

Utah's Water Future

Local Perspectives on Water Issues

Highlights from the 2014 iUTAH Household Survey

NORTH LOGAN HIGHLIGHTS



Background:

In July 2014, researchers from Utah State University and the University of Utah conducted a survey about water issues with residents in North Logan. We received responses from 79% of the North Logan households selected to participate (138 total households). Characteristics of survey respondents were similar to the city as a whole based on Census information, with the survey somewhat underrepresenting those in the 18-35 age group and those with household incomes less than \$25,000, and over-representing those with a college degree, those over age 65, and non-Hispanic white adults.



Household Water & Lawns

People know how much they spend, but not how much they use

- Over two-thirds of respondents (68%) reported a high degree of familiarity with how much they spend on water each month, but fewer (30%) were familiar with the volume of water they use

Lawns are watered by household residents

- North Logan respondents overwhelmingly indicated that they water their own lawns (95%).

Few water during the day

- Most residents (98%) report watering their lawn mainly in the morning, evening, or at night.

Weather plays a key factor in watering decisions...

- Nearly all of households (89%) say they try to adjust their lawn watering behaviors to the weather

...but property value, time, and conservation are also considerations.

- Three quarters indicated they water to try to prevent brown spots on their lawn (76%) and to maintain property value (75%).
- Majorities said keeping a regular schedule (68%), conserving water (65%), and minimizing time spent watering (55%) were important considerations.
- Only 34% indicated they consider keeping neighbors happy in their watering decisions.

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Water Conservation

Many residents think that they can do more to conserve water...

- About half (52%) of North Logan respondents felt they could do more to reduce their indoor water use, while
- Just under one-third (30%) thought they could do more to reduce outdoor water use.

...but only a small percentage report have actually decreased their water use

- A minority of North Logan respondents reported that they decreased either indoor (34%) or outdoor (18%) water use over the last five years.

People are most willing to conserve if it:

- **Ensures future supply for their home** (80%),
- **Reduces their water bills** (67%),
- **Ensures future supply for farms** (62%), and
- **Improves fish & wildlife habitat** (48%)

People are least willing to conserve if savings are used to increase development in this area (19%).

Water Quality

Local water quality is generally seen as good.

- Most (92%) of North Logan respondents said their drinking water quality was “good” or “very good”, while just 3% rated it as “bad” or “very bad”
- About two-thirds rated water in rivers and lakes upstream (65%) and streams and creeks in their neighborhood (60%) as good
- Over half (58%) indicated irrigation canal or ditch water was of good quality, while under half (42%) indicated they felt downstream waters were of good quality Downstream rivers and reservoirs were only rated as bad by 13-16% of respondents from North Logan.



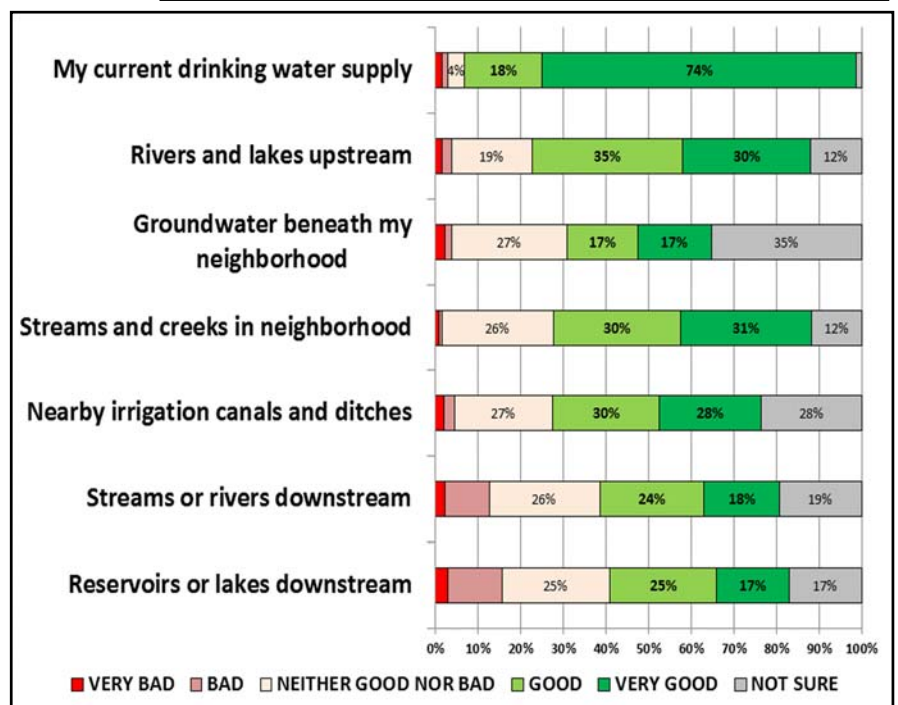
Secondary Water Systems

Used by two-thirds of households, mainly for lawns and gardens

- About 64% of North Logan respondents reported having access to secondary water for irrigation, of which 87% have a pressurized system and 12% receive water from an open ditch or canal
- Those with access mainly use secondary water for irrigating their lawn and other landscaping (95%) or for vegetable gardens (69%). Very few use this water for agricultural crops or livestock (3%)

Most users are satisfied

- Respondents from North Logan who have secondary water service were generally satisfied with their systems (73%) and 70% said they have attended a meeting with their secondary water provider
- About half of North Logan respondents with secondary water (49%) indicated confidence in the future security of their secondary water supply



Concerns about Water and Other Issues

Respondents believed current water supplies are more adequate than future water supplies

- Half of North Logan respondents thought there was enough water to meet current needs in this city
- Only 27% were confident in North Logan's future supply, and 41% of respondents were concerned about the city's future water supply.

Farm water use was not a big concern.

- While 47% of respondents believed that residential lawns use too much water,
- Only 7% felt that agriculture was currently using too much water.

Water related issues take a back seat to growth concerns, except for cost.

- Traffic congestion (86%) and air pollution (79%) were of greatest concern, followed by loss of open space (71%) and population growth (67%) (see chart).
- Among water issues, the greatest concern related to the high cost of water (64%), water shortages (64%) and deteriorating water infrastructure (54%)
- Just over a third (39%) were concerned about water quality.
- By far the lowest level of concern was expressed about flooding (16%).

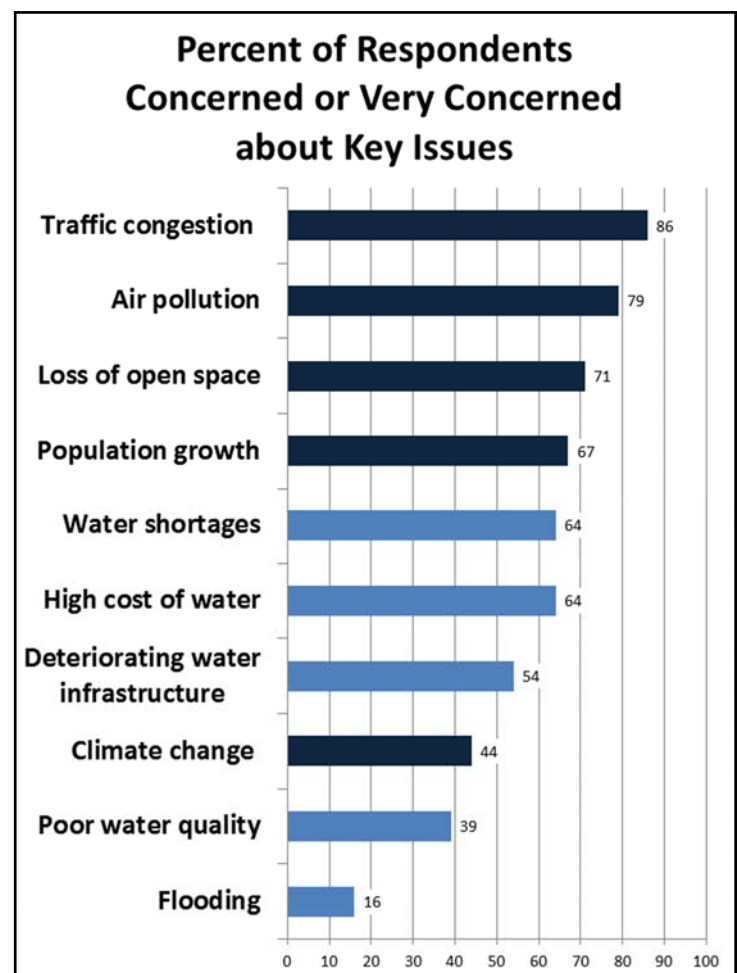
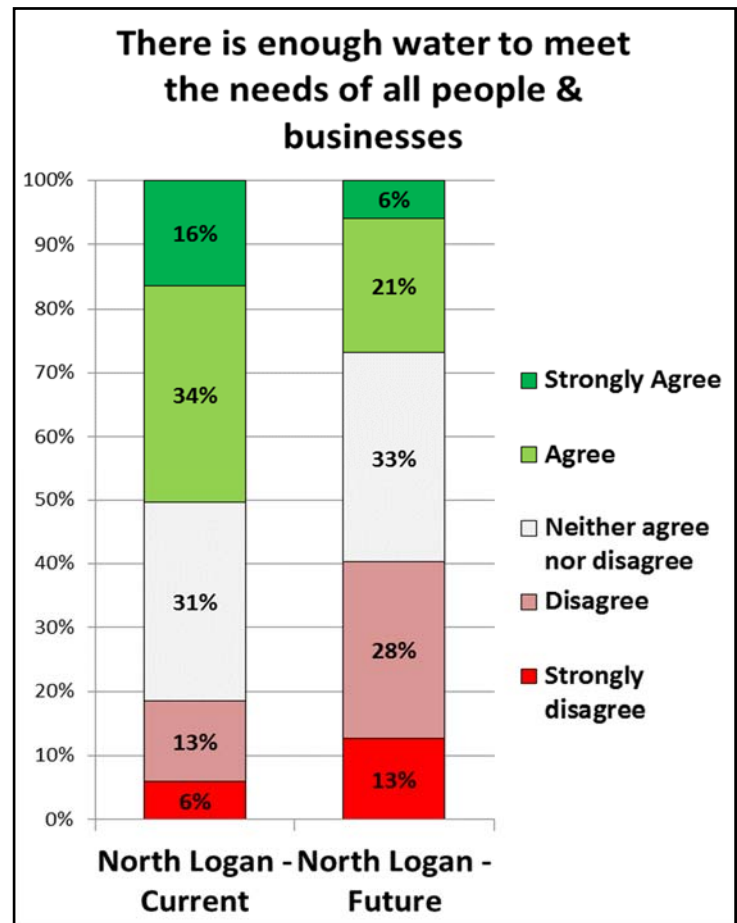
How Should North Logan Respond to Short-Term Shortages?

Voluntary approaches most popular

- North Logan respondents indicated a very high level of support for educational efforts (95%) and voluntary water restrictions (88%).

Majority support mandatory limits

- Most respondents supported watering restrictions in parks, golf courses, and public properties (84%) or mandatory restrictions on watering lawns (75%)



Support for Long Term North Logan Water Policy

Most supported having development pay for itself

- Limiting future housing development unless water supplies are secured was supported by 80% of respondents, while
- Reusing treated wastewater for residential irrigation had the support of 67%

A majority supported building storage and managing storm-water

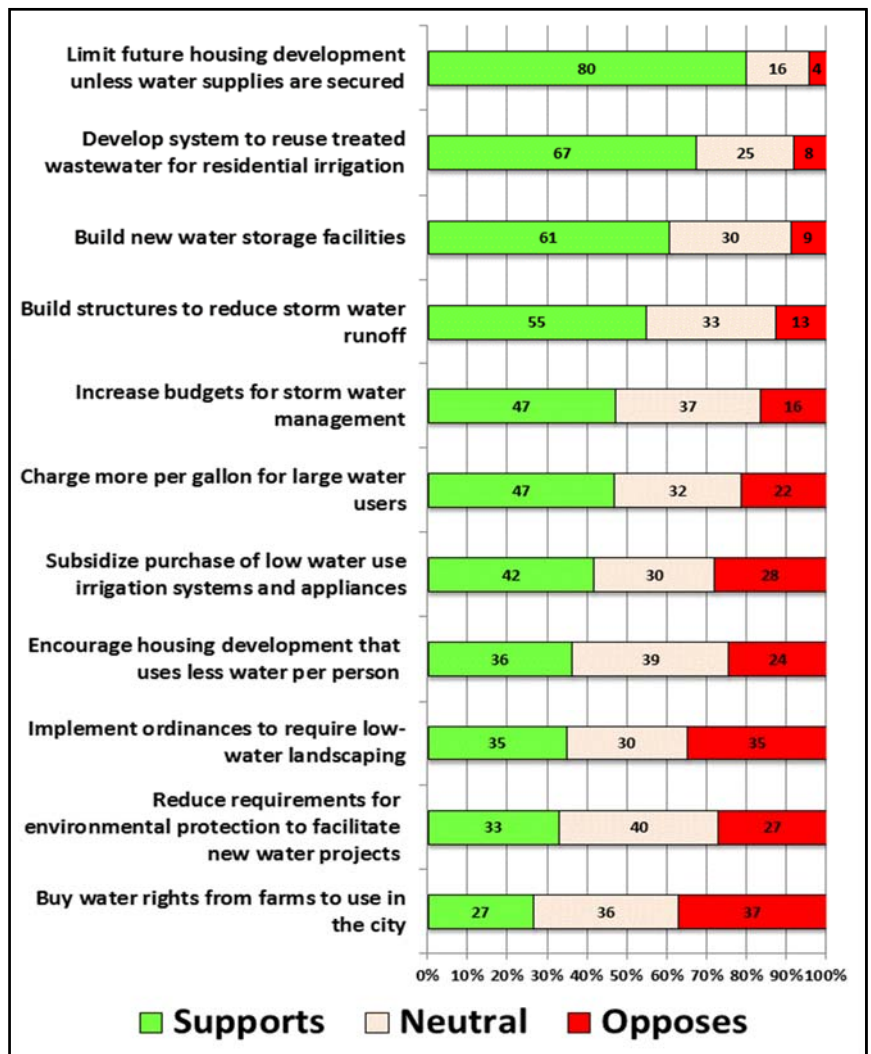
- Over half supported local funding to build new water storage (61%) and increasing budgets for city stormwater management (55%)

There was modest support for incentivizing conservation

- Roughly half (47%) supported charging more for large water users, while 42% supported city subsidies for low water irrigation systems appliances
- Just under half (47%) support increasing budgets for stormwater management

There was less support for city policies to

- Encourage housing development that uses less water per person (36%), implement ordinances to require low-water landscaping (35%), reduce requirements for environmental protection to facilitate new water projects (33%), or buy water rights from farms for city use (27%)



Support for State Water Goals & Policies

Residents said state should ensure supply while protecting water quality and agriculture

- Nearly all supported state goals to ensure a supply of drinking water (99%) protect water quality (98%), and ensure water supplies for agriculture (92%)
- There is moderate support for state goals to save taxpayer money (58%), protect wetlands and wildlife habitat (56%) and ensure the supply of water for economic development (52%)

There is support for wide range of state policies

- The highest support was for the use of state funds to build new reservoirs or storage (75%)
- Nearly two-thirds support using state funds to replace aging city water infrastructure (64%) and research on water conservation technologies (63%)
- Fewer supported minimum state standards for new residential construction to reduce water use (59%), allowing sale of water saved from conservation (55%) and investments to increase the efficiency of agricultural irrigation systems (53%). Only 23% support transfers of water from farms to urban users.

If you would like more information about the survey results, full reports are posted on our website:

www.iutahepscor.org/hhsurvey