



**WATER**  
EDUCATION



Water for  
New Development

November 2019

**Welcome!** This is a **WaterSmart “Drop by Drop”** factsheet; the water education program sponsored by the City of Prescott. Each month learn more about Prescott’s water resources. From history to infrastructure, together we’ll discuss Prescott water one drop at a time!

*WaterSmart  
Factsheet Summary:*

- *The City of Prescott follows State law, new and existing subdivisions have an Assured Water Supply [A.R.S. § 45-576]*
- *The City’s Decision and Order of Assured Water Supply consists of Groundwater and Renewable Water (alternative supply) [Decision and Order No. 86-401501.0001]*
- *For the City to approve a new subdivision, a 100-year supply of water must be available [PCC 7.4.8 F. and G.]*

## Introduction

Development is the growth or advancement of a community. Community development is a process where community members take collective action to achieve that advancement. The well-being of a community depends upon economic, social, environmental, and cultural factors. Water is a fundamental necessity for community development. In 1998, the State of Arizona enacted the Assured Water Supply rules in the Prescott AMA. Let’s look at this program...

## What is the Assured Water Supply Program?

The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) Assured and Adequate Water Supply programs were created to address the problem of limited groundwater supplies in Arizona. Both the Assured and Adequate Water Supply programs evaluate the availability of a 100-year water supply considering current and committed demand, as well as growth projections.

The Assured Water Supply Program operates within Arizona’s five Active Management Areas (AMAs). It is designed to sustain the state’s economic health by preserving groundwater resources and promoting long-term water supply planning. AMAs are those areas of the state where significant groundwater depletion has occurred historically and include portions of Maricopa, Pinal, Pima, Santa Cruz and Yavapai counties. (Source: ADWR website)



## Subdivisions Explained

Improved or unimproved land, for sale or lease, divided into six or more lots.



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City of  
Prescott  
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**Willow Lake**

## How is an Assured Water Supply demonstrated?

Before recording plats or selling parcels within an AMA, developers must demonstrate all of the criteria in the table below. The Arizona Department of Real Estate will not issue a public report, which allows the developer to sell lots, without a demonstration of an assured water supply. (Source: ADWR website)

### Demonstration of Criteria

CRITERIA
Physical, Continuous and Legal water availability
Water quality
Financial capability
Consistency with the management plan (assured water supply only)
Consistency with the management goal (assured water supply only)

## What is a Designation of Assured Water Supply?

Various water providers have received a designation of assured water supply from the Department. Individual developers do not need to obtain a separate determination of assured or adequate water supply for their development if they will be served by a Designated Provider. A written commitment of service from the designated provider will suffice to meet the assured or adequate water supply requirement. The City of Prescott holds a Designation of Assured Water Supply from the Arizona Department of Water Resources.



## Be WaterSmart!

**Harvesting rainwater** can reduce the use of drinking water for landscape irrigation. Couple with the use of **native and desert adapted plants**, rainwater harvesting is an effective water conservation tool because it provides **“free” water** that is not from the municipal supply.

(Source: Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use Booklet, Cooperative Extension, page 1)

