



835 East Highway 56, Berthoud, CO 80513 Office/Emergency Phone: 970-532-2096
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SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

Let's Talk Conservation

by Nancy Koch, District Water Resources Manager

Water conservation is vital in this semi-arid area. This year it is especially important to be mindful of water use. The warm, dry Fall and Winter that we just experienced resulted in severe drought conditions in the District. The District will receive 80% of its water supplies this year (80% quota), so there will be adequate water to use...*but none to waste*. Any water conserved this year can be saved for next year, which will stretch our water supplies should the drought continue.

Nearly one half of the District's water is used for outdoor irrigation. Are you getting ready to landscape around your new home or just update your existing landscape? Water conservation should be part of your planning. Here are a few reminders to help you conserve water and save money:

- 💧 Overwatering is one of the most common mistakes in lawn care. Water less frequently to encourage deeper root growth.
- 💧 Plant low water use vegetation. Your local garden center can show you the wide selection of beautiful water saving plants.
- 💧 Place mulch around vegetation to retain water.
- 💧 Avoid watering during the heat of the day, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- 💧 Keep grass two to three inches high to shade roots and hold moisture.

As you start up your sprinkler system, check for broken pipes, valves or sprinkler heads. One small leak can add up to a lot of water waste. The District has partnered with the **Center for ReSource Colorado** or **Slow the Flow** to provide free Sprinkler Audits as part of our Water Conservation Program. District customers can schedule an appointment with a trained water irrigation specialist for a water-saving inspection of your sprinkler system. Request your FREE Audit- call 303-999-3824.

Below is information on **Northern Water's Conservation Gardens Fair**. This family friendly event provides an opportunity for the public to see and obtain water saving plants and learn about new water conservation technologies.

Northern Water Conservation Gardens Fair
Saturday, May 20 (rain or shine)
FREE • 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. • 220 Water Ave., Berthoud

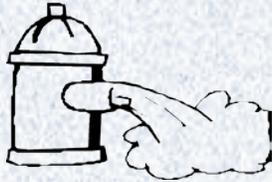
Seminars
Expert advice
Conservation Gardens tours
Updates on technology
and more

Northern Water
Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

CONSERVATION GARDENS
at Northern Water

Come grow with us

The poster features three hourglass graphics. The first hourglass is empty. The second hourglass has a small amount of water and a small green seedling. The third hourglass is nearly full of water and has a larger green seedling. Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are visible at the bottom left.



The Importance of Flushing Fire Hydrants

Springtime is here and that means time for flushing fire hydrants. The process of periodically "flushing" fire hydrants is an important preventive maintenance activity. Although it may appear to waste water, this process is necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system and to continue to deliver the highest quality water possible to our customers.

Another reason that LTWD flushes fire hydrants is to verify the proper operation of the fire hydrants and valves and to determine that there is adequate fire flow throughout the District to fight fires.

Flushing the water system on a routine basis removes sediment from lines and keeps the entire distribution system refreshed. LTWD maintains over 749 miles of domestic water lines throughout its service area, which includes portions of Weld, Larimer and Boulder Counties.

As a result of the flushing procedure, residents in the immediate vicinity of the work may experience a temporary drop in pressure or discoloration of their water. This discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and sediment and does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discoloration in your water after crews have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your own home by running all water faucets for a minute or two. If you see a crew flushing a hydrant on your street, avoid running tap water and using the washing machine or the dishwasher until the flushing is completed. This same philosophy of water line preventive maintenance is one that you should use in your own home. Your home's water heater should be drained and flushed at least once a year to keep it working efficiently and to protect the quality of water inside your home.

Update about Lead in the Drinking Water

by Ken Lambrecht, District Operations Manager



In the first half of 2016, based on the results of 87 samples, there were elevated lead levels in some homes. The calculated value used for compliance was 22.2 ug/L (micrograms per liter). The Action Level for lead is 15 ug/L.

Little Thompson Water District has **not** detected lead in the source water at Carter Lake **nor** in the distribution system. The source of the lead is from fixtures or the plumbing in the homes. Older brass faucets and lead solder joints on copper pipe is the most likely source. When corrosive water sets for several hours in the plumbing, lead is leached from the plumbing into the water.

Carter Lake Filter Plant made some changes to the treatment process to reduce the corrosiveness of the water. During the second half of 2016, 79 samples were submitted for analysis and the calculated value was substantially lower at 6.9 ug/L. We believe changes made at the treatment plant are the reason for the dramatic decrease. Little Thompson Water District still promotes caution by simply running your tap for 15-30 seconds, or until it becomes cold, before using it for drinking or cooking.

The District will be sampling for lead again before the end of June. Check the website for future updates.
The District's 2016 Water Quality Report is available at www.ltwd.org/water-quality-report-2016/

Remembering Director Peter Bridgman

Director Bridgman served as a Board member since 2012 representing Ward IV. "The Englishman", as he proudly referred to himself, passed away on March 6. His contributions to the Board and the District were many...he will be missed. On March 27, 2017, at a Special Board Meeting, Bill Prewitt was appointed to fill the Ward IV seat. Bill previously served on the Board from 2011-2012.