

# Here's how much comm use, how they measur

By DENNIS DARROW  
*The Pueblo Chieftain*

**X**eriscaping offers help for cities eager to promote water conservation, but the most dramatic change comes when cities impose water-usage fees.

In Pueblo, the introduction of water metering in the 1950s resulted in a huge dropoff in water use as homeowners started watching their pennies, Pueblo Board of Water Works Director Alan Hamel said.

Water metering now is required of larger cities such as Canon City, Pueblo and Colorado Springs by state and federal law, as is the use of water-efficient plumbing.

The use of other water conservation measures isn't as consistent.

And per capita water use varies widely by city and town.

Along the Arkansas River corridor, Salida ranked highest with a per capita use of 457 gallons per day, according to a recent study by the Southeastern

Colorado Water Conservancy District.

Pueblo and Colorado Springs use less than half as much per capita.

In the same study, the southeastern water district also surveyed the cities and towns along the river corridor about their water conservation measures.

A city-by-city snapshot:

**Colorado Springs** — Considered a national leader in metering (city-mandated in the 1940s) and wastewater reuse on greenbelts; began xeriscape demonstration garden in 1992; conducts home water audits; plans to upgrade system of monitoring for water pipeline leaks.

**Pueblo** — First city in state to install computer-controlled park watering system that accounts for changing weather; ambitious water main replacement reduces leaks by 7 percent; metering with spot checks for meter accuracy.

**Canon City** — Metering; promotion of low water-use landscaping.

**Security** — Metering, general conservation practices.

**La Junta** — Metering; general conservation practices; rebates for low water use.

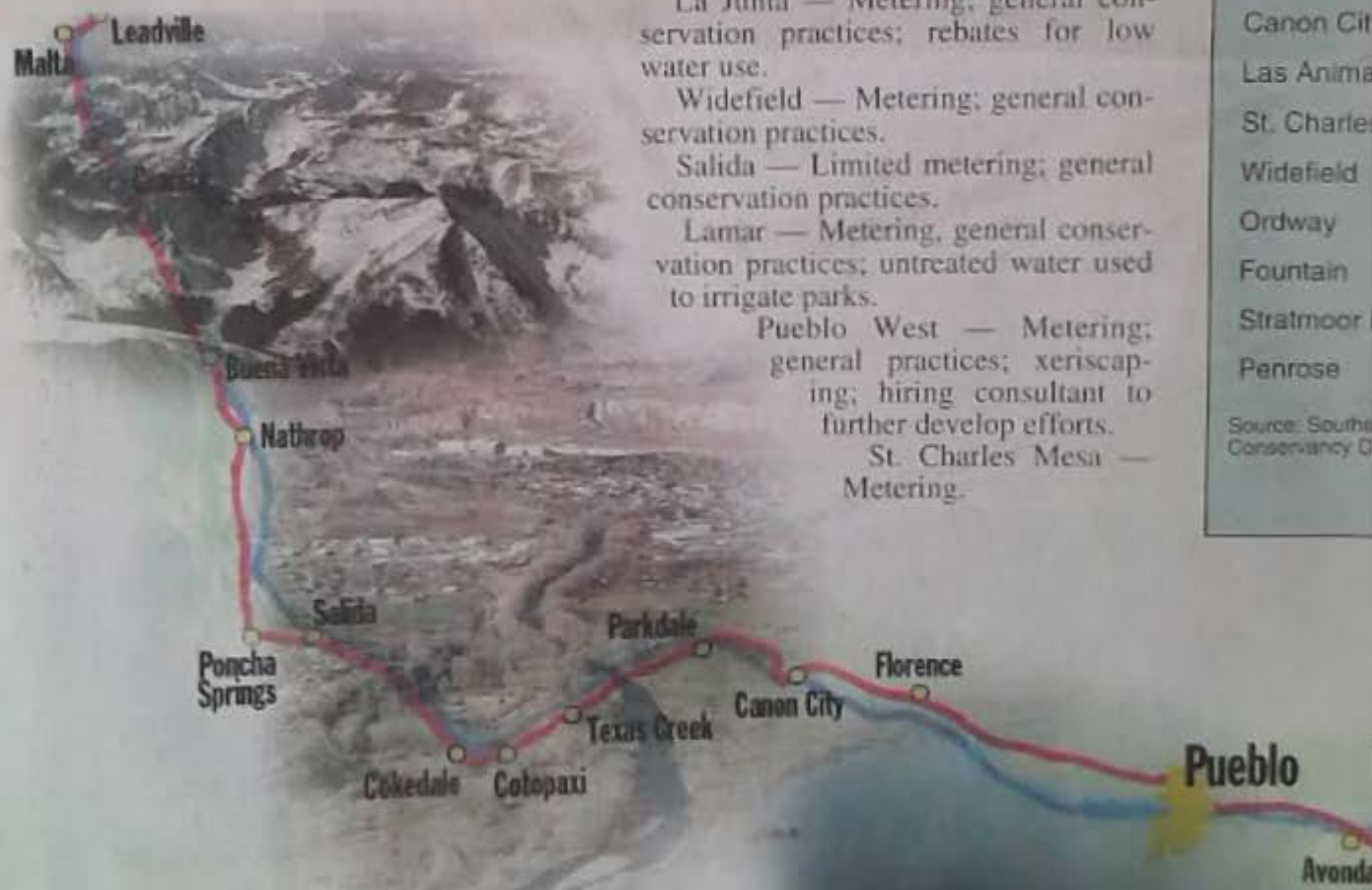
**Widefield** — Metering; general conservation practices.

**Salida** — Limited metering; general conservation practices.

**Lamar** — Metering, general conservation practices; untreated water used to irrigate parks.

**Pueblo West** — Metering; general practices; xeriscaping; hiring consultant to further develop efforts.

**St. Charles Mesa** — Metering.



| City             |
|------------------|
| Salida           |
| La Junta         |
| Buena Vista      |
| Lamar            |
| Rocky Ford       |
| Fowler           |
| Florence         |
| Pueblo           |
| Security         |
| Pueblo West      |
| Colorado Springs |
| Canon City       |
| Las Animas       |
| St. Charles      |
| Widefield        |
| Ordway           |
| Fountain         |
| Stratmoor        |
| Penrose          |

Source: South  
Conservancy District

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Colorado Water Conservancy District.

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## Per capita water use in cities along Arkansas River

| City             | Gallons per day |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Salida           | 457             |
| La Junta         | 333             |
| Buena Vista      | 300             |
| Lamar            | 293             |
| Rocky Ford       | 283             |
| Fowler           | 280             |
| Florence         | 260             |
| Pueblo           | 228             |
| Security         | 218             |
| Pueblo West      | 208             |
| Colorado Springs | 207             |
| Canon City       | 204             |
| Las Animas       | 179             |
| St. Charles Mesa | 167             |
| Widefield        | 137             |
| Ordway           | 137             |
| Fountain         | 131             |
| Stratmoor Hills  | 126             |
| Penrose          | 118             |

Source: Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District

