

Native Landscaping

What doesn't belong in this set:

- a. cactus
- b. grass
- c. desert tortoise
- d. Joshua tree

If you guessed b, you're right. Grass isn't native desert vegetation and to get it to grow in the desert we use a lot of water. That's why MCAGCC has started landscaping the installation with native and drought resistant plants, rocks and artificial turf. Doing this reduces the amount of water used for garden and lawn upkeep while maintaining curb appeal.

MCAGCC is also using drip irrigation to water these new landscapes instead of sprinklers. Drip irrigation feeds water directly to the roots of the plants, versus spraying an excessive amount of water to soak the entire yard, therefore significantly reducing water usage.

Did you know that MCAGCC isn't just changing the way it conserves water today, but it's planning for the future too! An Installation Energy Sustainability Strategy (IESS) is being created to provide a "roadmap" for conservation. It will analyze current efforts and suggest future benchmarks and courses of action. These long term sustainability goals will allow MCAGCC to continue to be a good environmental steward.

Looking into the Future...

MCAGCC is looking ahead at how they can better conserve water. Here are a few projects that the future might bring:

- Dedicated car wash sites where used water is collected, recycled and reused.
- Continued installation of low-flow and water wise fixtures in both new and old buildings.
- Proposed expansion of recycled water irrigation system to the Parade Deck and other fields.
- Artificial turf to be installed in new dog parks located in housing areas.
- Potential pumping system to be installed for using rain water.



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Water Conservation at MCAGCC

Did you know that only 3% of the world's water is suitable for drinking? And 2% is frozen into icecaps and glaciers. That leaves only 1% of the world's water for all necessary uses, including human consumption. The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) is dedicated to do its part to conserve this precious resource today and into the future.



Water: Everyone's Responsibility

Water is a precious commodity, especially in the desert, that's why MCAGCC is doing all it can to ensure water isn't just going down the drain. The waste water treatment plant, also known as "Lake Bandini" recycles all the water from the installation sanitary sewer system. That's as much as ONE MILLION gallons of water a day!

The waste water is cleaned, treated and reused to irrigate the golf course. All water reused for irrigation meets all state and Federal regulatory standards for that purpose.

This recycled water, however, isn't used for tasks such as washing tanks and other vehicles. Water used for this purpose, referred to as non-potable water, is fresh water that does not meet standards for human consumption without some level of treatment.

Water used at the wash racks goes through its own filtration process on-site. Run-off water from vehicle cleaning is

collected into a tank which houses an oil-water separator (OWS). As water passes through the OWS, heavy materials and oils are removed. The water is then reused at the wash rack.

Tanks aren't the only vehicles that get washed on the installation. Car wash fundraisers are popular among units. Each car wash is approved by the Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs office to ensure that car wash activity conserves as much water as possible.

There are also designated lawn and plant watering periods at MCAGCC. Watering is permitted for one hour per day, either before 0800 or after 1800 so less water is lost to evaporation. Watering frequency is limited by season to conserve water.

- October through March: Up to twice/week
- April and May: Up to five times/week
- June through September: Up to seven times/week

How can I help?

Water Conservation Tips

- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth.
- Don't flush medications down the toilet, shower or sink as they can contaminate our water supply.
- Do not use excessive amounts of soaps, detergents or cleaners.
- Install low-flow shower-heads and faucet aerators to reduce water use while maintaining flow.
- Repair drips and leaks. One drop/second wastes 2,700 gallons of water a year.
- Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose to prevent water from running excessively.
- Sweep your driveway rather than hosing it off.
- Only run the dishwasher or washing machine when full.
- Take shorter showers.
- Use car washes that recycle their water.