

While representatives of Clark County have initiated significant water conservation measures, the county park in Blue Diamond uses excessive amounts of water and jeopardizes the water table for the community.

The county park uses the same grass used in Vegas Valley, a high water-use grass that in the valley stays green all year long. Blue Diamond is at a higher elevation, is colder, and the grass yellows and goes dormant in the winter-but is still watered and watered excessively. During the past two months, Blue Diamond has received 5 ¼" of rain, and the park has continued to be watered, even during rain and snow.

The excessive use of water is particularly egregious in an area subject to drought. For the past several years, the water levels of the Blue Diamond wells have dropped so low that the pumping system had to be lowered.

Excessive water use in an area subject to drought is not acceptable. The obvious solution is a drought resistant grass like Bermuda which goes dormant and requires little water during the winter. The Bermuda grass in my yard looks like the grass in the park and is not watered during the winter. Reducing the water use in the county park would conserve the precious water that supplies the village of Blue Diamond.

Bermuda is an invasive, durable grass. If Bermuda seed was spread and disced into the park, in the spring, it would eventually dominate the park and require less water throughout the year. The solution is not difficult but bureaucracy is a problem. The county parks are standardized, but Blue Diamond does not share the same elevation, temperature range, and weather found in the Las Vegas Valley.

Given the fragile water supply of Blue Diamond, the excessive watering of the county park needs to be addressed by the Red Rock Advisory Council.