

Topic:	Aquifer Protection; Water Conservation; Landscaping
Resource Type:	Regulations
State:	New Mexico
Jurisdiction Type:	Municipal
Municipality:	City of Santa Fe
Year (adopted, written, etc.):	Unknown
Community Type – applicable to:	Urban; Suburban
Title:	City of Santa Fe Water Harvesting and Irrigation Standards
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Abstract

This ordinance discusses ways of harvesting water for irrigation. The goal of the ordinance is to preserve potable water as much as possible by making use of water gained from other sources. Water sources encourages are passive water collection techniques such as surface water collection, in-ground storage collection, and active water collection such as storage and distribution systems.

Resource

14-8.4 Landscape and Site Design

(E) Water Harvesting and Irrigation Standards

Water conservation shall guide landscape and site planning, design, installation, and management. Landscape planning shall begin early in the development process in conjunction with the requirements of Terrain Management, §14-8.2. Landscape design shall apply the principles of xeriscape and achieve the highest industry standards for irrigation efficiency. Alternative sources of irrigation water shall be developed including harvested water from roof and site runoff. Graywater use is recommended where appropriate. Potable water shall be used as a back-up or temporary irrigation water source to the greatest extent possible. The purpose of these strategies is to develop drought tolerant landscapes, and to reduce the demand on the potable water system.

(1) Water Harvesting

(a) The landscape plan shall include passive water harvesting for landscape irrigation purposes as a minimum requirement. Passive water harvesting shall be a primary component of the stormwater management requirements. The use of active water harvesting and distribution systems for landscape irrigation is encouraged. Water harvesting shall be integrated with grading plans, stormwater management plans, erosion control plans, and landscape structural plans.

(b) Passive water harvesting techniques include but are not limited to:

(i) Surface collection: swales, parking lot islands, bar ditches, detention or retention ponds, and constructed wetlands. Detention and retention ponds should be integrated landscape features, rather than single-purpose flood control ponds.

(ii) In-ground storage: soil amendments, constructed rain gardens, French drains, pumice wicks, permeable paving, and collection structures with infiltration fields or galleries. In-ground structures shall utilize techniques and materials that have been proven effective, safe and structurally sound.

(c) Active water harvesting systems:

(i) Storage and distribution systems: above ground rain barrels, storage tanks and below grade cisterns that use gravity or pumps to distribute water to an irrigation system.

(ii) Active water harvesting systems shall be maintained and the water used for landscape irrigation purposes. The director of the Planning and Land Use Department or the director's designee shall have the authority to inspect, test and monitor as needed, the components of active water systems including but not limited to: tanks, pumps, and controllers.

(2) Graywater

Graywater irrigation is appropriate for some landscape installations. Graywater use is regulated by the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board, Liquid Waste Disposal Regulations, which defines minimum lot size and requires other Uniform Plumbing Code standards. Contact the New Mexico Environment Department for further information.