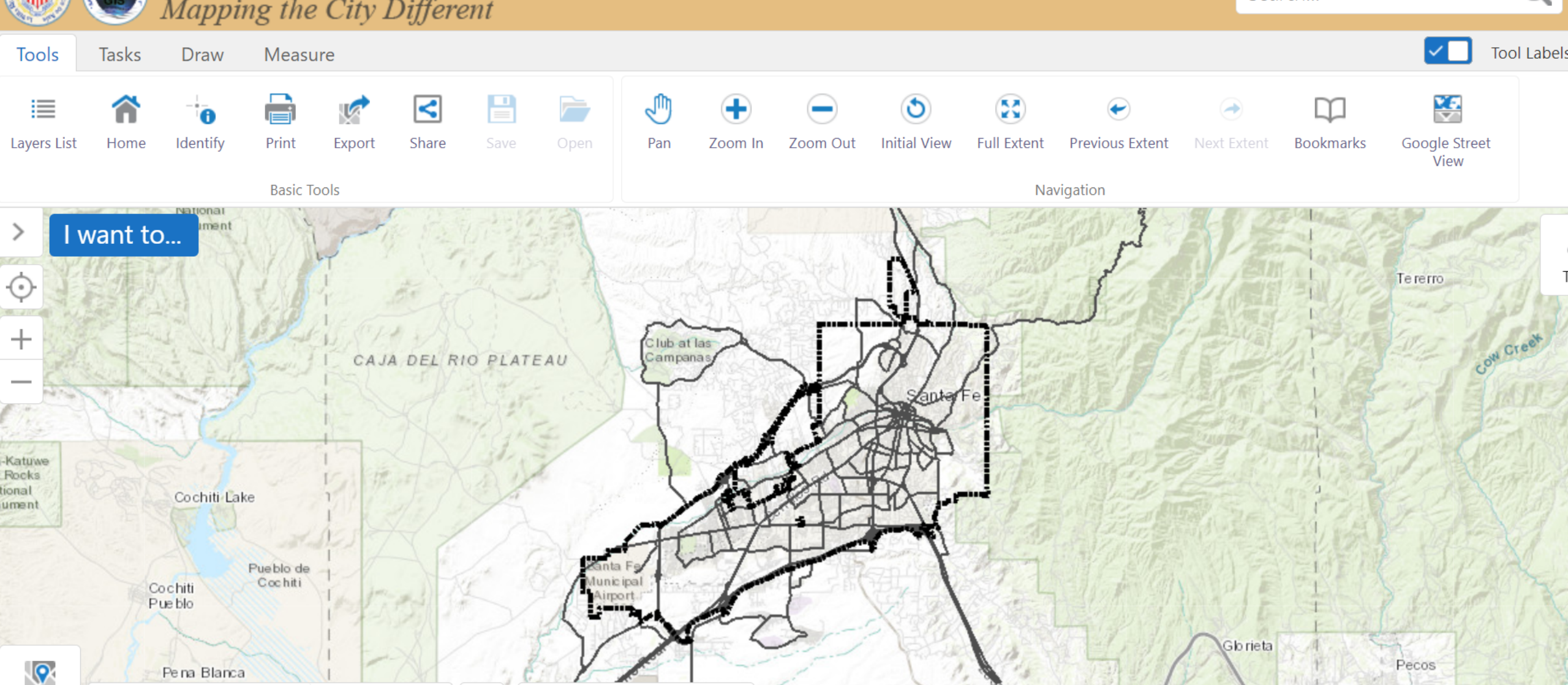


# The Santa Fe Water Conservation Office

Mid-Year Focused Public Input

July 2021



The City of Santa Fe does not encompass the entire community of Santa Fe and many residents are in Santa Fe County but not within the city limits.

\*This map is a screen-shot from the City of Santa Fe GIS Department's "Create Your Own Map" tool on the city website.

The City of Santa Fe's Water Conservation Office is working with the Santa Fe County Water Utility to develop resources to help city and county customers use water more efficiently. Ongoing collaborative projects include:

- Completed and Education Resource Guide with joint water conservation messaging
- Co-Sponsored the June 2021 Next Generation Water Summit
- City's website [Savewatersantafe.com](https://www.savewatersantafe.com) expanded to include county resources
- Joint water conservation messaging focused on drought
- Partners on the Bee City, USA initiative and Pollinator Earth Day activities

In addition to our ongoing projects, what other water conservation efforts would you like to see the City and County of Santa Fe collaborate to address?

Surveys conducted in 2020 identified cost as the main reason that people don't repair leaks – either it's too expensive too fix it, or it's cheaper to pay the water bill than to make the repair.

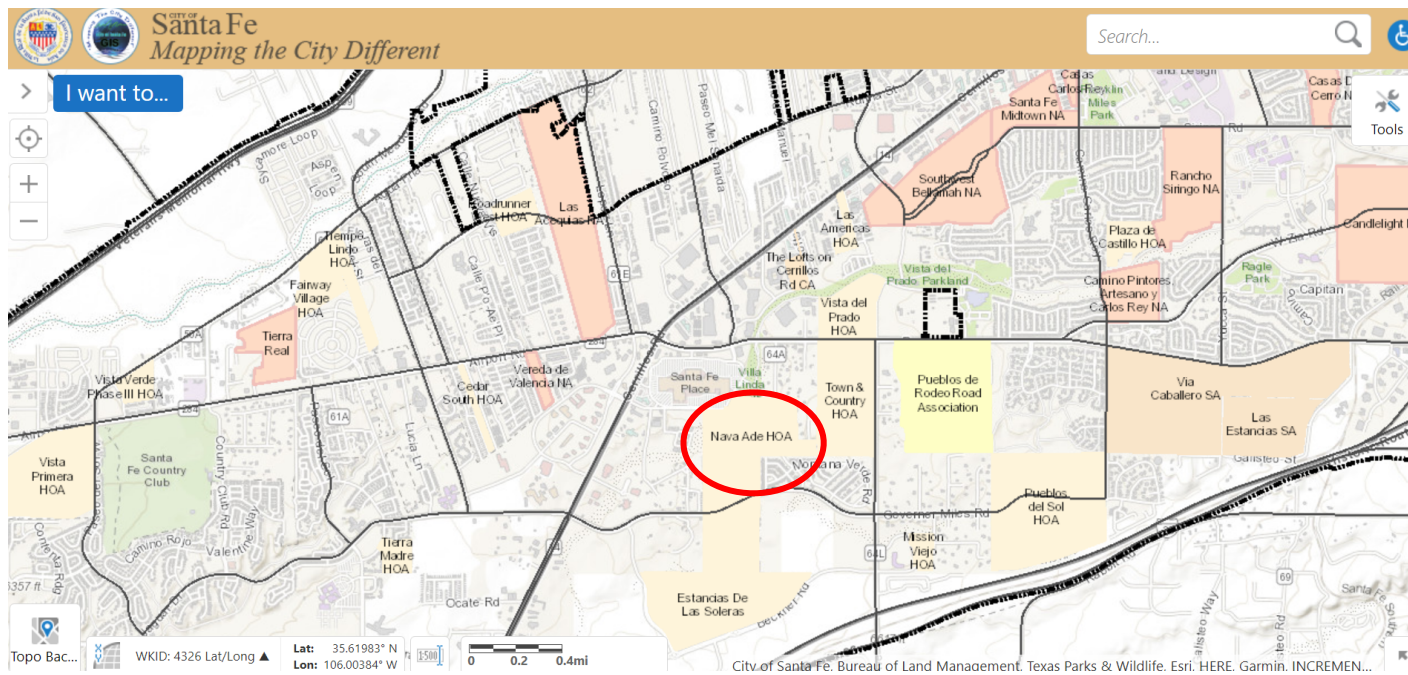
What sort of programs would you like to see the water conservation office pursue to address unrepaired leaks?  
Please rank low to high (1 thru 4)

- ☐ Zero-interest loans or grants to fix leaks
- ☐ Direct repairs where city-hired plumbers repair leaks at homes
- ☐ Notification system to alert customers of leaks detected
- ☐ Fines for customers who do not repair known leaks
- ☐ Other

Both the Santa Fe 25-Year Sustainability Plan and the public input collected during the past few years of work in the Water Conservation Office have emphasized the importance and potential of neighborhood scale water conservation efforts.

Two neighborhood water conservation pilot projects are currently underway in Santa Fe, one that uses a top-down approach to a large neighborhood and another that uses a roots-up approach to address a specific location.

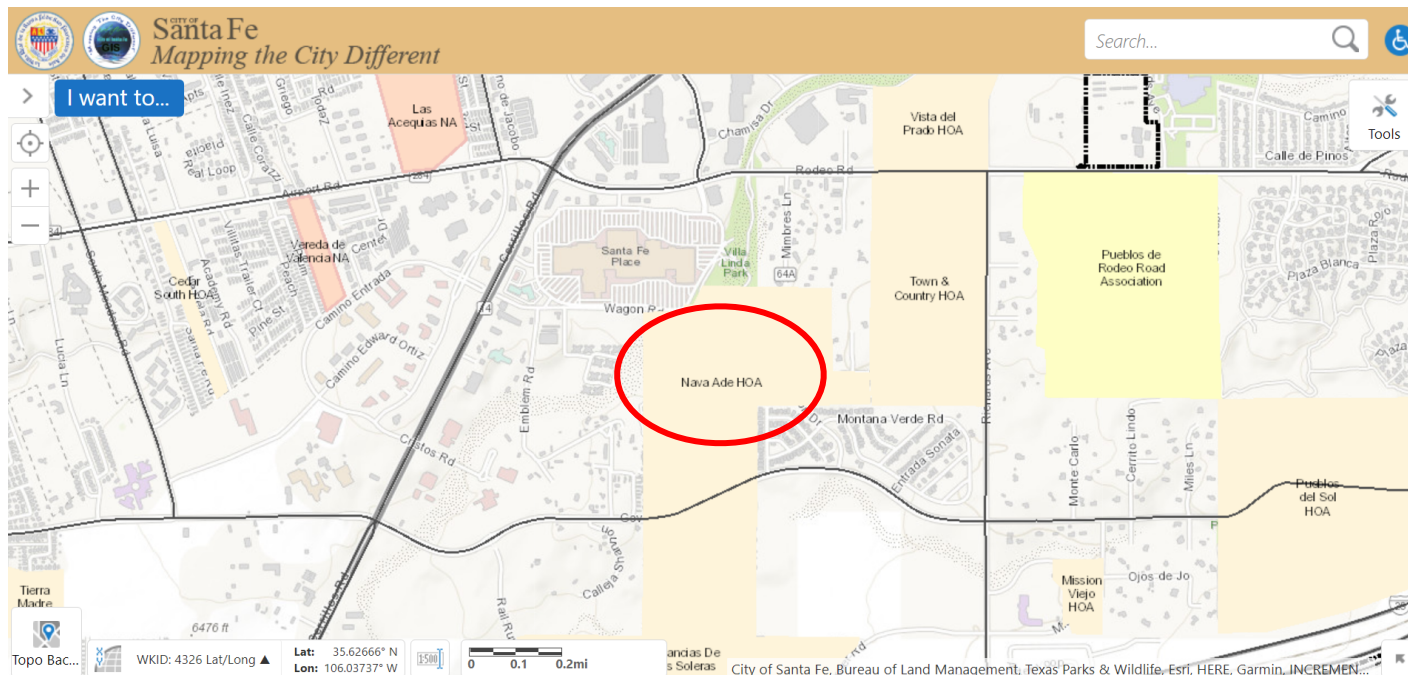




# Nava Ade

The Nava Ade pilot project is a joint project between Public Works and Water Conservation.

The water conservation office has piloted direct messaging through the HOA newsletter on rebates and the EyeOnWater app as well as a doorhanger pilot to distribute information on water conservation programming.







# Calle Sombra

The second pilot project is on a section of Calle Sombra, near 5<sup>th</sup> street and close Calle Lorca park, and is a site-specific rain-garden project that was identified by a local resident.

This project embodies the multiple benefit approach with stormwater infiltration to support shade trees and pollinator plants while beautifying the neighborhood and improving traffic patterns.

Neighborhood residents know the potential for the areas they are familiar with better than anyone. We want to identify lots more opportunities like this.



The Water Conservation Office is looking for opportunities to help neighborhoods develop community identified projects. We're hoping to find ongoing projects we can support— community gardens, seed exchanges, community meetings — and also to identify site specific opportunities like the one on Calle Sombra.

Are there any projects, or needs, in your neighborhood that provide an opportunity to conserve water by utilizing rainwater to offset potable use, or through education and outreach, or as a collaboration with other neighborhood initiatives?



# Outdoor Conservation

Santa Fe, like most of the western US, is in a drought. Dry conditions mean increased water demand for plants and reduced surface water availability.

Outdoor water use consumes roughly 30% of the total water used in Santa Fe annually.

The Water Conservation Office wants to find opportunities to save water outdoors and to find innovative ways to water trees and landscapes.

The Water Conservation Office currently offers the following resources to promote conservation of water used outdoors:

- Outdoor Rebate Program – Cisterns, irrigation timers, and rain sensors
- Bees, Trees & Water— One strategy for improving the efficiency of water use is to increase the benefits from water used. The plant & tree list available from the WCO is aligned with water conservation and pollinator needs. Local nurseries are cooperatively offering discounts on some of these plants.
- Demonstration Gardens— Low water use garden and zero water use cactus gardens provide information and inspiration for water saving landscaping
- Water Saving Toolkits with water saving strategies and resources available to all at [savewatersantafe.com](http://savewatersantafe.com)



In addition to the ongoing efforts to improve outdoor water conservation and efficiency, what other programs would you like to see? Please check all that apply

- ☐ Increased enforcement of water use restrictions
- ☐ Demonstration gardens in public spaces (parks, libraries, trails, etc.)
- ☐ Signage and recognition for private gardens featuring waterwise, pollinator friendly, and rainwater-supported gardens
- ☐ Adult online education focused on plant selection and garden design
- ☐ Giveaways of multiple-benefit plants
- ☐ Additional outdoor rebate offers – raingardens, landscaping costs, graywater utilization, other
- ☐ Other

This is the humble question – what did we miss?

Are there questions we should be asking that we haven't asked?

Do you have ideas for water conservation that didn't fit into the previous questions?

How can we do better?

