah Growing Water Smart Program

**The Utah Growing Water Smart** program provides workshops and resources for community leaders and staff to integrate water and land use planning and support decision making for building a more



#### **Webinar Series**

The *Water Well with CWEL* Webinar Series is for anyone interested in water conservation and related topics.



#### **Demonstration Landscapes**

#### Demonstration Landscapes Initiative Waterwise Landscape Plans

Our goal is to provide you with water-efficient ideas that are easy to replicate in your home landscape.

## Thank you

### Shital Poudyal, Ph.D

Shital.poudyal@usu.edu





## **Conservation**











WATERSMART MAILER 6x a year with recommendations to reduce water usage



ONGOING RESTRICTIONS Watering prohibited from 10:01 am - 6:59 pm.

> Watering restricted to every other day at most. Water Waste is prohibited.



PARTNERSHIP WITH WEBER BASIN WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT Conservation Garden

#### **MEMBERSHIPS**

Utah Water Conservation Forum Alliance for Water Efficiency







## Conservation

- Signed Interlocal Agreement with Weber Basin
  - Now \$3.00 rebate per sq. ft. (of live turf removed)
- 50 + Site Visits
- 4 Conversions (one more finishing up)
- Water Harvest Rain Barrel Program May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- 1 Large HOA is planning on removing 20k of turf
- 3 more HOA's pending approval

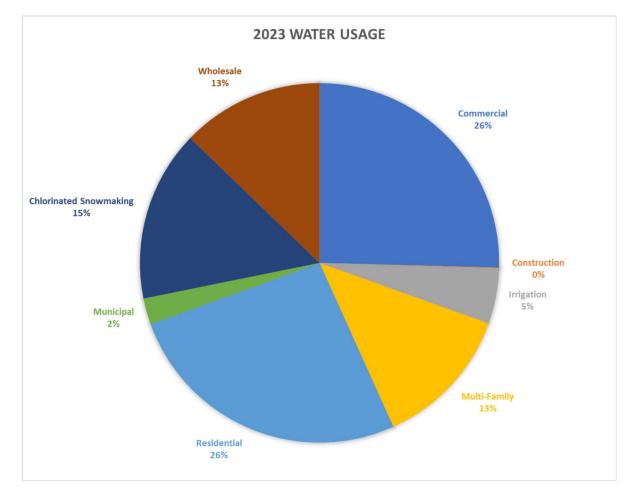


## Conservation

- Behavioral
- Device driven
- Industry Leadership...what are 'they' doing?
- Everyone is a *Water Manager*
- Next steps for Summit County...



## 2023 Water Usage





## **Trivia Break**

- What area is at the top of the local watershed?
- Does what we do/consume affect our downstream neighbors?
- What can we do to help the community effort?



## Contact us:

- Park City Water Department main # 435-615-5335
- Landscape Incentive Program <a href="mailto:savewater@parkcity.org">savewater@parkcity.org</a>
- Susan Cordone 435-615-5312 or <a href="mailto:susan.cordone@parkcity.org">susan.cordone@parkcity.org</a>

