

Reunion Ranch Residential Water Use

Dear Neighbor,

Some of you have asked and others may have wondered: “How much water do I use?” That information is on the top left of your bill (see figure to the right). The usage numbers show how many thousands of gallons were used in the last billing period.

P O BOX 4728 DEPT 60738 HOUSTON TX 77210-4728		SERVICE PERIOD	
Readings and Consumption			
Meter No.	Read Date	Type	
██████████	06/18/24	W-GLS	
Current	Prior	Usage	Type
696.0	686.0	10.0	W
Total:		10.0	

Then you might ask: “So, what does that mean? Is that a lot? How much of my total monthly bill is that?” I hope the chart below along with the discussion that follows helps answer those questions and perhaps triggers you to ask more specific and meaningful-to-you questions about the amount of water we collectively use.

Residential Water Use by Month (consolidated 2021 thru 2023)

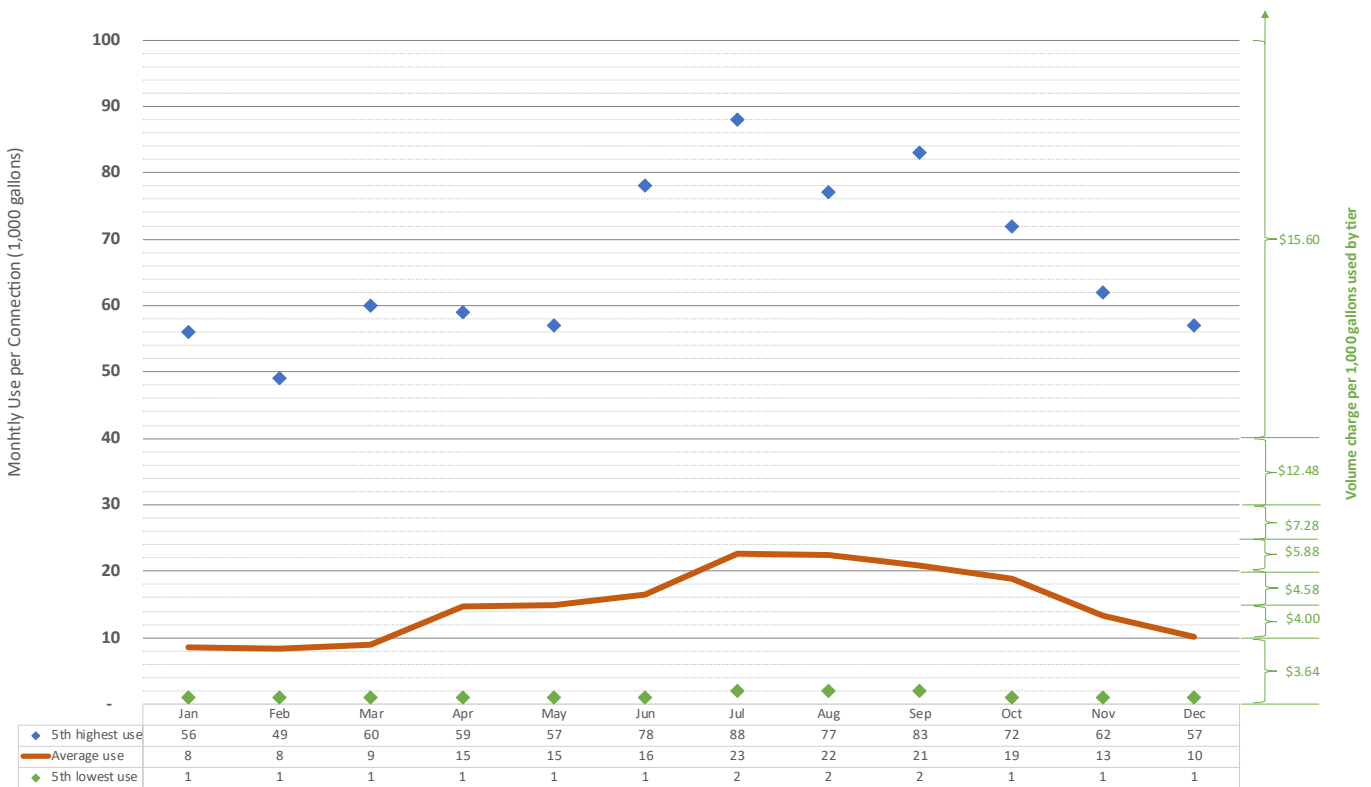


Chart Notes:

- The data source for this chart is the amount of drinking water used by each active residential connection for each month of the year for 2021 through 2023. The number of houses connected gradually increased from about 450 in January 2021 to 515 in December 2023. As of July 2024, there are 518 connected houses.
- The horizontal axis shows months and the vertical axis shows monthly use per house in thousands of gallons.
- The orange line going across the chart is the average use for each month of the last 3 years.
- The blue diamonds show the 5th highest water use each month. The green diamonds show the 5th lowest use each month. These are representative of the typical highest and lowest use each month.
- The table at the bottom shows the values graphed.
- The green scale on the right shows how much each tier of use would cost (more on that in a moment).

Your specific use is not shown on this chart. You get that information from your water bills as noted above. You can compare your use with how much our community uses on a per connection basis. For example, if I used 10 thousand gallons in February, I used a little more than the average use of our neighbors. If I used 10 thousand gallons in July, I was way less than the average use of our neighbors for that month. If I used 60 thousand gallons in July, I used more than almost of our neighbors that month. So, you might then wonder “How much should I use?” That’s a value question for each of us to answer for ourselves. The cost of our individual connection’s water use each month is computed as described in the following paragraphs.

Our water bills that we receive from Inframark include wastewater and water charges plus a little bit for the State of Texas (noted as TWC on the bill). I’ll keep my focus on water. Your total water bill is made up of a monthly base charge (\$41.60) plus a volume charge for water used. The volume charge is computed by how much water is used in each of 7 tiers of use (shown in green on the chart). Let’s say I used 10 thousand gallons one month. The water portion of my bill would be:

\$ 41.60	Base monthly charge
<u>36.40</u>	For the 10 thousand gallons used (\$3.64x10)
\$ 78.00	Total water charge

Now let’s say I used 70 thousand gallons one month (more than 99% of our community in July). The bill would be:

\$ 41.60	Base monthly charge
36.40	For the 1 st 10 thousand used (\$3.64 x 10)
20.00	Next 5 thousand (\$4.00 x 5)
22.90	Next 5 thousand (\$4.58 x 5)
29.40	Next 5 thousand (\$5.88 x 5)
36.40	Next 5 thousand (\$7.28 x 5)
124.80	Next 10 thousand (\$12.48 x 10)
<u>468.00</u>	For the last 23 thousand (\$15.60 x 23)
\$ 779.50	Total water charge

If you’re curious about the source of the base charge and tier charges, please visit www.rrowcid.org and look for page 9 of the Rate Order.

Our rates and rate structure are comparable to other retail providers in our area. The rate tiers are intended to incentivize water conservation and efficient use of water. As I’ve noted to you in past messages, our water supply has limits and we must work to reduce our demands to stretch our water supply for our region’s future use. A future letter from the Board will provide some suggestions for how to reduce water use.

I hope you find this useful, or at least a smidge interesting. If you have specific questions about your water bill, please call Inframark’s customer services at 800-579-4500. If you have more general questions about our community’s water, please reach out to any of your Board members (listed on www.rrowcid.org).

Dennis Daniel
Reunion Ranch WCID Board President
September 4, 2024