



**2024-244 SW Approval of Irrigation Efficiency Project with
University of Minnesota Turfgrass Irrigation Efficiency
Project – Project No. 151103**

Environment Committee





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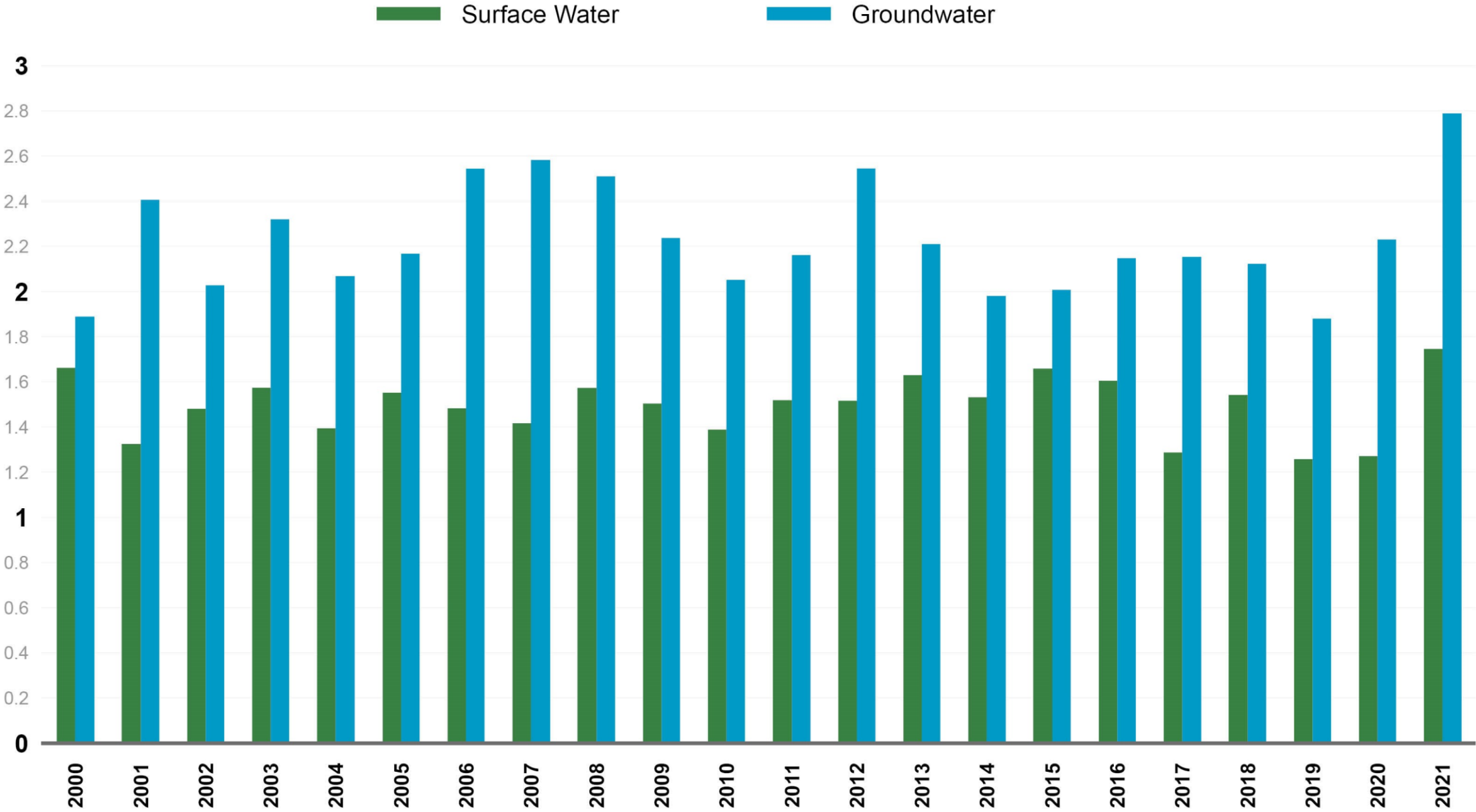
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Background (1/6)

The University of Minnesota Turfgrass Science team has collaborated with the Metropolitan Council on lawn water efficiency projects since 2016. Their recent efforts have been focused on wrapping up field research, outreach, education, and the pilot study of their Lawn Leaders Program.

Background (2/6)

Ratio of Summer to Winter Pumping for Public Water Suppliers by Water Source (1980-2021)



Background (3/6)

- The first contract in 2016 was for \$122,592.00 and has previously been amended three times for an additional \$847,358.00
- The Turfgrass Irrigation Efficiency project is funded by Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment funds through the Minnesota Legislature
- This funding has allowed us to collect data and define the problem, as well as begin to focus our outreach and education efforts with the public

Background (4/6)

Three primary contract amendment objectives:

- 1) Public outreach** - The UMN turfgrass team engages the public through in-person events such as neighborhood gatherings, county fairs, city festivals, and the Minnesota State Fair. In 2023, the team educated metro region residents at 25 of these events. They delivered approximately 3,000 copies of turfgrass management outreach materials at these events. These services will continue with attendance at approximately 25 events annually for the next three years.

Background (5/6)

2) Lawn leaders – The U of M will continue their outreach approach that trains metro region residents to host small workshop-type events in their own neighborhoods. These “Lawn Leaders” include Master Gardeners, Water Stewards, or even knowledgeable people who love to teach other people about sustainable lawn care.

Background (6/6)

3) Lawn water conservation solutions - The University of Minnesota will complete a turfgrass species mixture trial at four possible Twin Cities metro area locations:

- (1) St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota
- (2) Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska
- (3) UMORE Park in Rosemount, MN
- (4) A publicly accessible space in the eastern suburbs.

Proposed action

- That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to execute Contract Amendment No. 4 for the University of Minnesota to continue advancing our goals for the Turfgrass Irrigation Efficiency Project
- This amendment will be for a total amount of \$418,997.00 for a contract duration of three years for a total contract not-to-exceed value of \$1,388,947.00

Questions

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