

PINERY PIPELINE



From your Board of Directors

I hope everyone had a safe and fun summer! I wanted to pickup where I left off in the March newsletter. I had described plans my wife and I had for this summer to make water saving improvements to our yard. This month I'd like to share what we have accomplished and my impressions so far.

1. **Sprinkler Controller:** We replaced our sprinkler controller with a new smart weather-based controller early in the summer. I have found this new controller to be much easier to manage, after the initial installation and configuration, than our old system. It's too early to say what impact it has had on reducing our water use, but I will be monitoring it and continue making adjustments. The benefits of the controller are that it can:
 - a. Monitor the weather forecast for the area and make adjustments to both the watering schedule and the duration of watering by zone.
 - b. During the initial setup you provide the controller with information on each zone. This includes the primary type of plantings, the type of soil, the grade/slope, and the amount of sunlight. This helps it make recommendations and to calculate the water needs for each individual zone throughout the irrigation season.
 - c. Each month it can automatically make seasonal adjustments (such as increasing or decreasing watering times) based on the typical temperature and rainfall differences from month to month.
2. **Landscaping:** We have done a lot of work on our landscaping. This summer we have managed to remove roughly 1000 square feet of turf from our yard and replace it with low-water plants. My wife has been the real hero identifying and planting the new plants that are low-water, fire resistant, and deer resistant. It has been a challenge and there has been a lot of trial and error. The removal of the turf has allowed us to cap or convert (to drip irrigation) five of our rotary sprinkler heads. This represents one full zone and two individual heads in two other zones we hope to convert fully or partially.
3. **Hardscape:** This summer we also used roughly ten tons of various types of rock to cover large areas of our yard. We also had eight large boulders placed in various planting beds. All of this allowed us to cover large areas with material that will not require water to maintain. While placing all this rock I also discovered several significant breaks in buried irrigation lines that have now been repaired.
4. **Rain Barrels:** The final thing we had considered doing this summer was purchasing and installing rain barrels (within legal limits). While I did do a lot of research on the various types of rain barrels and think we have landed on the type we would like, we have not purchased them. This will probably end up being a spring 2024 project.

While this summer our area received above average rainfall, that is not going to be the norm. So, we are always looking for opportunities to make changes that reduce our water use, particularly our outdoor use. This year we accomplished a lot at our house, but we still have many more ideas for changes we can make to our yard and irrigation system.

If you're unsure where to start the District offers several programs that can help you get started including Garden in a Box discounts and Slow the Flow sprinkler consultations. For more information on these programs and to find other resources, visit the District website.



Josh Connors
Director,
Pinery Water and Wastewater District

Please join us at our District Office for our monthly held Board Meetings at 6:00pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:00pm on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023 Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023



GARDEN IN A BOX | PLANT A NEW PERSEPECTIVE

Pinery Water and Wastewater District customers took advantage of 40 Garden In A Box discounts this season. These professionally curated boxes create instant curb appeal with no green thumb required! Did you miss out this year? Head over to ResourceCentral.org/Gardens to get on the interest list for next spring!

SEASONAL WATERING

Fall is approaching and the changing weather brings different outdoor watering needs. Watering efficiently can help manage the precious water resources in our area and can lead to savings on water bills. As cooler weather approaches reduce your overall irrigation. Consider watering for shorter lengths of time and fewer days per week. The Colorado State University Extension has published fact sheets advising residents about operating and inspecting home irrigation systems. These fact sheets describe water-saving techniques and tips for managing irrigation systems. The information below gives an example of information provided from their fact sheets.



Figure 1: An irrigation controller with capability for changing water percentage for seasonal adjustment, and setting multiple start times for irrigation cycling.

OPERATING AND MAINTAINING A HOME IRRIGATION SYSTEM FROM CSU EXTENSION

“Changing sprinkler system settings on the controller (also called a clock or timer) is the easiest water-saving change to make. Change controller run times to meet seasonal plant needs. Plants require less water in cool spring and fall periods, and more water in the heat of summer. For example, bluegrass lawns may require 0.6 to 0.9 inches of water per week in spring and fall but need 1.25 to 1.5 inches per week in midsummer. Some controllers allow watering a percentage of peak summer run time settings (Figure 1). With one setting change, they can easily be reset to 60 percent for spring and fall watering.” <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/operating-and-maintaining-a-home-irrigation-system-7-239/>. To find out more, visit: CSU Extension Yard and Garden Topic Area: <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/>

WATERING SCHEDULE

The Watering Schedule for 2023 is shown to the right. The District requests that customers voluntarily adhere to this schedule, which includes never watering on Fridays. Remember to use only what you need and frequently check the District website to view the current drought stage. Per the District's Drought Response Plan (which can be accessed at PineryWater.com), certain drought stages may trigger mandatory watering schedules and/or other restrictions.

2023 WATERING SCHEDULE

PINERY RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| EVEN Numbered Addresses | ODD Numbered Addresses | EVEN Numbered Addresses | ODD Numbered Addresses | EVEN Numbered Addresses | NO WATERING | ODD Numbered Addresses |

No Watering between 10am & 6pm
Hand Watering Allowed Anytime

PINERY

WATER & WASTEWATER DISTRICT
Quality Water for Life

Customer Service: 303.841.2797

Pinery Water and Wastewater District Contact Information:

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For after-hours emergencies,
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