



# Larimer County Water Education Series

Urban Water Use & Conservation

Katie Collins, Fort Collins Utilities, Water Conservation Specialist



Sept. 20, 2023

# Fort Collins Utilities by the Numbers



137,000 people  
(75% of population  
of Fort Collins)



33,000 residential  
accounts



3,000 commercial  
accounts



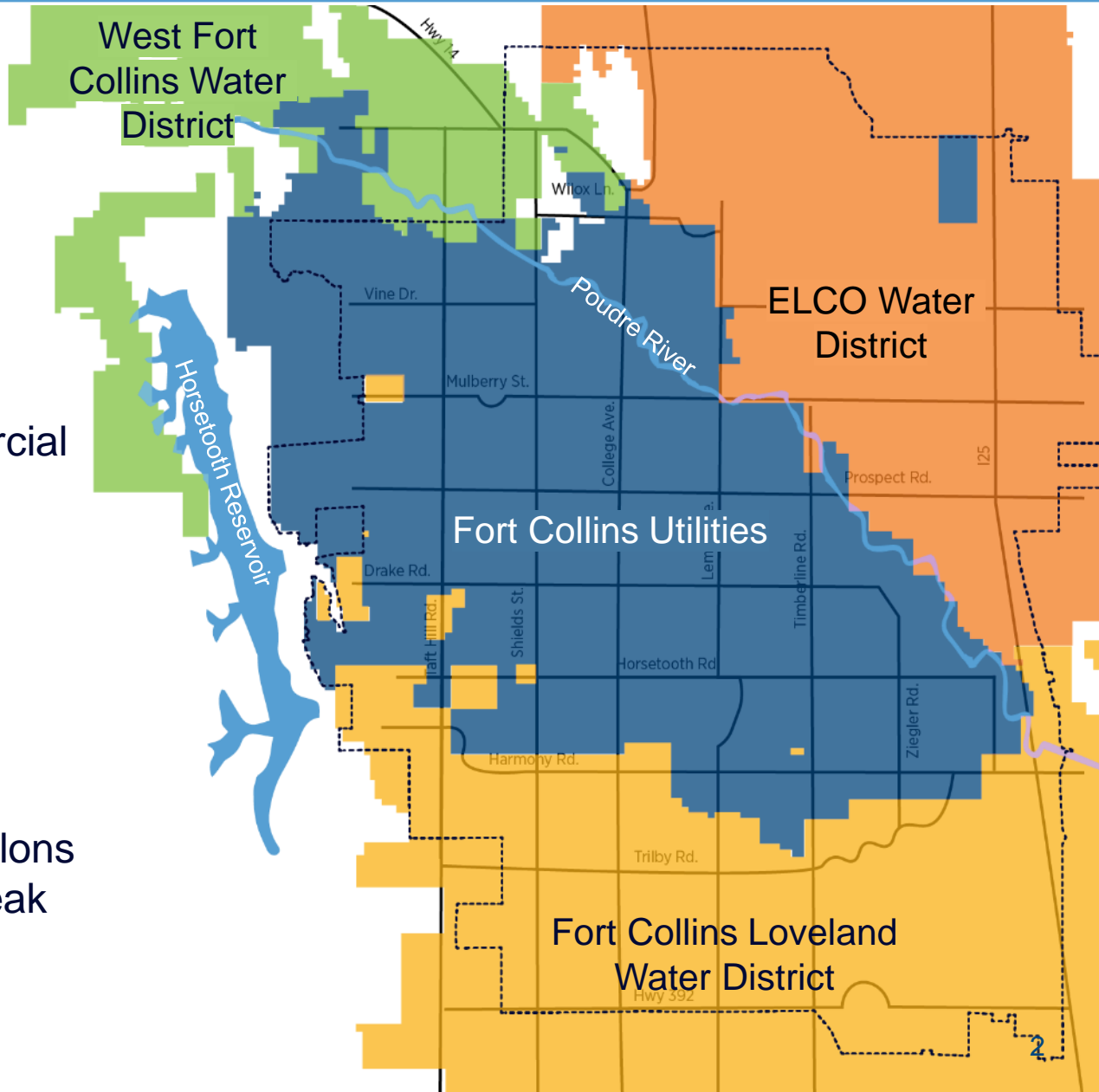
Treat 8 billion  
gallons a year



Average 22 million  
gallons per day



~40 million gallons  
per day at peak



## Two Sources of Water Supply

- Depending on the year, each source provides about half of our annual water
- Redundancy is good, but we need both

## Supply Challenges

- Climate
  - Less snowpack
  - Colorado River Basin
  - Earlier runoff
  - More frequent water restrictions
  - Stress to trees and other landscapes
- Storage
  - Halligan Reservoir

## Cache la Poudre River

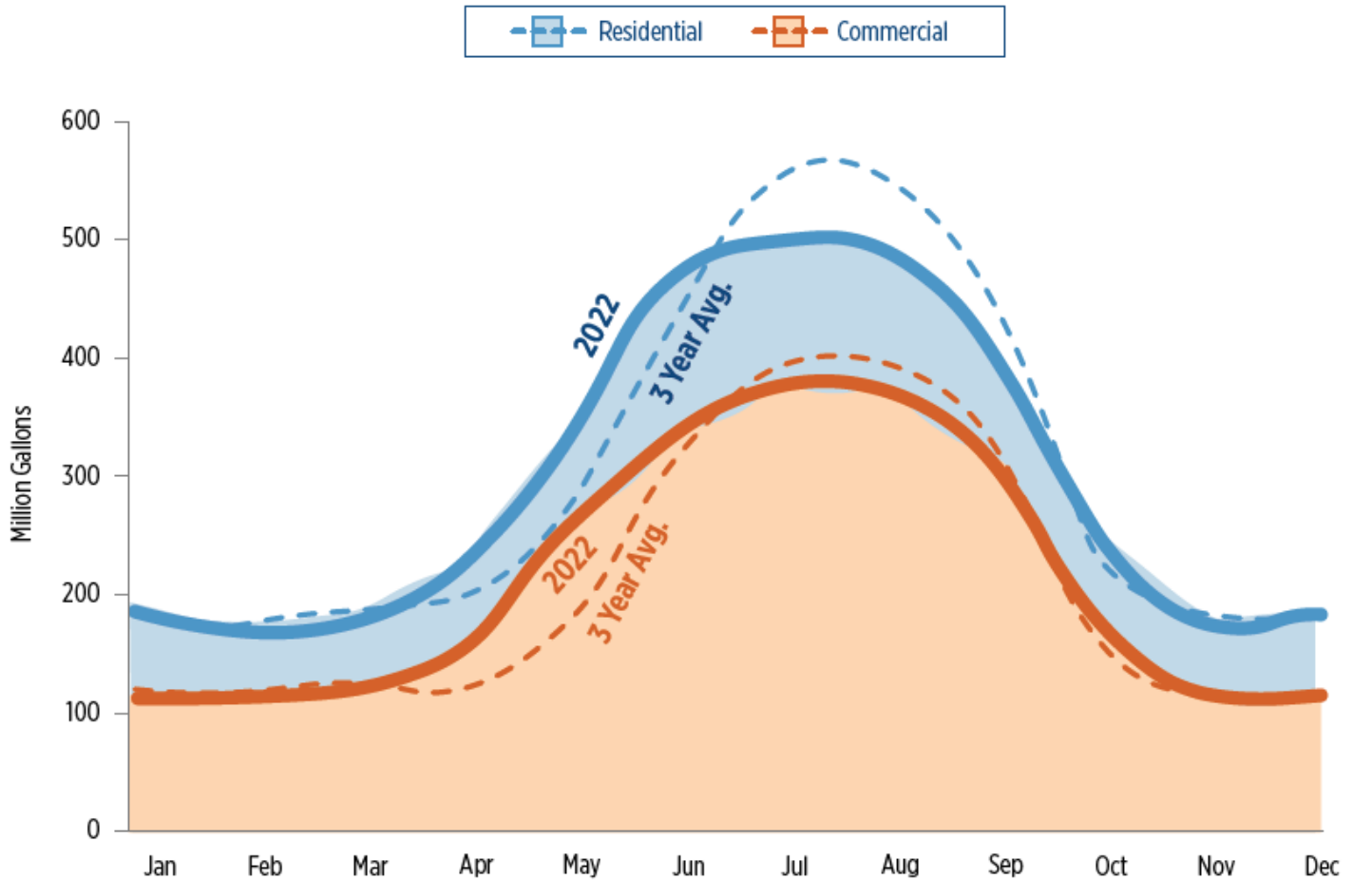


## Horsetooth Reservoir

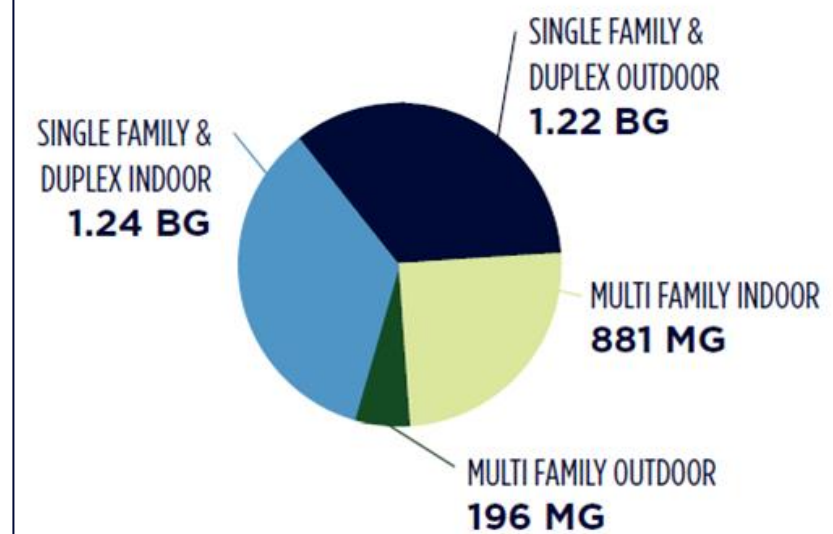
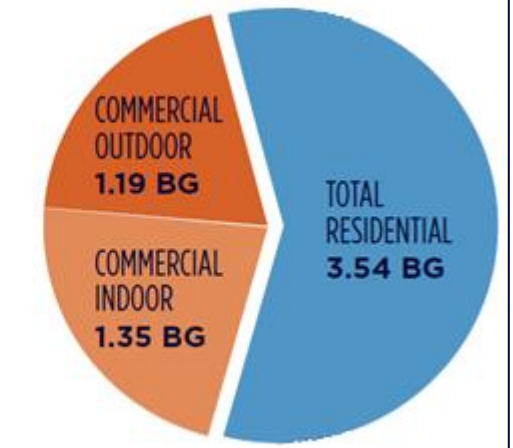


# Fort Collins Utilities – Demand (2022)

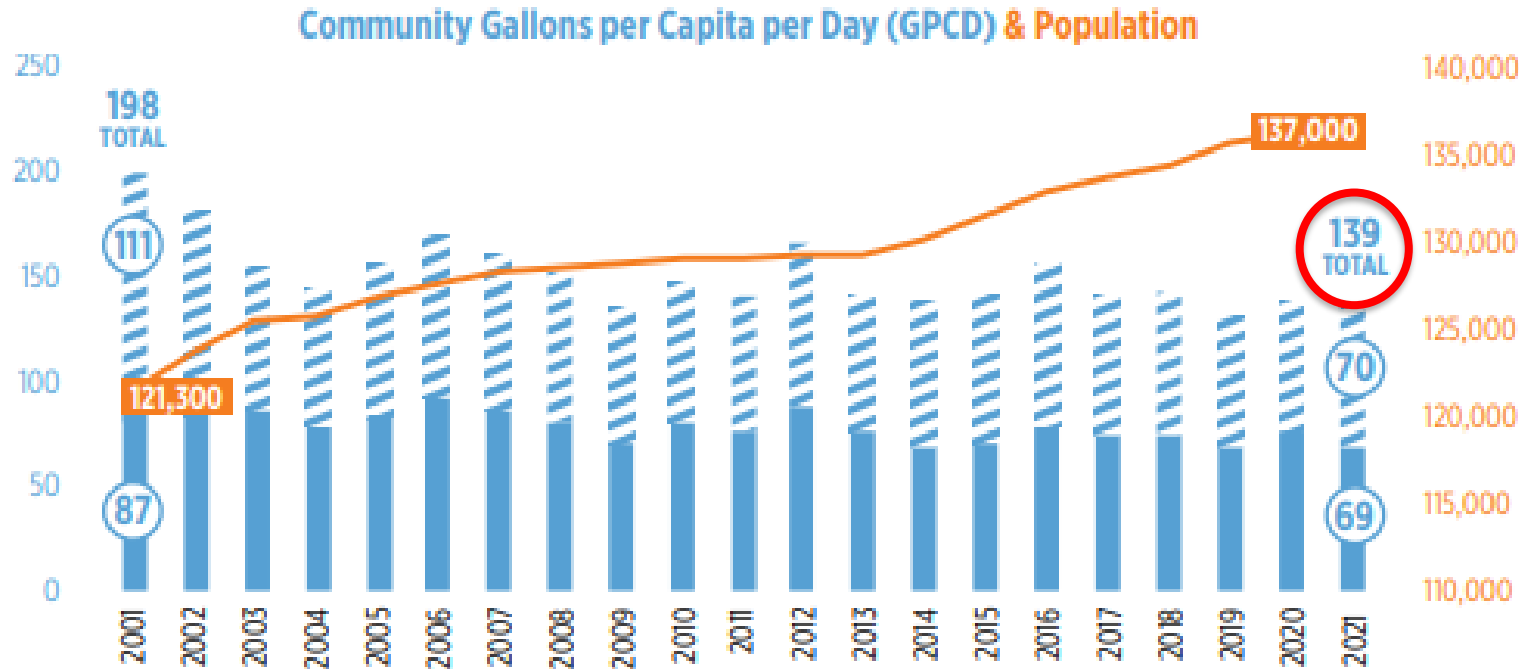
## Total Monthly Water Use



**OUTDOOR WATER USE (COMMERCIAL + RESIDENTIAL) IS 43% OR 2.606 BG.**



# Fort Collins Utilities – Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD)



## WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY AT A GLANCE

GPCD is down 34% since 2000.

*Based on total water treated.*

- Residential GPCD
- Commercial GPCD
- Population

- **Water Efficiency Goal: 130 gallons per capita per day by 2030**
- **5-year average is 138 GPCD**
- **2022 was 139 GPCD and should have been 138 if on target**
- **Need 6.5% reduction to reach goal**

**Conservation** = Taking shorter showers

**Efficiency** = WaterSense showerhead

**Demand Management** = conservation + efficiency + reuse (e.g., graywater)

Create, implement and evaluate water conservation and efficiency policies, plans, programs, services and goals to manage water demand (“Demand Management”)

- Established 1977
- 16+ programs with measurable water savings, primarily voluntary and incentive-based
- Policy strategies in Municipal and Land Use codes



*Conservation = Taking shorter showers*

*Efficiency = WaterSense showerhead*

*Demand Management = conservation + efficiency + reuse (e.g., graywater)*

**Create, implement and evaluate water conservation and efficiency policies, plans, programs, services and goals to manage water demand (“Demand Management”)**

- Established 1977
- 16+ programs with measurable water savings, primarily voluntary and incentive-based
- Policy strategies in Municipal and Land Use codes



# Fort Collins Utilities – Challenges (and Opportunities!)

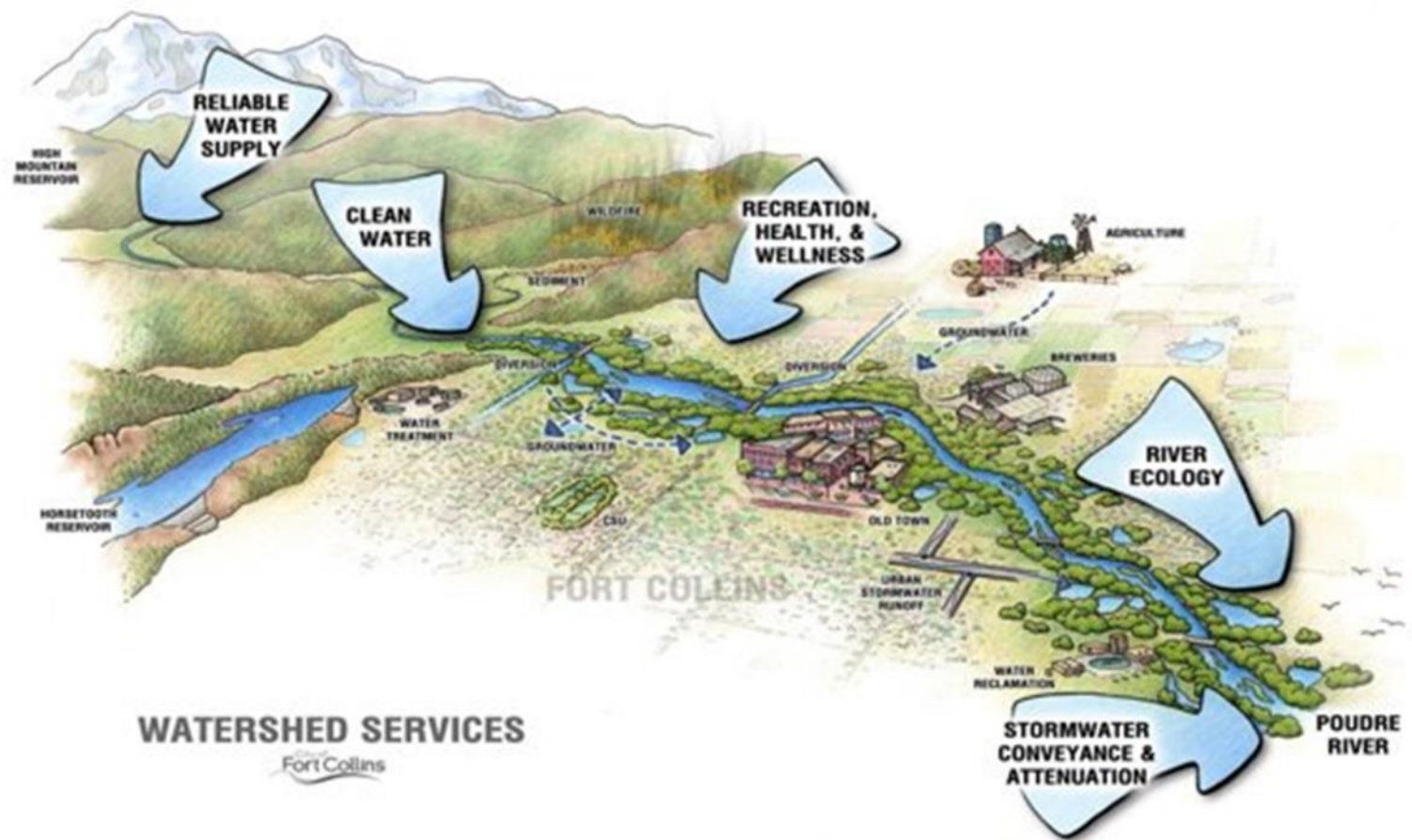
- Growth & Population
- Water rights, limiting reuse/graywater
- Leaks in distribution system
- Outdoor efficiency, but...
- Moving from voluntary to mandatory
- Rental housing
- Minimizing impacts to affordable housing
- Unpredictable temperature and precipitation





A guide with goals, strategies for water demand management

- One Water – integrated planning
- Engagement across the community
- Modeling scenarios:
  - Climate
  - Benefits of identified strategies
- Finalize in 2024



# THANK YOU!

For Questions or Comments, Please Contact:

Katie Collins, Fort Collins Utilities

[kcollins@fcgov.com](mailto:kcollins@fcgov.com)

