

# This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

[watersmartinnovations.com](http://watersmartinnovations.com)



# From Crisis to Conservation: Sustainable Management of Water Resources in Kansas

# Presenters

- Mayor James Meier
  - Oncology Pharmacist at Hays Medical Center
  - Elected 2015
- Vice Mayor Henry Schwaller
  - Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship at Fort Hays State University
  - Elected 1999

**Ogallala**

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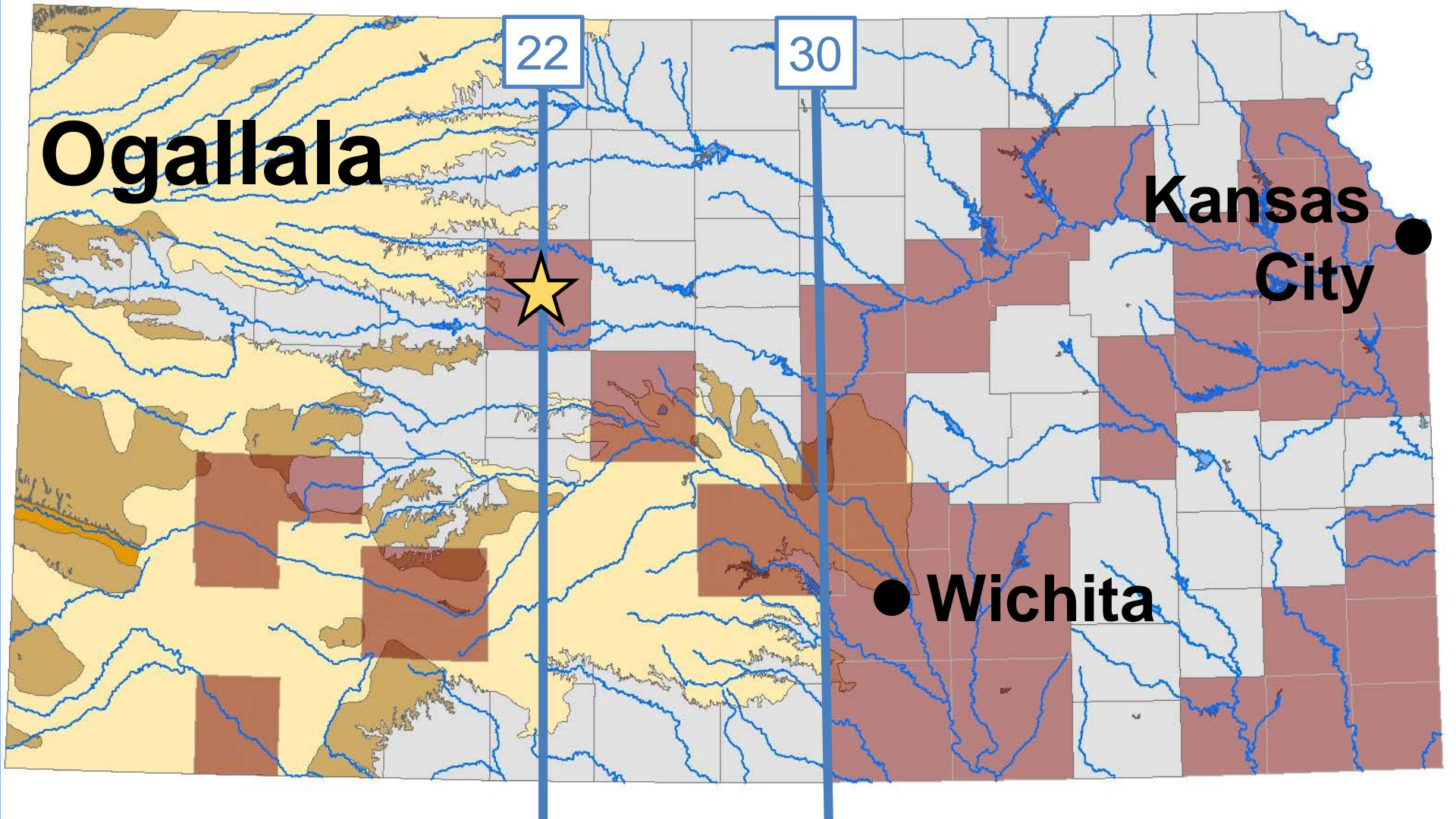
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**Kansas  
City**



**Wichita**



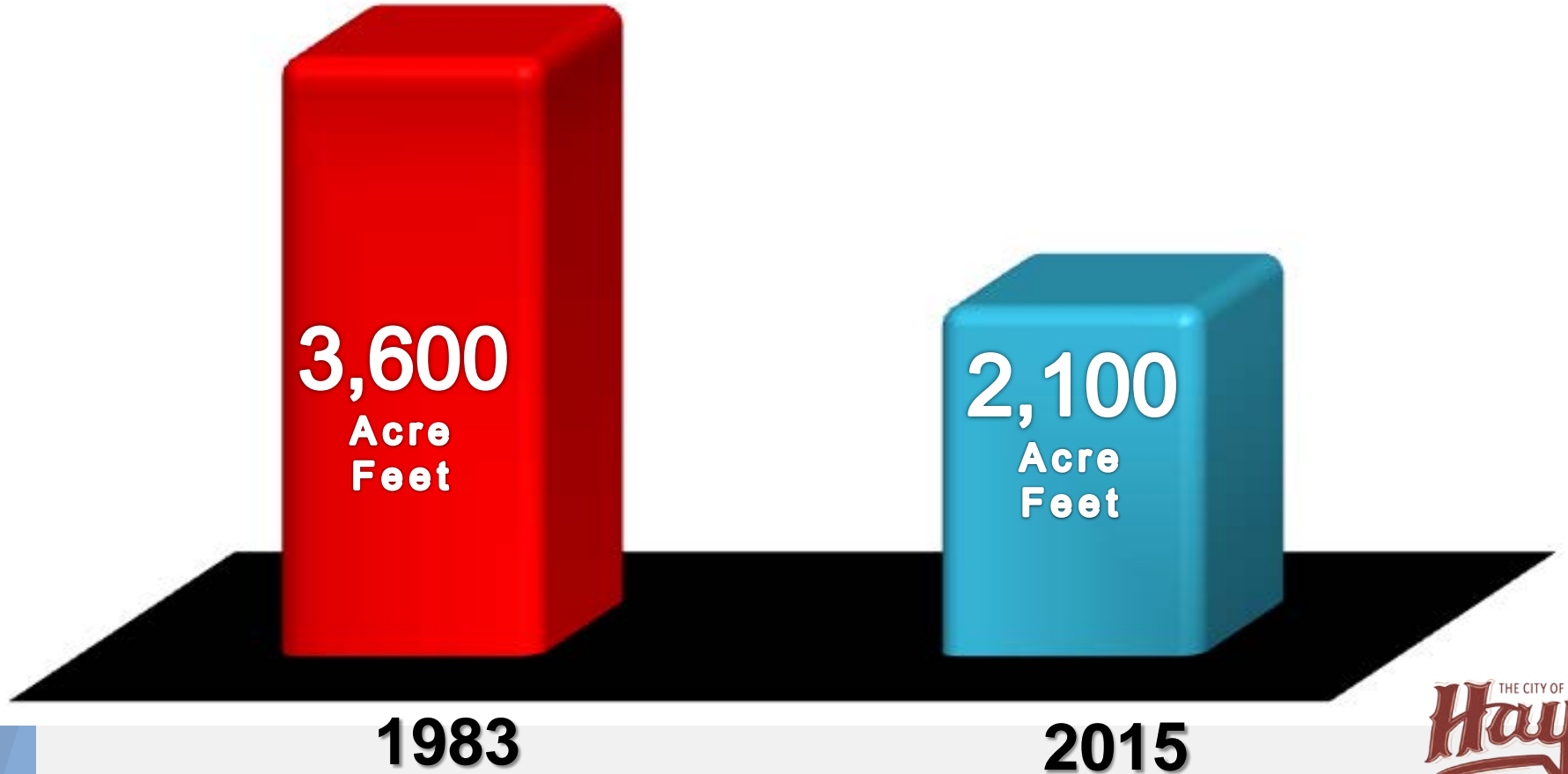
# Hays Water History

- By 1983, using 3,600 AF annually
- Late 1980s, several wells went dry
- Since the early 1950s, over 40 different sites have been investigated for additional water sources

# Hays Water History

- 1994: R9 purchased
- 1996: All America City award for water conservation efforts
- 2011: Conservation programs retooled after attending the WaterSmart Conference
- 2015: R9 change application submitted

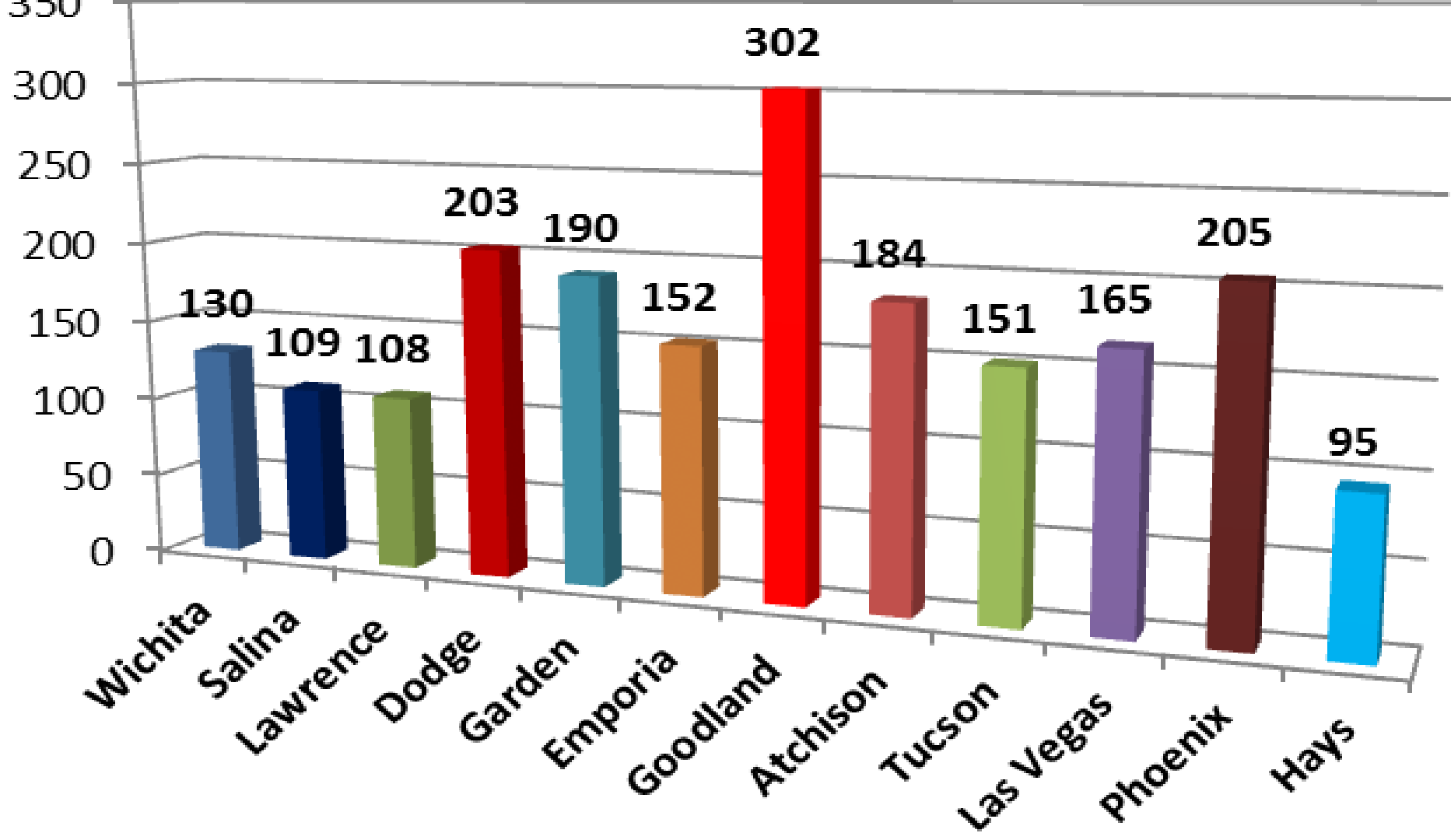
# HAYS ANNUAL WATER USE



# Why is additional water needed?

- We've reached the effective limits of conservation
- We've become a regional outlier and our economy is beginning to suffer as a result
- The Hays/Russell region represents a \$3 billion economy





# Why allow the transfer?

- The R9 will become a regional water source
- The state of Kansas will be better off economically and ecologically if it allows the transfer than if it does not
- Hays has a culture of conservation and is committed to sustainable use

# Aquifer Benefit

**Converting** the R9 Ranch from irrigated farmland to native grass, **a natural wildlife habitat**, will benefit the aquifer by **225,000** acre feet of water over the next 50 years.

