

Hilger's Gulch cost information

As Hilger's Gulch is currently configured, the largest maintenance cost is water. The Gulch has its own water meter, so water measured for the Gulch is the water used only in the Gulch, not in adjacent areas. Here is the usage and cost in recent years, identifying the water and costs to be saved by the project:

Hilger's Gulch Water Use and Cost Table						
Calendar Year	Entire Gulch			Area impacted by new plan		
	Use (CCF)	Use (GAL)	Cost	Avoided Use (CCF)	Avoided Use (GAL)	Avoided Cost
2005	28,155	21,059,940	\$54,955	20,553	15,373,756	\$40,117.15
2006	27,442	20,528,042	\$52,186	20,033	14,985,471	\$38,095.78
2007	25,194	18,846,421	\$49,157	18,392	13,757,887	\$35,884.61
2008	10,294	7,700,447	\$20,611	7,515	5,621,326	\$15,046.03
2009	14,772	11,050,223	\$29,630	10,784	8,066,663	\$21,629.90
2010	14,151	10,585,683	\$29,284	10,330	7,727,549	\$21,377.32
2011	10,034	7,505,953	\$21,342	7,325	5,479,346	\$15,579.66
2012	23,073	17,259,803	\$49,051	16,843	12,599,656	\$35,807.23
2013	12,086	9,040,956	\$27,164	8,823	6,599,898	\$19,829.72
2014	10,474	7,835,096	\$23,563	7,646	5,719,620	\$17,200.99
Total	175,675	131,412,564	\$ 356,943.00	128,243	95,931,172	\$ 260,568.39

As this chart shows, the cost of watering alone has totaled more than \$350,000 over the last ten years.

In addition to water, maintaining a bright green appearance requires application of fertilizer and herbicide. Fertilizer is applied three times a year. Herbicides are applied as needed. Run-off sends nitrates and weed killer into the Missouri River, requiring additional expense and polluting the river.

Watered and fertilized bluegrass must also be mowed regularly to maintain a manicured appearance. To mow twice per week takes 26 man hours per week. Staff also aerify the gulch three times a year to avoid thatch. The annual costs beyond water are detailed below:

Hilger's Gulch Maintenance Cost Table		
Maintenance Item	Annual Cost – Entire Gulch	Avoided Annual Cost – Impacted Area
B&G Staff Time – Mowing	\$11,160	\$8,147
Diesel Fuel for Mowers	\$262	\$191
Mower Maintenance	\$408	\$298
Mower Depreciation - Annual	\$5,300	\$3,869
Fertilizer/Weed Control	\$8,880	\$6,482
B&G Staff Time – Fertilizer/Weed Control	\$856	\$625
B&G Staff Time – Lawn Aerification	\$467	\$341
Total Maintenance Costs Without Water	\$27,333	\$19,953
Average Annual Water Usage Cost (2005-2014)	\$35,694	\$26,057
Total Costs Including Water	\$63,027	\$46,010