



RoxH₂O Update

ROXBOROUGH DISTRICT'S NEWS YOU CAN USE

August Water Alert!



This is a very critical month for outdoor water irrigation. While the majority of residents have made great improvements to their landscapes and reduced water use for drought tolerant plants and flowers (which is not only appreciated but necessary), watering only on designated days and watering less overall is particularly important this month.

Based on last summer's usage, there are still some residents who have yet to join the community in practicing smart water conservation. We recorded more than a handful of single household numbers exceeding 80,000 gallons in the month of August (2007)! Considering the average summer use is 15,000 gallons (total household usage- indoor and out), that's simply excessive by any water district's standards. As in other communities in Colorado, supply, demand, and fire safety protection need to work together, especially during our hottest and driest of summer months. A wildfire can spread much too quickly under these conditions.

Therefore, we ask again that every resident think twice before letting irrigation go unmeasured. Please, be mindful and considerate of how much water is being used outside. Remember: MONDAYS are a community-wide NO WATERING DAY. Yet between 5/1/08 and 6/25/08 the District issued 43 first-time warnings for watering on the wrong day; 35 of which were Monday violations. Be advised: a 2nd warning of any water violation carries a \$250 fine. If you are uncertain of your watering day, please consult the website. There is a lot of information to help you maximize when to water to get the greatest impact. Our monthly newsletters also offer water-saving alternatives such as articles on effective drip irrigation and many tips to help you enjoy your home in beautiful Roxborough that is more conducive to the native environment. This way, property values hold strong, water supply is not at issue, and cost can be better controlled.

How Much Water Per Day Should You Be Using?

Several residents have asked how many gallons per day is a good measurement of indoor use. We've talked to residents, looked at consumption records, examined what other water districts recommend as well as what we can handle in Roxborough, and the conclusion is this: 60-90 gallons per person, per day for INDOOR use. That's your bath, kitchen and laundry. Multiply that times the number of members in your household and that's the number of total gallons your family should try to stay within. It is, in fact, the range many residents achieve quite comfortably. We are not asking you to take 30-second showers—just be mindful of all the ways you can reduce water use. Our website has a very handy guide that you can download: 102 Ways to be Water-Efficient. It's actually fun to discover new ways yourself. A resident recently emailed us that she fills a big bowl of cold water to rinse her strawberries and other fruit; then pours the used water on her houseplants. Great idea!! It may not seem like much, but if everyone chips in, it really adds up! Ideally, the community can easily save 15-20% on outdoor irrigation, which would be a huge savings!



Littleton Sewer Dispute

While there is no 'new' news to report on our dispute of the recent City of Littleton's imposed wastewater/sewer rate increase to connector districts like Roxborough, we are diligently working on this issue. Any updates will be immediately posted on our website. Meanwhile, thanks to the many residents who have called and offered their support to help in any way needed!

Historical Society Announcement

The Kassler Water Treatment Plant was one of the most advanced water treatment facilities west of the Mississippi when it opened in 1904. The Roxborough Area Historical Society will sponsor a historical field trip to the Kassler Plant at Waterton Canyon on Tuesday August 12, 2008. Joining us for the program will be Rusty Simon who worked at the plant for 50 years and Bob Swan who grew up in the Kassler company town. We will meet at the Waterton Canyon parking lot at 10 am. Please make a reservation by emailing roxhistory@q.com or calling Susie Trumble at 303-973-8622.

How Does Your Monthly Water Usage Compare?

June's Average
Water Usage/Household:
10,000 gallons

June's Average
Total Water & Wastewater
Bill: \$117.04

District Building 2 Additional Water Tanks

The Roxborough Water & Sanitation District Board of Directors has approved construction of two long-overdue water storage tanks to be built in Roxborough Park. Working with the Roxborough Park Foundation, the District Board weighed costs, aesthetics, maintenance, constructability, accessibility, environmental issues, public input, and safety of the community to determine the best placement of the storage tanks.

According to the General Manager of the Roxborough Water & Sanitation District, Larry Moore, "These two tanks have been missing pieces of the overall distribution system as designed in the original 1971 service plan. These tanks will provide adequate water to be available on demand within the system." Moore added, "The additional 750,000 gallons of storage capacity that each tank provides will be for residential use and fire protection."

West Metro Fire Protection District Deputy Chief David Abbink said, "The additional water will be beneficial in the event of wildland fires and suppressing fires within large residential homes located in the Roxborough community." Abbink added, "In the past, the fire department had concern with the lack of water storage in the two zones the proposed new storage tanks will be located." The Zone 2 tank will be located just west of Raspberry Run adjacent to Roxborough Drive and the tank in Zone 3 will be located just north of Mossrock Run.

"We believe that we have achieved a great balance of the engineering, environmental, and public needs of these tanks in order to improve Roxborough's much needed water supply on many levels," said District Engineer Bill Goetz of TST Infrastructure. Two-thirds of the 24 foot tall tank in Zone 3 will be buried below ground leaving only eight feet exposed providing the best all around long term solution to meet the best efficiency of the system. The District will plant trees taller than the tank to minimize visual impact as much as possible.

A comprehensive power point presentation of the water system master plan is available on the District's website at: www.roxwater.org. Construction begins this month and the storage tanks are expected to be in service next summer.

Drought-Resistant Gardening

As temperatures heat up, here are some steps you can take to protect your yards and gardens from an increasingly harsh, unpredictable climate.

- Water plants early in the morning—never when windy. Less will evaporate as it does in the heat of the afternoon.
- Use water-conserving equipment. Watering cans, soaker hoses and drip systems minimize evaporation by sending water directly to the soil instead of spraying it into the air.
- Cut down on mowing and fertilizing. Mowing causes water loss. Mow during the coolest part of the day, and leave the clippings on the ground. Also raise the height of your mower, because taller grass shades the soil, reducing water loss. Another option: consider shrinking the size of your lawn and replacing it with a native wildflower meadow, which will require little water after established.



Water Tip!

Save 50-60% of your outdoor water consumption by switching from sprinkler irrigation to a drip system.

REMEMBER: Water Like it Matters, Because it Really Does!

Your Input, Please...

Tell us what you have done to reduce water use inside and outside of your home in the last 12 months or longer, including landscape changes. This is an informal survey to share with residents. Please include, if possible, either your estimated savings in total gallons or estimated percentage since you began water conservation. Send a brief email to: Cindy@roxh2o.org by August 30th and receive a FREE reusable water bottle as our gift of appreciation!

Phone-in Payment

To pay your water bill by phone, either call 303-785-5511 and use a credit card or call our office 303-979-7286 and use a "check by phone" (an electronic withdrawal with customer approval). Both of these pay-by-phone services have a nominal fee, but provide the convenience many residents request.

On-Line Bill Paying is Simple, too.

It's fast, easy and secure enough that you will be able to pay with your credit card online. Or sign up to have automatic withdrawal from your checking account. Go to our website to find out how. www.roxwater.com

You can always check your account online!

Go to www.roxwater.com and click on Billing- View and Pay your bill. You will need your account number and the password is your numerical address.